

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

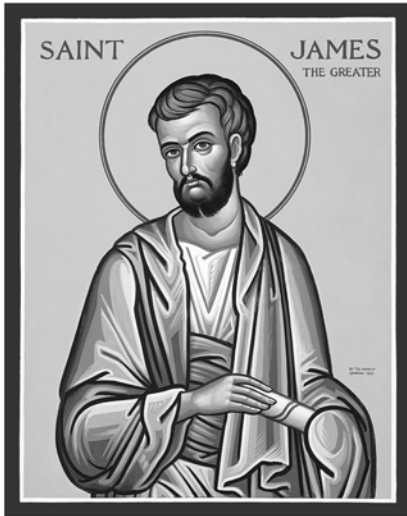
St. James the Greater

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

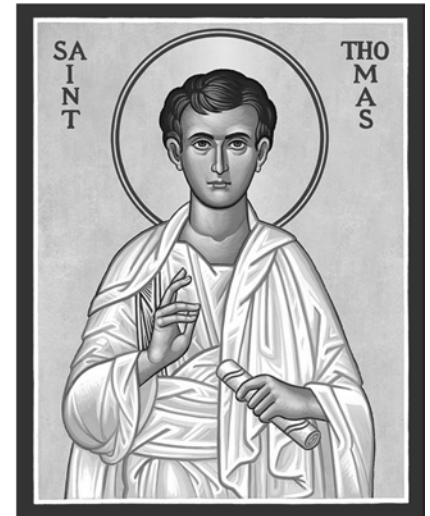
E-mail ----- stjamesthomas@aol.com

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

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

Pruning the Vine



There's a lot of adventure in today's First reading, isn't there. Paul, fresh from escaping death threats in Damascus, arrives in Jerusalem, where he faces suspicion from Christians and an attempted murder from some Greek-speaking Jews.

Why so much drama? Quite possibly God was using all this upheaval to "prune" Paul, to further purify him from remnants of his old life (John 15: 1—3).

We are so used to talking about the saints as if their holiness were a given, but that's rarely the case. For many of them, the road to holiness was as long and winding as it is for many of us. After all, we know that Paul had a strong, assertive personality. Humility doesn't always come easily!

By his own admission, Paul was "an arrogant man" before his conversion (1 Timothy 1: 13). You can imagine how some of that arrogance might still have been present as he tried to convert people. Maybe the man who had once spent his life "breathing murderous threats" against Christians still needed to learn Jesus' teaching about being poor in spirit (Acts 9: 1). So it's possible that God was using the chaos Paul encountered in Jerusalem to help him examine his heart and see where he still needed to change.

Anyone who has lived more than a few decades will tell you how valuable it is to be pruned by the Lord. They probably didn't enjoy it at the time, but looking back, they could appreciate the fruit of such pruning. Coming face-to-face with our selfishness or arrogance or resentments can move us to turn to Jesus and ask Him to purify us and set us free.

So let Jesus prune you from time to time. He promises that if you do, you will bear "more fruit" (John 15: 2). You'll become more like Him, just as Paul did.

**Jesus, You are a wise and gentle gardener.
Keep pruning me so that I can become more like you.**

--from: *The Word Among Us*
May 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 2, 2021

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Ray Sorg at the
Request of his Family

SATURDAY, May 8

8:00AM – Barbara Gioielli
req. by her Family

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 9**

8:00AM – Marcjanna Klimkiewicz and
Dorothy Sandberg
req. by Doug & Jane Sandberg
-Mothers of the Parish
Living & Deceased

11:30AM – Ann Rose Dunn
req. by her Family
-Mothers of the Parish
Living & Deceased

ST. JAMES THE GREATER
\$2,144.00 – Regular Collection – April 25, 2021
\$ 474.00 – Online Giving
\$ 84.00 – Campaign for Human Development
\$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 Louis R. Briegel at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, May 3

