

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

Batter Up !

Sports certainly has a dominant place in our culture. It is found everywhere you turn. We recently had the Superbowl. It's really an unofficial national holiday. During these current two weeks the Olympics have taken center stage. Drivers on Route 80 all think they're in the Indy 500. Many are waiting for Spring Training to start up in Florida. And it is a sad observation that many parents are more likely to take their children to soccer practice than they are to Church.

Sports might be our country's national religion. It certainly can foster good qualities such as: working together as a team, pushing yourself to new heights, winning with graciousness, and losing with even more graciousness. It can bring people together; but it can also launch chaos. A soccer match in Europe can be a dangerous place to be. But this is also true in our own country, when Dads overreact to a coach's or ref's decision.

Sports probably has always been important throughout history. In St. Paul's day, in the Roman culture of those times, sports and contests were as popular as they are today. The Roman Colosseum was the greatest sports arena of its day. Paul would certainly have known of the ancient Olympic Games, which took place in Greece every four years. But he would have been more familiar with the Isthmian Games, which were held every other year, very near to Corinth, one of Saint Paul's communities.

St. Paul, in his letters, makes a number of references to sports and competition. Here are a few:

I Corinthians 9: 24 *Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win.*

1 Cor. 9: 25 *Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.*

1 Cor. 9: 26—27 *Thus I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.*

2 Timothy 2: 3, 5 *Bear your share of hardship along with me like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. An athlete cannot receive the winner's crown except by competing according to the rules.*

1 Tim. 6: 12 *Compete well for the faith.*

Philippians 3: 14 *I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 4: 7—8 *I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.*

Hebrews 12: 1--2 (Probably not written by Paul, but sharing his sentiments): *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us, and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.*

We too have started a race. It is a marathon that began on Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days. May we all persevere and continue on the course, and find the happiness of celebrating with Jesus His victory at Easter.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 18, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the Intentions of Lawrence P. Gioielli at the Request of his Family

SATURDAY, February 24

8:00AM – Walter & Norma Journey

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 25

8:00AM – Mike Soletro
req. by Art & Maria Henn

11:30AM – Kate Olivo
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,086.00 – Regular Collection – February 11, 2018 +
\$ 225.00 – Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$ 328.00 – Regular Collection – February 12, 2017
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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Anna Gioielli at the Request of her Children

MONDAY, February 19

9:00AM – Rosemarie Bastian
req. by her Family

TUESDAY, February 20

9:00AM – Anna Gioielli
req. by her Children

WEDNESDAY, February 21

9:00AM – Father Sylvester Livolsi
req. by Mary Flexer
-Mary Campbell
req. by her Children

THURSDAY, February 22

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 23

9:00AM – Intentions of Lawrence P. Gioielli
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 24

4:30PM – Helen Tobin
req. by her Family
-Intentions of Frank Kelly
req. by Diane & Jim Campbell

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 25

9:30AM – Ken Benson
req. by his Family
-Intentions of Laura A. Pullis
Birthday Celebration
req. by her Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,134.00 – Regular Collection – February 11, 2018 +
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,834.00 – Regular Collection – February 12, 2017
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.

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Margaret Accordino, James Brittain, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Betty Lacovara, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Joseph Ligammari, Thomas Lynch, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Kathy McConnell, Brian McKenna, John Meehan, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Robert Organes, Jim Pantelmo, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, Pam Spencer, Joan Strehl, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh and Joan White



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.

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.



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*



The Sacrament of (First) Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following children of our parishes who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time on Saturday, February 17th: Thomas Alsdorf, Isabella Belardo, Grace Benson, Gerard Empirio, Mackenzie Fischer, Cara Fletcher, Caylee Fletcher, Ranger Harper, Mason Hull, Thomas Jaust, Sam Mahoney, Emma McEvelly, Danica Pilger, Hailey Prokopenko, Zoe Reilly, Jayden Ricciardi, Angelina Sampson, Turner Sansone, Cameron Sorg and Kaya Teta.

Special thanks to their parents, their catechists, the Salesian Sisters, Father Ed Rama and Father Wayne who helped to prepare them for this special encounter with Jesus. Please keep these young members of our parishes in your prayer as they continue to prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Christ this spring.

The Sacred Season of Lent

The Gospel Reading on the First Sunday of Lent (Mark 1:12-15), helps us understand the beginning of Jesus' ministry. What lesson lies here for us? Lent is a time of preparation and renewal of self. We cannot give what we do not have! We need to take time over these next 40 days and allow God to show us where we need to change and give us the courage and conviction to act on those changes. This give and take is part of the flow of life and one of the greatest lessons of Lent.

Signs of the Season: The Color Purple that fills the Church during Lent symbolizes Christ's suffering and death, but, because purple is also the color of royalty, it foreshadows Christ's resurrection and kingship.

Fasting, strongly identified with Lent, is often observed as fasting from food. We fast to allow our physical hunger to remind us of our spiritual hunger, our need for God. Fasting not only reminds us of our dependence on God, but also of the needs of others, the hungry and the poor. Happy, Holy Lent.

