

# 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.

**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**

# **Lord, Help Us to See**

## **Gospel of John, Chapter 9**

To be blind must be a terrible handicap. To not be sure what is on your right or on your left, to not be able to navigate easily, to not be able to see all the beauty of God's creation, or the faces of the ones you love, must be a very difficult thing.

The spiritual version is likewise a very limiting handicap. It closes not only our eyes but also our minds to the good that is in others, and to other points of view. It makes us unable to appreciate the many blessings that the Lord places in our path each day. And it makes us unable to see our own selves in an objective way.

Physical blindness is easy to diagnose but hard to treat or cure. People with this disability have a life-time struggle to do things that the rest of us take for granted. Spiritual blindness is, by its nature, difficult to self-diagnose, but much easier to cure. Once we acknowledge our spiritual blind spots, then God's grace—and His wisdom—can help us to cure them.

In our Gospel Reading today we encounter both kinds of blindness. The man born blind is given healing by Jesus, and is then able to recognize Jesus as Savior and Lord. The Pharisees, on the other hand, investigate this case of the man born blind and now able to see. They examine the facts, but refuse to accept that Jesus had such powers to heal. They refuse to accept the proof right in front of them. They remain in spiritual darkness.

I encourage you to read all of chapter 9 of John's Gospel, which gives the whole picture of this story. You will be amazed at how those Pharisees simply refuse to accept the evidence right before them. You may even discover something of yourself in this story.

May we ask the Lord this Lent to give us the grace, the help we need to overcome the blind spots in our lives. Let us ask Him to help us to see all the needs and the suffering of those around us that we can address. May the grace of the Lord give us deeper insight into His workings in our world, that we may become more spiritually in tune with the Creator and Ruler of this whole universe.

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 26, 2017**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Claire Beemer at the  
Request of her Family

**SATURDAY, April 1**

8:00AM – Thomas & Laura Shea

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**April 2**

8:00AM – Eugene & Rosalie Mauro  
req. by their Family

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

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 904.00 – Regular Collection – March 19, 2017**

**\$ 25.00 - Online Giving**

**\$ 225.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$1,095.00 – Regular Collection – March 20, 2016**

**\$ 372.00 – 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, Mary Cunico, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Miriam Liggmari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, 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 Spinapolicce at 973-293-7031.

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Mavis Kaufman at the  
Request of her Family

**MONDAY, March 27**

9:00AM – Barbara O'Brien

**TUESDAY, March 28**

9:00AM – Lorraine LaPorta  
req. by Frances Demalderis

**WEDNESDAY, March 29**

9:00AM – John Brehm  
req. by his Family

**THURSDAY, March 30**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, March 31**

9:00AM – Father James Gacquin  
req. by Mary Flexer  
-Romano Nacinovich  
req. by Luisa & Dan

**SATURDAY, Vigil, April 1**

4:30PM – Julio Antonio Lopez  
req. by his Parents  
-Father James Gacquin  
req. by Frank, Anne & Frankie Setlock

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**April 2**

9:30AM – Alfred Mantini  
req. by Luisa & Dan

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,920.00 – Regular Collection – March 19, 2017**

**\$ 514.00 - Online Giving**

**\$ 336.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$2,407.00 – Regular Collection – March 20, 2016**

**\$ 584.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

***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.



### Family Faith Formation Thank You

Thank you to all the families who came yesterday morning to the special Lenten Mass and to pray before the Icon of the Holy Family. Thank you, also, to our Knights of Columbus Council who made this possible. May the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth bring all of your prayers and the desires for your family to Our Lord, Christ Jesus.



Stations of the Cross for Families will take place on **Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**. 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.



### Sacramental Parent & Child Session

Our First Holy Eucharist Parent and Child Session will take place on **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at St. Thomas the Apostle Church from 10:00am until 11:30am**. Mrs. Eileen Morgan will once again be our presenter that morning. It is imperative that at least one parent for each child be present at this session.



### Catholic Teens

The Catholic Teens of Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. James the Greater invite all high school students to the **Lenten Celebration 2017 on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:00-8:00PM at OLQP**. Join us for an evening of a BBQ Dinner, Live Music by Singer/Songwriter Dan Ferrari, an Inspirational Talk by Stephanie Twedt, Games, Food, Fun and Prayer. Please RSVP to Jenn Durso at OLQP at 973-948-3185 so we can be properly prepared. **Make this Lent your best one yet and don't let this awesome opportunity pass you by!!!!**



### Reconciliation Service

On **Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at St. Thomas Church beginning at 7:00PM**, our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes will host a Reconciliation Prayer Service, followed by individual confession. All Middle-school/Junior High students and Confirmation Candidates are encouraged to attend and receive the forgiveness, mercy and love of Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent.

