

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: stjamesthomas.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](http://www.tristatepregnancy.org) 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.

Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish

Preparing for the Revolution

Did you know that, each time you pray the Lord's Prayer, you're calling for revolution ? You pray: "*Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" You just called for this world and its ways to be overthrown, and for God's plans to be installed in its place.

Each time we pray the *Our Father*, we are asking for this world's ways to be overturned. We pray that the patterns of selfishness and self-centeredness, sin and evil, dishonesty and injustice come to an end. In their place, you are calling for things to be the way we hope we will find them in heaven: with the joy, the happiness, the peace of being with the Lord forever. It is an unending source of fulfillment which we hope to find in the Lord's Kingdom.

And we fight on the side of that Kingdom every time we resist evil, or greed, or gossip, or untruthfulness, or self-centeredness. We win another battle for God's Rule when we allow the values of God to prevail within us. Each time we do, a little bit more of heaven is encroaching upon earth.

In today's Gospel, Jesus Himself goes into battle with the Devil. And He shows us how to encounter and overcome the Empire of Evil: by not giving evil the first inch.

We have just entered the Season of Lent. And the whole Catholic-Christian world unites together during this special time to make the world a better place, by allowing God to influence us more fully. It happens a little more each time we defeat the evil tendencies within us. As we replace them with habits and virtues that please the Lord, we become more like Him. We become, you might say, His agents in this world. We become agents who have a secret weapon (that's not so secret): God's grace (God's help) which is available to all who call upon it.

May we resolve to be more effective people for the Lord. As we work towards "*being perfect as Your heavenly Father is perfect,*" His influence grows, more and more, among us.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 14, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of John & Eric Cerra at the
Request of their Family

SATURDAY, February 20

8:00AM – Robert Donahue
req. by his Family

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
February 21

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

11:30AM – Carole M. Drozdowski
req. by the Jankowski Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$2,336.00 – Regular Collection – February 7, 2016

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$ 964.00 – Regular Collection – February 8, 2015

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:

Mary Cunico, Rachel Gibbs, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Bill Lange, Jeff Librizzi, Valerie Lupo, Cathy Moyer, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh and Michael Wenning

Jesus Heals

The Healing Service at St. James is postponed until the Spring of 2016. If you have any questions, please call Deacon Wayne at 973-293-3344.

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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Bernie Reich at the
Request of his wife, Grace

MONDAY, February 15

9:00AM – Michael Bailo
req. by his wife, Ora

TUESDAY, February 16

9:00AM – Father Sylvester Livolsi
req. by Mary Flexer
- Teresa Sweeney
req. by Joanne Eagleson

WEDNESDAY, February 17

9:00AM – Sharon Falconer
req. by Fran

THURSDAY, February 18

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 19

9:00AM – Bessie Dyer
req. by Ken & Mary Burkhardt

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 20

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 21

9:30AM – Mary Campbell
req. by her Children
- Karin Takacs
req. by Joe & Cathy McNanna & Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$3,034.00 – Regular Collection – February 7, 2016

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,030.00 – Regular Collection – February 8, 2015

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.



Saint of the Month - St. Valentine

We know Valentine was a real person, because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to him. Although we don't know too much about him, we do know that he was a priest who lived in Rome in the third century and was martyred and buried at a cemetery close to the Milvian Bridge. Since the High Middle Ages he has been celebrated as the patron of courtly love, because tradition holds that while he was in prison for having witnessed the marriage of Christian couples he would send out notes signed, "Love, your Valentine." He is a patron saint of engaged couples, happy marriages, love, fainting and beekeepers!

In his memory: Say "I love you" to everyone in your family. Send out Valentine Cards to those you love. Congratulate an engaged couple in our parish. Renew your marriage vows.



Family Stations of the Cross & Supper will be prayed at 4:30PM every Friday at St. Thomas Church. All Parents and children are invited and encouraged to attend this beautiful prayerful experience during Lent. Following the Children's Version of the Stations of the Cross (about 5:30PM), we will be enjoying a simple dinner and fellowship with a Soup Supper hosted by our Columbiettes.

First Reconciliation Retreat and Sacrament

Please keep the 13 children of our parish in your prayers next Saturday, February 20th, as they spend the morning on retreat followed by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time. May they always feel the love and mercy of Jesus in their hearts.

Lenten Presentation – Altaration

Students in Grades 6 – 10, Parents and Sponsors will meet again on Sunday, February 21st for the 9:30AM Mass at St. Thomas and the second part of the *Altaration* Presentation following Mass. Adult parishioners are also welcome and encouraged to join us too.

Religious Education Inclement Weather Policy

The cancellation of classes or other events 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.

ST. JAMES SOUP ON A SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY

St. James the Greater is sponsoring a take-out soup fundraiser on **Saturday, February 27, 2016**. Order a quart (or more) of Cream of Broccoli by Betsy Gardner, Manhattan Clam Chowder by Kelly Yakupcin and/or Split Pea by Janice Cerra. Price is \$6.00 per quart. You must order in advance by February 21st. Payment with your order would be greatly appreciated. Soups will be available for pick up on Saturday, February 27th at the parish hall between 12:00 and 2:00PM. Fill out an order form and place in the collection basket or give to Kerry Applegate or Betsy Gardner. You may also e-mail your order to [Kerry Applegate at KApplegate1015@gmail.com](mailto:KApplegate1015@gmail.com).