Stations of the Cross

Pre-teens and Teens in Grades 6 through 10 are asked to attend the praying of the Stations of the Cross on **Friday, February 23rd at 7:00PM at St. Thomas Church.** **Children in Grades 1 and 2** will have their class on **Tuesday, February 27th from 4:00-5:15PM at St. Thomas Church.** While there, we will pray the Children's Stations of the Cross and enjoy a bowl of soup from the generosity of our Columbiettes.

On This Day We Celebrate ~ February 23rd ~

St. Zebinus

A hermit, and proof that there really are saints from A to Z!



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 the internet, you can call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.

40 Cans for Lent

The Msgr. Gacquin Council of The Knights of Columbus from Sandyston and Montague are encouraging participation in a Lenten Preparation Program that began in 2011 in Helotes, Texas.

While Christian based, it is entirely non-denominational. The program is open to those of all beliefs and most especially to those with no belief. All that is required is the desire to help others.

The Program is simple.

Collect one can of food per day during the 40 days of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday, and then one extra can per person on Easter Sunday. Drop off your cans at any time throughout the Season to ANY church, organization or charity that collects and distributes food to those in need.

Designated drop-off locations are preferred, but God doesn't care as long as it gets to the people that need it.

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

The Columbiettes are looking for new members. Please call Pat Lane if you are interested at 973-300-1954. We look forward to welcoming you.

Yoga-lates at St. Thomas

A new session begins on **Tuesday, February 27th from 6:00 to 7:00pm.** Keep your New Year's Resolutions by coming in for a class. Keep your body and mind active and de-stressed! Yoga is for peace of mind and flexibility and Pilates is for strength, good posture and core muscles. The session will run for 8 weeks on Tuesday nights. Come try a class for \$6.00 each or \$45.00 for the 8 week session. 20% of proceeds goes to the parish. Bring a mat, hand held weights and a friend. Come try out Yoga-lates!

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, February 18, 2018

1st Sunday of Lent

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

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

Monday, Feb. 19

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

7:00 p.m. STC Confessions (till 8:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, Feb.20

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

7:00 p.m. REC Men’s Prayer Group

Wednesday, Feb. 21

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

Thursday, Feb. 22

Friday, Feb. 23

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

7:00 p.m. STC & SJC Stations of the Cross

Saturday, Feb. 24

10:00a.m. STC First Reconciliation Retreat

1:00 p.m. STC First Reconciliation

4:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner (after Mass)

Sunday, February 25, 2018

2nd Sunday of Lent

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

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

Next Sunday’s Readings: 2nd Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 22: 1—2, 9—13, 15--18

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 116*

2nd Reading: *Romans 8: 31--34*

Gospel: *Mark 9: 2—10*

FORMED.org is your ticket to a wide selection of DVD’s, audio C.D.’s, movies and study programs on our faith. Free to you as a parishioner, our parish code is: **HCVWQC**. The password is: **formed**.

“Welcome Home”: Reconciliation during Lent.

As in past years, every Catholic Church in the Diocese will be open for Confessions **every Monday of Lent, from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.** With our situation, Confessions will alternate between our two churches. The full schedule will be as follows:

Mon. Feb. 19 St. Thomas Mon. Feb. 26 St. James
Mon. Mar. 5 St. Thomas Mon. Mar. 12 St. James
Mon. Mar. 19 St. Thomas Mon. Mar. 26 St. James

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at both Churches on Fridays during Lent beginning at 7 pm.

“Catholicism” a D.V.D. series exploring our faith is being viewed **each Sunday of Lent at 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Religious Ed. Center.** All are welcome as Bishop Robert Barron, author and theologian, takes us around the world to help us understand better the doctrines we believe. It’s a perfect way to grow in the knowledge and appreciation of our faith.

Pizza Night with the Bishop: Tues. Feb. 27

All young men of our parish are invited to join with Bishop Serratelli in an evening to think about their future. The date is **Tuesday, Feb. 27th at Pope John H. S. in Sparta, beginning at 7 p.m.** The Bishop will speak, there’ll be time for prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and then unlimited pizza! No commitments will be taken, but you will be asked to think about what plans the Lord may have for you. Please speak to Fr. Wayne or call the Office to count you in. Parents are welcome too.

A Winter Flea Market will be held at St. Thomas in the Fr. Lewis Center on **Sat. Feb. 24, from 8:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.** Forty+ vendors. Antiques, estate jewelry, household items, etc. Vendors wanted; tables \$ 25. For info call 973-948-5752.

Recovery Mass. The Shrine of Saint Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Rd., Stirling, hosts a monthly Recovery Mass on the **2nd Saturday of each month**, from 12 Noon till 1:30 p.m. Following Mass, there is an Intercessory Prayer Session in the chapel where you can pray in community for loved ones still enslaved by addictions, and to give thanks to those who have found recovery. For more info, call 973- 370-3784.