

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

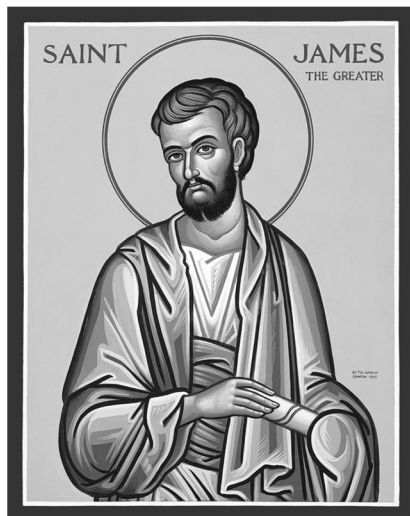
St. James the Greater

75 River Road
Montague, New Jersey



St. Thomas the Apostle

210 Route 206 North
Sandyston, New Jersey



Office for both parishes is located at
210 Route 206 North, Sandyston, NJ 07826

Parish Office ----- 973-948-2296

Fax ----- 973-948-4634

E-mail ----- stjamesthomas@aol.com

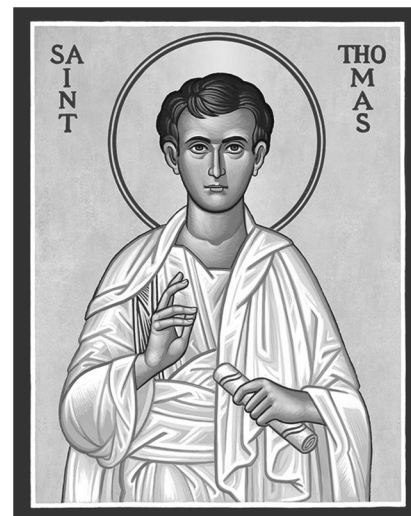
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

Rectory ----- 973-293-7582

Office Hours

Monday - Friday ----- 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Welcome



Father Wayne Varga, *Pastor*

Mr. Wayne von Doehren, *Deacon*

Mrs. Mary Flexer, *CRE*

Mrs. Rosemarie Briegel, *Parish Secretary*

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated during Mass providing that liturgical norms do not dictate otherwise. Please contact the office to schedule a Baptism and to make arrangements for preparations especially for first time parents. Baptisms may be scheduled at other times if extenuating conditions apply. Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Part of our ministry is to *visit the sick* in hospital or at home. Privacy laws do not allow us to visit or pray publicly for the sick unless permission is given by the individual or their health care proxy. Please inform us of the needs of the sick, and we will be happy to respond as best we can.

New parishioners are invited to fill out a registration form which can be found in the vestibule of the Church. Often when a Catholic is asked to be a Godparent for baptism or sponsor for Confirmation a letter from the pastor of their parish is requested. This can only be given to registered and active members of the parish.

MASS SCHEDULES

St. James

Sunday: 8:00 am & 11:30 am

Saturday: 8:00 am

St. Thomas

Saturday: 4:30 pm (*Vigil*)

Sunday: 9:30 am

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &

Friday: 9:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:20 pm or by appointment

Pregnancy Assistance

Call 1-800-395-HELP or Tri-State

Pregnancy: 570-491-5151

Good Counsel: 1-800-723-8331

for pregnant mothers in need
anytime, anyplace.

www.goodcounselhomes.org

Post Abortion Healing

Project Rachel:

973-777-8818 ext. 272

Lumina:

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1-877-LUMINA1 (877-586-4621)

www.postabortionhelp.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN (CCD)

Phone: 973-948-7004

Religious Education/Youth Office and classes are located at the Msgr. Gacquin Youth/Religious Education Center, 122 Layton-Hainesville Rd, Sandyston (*mail should be sent to parish office address listed above*)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

(*September through April*)

At St. Thomas the Apostle Church as part of the 9:30 am Mass.

Adoption Services

Adoption@CatholicCharities

The Schools of The Catholic Academy of Sussex County

973-729-6125 ext. 225

Rev. George A. Brown School
(*Pre-K to Grade 4*)

Pope John XXIII Middle School
(*Grade 5 to 7*)

Pope John XXIII High School
(*Grade 8 to 12*)



[Facebook/StJamesThomas](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesThomas)

“He opened my eyes”

--John 9: 30



Today's Gospel seems to be a simple miracle story. But it contains rich insight for us if we, like the blind man, allow Jesus to open our eyes.

Notice that this man was *born* blind. He had never been able to see his mother's face or the light of a sunrise. For his entire life he saw only darkness, and his condition was considered incurable.