**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 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.

**Cinco De Mayo is coming. Watch for it May 6<sup>th</sup> in the Father Lewis Center. More information to follow.**

**St. Thomas History** – By 1950, Rev. Varrichio was pastor at St. Bartholomew in Lafayette and became pastor of the new parish at Branchville, Our Lady Queen of Peace. With Rev. Mancini as pastor, St. James would see its rectory built. The Lafayette, Montague and Walpack parishes participated in an annual Holy Name Parade in Franklin.

### HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening May 5<sup>th</sup>, St. Thomas will be hosting our Annual Tricky Tray. If you are interested in assisting our committee in any way, please call Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092. All volunteers are welcome. Help make this fundraiser a success by donating a Tray. All trays should be left in the Conference Room at St. Thomas as soon as possible to allow time for displaying them properly. (No later than Sat. April 30)  
Thank you for your cooperation.

**Look for Yoga-lates coming Tuesday nights in the Father Lewis Center after Easter. More information to follow.**



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

**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 26, 2017**

**“There was a time when you were in darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Well, then, live as children of light. Light produces every kind of goodness, and justice and truth.... Then he told him, ‘Go wash in the pool of Siloam.’ (This name means ‘One who has been sent.’)”**

With the coming of spring, days become longer and darkness fades. St. Paul tells his readers that they are children of the light. Jesus told us we are the light of the world. We recognize our role through our good works, our efforts to make a just society, and walking with Jesus who is the way, truth and life.

How common it is for us to look for a place to charge our telephones, renew the power in our ipad, or charge our battery. Sadly people fight to plug their charger and renew their telephone, computer or game. Lent is to produce the same effect. The light can become stronger as we strive for goodness, justice and truth. Lent is meant to restore power, or grace, fully. Lent is our opportunity to be and remain connected. We are to be charged by the Lord and radiate His presence.

## 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, March 26, 2017

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

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

6:00 p.m. No Youth Group tonight

### Monday, Mar. 27

### Tuesday, Mar. 28

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

### Wednesday, Mar. 29

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

### Thursday, Mar. 30

### Friday, Mar. 31

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

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

10:00a.m. STC Moms & Tots Play Group

1:00 p.m. STC Montague Seniors 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, Apr. 1

10:00a.m. STC 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Meeting for Parents  
and Children

4:30 p.m. STC Mass & Confirmation Prep.

### Sunday, April 2, 2017

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

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.)

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### Next Sunday's Readings: 5<sup>th</sup> Lent

1st Reading: *Ezekiel 37: 12 —14*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 130s*

2nd Reading: *Romans 8: 8—11*

Gospel: *John 11: 1—45*

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### Get FORMED this Lent: (It's free!)

[www.Formed.org](http://www.Formed.org) Parish Code: HCVWQC

Check the many titles for children and adults.

**“Welcome Home for Lent.”** Reconciliation Night continues in all the churches of the Diocese of Paterson: **every Mon. in Lent, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.** With our situation, the schedule will be as follows:

Mar. 27 St. James

Apr. 3 St. Thomas

Apr. 10 St. James

We hope that every Catholic will make use of this diocesan-wide opportunity to confess sins and grow in God's grace during Lent.

**2017 Women's Conference. “Feminine, Faithful, Fearless,”** a gathering for women at any age and any stage in life. Sponsored by the Diocese it will include dynamic speakers of all walks of life. Discussions and giveaways too. Our own Keaton Douglas will be the M.C., with Cindy Costello as a co-ordinator. The date and time: Sat. April 1, from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Place: St. Paul's Inside the Walls, 205 Madison Ave., Madison, N. J. Tickets: \$ 25. To order tickets or for info: 973-377-1004.

**NORWESCAP**, the Volunteer Resource Center of Sussex County, is announcing a new **Friendly Visitor and Telephone Reassurance Program.** Entitled **“Friendship at Heart,”** it is especially for isolated seniors or disabled persons. They provide much needed friendship and support to fight depression, disorientation, and loneliness.

Seniors and disabled persons are matched with a friendly visitor who will visit them about once a week; they can also receive a daily phone call from a “telephone reassurance” volunteer. These services are free through the county. Two points:

1) If you know of someone who could use this help, please contact **Nicole Friedberg at 973-579-0555, ext. 1293.** 2) Perhaps you might like to consider volunteering for this generous service to others: NORWESCAP will train you to either visit, or to do phone ministry. Call the same number for more information.

**Congratulations to Deacon Wayne**, who will be a speaker at the Drew United Methodist Church, 49 Sussex St., Port Jervis, during one of their Wednesday Lenten Soup Lunches this season. The date is Wed. Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon. The Wednesday lunches (soup, bread, beverage & dessert) are open to all. Cost: \$ 3.00. For info, call 845-856-3423. Come out and meet some of our Christian neighbors.