

# 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**

## *Our Lady of Fatima*

--from E.W.T.N.

The children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta took their flocks that day to the Cova da Iria, to graze. They were startled by what they later described as "lightening in a clear sky." Thinking that a storm might be approaching, they debated whether they should take the sheep and go home. Preparing to do so, they were surprised by a strange light.

"And we began to go down the slope driving the sheep towards the road. When we were half-way down, near a holm oak there, we saw another flash of lightening, and after a few steps we saw on a holm oak a lady dressed in white, shining brighter than the sun, giving out rays of clear and intense light. We stopped, astounded by the Apparition. We were so near that we were in the light that encircled her, or which she radiated, perhaps a meter and a half away [4-5 feet].

**Please don't be afraid of me, I'm not going to harm you.**

Lucia responded for all three, as she would throughout the apparitions: "Where are you from?"

**I come from heaven.**

The Lady wore a pure white mantle, edged with gold and which fell to her feet. In her hands the beads of a rosary shone like stars, with its crucifix the most radiant gem of all. Still, Lucia felt no fear. The Lady's presence produced in her only gladness and confident joy.

"And what do you want of me?"

**I want you to return here on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months, and at the very same hour. Later I shall tell you who I am, and what it is that I most desire. And I shall return here yet a seventh time.**

"And shall I go to heaven?" **Yes, you will.**

"And Jacinta?" **She will go too.**

"And Francisco?" **Francisco, too, my dear, but he will first have many Rosaries to say.**

For a few moments the Lady looked at Francisco with compassion, tinged with a little sadness. Lucia then remembered some friends who had died.

"Is Maria Neves in heaven?" **Yes, she is.**

"And Amelia?" **She is in purgatory.**

**Will you offer yourselves to God, and bear all the sufferings He sends you? In atonement for all the sins that offend Him? And for the conversion of sinners?** "Oh, we will, we will!"

**Then you will have a great deal to suffer, but the grace of God will be with you and will strengthen you.**

Lucia relates that as the Lady pronounced these words, she opened her hands, and we were bathed in a heavenly light that appeared to come directly from her hands. The light's reality cut into our hearts and our souls, and we knew somehow that this light was God, and we could see ourselves embraced in it. By an interior impulse of grace we fell to our knees, repeating in our hearts: "Oh, Holy Trinity, we adore You. My God, my God, I love You in the Blessed Sacrament."

The children remained kneeling in the flood of this wondrous light, until the Lady spoke again, mentioning the war in Europe, of which they had little or no knowledge.

**Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.**

After that she began to rise slowly in the direction of the east, until she disappeared in the immense distance. The light that encircled Her seemed to make a way amidst the stars, and that is why we sometimes said we had seen the heavens open.

*The E.W.T.N. website offers descriptions of all six visits of the Blessed Mother to the children at Fatima.*

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 21, 2017**

**St. James the Greater**

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

**ASCENSION THURSDAY, May 25**

8:00AM – Charlie Lombaerde  
req. by his wife, Carol

**SATURDAY, May 27**

8:00AM – Intentions of Father Gregory Kelly

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 28**

8:00AM – Emile Merusi  
req. by Janice & Jan Cerra

11:30AM – Barbara Gioielli  
req. by her Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,068.00 – Regular Collection – May 14, 2017 +**

**\$ 75.00 - Online Giving**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$1,086.00 – Regular Collection – May 15, 2016**

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

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**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, Frances Demalderis, 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. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the  
Intentions of Vanessa Dispoto at the  
Request of her Aunt Rosie

**MONDAY, May 22**

9:00AM – Intentions of Frances Demalderis  
req. by Grace Reich

**TUESDAY, May 23**

9:00AM – Don Martin  
req. by his Family

**WEDNESDAY, May 24**

9:00AM – Emily Blickweidel  
req. by her Family

**ASCENSION THURSDAY, May 25**

9:00AM – Terry Naletko  
req. by his Family  
-Intentions of Andrea Uriceck and  
Brian Flexer  
req. by their Parents

7:00PM – Irene & Frank Tanzariello  
req. by their Family

**FRIDAY, May 26**

9:00AM – Mavis Kaufman  
req. by her Family

**SATURDAY, Vigil, May 27**

4:30PM – Flossie Ayers and Raine V. Ayers  
req. by Russell Spinks & Family

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 28**

9:30AM – Arthur & Elsie Bastian  
req. by their Family

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$2,320.00 – Regular Collection – May 14, 2017 +**

**\$ 378.00 - Online Giving**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$2,209.00 – Regular Collection – May 15, 2016**

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

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**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:**

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

**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.



## 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!

*Stars of Heaven, Bless the Lord; Praise and Exult Him Above All Forever ~ Daniel 3:63*

**Look to the Heavens:** On a clear night, pitch a tent in the yard or sit on the deck and look to the stars. There is something about the night sky that reminds us of our place in the universe and the great gift of God's creation. As you look to the sky later in the summer, notice how the constellations have changed position.

