

St. James the Greater
Montague, New Jersey

St. Thomas the Apostle
Sandyston, New Jersey



HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday

and the Week that Brought Us Salvation

If a liturgy could have mood swings—as people sometimes do—then the Liturgy of Palm Sunday takes us from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows.

Our Mass started out on a note of triumph—Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem. It had all the trappings of a king's entrance—coming through the main gate, crowds of people cheering excitedly, young men placing leafy palm branches ahead of the procession, children joining in the rejoicing, and all the people hoping that this might be the Messiah who would free them from Roman occupation.

Yet at this same Mass, as we move into the church, the whole atmosphere changes. The Readings suddenly speak of a Suffering Servant, one who will be rejected by the people. Saint Paul then reminds us that: *"He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave ... becoming obedient to the point of ... death on a cross."*

Then the Gospel gives us the Passion Narrative. According to the Gospel writers, Jesus' suffering and death all work out as they had been predicted by the Old Testament prophets. Today's Palm Sunday liturgy sets the tone for all the crucial events we commemorate during Holy Week.

Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper, commemorates Jesus instituting two life-giving sacraments: the Eucharist, by which He continues to work among us in the Sacred Bread and Wine. And the Priesthood, the Apostles ordained to serve the Body and Blood of Christ to His people. In the Washing of the Feet ceremony, members of our parishes help in recreating Jesus' attitude of humble service, which all of His followers must share. In the time of Adoration after Mass, we will keep vigil with Jesus in the Garden.

On **Good Friday**, we see the depths of Jesus' love for us—and for His Father—as He is ready to witness to the Father to the end—even as it means terrible suffering and agonizing death on the cross. We realize that this is the price Jesus paid to reunite us with the Father—and to make up for our sinfulness.

Then, as the darkness and stillness of the tomb leads us to think that all is lost, suddenly Jesus breaks forth at the **Easter Vigil** to reveal the life of Resurrection. It is a life beyond death and past the grave—a life without end, in union with the Father.

On **Easter Sunday** we share the unbounded joy of Jesus' Resurrection—knowing through faith that Resurrection is in our future, too.

Let us take the time this week to contemplate and appreciate all these events, which have brought us our salvation.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

PALM SUNDAY
March 28, 2021

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Msgr. James Gacquin at the
Request of Members of the Parish

HOLY SATURDAY, April 3

No Mass

EASTER SUNDAY

April 4

8:00AM – People of the Parish, Living & Deceased
-Josephine Yarosz
req. by her Family

11:30AM – People of the Parish, Living & Deceased
-Stanley Sciora
req. by the Yarosz Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,013.00 – Regular Collection – March 21, 2021

\$ 434.00 – Online Giving

\$ 97.00 – 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 Spinapolicce 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 Father Gerald Lewis at the
Request of Members of the Parish

MONDAY, March 29

9:00AM – Irene Kruse
req. by Ken & Mary Burkhardt

TUESDAY, March 30

9:00AM – Donald Martin, Sr.
req. by his Family

WEDNESDAY, March 31

9:00AM – Msgr. James Gacquin
req. by Mary Flexer

HOLY THURSDAY, April 1

7:00PM – Pastors & Priests of the Parishes,
Living & Deceased

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2

3:00PM – Service

SATURDAY, Vigil, April 3

7:30PM – People of the Parish, Living & Deceased
-Jimmy Reed
req. by his Mom & Dad

EASTER SUNDAY

April 4

9:30AM – People of the Parish, Living & Deceased
- Vergona and Mahon Families
req. by Gerry Mahon & Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,019.00 – Regular Collection – March 21, 2021

\$1,254.00 – Online Giving

\$ 233.00 – 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
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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, Anil Jain, 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 28 – 9:30AM Mass – 12:30PM.

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

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

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

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

Three Holy Days

The Triduum is the three days leading up to (and including) Easter. This is the most important time of the Church year! Please make this a holy and prayerful time for your family.

- ❖ On **Holy Thursday**, we remember how Jesus gave Himself to us in the Eucharist for the first time. After Mass, the priest brings Jesus to an altar for adoration. We spend time there with Jesus thanking Him for loving us so very much.
- ❖ On **Good Friday**, we mourn the death of Jesus on the cross. We call it 'good' because, through His suffering, Jesus overcame the power of sin and death to save us.
- ❖ During the **Easter Vigil**, the Easter candle is lit as a symbol of the light of Christ entering the world! We each get a share. Christ is alive!

Blessed Holy Week to all of our Catechists, Aides, Teens, Children and Parish Families.

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 31st.** 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. **All Rice Bowls will need to be returned by April 11th.**

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 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

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

Monday, Mar. 29

7:00 p.m. SJC *Confessions till 8:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, Mar. 30

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

Wednesday, Mar. 31

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

Thursday, Apr. 1

Holy Thursday

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

7:00 p.m. STC *Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament till Midnight*

Friday, Apr. 2

Good Friday

1:00 p.m. SJC *Stations of the Cross*

3:00 p.m. STC *Service of the Lord's Passion*

Saturday, Apr. 3

Holy Saturday

12 Noon STC *Blessing of Easter Baskets*

7:30p.m. STC *The Easter Vigil Service*

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

Regular Sunday Schedule

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Next Sunday's Readings: *Easter Sunday*

1st Reading: *Acts 10: 34a, 37--43*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 118*

2nd Reading: *Colossians 3: 1--4*

Gospel: *John 20: 1--9*

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The Easter Vigil is the Prime Service of the entire Church year. Come and experience the richness of our Faith: ***Holy Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas.***

Palm Sunday and Holy Week. With the Masses of Palm Sunday we enter into the most sacred time of the Church year. We contemplate Jesus' last days on earth and His love for us, which continued unto the sufferings of the cross. His Resurrection on Easter Sunday changes our lives, so that we can strive for a happiness which will be everlasting.

This week, let us put aside all lesser concerns and truly enter into the spirit of Holy Week.

Welcome Home for Lent, 2021. The last evening for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be **tomorrow, Mon., March 29th at St. James, 7:00 –8:30 p.m.** Prepare for Easter in the best way possible, with a good Confession.

Our Holy Week and Easter Schedule is pared down due to the C-virus and the many restrictions. Still we are now open to 50 % of capacity. Our major Services will be live-streamed at St. Thomas, therefore any overflow can be accommodated in the Fr. Lewis Center.

The full schedule is found on this page.

***If you cannot be with us in person, join us on the Internet at saintjamesthomas.org**

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 are 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 is easier than ever. Simply reach our parish website, **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. And Second Collections too. And always with our thanks!

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