

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

So You Think You Know Everything ?

*“My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord”
Isaiah 55: 8*

The many questions we have, about our faith and about everyday life, show the truth of the words above. For example:

Why did the Lord create a universe where terrible storms, tornadoes, earthquakes cause so much destruction to so many people ?

Why does there have to be sickness, disease and suffering in the world ?

Why do bad things happen to good people (or who try to be good) ?

If life is a gift, and every life is precious, why do children cry ?

Why are the innocent continually allowed to fall victim to the unscrupulous ?

If this life leads to the next, why do we fear and mourn death instead of welcoming it ?

Why was Jesus in the Gospels—after so many wonderful miracles and cures and enlightening teachings—not recognized by the religious leaders of His day ? and

Why did the Father allow His only Son to suffer so terribly and die on a cross in order to win us salvation ? Was there no other way ?

Isaiah continues to speak for God when he says:

*“As high as the heavens are above the earth,
So high are my ways above your ways
And my thoughts above your thoughts.”
Isaiah 55: 9*

This is a reminder to us that we need faith in this present life to get us through: faith that God has everything in hand. We'll get the answers we seek in the next.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

P.S. And while we're on the subject:

Why can't ice cream be a major food group ?

Why isn't Pluto still a planet ?

What are mosquitoes for ?

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 24, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Rosemarie Bastian at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, September 30

8:00AM – Andy Casale

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 1

8:00AM – Burt Meshnick
req. by the Batko Family

11:30AM – Richard Gray
req. by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sayers, Jr.

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 611.00 – Regular Collection–September 17, 2017 +

\$ 60.00 - Online Giving

\$ 185.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,081.00 – Regular Collection – September 18, 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.

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*

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.

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, Joseph Ligammari, Miriam Ligammari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, John Meehan, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, Pam Spencer, Joan Strehl, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

MONDAY, September 25

9:00AM – Joan Spoolstra

TUESDAY, September 26

9:00AM – Irene Pjontek
req. by Luisa & Dan
- Jerry Demalderis
req. by his wife, Frances

WEDNESDAY, September 27

9:00AM – Leonie Flaskamp

THURSDAY, September 28

No Mass

FRIDAY, September 29

9:00AM – Intentions of Miriam Ligammari
For Healing
req. by Dan & Luisa

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 30

4:30PM – Cordelia Cafone
req. by her Family

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 1

9:30AM – Robert Leppert
req. by the Cunico Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,229.00 – Regular Collection–September 17, 2017 +

\$ 328.00 - Online Giving

\$ 580.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,014.00 – Regular Collection – September 18, 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.



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 2017/2018 Catechetical Year

We began our Religious Education Classes last week. We, unfortunately, are still waiting on many families to re-register their children. **All late re-registrations must be brought to the Religious Education Office this week in order for your child(ren)/teens to begin their class. Please call to schedule an appointment.**

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.

Religious Education Classes Begin as Follows:

Grs. 1 & 2 – Tues., Sept. 26 – 4:00pm – 5:15pm
Grs. 3, 4 & 5 – Wed., Sept. 27 – 4:00pm – 5:15pm
Grs. 9 & 10 – Sat., Sept. 30 – 4:30pm Mass-7:15pm
(First year Candidates (Gr.9) Parents will also attend an Orientation Session at this time)
Grs. 6, 7 & 8 – Sun., Oct. 1 - 9:30am Mass-12:30pm



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, September 24th, 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!**

Angel Power

September 29th is the feast day of three important angels, whom we call archangels:

- ❖ St. Michael is the angel who forced the devil out of heaven. We pray to him to help overcome temptations.
- ❖ St. Gabriel is the angel who appeared to Our Lady and asked if she would be the mother of Jesus. We pray to him to help us do God's will in our lives.
- ❖ St. Raphael is the angel who accompanied a blind man named Tobit on a journey. We pray to him to protect us in our travels.

It's fun to celebrate angels. Remind your children that they each have a guardian angel who was sent by God to watch over them.

Sacramental Preparation Parents Session

Our Parent Session for all who have children preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist next Spring (2nd grade) will take place on Monday, October 2 at 7:00PM in the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center. Our pastor, Father Wayne, along with our catechists, Karen Steinert and Marie Mendez, will be speaking to you regarding this very important year for your child. It is imperative that at least one parent be present at this meeting.



100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

As we now have begun our new Catechetical year, we will also begin with our first Family Faith Formation Gathering. All Families (Grades 1-10) and Parishioners are asked to join us on **Friday, October 13th at 7:00PM at St. Thomas the Apostle Church** for the praying of the Rosary and Fatima Prayers as we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Sixth and Last Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the three shepherd children at the Cova de Iria near Fatima, Portugal. Please bring a rosary. Light Refreshments will follow in the Father Lewis Center.

Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry

We recently began our ministry again. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Center on the first and third Mondays of the month from 11:00AM until 1:00PM. Our next gathering is on Monday October 2nd and are always ready to welcome new members.

History of St. James & St. Thomas

Lay Eucharistic Ministers were first commissioned to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion during the tenure of Msgr. Gacquin. Rev. Gerald Lewis added Extraordinary Ministers to allow for the distribution of Holy Communion in both forms, as those with celiac (an autoimmune condition) cannot consume the consecrated host.

