

The Roman Catholic Communities of

St. James the Greater
75 River Road
Montague, New Jersey

and

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 address: stjamesthomas@aol.com
Website address: saintjamesthomas.org
Rectory: 973-293-7582

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

PASTOR: Father Wayne Varga
DEACON: Mr. Wayne von Doehren
CRE: Mrs. Mary Flexer
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Mrs. Patricia Hope
PARISH SECRETARY: Mrs. Rosemarie Briegel

Mass Schedule at St. James
Sunday: 8:00 AM and 11:30 AM
Saturday: 8:00 AM

Mass Schedule at St. Thomas
Saturday: 4:30 PM – Vigil
Sunday: 9:30 AM
Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri.: 9:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation
St. Thomas the Apostle - Saturday - 4:00 PM - 4:20 PM or by appointment

Religious Education for children (CCD):
Religious Education/Youth Office and classes are located at the Msgr. Gacquin Youth/ Religious Education Center,
122 Layton-Hainesville Road, Sandyston (mail should be sent to parish office address listed above)
Phone: 973-948-7004 ~ Fax: 973-948-7007

Children's Liturgy of the Word (September through April):
At St. Thomas the Apostle Church as part of the 9:30 AM Mass.

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.

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.

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
Adoption Services:
Adoption@CatholicCharities.

Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish

KNOCKING at the DOOR

“He will get up to give him whatever he needs.”

Luke 11: 8

Imagine the situation: you are traveling through ancient Palestine and arrive in a village far later at night than you had planned. No inns are open here, and your empty stomach sinks as you realize the only option left is knocking on the door of an old friend. You know the culture, which dictates that it would be extremely rude and inhospitable not to welcome a guest. But that doesn't make it any less embarrassing.

You arrive at his house close to midnight and pause. Like most families of this time, they live in a one-room house. Knocking at the door means disturbing not just your friend, but his wife and children as well; they could be up until sunrise settling the children down again ! You hesitate, weighing the awkwardness of imposing yourself against the exasperation your friend will surely show. Finally, rousing all your boldness, you knock.

Many of us experience a strong social instinct to be “low maintenance,” to avoid ruffling feathers or putting undue pressure on those around us. This desire comes from a good place. We want to love people, not burden them. But in today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we should have no hesitation in our relationship with God. The guest, pestering his friend, is our model of unembarrassed petition. And when his request is not immediately granted, he is not discouraged but continues “pestering.”

In some countries, the phrase “God botherer” is used as a derogatory term for Christians. In fact, this parable shows us that, not only are we to “bother” God constantly with prayer, but He urges us to do so. Our heavenly Father loves nothing more than hearing His children's petitions. So don't hold back from asking big things from God because you think you're asking for too much. Just keep on knocking !

***“Lord, I present my needs and desires before You.
Give me the courage to come to You without any hesitation.”***

--from *The Word Among Us*
July / August 2016

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 24, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Mavis Kaufman at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, July 30

8:00AM – Vincent Courtright
req. by his Family

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 31

8:00AM – Helen Briegel
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Patricia Morris Gorski (Aunt Bunny)
req. by Dennis & Susan Orr & Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,026.00 – Regular Collection – July 17, 2016
\$ 270.00 – Catholic Communications & Missions
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$ 791.00 – Regular Collection – July 19, 2015
Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.

Rosaries for Peace

Please join us Sundays before 9:30am Mass for recitation of the First Glorious Mystery of the Holy Rosary. The remaining mysteries will be recited immediately after Mass. Rosary beads are available in the Gathering Space.

The Saturday eve Mass will also be preceded by a Rosary for Peace, beginning at 4:10 p.m. May we ask our Blessed Mother, Patroness of our Nation, to help us find peace in our nation and in the world.

