

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

Palm Sunday

and the Week that Brought Us Salvation

If a Liturgy could have mood swings—as people sometimes do—then the liturgy of **Palm Sunday** takes us from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows.

Our Mass started out on a note of triumph—Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem. It had all the trappings of a king's entrance—coming through the front gate, crowds of people cheering excitedly, young men placing leafy palm branches before the procession, children joining in the rejoicing, and all the people hoping that this might be the Messiah who would free them from Roman occupation.

Yet at this same Mass, as we move into the church, the whole atmosphere changes. The Readings suddenly speak of a Suffering Servant, one who will be rejected by his people. Saint Paul then reminds us that *“He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave ... becoming obedient to the point of ... death on a cross.”*

Then the Gospel gives us the Passion narrative. According to Matthew, Jesus' suffering and death all work out as they were predicted by the Old Testament prophets. Today's Palm Sunday liturgy sets the tone for all the crucial events we commemorate during Holy Week.

Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper, commemorates Jesus instituting two life-giving sacraments: the Eucharist, by which He continues to work among us in the Sacred Bread and Wine; and the Priesthood, ordained to serve the Body and Blood of Christ to His people. In the Washing of the Feet ceremony, members of our parishes will help in recreating Jesus' attitude of humble service, which all of His followers must share. In the time of Adoration after Mass, we will stand vigil with Jesus in the Garden.

On **Good Friday**, we see the depths of Jesus' love for us—and for His Father—as He is ready to witness to the Father to the end—even as it means terrible suffering and the agonizing death of the cross. We realize that this is the price Jesus paid to reunite us with the Father—and to make up for our sinfulness.

Then, as the darkness and stillness of the tomb leads us to think that all is lost, suddenly Jesus breaks forth at the **Easter Vigil** with the life of Resurrection. It is a life beyond death and past the grave—a life without end, in union with the Father.

On **Easter Sunday** we share the unbounded joy of Jesus' Resurrection—knowing through faith that Resurrection is in our future too.

Let us put lesser things aside this week, and concentrate on all that has brought us our salvation.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

PALM SUNDAY
April 9, 2017

St. James the Greater

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

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14

3:00PM – Service of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY, April 15

8:00AM – No Mass

EASTER SUNDAY

April 16

8:00AM – Ryan Bubigkeit
req. by his Family
-John & Eric Cerra
req. by their Family

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

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$2,052.00 – Regular Collection – April 2, 2017 +
\$ 25.00 - Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,508.00 – Regular Collection – April 3, 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, Gabe Calandra, Mary Cunico, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, David Koehler, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Miriam Liggmari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, 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 Spinapolicie at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Jimmy Reed at the
Request of his Mom & Dad

MONDAY, April 10

9:00AM – Onofrio Damone
req. by his sister, Frances Demalderis

TUESDAY, April 11

9:00AM – Intentions of Sandy Matthews
req. by the Wedemeier Family

WEDNESDAY, April 12

9:00AM – Barbara K. Kientzler
req. by her son Charles
-Ronald Bogle
req. by his wife, Denise, and daughter, Elizabeth

HOLY THURSDAY, April 13

7:00PM – Aracelia Arniella
req. by her Family

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14

9:00AM – No Mass

SATURDAY, Easter Vigil, April 15

7:30PM – Jimmy Reed
req. by his Mom & Dad

EASTER SUNDAY

April 16

9:30AM – People of the Parish
Living & Deceased

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$3,145.00 – Regular Collection – April 2, 2017 +
\$ 373.00 - Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,439.00 – Regular Collection – April 3, 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.



Religious Education **Holy Week and Triduum**

As the Season of Lent comes to an end and we enter into the most sacred time of the Liturgical Year, we encourage all of our families to take an active part in the many events that will take place this week. I pray that your Lenten journey has been one of great spiritual growth and you have drawn closer to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Blessed Holy Week.



holy week

Holy Thursday, April 13th ~ The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at St. Thomas Church at 7:00PM. **All First Eucharist and Confirmation II Candidates** are encouraged to participate in the **Foot Washing Ritual**. This is a very special way to celebrate your sacrament year. The sign-up sheets are in back of the churches or call the Parish Office at 973-948-2296.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Good Friday, April 14th, the Confirmation Candidates of our Parishes will present the Living Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas at 7:30PM.



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH

An Easter Egg Hunt for all children of the parishes (yes, 7th and 8th graders, you too!!!) will take place immediately following the 9:30AM Mass on Easter Sunday on the Great Lawn at St. Thomas. We will provide the "Easter Bags" or you can bring your own basket.



Confirmation Rehearsal will take place on **Wednesday, April 19th** at 6:00PM at OLQP. The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on **Thursday, April 20th** at 7:30PM Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville. Please keep these teens in your prayer as they are Sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Columbiettes are sponsoring a macaroni and cheese supper for Confirmation candidates on Good Friday at 6:00PM.

