

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

OCTOBER IS
RIGHT TO LIFE
MONTH

Many people look forward to the month of October. The weather is invigorating, the trees are displaying their beautiful colors before the leaves fall, many outdoor activities take place, as well as yard sales, 5-K runs, fall festivals. October is also one of the months dedicated to Our Blessed Mother and includes the Feast of the Holy Rosary (Oct. 7th).

October has also been designated as “Right to Life” Month. It is an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to the understanding that God’s gift of human life is the most precious gift of all. Our Church, in fact, proclaims that human life is in God’s hands from conception until natural death. From this comes our teaching that all lives are precious and unrepeatable, and must be protected—and that all must be done to preserve and enhance human life in all its stages and ages.

Unfortunately this is not the understanding of many people outside the Church and is not the official position of our government. Abortion ‘rights’ are demanded by many, with the weakest and most defenseless of lives at their mercy to keep or destroy at their convenience.

Since the abominable Supreme Court Decision of 1973, *Roe v. Wade*, an estimated 1.5 million lives have been aborted each year. That currently amounts to a shocking 55 Million tiny human beings who have never had a chance at life.

If we wonder why diseases such as cancer, M.S., Alzheimer’s, etc. are not yet cured, I’m sure that God has tried to send us some ingenious scientists among those 55 Million who have never had the chance to discover the cures. If we wonder why we have to settle for the politicians we have today, I’m sure that God has tried to send us inspiring and capable statesmen and women among the 55 Million who have never been given a chance to serve.

During this month of October pray that all will see what we see: the hand of God in every life. Pray that all will reject the evil of abortion. Pray that the many facilities and agencies that help mothers with problem-pregnancies will have the people and the funds to carry on their God-inspired work.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

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Bishop Serratelli writes to warn us of a group of dissident Catholics who go by the name “Catholics for Choice.” They have launched a nation-wide campaign called “Abortion in Good Faith” which is a contradiction and which can be very confusing for Catholics. This campaign is **absolutely not endorsed** by the Catholic Church and goes against its basic teachings about life. It can have the effect of clouding the issue for believers.

The Bishops of the United States have responded with a campaign of their own. One of its outreaches is the poster included as an insert in today’s Bulletin.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 2, 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, October 8

8:00AM – Edward Kishel
req. by Dave Ovejero

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 9

8:00AM – Timothy Yarosz
req. by his son, Thomas & Family
-William & Irma Pagano
req. by their Family

11:30AM – Joan Spoolstra

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 980.00 – Regular Collection – September 25, 2016

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,119.00 – Regular Collection – September 27, 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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Agnes & Leander Martin at the
Request of their Family

MONDAY, October 3

9:00AM – Gus Eberhardt
req. by his Family

TUESDAY, October 4

9:00AM – Agnes & Leander Martin
req. by their Family

WEDNESDAY, October 5

9:00AM – Mass of Thanksgiving

THURSDAY, October 6

No Mass

FRIDAY, October 7

9:00AM – Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary
- Timothy Yarosz
req. by his wife, Josephine & Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, October 8

4:30PM – Sam Lotorto
req. by his wife, Helen
- Timothy Yarosz
req. by his wife, Josephine & Family

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 9

9:30AM – Timothy Yarosz
req. by his wife, Josephine & Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,198.00 – Regular Collection – September 25, 2016

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,797.00 – Regular Collection – September 27, 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.



Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist Sacramental Preparation Program

On **Monday, October 3rd** at 7:00PM in the **Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center**, we have scheduled our first Sacramental Preparation Meeting for parents of children in our **2nd Grade Class**. Our pastor, Father Wayne, as well as the catechists, Karen Steinert and Marie Mendez, will be speaking to you regarding this very important year for your child. It is imperative that at least one parent from each family be present at this meeting.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi – Blessing of Pets

On **Tuesday, Oct. 4th** at 5:15PM (**Religious Education Dismissal**) at the **REC.**, Father Wayne will be blessing pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. It is also a wonderful way to celebrate the anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* (On God's Care for Our Common Home), which reminds all Catholics of our call to stewardship of God's creation. You may want to donate a bag of food to a pet shelter or just take a walk with your pet. Remember to also give thanks to God for our furry family companions!

Catechist Meeting

A meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 6th** at either **11:00AM** or **7:00PM** for your convenience. All catechists are encouraged to attend one of these sessions.



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 **today, October 2nd** 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.



Catholic Teens Harvest Swing Dance

All High School Students are invited to a Swing Dance on **Saturday, October 22nd** from 6:00-9:30PM at the Religious Education Center. NO Dance experience necessary – Instructors to teach you! Cost is only \$5.00 and a non-perishable donation to the Food Pantry. Come out and enjoy the company of old and new friends for what we know will be a **GREAT TIME** again!!! Please RSVP to maggien13@centurylink.net by October 8th.

