

# 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**

# **O Lord, It's Hard to be Humble !**

***“Whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”***

Matthew 23: 12

The scribes and the Pharisees play a major role in the Gospels. They are generally the “bad guys” that every story needs. Yet the truth is that these scholars and religious leaders were ordinary people, much like the rest of us. They had their own personal strengths and weaknesses, just like us. Many were probably good family men and very dedicated to their work. And like all of us, they faced temptations. The problem was that some of them gave in to these temptations—especially the sin of pride.

Who among us hasn't been tempted to be prideful—to want the place of honor, to exalt ourselves, to have our importance and accomplishments to be noticed and felt by others ? The good news is that we can learn to resist these temptations. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can strengthen our resolve to stay strong. And when we fall prey, we can repent and keep moving forward.

It may be hard to believe, but God has made it possible for us to live humble lives just as Jesus did two thousand years ago.

How ? Part of the equation rests on our being vigilant. We have to watch the places, people and times that tend to get us into a prideful mindset. This will help us to know when we need to be extra careful of letting pride get its way.

Another part of the equation rests on our time with God. He can do for us what we could never do for ourselves. Just a few minutes a day in prayer can go a long way in keeping our hearts and minds in sync with the Lord.

The final part of the equation rests on the Holy Spirit. Day after day, hour after hour, He is sending us messages: “Don't forget that God loves you.” “What you just did there was wrong; ask God to forgive you.” “That person needs some compassion.” “Be careful; you're falling into a prideful state of mind.”

So your job is three-fold: 1) Be on guard when necessary. 2) Pray. 3) And try to sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit within you. Do that, and you'll make real progress !

**“Holy Spirit, teach me how to be humble in every circumstance.”**

---from *The Word Among Us*  
Lent, 2017

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**April 2, 2017**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the  
Intentions of Liam Donahue at the  
Request of his grandmother, Barbara

**SATURDAY, April 8**

8:00AM – Louise Bogle  
req. by her Family

**PALM SUNDAY**

**April 9**

8:00AM – Harry Johnson  
req. by Lyse & Wayne von Doehren

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

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,326.00 – Regular Collection – March 26, 2017**

**\$ 35.00 - Online Giving**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

*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, Gabe Calandra, 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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

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

**MONDAY, April 3**

9:00AM – Deceased Members of the  
Barr & Sweeney Families  
req. by Mary Flexer

**TUESDAY, April 4**

9:00AM – Intentions of Tracey Perles  
For Healing  
req. by Luisa & Dan

**WEDNESDAY, April 5**

9:00AM – Kate Olivo  
req. by her Family

**THURSDAY, April 6**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, April 7**

9:00AM – Intentions of Christine Lord

**SATURDAY, Vigil, April 8**

4:30PM – Luz Maria Riviera  
req. by Mary Flexer  
-Jimmy Reed  
req. by his Mom & Dad

**PALM SUNDAY**

**April 9**

9:30AM – Helen & Frank Morenski  
req. by their daughter, Cecelia

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$2,693.00 – Regular Collection – March 26, 2017**

**\$ 398.00 - Online Giving**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

*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.



### 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 LAST Stations of the Cross for Families will take place on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

We begin at 4:00PM followed by a simple soup supper. We are very hopeful that many of our families who have not previously attended will attend this last prayerful Lenten devotion of Lent 2017. We thank the Columbiettes for their generosity and hospitality in providing this event for us these past 6 weeks!

On **Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Confirmation Candidates of our Parishes will present the Living Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas at 7:30PM.**



### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>

An Easter Egg Hunt for all children of the parishes (yes, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, you too!!!) will take place immediately following the 9:30AM Mass on Easter Sunday on the Great Lawn at St. Thomas. We will provide the "Easter Bags" or you can bring your own basket.

