

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.

The Schools of The Catholic Academy of Sussex County
973-729-6125 X225
Rev. George A. Brown School (Pre-K to Gr. 4)
Pope John XXIII Middle School (Gr. 5 to 7)
Pope John XXIII High School (Gr. 8 to 12)

Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish

A Different Kind of Lenten Fast

While Lent 2017 is still young, it is nevertheless moving along. Here are some suggestions about fasting, which could make a big difference in you this year.

Give up harsh words ... USE GENEROUS ONES

Give up unhappiness ... TAKE UP GRATITUDE

***Give up anger... TAKE UP GENTLESNESS AND
PATIENCE***

Give up pessimism ... TAKE UP HOPE AND OPTIMISM

Give up worrying ...TAKE UP TRUST IN GOD

Give up complaining ... VALUE WHAT YOU HAVE

Give up stress ... TAKE UP PRAYER

Give up judging others ... DISCOVER JESUS WITHIN THEM

Give up sorrow and

bitterness ... FILL YOUR HEART WITH JOY

***Give up selfishness ... TAKE UP COMPASSION FOR
OTHERS***

Give up being unforgiving... LEARN RECONCILIATION

***Give up words ... FILL YOURSELF WITH SILENCE
AND LISTEN TO OTHERS***

"Dear friends, Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take.

May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ, who is present in our brothers and sisters in need."

--Pope Francis, February 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
March 12, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Lawrence Belcher at the
Request of his Family

SATURDAY, March 18

8:00AM – Intentions of Patricia Castrovilla
req. by her aunt, Elizabeth Grodowski

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 19

8:00AM – Patricia Soletro
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Szigmond Varga
req. by his Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$2,958.00 – Regular Collection – March 5, 2017

\$ 35.00 - Online Giving

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,545.00 – Regular Collection – March 6, 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, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Miriam Liggmari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Darrin O'Keefe, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock

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 Irene & Frank Tanzariello at the
Request of their Family

MONDAY, March 13

9:00AM – Steve Iannacone & Clara Kane
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, March 14

9:00AM – Joanne Diven
req. by Dan & Luisa

WEDNESDAY, March 15

9:00AM – Kalman Legany

THURSDAY, March 16

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 17

9:00AM – Catherine Higgins
req. by her daughter, Chris
-Intentions of Ken Urgovitch, Jr.

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 18

4:30PM – Louis Petrella
req. by Harry & Mary Dunleavy
-Anna Sciora
req. by her daughter, Josephine

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 19

9:30AM – Jozef Szwajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon
-Sophie Muga
req. by Roseann Hogan

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,358.00 – Regular Collection – March 5, 2017

\$ 328.00 - Online Giving

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,873.00 – Regular Collection – March 6, 2016

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.



Why We Pray, Fast and Give Alms

Lent is the period of prayer and fasting leading up to the feast of Easter, recalling Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness. This sacred season began on Ash Wednesday and ends right before the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (although Lenten penance continues through Holy Saturday). During this penitential season, the Church calls all Catholics to spend more intentional time in prayer, as well as to fast and abstain from meat on Fridays and also to practice charitable giving.

Why Do We Fast? ~ Lent has traditionally been the season where we give something up, often sweets or a favorite food, in order to focus on the sacrifice Christ made on the cross. But fasting is much more than a means of developing self-control.

Fasting is spiritual and physical purification; the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. Fasting and abstinence help us to participate more fully in the cross of Jesus Christ. Lent is also a time to fast from all those **things or habits** that may have become a roadblock to our relationship with God.

(To be continued – Taken from Take Out – Family Faith On The Go)

Confirmation II Final Retreat

Please keep our Second-year Confirmation Candidates in your prayer as they participate in their Final Confirmation Retreat which begins at 10:00AM at the Sacred Heart Center and concludes at 5:00PM (Mass at 4:00PM – Parents and Sponsors Welcome) today.



Stations of the Cross for Families will take place on **Friday, March 17th**. Each Friday, we will begin at 4:00PM followed by a simple soup supper. We are very hopeful that many of our families will attend this prayerful Lenten devotion as often as possible and we thank the Columbiettes for their generosity and hospitality in providing this event for us.

3 Ways To Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

- The origin of St. Patrick's Day in the United States began with many "Irish Aid Societies", - charitable organizations that helped the poor. Give a donation of time or money to your favorite charity this week in honor of St. Patrick and as part of your Lenten observance.
- Talk with your family about the shamrock. This three-leafed clover is a symbol of the Holy Trinity, as taught by St. Patrick.
- As Bishop Serratelli has given us a dispensation from abstaining from meat for this feast day, cook up some Shepherd's Pie for dinner tonight and remember to pray at your dinner table for all those in need.

St. Patrick, pray for us!

St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner

On Saturday, March 18, there will be a St. Patrick - St. Joseph Pot Luck dinner in the Father Lewis Center immediately following the 4:30 PM Mass. As always, members of both churches are welcome. This is an opportunity for families in both parishes to come together and enjoy friendships and hospitality. It is also an opportunity to meet new parishioners as well as old friends. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering space or call the Parish Office. Pot Luck Dinners are free, just bring a dish.

