

# 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](mailto:stjamesthomas@aol.com)  
Website address: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.postabortionhelp.org)  
**Adoption Services:**  
Adoption@CatholicCharities.

**Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish**

# Rightful Authority

***“You have given him rule over the works of Your hands.”***

--Psalm 8: 7

Dominion. Rule. Authority. We can all be a little uneasy with these ideas today. The idea of someone having authority over us can seem negative. We love our freedom, and there are too many examples of the ways leaders have abused their power. Our uneasiness can extend to how we feel about God, the ultimate authority figure.

But God doesn't dominate or manipulate. That's not how He exercises authority. He rules in love. Yes, He is all-powerful and has the final say over right and wrong, over life and death. But He wants nothing more than for us to be with Him forever. His laws are there to lead us on the path towards Him, not trap us or condemn us. Authority properly exercised looks more like a loving parent training his child or a caretaker tending to a garden.

*Psalm 8* tells us that God has given us authority as well. So how are we supposed to exercise it ?

First, look within. Your primary zone of authority is over yourself. You can exercise dominion over your eyes by evaluating the things you see according to God's standards: movies, advertising, the people around you, even the created world. You take authority over your ears by taking time to listen respectfully to other people. And you take authority over your thoughts by uprooting the subtle ways you may judge or manipulate another person.

Next, look outward. You have a vocation, a calling in life, that gives you authority in certain relationships. If you're married, there is the mutual submission between spouses. If you have children, you have responsibility for their growth and development. You may be a manager at work or be involved in a ministry in your parish. In all of these roles, God calls you to serve and nurture, not to dominate. Spouses lead each other in holiness. Parents strive patiently and lovingly to form their children in holiness. Co-workers set an example of caring cooperation.

In the end, authority is not about being “above” someone else. It's about serving and laying down our lives—just as Jesus has done for us.

***“Father, open my eyes to Your loving authority.  
Help me to imitate You in all of my relationships.”***

--from: *“The Word Among Us”*

January 2017

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**January 22, 2017**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Elsie & Mike Spinapolice at the  
Request of Linda & Mike Spinapolice

**SATURDAY, January 28**

8:00AM – Edward & Ellen Conklin

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**January 29**

8:00AM – Harry Johnson  
req. by Mike & Linda Spinapolice

11:30AM – Terry Naletko  
req. by his Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 986.00 – Regular Collection – January 15, 2017**

**\$ 244.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$1,104.00 – Regular Collection – January 17, 2016**

**\$ 174.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

***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, Al, Mary Cunico, Derya Dimertas, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Clara Kane, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Darrin O'Keefe, Danielle Parker, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock

**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.



**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Helen Briegel at the  
Request of her Family

**MONDAY, January 23**

9:00AM – Intentions of Sr. Catherine Novo, FMA  
On the Occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
req. by Mary Flexer

**TUESDAY, January 24**

9:00AM – Marjorie M. Zajdel  
req. by Peggy Reich

**WEDNESDAY, January 25**

9:00AM – Intentions of Margie Mullins  
-Helen Briegel  
req. by her Family

**THURSDAY, January 26**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, January 27**

9:00AM – Intentions of Agnes Mantini  
For Healing  
req. by Luisa & Dan

**SATURDAY, Vigil, January 28**

4:30PM – Devan Owens and Marguerite Phillips  
req. by Mary Flexer

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**January 29**

9:30AM – Scott Theobald and Alberto Arias  
req. by Mary Flexer

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$2,036.00 – Regular Collection – January 15, 2017**

**\$ 386.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$2,352.00 – Regular Collection – January 17, 2016**

**\$ 529.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

***Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.***

**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.



## January 25: The Conversion of St. Paul

St. Paul is one of our faith's most important saints. Half of the New Testament (the letters, or epistles, of Paul) were written by Paul or one of his followers. Paul, whose original name was Saul, was born in what is now present-day Turkey. He was a Roman citizen and a Pharisee, as well as the son of a Pharisee. He spent his early life persecuting and jailing Christians. His conversion on the road to Damascus heralded everything from a change of name to an entire change of life for him. He began traveling throughout the countryside teaching people about Jesus and starting many churches. He wrote letters to those new churches that we hear in the Scripture readings in Mass. In his honor, spend some time on the conversion of St Paul reading one of his letters. St Paul, pray for us.

**Sacramental Preparation Parent & Child Session – Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00AM – 11:30AM at St. Thomas Church (Snow date Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>)**  
Mrs. Eileen Morgan will be speaking to parents and children regarding the Sacrament of First Reconciliation for your child. At least one parent must be present with their child at this session

**Parents of Students in Grades 6, 7 and 8** are asked to stay for a short meeting on **Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** when you drop your child off at their class. Thank you.

**The Religious Education Inclement Weather Policy** is that the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather will be announced and posted on [www.wsus1023.com](http://www.wsus1023.com). If it is not possible for you to check there, you can always call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.



