

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.

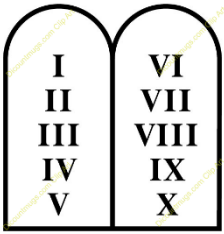
The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated during Mass providing that liturgical norms do not dictate otherwise. Please contact the office to schedule a Baptism and to make arrangements for preparations especially for first time parents. Baptisms may be scheduled at other times if extenuating conditions 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.

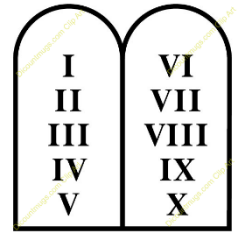
Pregnancy Assistance
Call 1-800-395-HELP or Tri-State Pregnancy 570-491-5151
Good Counsel: 1.800.723.8331 for pregnant mothers in need anytime, anyplace.
www.goodcounselhomes.org
Post Abortion Healing:
Project Rachel 973-777-8818, ext. 272
Lumina: Hope and Healing After Abortion: 1.877.LUMINA1 (877.586.4621)
www.postabortionhelp.org
Adoption Services:
Adoption@CatholicCharities.

The Schools of The Catholic Academy of Sussex County
973-729-6125 X225
Rev. George A. Brown School (Pre-K to Gr. 4)
Pope John XXIII Middle School (Gr. 5 to 7)
Pope John XXIII High School (Gr. 8 to 12)

Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish



A Word to the Wise ...



“If you choose, you can keep the Commandments; they will save you.” Sirach, the wise elder from the Old Testament, gives this advice to all who would listen, in today’s First Reading. (Sir. 15: 15). Perhaps it is a good chance to review what those commandments are, so that we can better heed them and save ourselves a lot of bad consequences. (Also below are the Six Precepts of the Church.)

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. You shall keep holy the Lord’s Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

The Six Precepts of the Church

1. To assist at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. To fast and abstain on days appointed.
3. To go to Confession at least once a year.
4. To receive Holy Communion at least once a year, during the Easter Season.
5. To contribute to the support of the Church.
6. To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 12, 2017

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, February 18

8:00AM – Peggy Zachman

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 19

8:00AM – Joe Urban
req. by Carol Lombaerde

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

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,639.00 – Regular Collection – February 5, 2017

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,336.00 – Regular Collection – February 7, 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

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 Dale R. Briegel at the
Request of his son, Dale

MONDAY, February 13

9:00AM – Barbara K. Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles

TUESDAY, February 14

9:00AM – Elsie Bastian
req. by her son, Andy

WEDNESDAY, February 15

9:00AM – Father Sylvester Livolsi
req. by Mary Flexer

THURSDAY, February 16

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 17

9:00AM – Intentions of Andrea Koehler
req. by Luisa & Dan

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 18

4:30PM – Gloria & Robert Fichter
req. by the Wainwright Family

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 19

9:30AM – Jozef Szwajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,466.00 – Regular Collection – February 5, 2017

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$3,034.00 – Regular Collection – February 7, 2016

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.



Love Is A Daily Practice

Real and lasting love requires action and daily practice. Just like anything we want to get good at, we must practice love, knowing that some days will be easier than others. Jesus commanded us to love one another, and the very best place to practice that is within our own family. It may not always be easy, but practicing love towards others requires us to be our very best selves!

Blessed St. Valentine's Day.

~ You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. ~ St. Francis de Sales

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations and many blessings to the young members of our parishes who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time on Saturday, February 11th:

Ethan Blake, Enrico Brex, Salvatore Dispenziere, Vanessa Dispoto, Lukas Guida, Claire Gushea, Zackary Harper, Sofia Lawrence, Trinity Ligons, Patrick Losey, Ava Marrero, Layla Marrero, June Pecoriello, Kenley Pierson, Tobias Pilger, Luka Shaub, Carleigh Stoll and Isabelle Tidona.

Special thanks to their parents, their catechists, the Salesians Novices, Fr. Wayne and Fr. Ed Rama who helped to prepare them for this very special encounter with Jesus.

Please keep these children in your prayer as they continue to prepare to receive their First Holy Eucharist this spring.