Jubilee Year of Mercy – Finding Mercy This Lent

It's time to sit down as a family and talk about Lent. But this year is special because it is the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis has asked that during Lent this year we set aside time to pray, reflect and act on the mystery of mercy in our own lives and in the world. Here are some ideas that your family can do to make Lent more meaningful and more merciful this year.

- ❖ **Look For Mercy** ~ Moments of mercy are happening all around us. Help your kids to identify one merciful act every day during Lent. It might be something that happens at home, in your community or in the world.
- ❖ **Get Rid of Grudges** ~ Teach your kids by giving them examples from your own life on how you let go of anger and resentments and forgave someone that hurt you.
- ❖ **Go On A Mission Of Mercy** ~ Spend a day as a family helping a food pantry, soup kitchen or homeless shelter. These places are always looking for volunteers and your children will get hands-on experience in what it means to be merciful.

The ultimate goal of Lent and the Year of Mercy is to help us change our hearts and lives so by next year we will be conduits of God's mercy at all times and in all places!

(To Be Continued...Taken from Take Out: Family Faith on the Go)

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is 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 is on **Tuesday** nights from 6:15-7:15pm for 6 weeks and started on **January 26th**. **You may join us at any time.** The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for only \$30.00 or pay \$6.00 per class. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to St. Thomas parish. So, please try it out and do something for yourself. Any questions, please call Chris Dube at 973-948-2329.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

First Sunday of Lent

February 14, 2016

“What does scripture say? ‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is the word of faith which we preach.)’ For if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Faith in the heart leads to justification, confession on the lips to salvation.”

The Lenten season can be a routine time of remembering, for traditional practices and customs which will be part of our lives for the next few weeks. Each year we pause to observe it as a time of special prayer and renewal. But there can be danger of falling into a routine.

Pope Francis is calling us to live lent differently during the Year of Mercy. He wants us to move from the practice of our lips and ensure that we bring our hearts into what we do and say.

We have been given the gift of God's mercy. The Bishop of Rome tells us that the church is a field hospital, where mercy is offered and health is restored. Mercy first is treating the wounds. Specialized tests can wait. Our woundedness should be addressed first, and our acts of mercy can treat the wounds and hurts of others.

Lent is a time for healing.

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, January 14, 2016

1st Sunday of Lent

Happy St. Valentine's Day

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

Monday, Feb. 15

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

7:00 p.m. STC Sac. of Reconciliation

Tuesday, Feb.16

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Wednesday, Feb. 17

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

Thursday, Feb. 18

9:30 a.m. REC Moms & Tots Play Group

Friday, Feb. 19

9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
after Mass, till 12 Noon

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

4:30 p.m. STC Family Stations of the Cross

5:30 p.m. Columbiettes serve Soup Supper
– both churches

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross – both churches

Saturday, Feb. 20

10:00 a.m. STC First Reconciliation Retreat

1:00 p.m. STC First Reconciliation—2nd Grade

Sunday, February 21, 2016

2nd Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

9:30 a.m. STC Lenten Family Formation Day
--Gr. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & Parents & Sponsors
--till 1 p.m.

10:30a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Next Sunday's Reading: 2nd Sun. of Lent

1st Reading: *Genesis 15: 5—12, 17--18*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 27*

2nd Reading: *Philippians 3: 17—4: 1*

Gospel: *Luke 9: 28b--36*

Valentine's Day during Lent ? Of course !

How can we not honor a day that celebrates love? St. John tells us that “*God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*” (1 Jn. 4: 16). God is the Source of love, the Fount of love, and the Goal of all love. To truly express love is to express something of God.

Within the Church, in fact, today is *World Marriage Day*. May all our married couples celebrate their love, and may the rest of us pray that all marriages remain life-giving. (The family is still the basic cell of a healthy society.)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will again be a big part of the Season of Lent. Bishop Serratelli has asked that Confession be available each Monday evening, from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m., **in each church of the Diocese of Paterson.**

With our situation, the Confession schedule will be as follows:

Mon. Feb. 15 St. Thomas

Mon. Feb. 22 St. James

Mon. Feb. 29 St. Thomas

Mon. Mar. 7 St. James

Mon. Mar. 14 St. Thomas

Mon. Mar. 21 St. James

Plan to come early in the season, and thus reap sooner the benefits and graces of this Sacrament of the Lord's Mercy and Peace.

Fasting and Abstinence during Lent.

These are time-honored ways of self-sacrifice: training our spirits by checking our bodily cravings. **Fasting** refers to *eating only one full meal and two lesser meals* during the day. **Abstinence** means *not eating meat*. All who are over the age of 59 are not bound to the rules of fasting. Likewise children under 18 are not bound to the rules of fasting. All who are under the age of 14 are not bound to the rules of abstinence.

During Lent the Church calls us to a **strict fast and abstinence** on *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday*. All other *Fridays of Lent* are **days of abstinence**.

Coming Events at St. Paul Inside the Walls, Madison:

(1) *Shrouded in Mystery*, on the Shroud of Turin (Wed. Mar. 9 at 7:30 p.m.) and
(2) *Feminine, Faithful, Fearless*, on spirituality for women. (Sat. April 9 at 9:00 a.m.) For more info visit stpaulinsidethewalls.org or call 973-377-1004.