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 the core muscles). The class will be on Tuesday nights from 6:15-7:15pm for 8 weeks and starts on **October 11th**. 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 \$40.00 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.

Save the Date

The famous St. James Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on **Saturday, October 15th** at 6:00pm. Bring your own drink. Takeout meals available. Adults: \$12.00, Children under 12: \$6.00 and Children under 6 are free. Tickets will be available after the 8:00am and 11:30am Masses **TODAY**, October 2nd and 9th. You may also call Mike Spinapolic at 973-293-7031 or email wjr218@optonline.net. Sit down tickets are limited to 100.

St. James Christmas Bazaar – December 3

We will soon be accepting donations of new and like new items for the "Second Time Around" tables. Crafters, bakers and volunteers should also start making plans for their contributions now. If you are a crafter, baker, volunteer or just editing some nice but unwanted pieces from your home, please call Linda Spinapolic 973-293-7031, Maria Henn 973-293-3243 or Joan Henn 973-293-3690. Please mark your calendars and start planning for this exciting fundraiser now.

Our Parishioner Greg DeVita wishes to thank everyone for the very generous gift from the parishes for his expenses in starting out in Washington State. A total of \$1,961.10 was collected on his behalf. He offers his gratitude and prayers to all.

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

St. Thomas History – Mr. Fred Battali, Sr. was responsible for the parish obtaining the pews from Our Lady of Blue Mountain, which had been placed in storage near Sparta, in exchange for him digging a well at Pope John XXIII HS. At that time, Father James Gacquin was the school's director.

The Annulment Process. Msgr. Edward Kurtyka, Director of the Diocese Marriage Tribunal, will lead a session on the annulment process at St. Paul's Inside the Walls in Madison on Wednesday, October 5, 7-9pm. If you or someone you know is seeking an annulment, you are not alone in this walk. The Church seeks to help, guide and support you. Come to have your questions about the annulment process answered and receive step-by-step support.

2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Be Rich in Good Works

Our Catholic Charities agencies, the largest recipient of funds from the Bishop's Annual Appeal, serve tens of thousands of people each year, from seniors and disabled adults to those with addictions and in need of counseling. In fact, a record number of people have been seeking the services of Catholic Charities over the years. Please be as generous as you are able to the 2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal so we can continue to serve those in desperate situations. For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2016appeal.org.

New Jersey Right to Life is the state's oldest and largest pro-life organization dedicated to protecting all human life from conception to natural death. Please show support for LIFE by buying a raffle ticket. The cost is \$10.00 per ticket. 1st Prize: 2017 Volvo XC60 AWD SUV valued at \$40,000, 2nd Prize: \$1,000 Shop Rite Gift Card, 3rd Prize: \$750 Shop Rite Gift Card, 4th Prize: \$500 Shop Rite Gift Card. Tickets will be sold at all Masses on the weekend of October 8th and 9th.

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, October 2, 2016

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

At all Masses in October:

Cancer Ribbon Wall Display

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

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

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

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

11:30 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

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

Monday, Oct. 3

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

7:00 p.m. REC Parents' Sacramental Prep. Mtg

Tuesday, Oct. 4

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

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

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

--St. Francis Blessing of all pets at end of class

Wednesday, Oct. 5

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

Thursday, Oct. 6

9:30 a.m. STC Moms & Tots Playgroup

11:00 a.m. REC Catechists' Mtg

7:00 a.m. REC Catechists' Mtg

Friday, Oct. 7

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

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

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

Saturday, Oct. 8

4:30 p.m. STC: Conf. Prep after Mass

4:30 p.m. STC: Conf. Parents & Sponsor
Orientation

Sunday, October 9, 2016

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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.)

“Crossing the Goal: Leading Men to the Cross.” 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.

All men of our parishes are strongly encouraged to attend. A car pool is being arranged: call Parish Office.

National Life Chain will take place **today, Respect Life Sunday**, from 2 p.m. till 3:30 p.m. at the Newton Green in Newton. Join with other groups throughout the country in a prayerful witness to life. Signs will be provided. Bring a chair if needed.

Paws for a Blessing. Bring your pet to the Relig. Ed. Center this **Tuesday, Oct. 4th** for the **Saint Francis Feast Day Blessing of Animals.** All pets will be blessed after the C.C.D. class, at 5:15 p.m. It’s their annual reunion and get-together! Don’t let them miss it!

75th Anniv. Photo Directory. Our Directory is available for sale after each Mass or through the Parish Office. Cost is \$ 10.

Pope John XXIII Regional High School:
Open House for Incoming 9th Grade Tues. Oct 11
7:30 p.m. *Be a Lion for a Day*, Tues, Oct. 18
8:30 a.m.—12 Noon Questions: contact Anne
Kaiser, Admissions Office 973-729-6125 x 255

Next Sunday’s Readings: 28th Ord.

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5: 14--17

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 98

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 2: 8--13

Gospel: Luke 17: 11--19

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