

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

WHAT TIME ZONE DO YOU LIVE IN ?

At that moment Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said: "I give you praise, Father, that what you have hidden from the wise and the learned, you have revealed to the merest children."

Luke 10: 21

How much time do you spend in the future ? Thinking ahead, planning what you'll do next, setting up the rest of the day in your mind. Like a continuous chess game, planning the next move.

How much time you spend in the past ? Remembering long-ago situations, brooding over things that didn't go well, having regrets, or longing for what used to be ?

Try to calculate how much time you regularly spend in the past—which can't be changed, and in the future—which hasn't arrived yet. In all that time, you may be missing something important: the present.

Psychologists tell us that people spend a lot of time thinking in those realms. As they do so, they're not being fully attentive to the present moment. Someone has observed that each moment is God's gift to us, and that's why it's called 'the present.' Each moment is something we are given, to unwrap and use to the full.

What can we discover if we try to be fully aware of the present moment ?

- the uniqueness of that moment and its part in our life's story
- the blessing of the people who share that moment with us
- the wonders of creation which surround you
- the conscious realization that that God gives you this moment as a sign of His love for you

What else can we learn if we try to be fully aware of this present moment ?

- the fact that God created this special moment for me to live in and experience His goodness
- a gratefulness for the ability to respond to the present situation
- a realization that these individual moments are the Lord's way of leading me towards eternity and the fullness of His Kingdom.

To always be fully conscious of each moment and to glean from it all the lessons available ... would be exhausting. But if we do it often enough, we might live with a deeper appreciation of the gift of life with which the Lord has blessed us. And we would certainly respond more fully with grateful praise, as Jesus did in the passage above. We would also be more aware of how precious each moment is. And live it to the fullest.

You don't need champagne to make this toast: "To life !" Just live in the present—and rejoice !

God bless you,
Father Wayne

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 26, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Thomas Earley at the
Request of Valerie & Bill Ricciardi

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 1

8:00AM – Father Gerald Lewis

SATURDAY, March 4

8:00AM – Intentions of Father Alfred Vito

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5

8:00AM – James Marion
req. by Linda & Mike Spinapolic

11:30AM – Ronald Bogle

req. by his wife, Denise and daughter, Elizabeth
-Warren Jankowski
req. by his Friend

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,227.00 – Regular Collection – February 19, 2017

\$ 181.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,813.00 – Regular Collection – February 21, 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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Bernie Reich at the
Request of his wife, Grace

MONDAY, February 27

9:00AM – Bernie Reich
req. by his wife, Grace

TUESDAY, February 28

9:00AM – Mary Roth
req. by Dan & Luisa
-Joseph Lukasik
req. by his Family

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 1

9:00AM – Bobby Lubarsky
req. by Omar & Marie Mendez

7:00PM – Father James Gacquin

THURSDAY, March 2

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 3

9:00AM – Richard W. Pullis
req. by his daughters, Lisa & Laura

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 4

4:30PM – Louise & Rudolph Hoffman
req. by the Wainwright Family

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5

9:30AM – Cordelia Cafone
req. by her Family
-Intentions of Jozef Babon
90th Birthday Celebration
req. by John & Maria Babon

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,083.00 – Regular Collection – February 19, 2017

\$ 353.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,373.00 – Regular Collection – February 21, 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.



Lent – Loving and Living It

We begin the sacred season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. Masses will take place at both parishes (please check the bulletin) and a Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of ashes will take place at 4:00PM at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center. All are welcome.

We will also begin our six weeks of Stations of the Cross for Families on Friday, March 3rd. Each Friday, we will begin at 4:00PM followed by a simple soup supper. We are very hopeful that many of our families will attend this prayerful Lenten devotion as often as possible, and we thank the Columbiettes for their generosity and hospitality in providing this event for us.



Mardi Gras Celebration

All families are invited and encouraged to attend the Pancake and Sausage Dinner and celebrate Mardi Gras on **Tuesday, February 28th from 5:30-7:00PM** at St. Thomas Church hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Please come and enjoy the fellowship, food, music and activities and then help bury the ALLELUIA as we begin to enter the sacred season of Lent.

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 are on sale 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.

St. Thomas History – In the early years, there were no lectors or altar boys [girls could not serve in that capacity then]. A study of churches, taken the Winter of 1945 – 46 in Sussex County, states that Walpack and Hainesville each claimed 75 Roman Catholic members and Montague claimed 225. Summer residents would provide the greater portion of income to support their fledgling parishes.