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:

Margaret Accordino, Mary Cunico, Derya Dimertas, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Clara Kane, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Cathy Moyer, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner and Thomas Walsh

St. James Rosary & Altar 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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Emily Blickweidel at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, July 25

9:00AM – Pastors, Priests & Parishioners of
St. James (living & deceased)

TUESDAY, July 26

9:00AM – Elvira Budesheim
req. by Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, July 27

9:00AM – Holy Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, July 28

No Mass

FRIDAY, July 29

9:00AM – Cathy Pullis
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, July 30

4:30PM – Mildred Walker
req. by Gerry Mahon

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 31

9:30AM – Donald Carlson
req. by Melanie & Donald Tanacredi
-Intentions of Mary Cunico,
Marc & Susan Cunico
Mass of Appreciation
req. by Elaine Schuster

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,073.00 – Regular Collection – July 17, 2016
\$ 285.00 – Catholic Communications & Missions
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,663.00 – Regular Collection – July 19, 2015
Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.



The Legion of Mary meets every **Friday** morning at 10:00a.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Men and women of both parishes are invited to consider Auxiliary or Active membership. For further information, please contact the parish office.



Registrations for 2016/2017 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children in **Grades 2-8** for the upcoming catechetical year were mailed out. **All registrations were due back by July 15th to avoid the late fee.**

Registrations and Re-registrations for the **Confirmation Preparation Program** for the upcoming catechetical year were also mailed out. Please return all registrations by **July 30th** to avoid the late fee.

Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish, children enrolled in Catholic school or home school who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist or Confirmation must call the Religious Education Office to register. To enroll your child(ren) in the parish program, you must be a registered and participating member of the parish.

Catechist Formation Series

The Diocesan Catechist Formation Series will take place on Tuesday, August 2nd, 9th and 16th from 7:30-9:00pm at Morris Catholic High School in Denville. To register, go to www.insidethewalls.org. Please call Mary about carpooling!



Catholic Teens

Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. James the Greater have formed a new youth group for all teens in High School. Come join us on Sunday, July 24th, from 6:00-8:00pm in the pavilion at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish. There will be plenty of fun, games, music events and prayer. For more information please call Jenn at the office at 973-948-3185.



Vocation Vacation????

As we begin to take pleasure in the summer months, we hopefully will find time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. This is part of what makes summertime fun and, believe it or not, still a time for spiritual growth. Continue to check the bulletin for parish events, especially as we continue to celebrate St. Thomas' 75th Anniversary! Our vocation – being called to holiness (when properly understood, is nothing short of healthiness and happiness in their truest sense) – should never be on vacation! Our path to holiness always leads to Jesus Christ through His sacraments. Please make the worship, praise and thanksgiving to God at the Holy Mass part of your weekly summer plans. While you are away visiting or on vacation, take the opportunity to attend Mass at the local parish (www.masstimes.org). It may even become your “second parish” if you travel to the same place each year! It is also a great chance for your children to see the beauty of other churches, but also realize that the Mass is the same everywhere! Remember – God is NEVER on vacation from us – doesn't He deserve the SAME?

From the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the joy-filled responsibility of the entire faith community. As a community of faith, we are called to encourage others to become fully initiated Catholics. Each of us, as followers of Jesus, is called to be both a hearer of the Word and a doer of the Word. Get involved in spreading the message of God's Word! Exercise your faith! Now is your opportunity. Be a motivator of another on their journey of faith. As a doer of the Word, you will become more aware of how God is present and active in your life each day. Have those you motivate call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be returned.

2016: St. Thomas 75th Anniversary Year 1941-2016

Good Deed Journaling. All parishioners are invited to make note of the good deeds they perform during the course of the day. There are little notebooks on the table in the Gathering Space. Please take one and use it as a personal diary to record the good deeds you perform for the Lord each day. You may surprise yourself. These notebooks are for your personal use only, and can be a wonderful offering to the Lord of your time well spent for His honor and glory.

Calling all “Vintage People”

Perhaps you have great memories of the Catholic Church and the America of our youth. We ask if you would like to share a memory or two with all of our parishioners as we celebrate our 75th year. Please pick up a blue sheet of paper in the gathering space.

