

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

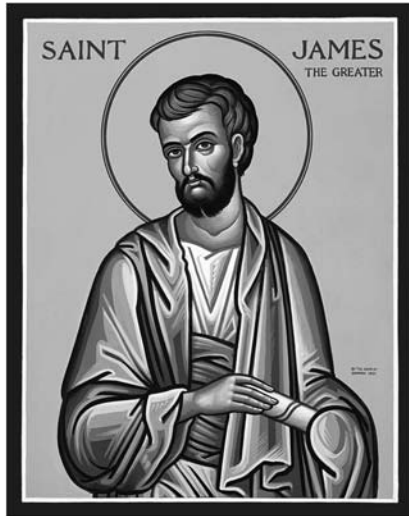
St. James the Greater

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

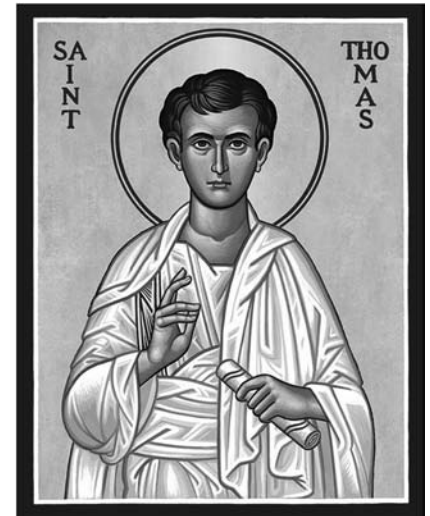
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

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:

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)

Why Was Jesus' Transfiguration Necessary ?



They kept the matter to themselves.

Mark 9: 10

Today we hear Mark's account of Jesus' transfiguration, and get a snapshot of His divinity. Six days after predicting His death and resurrection, Jesus shows His glory to Peter, James and John (Mark 8: 31; 9: 2—8). In a flash, the disciples' eyes are opened. They can see who Jesus truly is. He is more than a good rabbi, a miraculous healer, or a gifted preacher. He is greater than even Moses or Elijah ! Jesus is *God* !

Jesus' disciples didn't fully grasp their mountaintop vision or how they would need to cling to it as Jesus headed toward the cross. They didn't know how their faith would be tested or how important it was that Jesus was more than just a man. And they didn't know what Jesus meant when He said He would die and rise again. But Jesus knew. That's why He told them to keep the revelation to themselves until He *"had risen from the dead."* (Mark 9: 9).

In His transfiguration, Jesus was giving His disciples a gift to sustain them for the day of His crucifixion. On that day there would not be three tents, but three crosses. Jesus would not stand between Moses and Elijah; He would hang between two revolutionaries. On that day they would abandon their teacher and Lord to His cruel end. But Jesus' transfiguration not only helped the disciples during His crucifixion. Even more, it foreshadowed an even greater revelation of His divinity: His *resurrection* !

Jesus' glory was just as present on the cross as it was on the mountaintop. The disciples just couldn't see it. They needed a heavenly perspective—and so do we. That's why Jesus invites us to go up the mountain every day for a glimpse of His glory: to see Jesus, the Son of God, who will be with us always, to the end of time.

So whether you're at Mass or confined to your bed, look to Jesus today. Ask Him to open your eyes. Let Him strengthen your faith and fill you with hope !

Jesus, help me to see Your glory each day.

--from: *The Word Among Us*
Lent 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
February 25, 2024

St. James the Greater

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

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Mary, Queen of all Hearts at the
Request of the Rimshnick Family

SATURDAY, March 2

8:00AM – Mass of Thanksgiving to St. Jude and
St. Rita for answered prayers
req. by Dan Meshnick

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 3

8:00AM – Michael Henn and Lottie Henn
req. by Art & Maria Henn

11:30AM – Ronald H. Wildrick, Jr.
req. by his Family

MONDAY, February 26

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

TUESDAY, February 27

9:00AM – Mass of Thanksgiving to St. Jude and
St. Rita for answered prayers
req. by Dan Meshnick