Tricky Tray:

Port Jervis Business and Professional Women's Club presents the 16th Annual Stars of Tomorrow Tricky Tray Fundraiser on **Saturday, March 11th** at Port Jervis High School, 10 Route 209 in Port Jervis, NY. Doors open at noon and calling begins at 2:00pm. Free admission and children are welcome. Tickets are \$1.00 per sheet with a chance of \$200.00 cash prize. More than 275 baskets/gift certificates, raffle table, 50/50, special table and super special table. Proceeds to fund scholarships for high school seniors. Call 845-858-7892 for questions or information. Snow date is Sunday, March 12th.



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 26th from 6:00- 8:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

Important Calendar Changes

We have **cancelled our Family Faith Formation Session scheduled on March 4th**, therefore the **Confirmation Class will now meet on Saturday, March 4th** at their regularly scheduled time. Also, **the 6th, 7th and 8th grades will now meet on Sunday, March 5th** at their regularly scheduled time.

We will then hold our **Lenten Family Faith Formation on Saturday, March 25th – The Feast of the Annunciation** – for ALL FAMILIES with a special Rosary and Mass to be celebrated. **The icon of the Holy Family, blessed by Pope Francis**, will be visiting our area. This icon travels throughout the U.S., prompting prayer for families and an apostolic blessing comes to all who pray before it. The beautiful icon will be placed in the sanctuary of St. Thomas. **We will begin the Rosary at 9:30AM, followed by Mass at 10:00AM**. More information to follow.

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

The Columbiettes are sponsoring soup suppers for children and their parents and caregivers each Friday afternoon in Lent starting March 3rd in the Father Lewis Center. Stations of the Cross for children will be at 4:00PM in the church and the supper will follow. Please come for devotion and community.

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 26, 2017

8th 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, Feb. 27

Tuesday, Feb. 28

Mardi Gras

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

5:30 p.m. STC Free Pancake & Sausage Dinner
--sponsored by K of C

Wednesday, Mar. 1

Ash Wednesday

For schedule of Masses: see next column

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

Thursday, Mar. 2

Friday, Mar. 3

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

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

4:00 p.m. STC Children’s Stations & Soup Supper

5:30 p.m. SJC Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. SJC & STC Stations of the Cross

Saturday, Mar. 4

5:30 p.m. REC Confirmation Prep.

Sunday, March 5, 2017

1st Sunday of Lent

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

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

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

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: 1st Lent

1st Reading: *Genesis 2: 7—9; 3: 1—7*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 51*

2nd Reading: *Romans 5: 12—19*

Gospel: *Matthew 4: 1—11*

Ash Wednesday and Lent are upon us.

The Church invites us to plan now to make good use of this time to reflect on the direction of our lives and to allow the Lord to become a greater part of it. We begin with **Ash Wednesday, March 1st**.

Ashes are a recognition that we have fallen short, but that we want to repent and begin again. Ashes will be distributed at the following Masses and Services:

8:00 a.m. Mass at St. James

9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas

4:00 p.m. Service at Relig. Ed. Center

7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Thomas

Fast and Abstinence during Lent.

These are time-honored ways of self-sacrifice: training our spirits by checking our bodily cravings. **Fasting** refers to *eating only one full meal and two lesser meals* during the day. **Abstinence** means *not eating meat*. All who are over the age of 59 are not bound to the rules of fasting. Likewise children under 18 are not bound to the rules of fasting. All who are under the age of 14 are not bound to the rules of abstinence.

During Lent the Church calls us to a **strict fast and abstinence** on *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday*. All other *Fridays of Lent* are **days of abstinence**.

Pizza with the Bishop. Bishop Serratelli invites all young men of our parishes (high school and college age) to join him for pizza at Pope John XXIII High School in Sparta on **Tuesday, March 7**. Things start at 7 p.m. with adoration, reflection, fellowship and pizza, and continue till 9 p.m. It would be your chance to get to know our Bishop and to ask any questions you may have.

**“Building on Our Past; Securing Our Future”
Our Increased Offering Campaign.**

Thanks again to all parishioners who have completed and returned their Commitment Card to the church office or collection basket. All parishes of our Diocese are taking part in this program. Please help us to keep our parish’s future secure.

On-Line Giving is now a reality here at St. Thomas and St. James! Simply go to our parish website: saintjamesthomas.org and click on the ‘online giving’ tab.