

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

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta,

pray for us

Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost ?
(Luke 14: 28)

Few of us have needed to build a tower, much less review troops before battle. But we all have plans that require us to assess our resources. Do I have what it takes to get that degree ? ... to care for a foster child or elderly relative ? ... to lead that Bible study class in my parish ?

The woman being canonized today certainly had what it takes. As she made her life “something beautiful for God,” St. Teresa of Calcutta showed the determination that is the hallmark of every disciple. “*The first step to becoming holy,*” she once said, “*is to will it.*”

This can sound intimidating, especially if you don’t see yourself as a particularly determined person. But Jesus wants to share the secret that Mother Teresa and every other saint discovered: sheer willpower isn’t the whole story. The truly critical factor is God’s desire.

If you want your life to become something beautiful for God, know that He wants the same thing. Know also that He has all the grace you need to accomplish it. He has filled you with His Spirit; He gives you His Body and Blood at Mass; He walks beside you every day, helping you when you stumble and cheering you on when you succeed. He is 100 percent behind your desire to build a “tower” that glorifies Him.

So whenever you sit down to calculate the cost of following Jesus—especially when that cost seems too high—take comfort from these words from St. Teresa of Calcutta:

“You belong to Him. Nothing can separate you from Him. That one sentence is important to remember. He will be your joy, your strength. If you hold onto that sentence, temptations and difficulties will come, but nothing will break you. My prayer for you is that you ... answer Jesus’ call to you with a simple word, ‘yes.’”

--from: *The Word Among Us*
September 2016

“Even in her lifetime, Mother Teresa was an icon of God’s tender mercy, radiating the light of God’s love to so many through the works of mercy, both material and spiritual. From heaven she continues to fulfill her mission as she “lights the light of those in darkness on earth.” With her canonization, the Church presents her as a model and intercessor of those who, like her, “long to light the fire of love and peace throughout the world.” She can be taken as a patron saint especially for those who are most in need of God’s mercy.”

--Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, M.C Postulator for the Cause of Sainthood
March 25, 2016

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 4, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Robert & Ann Lamb at the
Request of Peggy & Richard Gray

SATURDAY, September 10

8:00AM – Rose Barbara Henry
req. by her Family

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 11

8:00AM – Terry Naletko
req. by his Family

11:30AM – Frank & Jane Varga
req. by their Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,221.00 – Regular Collection – August 28, 2016

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,344.00 – Regular Collection – August 30, 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 Spinapolice at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Jim Mahon at the
Request of his wife, Gerry

MONDAY, September 5

9:00AM – Mildred Walker
req. by Ed & Eileen Campbell

TUESDAY, September 6

9:00AM – Flora Garcia Pimentel
req. by the Masset Family

WEDNESDAY, September 7

9:00AM – Joan Spoolstra

THURSDAY, September 8

No Mass

FRIDAY, September 9

9:00AM – John Cerra
req. by his wife, Janice
- Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 10

4:30PM – Margaret McKenna
req. by Flo Oliver

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 11

9:30AM – Steven Andrew Dutkus, Sr. USAF
req. by the Masset Family
- Robert Foti
req. by Joseph & Carol Foti

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,478.00 – Regular Collection – August 28, 2016

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,815.00 – Regular Collection – August 30, 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.

Back to School!!!

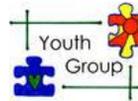
Wishing all of our students a very "Happy Back to School". Take some time before the first day to pray this little prayer. Have a blessed year kiddos....and see you soon!!!

A Prayer for Students

Lord, Our God, in Your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Send your Spirit upon us and fill us with Your wisdom and blessings. Grant that we may devote ourselves to our studies and draw ever closer to You, the source of all knowledge. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord and Divine Teacher. Amen.

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.



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 and see what's going on!!!** Our next meeting will take place in the pavilion at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **on September 11th from 6:00-8:00pm.** There will be plenty of fun, games, music events and prayer. For more information please call Jenn at the office at 973-948-3185.

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

All adult parishioners are welcome to gather twice a month with the R.C.I.A., where we examine our understanding of how our religion and our faith in God is part of our lives. During these sessions, we break open the upcoming Sunday Readings to be used as our basis for sharing. We also reflect on our understanding of how the Scriptures can affect us on our journeys in faith. In upcoming bulletins, you will find the outline of topics for our sessions. These sessions are no-pressure---'Come and See'. We invite you, at no obligation, to discover what the Church and our faith is all about. Please call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be promptly returned.

Sessions will begin Sunday, September 11 right after the 9:30am Mass in the St. Thomas conference room.

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

St. Thomas History – By 1970, Tocks Island Project acquisitions were underway and forced closure of the Missions of Our Lady of Blue Mountain [OLBM] and St. Matthew in Walpack. With St. Thomas gaining some of their parishioners and the county increasing in population, Father Ted Michota expanded the original St. Thomas Church to almost triple in size.

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 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.)

Monday, Sept. 5

Labor Day

9:00 a.m. STC Mass for Blessing of Human Labor

Tuesday, Sept. 6

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

Wednesday, Sept. 7

Thursday, Sept. 8

Friday, Sept. 9

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

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

1:00 p.m. STC Montague Seniors Mtg.

Saturday, Sept. 10

9:00 a.m. SJC St. James Indoor /
Outdoor Flea Market

Sunday, September 11, 2016

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

9:30 a.m. STC R.C.I.A. (after Mass)

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

Future Events

Next Sunday's Readings: 2^{4th} Ord.

1st Reading: *Exodus 32: 7--11, 13--14*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 51*

2nd Reading: *1 Timothy 1: 12--17*

Gospel: *Luke 15: 1--32*

Labor Day Mass. Work is what we do most of our lives. Pray that it is effective and other-serving. Join us for a special Labor Day Mass, Mon. 9 a.m. at St. Thomas.

My deepest thanks to all who helped organize and to all who attended our 75th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Serratelli, and attended the Brunch last Sunday. By all accounts everything went well, and everyone enjoyed the day. The photographer from the Beacon, Joe, said to me after Mass: "Father Wayne, you have a very happy parish here." I had to agree! Congratulations to all members of our parish as we continue our **75th Anniversary year!**

75th Anniv. Photo Directory. Our Directory is finally printed and available for sale after each Mass or through the Parish Office. I think you will be pleased with the results. It includes photos of all who had their pictures taken, as well as a history of St. Thomas Parish, researched thoroughly by Alicia Batko and Sharon Spangenberg. Cost is \$ 10.

My thanks to Tom Costello for working many hours with the publishing company Jostens, and the photographer SchoolCraft Studios. In his spare time Tom serves as Principal of Pope John XXIII High School.

NORWESCAP, the Volunteer Resource Center of Sussex County, is announcing a new **Friendly Volunteer and Telephone Reassurance Program.** Especially for isolated seniors or disabled persons, they provide much needed friendship and support to fight depression, disorientation, and loneliness.

Seniors and disabled persons are matched with a friendly visitor who will visit them about once a week; they can also receive a daily phone call from a "telephone reassurance" volunteer. These services are free through the county.

If you know of someone who could use this help, please contact **Nicole Friedberg at 973-579-0555, ext. 1293.** Perhaps you might like to consider volunteering for this generous service to others: NORWESCAP will train you. Call the same number for more information.

Be Kind. Mother Teresa, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, devoted her life to the service of the poor, becoming a global icon for selfless service to others. Starting with just one person at a time, she ended up personally caring for thousands of sick and dying people in Calcutta. She is the best example of how one act of kindness can make a difference in the world.