9:00AM – Intentions of Mike Toth
req. by his Mom
-Donald Powers
req. by his daughter, Flo and granddaughter, Tarra

TUESDAY, May 4

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

WEDNESDAY, May 5

9:00AM – Intentions of Liz Deveraux
req. by Gerry Mahon

THURSDAY, May 6

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 7

9:00AM – Michael & Peg McCully
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 8

4:30PM – Mary Rose Powers
req. by her daughter, Flo and granddaughter, Tarra
-Mothers of the Parish
Living & Deceased

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9

9:30AM – Frank & Helen Morenski
req. by their daughter, Cecelia
-Mothers of the Parish,
Living & Deceased

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
\$1,918.00 – Regular Collection – April 25, 2021
\$1,279.00 – Online Giving
\$ 260.00 – Campaign for Human Development
\$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, Teresa Mantani, 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



**Another Feast for St. Joseph –
St. Joseph, the Worker**

Maybe you remember back to December 8th when Pope Francis declared this *The Year of St. Joseph* or back to March 19th, the *Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. Well, this weekend, May 1st, we celebrate another feast dedicated to Jesus' earthly father, that of *St. Joseph, the Worker*.

We honor St. Joseph for his very important role in the Holy Family. St. Joseph worked hard as a carpenter to provide the Blessed Mother and Jesus all they needed. God looked with favor on his work. When we work hard – whether it is at school, doing our chores or at our places of work using the gifts and talents God has given us, we can serve God too, just as St. Joseph always did. *St. Joseph, pray for us!*



First Holy Eucharist Preparation

The children who are preparing for Holy Eucharist are reminded about their final class on **Tuesday, May 4th from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at St. Thomas Church. Parents are asked to arrive at 5:00pm for a rehearsal.**

We ask you to pray this week for the four children of our parish who will receive their first Holy Eucharist on Saturday, May 8th at an 11:00am Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle.



**Save the Date –
Catholic Summer Camp**

We plan to offer Catholic Summer Camp once again from June 21st through June 25th from 9:00am until noon together with the Parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville. More information will follow shortly.



The Rite of Reception into Full Communion

It is with great joy that we congratulate Greg Braunius who was fully received into the Catholic Church and received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation at our 9:30AM Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle. We also thank Heather Braunius, his wife and Sponsor, and Alex Sousa, our RCIA/Adult Confirmation Coordinator who have also been instrumental in bringing him to this day. We continue to pray for Greg and his family as they continue their faith journey with Our Lord.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

“Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you... I am the vine, you are the branches.’”

It is springtime, and with God's help there is a reawakening of **life** in us all. Buds are sprouting on the trees, early flowers are beginning to appear, and John's gospel offers another 'I am' teaching.

Jesus spoke to the disciples and we are numbered among them. The grace of God, the new life He gives us is directed outward to bearing fruit. Our spiritual lives depend on that grace and it impels us to bring it to others. Allow the Lord to speak through you, as you invite someone to return to life in the church, to experience the growth that comes from God and the life that brings us peace, especially in this time of trial.

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, May 2, 2021
5th Sunday of Easter

Monday, May 3

Tuesday, May 4

Wednesday, May 5

Thursday, May 6

Friday, May 7

Saturday, May 8

Sunday, May 9, 2021
6th Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day

* * * * *

Next Sunday's Readings: 6th Easter

1st Reading: *Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 98*
2nd Reading: *1 John 4: 7-10*
Gospel: *John 15: 9-17*

* * * * *

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

Suggestions from FORMED:

Listen: "*Can You Trust God?*" by Dr. Tim Gray

To be a saint you must trust God wholeheartedly. Since the fall of our first parents, however, humanity has been tempted to mistrust the Father's love for us.

Scripture scholar Dr. Tim Gray takes us on journey that addresses the pervasive misconceptions about God, showing us that there is no reason not to follow Him.

Thanks for Easter Donations. I want to thank all parishioners for your Easter donations to our churches this year. I know that it has been a struggle for many, and I thank you for your generosity to our parishes.

