

Second Sunday of Lent

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security, and as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

POPE FRANCIS



Giving - Fasting - Praying
Repenting - Forgiving

St. James the Greater
Montague, New Jersey

St. Thomas the Apostle
Sandyston, New Jersey



Spending Lent in the Mountains

People sometimes speak of “mountaintop experiences.” They are highlights of a person’s life, moments when the purpose of life becomes clear. Sometimes such moments radically change the life of an individual. Often it describes an experience of God.

The Bible is filled with moments when God and His people meet at the mountaintop. The First Reading spoke of Abraham’s encounter with God on Mount Moriah, where he was assured to become the father of many nations. Elijah was hiding in a cave on Mount Horeb when he experienced God as a soft, whispering breeze. Moses finds God in the mountains, while tending sheep, when the burning bush spoke to him. And later, it was on Mount Sinai that he received the Ten Commandments from God. Jesus likewise gave us the Beatitudes (‘Blessed are the poor in spirit ...,’ etc.) while preaching the Sermon on the Mount.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus invites Peter, James and John to accompany Him up Mount Tabor as He looks for a quiet place for prayer. In those moments the apostles experience Jesus in a new way—as Elijah and Moses appear—and the voice of the Father proclaims: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.”

That experience surely opened the eyes of the apostles, as they witness Jesus momentarily transfigured in glory. With clothes whiter than white, and His face glowing like the sun, this glimpse of Jesus’ full identity would be crucial for them in the days ahead. As Jesus is condemned and crucified, this momentary mountaintop experience would sustain them until the Resurrection.

Lent is meant to be a “mountaintop experience” for us, too. It is meant to be an opportunity to glimpse God’s purposes as we move more deeply into prayer. It can be a glimpse of God’s power and beauty in the world around us and in the people around us, as we open our eyes more widely to these blessings. And we can be vehicles to express God’s own power and love by our actions of love and concern. His infinite patience and forgiveness can be experienced by others in our attempts at these things.

And remember that each reception of Holy Communion is a receiving of the same Jesus who was transfigured on the mountaintop. May we ask the Lord to transfigure us more closely into His image. During this Lenten Season may God the Father be able to say of each of us: “This too is my beloved son and daughter, in whom I am well pleased.”

God bless you, Father Wayne

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
February 28, 2021

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Thomas & Virginia Madden at the
Request of their Family

SATURDAY, March 6

8:00AM – Walter & Norma Journey
req. by their Family

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 7

8:00AM – Bob & Evelyn Schweer
req. by their Family

11:30AM – Carl & Ronnie Ferriere
req. by their Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,325.00 – Regular Collection – February 21, 2021

\$ 434.00 – Online Giving

\$ 148.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$1,528.00 – Regular Collection – February 23, 2020

\$ 175.00 – 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.**

The 8:00am St. James Coffee Hour takes place the first Sunday of the month except for July, August and September. **Postponed until further notice.**

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 Spinapolic 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 Diana, Legion of Mary, at 973-948-7601. *Pray the Family Rosary*

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

T.J. Albert, Ellen Bilofsky, Agnes Ciesielski, Barbara Connolly, Joan Costa, Michael Eiring, Bill Fulton, Gerry Gacquin, Patricia Harrington, Erin Hockenberry, Bill & Teresa Mantini, Dolores Menzella, Joshua Murch, Richard Nowicki, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Brian Scarpone, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn, Tarra Wagner, Casandra Westbrook and 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: 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 Richard W. Pullis at the
Request of his wife, Ann

MONDAY, March 1

9:00AM – Intentions of Joan Costa
For Healing
req. by Flo Oliver

TUESDAY, March 2

9:00AM – Mary & Joe Vergona
req. by Gerry Mahon and Family

WEDNESDAY, March 3

9:00AM – Richard W. Pullis
req. by his daughters, Lisa & Laura

THURSDAY, March 4

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 5

9:00AM – Kathryn Walker
req. by her Children

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 6

4:30PM – Tommy Sweeney
req. by his Aunt Mary and Barr Family Cousins
-Roman J. Salza
req. by his daughter, Sharon Spangenberg

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 7

9:30AM – Kazimiera Szwajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon
-Intentions of Jozef Babon
94th Birthday Celebration
req. by John & Maria Babon

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,723.00 – Regular Collection – February 21, 2021

\$1,279.00 – Online Giving

\$ 195.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$2,775.00 – Regular Collection – February 23, 2020

\$ 549.00 – 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.**



March/April Classes

Our on-site classes this month are as follows (unless changes need to be made):

Grades 7 & 8 (Confirmation Prep)-Sun., March 7, 21 & 28 – 9:30AM Mass – 12:30PM.

