

# God Bless



# America

St. James the Greater  
Montague, New Jersey

St. Thomas the Apostle  
Sandyston, New Jersey



# The Mystery of Faith

*At the heart of worship is belief in the Holy Eucharist, the Source and Summit of our Christian life.*

*This article appeared in the June edition of Columbia, the magazine of the Knights of Columbus. It was written by Archbishop William Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore and Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus*

WITH EACH MONTH, our hope grows stronger that the COVID-19 pandemic will pass into the history books. Parish priests would like nothing better than to fill their churches — every row — with their parishioners. At the same time, many priests worry that some parishioners, no longer in the habit of attending Mass in person, may not return. This is a valid concern, but it did not start with COVID. For decades, the percentage of Catholics who participate weekly in Sunday Mass has been dropping. So too, the percentage of Catholics who understand and accept the Church's Eucharistic faith has declined.

Each June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, or Corpus Christi, is an opportunity for us to revive our faith in the Eucharist. It is an opportunity to test the soundness of our Eucharistic faith, to assess how devoted we are to this mystery and how ready we are to share it with others.

I would like to share some highlights. A question: what place does Sunday Mass occupy in your life of faith? **Sunday Mass is more than an obligation; it should be the heart of our faith.** From the Mass, we draw grace and strength to live as followers of Christ and as members of the Church. And we return to Mass each Sunday, bringing to the Lord all that we have experienced in the previous days — our successes and failures in living the Gospel and sharing it with others. Just as bread and wine are offered to the Lord, so too we offer him our lives, asking that they be purified and made acceptable in his sight.

Also, do you understand what is happening at holy Mass? Sometimes, even lifelong Catholics tell me that they really do not understand the Mass. When the prayers of the Mass refer to the “banquet of Christ's sacrifice” or to the “Paschal Mystery,” many participants are bewildered, as if the priest is speaking a foreign language. There is a massive need for sound catechesis, for instruction, about the Mass — about what unfolds before our eyes of faith as holy Mass is celebrated. I am convinced that many have walked away from the Eucharist without really understanding all that it should mean to us.

Yet, accurate teaching about the Blessed Sacrament is not sufficient. The Church's Eucharistic faith “sinks in” only when one's heart has been opened in faith to the person of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God — to His teaching and miracles, and to His saving death and resurrection. For **in the Mass, we celebrate and encounter the very heart of our faith.** In the Liturgy of the Word, Christ Himself speaks words “of spirit and life.” **In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we enter into the very sacrifice that Jesus offered to the Father to redeem us from our sins. Jesus, who gave His life on the Cross, gives Himself to us — his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — under the appearances of bread and wine.**

What takes place at every Mass should fill us with amazement, so much so that we should be willing to witness to our Eucharistic faith among those who no longer attend Mass or practice their faith. When we truly grasp the immensity of the Lord's Eucharistic gift of self, we can never again take the Eucharist for granted or approach the table of the Lord casually or unworthily.

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**July 4, 2021**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the  
Intentions of St. Thomas Parishioners

**SATURDAY, July 10**

8:00AM – Charles & Elsie Lorber  
req. by their Family

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**July 11**

8:00AM – Janice & John Cerra  
req. by William & Hellis Borst

11:30AM – Frank Morgiewicz  
req. by Linda Lee

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 868.00 – Regular Collection – June 27, 2021**  
**\$ 409.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$ 84.00 – Latin Amer. Mission & Overseas Relief**  
**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

***Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.***

\*\*\*\*\*

**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:  
saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving  
link.**

The 8:00am St. James Coffee Hour takes place the first Sunday of the month except for July, August and September.

**St. James Altar & Floral Society** If any ladies in the parish are interested in joining, please call Joan Henn at 973-293-3690 or Linda Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.



**Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue/Legion of Mary**

This beautifully adorned statue is a visible reminder of the love God has shown in the Blessed Mother. Placing such a beautiful image in your home turns hearts to prayer and brings grace to those who open their hearts to any image of God's love. If you would like to have the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in your home, or need any further information about the Legion of Mary in our parishes, please contact the parish office.  
*Pray the Family Rosary*



We ask your continued prayers for the following men and women of our parish who are serving our country in the Armed Forces: Brandon Heimall, Mikey Heimall, Nicholas and Karissa Kealy, Ryan Kowal, Joseph Mannion, Hunter Olenick, Christopher & Ana Sarao, Nicole Sarao, Marissa Snook, Peter Spinks and James Orr.

**TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:**

John Adamsky, T.J. Albert, Ellen Bilofsky, Agnes Ciesielski, Maria Colletti, Barbara Connolly, Joan Costa, Bill Fulton, Gerry Gacquin, Patricia Harrington, Erin Hockenberry, Anil Jain, Tony & Jodi Lupo, Teresa Mantani, Dolores Menzella, Joshua Murch, Richard Nowicki, Michael Paino, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Brian Scarpone, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn, John Veres, Jr., Tarra Wagner, Casandra Westbrook and Ricky Wunder

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the  
Intentions of St. Thomas Parishioners

**MONDAY, July 5**

9:00AM – Intentions of Mike Toth  
req. by his Mom  
-JoEllen Ritzer-Reed  
req. by her classmate, Mary Flexer

**TUESDAY, July 6**

9:00AM – Theresa Marvelli  
req. by Frances Demalderis & Family

**WEDNESDAY, July 7**

9:00AM – Msgr. John Boland and Rev. Joseph Ryan  
req. by Mary Flexer

**THURSDAY, July 8**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, July 9**

9:00AM – Desirée DeJesus  
req. by Sheila & Tom Navarro

**SATURDAY, Vigil, July 10**

4:30PM – Pam Stigliano  
req. by Chris Higgins  
-Robert John Sarzo  
req. by Sheila & Tomas Navarro, Sr.

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**July 11**

9:30AM – Wally Stanley  
req. by Mary & Harry Dunleavy

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,568.00 – Regular Collection – June 27, 2021**  
**\$1,176.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$ 120.00 – Latin Amer. Mission & Overseas Relief**  
**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

***Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.***

\*\*\*\*\*

**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:  
saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving  
link.**



### **Registrations for 2021/2022 Catechetical Year**

Re-registrations for children and teens for the upcoming catechetical year will be sent out by mail this week.

Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish or children enrolled in Catholic school or home school who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist or Confirmation must call the Religious Education Office to register. To enroll your child(ren) in the parish program, you must be a registered and participating member of the parish.

### **Celebrate July – 14 – The Feast of Saint Kateri**

More than 350 years ago, a little girl was born in what is now the state of New York. She was part of a Native American tribe called the Mohawks.

When she was 4 years old, a terrible disease killed her parents and baby brother. The little girl was very sick, too, but she lived. The illness left scars on her face. It also made her half blind. She was named “Tekakwitha”, which means “she who bumps into things”.

The little girl was raised by her aunt and uncle. They wanted her to get married, but she planned to give her life to God. She became a Catholic at the age of 19. She was baptized on Easter Sunday and named “Kateri”, after St. Catherine of Siena.

People in her village were very unkind to Kateri. They made fun of the marks on her face. They treated her like a slave. Because she would not work on Sundays – the Lord’s Day – she got no food that day. She finally left her village to live with other Christian Native Americans in Canada. She taught children and took care of the sick and elderly. Sometimes she went to Mass twice a day. At age 23, Kateri became very ill and died on Holy Thursday, saying, “Jesus, I love you”. People who were with her at the end said something amazing happened. When she died, the scars that she had on her face for 20 years went away. Her beautiful face even had a smile on it.

Kateri had told her friends she would pray for them in heaven. She can pray for us too. Saint Kateri is the first Native American saint.

*Saint Kateri, pray for us!*

### **Parish Picnic**

Thanks to all who were able to come out to our St. Thomas Picnic last Sunday. It seems that there were a number of events going on at the same time in our area. Our thanks to the Knights of Columbus and to Grand Knight, John Babon, for set up and clean up and cooking at the picnic. And to Deirdre Burgos for coordinating our picnic. And to Sharon Spangenberg for making our grounds look great. She even got the Easter lilies to bloom again!



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS  
**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly  
*Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ*

### **Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 4, 2021**

**“As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking to me say, ‘Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me... and whether they heed or resist – they shall know that a prophet has been among them.’”**

As we commemorate our nation’s independence we recall that it was rebels addressing the oppression of another country, who decided to resist what was wrong and seek independence. Our imperfect society needs such people to teach us the right way, returning to the ways of the Lord, to promote equal justice and peace for all.

In his letter to the church and the world from last October, Pope Francis has asked us to reflect on the steps we must take of solidarity and fraternity for all people. We are called to listen and learn, discern and decide what steps we take individually and collectively to achieve what God’s plan is for all people.

On this Independence Day, liberty and justice for all, began when the ‘rebels’ said we must do something. What more needs to be done? Do I really want to welcome, protect, promote and integrate others into my own world?

## *This Week in Our Parishes*

STC – St. Thomas Church or Fr. Lewis Center

SJC – St. James Church or Church Hall

REC – Fr. Gacquin Religious Ed Center

**Sunday, July 4, 2021**

*14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Independence Day*

**Monday, July 5**

9:00 a.m. STC Special Mass to Invoke God's Blessings upon our Nation

**Tuesday, July 6**

**Wednesday, July 7**

**Thursday, July 8**

**Friday, July 9**

**Saturday, July 10**

**Sunday, July 11, 2021**

*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Sunday's Readings: 14<sup>th</sup> Ord**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Amos 7: 12--15

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 85*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *Ephesians 1: 2--14*

Gospel: *Mark 6: 7--13*

\* \* \* \* \*

**FORMED.org** Simply go to our parish website: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org). At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register (first time) or login (each time after).

