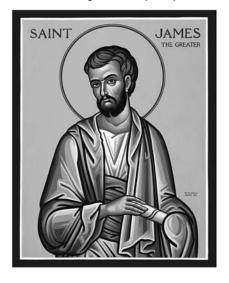
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

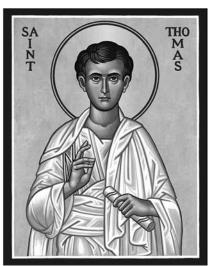
St. James the Greater
75 River Road
Montague, New Jersey



St. Thomas the Apostle 210 Route 206 North Sandyston, New Jersey







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

Join us for Bible Study every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at St. Thomas

Here's what we found in the *Book of Sirach:*



Top 25 Insightful Verses from the Book of Sirach

- 1: 1 'All wisdom comes from the Lord, and with him, it remains forever.'
- 2:2 'Be sincere and steadfast, undisturbed in times of adversity.'
- 2: 4 'Accept whatever befalls you, in crushing misfortune be patient.'
- 3: 10 'He who does kindness is remembered afterward; when he falls, he finds support.'
- 5: 13–14 'Be swift to hear, but slow to answer. If you have the knowledge, answer your neighbor; If not, put your hand over your mouth.'
- 6: 14–15 'A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price; no sum can balance his worth.'
- 7: 32 'To the poor man also extend your hand, that your blessing may be complete.'
- 10: 6 'No matter what the wrong, do no violence to your neighbor, and do not walk the path of arrogance.'
- 11: 1 'The poor man's wisdom lifts his head high and sets him among princes.'
- 11: 17 'The Lord's gift remains with the just; his favor brings continued success.'
- 11: 21 'Trust in the Lord and wait for his light; for it is easy with the Lord suddenly, in an instant, to make a poor man rich.'
- 12: 1 'If you do good, know for whom you are doing it, and your kindness will have its effect.'
- 14: 20 'Happy is the man who meditates on wisdom, and reflects on knowledge.'
- 19: 1 'He who wastes the little he has will be stripped bare.'
- 20:8 'Some misfortunes bring success; some things gained are a man's loss.'
- 22: 7 'Teaching a fool is like gluing a broken pot, or like disturbing a man in the depths of sleep.'
- 22: 23 'Make fast friends with a man while he is poor, thus will you enjoy his prosperity with him. In time of trouble remain true to him, so as to share in his inheritance when it comes.'
- 23: 20 'He who knows all things before they exist still knows them after they are made.'
- 27: 12 'Limit the time you spend among fools, but frequent the company of thoughtful men.'
- 28: 13 'Cursed be gossips and the double-tongued, for they destroy the peace of many.'
- 30: 16 'No treasure greater than a healthy body, no happiness than a joyful heart.'
- 30: 24 'Envy and anger shorten one's life, worry brings on premature old age.'
- 31: 22 'In whatever you do be moderate, and no sickness will befall you.'
- 33: 7 'Why is one day more important than another, when it is the sun that lights up every day.'
- 37: 15 'Most important of all, pray to God to set your feet in the path of truth.'

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT March 3, 2024

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, March 9

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT March 10

8:00AM – Marcjanna Klimkiewicz req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

11:30AM – Raymond Sorg
 req. by his Family
 -Intentions of Nancy Meshnick and Family
 req. by Dan Meshnick

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 733.00 - Regular Collection- February 25, 2024

\$ 561.00 - Online Giving

\$ 244.00 - Eastern Europe

\$ 974.00 - Regular Collection - February 26, 2023

\$ 101.00 - Eastern Europe

\$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

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Richard W. Pullis at the Request of his daughters, Lisa & Laura

MONDAY, March 4

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

TUESDAY, March 5

9:00AM – Bill Thompson req. by Ray & Mary Flexer -Bill Tonero req. by the Flexer Family

WEDNESDAY, March 6

9:00AM - Holy Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, March 7

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 8

9:00AM – Marcia Chirico req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 9

