

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

Our Lady of Fatima, 100 Years Ago

by Brian Kranick, Catholic Internet Writer

May 13th marks the beginning of the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions, and becomes an opportunity to reflect deeply again upon their message. The Angel of Peace appeared three times to the shepherd children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, beginning in the spring of 1916 in Fatima, Portugal. These visitations prepared the way for the six apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima the following year. The message of Fatima can become lost in the mysterious happenings: the apparitions; the “three secrets;” the “dancing of the sun.” Yet, the main entreaties from Heaven concern our day-to-day earthly activities and how these will forge our eternal destiny. The everlasting consequences of unrepented mortal sin is Hell; knowing this, we should live our lives according to the laws of God, in obedience, purity and virtue. The central message of Fatima was an urgent plea to stay on the narrow path to Heaven.

Fatima calls us to conversion, and to a daily turning away from sin. In order to convert the unrepentant, the Angel first taught the children the great value of intercessory prayer. Underscoring the importance of our intercession, the only thing the Virgin Mary requested at all six of her appearances was for us to pray the Rosary, every day. She told the children that our prayers can help save souls: *“Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them.”* It is not only intercessory prayer, but also our intercessory sacrifices and sufferings that are useful. By virtue of our Baptisms, we are all brought into the Body of Christ and partake in His priesthood, as part of the common priesthood of the faithful. Acting in our priestly role, we can offer ourselves up as “spiritual sacrifices” acceptable to God and in atonement for sins (see the Catholic Catechism (CCC), # 1141).

Further linking us to the Body of Christ, the Angel and the Virgin Mary both said that we should seek to console God through worthy reception and adoration of the Eucharist. While the idea of consoling an all-powerful God may seem impossible, we are reminded by Pope Pius XI that *“we can and ought to console that Most Sacred Heart,”* which is continually wounded by our sins (*Miserentissimus Redemptor*, # 13). In a similar way, the Angel offered the children holy Eucharist to make reparation for sins and to “console your God.” This was later echoed in Our Lady’s Eucharistic prayer: *“O Most Holy Trinity, I adore You! My God, my God, I love You in the most Blessed Sacrament!”* The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life (CCC # 1324), and the Fatima apparitions remind us that worthily receiving Jesus in Communion has the grace to save our souls and console our God.

The Virgin Mary also asked us to make reparation through the “First Five Saturdays” devotion. Our Lady promised Sister Lucia, *“to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation”* those who will practice this devotion of Confession, Eucharist, recitation of the Rosary, and meditation upon its mysteries.

Now, on this 100th anniversary of Fatima, we are reminded again to contemplate its message and embrace its devotions. Although the Angel of Peace and Our Lady of Fatima appeared during the carnage of World War I, the divine messages are perhaps even more relevant today, in an age of nuclear weapons and renewed militancy across the globe, rampant atheism, materialism and loss of faith, a diminishing Church in the West, and a rapidly growing permissive society. As faithful disciples, we are called to be holy, and intercessors for each other.

Fatima was a wake-up call. In it, Jesus’ last words from the Cross come alive *“Behold, your mother.”* (Jn. 19:27) In the midst of a passing world, we need to get right with eternal things: penance, Confession, the Eucharist, prayer, especially the Rosary. Our Lady of Fatima renews this call again, to stay on the narrow path to Heaven.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 14, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Rosemarie Bastian at the
Request of the her Children

SATURDAY, May 20

8:00AM – George Hunt, Sr.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 21

8:00AM – Marilyn Nelson
req. by the Cerra Family

11:30AM – Stanley Barron, Sr.

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 1,889.00 – Regular Collection – May 7, 2017 +

\$ 125.00 - Online Giving

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,805.00 – Regular Collection – May 8, 2016

Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.

For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:

saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving link.



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.

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, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, David Koehler, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Miriam Liggmari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, John Meehan, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White, Teri Winkler 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 for the
Intentions of Ann & Happy Dunn at the
Request of their Children

MONDAY, May 15

9:00AM – Hazel Bendel
req. by Mary Luteran and the Barr Family

TUESDAY, May 16

9:00AM – Ernesto Donatich
req. by Dan & Luisa
- Intentions of Ann & Happy Dunn
On their Wedding Anniversary
req. by their Children

WEDNESDAY, May 17

9:00AM – Margaret Sweeney-Healy
req. by her granddaughter, Mary Flexer
- Intentions of Barbara Guinn
Birthday Celebration

THURSDAY, May 18

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 19

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

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 20

4:30PM – Henry M. Fett
req. by George Keshish

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 21

9:30AM – Intentions of the Knights of Columbus and
the Columbiettes
req. by Mary Flexer
- Frank & Jane Varga
req. by their Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,825.00 – Regular Collection – May 7, 2017 +

\$ 441.00 - Online Giving

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,694.00 – Regular Collection – May 8, 2016

Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.

For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:

saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving link.



5 Ways to Welcome Spring (and none of them include staring at a screen)

After a long winter, the months of May and June herald a new season of growth, light and life. Spring is the perfect time to set down our screens, take a break from our Netflix account and force our families out into the sunshine and warmer weather. There is so much to be learned about ourselves, one another and our faith as we explore the wonders of God's creation!

Sun and Moon, Bless the Lord; Praise and Exult Him Above All Forever ~Daniel 3:62

Good Morning: Set the alarm clock for sunrise, wake the kids up extra early and watch God paint the sky with color. Have breakfast together (with lots of coffee for mom and dad) and OJ for the kids!