### **Suggestions from FORMED:**

Listen: "*Put Not Your Trust in Princes*" Speaking from his perspective as a historian, Christopher Check reminds us that the crisis of our age is cultural and, in the end, spiritual. A flourishing society is not achieved through legislation or the ballot box, but instead radiates from the family outward.

**Bikers Gang.** Join us each **Tuesday morning, at 10 a.m.** at the front door of St. Thomas, as we take off for a bike ride through the local countryside. We usually return around 12 Noon. Trips are about 12 – 15 miles. All men and women are welcome to join us. No sign-up or registration. Just come !

**Independence Day** doesn't seem to be as secure as it once was. Forces are growing within our nation which seem to be in direct contradiction to the nation set up by our Founding Fathers. Individual liberty, the freedom to think and live according to principles of conscience, and a lawful and orderly society seem to be in jeopardy. Leaders in government who have no real understanding of the past seem poised to make the same serious mistakes again.

Catholics and Christians may be the only ones to save our nation. We have the power and wisdom of the Lord to assist us. Join us for a special **Mass for God's Blessing**, to be offered tomorrow, **Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at St Thomas.** May the Lord's presence be once again welcome within our nation.

**Bible Study.** Get to know the **Gospel of Mark** better as we gather to study this earliest Gospel more closely each week. We gather at **1 p.m. each Tuesday afternoon in the Father Lewis Center at St . Thomas.** Lesson and discussion continue till 2 p.m. Refreshments are always served. Try it out and contribute your insights into St. Mark's Gospel.

**Calling All Moms & Tots** to join our weekly get-togethers at **St. Thomas Church, Thursdays, 10 a.m. till 12 Noon.** It's a chance for Moms to talk to other adults, and for kids to interact and share. All Moms and Tots are welcome, even if not from St. James or St. Thomas Parishes. Please call or text message Rachel Mayer at 862-268-5193 if you would like to join us ! We have a **text message chain** to confirm which Thursdays we are meeting. We hope to see you there !

**According to the Diary** of a signer of the U. S. Constitution, James McHenry :

The deliberations of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 were held in strict secrecy. Consequently, anxious citizens gathered outside Independence Hall in order to learn what had been produced behind closed doors. A Mrs. Powel of Philadelphia asked Benjamin Franklin: "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" With no hesitation whatsoever, Franklin responded: "A republic, if you can keep it."

This exchange was reproduced in the 1906 edition of the *American Historical Review*.

**SCOTT'S AUTOMOTIVE**  
Your Dealership Alternative  
Complete Foreign & Domestic  
Repair & Maintenance  
973-293-8665  
406 Rt. 206 • MONTAGUE, NJ 07827  
www.scottysautomotiveservices.com

The Only Italian Specialty Store In The Area  
**Brooklyn Boy Pork Store**  
Italian Specialties Fresh Sausage, Mozzarella, Butcher Counter, Homemade Meals, Catering & More  
570-296-7863  
223 Broad Street • Milford, PA  
See Our Reviews on Facebook & Yelp!

**DAVID WALLACE LAW OFFICES**  
399 CLOVE ROAD  
MONTAGUE, NEW JERSEY 07827  
(973) 293-8383  
Fax: (973) 293-7640  
General Practice of law in NY and NJ; commercial, personal injury and insurance litigation, real estate, wills and estates

**Wood Funeral Home**  
ROBERT E. MCCrackEN  
OWNER / MANAGER  
N.J. Lic. No. 3640  
973-948-3030  
www.woodfuneralhome.net  
mccrackenwood@earthlink.net  
16 Main Street • PO Box 301 • Branchville, NJ 07826

**TIRE KING**  
"Where Anybody Can Afford to RE-TIRE"  
NOW DOING WHEEL ALIGNMENT  
FAST - FRIENDLY SERVICE  
Brakes • Shocks • Struts • Exhaust  
973-875-5950 11 Lower Unionville Rd., Sussex

**Miracle-Ear** With Miracle-Ear\*  
Quality as low as \$895\*, Why Wait?  
Hearing is believing! Right now, for a very limited time, you can get a fully digital, genuine Miracle-EarMINI\* hearing solutions. Complete with Miracle-Ear sound quality, custom fitting and a comprehensive service and warranty program. Don't wait, this special offer ends 7/1/2021.  
103 ROBERTS LANE • MILFORD, PA • 844-710-0763  
Offer valid on MEMINI\* CIC only. Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations. Suitable for 35 dB loss. Limit one per patient at the promotional price when first aid is purchased at regular price. Limit one coupon per purchase. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Does not apply to prior purchases. See store for details. Cash value 1/20 cent. Offer expires 7/1/2021

