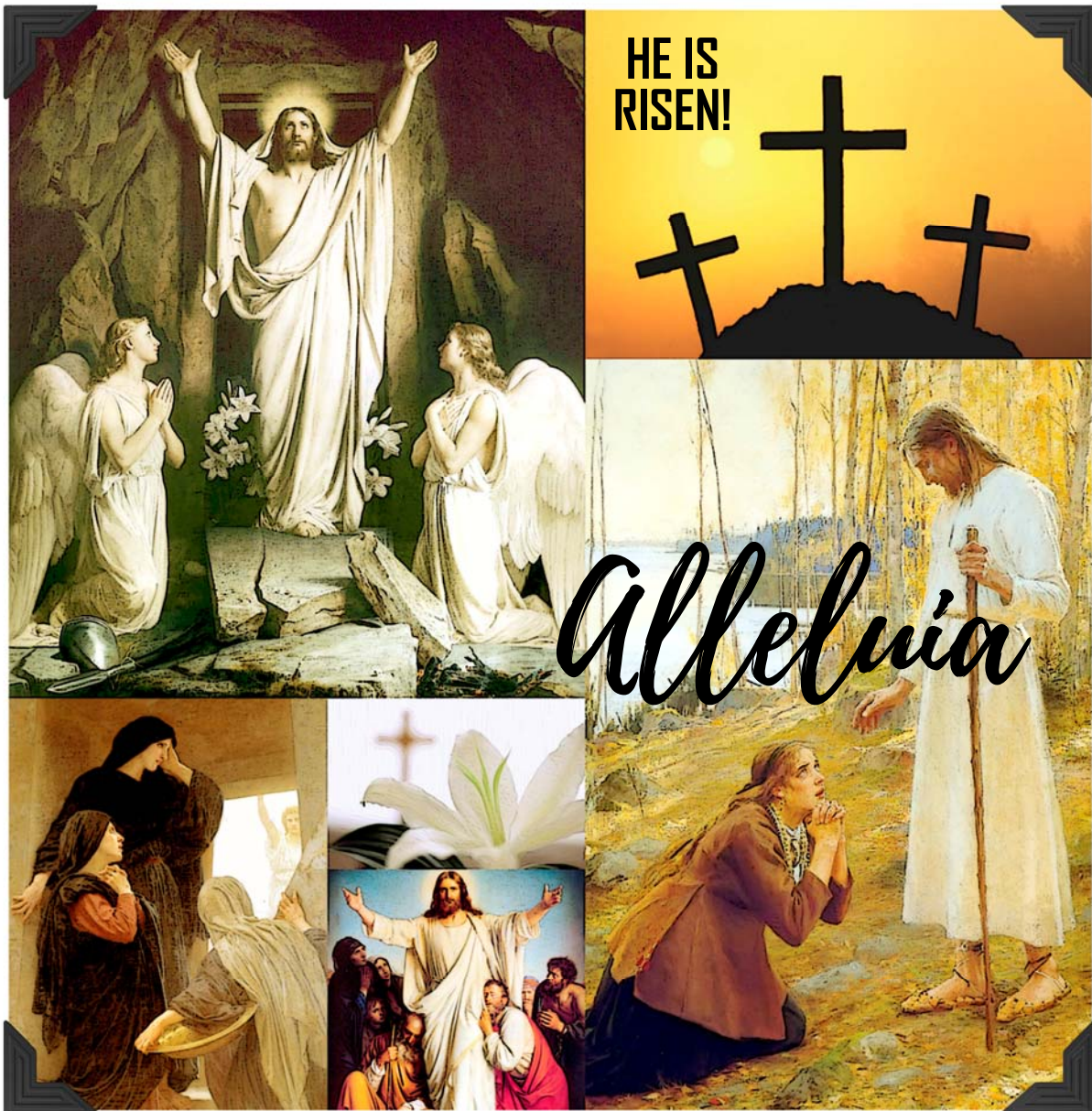


# CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF *Easter*

St. James the Greater  
Montague, New Jersey

St. Thomas the Apostle  
Sandyston, New Jersey



# *Jesus is Risen, Alleluia !!*

We celebrate today the greatest feast that any people anywhere can celebrate. It is not just a feast of earth, but also the greatest feast in heaven. We celebrate today that Jesus has burst through the doors of death and has shown us what lies beyond: even greater life—and eternal happiness with God Himself ! Our Lord's triumph becomes our triumph, for He died and rose from the grave for us. This gift of knowing that our future after death is meant to be one of joy, happiness, fulfillment and peace, is surely one of His greatest gifts to us. Our Lord Himself told us: *"Whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will live; and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."* (John 11: 25—26).

Our six weeks of Lent were meant to prepare us for this glorious day. All our sacrifices and fasting, our working to overcome faults, and our charitable deeds: all this is meant to help us prepare for this feast and for the eternal life it promises. May we not make the mistake, after Easter, of going back to the old ways of thinking and acting. God's grace has helped us to reach higher. May we not fall back.