Senior “Vintage” Memories – Do you remember how wonderful it was to gather around the family radio (a piece of furniture called a console)? There was such a feeling of family unity as we all listened to Jack Benny, Amos & Andy, Red Skelton or Burns & Allen. We need more such laughter today, don't you think?

St. Thomas History –Rev. Mancini marked his 25th anniversary with the parishioners in 1951. Bishop Thomas Boland attended a buffet supper in Father's honor. Others participating were Rev. Anthony Spano of Don Bosco College and Rev. Frank Rodimer [now our Bishop Emeritus]. Mrs. N. DeVita and Mrs. J. Grenville of St. Thomas served on the committee.

Vendors Wanted for Flea Market

St. James the Greater Church in Montague is having their Annual Flea Market on Saturday, **September 10th** from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Indoor and outdoor spaces available. Please contact Betsy Gardner at 845-858-7892 or Gardnerabstract@aol.com for questions or to reserve a space.

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, July 24, 2016

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, July 25

Tuesday, July 26

10:00a.m. STC St. Thomas Bikers Gang

Wednesday, July 27

Thursday, July 28

Friday, July 29

9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
after Mass, till 12 Noon

10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.

Saturday, July 30

“Back to School” Supply Collection by

Columbiettes at all Masses – through Aug. 28

Sunday, July 31, 2016

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Future Events

Sun. Aug. 28 9:30 a.m. St. T's 75th Anniv. Mass

--with Bishop Serratelli

--followed by Anniv. Brunch at High Point
Country Club

Sat. Sept. 10 St. James Indoor / Outdoor Flea
Market

Next Sunday's Readings: 18th Ord

1st Reading: *Ecclesiastes 1: 2; 2: 21--23*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 90*

2nd Reading: *Colossians 3: 1--5, 9--11*

Gospel: *Luke 12: 13--21*

Elementary School Principal Needed.

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese is seeking applicants for an elementary school principal at St. Pius X School, Montville. St. Pius X School is a co-educational institution, pre-school through eighth grade. Information about the position and application materials can be found at www.patdioschools.org/administrative-openings.

Closing date for applications is July 25th.

All High School Young People are invited to join together with the youth of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Branchville, for some time together. There will be games, sports, talk, food and prayer, all under the Pavilion at O.L.Q.P. It **begins at 6 p.m. and continues till 8 p.m.** We hope to hold these get-togethers every other Sunday evening. It begins **tonight, Sun. July 17th**.

****St. Thomas 75th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Serratelli and Brunch**

will be celebrated **Sun. Aug. 28**. Mass at 9:30 a.m. Brunch at High Point Golf Club Banquet and Event Center, 342 Shore Drive, Montague. Join us as we celebrate and remember the years that have brought us to this day. Continuous slide show and historical background will be part of the day. Full buffet brunch will be served, with cash bar available. Tickets are on sale after each Mass or through the Parish Office. Tickets: Adults: \$ 22.00; Children 5 – 11: \$ 14.00; children under 5: free. Join us for this central event of our 75th Year !

“Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End” is a P.B.S. Frontline film, to be followed by questions and discussion, sponsored by the Pastoral Care Dep't of Newton Medical Center. The film delves into the hopes of patients facing terminal illness--and their families. It explores the needs of patients, and how families can best help them. Dr. Atul Gawande, M.D., M.P.H., and author, will guide the discussion and lend his expertise. He will give advice on how to have “end-of-life” discussions ahead of a medical crisis.

The evening is free. The Date is Tuesday, August 16th. It will be held at the **First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton.** The complete schedule is as follows:

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Free Spaghetti Dinner

6:45 – 8:00 p.m. Presentation: *Being Mortal* followed by discussion. To attend, simply register by calling 1-800-247-9580.

Become a Hospice Volunteer. The **Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center**, 61 Spring St., Newton is offering a free training course on the Wed. and Fri. mornings of September, from 10 a.m. till 12 Noon. Upon completion, participants are Certified Hospice Volunteers. For more info, call Sue Dougherty at 973-383-0115 or visit: www.KarenAnnQuinlanHospice.org