## 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 gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00- 8:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

**The Columbiettes** are sponsoring a Diaper Drive for donation to Norwescap and Good Counsel Homes. There is a basket for collection of the diapers in the Gathering Space.

**St. Thomas History –** Father Hewetson had been active with the Catholic Youth Organization [C.Y.O.] of the Diocese of Paterson. He converted the barn at Lafayette into a parish hall and "Social Center" for those in high school and other young people.

## Soup on a Saturday

St. James the Greater will again be sponsoring a take-out soup fundraiser on Saturday, January 28, 2017. Order a quart (or more) of Venison Chili by Art & Maria Henn, regular Chili by Bill & Joan Henn, Italian Wedding soup by Bill Ricciardi or Pasta e Fagioli by Mike and Linda Spinapolic. Price is \$7.00 per quart. You must order by **TODAY**, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Pick up is on the 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at St. James the Greater. Fill out an order form found in the back of the church and place in the collection basket OR give to Bill Ricciardi, Art Henn or Mike Spinapolic. You may also e-mail your order to Bill Ricciardi at [wjr218@optonline.net](mailto:wjr218@optonline.net).

## Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions and begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will be held from Friday evening, January 27 through Sunday afternoon, January 29, 2017 in the Stirling area. To register or for more information, contact Marie at 973-377-1004, ext. 425. All calls will be held in the strictest confidence.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS  
**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly  
**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**January 22, 2017**

**"I beg you brothers in the name of Lord Jesus Christ, to agree on what you say. Let there be no factions; rather be united in mind and judgment...Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel – not with wordy 'wisdom' however, lest the cross of Christ be rendered void of its meaning.**

From the early days of the church questions and **disputes arose, as the communities were formed and** began to grow. Two thousand years later, people continue to line up, choose a banner or are pasted with a label. The words of St. Paul should cause us to pause and think. I hear many sermons, read many tracts, watch a variety of religious programs. All seem to have different perspectives. If they are credible, they should lead us to the cross of Jesus Christ. If they fail to do this, they are of little worth.

Did we not hear the scripture words "there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God who is Father?" May we learn to listen with a special ear, discern with a keen eye and discover the wisdom of Jesus Christ and the cross. Next time, don't listen for just what you want to hear, but what you need to hear.

## 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 22, 2017

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, Jan. 23

9:00 a.m. STC *Traveling Icon of the Holy Family*  
--till 12 Noon

### Tuesday, Jan. 24

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

### Wednesday, Jan. 25

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

### Thursday, Jan. 26

### Friday, Jan. 27

#### *Right to Life March, Washington D.C.*

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

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

### Saturday, Jan. 28

10:00a.m. STC Parents & Children: Session on  
'*Sacrament of Reconciliation*'

12:00p.m. SJC Pick-up for 'Soup on a Saturday'  
--till 2 p.m.

4:30 p.m. STC Confirmation Prep at REC  
--after Mass at STC

### Sunday, January 29, 2017

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.)

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### Next Sunday's Readings: 4<sup>th</sup> Ord.

1st Reading: *Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12--13*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 146*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 1: 26--31*

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 1--12a*

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## Right to Life News.

**The Icon of the Holy Family, blessed by Pope Francis,** will be visiting our area **tomorrow, Monday,** during the time just before the Annual Right to Life March. This icon travels throughout the U.S., prompting prayer for an end to abortions in our country and promoting family life. The Icon will be placed in the **sanctuary of St. Thomas, from 9 a.m. Mass till 12 Noon.** A special Mass of the Holy Family will be celebrated.

You are encouraged to join us, or to visit during the morning. Pray that the terrible sin of abortion may cease, and that respect for life in all its ages and stages will become the norm for our nation.

**The Right to Life March** this year will be held on **Friday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>.** In our area a bus will leave from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Branchville. Cost is \$ 25. Children under 12 are Free. A Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 a.m. Departure is at 6 a.m. Contact the O.L.Q.P. office at 973-948-3185 for more information and to register.

## How Important is Being a Catholic ?

"We need to understand that the more secular we become ... the more we feed four problems that cripple us as a society: 1) We're unable to think clearly; 2) We're unable to remember; 3) We're unable to imagine and hope; 4) We're unable to recognize and live real freedom. This is the culture we are called to change in a 'new evangelization.'

--Archbishop Charles Chaput  
Archbishop of Philadelphia  
*How Catholics Can Save Civilization*

**To grow in faith:** Visit: [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org);  
Parish Code: HCVWQC; Password: formed

## Building on Our Past; Securing Our Future.

This is a first alert that next month our parishes, along with all others of the Diocese, will be beginning an Increased Commitment Campaign. It will call upon all parishioners to re-dedicate themselves to their parish and its good works and worship. You will be asked to consider assisting our parishes in its many works, or in its liturgy, and also to take a look at your financial commitment to our parish. More info. will be coming soon.