**Milford School of Music and Music Center**  
Lessons • Rentals • Repairs • Sales  
(570) 296-1022 / 296-5332  
www.MilfordSchoolOfMusic.com  
441 Route 6 and 209 • Milford, PA 18337

Act now to help end hunger.  
In the United States, 1 in 9 people face hunger.  
**FEEDING AMERICA**  
feedingamerica.org

**CLASSY CONSIGNMENTS LLC**  
WOMEN'S CLOTHING & SHOES HOUSEHOLD & DECORATIVE ITEMS  
HOURS: Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 10-6 • Thurs. 11-7 • Closed Sun. & Mon.  
2 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE • MATAMORAS, PA • 570-491-5000

Our Family Serving Yours Since 1924.  
**GRAY - PARKER FUNERAL HOME INC.**  
www.grayparkerfuneralhome.com  
845-856-5191 • Shaun P. Parker  
100 East Main St. Port Jervis  
E. Arthur Gray Memorials

**Hometown Treasures**  
Hometown Treasures is a boutique specializing in handcrafted items from a variety of local artists as well as items from other small businesses in the USA.  
One stop shop for all of your gift giving needs.  
845.672.3777  
78 Front Street • Port Jervis

319 Broad St. Milford, PA  
**Golden Gifts JEWELRY**  
570-296-5388  
www.goldengiftsPA.com

**SANDYSTON DELI & BAGEL**  
FREE COFFEE W/ THIS AD!  
No Purchase Necessary  
Bagels, Breakfast & Lunch Sandwiches, Daily Specials  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!  
MONDAY - SUNDAY 5AM-6PM  
973-250-0206  
269 ROUTE 206 • SANDYSTON  
sandystondeli.com

**CANDY LOVER'S DREAM**  
Conveniently located in the Apple Valley Shops in Milford.  
Candy & Gift Cottage of Milford  
Fudge • Fine Chocolate Retro Candy & More  
570-296-4691  
108 Rt. 6 • Milford, PA  
candycottagemilford.com

**Stroyan Funeral Home Inc.**  
KEVIN T. STROYAN - Supervisor  
405 West Harford Street • Milford, PA 18337  
570-296-6811  
Home of Tri-State Memorial Company

Are You Ready for the Warmer Weather?  
**METRO AESTHETICS**  
METRO AESTHETICS Provides Venus Velocity Laser Hair Removal.  
SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION TODAY!  
Gift Certificates Available  
845-858-5995  
Dan@Metroaesthetics.com  
15 JERSEY AVENUE • PORT JERVIS

ECO FRIENDLY • LOOSE LEAF TEA • REFILL BAR  
Save the Bees Solo Boutique  
ZERO WASTE STORE  
OLD LUMBERYARD SHOP • 113 7TH ST. • MILFORD  
www.savethebeessola.com

**FRESH PICKINS**  
Produce • Meat • Dairy  
Baked Goods • Prepared Food  
Home Decor & Local Products  
973.250.0222  
187 Rt. 206 South • Sandyston  
Follow Us!

**EL PATRON MEXICAN RESTAURANT**  
The Area's Authentic Mexican Cuisine  
CATERING FOR ALL OCCASIONS  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
104 Route 6 • Port Jervis, NY  
845-856-8701  
CALL US OR ORDER ONLINE!  
elpatronportjervisny.com

**COVID-19 NO-COST TESTING**  
By Appointment Only  
Location: St. Thomas Church  
210 Route 206 N  
Sandyston, NJ 07826  
Registration required  
www.cunicohealthandwellness.com  
WEAR A MASK - STAY IN YOUR CAR  
973-948-7595  
237 US Highway 206  
Sandyston, NJ 07826

**Apple Valley RESTAURANT & SHOPS**  
\$5.00 off coupon with purchase of \$25.00 or more expires 12.31.21  
Open 7 Days a week  
Burgers • Grilled Sandwiches  
Specialty Salads • Quesadillas  
Steaks • Pastas • and more  
Route 6, Milford, PA 570-296-6831  
www.applevalleyrestaurant.com

**J&O Landscaping & Snow Removal**  
914-438-5691  
862-273-6766  
Thank you for choosing us!

**GEORGE ZITONE SINCE 1962**  
CONSTRUCTION & SUPPLY CO. INC.  
STRUCTURAL BUILDERS  
DESIGN BUILD • SITE DEVELOPMENT  
973-293-3436  
261 Clove Road • Montague, NJ