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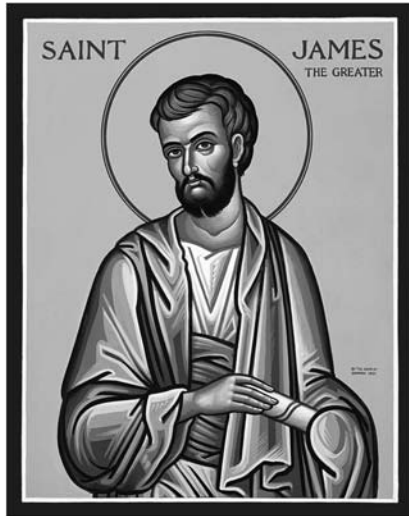
St. James the Greater

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

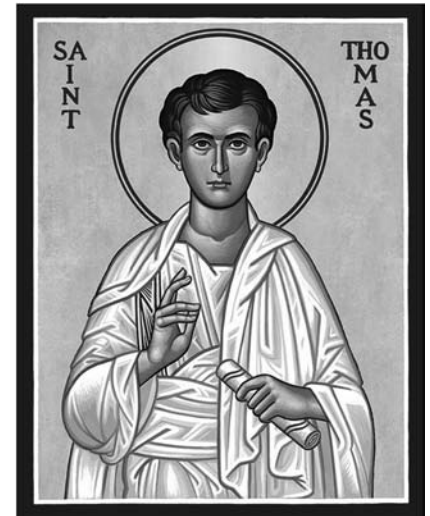
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

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)



Jesus' Cross and Our Salvation

***“When I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to Myself.”***

--John 12: 32

This is not the first time in John's Gospel that Jesus uses the image of being “lifted up” to describe His crucifixion. (John 12: 32). Earlier, Jesus compared Moses' lifting up of the serpent in the desert to Himself being “lifted up.” (Jn. 3: 14). Then, speaking to the religious leaders, He said, “*When you lift up the Son of man, then you will realize that I AM.*” (Jn. 8: 28)

Of course, after Jesus was nailed to the cross, He was physically lifted up. But John's repeated use of the phrase goes beyond that. Jesus' crucifixion, as horrible and painful as it was, was also an exultation. That's because through His cross and resurrection, Jesus saved the world. It was a victory over sin, Satan and death.

This is the paradox of the cross. It was through Jesus' suffering and death that He was glorified---and brought glory to His Father's name. (Jn. 12: 28). It was by becoming that grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies, that Jesus was able to produce “much fruit.” (Jn. 12: 24). That “fruit”—our salvation—is why we reverence the cross. It is also why Jesus could talk of His impending death as a lifting up. It was truly a triumph of love over death.

Jesus also promised to “draw everyone” to Himself” (Jn. 12: 32). This, too, was the fruit of His sacrifice. The cross removed the barrier of sin that blocked our relationship with the Father. Now, forgiven and made blameless through Jesus' blood, we have become sons and daughters of God. Drawn into the heart of the Trinity, we can enjoy eternal life with God, both now and forever.

Today at Mass, gaze upon the crucifix above the altar and let it speak to you of God's infinite love for you. Then praise and thank Jesus for His willingness to suffer and die so that you might live.

Jesus, I exalt Your name over all the earth.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 17, 2024

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Edward M. Chuckran, Jr. at the
Request of Bill & Valerie Ricciardi

SATURDAY, March 23

8:00AM – Dr. Jane Brooks
req. by Mary & Darren Case

PALM SUNDAY

March 24

8:00AM – Janette L. Main
req. by Mike & Linda Spinapolice

11:30AM – Terry Naletko
req. by his Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 725.00 – Regular Collection- March 10, 2024

\$ 631.00 – Online Giving

\$1,304.00 – Regular Collection – March 12, 2023

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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

For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:

saintjamesthomass.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

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.



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://saintjamesthomass.org>



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

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Philip J. Tangorra at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, March 18

9:00AM – Thomas Campbell
req. by Walt & Diana Seville

TUESDAY, March 19

9:00AM – Joseph Durso
req. by Mary Flexer
-Intentions of Friends of
Anthony Andreiuolo
req. by his Family

WEDNESDAY, March 20

9:00AM – Holy Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, March 21

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 22

9:00AM – Philip J. Tangorra
req. by the Rosanelli Family
- 54th Wedding Anniversary Intentions of
Rita & Milan Straka

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 23

4:30PM – Kenneth R. Benson
req. by his Family
-Robert Hagerman
req. by his Mom and Family
-Birthday Intentions of Nora
req. by JoAnn Lacovara Friel

PALM SUNDAY

March 24

9:30AM – Louise Flexer
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer
-Ellen & Russell Moffett
req. by Diane Green and Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,881.00 – Regular Collection- March 10, 2024

\$1,780.00 – Online Giving

\$2,873.00 – Regular Collection – March 12, 2023

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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

For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:

saintjamesthomass.org Then go to On-Line Giving link.

