

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

Jesus ? Rude ?

Woman, great is your faith !

Matthew 15: 28

Today's Gospel reading gives us a vivid illustration of Jesus' teaching that we need to ask, to seek and to knock. Only this is not a parable or a sermon. It's a real life story.

A Canaanite woman, a Gentile, begs Jesus to deliver her daughter from a demon. It's something that Jesus experienced all the time. People were always coming to Him, asking for a healing of some sort or other.

But instead of answering her request right away, Jesus does something surprising, maybe shocking. He replies in what appears to be a very rude way ! At first He ignores her. Then He tells her that His mission doesn't include Gentiles. Then He refers to her and her entire people as "dogs." And to make matters worse, the apostles do nothing but try to get rid of her.

Yet at each step, this mother remains undeterred. She persists until Jesus finally says, "*Woman, great is your faith ! Let it be done as you wish.*" (Mt. 15: 28)

Why was Jesus so rude to the woman ? Maybe He was testing her faith. Maybe He wanted to make sure everyone knew how much He treasured her persistent, even stubborn, belief in Him. That's what this woman showed, isn't it ? She, an outsider, a pagan, believed in Jesus, and she was not to be ignored, sidelined or denied. She persisted—and so should we !

Jesus seems to want to test our faith at times too, just as He did for the woman. Just as He did at times with His apostles. He wants to provoke us to deeper faith by challenging us to trust Him even when we think He is ignoring us or rejecting our request. Just as Jesus pushed this woman, so He pushes us sometimes.

So what's the message today ? Yes, the tests of life can be frustrating and aggravating. Yes, Jesus can seem rude, or even distant at times. But never give up, because no matter how it seems, He has not given up on you !

Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief !

--from *The Word Among Us*

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 20, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Szigmond Varga at the
Request of his Family

SATURDAY, August 26

8:00AM – Mary Hanratty

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 27

8:00AM – Marion Youngster
req. by her daughter, Vicki Gorlach

11:30AM – Irene & Frank Tanzariello
req. by their Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,244.00 – Regular Collection – August 13, 2017 +
\$ 190.00 - Online Giving
\$ 239.00 – Missionary Cooperation Plan
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$ 959.00 – Regular Collection – August 14, 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*

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 Kate Olivo at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, August 21

9:00AM – Edward J. Dinan
req. by his daughter, Margie

TUESDAY, August 22

9:00AM – Alex Rovinsky
req. by Pete & Pat Lane

WEDNESDAY, August 23

9:00AM – Rosemarie Bastian
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, August 24

No Mass

FRIDAY, August 25

9:00AM – Kathy Meehan
req. by Dan & Luisa

SATURDAY, Vigil, August 26

4:30PM – Robert Leppert
req. by Pat Walsh

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 27

9:30AM – Alice Heimall
req. by the Heimall Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,870.00 – Regular Collection – August 13, 2017 +
\$ 378.00 - Online Giving
\$ 331.00 – Missionary Cooperation Plan
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,146.00 – Regular Collection – August 14, 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.

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, Betty Lacovara, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Joseph Ligammari, Miriam Ligammari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, John Meehan, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock



Registrations for 2017/2018 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children in Grades 2-8 for the upcoming catechetical year **were due back by July 15th** to avoid the late fee. **If you have not sent your re-registration back yet, please do so immediately.**

Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish or children enrolled in Catholic school or home school who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist or Confirmation must call the Religious Education Office to register. To enroll your child(ren) in the parish program, you must be a registered and participating member of the parish.



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, August 20th from 6:00-8:00PM.** There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!! **Incoming Freshman are now welcome to join Catholic Teens.**

History of St. James & St. Thomas

Among the priests known to have assisted here about 1949-50 was Rev. Anthony Spano, a Salesian priest from Don Bosco Seminary (now the site of SCCC). If anyone has a photo of Father Spano or any recollections of him, we would appreciate it.

Moms and Tots Playgroup will continue to meet most Fridays from 10:00am to 11:30am through the summer. If weather permits, we will be meeting at local parks also. Please check our Facebook page "Sandyston Tot Group" to find us each week.

R.C.I.A.: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you, or someone you know, interested in finding out about the Catholic Church? Explore your interest through the R.C.I.A.---- 'Come and See'. When Jesus was approached by those who wanted to become His disciples, Jesus invited them to "...come and see". Walk with us. Learn who we are, then make your decision to become Catholic, a disciple of Jesus. If you have thought about the R.C.I.A. before and passed on the opportunity, today may be the time that the Holy Spirit has chosen for you. The R.C.I.A. is a time for you and your needs and concerns. It is a journey in faith and a time to slow down to enjoy the journey. 'Come and See' by calling the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

The Columbiettes are collecting school supplies until the end August. A basket is in the gathering space.

