

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

Reincarnation, Resuscitation, or Resurrection ?

There seems to be a lot of confusion about these three ways of “coming back.” During this Month of All Souls, it might be important to consider the differences between them.

Resuscitation is really a coming back to this life here on earth. It is a revival of a person after heart failure or drowning. Someone performs First Aid and brings life back to the person who seems to have died. Their heart begins to beat again or their breathing resumes. They are brought back to *this* life after some traumatic event. When the Gospels tell us that Jesus ‘raised’ Lazarus (John 11: 1--44), they really mean that Jesus **resuscitated** him—brought him back to *this* life, back to his sisters Martha and Mary. It was a miracle none-the-less. Lazarus, at some point later, would have to die again. Jesus also resuscitated a young man being carried out for burial in the town of Nain (Luke 7: 11--17). Jesus did that, probably because of the grieving mother, who had also lost a husband recently and was inconsolable. And the little girl, the 12 year old daughter of the synagogue official (Mark 5: 21—24, 35--43). She too was brought back to *this* life and restored to her sorrowing parents. These three miracles show that Jesus had a command over death.

Reincarnation is the understanding that life goes on from life form to life form. In the first life you might be a dog, in the next a bird, then a human, then an insect. Your spirit leaves the dying body and finds a home in another one just being born, going from one life form to the next. This continues until you achieve *perfection* and can escape the ‘wheel of life.’ Your spirit then becomes subsumed into “the All.” This is a belief of Hinduism, Buddhism and other Eastern and Asian faiths. **It is not the belief of Christianity.** We **absolutely do not believe** that we will come back as another animal or fish or fowl. We only have one chance at life.

Our Catholic-Christian faith is that at the end of our lives on earth we will experience a **bodily resurrection**. How this will happen, we do not know. When Jesus rose from the grave on Easter Sunday, He entered a new stage in his life, a life beyond the grave, a life that would continue into eternity. He has revealed this life to us. As the Gospels tell us, Jesus after His resurrection met up with His Apostles again. He came through a wall to the room where they were gathered. He ate a meal of fish in their presence. And He invited Thomas to examine His wounds (John 20: 24--29). All this suggests something bodily, but beyond the physical. Also, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus had a long discussion with Jesus, but they didn’t recognize Him as Jesus. They sat down for a meal together, but then “He vanished from their sight” (Luke 24: 13--35). All the accounts of Jesus’ Resurrection describe things in post-earthly terms. Jesus has promised that we too will live on after our “death,” (John 6: 52--58), and experience the same kind of Resurrection, if we remain faithful to Him in this life.

As one of our funeral hymns tells us: “Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, what God had ready for those who love Him.”

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
November 20, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Charlie Lombaerde at the
Request of his wife, Carol

SATURDAY, November 26

8:00AM – Ken & Julia Guinn and Charles Stewart

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27

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

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

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,308.00 – Regular Collection – November 13, 2016
\$ 156.00 – Catholic Home Missions
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,249.00 – Regular Collection – November 15, 2015
\$ 257.00 – Catholic Home Missions 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, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock

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 Muriel Kennel at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, November 21

9:00AM – Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

TUESDAY, November 22

9:00AM – Michael Bailo
req. by his Mom, Grace Decker

WEDNESDAY, November 23

9:00AM – Margaret Barr
req. by her Granddaughter, Mary Flexer

THURSDAY, THANKSGIVING DAY

November 24

9:00AM – People of the Parish

FRIDAY, November 25

9:00AM – Intentions of Shawn Bailo
req. by his Mom, Grace Decker

SATURDAY, Vigil, November 26

4:30PM – John S. Connors, Sr.
req. by his Family

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27

9:30AM – Bernie Reich
req. by his wife, Grace

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,106.00 – Regular Collection – November 13, 2016
\$ 606.00 – Catholic Home Missions
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,928.00 – Regular Collection – November 15, 2015
\$ 399.00 – Catholic Home Missions 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.



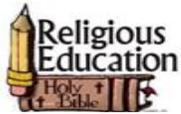
Keep the Door Open: Home is Where Mercy Starts

Today, the *Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy* will officially come to a close, but that doesn't mean that we should abandon our commitment to mercy. Rather, we are called to continue to grow and strengthen our efforts to bring mercy to the world. We are called to Keep the Door Open!

Ways to Keep the Door Open to Mercy:

- ❖ **The Gift Of Time** ~ Caring for the least among us does not always mean giving money or food. Sometimes the greatest gift of mercy we can give is our time. When we clear our calendars and show up to our commitments, we show the people we care for that we value them. Recent studies show that volunteerism is down throughout the country. Without volunteers, many critical services offered by hardworking organizations around the country – from health screenings and education to voter registration and child care – go unmet. Even giving a few hours a month can be life changing...especially for you!
- ❖ **Mercy In Motion** ~ Looking for more ways to keep the door open? The hashtag **#mercyinmotion** documents the work people are doing all around the world to foster mercy.

(Taken from Family Faith On The Go)



Advent Family Faith Formation Sessions

- ❖ **Saturday, December 3rd** – Grades 1 through 5 and their parents are invited to begin the Advent season with prayer, crafts and activities from 10:00am until noon at the REC. **Please RSVP to Mary at 973-948-7004 by November 30th so we can be properly prepared.**
- ❖ **Sunday, December 4th** – Grades 6 through 10, their Parents and Confirmation Sponsors will come together from 9:30am Mass through 12:30pm at St. Thomas Church. Alicia Batko will present the 75th Anniversary Historical Presentation to us that she presented in August after the Anniversary Mass. **All Parishioners and friends who were not able to join us in August are welcome to join us for the presentation too.**



Eucharist Means Thanksgiving

Every Sunday at Mass we give thanks for the family we have in Jesus Christ and for the love and forgiveness He shows. At this celebration, there is a meal, but there is no turkey, mashed potatoes or pie. Rather, when we gather around Christ's table for Eucharist, we are invited to receive the real presence of Jesus Christ, to take and eat His Body and Blood in remembrance of his love and sacrifice. Through this special meal, we are spiritually fed! We gather each week because that is what families do. It is with this family, called together by Christ, that we are able to fully celebrate and remember Christ's sacrifice for us in the Eucharist – the most important meal of all. Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!