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

T.J. Albert, Phyllis Coneys, Melissa Cunningham, Oliver Curtis, Geraldine Dayko, Audrey DeMarco, Marge Erickson, Nicole Ferlo, 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 Llanaez, Nancy Lodema, Rose & Rand Macafoss, Gerry Mahon, Sara Mahon, Teresa Mantani, Gen Miller, Kim Osonitsch, Andy Puccio, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Eleanor Sacks, Joan Sangiorgi, Brian Scarpone, Baby Elliott Scheib, Martina Shewack, Kathleen Sibbio, Tim Slavin, Cecelia Smith, Yvonne Summers, Pastor Mike Sweeney, Walter Winkler, Ricky Wunder



Religious Education Classes for March

Grades 1 – 4 – Tuesday, March 19 and 26 – 4:00pm until 5:30pm at REC
Grades 5 & 6 and Conf. I & II – Sunday, March 17 and 24– 9:30am Mass at STC until 12:30pm at REC

As We Get Ready To Enter Holy Week

Mar. 23 ~ Living Stations of the Cross Rehearsal (for all Confirmation Candidates) and **Final Interviews** (for Confirmation II Candidates) from 10:00am until Noon at STC

Mar. 26 ~ Seder Supper with participation from grades 5 and 6 at 6:00pm (students arrive at 5:30pm) at STC

Mar. 28 ~ Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper is encouraging First Holy Eucharist and Confirmation II Candidates to participate in the Foot Washing at the Mass at STC. Sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space.

Mar. 29 ~ Living Stations of the Cross presented by the Confirmation Candidates at 7:30pm at STC (Candidates arrive at 4:00pm for set-up, rehearsal and dinner).



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). Let's make this the BEST Lent and Easter ever as we celebrate God's love, mercy, forgiveness and healing! **These are the LAST two weeks for Confession...March 18th at St. Thomas and March 25th at St. James...COME AND GET YOUR "SCREEN TIME"!!!**

Celebrate March – Getting Ready

Catholics around the world spend 40 days before Easter focused on prayer, fasting, almsgiving (charity) and the reception of the sacraments. 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. 17 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent ~ Pray...Fast...Give and St. Patrick

Mar. 18 ~ St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Mar. 19 ~ St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mar. 23 ~ St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

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



Our youth, teens and families will once again be encouraged to participate in the diocesan **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.**

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!



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.

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:

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." (Matthew 24:44)

It is important to watch for God each day. What are some places we can see God in our daily lives?

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!!!

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 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.

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. **Thank you to the Confirmation II Class and their parents who hosted this month! On April 14th, we are asking grades 1, 2 and 3** 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.

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 17, 2024

5th Sunday of Lent

Happy St. Patrick's Day !

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

Monday, Mar. 18

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

Tuesday, Mar. 19

St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study: "The Chosen"

4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 1 – 4

Wednesday, Mar. 20

Thursday, Mar. 21

Friday, Mar. 22

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. 23

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

* * * * *

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.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 Seder Supper will be served at St. Thomas Church **next Tuesday, March 26, beginning at 6 p.m.** This meal, and its prayers, trace the history of God's continuing help for the people He had chosen. The traditional Seder foods will be served as the prayer service progresses. After the Service a regular meal will be served, cooked by our Knights of Columbus. **Tickets are: \$ 15 adults; \$ 10 children 12 and under.** Join us and gain great insights about the background of our own Catholic Mass. Tickets available at Parish Office or after every Mass.

Holy Week and Easter are very soon upon us. Plan now to attend the Prayers and Services of Holy Week, and so make the most of these days which lead to our salvation. Here is a brief summary:

Palm Sunday Masses: next Sunday

Monday: final Confessions at St. James

Tuesday: Seder/Passover Supper and remembrance of the First Mass

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday: observance of Our Lord's death

Holy Saturday Vigil: the highpoint of the Church's year

Easter Sunday: celebrating our Lord's Resurrection -- and our own.

Ecumenical Services during Lent. Our final Lenten Ecumenical Service takes place **this Friday**, at the **Minisink Reformed Church in Montague, beginning at 7 p.m.** Pastor Jo-Anne will be the homilist. At these services we recognize the faith in the Lord, which we hold in common.

Hallow. Details about the getting this religious app can be found on our Parish Website, saintjamesthomas.org under "Faith Formation" at 'Pray Lent with Hallow.'

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held **every Friday, from 10 a.m. till 12 Noon at St. Thomas Church.** It is a chance to come before the Lord in reflection and silence. It allows you to experience inner peace, and enables God to speak to you from His very Presence on the altar. You can stay for 15 minutes or for two hours. A visit with the Lord can bring new hope and deeper trust into your life of faith. Give it a try. The Lord is waiting.

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