Since we were born with the blindness of Original Sin, we can all identify with the challenges this man faced. Just as his physical blindness made it difficult for him to live in freedom and independence, so our spiritual blindness causes us to struggle to find our way to God. We lack the light to walk in love and holiness, and God can seem distant to us.

Jesus spotted the man in his isolation and suffering and He reached out to him (John 9: 1). He applied mud to his eyes and told him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. Suddenly, this man, who had never seen anything before, *“came back, able to see.”* (Jn. 9: 7). He could see his parents and the streets of Jerusalem—as well as the mockers who disputed his healing. But best of all, he could see Jesus ! And although it took time, he came to recognize Jesus as the Lord, and worshipped Him. (Jn. 9: 38).

Just as Jesus healed this man of his blindness, He has washed you clean of sin and healed your spiritual blindness in the waters of Baptism. No more stumbling in the darkness—you have Jesus, the Light of the World, to guide you. No more hiding in shame over sin—you are forgiven ! No more isolation—you are a child of God and a member of His family ! You may experience some lingering effects of sin, but Jesus offers you an opportunity to see more clearly each and every day. In time He will overcome *all* your darkness in His marvelous Light.

Rejoice: Jesus has opened your eyes !

Thank you, Lord, for Your grace.
I was blind, but now I see.

--from: *The Word Among Us*
Lent 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 19, 2023

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Arthur & Elsie Bastian at the
Request of their son, Andy

SATURDAY, March 25

8:00AM – Dom & Agnes Giordano
req. by their Family

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 26

8:00AM – Oreste Rondinella and Patricia Discher
req. by Suzanne Laggy

11:30AM – Frank & Rose Reed
req. by their Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 773.00 – Regular Collection – March 12, 2023

\$ 531.00 – 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, Daisy Stein, Pastor Mike Sweeney, Richard Vergona, Walter Winkler, Ricky Wunder and Jen Wycalc



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 Kenneth R. Benson at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, March 20

9:00AM – Phyllis Halback
req. by her Family

TUESDAY, March 21

9:00AM – Marge & Larry LaRusso
req. by their Family

WEDNESDAY, March 22

9:00AM – Louise Flexer
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

THURSDAY, March 23

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 24

9:00AM – Mary Gibbons
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 25

4:30PM – Roman Salza
req. by his daughter, Sharon Spangenberg
-Intentions of the Confirmation Candidates
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 26

9:30AM – Russ Spinks
req. by Gerry Mahon
-Agatha Kim
req. by the Kim and Owens Families

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,665.00 – Regular Collection – March 12, 2023

\$1,208.00 – 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 March

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

Grades 4, 5 & 6 – Tues. Mar. 21 (at STC) & 28 from 4:00pm-5:15pm

Grades 1, 2 & 3 – Wed., Mar. 22 (at STC) & 29 from 4:00pm – 5:15pm

In the Bible...Listen Up! ~

March 19 _ “I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5)

How does Jesus help us to see?

Celebrate March and the Sacred Season of Lent ~

March 19 ~ St. Joseph - The Church traditionally dedicates the month of March to the special veneration of St. Joseph, whose feast day is March 19th.

“He was chosen by the eternal father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of His greatest treasures, namely His divine Son and Mary, Joseph’s wife,” says St. Bernadine of Siena. “He carried out this vocation with complete fidelity until at last God called him saying, ‘Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.’” Due to St. Joseph’s leadership of the Holy family, he has been declared the protector and patron of the universal Catholic Church.

St. Joseph, pray for us!

March 25 ~ The Annunciation of the Lord – Today, we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation. This is the moment when the angel Gabriel came to Mary and announced that she was to be the mother of Jesus. Mary told Gabriel, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). Celebrate Mary’s “fiat” or “Yes!” by praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary today.

The History of the Stations of the Cross – Since the earliest centuries of the Church, Christians have made pilgrimages to Jerusalem in order to retrace the steps of Jesus during His suffering and death (the Via Dolorosa, or “Way of Sorrow”). Around the 15th century, Christians began the practice of prayerfully meditating on the passion of Christ by reproducing that pilgrimage in miniature in what eventually became known as the Stations of the Cross. By walking with Jesus, we join our suffering to His, knowing that He will lead us through it into the new life of the Resurrection.

Today, there are fourteen stations, each of which represents an event during Christ’s passion. Besides the traditional Stations, Pope John Paul II introduced a form of the Stations more closely linked to events recorded in the Scriptures; this form of Stations is known as the Scriptural Station of the Cross.



will take place at **St. Thomas Church on Tuesday, March 21st (gr. 4, 5 & 6) and Wednesday, March 22nd (gr. 1, 2 & 3)** from 4:00PM until 5:15PM (during their regular class time) with Chicken Nuggets/Macaroni & Cheese Dinner to follow. If you have children here both days, choose one and bring them!

