

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.

Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish

Who's at the Center?

In the second century AD, the scientist / astronomer Claudius Ptolemy presented a model of the solar system that stated that the earth was the center of the universe. About 1,400 years later, another astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus, overturned Ptolemy's model and taught that earth revolved around the sun and not the other way around.

Just as Copernicus upended Ptolemy's teaching, Jesus upends our assumptions. Every day He asks us, "Who is the center of your life? Are you living under My rule or under yours?"

Using the Ptolemaic system as a model, we might say, "I choose to be the center of my universe." Living under that model tends to make us self-centered, even if we appear to be good and upright. It can move us to ignore our weaknesses, take all the credit for our goodness, and never submit to Jesus' rule.

Using the Copernican model, we might say, "**Jesus** is at the center of my universe." We place Him at the center when we realize that although He was perfect as the Son of God, He became a man and died to rescue us from sin. We place Him at the center when we realize, not only that He loved us even unto death, but also that He has been raised up and is now Lord of heaven and earth. (Philippians 2: 6–11).

Of course, it's humbling to say, "Jesus, I want **you** to be at the center of my life." These words are opposed to our fallen nature. Yet the more we begin each day by praying these words, the more we will find ourselves filled with an incredible peace. We will also find a grace-filled determination to place our lives—every thought and every action—under Jesus' rule so that we can give Him glory.

Jesus is the most distinguished Person ever to live in our hearts. Let's treat Him like the royal Guest He is.

"Jesus, You are my Lord and my God. Come and reign in me."

--from: *The Word Among Us*,
July / August 2016

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 28, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Eric Cerra at the
Request of his mom, Janice

SATURDAY, September 3

8:00AM – Mary Hanratty
req. by her Family

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 4

8:00AM – Joe Urban
req. by Carol Lombaerde

11:30AM – Helen Briegel
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,094.00 – Regular Collection – August 21, 2016

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,141.00 – Regular Collection – August 23, 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:

Margaret Accordino, Mary Cunico, Derya Dimertas, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Clara Kane, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Cathy Moyer, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner and Thomas Walsh

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 Spinaplice at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Emily Blickweidel at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, August 29

9:00AM – Joseph Lukasik
req. by his Family

TUESDAY, August 30

9:00AM – Intentions of Miriam Ligammari
req. by Luisa

WEDNESDAY, August 31

9:00AM – Owen Barr
req. by His loving daughter, Mary Flexer
- Holy Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, September 1

No Mass

FRIDAY, September 2

9:00AM – Intentions of Ron & Dolly Reinhart
req. by Keaton Douglas & Chris Higgins

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 3

4:30PM – Jerry & Judy Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 4

9:30AM – John Pustelniak
req. by Keaton Douglas & Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,711.00 – Regular Collection – August 21, 2016

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,840.00 – Regular Collection – August 23, 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.



Registrations for 2016/2017 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children in **Grades 2-8** and **teens in the Confirmation Preparation Program** for the upcoming catechetical year **were due back by July 30th** to **avoid the late fee. We are still waiting for many re-registrations!!! Please return all registrations ASAP!!! Thank you.**

No re-registrations will be taken the weeks of September 4th (week before classes begin) or September 18th (first week of classes). All late re-registrations must be brought to the Religious Education Office after September 18th. Please call to schedule an appointment.

Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish, 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 Teens

Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. James the Greater have formed a new youth group for all teens in High School. **Come join us today, September 28th, from 6:00-8:00pm** for our next meeting in the pavilion at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish. There will be plenty of fun, games, music events and prayer. For more information please call Jenn at the office at 973-948-3185.



Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

Each of these *Corporal Works of Mercy* is named in Sacred Scripture (see Matthew 25 and the Book of Tobit). Observing them is a requirement of Christian discipleship:

- ❖ Feed the hungry
- ❖ Give drink to the thirsty
- ❖ Clothe the naked
- ❖ Shelter the homeless
- ❖ Visit the sick
- ❖ Visit the imprisoned
- ❖ Bury the dead

Jesus' life, teaching, preaching and healing ministry is the source of the *Spiritual Works of Mercy*:

- ❖ Counsel the doubtful
- ❖ Instruct the ignorant
- ❖ Admonish sinners
- ❖ Comfort the afflicted
- ❖ Forgive offenses
- ❖ Bear wrongs patiently
- ❖ Pray for the living and the dead

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to be merciful like the Heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees him. Show us your face, and we will be saved. Amen.

