

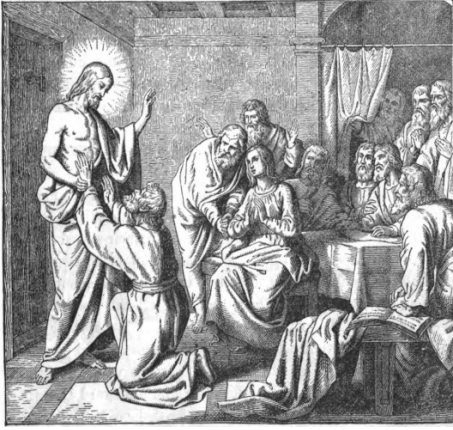
THE SIMPLE ABC MESSAGE... ASK FOR HIS MERCY, BE MERCIFUL, COMPLETELY TRUST IN JESUS

St. James the Greater
Montague, New Jersey

St. Thomas the Apostle
Sandyston, New Jersey



Jesus, I Trust in You



“My Lord and My God !”

John 20: 28

Sometimes we get labeled, whether justly or unjustly. This certainly is the case in today's Gospel Reading. Jesus had appeared to the apostles, but Thomas had not been with them. When the other apostles told him that Jesus had come to them, he couldn't accept it. Even though they had been together for three years, Thomas still doubted them.

The Gospel of John is filled with expressions that give honor to Jesus. Some people spoke of Jesus as a great prophet. Others called Him a teacher. Still others addressed Him as the Christ (the Anointed One) or even as the Son of God. But it was the Apostle Thomas—the one who has forever been labeled as “the doubter”—who first proclaimed Jesus to be “my Lord and my God.” (John 20: 28). In the words of biblical scholar Fr. Raymond Brown, Thomas made “the most complete affirmation of Christ's nature to be found on the lips of anyone in the Gospel.”

My Lord and my God ! Every miracle that Jesus performed, be it the healing of the man who was lowered through the roof, the healing of the blind Bartimaeus, or the raising of Lazarus, point to these four words. Every teaching Jesus gave, be it the Sermon on the Mount, the Parable of the Prodigal Son, or the Golden Rule, points to these four words. Every revelation of God's mercy and love points to who Jesus is and how He wants us to see Him.

This story about Thomas tells the story of every believer in the history of the Church. Thomas represents each of us when we say, “I find it hard to believe.” Just as Jesus rejuvenated Thomas' faith, He wants to rejuvenate ours when we are caught up in doubt. He wants us to be like Thomas—a people who overcome our very human and very natural doubts. He wants to help each one of us to say, “Jesus, You are my Lord and my God.”

So today and all week long, proclaim these four precious words. Then watch to see how His grace will help you to believe even more.

“Jesus, You are my Lord and my God.”

--from: *The Word Among Us*
Easter Season

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
April 11, 2021

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Ryan Bubigkeit at the
Request of Dawn Hall & Family

SATURDAY, April 17

8:00AM – Larry & Marge LaRusso
req. by their Family

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18

8:00AM – James H. Flynn
req. by his Family

11:30AM – Auristela Marina Lovera
req. by the Cabrera Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$3,719.00 – Easter Collection – April 4, 2021

\$ 659.00 – Online Giving

\$1,369.00 – Easter Collection 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 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 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*



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 Chris N. VanderGroef at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, April 12

9:00AM – John R. Brehm
req. by his Family

TUESDAY, April 13

9:00AM – Howie Embleton
req. by Ken & Mary Burkhardt

WEDNESDAY, April 14

9:00AM – Mildred Walker and Susan Walker
req. by Ken & Mary Burkhardt

THURSDAY, April 15

No Mass

FRIDAY, April 16

9:00AM – Ryan Bubigkeit and Jack McCallum
req. by Mary Flexer

SATURDAY, Vigil, April 17

4:30PM – August Eberhardt
req. by his Family
-Intentions of the Newly Confirmed

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18

9:30AM – Al & Mary Sienkiewicz
req. by their Family
-Intentions of the Newly Confirmed

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$5,201.00 – Easter Collection – April 4, 2021

\$2,249.00 – Online Giving

\$9,520.00 – Easter Collection 2020

\$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.**

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, Tony & Jodi Lupo, 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



Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen!

Alleluia, He is risen as He said! The Church rejoices in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as it celebrates the Easter season! Easter is the time of the Church year when we celebrate Jesus' rising to life again from the dead. He did this because of His great love for us and He wants us to share in His life forever! This is such a great season in the Church that it needs more than one day!

The Easter season lasts for 50 days! All season long, we can remember Jesus' resurrection by lighting a large white candle (similar to the Paschal Candle in Church) on our dining table during our meals. This will also remind us to offer our prayers of thanksgiving to Jesus for all He has done for us and will continue to do for us until we see Him again! Joyous Easter!

