

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

God's Plan for Our Salvation Revealed

We celebrate today the great Feast of Our Lord's Resurrection from the grave ! It is the promise for us that we too shall rise ! This early Christian hymn was incorporated by Saint Paul into his Letter to the Philippians. It captures, perhaps better than any other passage, the spirit of this day.

*Though He was in the form of God,
Jesus did not deem equality with God
Something to be grasped at.*

*Rather, He emptied Himself
And took the form of a slave,
Being born in the likeness of men.*

*He was known to be of human estate,
And it was thus that He humbled Himself,
Obediently accepting even death,
Death on a cross !*

*Because of this,
God highly exalted Him
And bestowed on Him the name
Above every other name.*

*So that at Jesus' name
Every knee must bend
In the heavens, on the earth,
And under the earth,
And every tongue proclaim
To the glory of God the Father:
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD !*

Philippians 2: 6 – 11

Our Parish Staff and I wish all our parishioners a wonderful Easter Day. We hope that you will be able to celebrate this day with family and friends.

God bless you at Easter and always,
Father Wayne

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Arthur & Elsie Bastian at the Request of their son, Andy

SATURDAY, April 7

8:00AM – Alfred & Betty Donahue

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 8

8:00AM – Grayce Ricciardi
req. by Art & Maria Henn

11:30AM – Barbara Gioielli
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,042.00 – Regular Collection – March 25, 2018 +

\$ 268.00 – Online Giving

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,361.00 – Regular Collection – March 26, 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.



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*

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Ralph & Anna Gioielli at the Request of their Children

MONDAY, April 2

9:00AM – Szigmond Varga
req. by his Family

TUESDAY, April 3

9:00AM – Intentions of James Abboud
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Mom & Dad
-Stacy Moore
req. by the Mendez & Abboud Families

WEDNESDAY, April 4

9:00AM – Don Martin
req. by his Family

THURSDAY, April 5

No Mass

FRIDAY, April 6

9:00AM – Emily Blickweidel
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, April 7

4:30PM – James Tobin
req. by his Family
-Deloris Spinks
req. by her husband, Russ
-Russell B. Spinks
req. by his Dad

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 8

9:30AM – Frank Kelly
req. by Gerry Mahon & Family
-Intentions of the Newly Confirmed
-Intentions of Michael Toth
req. by his Mom

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,473.00 – Regular Collection – March 25, 2018 +

\$ 328.00 – Online Giving

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$3,091.00 – Regular Collection – March 26, 2017

Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.

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saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving link.

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Margaret Accordino, James Brittain, Peg Coates, 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, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, 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



Alleluia, He Is Risen!

“On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.” ~ John 20:1

Joyous Easter! Bells ring out, flowers bloom, families share meals together and we sing “Alleluia,” which means “Praise God.” We know that Jesus’ death and resurrection have made eternal life possible for us!

Joyous Easter to all.



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1st

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.



Our diocesan **Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program** has come to an end.

Please start to return your Rice Bowls to the Religious Education Center or to the box/basket at Church. Thank you for your spirit of generosity and compassion to our brothers and sisters in need throughout the world.



It is with great joy that we congratulate the following teens of our parishes who will be Sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, April 5th at the 7:30 PM Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville: Katarina Bisl, Nikki Delgado, Jenna Dispenziere, Natalie Dube, Rachel Durso, Derek Gamutan, Katlin Gorman, Sean Kealy, Allison Lombardi, Bridget O’Keefe, Kelly Rymaniak, James Setlock and Mark Sternefeld.

We also congratulate their Parents, Sponsors and Catechists, Dan and Lucy O’Keefe, who have been so instrumental in bringing them to this very special day in their lives. May our teens know of our prayers for them as they witness to Jesus Christ throughout their lives.

(Confirmation Rehearsal will take place on Wednesday, April 4th at 6:00PM at OLQP.)

Yoga-lates at St. Thomas

A new session began 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. **You may join us at any time**. 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!