**Talk About It:** How do you feel when you stare at the starry sky? Talk about God's grandeur and how we believe that God created the universe and everything in it.

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

### Catholic Summer Camp

"*Birthday Blast*" Catholic Summer Camp will take place from Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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.

**Apparition Hill** is coming to the Milford Theatre in Milford, PA on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. Award winning director, Sean Bloomfield, (*The Triumph, If Only We Had Listened*) and his team created this powerful cinematic experience that was among the 2017 Oscar contenders. Discover how an unlikely group of pilgrims travel to Medjugorje to investigate the truth behind the greatest spiritual mystery of our time and what they actually found. Travel with them as they seek a sign of hope in a world that can seem hopeless. (**Note:** Pope Francis recently sent a Vatican Envoy, Archbishop Hoser, to Medjugorje to oversee the pastoral care of this place of miracles. He told the people of Medjugorje, "I would like to encourage and fortify all of you on behalf of the Pope, as his emissary.") Tickets are \$10. Available online: [www.apparitionhill.org](http://www.apparitionhill.org). Or call Mary Anne Condit 973-219-3352 or Patrice Kealy 973-534-1722.

**History of St. Thomas** – May 21, 1950 saw the First Holy Communion held at St. Thomas Mission as Mrs. Nell Harper had recalled. The First Communicants included Harriet Harper, Ray Ciesielski and Tommy Halbach. They all had received their religious instruction at Lafayette.

### 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 25<sup>th</sup>** 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  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 21, 2017**

**"Jesus said to his disciples 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him because he remains with you. I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you... And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.'"**

The priestly prayer of Jesus, similar to a pep talk or farewell speech, reassures the disciples of Jesus' ongoing concern before His imminent departure. The promised Spirit offers life, protection and guidance to us all. How rarely do I treasure the fact that Jesus speaks to the Father on my behalf and promises me the gift of the Spirit when He leaves. That same promise continues today, as we need the Spirit.

He continues to watch out for us in our need as He speaks to the Father on our behalf. The advocate is present to us all to guide and guard, to direct and sustain us on our journey of holiness. Basically Jesus tells me I am loved by all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## 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 21, 2017

#### 6th Sunday of Easter

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

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

### Monday, May 22

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

### Tuesday, May 23

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

### Wednesday, May 24

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

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

### Ascension Thursday, May 25

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

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

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

### Friday, May 26

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 27

100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

### Sunday, May 28, 2017

#### 7th Sunday of Easter

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#### Next Sunday's Readings: 7th Easter

1st Reading: Acts 1: 12--14

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 27

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 4: 13--16

Gospel: John 17: 1--11a

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#### Get FORMED during the Easter Season:

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

Parish Code: HCVWQC

**Ascension Thursday** falls this week. This Feast is an essential part of the Easter Season and celebrates Jesus' reunion with the Father. It marks the moment that the Apostles finally and clearly understood that Jesus, their friend and teacher, was truly God's Son. Before He ascends, Jesus commissions the apostles to spread the Good News of God's love, and to keep His name alive until He returns. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation** for us, and Masses to celebrate this day will be as follows:

**8:00 a.m. at St. James; 9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas;**  
**7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas.**

**Young Adults.** A group for **young Catholics in their 20's and 30's** is forming. The "*Disciples of the Sacred Heart*" will begin meeting on **Fri. June 2<sup>nd</sup>** and will continue **each first Friday** thereafter. It will be a chance to connect with other Catholic young adults of our area parishes. Meetings will be held at Queen of Peace Church in Branchville, from 8 p.m. till 10 p.m. It will begin each time with praise and adoration, then continue with social time in the outdoor pavilion (weather permitting.) Local singer and songwriter Dan Ferrari will provide music. Join us for this time of fellowship, socializing and prayer.

**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.**

**June 25<sup>th</sup>: Apparition Hill,** recounting the journey of seven strangers to Medjugorje, the site of continuing visits of the Blessed Mother. At the Milford Theater in Milford, PA at 2 PM.

#### Advice from St. Francis de Sales (1567—1622):

*"Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations"*