The Columbiettes are sponsoring a Cinco De Mayo party after the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, May 6th in the Father Lewis Center. Tickets will be available after Easter.

St. Thomas History – In 1943, the liturgical services of the last three days of Holy Week had been held only at St. Bartholomew. It was due to it being the resident church of the pastor, and only in that church alone was reserved the Holy Sacrament in the Tabernacle.

Moms and Tots Play Group at St. Thomas

We are now meeting on Friday mornings from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Father Lewis Center. All babies and young children and their caregivers are welcome to join us for fun and fellowship! For details, please contact Mandi Sousa at 973-632-5536.

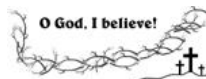
HOLD THE DATE

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.

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas will be offering a fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class will be on **Tuesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm** for 8 weeks starting **April 25th** right here at St. Thomas. The class will be easy to follow but a full body workout. Any questions, please call instructor Chris Dube at 973-948-2329. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for only \$40.00 or pay per class for \$6.00. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to our St. Thomas Parish. So, please come and try it out!



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS **HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord April 9, 2017

"The Lord has given me a well trained tongue that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them... The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced, I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame... Rather he emptied Himself."

With the onset of Holy Week, we walk with Jesus through the saving action He did on our behalf. Because of our need, He became one with us, took upon Himself our sinfulness and redeemed us.

Holy Week offers us the opportunity to reflect on our ongoing needs, and the continued love of Jesus for us today. We do not just return to the Holy City to remember the special moments of the Paschal Triduum, but we enter into the saving work which Jesus accomplishes in us today.

The prophet Isaiah wishes to 'rouse' us to seek God's help, knowing that through His passion Jesus redeemed us and continues to shelter us in His love. May this truly be a week of God's grace for us all.

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 9, 2017

Palm Sunday

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

Monday, Apr. 10

- 11:00a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers' Mtg.
- 7:00 p.m. SJC Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday, Apr. 11

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

Wednesday, Apr. 12

- 4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 3, 4 & 5
- 5:30 p.m. STC Seder Supper, hosted by K of C

Thursday, Apr. 13

- 7:00p.m. STC Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, Apr. 14

- 3:00 p.m. SJC Good Friday Service
- 7:30 p.m. STC Living Stations of the Cross
-presented by Confirmation Class

Saturday, Apr. 15

- 7:30 p.m. STC Easter Vigil Service

Sunday, April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. SJC Easter Mass
- 9:30 a.m. STC Easter Mass
- 11:30a.m. SJC Easter Mass

Future Events

- Sun. Apr. 23 STC Columbiettes Meeting
- Fri. May 5 STC Tricky Tray
- Sat. May. 6 STC *Cinco de Mayo* Family Night
--hosted by Columbiettes

Next Sunday's Readings: Easter Sunday

- 1st Reading: *Acts 10: 34a, 37--43*
- Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 118*
- 2nd Reading: *Colossians 3: 1--4*
- Gospel: *John 20: 1--9*

Holy Week is the most important time in our Church year. The final events of Jesus' life on earth, the events which have brought us our salvation, are remembered and honored during these sacred days. Pope Francis encourages us to spend time this week contemplating these mysteries. The last chapters of the four Gospels are especially recommended to study this week.

Among the major events of this week are:

- Mon. Apr. 10** SJC Reconciliation 7—8:30 p.m.
- Wed. Apr. 12** STC 5:30 p.m. Seder Supper
- Thurs. Apr. 13** STC 7:00 p.m. Holy Thurs. Mass of the Lord's Supper and Adoration till Midnight
- Friday Apr. 14**
SJC 3:00 p.m. Service of the Lord's Passion
STC 7:30 p.m. Living Stations of Cross
-- Presented by Confirmation Class
- Sat. Apr. 15** STC 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil
- Easter Sun. Apr. 16** Regular Sun. Mass Schedule

"Welcome Home for Lent." A final chance for Reconciliation during Lent:

Mon. Apr. 10 St. James, 7 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

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

Off to Work We Go. Several teens of our parishes will be taking part in the *Catholic Heart Work Camp Mission Trip* being sponsored by area parishes. The purpose is three-fold: "to share love of Christ as we serve the neglected and the marginalized in any way needed; to inspire participants to live as disciples of Christ as we serve others; and to foster the Catholic faith of each participant through the sacraments, prayer and involvement in social service."

The group of young people and their supervisors will be traveling to Plattsburg, N.Y. to do repair work on homes, and to tutor and to engage with children and families.

There will be a fundraiser to help with the costs of this trip. The **Panera Bread Bakery-Café**, 25 Centre St., Sparta, will donate-back a percentage of each meal served at their restaurant on **Thursday, April 20, from 4—8 p.m.** Simply bring a Fundraising flyer with you for your order to be counted. Flyers can be found at the back of church.

Get FORMED this Lent:

www.Formed.org Parish Code: HCVWQC