Divine Mercy

The Sunday after Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, is the eighth day of the Easter celebration. On this day, we rejoice in the fact that God is full of mercy. Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in the mid-20th century and said, "My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners." No matter how big our sin, God's love and mercy are bigger. Devotion to the Divine Mercy comes in many ways, including praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, venerating the Divine Mercy image, observing the Hour of Divine Mercy (3:00pm) and celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus, I trust in You!



Religious Education Thank-You's

We have so very much to thank GOD and be grateful for! We have had a safe and healthy year here on site! We have had the wonderful opportunity to include parents in our every-other week of catechesis, and I sincerely thank each of you for your faithful commitment to our parish program. You are the first and foremost catechists of the Catholic faith to your children – and how very blessed they are! We have had a wonderful year of growing in our faith again, despite missing out on so many of our wonderful catechetical and parish activities! We look forward, in prayer, to even more faith sharing, learning and growing next year!

We are also so very grateful to the following faithful men and women of our parishes who unselfishly gave so much of themselves to the children and teens of our parishes over the past months: Lucy O'Keefe, Marie Mendez, Patrice Kealy, Chris Higgins, Maria Sampson, Heather Lubchansky, Sharon Falchetta and Mike Bussow. Also, to our Teen Aide: Ryan Hickey, and our Substitutes: Samantha Shewack and Martina Shewack. We will hopefully celebrate and thank them all with Mass and a Family Brunch in the future. Special thanks also to our Pastor, Father Wayne and Deacon Wayne for all they do for us! Our catechetical and evangelization efforts are possible because of the selfless love and dedication of each and every one. Also, please consider answering your baptismal call through the Ministry of Catechesis (Catechist or Aide). It is so very rewarding – just ask any of us! Just call the Religious Education office if you may be feeling called by Our Lord to serve Him in this very significant way.



Sacrament of Confirmation, Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist

I also ask for your continued prayers for our fourteen candidates who will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, April 15th** at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church along with their candidates. Also, for our three children who will receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, April 17th** and the **Sacrament of Holy Eucharist on Saturday, May 8th**.



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 SUNDAY, 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, April 11, 2021

Divine Mercy Sunday

1:30 p.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
3:00 p.m. STC Divine Mercy prayers, Benediction

Monday, Apr. 12

Tuesday, Apr. 13

Wednesday, Apr. 14

Thursday, Apr. 15

7:00 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation at O.L.Q.P

Friday, Apr. 16

Saturday, Apr. 17

Sunday, April 18, 2021

3rd Sunday of Easter

* * * * *

Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Easter

1st Reading: *Acts 3: 13—15, 17—19*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 4*

2nd Reading: *1 John 2: 1—5a*

Gospel: *John 24: 35—48*

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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 D. M.:

Watch: *"Divine Mercy Chaplet in Song*

Watch: *"Divine Mercy Chaplet, Prayed by*

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal"

On-Line Giving: another blessing of modern technology. 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. With our thanks !

Divine Mercy Sunday. This 2nd Sunday of **Easter** in recent times has become observed as Divine Mercy Sunday. First introduced by Sr. Faustina in Poland in the 1930's, this devotion has grown throughout the world. Enthusiastically supported by Pope John Paul II, it has been elevated to a major observance within the Church.

Spend some time **this afternoon at St. Thomas**, thanking the Lord for His readiness to show us His mercy always.

Beginning at **1:30 p.m. there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.** The **Divine Mercy Prayers and Benediction will be offered at 3 p.m.**

Confession will be available during this time.

Easter 2021. It was great to see so many parishioners at our Masses for Holy Week and Easter. It reminded me of the olden days—two years ago. Let' hope that our Church and our nation are on the road to recovery. My thanks to all who helped to make our services so beautiful: our choir and musicians, all who decorated and prepared the sanctuaries and grounds and our live-stream specialists Gina & Ricardo. Thanks to all for your cheerful dedication to making things go well. May this Easter Season encourage all of us to work toward the future happiness of the Kingdom of God.

Confirmation. Please keep in your prayers the 14 young people of our parishes who will be receiving this great Sacrament **this Thursday, April 15th at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Branchville.** Pray that they will open their hearts to the Holy Spirit's counsel and wisdom. May they dedicate themselves to leading lives pleasing to the Lord and inspiring to us all.

A Delicious Polish Easter Dinner will be served to **five lucky winners** and their guests. Our K of C is conducting a raffle: tickets are \$ 20. **Each winner invites 9 others to join them** in our Fr. Lewis Center. The new date will be: **Sunday, May 2.** 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.

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