WEDNESDAY, February 28

9:00AM – Intentions of Nancy Meshnick & Family
req. by Dan Meshnick

THURSDAY, February 29

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 1

9:00AM – Holy Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 2

4:30PM – Roman Salza
req. by his daughter, Sharon Spangenberg

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 3

9:30AM – Richard W. Pullis
req. by his daughters, Lisa & Laura

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 723.00 – Regular Collection- February 18, 2024
\$ 511.00 – Online Giving
\$ 274.00 – Diocesan Assessment
\$1,149.00 – Regular Collection – February 19, 2023
\$ 166.00 – Diocesan Assessment
\$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, Phyllis Coneys, Melissa Cunningham, Oliver Curtis, Geraldine Dayko, Audrey DeMarco, Marge Erickson, Patricia Harrington, Tracy Harriott, Patricia Hassan, Erin Hockenberry, Steve Honik, Diane Hoos, Gene Hudson, T. J. Huffman, Barbara Ingarinara, Charles Jensen, L. Lawson, Fred & Pat Leute, Gerard Llaneza, Nancy Lodema, Rose & Rand Macafoss, Gerry Mahon, Sara Mahon, Teresa Mantani, Gen Miller, Kim Osonitsch, Andy Puccio, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Joan Sangiorgi, Brian Scarpone, Baby Elliott Scheib, Martina Shewack, Kathleen Sibbio, Tim Slavin, Cecelia Smith, Yvonne Summers, Pastor Mike Sweeney, Walter Winkler, Ricky Wunder

Parish Mission Statement of St. James and St. Thomas Churches

We are welcoming parishes where people come together to celebrate the Eucharist, to worship, to learn and to grow in faith. Through our compassionate care and our actions, we demonstrate our beliefs, our fellowship and our commitment to be of service in Christ. We strive towards a generous tithing of our time, talents and treasure. With open arms we strive to care for one another—and for all. As a community in Christ, empowered by the sacramental life of the Church, we offer comfort and support to each one in need. We encourage each other to participate in the journey of faith, to live by Christ's example, and to build up the Kingdom of God.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,999.00 – Regular Collection- February 18, 2024
\$ 947.00 – Online Giving
\$ 455.00 – Diocesan Assessment
\$2,456.00 – Regular Collection – February 19, 2023
\$ 438.00 – Diocesan Assessment
\$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.



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, Bryce Brigham, Saige Bruzard, Brandon Heimall, Mikey Heimall, Nicholas and Karissa Kealy, Ryan Kowal, Colton Lawrence, Joseph Mannion, Luke McDermott, Hunter Olenick, Christopher & Ana Sarao, Nicole Sarao, Marissa Snook, Peter Spinks and James Orr



Religious Education Classes for February/March

Grades 1 – 4 – Tuesday, Feb. 27 and March 5, 12 (Stations of the Cross at STC) and 19 – 4:00pm until 5:30pm at REC
Grades 5 & 6 and Conf. I & II – Sunday, March 3 & 17– 9:30am Mass at STC until 12:30pm at REC



The Sacrament of Reconciliation–Welcome Home to Healing

On Monday evenings from 7:00pm until 8:30pm, our church (and every church in the Diocese of Paterson) will be open for Confession. I am asking all parents and children (who have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation) to please make this beautiful experience part of your Lenten journey! As Father Wayne is not available for this on Sunday class time, students in grades 5 through 8 are asked to attend on one of the Lenten Monday nights (check bulletin for which church). Students in grades 3 and 4 will go during their class time on March 5th, when Father Wayne will be with us. Let's make this the BEST Lent and Easter ever as we celebrate God's love, mercy, forgiveness and healing!



Holy Eucharist Retreat

On Saturday, March 2nd, the children of the Sacramental Preparation Class will be at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton for a morning of retreat with the Salesian Sisters. There they will spend time in prayer, activities and song as they learn more about the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Please keep these children in your prayers as they soon will come to receive the Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus in the spring.