Our faith in the Lord's Resurrection should also affect our outlook on daily life. We should be the most optimistic of all peoples. May we count all our blessings instead of our troubles. May we seek out the good in every situation. Let us always work to emphasize the positive. After all, we're positive that God watches over us.

On behalf of Deacon Wayne and our Parish Staff—Mary and Rosemarie--may I wish each of you all the joys and blessings of this Easter Day. May you have continuing joy in the knowledge that the Lord loves you and is with you always.

God bless you  
and Happy Easter !  
Father Wayne

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**April 9, 2023**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Ronald H. Wildrick, Jr. at the  
Request of his Family

**SATURDAY, April 15**

8:00AM – John Findlay, Jr.  
req. by Helen Findlay

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

**April 16**

8:00AM – James Kinney, Sr.  
req. by Suzanne Laggy

11:30AM – Carol and Michelle Ando  
req. by their Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,077.00 – Regular Collection – April 2, 2023**

**\$ 601.00 – Online Giving**

**\$1,942.00 – Regular Collection – April 3, 2022**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:**

**saintjamesthomasthomas.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, Pastor Mike Sweeney, Richard Vergona, Walter Winkler, Ricky Wunder and Jen Wycialek



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 Carol A. Pierson at the  
Request of her Family

**MONDAY, April 10**

9:00AM – Peg O'Brien  
req. by her Family

**TUESDAY, April 11**

9:00AM – Sandy Matthews  
req. by her husband, Jim

**WEDNESDAY, April 12**

9:00AM – James Melnyk  
req. by Ken & Mary Burkhardt

**THURSDAY, April 13**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, April 14**

9:00AM – Linda Frances Montefusco  
req. by John Vesper

**SATURDAY, Vigil, April 15**

4:30PM – Ryan Fairchild  
req. by Office of Victoria Kaiser-  
Vicky, Pat, Betsy & Dee

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

**April 16**

9:30AM – Trude Miehl  
req. by the Schumeg Family

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$2,097.00 – Regular Collection – April 2, 2023**

**\$1,639.00 – Online Giving**

**\$3,282.00 – Regular Collection – April 3, 2022**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:**

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**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 April and May

Grades 4, 5 & 6 – Tues. April 18 & 25 and May 2 (LAST CLASS) from 4:00pm-5:15pm

Grades 1, 2 & 3 – Wed., April 19 & 26 and May 3 (LAST CLASS) from 4:00pm – 5:15pm

**There will be NO Religious Education Classes on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy your Easter Week Break!**

### Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!

Today, we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. What a very, very special day this is! But, did you know that Easter is not just one day? It is an entire season that lasts 50 days! Throughout the Easter season, the Paschal Candle will be lit at church for all of the Masses. You can remember Jesus' resurrection by lighting a large white candle on your table during meals. You may even want to decorate the candle with markers and stickers too. May the Light of Our Risen Lord remain in our hearts throughout these fifty days and always!



### Lenten and Easter Thank You

As we continue to celebrate this beautiful season of Easter, I would like to thank all of those who gave of their time, talent and treasure to our Religious Education Program over the past several weeks: As we began Lent – to the Knights of Columbus for the Mardi Gras and the Burial of the Alleluia and the Knights at the Races. To the catechists for the Stations of the Cross and Macaroni and Cheese and Chicken Nuggets Dinner for our 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. To John Cammarata, Director of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Paterson, who provided us with our wonderful Confirmation Final Retreat. To the Salesian Sisters for their beautiful Reconciliation and Eucharist Retreat for our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children. To Mr. and Mrs. Lubchansky for their Seder Supper for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders on Holy Week. To the Confirmation Classes for their prayerful portrayal of the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. To our Newly Confirmed Teens for the Baby Collection and to all those who participated with your generosity, especially Mr. & Mrs. Lucadamo for their donation of the fabric and instruction of the baby blankets. To our Music Ministers and Choir for their beautiful and sacred music throughout Lent, Triduum and Easter. To all of the devoted Catechists of our parishes for their weekly selfless gift to the children and teens in sharing their faith and serving in this very essential ministry and to the parishioners of our parishes for your constant support and generosity to us. To the parents and grandparents for your ongoing dedication to the spiritual formation of your children and grandchildren and especially to Father Wayne and Deacon Wayne for their always holy and loving presence to us each and every day, especially through the Sacraments of the Church. We are truly blessed here! May Our Risen Lord continue His many blessings to you. Joyous Easter to all.



It is with great joy that we continue to rejoice and congratulate the following teens of our parishes who were Sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at the 7:00 PM Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle: Brody Berry, Enrico Brex, Abigail Civil, Salvatore Dispenziere IV, Lukas Guida, Claire Gushea, Sofia Lawrence, Jacob Lubchansky, June Pecoriello, Kenley Pierson, Tobias Pilger, Luka Shaub, Nikolas Smith, Carleigh Stoll and Natalia Thornton. We look forward to their active participation in the life of the Church!

We also congratulate their Parents, Grandparents, Sponsors and all of our Catechists, especially Heather Lubchansky and John Lucadamo (their Confirmation Catechists), who have been so instrumental in bringing them to this very special day in their lives. May our teens know of our prayers for them as they witness to Jesus Christ throughout their lives.