4:30PM - Phil Brennan

req. by Lou & Dolores Avenatti
-Birthday Intentions of Benjamin Dispoto
req. by his Aunt Rosie

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 10

9:30AM - Richard Martin

req. by Marc & Susan Cunico and Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,479.00 - Regular Collection - February 25, 2024

\$ 922.00 - Online Giving

\$ 345.00 - Eastern Europe

\$2,550.00 - Regular Collection - February 26, 2023

\$ 536.00 - Eastern Europe

\$4,410.00 - Weekly Budget Need

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

For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:



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 Bruzaud, 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



THE LEGION OF MARY OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JAMES PARISHES.

The Legion of Mary meets every Tuesday morning at 9:45 at St. Thomas the Apostle church after the 9 AM Daily Mass. We gather in the meeting room next to Father Wayne's office. Please consider

coming as a guest to see what it is all about. More information may also be found on our website https://saintjamesthomas.org/



Religious Education Classes for March

Grades 1 – 4 – Tuesday, March 5, (Fr. Wayne will be here for confession for grades 3, 4 and catechists) 12 (Stations of the Cross at STC) and 19 and 26 - 4:00pm until 5:30pm at REC

Grades 5 & 6 and Conf. I & II - Sunday, March 3, 17 and 24-9:30am 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!

Celebrate March – Getting Ready

Catholics around the world spend 40 days before Easter focused on prayer, fasting, almsgiving (charity) and the reception of the sascraments. All of these things help us realize our need for Jesus. As we already approach the halfway point of Lent, how is your Lenten journey going so far???

Mar. 3 ~ Third Sunday of Lent ~ Pray...Fast...Give

Mar. 7 ~ Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

Mar. 8 ~ St. John of God

Mar. 10 ~ St. Frances of Rome

All you holy men and women, pray for us. Blessed Lent to All.

Sacred Scripture

Preparation means getting ready. God prepares great things for us, and we also prepare for him, especially during special seasons of our faith, such as Advent and Lent. Here are some words from Sacred Scripture about preparation:

"A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God." (Isaiah 40:3) What are some ways that we can prepare to hear what God would like to say 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 and started 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. We will be viewing this in the Father Lewis Center at St. Thomas Church every Tuesday afternoon at 1:00pm.

The Chosen is a groundbreaking historical drama series. It is the first multiseason 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 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.

The St. Patrick/St. Joseph Pot Luck Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, **March 16th** after the 4:30 Mass. All are welcome.

Our youth, teens and families will once again be encouraged to Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program. Through Operation Rice Bowl, they will learn about the challenges facing the lives of their brothers and sisters around the world, as well as in their own diocese. Your children were asked to bring their Rice Bowls home, keep them in a place where they can see them and contribute to the program, learning the values of sacrifice and generosity to those in need. Rice Bowls must now be returned Holy Week to Religious Education Classes or at Mass. Thank you for your spirit of love and generosity.

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, March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Class Gr. 5—6 and Conf. I and II

Monday, Mar. 4

7:00 p.m. STC Confessions (till 8:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, Mar. 5

 $1{:}00~p.m.~STC~~Bible~Study\\$

4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 1 – 4

Wednesday, Mar. 6

Thursday, Mar. 7

Friday, Mar. 8

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 St. Thomas Church. Refreshments follow

Saturday, Mar. 9

5:30 p.m. STC. Knights at the Races
-- Hot Wheels competition

Sunday, March 10, 2024

4th Sunday of Lent

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

* * * * * * * * * *

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:

Mar. 4 St. Thomas Mar. 11 St. James Mar.18 St. Thomas Mar. 25 St. James

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 begins 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 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: this 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. 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, a treasury of Bible passages, meditations, Rosary, devotions, and much more. All available through your cellphone. 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 the "Faith Formation" on the Menu at our Parish website, or directly at: https://saintjamesthomas.org/hallow-holy-day-package-info.

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