

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

Behold the Lamb of God

Today's Gospel passage does us the favor of extending the Christmas Season for one more week-end. Liturgically, the Season ended last Monday, with the Mass of the Baptism of the Lord. This feast usually is celebrated on a Sunday. However, with Christmas and New Year's being on Sundays already, we simply ran out of Sundays on which to have two special moments in the Christmas Season: the "Feast of the Holy Family" and the "Baptism of the Lord." This won't happen again for at least six years. I promise.

But today in the Gospel we hear John the Baptist pointing out the Lord in the midst. "*Behold the Lamb of God*" he proclaims. It is the Holy Spirit that informs him. And as Jesus waits his turn to be baptized by John in the Jordan River, that Spirit descends upon Jesus visibly as a dove. And, from other Gospel accounts, we know that a voice came from the heavens declaring: "*This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*" It was the voice of God the Father.

The same things happened for us at the time of our Baptism too. It was our introduction to God the Father. And it is as if He proclaimed again: "This too is my beloved son or daughter." We were welcomed into God's own family of faith at that moment. And God the Father promised us His protection and guidance all along our life's journey.

For Jesus, the Spirit came upon Jesus as a dove. For us too, the Spirit comes to us from the first moment of our Baptism. The Holy Spirit begins to dwell within us, and we become new persons—re-born in the Spirit—and begin to live a life in union with God. Yet, this first coming is only a partial one; most of us were not even old enough to consent or to greet the Spirit. The fullness of the Spirit comes to us later, at the time of our Confirmation, when we are able to open our hearts and welcome the Spirit personally into our lives. The Spirit brings with Him the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which give us the ability to live a full, happy, holy Christian life.

In our Sacrament of Baptism, the person also receives a white garment, symbolizing the purity of his or her new faith. The anointing with the chrism oil is a reminder that the person was chosen by God to perform a special task for Him in this world. Each of us is chosen to witness to the Lord's presence by living a holy life.

Let us rejoice in our Baptism because it tells us that God has chosen us specially, individually, and that He loves us uniquely. May we live out our Baptismal commitment by always being the disciples He has asked us to be.

God bless you.
Father Wayne

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 15, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Robert & Ann Lamb at the
Request of Peggy & Richard Gray

SATURDAY, January 21

8:00AM – Father Bernard McDonald

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 22

8:00AM – Charlie Lombaerde
req. by his wife, Carol

11:30AM – Rosemarie Bastian
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,376.00 – Regular Collection – January 8, 2017

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,162.00 – Regular Collection – January 10, 2016

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, Al, Mary Cunico, Derya Dimertas, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Clara Kane, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Darrin O'Keefe, Danielle Parker, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock



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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of John Brehm at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, January 16

9:00AM – Marge LaRusso
req. by Frances Demalderis

TUESDAY, January 17

9:00AM – Olindo & Anne Rosanelli
req. by the Rosanelli Family

WEDNESDAY, January 18

9:00AM – Special Intentions of Generous Benefactor

THURSDAY, January 19

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 20

9:00AM – Lucille Franc
req. by Mary Jorgenson

SATURDAY, Vigil, January 21

4:30PM – Marge LaRusso
req. by Fran Whitesell

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 22

9:30AM – Marge LaRusso
req. by Gerry Mahon
- Kazimiera Sz wajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,524.00 – Regular Collection – January 8, 2017

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,369.00 – Regular Collection – January 10, 2016

Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.

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 Spinaplice at 973-293-7031.



Assessment of Catechesis of Religious Education

Assessment of Catechesis of Religious Education (ACRE) for grades 5, 8 and 10 will be given to **Grade 5 on Jan. 18, Grade 10 on Jan 21 and Grade 8 on Jan. 22** during their scheduled class time. Students absent on that date (or if we are cancelled due to weather) will take it when they return to class. ACRE assesses faith knowledge and the affective domains of beliefs, attitudes, practices and perceptions and has been mandated by Bishop Serratelli for several years now. The goal of the ACRE is to improve the religious education and the religious experience of each student, so as to support you in your role as primary educators of your children in the faith.



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 and see what's going on!!!** Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, January 15th from 6:00- 8:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

On This Day We Celebrate – January 20: Inauguration Day

Say this prayer for our new president, our other elected officials and our country:

A Prayer for Our Nation

Gracious and loving God, we come to You in humble prayer for the United States of America. Send Your Holy Spirit upon our beloved country.