Celebrate February – It's All About Love

Unlike with anyone else, you can spend time with Jesus anytime! You are in Jesus' presence in a very special way at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and at Mass each week. Look at Him and see how lovingly He looks back at you. You can also talk to him whenever you want about whatever is in your heart and on your mind. During this time of Eucharistic revival, we are called to renew our lives in Jesus Christ and grow closer to him.

Feb. .25 ~ Second Sunday of Lent ~ Pray....Fast....Give

Feb. 27 ~ St. Gregory of Narek

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Blessed Lent to all.

Sacred Scripture

Many verses in the Bible talk about love. As Catholic Christians, we understand that love is not just something we *feel*, it's also something we *do*. We are created to love God and others, and we show our love through our words and actions.

"God is love." (1 John 4:8)

How has God shown his love to us?

The Sacramental Sign-In Book for our children and teens who are preparing for the Sacraments of First Eucharist (**grades 1 & 2**) and Confirmation (**grades 7 & 8**) These Binders (**Red – Conf. Class/White – FE Class**) will be kept in the back of BOTH churches and **must be signed each week**. Joyful participation in the weekly Celebration of the Eucharist as well as on Holydays of Obligation is a requirement for the reception of these sacraments. It is also expected of all faithful Catholics!!!

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is offering a fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Wednesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm** for 8 weeks **starting on February 28th** right here at St. Thomas. **You may join us at any time**. The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Any questions, please call instructor Chris Dube at 862-266-8418. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the 8 week session for only \$40.00 or pay per class for \$6.00. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to our St. Thomas Parish. So, please come and try it out!

The Chosen

By now, many of you have heard about *The Chosen* and several parishioners have inquired about wanting to view it. Therefore, we will be starting to show *The Chosen* in the Father Lewis Center at St. Thomas Church on Tuesday afternoon's **beginning on Tuesday, February 27th at 1:00pm**.

The Chosen is a groundbreaking historical drama series. It is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Season One has eight episodes with each being 45 minutes to an hour long. We will view one episode each week and plan on some time for discussion, if you like. Please come out and make *The Chosen* part of your Lenten journey. Invite your family and friends to come along too.



Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Statue

The beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima in the Sanctuary of St. Thomas is waiting to visit your home!

The purpose of the statue is a way the message of Fatima is spread throughout the world. It brings the graces of Fatima along with Our Lady's message of hope, peace and salvation. Each week, a family or a parishioner will receive this image at the end of Mass. You will be provided with a safe way for it to travel to and from your home. You may keep her in your home for the week and then return her back to church the following week before the start of Mass. Included in the box will be rosaries, prayer cards, books and holy water to help you in your prayer time. These things must be returned when you bring the statue back.

We encourage all of our Religious Education families and all parishioners to take part in this beautiful and holy experience! There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space at St. Thomas Church on the old altar near a picture of Our Lady of Fatima. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Mary at 862-268-1876.

Monthly Coffee Hour

We are looking for ways to get more younger families involved in parish life as many of the people who have been doing so much for so long are getting older. It was suggested that we assign Monthly Coffee Hours (Second Sunday of the Month) to the Religious Education Classes. Therefore, on **Sunday, March 10th, we are asking the Confirmation II Class to host**. We will need people to set up, serve, bake/and or provide food or juice and clean up. This is something easy that both parents and teens can do together! We are asking for two of you to take charge of this by making sure there will be enough help and food, although we are certain many parishioners will still bring food in too. Please contact Mary at 862-268-1876 if you are available to coordinate and/or participate. Thank you Confirmation families so much for leading the way for our other classes to follow in the months to come, as we hope this new tradition in our parish will enhance both our spiritual and community life and mission in Jesus Christ.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry began in May of 2007. We started with a few women who had been participating in this ministry at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton for a few months. They had asked Father Richard if they could start it up here and, of course, they were given permission!

