

# FATHER



*Thank you, friend Jesus, for my father who loves me, for my grandfather who cares for me and for God, my eternal father, who made me and is always with me. How blessed I am! Amen*

St. James the Greater  
Montague, New Jersey

St. Thomas the Apostle  
Sandyston, New Jersey



## **PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

**O GOD OUR CREATOR,  
FROM YOUR PROVIDENT HAND WE HAVE RECEIVED  
OUR RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.  
YOU HAVE CALLED US AS YOUR PEOPLE AND GIVEN US  
THE RIGHT AND THE DUTY TO WORSHIP YOU, THE ONLY TRUE GOD,  
AND YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST.  
THROUGH THE POWER AND WORKING OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,  
YOU CALL US TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD,  
BRINGING THE LIGHT AND THE SAVING TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL  
TO EVERY CORNER OF SOCIETY.**

**WE ASK YOU TO BLESS US  
IN OUR VIGILANCE FOR THE GIFT OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.  
GIVE US THE STRENGTH OF MIND AND HEART  
TO READILY DEFEND OUR FREEDOMS WHEN THEY ARE THREATENED;  
GIVE US COURAGE IN MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD  
ON BEHALF OF THE RIGHTS OF YOUR CHURCH  
AND THE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE OF ALL PEOPLE OF FAITH.**

**GRANT, WE PRAY, O HEAVENLY FATHER,  
A CLEAR AND UNITED VOICE TO ALL YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS  
GATHERED IN YOUR CHURCH  
IN THIS DECISIVE HOUR IN THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION,  
SO THAT, WITH EVERY TRIAL WITHSTOOD  
AND EVERY DANGER OVERCOME—  
FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN, OUR GRANDCHILDREN,  
AND ALL WHO COME AFTER US—  
THIS GREAT LAND WILL ALWAYS BE  
“ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE,  
WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.”  
WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**June 18, 2023**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of John & Barbara Gioielli at the  
Request of their Family

**SATURDAY, June 24**

8:00AM – Peg O'Brien  
req. by her Family

**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**June 25**

8:00AM – Frank Kelly and Melissa Rodriguez  
req. by Suzanne Laggy

11:30AM – Louise Backus  
req. by Matthew & Tarin Calvario

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 871.00 – Regular Collection – June 11, 2023**

**\$ 481.00 – Online Giving**

**\$1,095.00 – Regular Collection – June 12, 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 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, John Conrad, Sr., Melissa Cunningham, Geraldine Dayko, Audrey DeMarco, Terri Eaton, Gerry Gacquin, Peggy Gray, Patricia Harrington, Tracy Harriott Patricia Hassan, 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, Colton Lawrence, 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 for the  
Healing Intentions of Dale M. Briegel at the  
Request of his Mom

**MONDAY, June 19**

9:00AM – Leonie Flaskamp  
req. by her Family

**TUESDAY, June 20**

9:00AM – Joan Spoolstra  
req. by her Family

**WEDNESDAY, June 21**

9:00AM – Robert Horan  
req. by Ann Dilger

**THURSDAY, June 22**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, June 23**

9:00AM – Barbara & Charles Kientzler  
req. by their son, Charles

**SATURDAY, Vigil, June 24**

4:30PM – Geoffrey Crann  
req. by Chris Higgins  
-Walter & Theresa Hoffman  
req. by the Wainwright Family

**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**June 25**

9:30AM – Mary Ellen Slisz  
req. by the Rosanelli Family  
-Birthday Intentions of Albert L. Dunn  
req. by his sister, Rosie

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$2,193.00 – Regular Collection – June 11, 2023**

**\$1,194.00 – Online Giving**

**\$3,114.00 – Regular Collection – June 12, 2022**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

*Consider a gift to St. Thomas 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.**



**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.





### Celebrate June

The Church is back to Ordinary Time – but it's anything but ordinary! During Ordinary Time, we learn about Jesus' life. Although Religious Education Classes are on a break over the summer months doesn't mean we stop learning about Jesus! Find ways to keep your faith alive each and every day!

**June 22 ~ St. Thomas More** ~ Thomas More was faithful to Jesus even when it was dangerous to be so. He was a very important man in the government under King Henry VIII of England. When the king declared himself head of the church in England, Thomas would not agree to it and returned his position of office. The king had him killed. Thomas understood that being faithful to God must always come first, no matter what.