It was very nice to see so many people again attending our Holy Week and Easter Masses. May we pray for the day when our churches will be packed. Pray also for an end to this pandemic and a renewal of zeal for our faith, which enables us to overcome all.

Thank you also for your understanding as we reluctantly canceled all Masses on the week-end April 17-18. The C-virus seems to have caught up with our area, and we had been hearing of a higher number of people with symptoms. Hopefully by now, people are better and the threat has subsided.

Polish Dinner. Tickets are available for this delicious dinner sponsored by our Knights of Columbus. You will think you're back in Krakow as you and 9 guests enjoy the finest of the Polish culinary arts. **The new date is: Sun. June 6 in our Fr. Lewis Center and Banquet Hall.** Dinner will be served at 4 p.m. with the Knights as your hosts. **Raffle tickets are \$ 20.**

Your Mission, Should You Accept It ...

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." Evangelization is vital to the Church's mission. We must be bold in spreading the Good News. We may feel awkward, or unqualified, or not know what to say. But the simple truth is that we are called to be a witness to the world. Even if we are not eloquent, we can still model virtue and charity. Our work and our personal lives can be an example of God's unfailing love. If everything we do is performed with honesty, joy, care and affection, we'll influence those who have not welcomed the Lord into their lives, as well as those who need their commitment buoyed or reignited. They'll all want what we have. *Lord, may our words and our deeds draw all closer to You, we pray.* --from: *Celebration*

On-Line Giving: another blessing of modern technology. Simply reach our parish website, saintjamestomas.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 !

SCOTT'S AUTOMOTIVE
Your Dealership Alternative
Complete Foreign & Domestic
Repair & Maintenance
973-293-8665
406 Rt. 206 • MONTAGUE, NJ 07827
www.scottysautomotiveservices.com

The Only Italian Specialty Store In The Area
Brooklyn Boy Pork Store
Italian Specialties Fresh Sausage, Mozzarella, Butcher Counter, Homemade Meals, Catering & More
570-296-7863
223 Broad Street • Milford, PA
See Our Reviews on Facebook & Yelp!

DAVID WALLACE LAW OFFICES
399 CLOVE ROAD
MONTAGUE, NEW JERSEY 07827
(973) 293-8383
Fax: (973) 293-7640
General Practice of law in NY and NJ; commercial, personal injury and insurance litigation, real estate, wills and estates

Wood Funeral Home
ROBERT E. MCCrackEN
OWNER / MANAGER
N.J. Lic. No. 3640
973-948-3030
www.woodfuneralhome.net
mccrackenwood@earthlink.net
16 Main Street • PO Box 301 • Branchville, NJ 07826

TIRE KING
"Where Anybody Can Afford to RE-TIRE"
NOW DOING WHEEL ALIGNMENT
FAST - FRIENDLY SERVICE
Brakes • Shocks • Struts • Exhaust
973-875-5950 11 Lower Unionville Rd., Sussex

Miracle-Ear With Miracle-Ear*
Quality as low as \$895*,
Why Wait?
Hearing is believing! Right now, for a very limited time, you can get a fully digital, genuine Miracle-EarMINI* hearing solutions. Complete with Miracle-Ear sound quality, custom fitting and a comprehensive service and warranty program. Don't wait, this special offer ends 7/1/2021.