Make us people of faith in times of uncertainty.

Make us people of hope in times of trouble.

Make us people of compassion with those who are less fortunate than we.

Make us people of peace in our homes, our schools and work places, our communities, our country and our world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

“All your children shall be taught by the Lord; great shall be the peace of your children.” ~ Isaiah 54:13

The Religious Education Inclement Weather Policy is that the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather will be announced and posted on www.wsus1023.com. If it is not possible for you to check there, you can always call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.

Soup on a Saturday

St. James the Greater will again be sponsoring a take-out soup fundraiser on Saturday, January 28, 2017. Order a quart (or more) of Venison Chili by Art & Maria Henn, regular Chili by Bill & Joan Henn, Italian Wedding soup by Bill Ricciardi or Pasta e Fagioli by Mike and Linda Spinapolice. Price is \$7.00 per quart. You must order in advance by January 22nd. Pick up is on the 28th from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at St. James the Greater. Fill out an order form found in the back of the church and place in the collection basket OR give to Bill Ricciardi, Art Henn or Mike Spinapolice. You may also e-mail your order to Bill Ricciardi at wjr218@optonline.net.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions and begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will be held from Friday evening, January 27 through Sunday afternoon, January 29, 2017 in the Stirling area. To register or for more information, contact Marie at 973-377-1004, ext. 425. All calls will be held in the strictest confidence.

The Columbiettes are sponsoring a Diaper Drive for donation to Norwescap and Good Counsel Homes. There will be a basket for collection of the diapers in the Gathering Space.

Thanks to everyone for such generosity during our December Toy Drive. We delivered a vehicle full of toys and an adult bicycle to Project Self-Sufficiency. They were most grateful.

St. Thomas History – While Fr. Hewetson covered Lafayette, Walpack, Hainesville and the new Mission at Montague, Bishop McLaughlin wrote him in Dec. 1943 of Montague and Hainesville becoming a separate mission in due time.

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, January 15, 2017

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Monday, Jan. 16

11:00a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers' Mtg

Tuesday, Jan. 17

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

7:00 p.m. REC Men's Prayer Group

Wednesday, Jan. 18

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 3, 4 & 5

Thursday, Jan. 19

11:00a.m. REC Catechists' Mtg.

7:00 p.m. REC Catechists' Mtg.

Friday, Jan. 20

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

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

Saturday, Jan. 21

Sunday, January 22, 2017

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8

6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Future Events

Sat. Jan. 28 SJC 'Soup on a Saturday'

--orders cheerfully taken till Jan. 22

Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 8: 23--9: 37:00 p.m.*

STC Adoration & Rosary with K of C

7:30 p.m. STC Knights of Columbus Mtg.

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 27*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:10--13, 17*

Gospel: *Matthew 4: 12--23*

Right to Life News.

The Icon of the Holy Family, blessed by Pope Francis, will be visiting our area on **Mon. Jan. 23rd**, during the time just before the Annual Right to Life March. This icon travels throughout the U.S., prompting prayer for an end to abortions in our country. The Icon will be placed in the **sanctuary of St. Thomas, from 9 a.m. Mass till 12 Noon.**

The Mass for Life will be offered at 9 a.m. and you are encouraged to join us, or to visit during the morning. Pray that the terrible sin of abortion may cease, and that respect for life in all its ages and stages will become the norm for our nation.

The Right to Life March this year will be held on **Friday, Jan. 27th**. In our area a buses will leave from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Branchville. Contact the O.L.Q.P. office at 973-948-3185 for more information and to register.

Getting FORMED in our faith.

Our parishes have an Internet subscription to **Formed.org**. It is a website of Catholic education and information, with programs, movies, e-books and audio features available for download to your computer, laptop, i-phone or any other electronic device.

To get on for the first time: **On the Internet type in: www.Formed.org**

Choose: Formed

Choose: Register (the first time)

Type in Parish Code:

HCVWQC (case sensitive)

Fill in your own e-mail address to register.

Then: go to any item available

After your first visit: Go to: **Login**

Click on:  **(for menu of programs,**

movies, audio & e-books)

75th Anniv. Photo Directory. Our Directory is available for sale after each Mass or through the Parish Office. Cost is \$ 10.

"How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers."

– Unknown