Children's Liturgy Of the Word:

C.L.O.W. will resume on Sunday, September 10 at the 9:30am Mass at St. Thomas Church. All children from both St. Thomas and St. James Parishes K-6 (and older children with younger siblings) are welcome to participate in C.L.O.W. The Liturgy for children is God's sacred Word in language the children can better understand---thus leading them into a closer relationship with Jesus, and a stronger faith life.

C.L.O.W. celebration begins after the Opening Prayer when Father calls the children forward to receive a special blessing. The children, along with adult leaders, process out of the Church into the Father Lewis Center where the Liturgy of the Word is celebrated with the children's participation.

All adults are welcome and encouraged to participate in Children's Liturgy Of the Word, and to come and experience it. All adult parishioners are welcome and encouraged to prayerfully consider ministering to the children at C.L.O.W. as Lectors and/or Hospitality Ministers. Please feel free to call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004 with any questions you might have, and your call will be returned as quickly as possible.



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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 20, 2017

"The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, ministering to him, loving the name of the Lord and becoming his servants, all who keep the Sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer... for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

In this age of xenophobia, anti-Semitism and racial tensions in the world in which we live, Isaiah summons us to think, ask for forgiveness and discover the Christ in the vulnerable, the hurting, the poor. Pope Francis calls us to discover the Christ and also reflect the love and compassion of the Lord for others.

The words of scripture and the teaching of the Holy Father, are directed to every catholic, every catholic community of faith. The rich history of Catholicism in the United States reflects growth through the gifts brought by every immigrant group. The gospel of Jesus Christ accompanied those who migrated, bringing rich traditions, deep faith and a desire to build the kingdom of God. May we be the welcoming community of faith, learning from others, supporting them in their need and celebrating our unity in diversity.

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, August 20, 2017

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1:00 p.m. SJC Lectors' Up-date Mtg.

Monday, Aug. 21

Tuesday, Aug. 22

10:00a.m. STC St. Thomas Bikers Gang

Wednesday, Aug. 23

Thursday, Aug. 24

Friday, Aug. 25

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, Aug. 26

Missionary Co-op Week-end: All Masses

Sunday, August 27, 2017

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1:00 p.m. SJC Eucharistic Ministers' Up-date Mtg.

Next Sunday's Readings: 21st Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 22: 1, 19--23*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 138*

2nd Reading: *Romans 11: 33--36*

Gospel: *Matthew 16: 13--20*

Healing Retreat. Queen of Peace Church in Branchville is sponsoring this time of reflection and prayer for our area. The location is the **Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton.** The dates are **Fri. Sept. 8—Sun. Sept. 10.** **The cost is \$ 175 and includes all meals and lodging.**

Fr. Ed Rama will be conducting this weekend healing retreat, and offering the talks. Retreat includes a Healing Service on Sat. evening.

Come away with the Lord and experience His Peace and Healing Power. Call the O.L.Q.P. office to register: 973-948-3185 and speak to Jenn.

Missionary Co-op Week-end. Next week-end, we will be hosting a guest-priest from the Diocese of Sivangangai, India. **Fr. Thomas Rayar** will inform us of the situation of the Church and the conditions of the people in this diocese in the south-eastern section of the country. This is an annual program within our diocese in which we help believers in need in other areas of the world, and we in turn are reminded of the meaning of "catholic" in the Catholic Church. We are part of a world-wide system of believers who recognize Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. May Fr. Rayar's visit help you to understand the incredible ways our faith affects the whole earth.

Marian Pilgrimage. Every three years our Diocese gears up to make a pilgrimage to the *National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception* in Washington D.C. It continues a long tradition in the Church of making spiritual journeys to sacred shrines and places to seek graces from the Lord and to honor the saints.

Our up-coming pilgrimage will include a Mass with Bishop Serratelli, catechetical presentations, devotional time and a chance for Confession.

There are two options: 1) the one-day pilgrimage: \$ 49. and 2) the overnight option: Fri. to Sat. \$259. The date will be: **Sat. October 21.**

For more info, contact our Pilgrimage Coordinator, Chris Higgins at 201-738-9968.

Become a Hospice Volunteer. The **Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice Center** is offering classes to assist volunteers in helping those in the last stages of this life. The training is free. Topics to be covered include explaining the social, emotional, spiritual and physical needs of the dying person and their family; also covered will be strategies for helping others (and ourselves) when faced with a terminal illness. Classes will take place at their new location:

5 Plains Road, Augusta. Dates and times: Tuesdays and Fridays: Sept. 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, from 10 a.m. till 12 noon each time. For more info call Sue Dougherty at 973-383-0115.

Get FORMED for the summer:

www.Formed.org Unlock spiritual treasures with our Parish Code: HCVWQC

Consider Weekday Mass. Start your day in the best way possible. Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. at St. Thomas. Sat. 8 a.m. at St. James.