***St. Thomas More, pray for us!***

**June 24 ~ St. John the Baptist** ~ St. John the Baptist was a relative of Jesus, the son of Mary's cousin Elizabeth. When he grew up, he lived in the desert and started preaching to people asking them to stop sinning and repent. He told them to get ready for the coming of their Savior. To show that their hearts and lives were ready for Jesus, John baptized them in the Jordan River. On the feast, we celebrate the birth of St. John the Baptist. We thank him for the example he gives us. We, too, can help others not to sin, by sharing our knowledge and love of Jesus.

***St. John the Baptist, pray for us!***

### Listen Up – It's in the Bible

**June 18** – "The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 10:7).

*How is God's kingdom different from earthly kingdoms?*



### Youth Group Gatherings

The Youth Group for 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders of Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. James the Greater parishes will be meeting on **Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 until 7:15pm** at OLQP in Branchville. Come and enjoy the companionship of new and old friends! Come for the food, fun and friendship! Come and find out about all the great activities and events they have planned for YOU! For more information, please call Mary Flexer at 862-268-1876.



### Congratulations Graduates

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Congratulations and many blessings to all who are graduating from Elementary School, Junior and Senior High School, College or Graduate School. May you know of the prayers and best wishes of many who are praying for you to continue to seek the help of God as you move forward to different schools or career opportunities. May you always call on the Holy Spirit for His gifts to help make decisions which will always give glory, honor and praise to Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

### St. Thomas Feast Day Picnic

Our St. Thomas Feast Day Picnic will be held on **Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 1:00pm**. All are welcome. There is no charge. If you plan on coming, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the gathering space **so we know how many to cook for.** Hamburgers, franks and chicken will be provided by the church as well as soda, water, coffee, tea and a large cake.

**Volunteers are needed** to pick tables up from the Religious Education Center and help with set up and clean up, etc. Please contact Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092 or leave your name and phone number with Rosemarie at the church. A small canopy or tent would be useful for shading the cooking area and/or other areas on the great lawn.

**Please note that the 50/50 raffle will be drawn at the picnic. Your presence is not necessary.**

# 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, June 18, 2023**  
*11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Happy Father's Day*

**Monday, June 19**

**Tuesday, June 20**  
9:45 a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.  
1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study

**Wednesday, June 21**  
6:00 p.m. Yoga Exercise Class (till 7 p.m.)

**Thursday, June 22**

**Friday, June 23**  
9:45 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

**Saturday, June 24**  
10:00a.m. O.L.Q.P Mass and March for Life  
3:00 p.m. STC Holy Hour for Life

**Sunday, June 25, 2023**  
*12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

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**Next Sunday's Readings: 11<sup>th</sup> Ord.**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *Jeremiah 20: 10—13*  
Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 69*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *Romans 5: 12--15*  
Gospel: *Matthew 10: 26—33*

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**FORMED.org.** You may have extra time over the summer months. A good way to spend it is by exploring FORMED.org. It is a Catholic educational site that offers Bible studies, movies, lectures by prominent authors, movies for kids, and more. We have a parish subscription, and so all parishioners are encouraged to access this site for free. Simply go to our parish website: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org). At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register (first time) or login (each time after). There are hundreds of items available.

**Happy Father's Day** to the king of every household ! To all the Dads, Step-Dads, Foster Dads, Grandpas, and Godfathers of our parishes—we wish you a great day ! We thank you for all that you do for your families, and especially for the guidance and strength that you offer them. May Saint Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus, always be a strength and model for you

**Holy Hour for Life.** Join us for these prayers for life on the one-year anniversary of the overturning of the misguided Roe v. Wade decision of 1973. This is the first step in turning back our nation to appreciating the sacredness of human life. Our Legion of Mary will be leading us in this Hour of Prayer for Life. It will be held this **Sat., June 24<sup>th</sup>, from 3 p.m. till 4 p.m. at St. Thomas.** It will include Adoration, Benediction and Prayers for Life.

**Mass and March for Life.** If you can, please join earlier with our neighboring church, Queen of Peace Church, for a **Mass and March for Life through the streets of Branchville.** Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Then there will be a procession through Branchville, escorted by the State Police. The March will be 1 ½ miles in length. The rosary will be prayed, invoking the Blessed Mother's help, and the Blessed Sacrament will be carried in procession. Here is a chance to join in this local gathering to witness our belief in the sacredness of human life.

**St. Thomas Parish Picnic** will be held on **Sunday, July 2.** It is the closest week-end to St. Thomas' Feast Day: July 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will be held on the Great Lawn, with music, food and drink, games for the kids, 50 / 50 raffle, and more. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like and enjoy some time outside with parishioners and friends. All from both parishes are invited to attend.

**P. S. St. James Parish Picnic: coming soon.**

**On-Line Giving** is easier than ever. Simply reach our parish website, [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.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. Save yourself a weekly chore. With our thanks.

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