**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** – Early on - Lenten services, consisting of Meditations on the "Stations of the Cross" and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, were held on Thursday evenings for St. Thomas. Those for St. James the Apostle Church, were at the Staudt home and consisted of a sermon and benediction held there on Wednesday evenings.

### 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.

### Yoga-lates

St. Thomas will be offering a fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class will be on **Tuesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm** for 8 weeks starting **April 25<sup>th</sup>** right here at St. Thomas. The class will be easy to follow but a full body workout. Any questions, please call instructor Chris Dube at 973-948-2329. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for only \$40.00 or pay per class for \$6.00. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to our St. Thomas Parish. So, please come and try it out!



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

### Fifth Sunday of Lent April 2, 2017

**"O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel... I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land, that you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised and I will do it says the Lord."**

We are drawing closer to the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, recalling the passion, the dying and resurrection of Christ. The prophet Ezekiel and the raising of Lazarus, allow us to focus more clearly on the promise made to us of Jesus giving us His spirit and foretelling our final destiny and life with Him.

As I find comfort in the promise, may I also realize that I have to open my heart to receive what the Lord offers. His spirit is not forced upon me, but is given to those who earnestly ask for it. Like a gift that is given, I must reach out to accept it. A small child opens arms wide to be picked up and held. May I become like that child, reaching out for the Lord, as I continue my Lenten walk. His spirit is given that I may live, and I wish to live that life in abundance.

## 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, 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 Lenten Retreat  
(at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

### Monday, Apr. 3

11:00a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers' Mtg.

### Tuesday, Apr. 4

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

7:00 p.m. STC Reconciliation Service, Gr. 6--10  
--prepared by Gr.8

### Wednesday, Apr. 5

#### Wed. April 12

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

### Thursday, Apr. 6

### Friday, Apr. 7

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

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. 8

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

### Sunday, April 9, 2017

#### Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

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

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### Next Sunday's Readings: Palm Sunday

1st Reading: *Isaiah 50: 4--7*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 22*

2nd Reading: *Philippians 2: 6--11*

Gospel: *Matthew 26: 14--27:66*

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**A Catholic Teens Lenten Celebration** is being held this evening, **Sun. Ap. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Queen of Peace Church in Branchville, 6 p.m. till 8 p.m.** It is being co-sponsored by St. James, St. Thomas and O.L.Q.P. It will be an evening of live music, food, inspiring talks, fun and prayer. Two guests, well known in the Catholic world, will be present. I hope that all of our high school teens and Confirmation Candidates can attend.

**"Welcome Home for Lent."** The Lenten Season is quickly coming to a close. **Final chances for Reconciliation** during Lent are:

Mon. Apr. 3 St. Thomas, 7 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Mon. Apr. 10 St. James, 7 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

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

**An Evening of Taizé** music and prayer will be held tomorrow, Mon. Ap. 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Thomas, 7 p.m. till 8 p.m. Taizé is a very meditative style of song, first developed in France, which has since found a place religious life, especially during Lent. Join us for this time of prayer and contemplation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

**Wednesday Lenten Soup Lunches** have been taking place at the Drew United Methodist Church, 49 Sussex St., Port Jervis. This Wed., April 5<sup>th</sup> Deacon Wayne will be the guest speaker. Lunches begin at 12 Noon. For info, call 845-856-3423. Come out and meet some of our Christian neighbors.

**Holy Week Schedule.** To help your planning, here are some of the major events taking place soon:

**Wed. Apr. 12** STC 5:30 p.m. Seder Supper

**Thurs. Apr. 13** STC 7:00 p.m. Holy Thurs. Mass of the Lord's Supper and Adoration till Midnight

**Fri. Apr. 14**

SJC 3:00 p.m. Service of the Lord's Passion

STC 7:30 p.m. Living Stations of Cross

**Sat. Apr. 15** STC 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

**Easter Sun. Apr. 16** Regular Sun. Mass Schedule

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

[www.Formed.org](http://www.Formed.org)

Parish Code: HCVWQC