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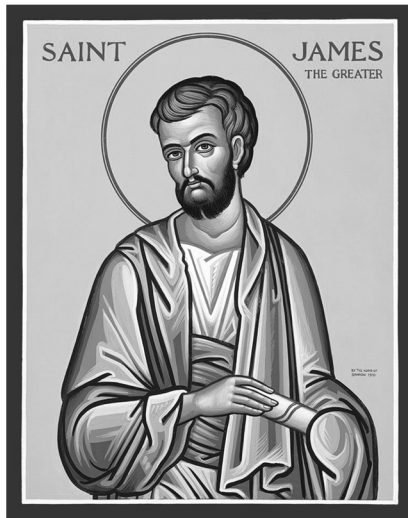
St. James the Greater

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

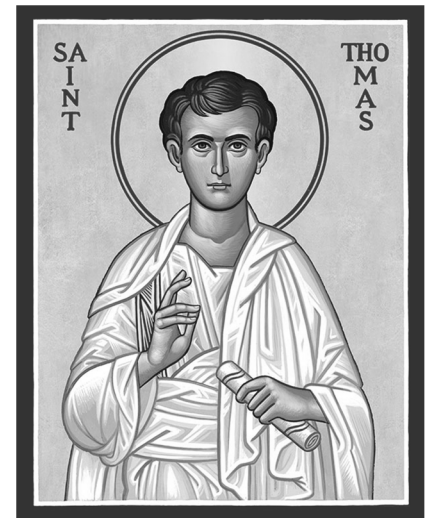
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

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:

Hope and Healing After Abortion,
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)



Worth Working Towards



“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.”

--John 14: 2

What’s your dream home ? Maybe it’s a beachfront villa or a cabin on a picturesque mountainside. Maybe it’s a castle high on a hill or a modern apartment in a bustling city. Each of us has a different picture of what is ideal.

When Jesus told His disciples that He was returning to the Father in today’s Gospel, He said He was going to prepare a place for them. And just as it is with our dream houses, those heavenly abodes aren’t one-size-fits-all. In fact, there is one that is made just for you !

Does this mean that each one of us gets our own personal “dream home” in heaven ? Yes and no. Heaven isn’t a resort filled with personalized vacation homes. But it is very real, and it’s a place where each of us receives the deep rest and refreshment we need. The *Catechism* tells us that heaven is “the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness” (1024). That means that Jesus has each of us in mind as He prepares to bring us to our perfect dwelling place. He knows us through and through. He knows our deepest yearnings. He knows what makes for our ultimate happiness. And He is preparing a place suited just for us.

But that “place” is so much more than a dwelling. It’s where we will find God Himself, the One who quenches every thirst and satisfies every longing. Nothing that we currently experience could add to the happiness that we will know when we see the Lord, our God, face-to-face ! We will be with Him fully and without hindrance. Our eyes will be opened to the beauty and holiness and power of God, and that vision will take our breath away.

Jesus promised to take us to Himself so that where He is, there we also may be (John 14: 2). In His presence, everything is fulfilled. And that makes heaven infinitely better than a dream home !

Lord, thank You for preparing a place for me !

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 7, 2023

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Linda J. Stephens at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, May 13

8:00AM – Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14

8:00AM – Jane Brace
req. by Linda & Mike Spinapolice

11:30AM – Charles & Elsie Lorber
req. by their Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 558.00 – Regular Collection – April 30, 2023
\$ 631.00 – Online Giving
\$1,988.00 – Regular Collection May 1, 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:
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, 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



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 Louis R. Briegel at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, May 8

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

TUESDAY, May 9

9:00AM – Kenny Burkhardt
req. by his Mom & Dad

WEDNESDAY, May 10

9:00AM – Eleanor Roll
req. by her daughter, Ann Dilger

THURSDAY, May 11

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 12

9:00AM – Pat Follette
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 13

4:30PM – Ryan Fairchild
req. by Office of Victoria Kaiser-
Vicky, Pat, Betsy & Dee
-Mothers of the Parish, Living & Deceased
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14

9:30AM – Andy Dachisen
req. by Chris Higgins
-Frances Demalderis
req. by her Children
-Mothers of the Parish, Living & Deceased

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,372.00 – Regular Collection – April 30, 2023
\$1,757.00 – Online Giving
\$2,916.00 – Regular Collection May 1, 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 and Catechist Gratitude

As we have just ended our religious education program for the summer months, we are so very grateful to the following faithful men and women of our parishes who unselfishly gave so much of themselves to the children and teens of our parishes over the past months and ask you to keep them in prayer of thanksgiving to Our Risen Lord: Rita Straka, Marie and Omar Mendez, Diane Green, Chris Higgins, Patrice Kealy, Martina and Ben Shewack, Marie Sampson, Mike Bussow, Heather Lubchansky and John Lucadamo. Also, to our devoted Teen Aides: Abigail Civil, Sabrina Dispenziere and Brooke Pifano, who add so much to our classes! Special thanks also to our Pastor, Father Wayne, and Deacon Wayne for all they do for us throughout the year! Our catechetical and evangelization efforts are possible because of the selfless love and dedication of each and every one. Also, please consider answering your baptismal call through the Ministry of Catechesis (Catechist or Aide). It is so very rewarding – just ask any of us! Please call the Religious Education Office if you may be feeling called by Our Lord to serve Him in this very significant way. May all of our catechists, children, teens and their families enjoy a safe, happy and holy summer! We will thank and celebrate our Catechists and their families with a Sunday Brunch very soon!



Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30AM Mass has also ended for the summer months. We would like to thank our Presiders: Chris Higgins, John Lucadamo and Amanda Sousa for their beautiful proclaiming of the Gospel and reflections each week. We also thank our newly confirmed teen Lectors: Sofia Lawrence and Luka Shaub for their reverent proclaiming of our first and second readings. We look forward to several more years of their service! Special thanks to our long-time Lectors: Lauren Cunico and Hudson Owens who have served us for many years as CLOW Lectors and Altar Servers. They will be graduating high school in a few weeks and will be off to colleges late summer! These two young adults have been awesome role models to all of the younger children in our parish and we will miss them so much! May Our Lord bless each of you for your loving commitment to His Word.



The Rite of Reception into Full Communion

It is with great joy that we congratulate Amanda Margaret Lawrence who was fully received into the Catholic Church and received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation today at our 9:30AM Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle. We thank her Sponsor, Emily Yarosz, and Alex Sousa, our RCIA/Adult Confirmation Coordinator who have also been instrumental in bringing her to this day. We continue to pray for Amanda as she continues her faith journey with Our Lord.



It is with great joy that we congratulate and welcome the following children of our parishes to the Table of the Lord as they received the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ for the very first time on Saturday, April 29th at St. Thomas the Apostle Church: Lukas Baron, Logan Berry, Madison Civil, Valentina DeVecchi, Zanna Guida, Rosario Rivera, Joseph Ruiz and Chase Pifano-Wicks.

We congratulate their Parents, Grandparents, Godparents and Catechists Martina Shewack (first-year) and Marie Mendez (second-year) who have been so instrumental in bringing them to this day. May our children continue to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus and may they continue to receive Him lovingly and reverently all the days of their lives.

Listen Up – It's in the Bible

May 7 – Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9).

What do we know about God the Father when we look at Jesus?



Catholic Summer Camp

All children who will be going into Kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited and encouraged to attend *Catholic Summer Camp*, along with the kids from Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville from June 26th – 30th from 9:00am until 12:00pm at OLQP. There they will enjoy a week of learning about the MASS through Scripture, skits, crafts, games, music and even snacks! And it's FREE! Sign up at www.olqpbranchville.org or contact Barbara at 973-948-3185 ext. 3. We are also looking for kids going into Grade 6 and up to help as aides. For more information or if you have questions, call Mary at 862-268-1876.

ST. THOMAS POT LUCK DINNER is scheduled for Saturday, **May 20th** in the Father Lewis Center immediately following the 4:30PM Mass. All are welcome. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering space or call the parish office. Come join us! Pot Luck Dinners are free; just bring your favorite dish to share.

If you would like to volunteer to help set up or clean up at coffee hours or pot luck dinners, please contact Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092 or leave your name and number at the parish office.



Spring Yoga at St. Thomas Church

Our new session has begun on **Wednesday** nights 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. **You may join us at any time.** If you have any questions, please call Chris at 862-266-8418. Hope to see you there!

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, May 7, 2023

5th Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

Monday, May 8

Tuesday, May 9

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

Wednesday, May 10

6:00 p.m. Yoga Exercise Class (till 7 p.m.)

Thursday, May 11

Friday, May 12

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

Saturday, May 13

Sunday, May 14, 2023

6th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day !

* * * * *

Next Sunday's Readings: 6th Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of the Apostles* 8: 5--8, 14--17

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm* 66

2nd Reading: *1 Peter* 3: 15--18

Gospel: *John* 14: 15--21

* * * * *

FORMED.org Continuing Catholic education

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). Recommended by FORMED: "Real Womanhood by Lisa Cotter." What does it mean to be a real woman in today's culture? Lisa Cotter explains.

HALLOW: Another new and excellent use of modern technology. Deepen your prayer life with *Hallow*, a Catholic prayer and meditation app that helps to find peace in God. Free intro subscription at: hallow.com/pray

Virtual Chaplet of Divine Mercy. On Good Friday, 2020, at the height of the pandemic, a group of "prayer warriors" began to pray the *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* together at 3 p.m. each day--virtually, using Zoom. These moments of prayer have been continuing since then, perpetually, for over 1100 days now. The time together includes the Divine Mercy prayers, but also vocal, prayers of intercession for all intentions that are brought forth. Members come from parishes within the Diocese of Paterson, but also elsewhere inside and outside New Jersey.

If you would like to join this prayer group--or have questions--please contact Deacon Greg at 908-399-8970, or by E-mail at gjszpunar@gmail.com. Technical help is offered in getting on-line with either a phone or computer. You may join us every day, or whenever your schedule permits. (Deacon Greg often assists at weekday Masses at St. Thomas.)

"Blessed is She"—a Marian Day of Devotion.

The date is **Saturday, May 20**. It is presented by the **Legion of Mary of St. Patrick's Church, Milford, PA**. The day begins with Registration at 9 a.m.; includes Mass; two speakers: Sr. Mary Magdalene and Fr. Anthony Giacona; Litany of Our Lady; Adoration of Blessed Sacrament; lunch; chance for Reconciliation. The day concludes with Benediction at 2 p.m.

Registration is free, but will be most helpful by May 13. Register by calling Bernadette at 914-850-0408 or E-mail at berniod2002@yahoo.com

Bible Study-- 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. We are beginning the study of *The Acts of the Apostles*. Sessions always include refreshments. Join us and come to understand better all the revelation which God has shared with the human race. P. S. No homework !

A Fish & Chips or Chicken & Chips Dinner is being sponsored by the **Frankford Fire Dep't**. The date is **Sat. May 20th**. Pick up is from 4 p.m. till 7 p.m. Tickets are \$ 18 and are available after all Masses. Please support one of our local volunteer fire departments.

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

--St. John Henry Newman

English theologian, philosopher, 1801--1890

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