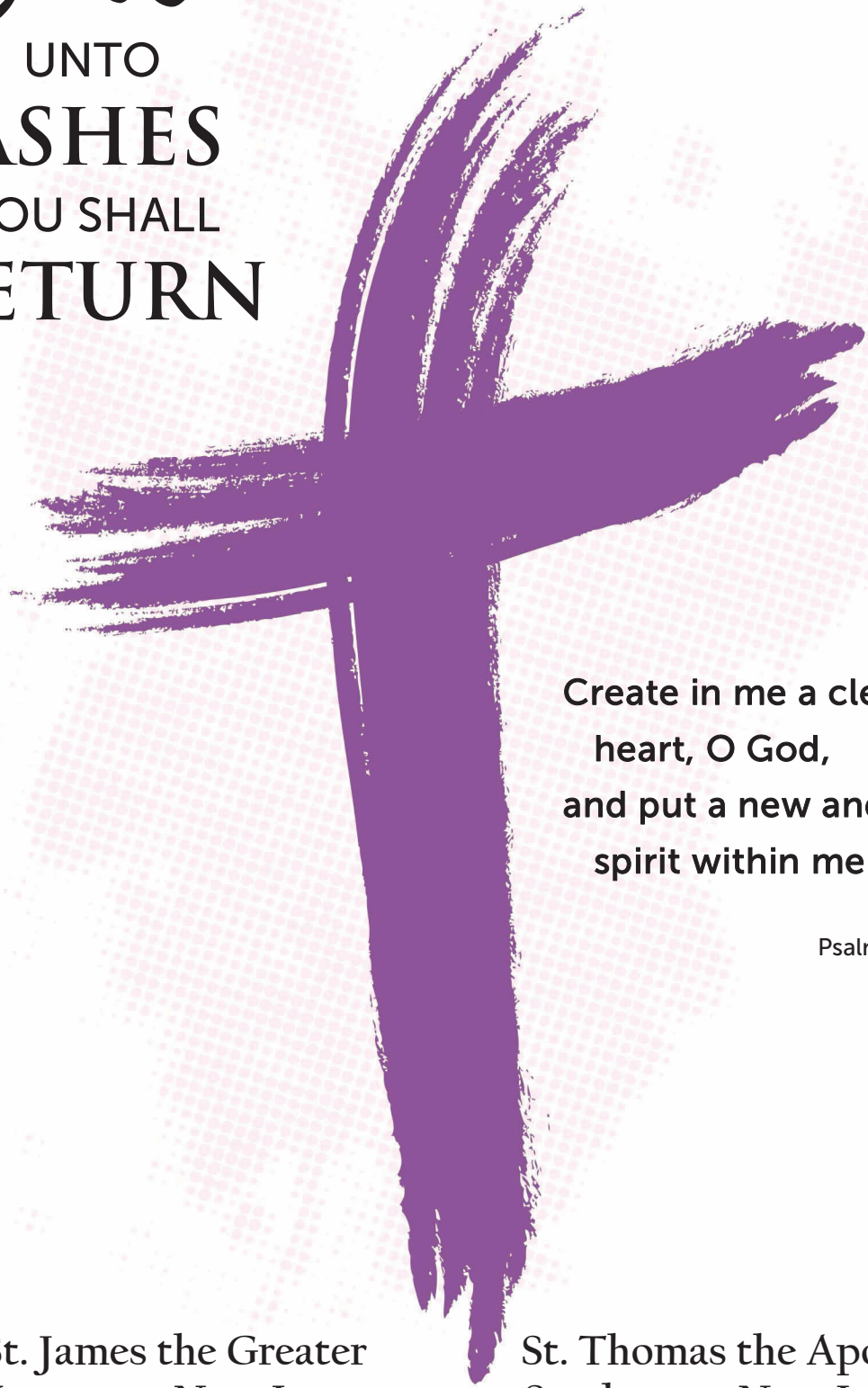


Remember...

UNTO
ASHES
YOU SHALL
RETURN



Create in me a clean
heart, O God,
and put a new and right
spirit within me.

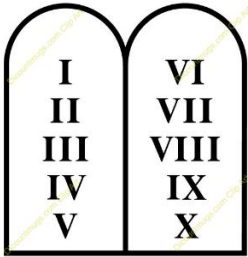
Psalm 51:10

St. James the Greater
Montague, New Jersey

St. Thomas the Apostle
Sandyston, New Jersey

The Basic Rules and Guidance for Christianity, Judaism and Islam

The Ten Commandments



*The Ten Commandments (also called the Decalogue) were given to Moses, the great leader of the Hebrews, over **3,000 years ago** after the Hebrews were delivered from slavery in Egypt. While the Law of Moses (the Laws promoted by the Pharisees) is made up of over 600 rules, the Ten Commandments were a succinct list of rules from which the others were developed.*

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. You shall keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Seven Precepts of the Church

The Precepts of the Church have been developing since the 4th century. They are meant to keep the faithful in the full and complete spirit of the Catholic Church. The latest Precept is # 7, added in the last century.

