

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

What Resolutions ?

We are already at the end of the first month of the New Year ! How are your New Year's Resolutions working out ? Do you remember what they were ?

That's O.K. Here's a chance to start again:

Pope Francis' Resolutions for his Vatican Employees for the New Year

1. **Take care of your spiritual life**, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are.
2. **Take care of your family life**, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love.
3. **Take care of your relationships with others**, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy.
4. **Be careful how you speak**, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity worldly decadence.
5. **Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness**, forgiving those who have hurt us, and medicating the wounds we have caused others.
6. **Look after your work**, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord.
7. **Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings** that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people.
8. **Watch out for anger** that can lead to vengeance; **for laziness** that leads to existential euthanasia; **for pointing fingers at others**, which leads to pride; and **for complaining continually**, which leads to desperation.
9. **Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker** ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this.
10. **Make sure your Christmas is about Jesus** and not about shopping.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 29, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Muriel Kennel at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, February 4

8:00AM – Loretta Nestor

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 5

8:00AM – Dorothy Sandberg
req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

11:30AM – Emily Blickweidel
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,303.00 – Regular Collection – January 22, 2017

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$ 673.00 – Regular Collection – January 24, 2016

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 Mavis Kaufman at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, January 30

9:00AM – Intentions of Kenneth Urgovitch, Jr.

TUESDAY, January 31

9:00AM – Intentions of Miriam Ligamari
For Healing
req. by Luisa & Dan

WEDNESDAY, February 1

9:00AM – Carolyn Lewis
req. by Mary Flexer

THURSDAY, February 2

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 3

9:00AM – Jimmy Mullins
req. by his wife, Margie

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 4

4:30PM – Michael J. Francis
req. by Russ Spinks
- Deloris Spinks
req. by her husband, Russ
- Russell B. Spinks
req. by his Dad

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 5

9:30AM – Frances Miller
req. by Pat & Pete Lane

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,897.00 – Regular Collection – January 22, 2017

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$ 754.00 – Regular Collection – January 24, 2016

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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.



Parents of Students in Grades 6, 7 and 8

are asked to stay for a short meeting **TODAY, Sunday, January 29th** when you drop your child off at their class. Thank you.

Cherishing the Gift of Time

As we already come to the last week of the first month of the New Year, we can truly see just how quickly time goes by!

Time – in today’s world there never seems to be enough of it! As the speed of family life continues to increase, how we use our time together (and even the time we are apart) becomes more important.

We can find holiness in the ordinary experiences of our lives. When we teach a child a new skill, when we discipline a child with love, when we keep our children safe and healthy, when in our marriage we give our entire life over for the good of our spouse and the family we have created, and when we spend time being attentive and patient with our aging parents, we are living our lives the same way that the Holy Family lived. The essence of what we see in the lives of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is a relationship of love – loving God and loving each other.

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. 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 29th from 6:00- 8:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

First Reconciliation Retreat and Sacrament Reception

Please keep the young members of our parish in your prayer as they come together for a morning of retreat before they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time on **Saturday, February 11th** from 10:00am until 2:00pm.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS **HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 29, 2017

“Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger. But I will have as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly... How blest are the poor in spirit...”

How many people we know who spend their time **pursuing** what they do not have. Those without work read the want ads, write lengthy resumes and try to connect with someone to help them. Those with health issues look for a second opinion or find a specialist to address their needs. Young people look to guidance counselors at school to assist them in making a career choice.

But how few of us earnestly and eagerly seek the Lord. We presume God’s presence, but how rarely do we set out to strengthen our relationship with Him. Do I work for justice, am I humble and dependent before the Lord? The Lord asks me to ‘act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly before my God.’

The Beatitudes in the gospel today will help us to see our lives as the Lord looks upon us, not in anger but with love. I want to be poor in spirit, putting God first. I want to be humble, work for justice, walk the way of holiness and care for those in need. All disciples are called to be people of the beatitudes and look for ways to put them into practice.

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 – With four missions, holding services in the early 1940’s in winter presented challenges. St. Matthew’s in Walpack initially lacked proper heating facilities, so Mass was celebrated at the McBride residence. For St. Thomas, someone had to heat the stove at the church in advance and bring in water, or the few parishioners were taken to Lafayette.

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 29, 2017

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

National Catholic Schools Week

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. 30

Tuesday, Jan. 31

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

Wednesday, Feb. 1

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

Thursday, Feb. 2

Friday, Feb. 3

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

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

Saturday, Feb. 4

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

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

Sunday, February 5, 2017

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 5th Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 58: 7--10*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 146*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 2: 1--5*

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 13--16*

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

Catholic Schools Week: Jan. 29—Feb. 4

Our **Pope John XXIII Regional School System**, along with all other Catholic schools throughout the country, are celebrating National Catholic Schools Week. They will hold a variety of activities which reflect the theme: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service*. Sponsored by the National Catholic Education Association, the week is celebrated by nearly 6,500 Catholic schools nationwide. The Pope John XXIII administration, faculty, students and parents will highlight the school's focus on faith, academic excellence, and dedication to community service.

Pope John parents will begin the week on Sunday, January 29, sharing the good news about the Catholic Academy of Sussex County at Masses in area churches. The following day, Monday, January 30, prospective students, their families, and the community are invited to join Pope John students at 10:15 a.m. for the opening Catholic Schools Week Liturgy. Pope John's students, faculty, and staff will be recognized at special events scheduled throughout the week, and priests and sisters will visit theology classes to offer insight on their vocations and to answer students' questions.

The key note is *service* for Wednesday, February 1, when each grade participates in a unique project. The eighth grade classes, in conjunction with #HashtagLunchbag, will assemble 100 lunch bags for the homeless. Freshmen will construct a prayer chain, as well as assemble "Post-It" prayers for those in need and will share specific intentions with the larger school community. Sophomores will prepare folders including personal notes of encouragement and support for the Pope John Middle School's 7th graders, who will soon be relocating from the high school into their new building. In the same spirit, the junior class will be preparing folders with enthusiastic messages for prospective students who are visiting Pope John XXIII, and the seniors will be writing Valentine cards for distribution to veterans in local VA hospitals.

"We appreciate the support we receive from the community, and we encourage our students to give back through service projects all year," said Principal Thomas Costello. "It's part of our effort to provide a well-rounded education."

Pope John XXIII Regional High School serves students in 8th through 12th grade. For more information on Pope John XXIII Regional High School or to schedule a tour, call Mrs. Anne Kaiser at 973-729-6125 x255 or visit popejohn.org.

(Pope John H.S. students recently donated 40 Thanksgiving Baskets to our Food Pantry.)