Grades 2 & 5 – Tues., March 9, 23 & 30 – 4:00PM – 5:30PM

Grades 4 & 6 – Wed., March 10, 24 & 31 – 4:00PM – 5:30PM

Grades 1 & 3 – Thurs., March 11, 25 & April 1 – 4:00PM – 5:30PM.

***For children in Grades 1 through 6 – every other week the next lesson will be taught at home.**



The Confirmation I Retreat – for Grade 7 will take place on **Saturday, March 6th** from 11:00am through 5:00pm Mass (with parents at the Mass) at **Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville**. Please keep our Candidates in your prayers!

The Confirmation II Retreat – for Grade 8 will take place on **Saturday, March 20th** beginning at 9:10am and conclude at 3:30pm at the **Sanctuary of Mary, Our Lake of the Holy Spirit in Branchville**. Please keep our Candidates in your prayers!

Confirmation Service Project – Adult sized Backpacks Needed for the Homeless

Two of our Confirmation candidates are collecting new or gently used adult backpacks for the homeless. They are helping the Ellen McGuire Foundation in their non-profit work. If you are able to assist them, please drop your backpacks off at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center or St. Thomas Church during working hours Monday – Friday from 8:30am – 2:30pm. Thank you.



Our youth and teens will once again be invited 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 will then be returned after Easter.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS **HIS WORD TODAY** by *Rev. William J. Reilly*
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

Second Sunday of Lent February 28, 2021

“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him... Christ Jesus it is who died, or rather was raised, who also is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us.”

A persistent danger for us during our Lenten observance and practices is to focus only on the events of Calvary and the paschal mystery which occurred. We may know details of the passion, death and resurrection, and recall and remember. Something else ought to happen.

The passion of Jesus continues today in the suffering of disciples throughout the world. Religious persecution continues, and because it occurs in distant places in the world it is real and affects the entire church, the entire body of Christ.

Thus Paul reminds us that it is the Risen Christ interceding for all of us today. May we join Peter, James and John with Christ on the mountain and hear echo, ‘This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.’ May we pray to and for the suffering Christ today.

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 28, 2021
2nd Sunday of Lent

Monday, Mar. 1
7:00 p.m. SJC Confessions till 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 2

Wednesday, Mar. 3

Thursday, Mar. 4

Friday, Mar. 5
7:00 p.m. SJC & STC Stations of the Cross

Saturday, Mar. 6
11:00 a.m. Conf. I Retreat at O. L. Q. P.

Sunday, March 7
3rd Sunday of Lent
9:30 a.m. STC Conf. I and II Mass & Class

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Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Lent

1st Reading: *Exodus 20: 1--17*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 19*
2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 1: 22--25*
Gospel: *John 2: 13--25*
* * * * *

FORMED.org: Simply go to our parish website: saintjamesthomas.org. At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register (first time) or login (each time after).

Suggestions from FORMED for Lent:

Listen: *My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent*
--by Bishop Robert Barron (author of *Catholicism*)
Listen: [The Healing Power of Confession](#)

On-Line Giving: [Frees up your time by setting up donations to Church once and for all.](#) Simply reach our website: saintjamesthomas.org, then scroll down to the green "On Line" link and learn more. With our thanks.

Welcome Home for Lent, 2021. In every Catholic Church of the Paterson Diocese, doors will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation **each Monday in Lent, from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.** With our situation, we will alternate churches, beginning with **St. Thomas this Mon. Mar. 22.** The full schedule is as follows:

Mar. 1 St. James Mar. 8 St. Thomas
Mar. 15 St. James Mar. 22 St. Thomas
Mar. 29 St. James

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at both our Churches this Lent. They will be held at **7 p.m. each Friday evening.** Make the Stations a part of your Lenten offerings to the Lord.

On the Transfiguration of Jesus:

"God places us in the world as his fellow workers-agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world."

[Desmond Tutu](#), South African Anglican arch-bishop, human rights activist against apartheid;
(1931—present)

"Christ did not enchant men; He demanded that they believe in Him: except on one occasion, the Transfiguration. For a brief while, Peter, James, and John were permitted to see Him in His glory. For that brief while they had no need of faith. But the vision vanished, and the memory of it did not prevent them from all forsaking Him when He was arrested, or Peter from denying that he had ever known Him."

[W. H. Auden](#), English poet and author (1907—73)

"The same Jesus Who turned water into wine can transform your home, your life, your family, and your future. He is still in the miracle-working business, and His business is the business of transformation."

[Adrian Rogers](#), Southern Baptist pastor & author
(1931—2005)

This Lent may we offer up our sacrifices for an end to the pandemic, for peace within our nation, and for a return to faith for all.

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