1. To assist at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. To fast and abstain on days appointed.
3. To go to Confession at least once a year.
4. To receive Holy Communion at least once a year, during the Easter Season.
5. To contribute to the support of the Church.
6. To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage.
7. To take part in the Missionary work of the Church



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 19, 2023

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Orvil D. Jackson at the
Request of his Family

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22

8:00AM – William F. Coe, Jr.
req. by his Family

SATURDAY, February 25

8:00AM – Donald Martin, Jr.
req. by his Family

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 26

8:00AM – Carol Murphy
req. by Claire & Peter Rilli

11:30AM – Ray Sorg
req. by his Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 777.00 – Regular Collection – February 12, 2023

\$ 501.00 – Online Giving

\$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.

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 Spinapolice 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*

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

T.J. Albert, Agnes Ciesielski, Phyllis Coneys, Melissa Cunningham, Geraldine Dayko, Audrey DeMarco, Terri Eaton, Gerry Gacquin, Peggy Gray, Patricia Harrington, Tracy Harriott, Erin Hockenberry, Diane Hoos, Charles Jensen, Jonathan Kim, Fred & Pat Leute, Teresa Mantani, Gen Miller, Richard Nowicki, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Frances Sangiorgi, Joan Sangiorgi, Brian Scarpone, Kathleen Sibbio, Cecelia Smith, Shirley Strong, Pastor Mike Sweeney, Richard Vergona, Walter Winkler and Ricky Wunder



We ask your continued prayers for the following men and women of our parish who are serving our country in the Armed Forces: George Abboud, Saige Bruzard, 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

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Anna Gioielli at the
Request of her Grandchildren

MONDAY, February 20

9:00AM – Raymond Swiderski
req. by his wife, Theresa

TUESDAY, February 21

9:00AM – Mary Campbell
req. by her Children

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22

9:00AM – Frank Kelly
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell

7:00PM – Andy Dachisen
req. by his Family

THURSDAY, February 23

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 24

9:00AM – Russ Spinks
req. by Peggy Gray

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 25

4:30PM – Glenn Edward Miller
req. by Nancy Lodema and Family
-Birthday Intentions of Laura A. Pullis
req. by her Aunt Rosie and Family

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 26

9:30AM – Andy Dachisen
req. by Robin Lamoreaux
-Michael Sinisi
req. by the Sousa Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,824.00 – Regular Collection – February 12, 2023

\$1,108.00 – Online Giving

\$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.



The Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary for both St. Thomas and St. James parishes meets on Tuesday mornings at St. Thomas the Apostle Church after the 9 AM daily Mass in the Father Lewis Center. The Legion of Mary is a world-wide organization of the lay apostolate in which Catholic men, women and youth sanctify themselves through prayer and apostolic work in union with Our Lady under the guidance of a priest.



Religious Education Classes for February

Conf. I & II – Sun., Feb. 19 from 9:30am Mass at St. Thomas until 12:15pm at the REC.

Grades 4, 5 & 6 – Tues. Feb. 21 from 4:00pm-5:15pm

Grades 1, 2 & 3 – Wed. Feb. 22 from 4:00pm – 5:15pm

In the Bible...Listen Up! ~

February 19- "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:44-45)

Who is someone you can pray for?

Celebrate February ~

February 21 ~ Mardi Gras ~ All families are invited and encouraged to attend the Pancake and Sausage Dinner and celebrate Mardi Gras on **Tuesday, February 21st from 5:30-7:00PM** at St. Thomas Church hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Please come and enjoy the fellowship, food, music and activities and then help bury the ALLELUIA as we begin to enter the sacred season of Lent.

February 22 ~ Ash Wednesday ~ Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are at the heart of the 40 days of Lent – which begins today! Throughout this sacred season, we are called to deepen our prayer life. For some of us, this means beginning a habit of daily **prayer** – setting aside time each day to share our hopes, joys, fears and frustrations with God. Families can pray together the first thing in the morning, before meals or before bed. The most important way to do this is to attend Mass each and every weekend and to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. You can also make time during Lent to pray a Rosary together once a week and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When we do these things, we are better able to let God work through us instead of trying to do it ourselves!

Families can also participate in **fasting and abstinence** – the practice of giving up something in order to turn away from sin and draw closer to God. This "giving up" helps us to make room for God, strengthens our desire to do God's will, prepares us for a mission and puts us in solidarity with the suffering of Christ and suffering people around the world. Even small children can give up something!

Like fasting, **almsgiving** is as much a spiritual discipline as an act of charity, especially when it comes at a personal sacrifice. In small acts of giving, families can strive to imitate Christ, who gave his life for us so that we might have eternal life.