Talk About It: What is so special about sunrise? Talk about how the sun comes up every morning as a reminder that God is always with us and there is always a new day to celebrate God's love for us!

(To be continued...Taken from Time Out-Family On The Go)

Saint of the Month – St. Isidore the Farmer

Isidore was born in Madrid about 1070 to parents who were very poor but also very devout. He spent his life as a hired farm worker and is said to have shared everything with the poor. He was also known to be careful in his farming practices so as to care for the earth. Each morning before going to work, Isidore would attend Mass. One day the other workers became resentful that Isidore was not at work yet. Legend has it that the master found Isidore at prayer while an angel was plowing the fields for him! St. Isidore is the patron saint of farmers and fieldworkers. His feast day is May 15th. *St. Isidore, pray for us!*

Catholic Summer Camp

"*Birthday Blast*" Catholic Summer Camp will take place from Monday, July 17th through Friday, July 21st from 9:00AM until 12:00PM at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville. It is open for children entering Grades K – 5. You may begin to register by going to www.olqpbranchville.org. Go to the Religious Education tab on top and then select Catholic Summer Camp. We are hopeful that many of our children will take this wonderful opportunity to continue to grow in their faith through prayers, songs, crafts and activities. We also welcome the teens of our parishes to come assist us that week – we need your energy and spirit! Please call Mary at 973-948-7004 if interested.

Catholic Heritage in Western Sussex County – On the corner of 206 and Owassa Road, a Summer Mission for St. Joseph Church of Newton was started in 1923 – Our Lady of the Lake Chapel. It was later to be administered by the new Branchville parish.

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is 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 is on **Tuesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm** for 8 weeks and started on **April 25th** right here at St. Thomas.

You may join us at any time. The class is 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!

Moms and Tots Play Group at St. Thomas

We are now meeting on Friday mornings from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Father Lewis Center. All babies and young children and their caregivers are welcome to join us for fun and fellowship! For details, please contact Mandi Sousa at 973-632-5536.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017

"Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word... They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them."

The needs of the early church were not different from those of our day. The text from the Acts of the Apostles informs us of the call by the apostles and the acceptance of the deacons to respond and serve at table.

In many parts of our country men will be ordained to the diaconate and the priesthood as they are called to Holy Orders. The mission is the same, to serve and preach the word. The mandate is no different, but in the words of Pope Francis they are to go out to the marginalized and bring the word of Jesus to others.

How many of us just accept our ordained ministers, but how few of us promote vocations to the service of the church. How many of us affirm those who are in ministry and how few consider the call of the Lord, whether in ordained or ministry of service. Jesus, the way, and the truth and the life calls us as His disciples to minister and serve. What is He asking me to do?

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, May 14, 2017

5th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Monday, May 15

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

Tuesday, May 16

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

7:00 p.m. REC Men's Prayer Group

Wednesday, May 17

7:00 p.m. STC Adoration & Rosary with K of C

7:30 p.m. STC K of C Meeting

Thursday, May 18

Friday, May 19

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

Saturday, May 20

100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

5:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, May 21, 2017

6th Sunday of Easter

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

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Next Sunday's Readings: 6th Easter

1st Reading: Acts 8: 5--8, 14--17

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 66

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15--18

Gospel: John 14: 15--21

Get FORMED during the Easter Season:

www.Formed.org

Parish Code: HCVWQC

Happy Mother's Day ! To all the Moms of our parishes we wish every blessing on their special day. We thank them for all that they do for their families, and recognize their continuing self-sacrifice for the good of their families. We pray that the Blessed Mother will inspire them with her perfect example, and intercede for them in their needs.

May Crowning by Bishop Today. This annual Diocesan celebration in honor of the Blessed Mother takes place at **Queen of Peace Church in Branchville this afternoon, May 14 at 3:00 p.m.** Each year Bishop Serratelli chooses a church dedicated to Mary in which to celebrate her place as Mother of God. All are invited to join with the Bishop in honoring Mary during her month of May.

New Catholic Television Programming.

Be inspired by a new Catholic television program for everyday living that will motivate you to achieve your hopes and dreams as you live a life of true power, impact, freedom and purpose. It provides practical ways of living life to the fullest and helping you make faith a part of your daily life.

Bruce Downs the Catholic Guy television program is seen by millions whose lives have been changed by his down-to-earth approach. Find it on: DIRECTV Ch. 371, or DISH Ch. 258, or AT&T U-VERSE Ch. 565, or VERIZON FIOS Ch. 288. Programs seen every day: 8:30 a.m. (EST) or go to: BruceDownstheCatholicGuy.com

Pilgrimage to Canada. Queen of Peace Church, Branchville invites us to join them on their Pilgrimage to Canada: Mon. June 26—Fri. June 30. They will stay at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape at Three Rivers, Canada for 4 nights. Pilgrimage includes a day trip to Montreal and St. Joseph's Oratory as well as a stop in Quebec City and the Basilica of St. Ann de Beaupre. Cost: \$575 per person (double occ.) or \$ 690 per person (single occ.) Breakfast & dinner meals included. Brochures available. For more info, call Jenn at 973-948-3185. **A valid passport will be needed.**

"To be a good father and mother requires that the parents defer many of their own needs and desires in favor of the needs of their children. As a consequence of this sacrifice, conscientious parents develop a nobility of character and learn to put into practice the selfless truths taught by the Savior Himself. —James E. Faust