

# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

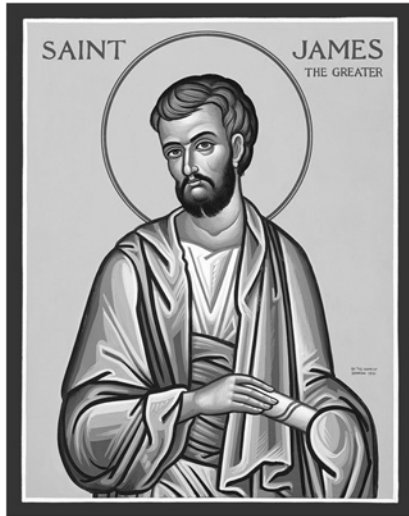
## St. James the Greater

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

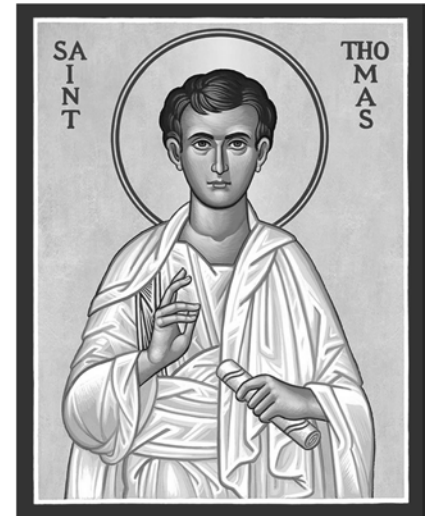
E-mail ----- stjamesthomas@aol.com

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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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)

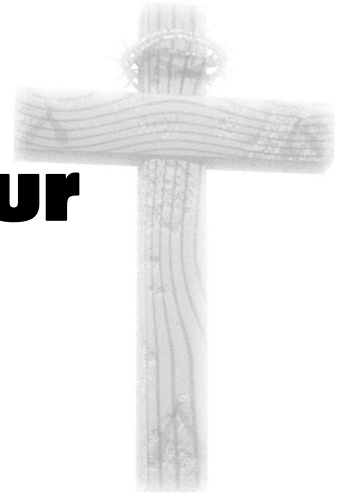
Pope John XXIII Middle School  
(Grade 5 to 7)

Pope John XXIII High School  
(Grade 8 to 12)



[Facebook/StJamesThomas](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesThomas)

# Jesus' Final Hour



***"I am troubled."***

John 12: 27

Jesus is *troubled*? That's putting it mildly. The Greek word John used here means to be greatly distressed or in fear and dread. It's the same word used to describe the disciples' reaction to a deadly storm at sea (Matthew 14: 26). It's the same kind of distress that King David felt as he wept over his slain son, Absalom (2 Samuel 19: 1), and that Lot felt as he fled the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19: 16).

So what troubled Jesus so much? The realization that his "hour" had come (John 12: 23). After spending so much time preaching and teaching, healing people and driving out demons, Jesus had now arrived at the time for his passion. He knew that agonizing torture and a slow, lingering death awaited Him, and the thought of it filled Him with dread.

Yet Jesus knew that, as terrible as it would be, the cross was necessary if He was going to save us from sin. It wouldn't be easy, it wouldn't be pretty, but it was necessary. So rather than shrinking back, He placed Himself in the Father's hands and trusted that His Father would see Him through it. He loved us too much to walk away.

We all face times when we feel troubled. It could be because we are witnessing a loved one suffering, or it could be as we face our own suffering. It's painful, it's challenging, but it's unavoidable. If that describes you today, know that you are not alone. Jesus has His arm around you and is holding you close. He knows what it's like to feel so distressed that you want to run away. And because He knows, He can comfort you and help you.

Jesus endured the cross because He knew that His death would reveal the depths of God's love for us—and for you. Let that love surround you and sustain you today.

**Lord, teach me to open my heart to your love.**

**Jesus, I need you today.**

--from: *The Word Among Us*

Lent, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
March 21, 2021

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Michael & Patricia Soletro at the  
Request of their Family

**SATURDAY, March 27**

8:00AM – Tillie Preate  
req. by her Family

**PALM SUNDAY**

**March 28**

8:00AM – Rt. Rev. Gerard P. Lair  
req. by Suzanne Laggy

11:30AM – Joan Spoolstra  
req. by her Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

\$ 551.00 – Regular Collection – March 14, 2021

\$ 309.00 – Online Giving

\$1,198.00 – Regular Collection – March 15, 2020

\$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](http://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 the  
parish office. *Pray the Family Rosary*