Milford School of Music and Music Center
Lessons • Rentals • Repairs • Sales
(570) 296-1022 / 296-5332
www.MilfordSchoolOfMusic.com
441 Route 6 and 209 • Milford, PA 18337

Gardens To Grow
HARMAN VERMONT
0% Percent Financing for 18 Months*
432 Route 206 • Montague, NJ
973.293.8844
www.gardenstogrow.com
*Requires Credit approval by Synchrony Financial. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

103 ROBERTS LANE • MILFORD, PA • 844-710-0763
Offer valid on MEMINI® CIC only. Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations. Suitable for 35 dB loss. Limit one per patient at the promotional price when first aid is purchased at regular price. Limit one coupon per purchase. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Does not apply to prior purchases. See store for details. Cash value 1/20 cent. Offer expires 7/1/2021

Our Family Serving Yours Since 1924.
GRAY - PARKER FUNERAL HOME INC.
www.grayparkerfuneralhome.com
845-856-5191 • Shaun P. Parker
100 East Main St. Port Jervis
E. Arthur Gray Memorials

CLASSY CONSIGNMENTS LLC
WOMEN'S CLOTHING & SHOES HOUSEHOLD & DECORATIVE ITEMS
HOURS: Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 10-6 • Thurs. 11-7 • Closed Sun. & Mon.
2 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE • MATAMORAS, PA • 570-491-5000

Hometown Treasures
Hometown Treasures is a boutique specializing in handcrafted items from a variety of local artists as well as items from other small businesses in the USA.
One stop shop for all of your gift giving needs.
845.672.3777
78 Front Street • Port Jervis

Are You Ready for the Warmer Weather?
METRO AESTHETICS
METRO AESTHETICS Provides Venus Velocity Laser Hair Removal.
SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION TODAY!
Gift Certificates Available
845-858-5995
Dan@Metroaesthetics.com
15 JERSEY AVENUE • PORT JERVIS

SANDYSTON DELI & BAGEL
FREE COFFEE W/ THIS AD!
No Purchase Necessary
Bagels, Breakfast & Lunch Sandwiches, Daily Specials
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
MONDAY - SUNDAY 5AM-6PM
973-250-0206
269 ROUTE 206 • SANDYSTON
sandystondeli.com

CANDY LOVER'S DREAM
Conveniently located in the Apple Valley Shops in Milford.
Candy & Gift Cottage of Milford
Fudge • Fine Chocolate Retro Candy & More
570-296-4691
108 Rt. 6 • Milford, PA
candycottagemilford.com

Stroyan Funeral Home Inc.
KEVIN T. STROYAN - Supervisor
405 West Harford Street • Milford, PA 18337
570-296-6811
Home of Tri-State Memorial Company

ECO FRIENDLY • LOOSE LEAF TEA • REFILL BAR
Save the Bees Solo Boutique
ZERO WASTE STORE
OLD LUMBERYARD SHOP • 113 7TH ST. • MILFORD
www.savethebeessola.com

FRESH PICKINS
Produce • Meat • Dairy
Baked Goods • Prepared Food
Home Decor & Local Products
973.250.0222
187 Rt. 206 South • Sandyston
Follow Us!

EL PATRON MEXICAN RESTAURANT
The Area's Authentic Mexican Cuisine
CATERING FOR ALL OCCASIONS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
104 Route 6 • Port Jervis, NY
845-856-8701
CALL US OR ORDER ONLINE!
elpatronportjervisny.com

NEED A LAWYER? INJURED ON THE JOB?
MARC J. BRENNER ESQ.
Personal Injury
Workers' Compensation
Social Security Disability
★ CALL FOR A FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION ★
(973) 326-8902
222 RIDGEDALE AVE • CEDAR KNOLLS
315 BROAD STREET • BLOOMFIELD

COVID-19 NO-COST TESTING
By Appointment Only
Location: St. Thomas Church
210 Route 206 N.
Sandyston, NJ, 07826
Registration required
www.cunicohealthandwellness.com
WEAR A MASK - STAY IN YOUR CAR
Cunico Health & Wellness
(973) 948-7595
237 US Highway 206 Sandyston, NJ 07826

J&D Landscaping & Snow Removal
914-438-5691
862-273-6786 Thank you for choosing us!

Zitone CONSTRUCTION & SUPPLY CO. INC.
STRUCTURAL BUILDERS
DESIGN BUILD • SITE DEVELOPMENT
973-293-3436
261 Clove Road • Montague, NJ