Look for Yoga-lates coming Tuesday nights in the Father Lewis Center after Easter. More information to follow.

Lenten Family Faith Formation

On **Saturday, March 25th**, the **Feast of the Annunciation**, our parish will be blessed to host a traveling **Icon of the Holy Family**, which has an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis imparted on those who view it and pray before it. We usually break up our Family Faith Sessions by ages, but because our Knights of Columbus have made this very special visit possible for us, all of our students (grades 1 – 10) and their families are encouraged to attend a special Mass that morning. We will begin at 9:30AM with the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, followed by a 10:00AM Mass at St. Thomas. We are confident that many, many blessings will be bestowed on all of our families that day and are hopeful for full attendance!



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, March 12th from 6:00- 8:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

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.

The Columbiettes are collecting toiletries for women's shelters. There is a basket in the Gathering Space.

The Columbiettes are sponsoring soup suppers for children and their parents and caregivers each Friday afternoon in Lent in the Father Lewis Center. Stations of the Cross for children will be at 4:00PM in the church and the supper will follow. Please come for devotion and community.

The St. James Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be held on **Saturday, March 18th**. Doors will open at 6pm. Tickets are on sale after both Masses. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. BYOB. If you can help in any way or you have any questions, please contact Betsy Gardner at 845-858-7892 in the EVENINGS.

St. Thomas History – In Nov. 1945, Rev. Francis B. Warlikowski was placed in charge of the new St. James the Great Parish, while continuing to administer the Western Sussex Missions at Lafayette, Walpack and Hainesville.

HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening May 5th, St. Thomas will be hosting our Annual Tricky Tray. If you are interested in assisting our committee in any way, please call Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092. All volunteers are welcome. Help make this fundraiser a success by donating a Tray. All trays should be left in the Conference Room at St. Thomas as soon as possible to allow time for displaying them properly. (No later than Sat. April 30) Thank you for your cooperation.

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 12, 2017

2nd Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass
10:00a.m. Conf. II Retreat Sac. Heart Ctr., Newton
--till 5:00 p.m.
11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Monday, Mar. 13

Tuesday, Mar. 14

- 10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

Wednesday, Mar. 15

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

Thursday, Mar.16

Friday, Mar. 17

Happy St. Patrick's Day !

- 9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
after Mass, till 12 Noon
10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.
10:00a.m. STC Moms & Tots Play Group
4:00 p.m. STC Children's Stations & Soup Supper
5:30 p.m. SJC Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. SJC & STC Stations of the Cross

Saturday, Mar. 18

- 5:30 p.m. STC at St. Thomas:
St. Patrick--St. Joseph Pot Luck Dinner
6:00 p.m. SJC at St. James:
Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Sunday, March 19, 2017

3rd Sunday of Lent

- 9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8
9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Lent

1st Reading: *Exodus 17: 3—7*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 95*

2nd Reading: *Romans 5: 1—2, 5—8*

Gospel: *John 4: 542*

“Welcome Home for Lent.” Our whole Diocese of Paterson is cooperating in offering the **Sacrament of Reconciliation at every Catholic Church of our Diocese on the Mondays of Lent.** The hours at each church are 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

With our situation, the schedule will be as follows:

- Mar. 13 St. James Mar. 20 St. Thomas
Mar. 27 St. James Apr. 3 St. Thomas
Apr. 10 St. James

We hope that every Catholic will make use of this diocesan-wide opportunity to confess sins and grow in God's grace during Lent.

Bishop Grants Dispensation (from *Beacon*):

Bishop Serratelli has granted a dispensation from the laws of fast and abstinence to all Roman Catholics living in or visiting the Diocese of Paterson **on Friday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day.**

“This dispensation is given with the strong recommendation that the faithful honor both St. Patrick and this holy season of Lent by some special work of charity or exercise of piety in place of abstinence,” Bishop Serratelli said.

More Good News to Report. Once-a-year disbursements have just been made from the **Partners in Faith Campaign.** You'll recall that this is the 5-year program begun in 2013 to help the capital needs of the Diocese, but also to assist the parishes. Parishes are to receive 25 % back from all gifts made to the Diocese each year through the Campaign. At this time the 2016 disbursements have been sent. **St. Thomas has received a rebate of \$3,032.50 and St. James has received a rebate of \$3,121.25.** All of which is already in the bank.

2017 Women's Conference. *“Feminine, Faithful, Fearless,”* a gathering for women at any age and any stage in life. Sponsored by the Diocese it will include dynamic speakers of all walks of life. Discussions and giveaways too. Our own Keaton Douglas will be the M.C., with Cindy Costello as a co-ordinator. The date and time: Sat. April 1, from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Place: St. Paul's Inside the Walls, 205 Madison Ave., Madison, N. J. Tickets: \$ 25. To order tickets or for info: 973-377-1004.

Get FORMED this Lent: (It's free!)
www.Formed.org Parish Code: HCVWQC