Blessed Lent

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Saturday, February 25th, our seven children in the Sacramental Preparation Class will be at St. Thomas Church for a morning of retreat with the Salesian Sisters from the Sacred Heart Center. Following their retreat time, they will celebrate a Reconciliation Prayer Service and then receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time. Please keep these children in your prayers as they soon will come to receive the love, mercy and healing of Jesus in this very special way.

St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, February 25th** in the Father Lewis Center after the 4:30 PM Mass. All are welcome. Please join us and enjoy friendships and hospitality. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering space or call the parish office. Pot Luck Dinners are free. Just bring your favorite dish to share.

Healing Service – "The Loving Jesus in Healing"

St. Thomas the Apostle will be having a healing service on Sunday, March 5th at 2:30PM. There will be Sacrament of Penance and Counseling available. All are welcome to receive the Healing Blessings of Our Savior. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.

Hold the date – St. Thomas Tricky Tray - May 5th.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2023

"The Lord said to Moses: 'You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart... Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.... So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'"

Jesus cited this passage from Leviticus when He taught us to love God above all things, with heart, soul, strength and mind, and indicated we do this when we care for our neighbor. In our world, where diversity can be a gift, we are plagued by war, hate, racism and discrimination in so many ways. How distant from the gospel mandate.

The Sermon on the Mount offers a special emphasis on love of neighbor - and enemy - making them the object of our prayer. May we place that person, country, group in our prayer and ask the Lord to help us live the Old Testament mandate and the great commandment of the New. May we not only strive to be perfect, but as Saint Luke tells us, 'to be merciful as our Father is merciful.' We can do it.

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, February 19, 2023

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC C. L. O. W.
9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Class Conf. I & II
11:30 a.m. SJC Valentine's Day Coffee Hour

Monday, Feb. 20

Tuesday, Feb. 21

9:45 a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.
1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 4, 5 & 6
5:30 p.m. STC Mardi Gras Pancake & Sausage
Dinner & "Bury the Alleluia" Service

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22

8:00 a.m. SJC Ash Wednesday Mass
9:00 a.m. STC Ash Wednesday Mass
4:00 p.m. REC Service with Ashes
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1, 2 & 3
7:00 p.m. STC Ash Wednesday Mass

Thursday, Feb. 23

Friday, Feb. 24

9:45 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
--each Friday till 12 Noon
7:00 p.m. STC Lenten Ecumenical Service

Saturday, Feb. 25

4:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Supper after Mass

Sunday, February 26, 2023

1st Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

* * * * *

Confessions During Lent will again be available at all Catholic Churches of the Paterson Diocese, **each Monday of Lent, from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.** Reconciliation is at the heart of the Lenten Season. Plan now to prepare well for Easter. At our parishes, the schedule will be:

Feb. 27	St. Thomas	Mar. 6	St. James
Mar. 13	St. Thomas	Mar. 20	St. James
Mar. 27	St. Thomas	Apr. 3	St. James

Lent Begins this Wednesday. Let us make a parish effort of spending Lent well. It is a time of listening to the Lord and growing in spirit. **Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. You'll find the schedule of Masses in column 1.** Note that there will be a Service (not Mass) at the R. E. C. at 4 p.m. Let us pray that this will be a spiritually rewarding season.

Rules & Regs on Fasting and Abstinence.

Fasting and Abstinence are an important part of the Season of Lent. These are among the oldest practices within the Church. They help us to keep our bodies under control, and tame our unruly thoughts and desires. **Fasting** refers to *eating only one full meal and two lesser meals during the day.* **Abstinence** means *not eating meat.* All who are over the age of 59 are not bound to the rules of fasting. Likewise, children who are under the age of 18 are not bound to the rules of fast (but still could.)

All who are under the age of 14 are not bound to the rules of abstinence.

During Lent the Church calls us to strict fast and abstinence on *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday*. All other *Fridays in Lent* are *days of abstinence*.

Mardi Gras and the 'Bury the Alleluia'

Service has become an eager tradition in our parishes. It is a great way to teach children (and to remind ourselves) of the special spirit of Lent. Our Knights will be cooking up a Pancake and Sausage Supper. At the end we will process into Church to begin the quiet and meditative Season of Lent. It all begins in the **Fr. Lewis Center at St. Thomas this Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.** All parishioners of both parishes are encouraged to join us.

Ecumenical Services During Lent.

Once again we will be gathering with our Christian neighbors to share our prayers and prayer styles on the **Fridays of Lent.**, at 7 p.m. each time. We will be joining Pastor Jo-Anne and the Del. Valley United Methodist Church and Pastor Mike and the Minisink Reformed Church on these nights at these locations:

Fri. Feb. 24 at St. Thomas
Fri. Mar. 3 at Delaware Valley Methodist
Fri. Mar. 10 at Minisink Reformed
Fri. Mar. 17 at St. Thomas
Fri. Mar. 24 at Delaware Valley Methodist
Fri. Mar. 31 at Minisink Reformed

Let us join together as believers in Jesus and ask the Lord for the guidance and help our nation needs.

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