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 Kenneth R. Benson at the  
Request of his Family

**MONDAY, March 22**

9:00AM – Charles & Elsie Lorber  
req. by their Family

**TUESDAY, March 23**

9:00AM – Kenneth R. Benson  
req. by his Family

**WEDNESDAY, March 24**

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

**THURSDAY, March 25**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, March 26**

9:00AM – Mavis Kaufman  
req. by her Family

**SATURDAY, Vigil, March 27**

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

**PALM SUNDAY**

**March 28**

9:30AM – Josephine Yarosz  
req. by her Family

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

\$1,670.00 – Regular Collection – March 14, 2021

\$1,236.00 – Online Giving

\$2,326.00 – Regular Collection – March 15, 2020

\$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](http://saintjamesthomas.org) Then go to On-Line Giving  
link.

**TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:**

T.J. Albert, Ellen Bilofsky, Agnes Ciesielski, Maria Colletti, Barbara  
Connolly, Joan Costa, Bill Fulton, Gerry Gacquin, Ann Ginn, Patricia  
Harrington, Erin Hockenberry, Bill & Teresa Mantini, Dolores Menzella,  
Joshua Murch, Richard Nowicki, Michael Paino, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny  
Sabia, Brian Scarpone, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn, John Veres, Jr., Tarra  
Wagner, Casandra Westbrook and Ricky Wunder



### 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 21 & 28 – 9:30AM Mass –  
12:30PM.**

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

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

**Grades 1 & 3 – Thurs., March 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.**

### LAST CALL - 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 by March 31<sup>st</sup>.** Thank you.

### Feast of the Annunciation

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the moment when the angel Gabriel brought news to Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of His Son!

Mary was a young teenager and not yet married to Joseph, so how could she become a mother? She asked Gabriel, and he told her that the Holy Spirit would make it possible. Mary did not understand, but she accepted God's special plan for her. This is a wonderful example of Mary's faith in God.

On the Feast of the Annunciation, a word that means "the telling", we remember Mary and try to be like her. If we ask her to, Mary will help us to always say "Yes" to God as she did.



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. **All Rice Bowls will need to be returned by April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## *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 21, 2021**

#### *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

9:30 a.m. STC Conf. I and II Mass & Class

### **Monday, Mar. 22**

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

7:30 p.m. STC. Taize Meditation Music

### **Tuesday, Mar. 23**

4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 2 & 5

### **Wednesday, Mar. 24**

4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 4 & 6

### **Thursday, Mar. 25**

#### **Feast of the Annunciation**

4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 1 & 3

### **Friday, Mar. 26**

1:00 p.m. SJC & STC Stations of the Cross

### **Saturday, Mar. 27**

### **Sunday, March 28, 2021**

#### *Palm Sunday*

9:30 a.m. STC Conf. I and II Mass & Class

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Next Sunday's Readings: *Palm Sunday***

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *Isiah 50: 4--7*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 22*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *Philippians 2: 6--11*

Gospel: *Mark 14: 1--15:47*

\* \* \* \* \*

**FORMED.org:** 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).

#### **Suggestions from FORMED for Mar. 25:**

Watch: *Mary of Nazareth*

**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.

## **An Evening of Taize Meditation and Song**

will be presented by our Parish Choir **tomorrow, Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. at St. Thomas.** It is an opportunity to relax in the Lord and to enter into deeper prayer during this Lenten Season.

## **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. The final weeks of our schedule is as follows:

Mar. 22 St. Thomas      Mar. 29 St. James

## **Stations of the Cross**

are prayed at both our Churches this Lent. They will be held at a new time: **1 p.m. each Friday afternoon. (not 7 p.m. in the evening).** **This will accommodate those who do not like to drive at night.** Make the Stations a part of your Lenten offerings to the Lord.

## **A Delicious Polish Easter Dinner**

will be served to **five lucky winners** and their guests on **Sunday, April 11.** Our K of C is conducting a raffle: tickets are \$ 20. **Each winner invites 9 others to join them** in our Fr. Lewis Center. Dinner begins at 4 p.m. Tickets on sale after Mass or at the Parish Office. Social distancing will be observed.

## **A Fish & Chips or Chicken & Chips Dinner**

is being sponsored by the **Frankford Fire Dep't.** The date is **Sat. May 1** and it is **strictly take-out** from their new firehouse on Rt. 206. Tickets are \$ 15. Tickets are available through St. Thomas.

## **On-Line Giving: a chance to give and**

**forget.** 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. With our thanks.

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