

# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

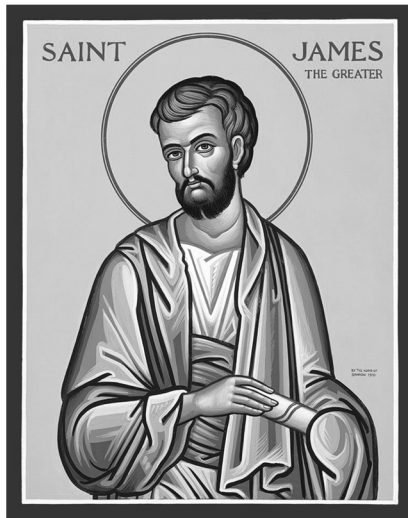
## *St. James the Greater*

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

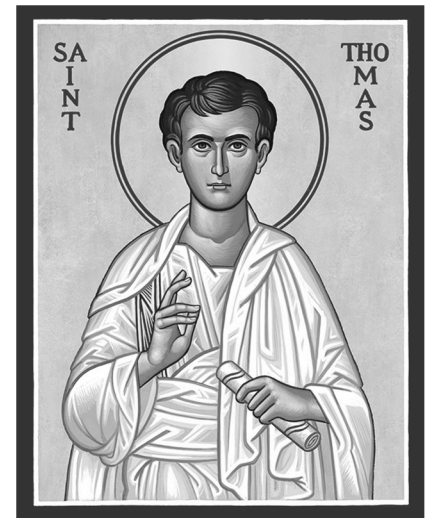
*Website* ----- saintjamesthomas.org

*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](http://www.goodcounselhomes.org)

### *Post Abortion Healing*

**Project Rachel:**  
973-777-8818 ext. 272

### **Lumina:**

Hope and Healing After Abortion,  
1-877-LUMINA1 (877-586-4621)  
[www.postabortionhelp.org](http://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](mailto: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*)

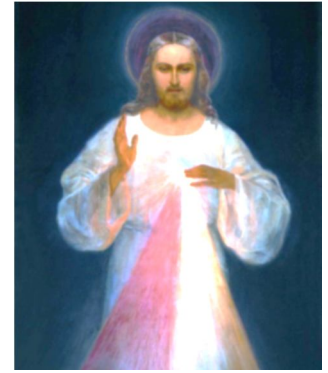


[Facebook/StJamesThomas](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesThomas)

## **Divine Mercy Sunday will be observed today at St. Thomas**

**1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet Prayers**



### **What is Divine Mercy ?**

#### **A Brief History of the Message and Devotion to Divine Mercy.**

The message of Divine Mercy that Sr. Faustina received from the Lord was not only directed toward her personal growth in faith, but also toward the good of all people. With the command of the Lord to paint an Image according to a pattern that Sr. Faustina had seen, came also a request to have this image venerated, first in the Sisters' chapel, and then throughout the world. The same is true of the revelations of the "Chaplet." The Lord requested that this Chaplet be said not only by Sr. Faustina, but by others: *"encourage souls to say the Chaplet that I have given you."*

The same is true of the revelation of the *Feast of Divine Mercy*. *"The Feast of Mercy emerged from the very depths of my tenderness. It is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter. Humankind will not have peace until it turns to the fount of My Mercy."*

These requests of the Lord, given to Sr. Faustina between 1931 and 1938 can be considered the beginnings of the Divine Mercy Message, and of the devotion and prayers. Through the efforts of Sr. Faustina's spiritual directors, Fr. Michael Sopocko and Fr. Joseph Andrasz, S.J., and others—including the Marians of the Immaculate Conception—this message began to spread throughout the world.

However, it is important to remember that this message of Divine Mercy, revealed to Sr. Faustina and to our present generation is not new. It is a powerful reminder of who God is, and has been, from the very beginning. This truth that God is, in His very nature, Love and Mercy itself, is given to us by our Judeo-Christian faith and God's self-revelation. The veil that has hidden the mystery of God from eternity was lifted by God Himself. In His goodness and love, God chose to reveal Himself to us, His creatures, and to make known His eternal plan of salvation. This God has done partly through the Old Testament patriarchs, Moses and the Prophets, and fully through His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In the person of Jesus Christ, conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, the unseen God was made visible.

#### **Jesus Reveals God as a Merciful Father**

The Old Testament speaks frequently and with great tenderness about God's mercy. Yet it was Jesus, who through His words and actions, revealed to us in an extraordinary way, God as a loving Father, rich in mercy and abounding in great kindness and love. In Jesus' merciful love for the poor, the oppressed, the sick and sinful, and especially in His freely choosing to take upon Himself the punishment for our sins (a truly horrible suffering and death on the cross)—so that all may be freed from destructive consequences and death—He manifested in a superabundant and radical way the greatness of God's love and mercy for humanity. In His person as God-Man, one in being with the Father, Jesus both *reveals* and *is* God's love and Mercy itself.

#### **The Message of God's Love and Mercy Is Made Known by the Gospels**

The Good News revealed through Jesus Christ is that God's love for each person knows no bounds. No sin or infidelity, no matter how terrible, can separate us from God and His love, when we turn to Him in confidence, and seek His mercy. God's Will is for our salvation. He has done all on our behalf. But since He made us free, He invites us to choose Him and partake of His divine life. We become partakers of His divine life when we believe in His revealed truth and trust Him; when we love Him and remain true to His Word; when we honor Him and seek His Kingdom; when we receive Him in Communion and turn away from sin; when we are mutually caring and forgiving.