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, February 12th from 6:00- 8:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

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.

The St. James Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be held on **Saturday, March 18th**. Doors will open at 6pm. Tickets will be on sale starting February 19th after both Masses. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. BYOB. If you can help in any way or you have any questions, please contact Betsy Gardner at 845-858-7892 in the EVENINGS.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 12, 2017

“What we utter is God’s wisdom: a mysterious hidden wisdom. God planned it before all ages for our glory. Yet God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit... Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I tell you unless your holiness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees you shall not enter the kingdom of God.’”

The ‘professional’ religious people of Jesus’ time knew the bible, practiced in detail the requirements of their faith, and most were holy people. They knew the word, lived the word and incorporated it into the daily living.

Fast forward: How does the wisdom of God play out in my life? I know many things from the bible. I can speak about the four gospel writers and enjoy the life of the primitive church as I find it in the Acts of the Apostles. Some passages especially from the letters of Saint Paul, as the hymn of charity or the fruits of the Holy Spirit in Corinthians and Galatians move me.

The wisdom found in the scriptures is to direct my life and focus on just one thing, that is my holiness. Knowledge in the head must move down a few inches and become the life giving pump for my heart. Holiness too is a gift of God for me to seek, discover and accept. We call Jesus ‘the holy one of God’ and we are to be as well.

The Columbiettes are now collecting toiletries for women’s shelters. There is a basket in the Gathering Space.

St. Thomas History – In the Bishop’s initial communication with Rev. Sharkey in December 1944, St. Matthew Church was defined as embracing Walpack and southern Sandyston Township, St. Thomas northern Sandyston Township and St. James the Great Mission - Montague Township.

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, February 12, 2017

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass
- 9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8
- 11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Monday, Feb. 13

Tuesday, Feb. 14

Happy St. Valentine's Day

- 10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings
- 4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2
- 7:00 p.m. REC Men's Prayer Group

Wednesday, Feb. 15

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

Thursday, Feb. 16

Friday, Feb. 17

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

Saturday, Feb. 18

- 4:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Supper (after Mass)

Sunday, February 19, 2017

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Next Sunday's Readings: 7th Ord.

- 1st Reading: *Leviticus 19: 1—2, 17--18*
- Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 103*
- 2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 3: 16--23*
- Gospel: *Matthew 5: 38—48*

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

"Building on Our Past; Securing Our Future"

Our Increased Offering Campaign

Our *Increased Offering Program Commitment Sunday* is this weekend at all Masses. We encourage all parishioners to complete and turn in your Commitment Cards to the Church. The Commitment Card contains information on how to plan your increased offertory gift to the Church, and asks for your commitment over the next year. If you have any questions regarding this program, or how to give electronically, please contact the Parish Office.

Please check the brochure for details about our parish situation, and also about Online Giving. All parishes of our Diocese are taking part in this program. Please help us to keep our parish's future secure.

Consider Weekday Mass. Start your day in the best way possible, by attending weekday Mass and offering your day to Him. Your joys will be increased, and your troubles lessened, knowing that the Lord is close to you. Weekday Mass is held at St. Thomas each day (except Thursdays) and begins at 9:00 a.m. Join our growing group of parishioners who attend daily Mass and dedicate their day to the Lord. Saturday morning Mass is celebrated at St. James, and begins at 8:00 a.m. Plan now to make it the "extra thing you do for the Lord" during Lent.

Merciful Mysteries of the Rosary

Here is an alternate set of mysteries of the Rosary, inspired by the recent Holy Year of Mercy, declared by Pope Francis:

1. Jesus frees a man from demons.

May we also speak a liberating word and free those ensnared by evil.

2. Jesus heals ten lepers.

May we extend God's healing love, restoring health to those in pain.

3. Jesus saves a woman taken in adultery.

May we reach beyond judgment to free those condemned by others' self-righteousness.

4. Jesus restored sight to Bartimaeus.

May we open the eyes of those who long to see "the Way, the Truth and the Life."

5. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

May we walk in newness of life, leading those in darkness to follow the Light.