Over these past 16 years, many women have used their time, talent and treasure and have created over 1700 Prayer Shawls, Lap Blankets, Baby Hats and Blankets, Scarves and Baptismal Blankets that have brought healing, comfort, warmth, peace and joy to so many men, women, children and our cherished veterans! Several of these women produced at "record rates" for many, many years before being called back to God. For a very long time, we always had many shawls and blankets on hand to be distributed. Unfortunately, this is not the case now. Therefore, although we are blessed with several devoted, diligent creators, we are putting out the call to all of those who have been gifted by God with this beautiful talent.

This group meets at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center on the First and Third Mondays of the month from 11:00AM until 1:00PM. We are always ready to welcome new members to keep this very important ministry going! If you are unable to attend the sessions in person, but would still like to participate from home, please do so! We have plenty of yarn for you to use, so no need to purchase any. Please call Mary at 862-268-1876 if you have any questions or concerns or to set up a time to come pick up some yarn.

So, if you enjoy knitting or crocheting, we are praying for you to join us in this ministry of love! You will be making a big difference in the lives of so many others!

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, February 25, 2024
2nd Sunday of Lent

Monday, Feb. 26
7:00 p.m. SJC Confessions (till 8:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, Feb. 27
1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study
4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 1 – 4

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Thursday, Feb. 29

Friday, Mar. 1
10:00a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
--till 12 Noon
3:00 p.m. SJC Stations of the Cross
7:00 p.m. Lenten Ecumenical Service
--at Minisink Reformed Ch. Refreshments follow

Saturday, Mar. 2
9:30 a.m.—12 Noon 1st Eucharist Retreat
--at Sacred Heart Center, Newton

Sunday, March 3, 2024
3rd Sunday of Lent
9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Class Gr. 5—6
and Conf. I and II

* * * * *

Confessions during Lent will again be available in **every Catholic Church** 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:

	<i>Feb. 26 St. James</i>
<i>Mar. 4 St. Thomas</i>	<i>Mar. 11 St. James</i>
<i>Mar. 18 St. Thomas</i>	<i>Mar. 25 St. James</i>

Stations of the Cross at St. James will be prayed **every Friday afternoon in Lent at 3 p.m.** Make the Stations a part of your Lenten offerings to the Lord.

A Mass with the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated **at St. James Church on Saturday, March 16th.** Guest homilist will be Fr. Raymond Pavlick, former Veterans Affairs chaplain for Baltimore and Castle Point, and serving in the Archdiocese for Military Services.

The Sacrament is available to anyone, simply due to older age, or with chronic conditions, or approaching surgery. **The Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m. A light luncheon will be served in the Church Hall afterwards.** Please fill out the form, so we can know how to plan the luncheon. Members of both our parishes are encouraged to attend.

Attention All Hot Wheels Racers ! You are invited to join us for an exciting night of competition as our Knights of Columbus sponsor our **21st Annual 'Knights at the Races' !** Bring your fastest Hot Wheels car to the track and see how far you can go in the standings. Prizes will be awarded. Fierce competition is expected as **adults** are welcome to race their cars too. **The date: Saturday, March 9th beginning at 5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas. Pizza will be served, and so all will be winners !** Simply fill out the **Registration Form** and return it as soon as possible.

Ecumenical Services during Lent. Once again we will be gathering with our Christian neighbors to share our prayers and prayer styles on the **Fridays of Lent, beginning at 7 p.m. each time.** We will be joining Pastor Jo-Anne and the Del. Valley United Methodist Church, and Pastor Mike and the Minisink Reformed Church on these nights at locations:

Fri. Mar. 1 at Minisink Reformed
Fri. Mar. 8 at St. Thomas
Fri. Mar. 15 at Delaware Valley Methodist
Fri. Mar. 22 at Minisink Reformed

Let us join together as believers in Jesus and ask the Lord for the guidance and help our nation needs.

Hallow, the Catholic app, is growing in popularity. A number of parishioners find it a valuable help in their prayer life. Bible passages, meditations, Rosary, devotions, and much more. Thanks to a very generous, anonymous donor, Hallow is now available to all members of both of our parishes, for the cost of \$ 1.00. Reach: hallow.com/holyday or use the **Q R Code** for more info and to sign on.

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