(~Pope Francis' Prayer for the Year of Mercy)

From the R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you, or someone you know, interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church? Explore your interest through the R.C.I.A.----'Come and See'. When Jesus was approached by those who wanted to become His disciples, Jesus invited them to "...come and see". Walk with us. Learn who we are, then make your decision to become Catholic, a disciple of Jesus. If you have thought about the R.C.I.A. before, and passed on the opportunity, today may be the time that the Holy Spirit has chosen for you. The R.C.I.A. is a time for you and your needs and concerns. It is a journey in faith and a time to slow down to enjoy the journey. 'Come and See' by calling the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

2016: St. Thomas 75th Anniversary Year 1941-2016

Good Deed Journaling. All parishioners are invited to make note of the good deeds they perform during the course of the day. There are little notebooks on the table in the Gathering Space. Please take one and use it as a personal diary to record the good deeds you perform for the Lord each day. You may surprise yourself. These notebooks are for your personal use only, and can be a wonderful offering to the Lord of your time well spent for His honor and glory.

Calling all "Vintage People"

Perhaps you have great memories of the Catholic Church and the America of our youth. We ask if you would like to share a memory or two with all of our parishioners as we celebrate our 75th year. Please pick up a blue sheet of paper in the gathering space.

Senior "Vintage" Memories

– When arriving at our vacation destination, one of the first things we would do was inquire where the nearest Catholic Church was. I have fond memories of various churches. We still do this when away today.

St. Thomas History – On Father Fanning's departure, Rev. James Gacquin served as Administrator during the Summer of 1969, assisted by Rev. John Boland and occasionally by Rev. Joseph Ryan - while all were assigned to Pope John XXIII High School. Fr. Gacquin and Father Boland both continued to assist Rev. Thaddeus Michota who became the next Pastor in September of 1969.

Vendors Wanted for Flea Market

St. James the Greater Church in Montague is having their Annual Flea Market on Saturday, **September 10th** from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Indoor and outdoor spaces available. Please contact Betsy Gardner at 845-858-7892 or Gardnerabstract@aol.com for questions or to reserve a space.

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, August 28, 2016

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC St. Thomas 75th Anniv. Mass

--with Bishop Serratelli

Anniversary Brunch to follow at High Point Golf Club Banquet and Event Center

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

Monday, Aug. 29

Tuesday, Aug. 30

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

Wednesday, Aug. 31

Thursday, Sept. 1

Friday, Sept. 2

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

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

Saturday, Sept. 3

Sunday, September 4, 2016

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

Future Events

Sat. Sept. 10 St. James Indoor / Outdoor Flea Market

Next Sunday's Readings: 23rd Ord.

1st Reading: *Wisdom 9: 13–18b*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 90*

2nd Reading: *Philemon 9–10, 12--17*

Gospel: *Luke 14: 25--33*

Thanks to Montague Seniors. My thanks to the Seniors for their very generous donation of 16 new chairs for the Fr. Lewis Center. This will ensure a full set of chairs for all our tables. Total cost was \$ 375. Thanks to Lou Avenatti, President and to all the Seniors for noticing our need—and filling it. It's a pleasure to have you each month.

We welcome Bishop Arthur Serratelli today as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of **Saint Thomas the Apostle Church.** On July 6, 1941 Bishop Thomas H. McLaughlin offered the first Mass in the converted school house on the Layton-Hainesville Road. Our Mass today marks 75 years of praise to the Lord and service to His people. We pray that this will continue for another 75 years.

Our anniversary Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. Brunch will follow at the **High Point Golf Club Banquet and Event Center, 342 Shore Drive, Montague.** A continuous photo show and a review of our history will be part of the day.

My thanks to all who are serving on the committees which are making the various events happen. And congratulations to all members of our parish in our 75th Anniversary year !

FORMED. These are our last few days to check out the movies, C.D.'s, E-books, study programs and more, and to let me know if they would be helpful to you in the next year. We have been given the chance to receive **FREE during the month of August**, hundreds of titles. To access, simply do this:

1. Type in: FORMED.org in your web browser, such as Google, Bing, Chrome or Firefox
2. Click on: FORMED
3. Click on: "Login" in the upper right hand corner of the screen
4. Enter the following information into the pop-up screen and click submit:
Email/username: demo@formed.org
Password: Assumption (Case sensitive)
5. Once it loads, you will see programs, movies, audio, and books. Choose one and begin.

Awaiting your response by Aug. 31st.

Diocesan Men's Conference. Our Diocese will be holding its first **Men's Conference** on **Saturday, October 15 at St. Paul Inside the Walls in Madison.** Join us from 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. for the opportunity to enhance men's spirituality and encourage them to be more involved with their parishes. Speakers include: former NFL receiver, Danny Abramowicz; Peter Herbeck, Director of Renewal Ministries; and Pete Burak, Director of Young Adult Outreach for Renewal Ministries. The conference will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Serratelli. Visit insidethewalls.org for more details and to register.