Children's Christmas Pageant

As has been a tradition here at St. Thomas and St. James for many, many years, we would like to once again present a Children's Christmas Pageant. This is only possible with the help of many Parents and Teens (Confirmation Service Hours). We would like to do this on Sunday, December 18th at 3:00PM at St. Thomas and have Cookies and Punch afterwards. There are many ways to help: Set-up/Clean-up, Directing (we already have a script!!!), Costumes (we have most...maybe could use some more angel costumes to be sewn from sheets), Refreshments, etc. This is a very EASY and FUN way for you to get involved!!! **If you are able to assist us, please call Mary at 973-948-7004 by November 30th** so we can start to prepare for this beautiful "birthday gift" to Our Lord!!!

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

St. Thomas History – Rev. Thomas Rainforth served as Pastor 1996-1997. He was followed by Rev. Gerald Lewis, initially assigned as administrator. Father Lewis' had been a late life vocation, as Father Lewis had been ordained in 1988 following a business career.

The Knights of Columbus will host a Pasta Dinner to be held on **November 26th** from 6:00 – 8:00PM in the Father Lewis Center. The dinner will include pasta, meatballs, salad & bread. Desserts will be provided by the Columbiettes. Tickets are: Adults \$10, Children under 12 \$5 and Entire (immediate) Family \$25. Tickets will be available after Masses at St. Thomas and through the church office.

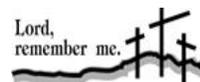
The Columbiettes are sponsoring a **toy drive** for disadvantaged children through Project Self-Sufficiency. The toys should be new and unwrapped. There is a large box in the gathering space for your convenience. The toy drive will finish on November 30th.

St. James Christmas Bazaar – December 3

We are now 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 Spinapolice 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.

United Nations Pilgrim Virgin Statue with Relics Visit

TODAY, Sunday, November 20th, Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Branchville will receive the United Nations Pilgrim Virgin Statue and a small, gold reliquary containing a piece of the holm-oak tree on which Our Blessed Mother appeared in Fatima and relics of Jacinta and Francesco. A Fatima talk, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, Benediction, hymns, prayers led by the Legion of Mary and meditative time have been scheduled between 12:00pm and 2:30pm. Please consult the parish website for the schedule of events at www.olqpbranchville.org.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
November 20, 2016**

"Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation! And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds

to our crimes but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, 'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied to him, 'Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'"

Almost daily, the media offers us stories of crimes, criminals, trials and sentencing. Shame, humiliation, and despair wound families of both victims and the accused.

How different it was on Calvary that afternoon, when the 'good thief' acknowledged guilt, expressed remorse, and won his place in heaven. Bishop Sheen stated 'He committed another crime as he stole heaven.'

Pope Francis tells the story of a person to be executed who did not repent of his deeds, and if he had the chance, he would continue to do the same wrong. The confessor asked 'Are you sorry then that you are not sorry?' May we allow the words of the repentant thief fall from our lips: 'Jesus remember me...'

The year of mercy has repeated these stories over and over again.

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, November 20, 2016

Feast of Christ the King

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.
9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Monday, Nov. 21

11:00a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers’ Mtg
7:00 p. m. Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service
at Minisink Reformed Church, River Road

Tuesday, Nov. 22

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Wednesday, Nov. 23

Thursday, Nov. 24

Thanksgiving Day

9:00 a.m. STC Special Mass of Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov. 25

9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
after Mass, till 12 Noon
10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.

Saturday, Nov. 26

5:30 p.m. STC Pasta Dinner

Sunday, November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

Future Events

Mon. Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service
Sat. Nov. 26 STC K of C Pasta Dinner
Sat. Dec. 3 STC Delaware Valley Concert

Next Sunday’s Readings: 1st Advent

1st Reading: *Isaiah 2: 1--5*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 122*
2nd Reading: *Romans 13: 11--14*
Gospel: *Matthew 24: 37--44*

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service. Join in this time of prayer and praise to the Lord as we join our Christian neighbors in a Thanksgiving Service. Along with the Delaware Valley Methodist Church, we will be holding the service this year at the **Minisink Reformed Church on River Road, Montague.** Service begins tomorrow, **Monday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.** You are asked to bring **an item or two of canned or boxed goods** for the food collection which will be taken up during the Service.

Thanksgiving Day. A special ‘**Mass of Thanks-giving for All of God’s Blessings**’ will be offered at **9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas.** It is a perfect way to thank the Lord for taking care of us in the past year.

In fact, each Mass we attend is a way of showing the Lord our gratitude. The word *Eucharist* in Greek means *Thanksgiving*.

Delaware Valley Choral Concert. St. Thomas Church will be the site of the Christmas Concert presented by the Delaware Valley Choral Society. They promise a selection of traditional, classical and sing-along Christmas music, to help us get into the spirit of Advent and Christmas. The date is **Sat. Dec. 3rd.** **Concert begins at 1:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 and are on sale after Mass or through the Parish Office.

To grow in faith: Visit: FORMED.org;
Parish Code: HCVWQC; Password: formed

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have no home at all
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency;
bestir my compassion,
and be concerned enough to help
By word and deed,
those who cry out for what we so often take for
granted. Amen.