Please note that the 8th grade Confirmation Class is collecting the following items to support mothers in need in our area:

Diapers and wipes, baby bottles, baby food and formula and pacifiers and baby toys

Items will be collected until March 26th. A basket is in the gathering space. Thank you for your support!



Confirmation II Rehearsal, Retreat and Sacrament – **Rehearsal** for Candidates and Sponsors will take place on **Friday, March 24th at 7:00PM**. **Final Retreat** will take place on **Saturday, March 25th from 11:00AM concluding with the 4:30PM Mass**, which they will take an active part in. **The Sacrament of Confirmation** will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin Sweeney on **Friday, March 31st at 7:00PM** followed by a light reception. **All of these events will take place at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Please keep our Candidates, their Parents and Sponsors in your prayers!**

Spring Yoga

A new session will begin on Wednesday nights starting **April 19th** from 6:00PM to 7:00PM at St. Thomas Church with easy to follow **Yoga** for sound mind and body and some added **Pilates** for core and flexibility. Please bring your mat and water and light weights (optional). The cost is \$40 for 8 weeks or \$6 per class. 20% will go to our parish. If you have any questions, please call Chris at 862-266-8418. Hope to see you there!

HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening, May 5th, St. Thomas will be hosting our Annual Tricky Tray. If you are interested in assisting our committee in any way, please call Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092. All volunteers are welcome. Help make this fundraiser a success by donating a Tray. All trays should be left in the Conference Room at St. Thomas as soon as possible to allow time for displaying them properly. (No later than Monday, May 1st). Thank you for your cooperation.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart... The Lord said, ‘there, anoint him, for this is the one’, and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David.”

How significant as we reflect upon the choice of David by the Lord as the shepherd king. We know him well as the author of the psalms, the ancestor of St. Joseph. Chosen by the Lord, he was destined to turn an important page in the story of salvation.

Today, the Lord is looking into our hearts. He is not looking at appearances as ashes, devotions or other practices. Lent for us is a time to accept the choice that the Lord is making of **us** again today. He carefully looks into our hearts to see how well we are following His choice. Our task is to allow His choice to take root in us. Do not all of us wish to be included in His care for us?

This week, we can respond, as we answer a phone call, a text message, or door bell as a reminder of who is calling.

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, March 19, 2023

4th Sunday of Lent

Happy Saint Joseph's Day !

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

9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Class Conf. I & II

Monday, Mar. 20

7:00 P.M. SJC Reconciliation (till 8:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, Mar. 21

9:45 a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.

1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study

4:00 p.m. STC Relig. Ed. Gr. 4, 5 & 6

--Stations of Cross & Light Dinner

Wednesday, Mar. 22

4:00 p.m. STC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1, 2 & 3

--Stations of Cross & Light Dinner

Thursday, Mar. 23

Friday, Mar. 24

9:45 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

12 Noon STC Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. STC Confirmation Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Lenten Ecumenical Service

--at Delaware valley Methodist Church

Saturday, Mar. 25

11:00a.m. STC Conf. II Final Retreat

Sunday, March 26, 2023

5th Sunday of Lent

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

* * * * *

Advice on Battling Temptation. *"When tempted, invoke your Angel. He is more eager to help you that you are to be helped ! Ignore the devil and do not be afraid of him: he trembles and flees at the sight of your Guardian Angel."*

--St. John Bosco (1815--1888)

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:

Mar. 20 St. James Mar. 27 St. Thomas

Apr. 3 St. James

Stations of the Cross are an important devotion throughout the year, but especially during Lent. In an effort to make the Stations more accessible, we will be offering this devotion **each Friday of Lent, at St. Thomas, at 12 Noon, as the closing prayers of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.**

For Lent, participate in both: Adoration and Stations.

Ecumenical Services During Lent. These continue as we gather with our Christian neighbors to share our prayers and prayer styles on the **Fridays of Lent.**, at 7 p.m. each time. Services will be held on the following nights at these locations:

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.

Our Confirmation Candidates have been preparing for two years for their Sacrament. **Bishop Sweeney will be at St. Thomas Church** to call down the Holy Spirit upon our young people on **Friday, March 31.** Pray that our young people may allow the Spirit to flourish within them.

FORMED.org As a Catholic, do you have questions about your faith ? How would you like to simply get some answers. **"Formed,"** a website supporting an authentic Catholic lifestyle may be a place made just for you. It is a place for one to watch, to learn and to share our common values. It really wouldn't hurt to give it a try ! (Testimony of an actual parishioner.)

To access, simply go to our parish website: **saintjamesthomass.org**. At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register (first time) or login (each time after).

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