

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



Grow Your Faith This Summer

Summer is a great time to take a breath and reorient our hearts and minds to the mission and message of Christ. Here are some suggestions to grow in your Catholic faith during the warm season.

Make Mass a Priority

Resist the temptation to skip Mass during the summer months or when you are on vacation. Gathering together with the Church to receive Christ is essential to our faith.

Do Some Spiritual Reading

Set aside some special time for reflection on a spiritual topic such as the lives of the saints. The stories of these real life people, who lived out their faith in courageous and inspiring ways, help us on our path of discipleship.

Visit a Holy Place

Take a day trip to a monastery, a shrine or a famous church, and experience some of the different types of spirituality that are all a part of the Catholic faith. Ask if there are tours and be sure to visit the gift shop for possible resources for the coming autumn.

Simplify Your Life

Summer is a great time to sort through clothing, toys, sports equipment and other possessions. Remember to clean out your office. Have a garage sale and donate the proceeds to a local food pantry.

Do Something for Someone Else

Make a point this summer to reach out to people in need. Bring some summer flowers to the local nursing home. Deliver a bag of groceries to a neighbor. Offer to babysit for new parents. Summer is a time for resting, reaching out and growing—in mind, body and spirit.

--from O.S.V. *Engage Your Parish*
--July/August 2017

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 2, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Harriet M. McCooey at the
Request of the Ricciardi Family

SATURDAY, July 8

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 9

8:00AM – Irma Pagano
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Muriel Kennel
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 905.00 – Regular Collection – June 25, 2017 +
\$ 60.00 - Online Giving
\$ 125.00 – Seminarian Collection
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,275.00 – Regular Collection – June 26, 2016
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 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.

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, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, David Koehler, Betty Lacovara, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Miriam Liggmari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, John Meehan, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White, Teri Winkler and Robert Woodcock

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Deceased Pastors & Parishioners

MONDAY, July 3

9:00AM – Patricia Wessel
req. by Ed & Eileen Campbell
-People of the Parish

TUESDAY, July 4

9:00AM – Intentions of Julie Ann Kasenow
God's Blessings
req. by her Mom, Julia Jensen

WEDNESDAY, July 5

9:00AM – Walter Stoklosa
req. by Charles & Julia Jensen
-Intentions of Frances Demalderis

THURSDAY, July 6

No Mass

FRIDAY, July 7

9:00AM – Intentions of James Gorman
req. by his Mom

SATURDAY, Vigil, July 8

4:30PM – Anthony Cagno
req. by Vivian & Earl Edwards

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 9

9:30AM – Nancy Gamba
req. by Gina & Del SanValentin
-Deceased Members of the
Campbell & Nolan Families
-Intentions of Josephine
Birthday Celebration

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,992.00 – Regular Collection – June 25, 2017 +
\$ 378.00 - Online Giving
\$ 328.00 – Seminarian Collection
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,066.00 – Regular Collection – June 26, 2016
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.

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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.



**Registrations for 2017/2018
Catechetical Year**

Re-registrations for children in Grades 2-8 for the upcoming catechetical year were mailed out. Please return all registrations by July 15th to avoid the late fee. Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish or 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.

Catholic Summer Camp

"*Birthday Blast*" Catholic Summer Camp will take place from Monday, July 17th through Friday, July 21st from 9:00AM until 12:00PM at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville. It is open for children entering Grades K – 5. You may begin to register by going to www.olqpbranchville.org. Go to the Religious Education tab on top and then select Catholic Summer Camp. We are hopeful that many of our children will take this wonderful opportunity to continue to grow in their faith through prayers, songs, crafts and activities. **We also welcome parents and teens of our parishes to come assist us that week – whatever time you have to offer, we are happy to receive!** Please call Mary at 973-948-7004 if interested.

A meeting will take place for all volunteers on Monday, July 3rd at either 10:00AM or 2:00PM at OLQP.



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, July 2nd from 6:00-8:00PM**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!! **Incoming Freshman are now welcome to join Catholic Teens.**

Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry

Our parishes have an active group of women who knit and crochet prayer shawls, lap robes and scarves for those who need comfort and to feel the warm embrace of our loving community. Since the beginning of this ministry in May of 2007, over 1,000 shawls/lap robes/scarves were blessed by Father Wayne and were given to many veterans and to all who may have been going through a difficult time in life. Baptismal blankets were also made and given to babies on the day of their Baptism to welcome the newest members of our family! Infant blankets were made and distributed to new parents through local hospital maternity wards. There is never a charge for these works of love, and we always have them available for whenever they are needed.

We also have a group of women who make Rosary Beads. Every year, our First Holy Communicants receive rosary beads as gifts from this parish ministry, as well as the dozens that are taken from the baskets in our Gathering Areas.

Our ministry (and our hands) are resting for the next two months, and we will begin again on September 18th. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Center on the first and third Mondays and are always ready to welcome new members!