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal

In Giving, We Receive

For your convenience, you are able to make an on-line gift to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal by going to www.2017appeal.org and following the instructions. You can either make a one-time gift or a pledge with monthly payments made automatically for your convenience. More and more parishioners are taking advantage of this option, so please consider using this method today. Whether it is a pledge, a one-time gift or an on-line donation, your support is greatly needed. Every gift counts! Please participate in the 2017 Appeal!

Save the date

The famous St. James Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 14th at 6:00pm. Bring your own drink. Take-outs available. Adults \$12.00, Children under 12 \$6.00 and Children under 6 are Free. Tickets will be available after 8:00am and 11:30am Masses on September 24th, October 1st and October 8th or by calling Mike Spinapolicie at 973-293-7031 or by sending an email to wjr218@optonline.net. Sit down tickets will be limited to 100.

St. James Christmas Bazaar – December 2

We will soon be accepting donations of new and like new items for the "Second Time Around" tables. Crafters, bakers and volunteers should also start making plans for their contributions now. If you are a crafter, baker, volunteer or just editing some nice but unwanted pieces from your home, please call Linda Spinapolicie 973-293-7031, Maria Henn 973-293-3243 or Joan Henn 973-293-3690. Please mark your calendars and start planning for this exciting fundraiser now.

The Columbiettes will be sponsoring a bus trip and tour of the Knights of Columbus Museum and St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT on Thursday, Nov. 9th. The cost is \$30 per person. Bring a bag lunch, drink & snacks to eat. We will make a short stop going and coming. We will leave St. Thomas at 7:00am and return around 7:00pm. There is limited seating, so make your reservation ASAP by calling Grace Hagerman 973-948-4360, Pat Lane 973-948-5644 or the parish office.

Hold the Date – St. Thomas Annual Bake & Craft Sale and Flea Market on Saturday, November 18th.

At the present time, we are in need of CRAFTERS and VENDERS. If anyone knows of someone who would be interested in renting a table or is a crafter, please ask them to contact Deirdre at 973-948-6092. There will be a table containing donated crafts or new and slightly used items. If you have an item you love but no longer use or need and wish to donate, please contact Deirdre at the above number. Thank you.

The Columbiettes will be sponsoring a Cancer Ribbon Wall. We are asking for names to be remembered. Please call or leave names at the office.

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, September 24, 2017

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, Sept. 25

7:00 p.m. Pizza Night with Bishop Serratelli
H.S. & College ladies; Pope John H.S., Sparta

Tuesday, Sept. 26

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

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

Wednesday, Sept. 27

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

Thursday, Sept. 28

Friday, Sept. 29

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, Sept. 30

4:30 p.m. STC Mass & Confirmation Prep.
+ Parents' Orientation

Sunday, October 1, 2017

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

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

2:00 p.m. REC "Catholicism" series (till 3:30 p.m.)

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 26th Ord.

1st Reading: *Ezekiel 5518: 25--28*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 25*

2nd Reading: *Philippians 2: 1--11*

Gospel: *Matthew 21: 28--32*

Hurricane Harvey & Irma Help. A basket remains at the back of both our churches. You are invited to make a donation towards the relief of the victims of the recent destructive hurricanes. We will make sure that your donations get to an authorized Catholic organization for use where most needed.

Free Workshop on Autism. Understanding why a challenging behavior is occurring is crucial to developing ways to address it. Learn a 7-step plan involving proactive steps that can be taken to teach more appropriate behaviors and significantly improve quality of life. Fri., Oct. 6th. Time: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Place: Family Partners of Morris & Sussex, 67 Spring St., Newton. For more information call: 973-940-3194 x 19 or visit www.familypartnersms.org

St. James Parish is celebrating our 75th Anniversary next year ! One of our projects will be to assemble a **2018 Anniversary Calendar**. To accomplish this, we are requesting photographs—old and more recent—to help tell the story of our parish. We are asking all to search through their photo albums and lend to us any photos which will help to recall our history. All photos will be scanned and then returned promptly. Photos of yourself and your family would be great !

Pizza Night for Women. Bishop Serratelli invites all high school and college aged young women to come together for an evening in which to think about their future. What are the Lord's plans for you ? How can you discern a vocation that will be fulfilling and satisfying and will make a difference? Join with Bishop Serratelli for **Pizza Night for Women**. It will be held at **Pope John XXIII High School, 28 Andover Rd. in Sparta**. The date: **Mon. Sept. 25; 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** For more info, call 973-777-8818, ext. 207 or contact: kerry@patersondiocese.org.

Adult Ed. A fascinating educational series is planned for the fall. It will be based around **Bishop Robert Barron's** acclaimed series: **Catholicism: a Study of Our Faith**. With stunning photography from around the world, and insights which give deeper understandings of our religion, Bishop Barron teaches about our Catholic faith in unforgettable ways. The series will be presented at the **Religious Ed Center**, opposite the Sandyston Town Hall. It will be held on the **five Sundays of October, beginning at 2 p.m.** till 3:30 p.m. each time. Questions and discussion will follow the CD presentation. Plan to attend these first five sessions. The last five will take place in the spring.

Consider On Line Giving. Check our parish website for more info.