--from the Internet

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**  
**April 16, 2023**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Charlie & Carol Lombaerde at the  
Request of their Family

**SATURDAY, April 22**

8:00AM – Joan Spoolstra  
req. by her Family

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 23**

8:00AM – Anne & Harry Esposito  
req. by their Family

11:30AM – Harold Dunn  
req. by his Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$2,865.00 – Easter Collection – April 9, 2023**

**\$ 921.00 – Online Giving**

**\$4,799.00 – Easter Collection – April 17, 2022**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

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

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**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 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*

**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, Andy Puccio, 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 Wycalek



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 John R. Gioielli at the  
Request of his Family

**MONDAY, April 17**

9:00AM – Burt Meshnick  
req. by his father, Dan

**TUESDAY, April 18**

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

**WEDNESDAY, April 19**

9:00AM – Burt Meshnick  
req. by his father, Dan

**THURSDAY, April 20**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, April 21**

9:00AM – Jimmy Reed  
req. by his Mom & Dad

**SATURDAY, Vigil, April 22**

4:30PM – Russ Spinks  
req. by the Francis Family

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 23**

9:30AM – Alan Quick  
req. by Dineen & James Barr

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$3,972.00 – Easter Collection – April 9, 2023**

**\$2,156.00 – Online Giving**

**\$9,109.00 – Easter Collection – April 17, 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:**

**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 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!**

## **Divine Mercy Sunday**

Today, the Sunday after Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, is the eighth day of the Easter celebration. On this day, we rejoice in the fact that God is full of mercy. Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and said, "My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners." No matter how big our sin, God's love is bigger.

Devotion to the Divine Mercy comes in many ways, including praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, venerating the Divine Mercy image, observing the Divine Mercy hour (3:00pm) and celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday at Mass. Families are encouraged to attend the Divine Mercy Sunday prayers at 3:00pm this afternoon at St. Thomas Church.



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 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.

## **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!



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

## **Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy April 16, 2023**

**"Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."**

The Acts of the Apostles describe the life of the first Christian community. May we take a minute to apply this example to our parish community, parish societies or bible study groups. We celebrate the Eucharist weekly, but we live the entire week, conscious of the needs of others, the sick, the lonely, the homeless; for after being fed by the Lord, we become His presence to others.

Pope Francis asks us to see the face of Christ in the suffering and vulnerable. He has been quoted saying, 'God's last name is Mercy.' Pope Saint John Paul II dedicated this second Sunday of Easter as the Sunday of Divine Mercy. Reflecting upon the words describing the first disciples, may we paint the same image by our thoughts, words and deeds.



# 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, 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 p.m. STC Divine Mercy Prayers

***Monday, Apr. 17***

**Tuesday, Apr. 18**

9:45 a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.  
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 4, 5 & 6

**Wednesday, Apr. 19**

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

**Thursday, Apr. 20**

**Friday, Apr. 21**

**Saturday, Apr. 22**

**Sunday, April 23, 2023**

***3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter***

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Sunday's Readings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Easter**

1st Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 2: 14, 22—33*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 16*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *1 Peter 1: 17--21*

Gospel: *Luke 24: 13--35*

\* \* \* \* \*

**FORMED.org Continuing Catholic education**

To access, simply go to our parish website:  
**[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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helps to find peace in God. Free intro subscription at:  
**[hallow.com/pray](http://hallow.com/pray)**

**Thanks for Easter Donations.** I want to thank  
all parishioners for your special Easter donations at both  
our parishes. I really appreciate your generosity. It will  
help us greatly in keeping up with all of our bills,  
especially the heating bills—which were probably as bad  
as yours at home this past winter.

**Our Legion of Mary** holds meetings **every  
Tuesday morning, from 10 a.m.—11 a.m.** right after the  
**9 a.m. Mass.** We call upon the Blessed Mother for her  
powerful intercession within our families, Church, and  
world. Good works are undertaken to help spread the  
Kingdom of God. Join us on Tuesdays, and get to know  
better Our Lady's love and concern for all of us.

**Bible Study** is also held **every Tuesday at 1 p.m. to  
2 p.m.** at the Fr. Lewis Center at St. Thomas. It is a  
chance to explore the wealth and wisdom which the  
Scriptures hold. Sessions always include refreshments.  
Join us and come to understand better all the revelation  
which God has shared with the human race.

**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 our local fire department.

**On-Line Giving** lets you enjoy this beautiful  
**Spring weather.** How? By setting up an account  
**once**, you can forget about it—and get back to your  
gardening or lawn mowing. Simply reach our parish  
website, **[saintjamesthomass.org](http://saintjamesthomass.org)**. You will find the link  
to 'on-line giving.' Follow it through and it will easily  
set you up for weekly or monthly contributions. And  
Second Collections too. With our thanks. And in your  
garden: may a thousand crocuses bloom!

**Look at Yourself: What do You See?**

What images might you use to describe yourself? Some  
speak to relationships—mother, father, sibling, student,  
coach, co-worker. Others are based on physical  
features—tall, short, brown-eyed, clean cut. But which  
ones might you use to describe the qualities of your  
Christian life? In Jesus you can find a rich source of  
images that describe what a Christian "looks like"—a  
good shepherd, a faithful friend, a healer, an advocate for  
the poor and vulnerable. Try a couple on and allow these  
images to inform your life of discipleship.

--from *Prepare the Word*, archives

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**HEADLIGHTS ON!**

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