From the R.C.I.A.

The Catholic Church continually welcomes new members. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is the Church's process of welcoming new adult members.

The R.C.I.A. is the experience through which the Catholic community:

- ❖ Baptizes new adult members
- ❖ Receives those adults from another faith tradition who want to be members of the Catholic Church.

R.C.I.A. is an adult faith sharing process which begins every October. To have your questions answered, you are invited to call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004 and leave your name and number for a return phone call.

History of Western Sussex Missions

St. Thomas was given the Roman Missal that Mr. & Mrs. David Ringle had donated to St. Matthew Church in 1964, on its closure due to the Tocks Island acquisitions. The proceeds of "There's a Little Church in Walpack," composed in 1947 by David Ringle and Marceline Geer, had been donated to that parish to help pay off that church's debt.

Moms and Tots Playgroup

will continue to meet most Fridays from 10:00am to 11:30am through the summer. If weather permits, we will be meeting at local parks also. Please check our Facebook page "Sandyston Tot Group" to find us each week.



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

**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 2, 2017**

"Whoever receives you receives me and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me... And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because this little one is a disciple, amen, I say to you he will surely not lose his reward."

One of the gifts Pope Francis extols, is the gift of hospitality. In our families, in our church, we have the ability to open the door **and make others feel welcome. A familiar Irish expression** reads "A Hundred Thousand Welcome."

Elisha the prophet in the Book of Kings, was offered hospitality by a wealthy woman, and she was rewarded for her gift. The person ready and willing to give **ONLY** a cup of cold water in the name of Jesus to a little one will not go without a reward.

In the past it was not common to see people carrying a water bottle in public. Sometimes we looked for a fountain for a drink. Maybe the gift of water and hospitality for us can be welcoming a stranger, assisting someone in need, listening to a person who has suffered a loss or suffering a sickness. Whatever gesture I offer can be the Elisha gesture and the water offering which might seem small, but does not go unrewarded.

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 2, 2017

13th Sunday in Ord. Time

1:00 p.m. STC St. Thomas Parish Picnic

Monday, July 3

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day

9:00 a.m. STC Special Mass for Our Nation

Wednesday, July 5

Thursday, July 6

Friday, July 7

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

Saturday, July 8

Sunday, July 9, 2017

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Future Events

Mon.—Fri., July 17—22 Summer Day Camp at
O.L.Q.P. for kids entering Gr. K—5.

Teen volunteers needed to assist

Sat. July 22 St. James Parish Picnic

Next Sunday's Readings: 14th Ord

1st Reading: *Zechariah 9: 9--10*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 145*

2nd Reading: *Romans 8: 9, 11--13*

Gospel: *Matthew 11: 25--30*

Two Weeks of Vacation Bible School:

*Minisink Reformed Church Pavilion, 300 Clove Rd.
Montague. Mon.--Fri., July 10--14th 9 a.m. – 12
Noon. For info call 973-293-3514.*

and

*Catholic Summer Camp at Queen of Peace,
Branchville, Mon.–Fri., July 17—21, 9a.m. – 12
Noon. For info call 973-948-3185.*

St. Thomas Parish Picnic Today ! This afternoon join with parishioners and friends on the Great Lawn of St. Thomas, for a relaxing time under the trees. Food, dessert, drink, music, sports and games for the kids are all part of the day. It all begins at 1 p.m. and continues throughout the afternoon.

Fortnight for Freedom 2017. These two weeks before Independence Day, are a call from the Bishops of the U. S. to focus our attention on “our call to the mission of spreading our faith.” As Catholics, we have much to offer our nation. In fact it may be our faith that saves our nation. May we be bold in expressing and practicing our Catholic faith in the public square.

Special Mass for Fourth of July. Join us as we give thanks to the Lord for the blessings of our nation, and as we implore the Lord to stay with us and guide our future. Mass will be at St. Thomas, at 9:00 a.m.

Home Schooling Conference. The *IHM New York Homeschool Conference* will be held at Ramapo College—at the Student Center, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N. J.. The dates are: Friday, July 28th (12 Noon – 6 p.m.) and Saturday, July 29th (9:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m.) s Admission is FREE and pre-registration is not required. For more info please visit www.ihmconference.org

Get FORMED for the summer:

www.Formed.org Parish Code: HCVWQC

Suggestion: *“In Her Footsteps: The Story of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha”*

St. Thomas Bikers Gang. Join us on the **Tuesdays of summer, right after 9 a.m. Mass.** We'll be riding along the back roads as far as Peter's Valley or Walpack. We plan to be back around Noon each time. All men & women invited to join us.

On the Importance of an Educated and Informed Public: *“It is an axiom in my mind that our liberty can never be safe but in the hands of the people themselves, and that, too, of the people with a certain degree of instruction.”*

--Letter of Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, commenting on Washington's proposal for “charity” (that is, public) schools.
--Paris, 1786