For all those who have inquired, a Memorial Mass for John (Johnny) Brehm, Jr. will take place on Saturday, April 14th at 11:00AM at St. Vincent DePaul Church, 101 St. Vincent Dr., Milford, PA. As a loving gesture from our parish family, we would like to help Sue with her son’s funeral expenses. If you would like to do so, please give your monetary gift to Mary Flexer or bring it to the parish office. Thanking you in advance for your generosity always.

Also, a Memorial Mass for Helen Lotorto will take place on Saturday, April 28th at 4:30PM at St. Thomas Church followed by a light Repast.

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.

Reflections on the Readings

Father Wayne will lead us in scripture study each Tuesday morning after Mass in the Father Lewis Center. All are welcome. Please join us.

The next St. Thomas Coffee Hour is scheduled for **Sunday, April 8th** after the 9:30AM Mass. Please note that there will be a **special Coffee Hour on April 22nd** for a visiting missionary. All are welcome to join us and enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners.

The next St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner will take place on **Saturday, April 14th** in the Father Lewis Center immediately following the 4:30PM 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 to share.

HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening, **May 4th**, 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 no later than April 30th to allow time for displaying them properly. 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

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

Feast of Christ's Resurrection

8:00 a.m. SJC Easter Sunday Mass
9:30 a.m. STC Easter Sunday Mass
--and Easter Egg Hunt
11:30a.m. SJC Easter Sunday Mass

Monday, Apr. 2

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

Tuesday, Apr. 3

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings
6:00 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Wednesday, Apr. 4

6:00 p.m. Confirmation Rehearsal at O.L.Q.P.

Thursday, Apr. 5

7:30 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation at O.L.Q.P.

Friday, Apr. 6

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

Saturday, Apr. 7

6:00p.m. STC Polish Easter Dinner

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass
9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass
11:30a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass
3:00 p.m. STC Divine Mercy Prayers

Next Sunday's Readings: *Divine Mercy*

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 10: 34, 37--43*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 118*
2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 5: 6--8*
Gospel: *John 20: 1--9*

FORMED.org Free to you as a parishioner, our parish code is: **HCVWQC**. The password is: **formed**.

*"This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad."*

Psalm 118

Happy Easter ! We rejoice today in the greatest feast that can be celebrated by peoples anywhere. We celebrate today Jesus' victory over sin and death; we celebrate His rising to the life of Resurrection. It is the promise of our own, and an anticipation of our very future—which is eternal happiness with God our Father in heaven.

My thanks to all who have helped to make our churches and our services so beautiful during this past Holy Week. Thanks to our musicians and choirs, all our ministers and servers at the liturgies, those who cleaned and decorated both our churches, and to all who worked behind the scenes to make our Masses joyful and up-lifting.

Along with our parish staff, I wish all our parishioners and their families all the blessings of this joyous Easter Day. May the Lord's victory resound in your heart—today and always.

Pray for our Confirmation Young People.

They will be receiving this great Sacrament **this Thurs., April 5th**—the Thursday of Easter Week. Pray that they will open their hearts to the Holy Spirit's counsel and wisdom. May they dedicate themselves to leading lives pleasing to the Lord and inspiring to us all.

Divine Mercy Sunday. The 2nd Sunday of Easter in recent times has been observed as Divine Mercy Sunday. First introduced by Sr. Faustina in Poland in the 1930's, this devotion has grown throughout the world. Enthusiastically supported by Pope John Paul II, it has been elevated to a major event within the Church. Join us **next Sunday, at St. Thomas, beginning at 1:30 p.m. with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Divine Mercy Prayers and Benediction: 3 p.m.**

Recommended by FORMED.org at Easter:

Divine Mercy: The Second Greatest Story Ever Told. This 10-week, video-based study will move hearts with beautiful film-making, fascinating history and powerful teaching. Learn about St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II and St. Maximilian Kolbe, in their efforts to make God's ultimate plan for mercy in our world known.

Father Michael McGivney, a documentary that brings to life the story of one of America's most extraordinary Catholic priests, who went on to found the Knights of Columbus.