The diocesan **Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program soon comes to an end.** All Operation Rice Bowl almsgiving **must be turned in at Church by Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> or to the Religious Education Center by Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** to the container located in both places. Please make any checks payable to your parish. Thank you all for your spirit of prayer, compassion, self-sacrifice and generosity towards those in need.

**The next St. Thomas Coffee Hour** is scheduled for Sunday, **April 16<sup>th</sup>** after the 9:30 AM Mass. All are welcome. Come join us!

### Spring Yoga at St. Thomas Church

A new session will begin on **Wednesday** nights starting **April 19<sup>th</sup>** 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!

**The next St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner** is scheduled for Saturday, **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** in the Father Lewis Center immediately following the 4:30 PM Mass. Come join us! As always, all are welcome. Just bring your favorite dish to share. A sign up sheet is in the gathering space.

### HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>). 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*

### Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord April 9, 2023

**“And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?’”**

How many different sources from the scriptures there are telling us of the resurrection and appearances of the Risen Lord. From the empty tomb, the visit to the upper room, or breakfast at the sea of Galilee, all reflect the personal experience and witness. The walk on the road to Emmaus is a summary of our own experience. Does the scriptures not ‘burn within us?’ Are we able to recognize the presence of the Lord in our own lives, especially in the Eucharist? When I attend mass do the words, taking the bread, breaking, blessing, and giving, reveal once again the real presence of Christ?

A blessed Easter for all.

## 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

*Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023*

9:30 a.m. STC Easter Egg Hunt after Mass

*Monday, Apr. 10*

**Tuesday, Apr. 11**

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

**Wednesday, Apr. 12**

**Thursday, Apr. 13**

**Friday, Apr. 14**

**Saturday, Apr. 15**

**Sunday, April 16, 2023**

*Divine Mercy Sunday*

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour & Celebration  
in honor of the Newly Confirmed  
1:30 p.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
3:00 pm. STC Divine Mercy Prayers

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Sunday's Readings: *Divine Mercy***

1st Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 2: 42--47*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 118*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *1 Peter 1: 3--9*

Gospel: *John 20: 19--31*

\* \* \* \* \*

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[saintjamesthomass.org](http://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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**A Fish & Chips or Chicken & Chips Dinner**  
is being sponsored by the Frankford Fire Dep't. The  
date is **Sat. May 20<sup>th</sup>** and tickets will be available soon.  
Please support one of our local volunteer fire fighting  
departments.

***Happy Easter to All!*** Along with our parish  
staff, Deacon Wayne, Mary and Rosemarie, I wish you a  
very joyous Feast of our Lord's Resurrection. It is the  
pledge of our own. Remember that for us as Christians,  
Easter is not just a day—it is a whole season. In some  
ways, our entire life is a preparation for the fullness of life  
in the Lord's Kingdom. We hope that you will be able to  
enjoy this day with family and friends.

**Divine Mercy Sunday** in recent times has been  
observed as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter. Join us next  
Sunday, at St. Thomas, beginning at 1:30 p.m. with  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Divine Mercy  
prayers and Benediction will take place at 3:00 p.m.

**Pope Francis' 'Urbi et Orbi' Easter Message,  
2022 ('To the City and to the World'):**

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

Jesus, the Crucified One, is risen! He stands in the midst  
of those who mourned him, locked behind closed doors  
and full of fear and anguish. He comes among them and  
says: "*Peace be with you!*" (John 20:19). He shows the  
wounds in his hands and feet, and the wound in his side.  
He is no ghost; it is truly Jesus, the same Jesus who died  
on the cross and was laid in the tomb. Before the  
incredulous eyes of the disciples, he repeats: "*Peace be  
with you!*" (v. 21).

Our eyes, too, are incredulous on this Easter of war. We  
have seen all too much blood, all too much violence. Our  
hearts, too, have been filled with fear and anguish, as so  
many of our brothers and sisters have had to lock  
themselves away in order to be safe from bombing. We  
struggle to believe that Jesus is truly risen, that he has  
truly triumphed over death. Could it be an illusion? A  
figment of our imagination?

No, it is not an illusion! Today, more than ever, we hear  
echoing the Easter proclamation so dear to the Christian  
East: "*Christ is risen! He is truly risen!*" Today, more  
than ever, we need him, at the end of a Lent that has  
seemed endless. We emerged from two years of  
pandemic, which took a heavy toll. It was time to come  
out of the tunnel together, hand in hand, pooling our  
strengths and resources. Instead, we are showing that we  
do not still have within us the spirit of Jesus, we have  
within us the spirit of Cain, who saw Abel not as a brother,  
but as a rival, and thought about how to eliminate him.  
We need the crucified and risen Lord so that we can  
believe in the victory of love, and hope for reconciliation.  
Today, more than ever, we need him to stand in our midst  
and repeat to us: "*Peace be with you!*" (excerpt)

**This year's Blessing will be given at 12 Noon, Rome time.**

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