

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

Now What Did I Say ?

“You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

Matthew 16: 23

Poor Peter ! He had just professed that Jesus was the *“Messiah, the Son of the living God,”* and Jesus had just congratulated him for his keen insight (Mt 16: 16). Surely Peter was elated. But just moments later, Jesus is rebuking him in the harshest terms for trying to keep Him from the cross. *“Get behind me, Satan,”* He says. *“You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”* (Mt.16: 23). Can you imagine how frustrated Peter must have felt ?

What caused Jesus to change His tone so quickly ? On both occasions Peter only had good intentions. On both occasions he was trying to do the right thing. What happened ?

This passage from the Gospels tells us that our minds can be influenced by God one moment, and by the devil in the very next moment, and we may not be able to tell the difference. It tells us that we need to learn how to reason in faith, and how to think *“as God does,”* if we want to see our spiritual lives grow.

Peter probably reflected on these two events. He must have asked, *“Why did Jesus commend me here but rebuke me there ?”* He must have asked Jesus to help him understand. Over time, Peter learned more and more about the way God thinks. Over time, he became more able to understand God’s mind and to live a life that reflected God’s plan. How else could he have become one of the wisest and most devoted members of the early Church ?

Here is a good way to sharpen your ability to reason in faith: Every day, take one situation and ask, *“Jesus, what would you do at this moment ?”* This simple little prayer can open the door to God’s grace and change the way you think. Scripture promises that you can *“be transformed by the renewal of your mind”* (Romans 12: 2). With time, patience and practice, you can come to discern what is *“good and pleasing and perfect”* in every situation.

**Lord, enlighten my mind.
Teach me how to think as you think.**

--from: *The Word Among Us*
September 2017

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 3, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Kate Olivo at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, September 9

8:00AM – Barbara Henry

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 10

8:00AM – Burt Meshnick
req. by Ellen Galloway, James, Dayna & Emilly
-William Pagano
req. by his Children

11:30AM – Richard Gray
req. by Pat & Pete Lane

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 796.00 – Regular Collection – August 27, 2017 +

\$ 170.00 - Online Giving

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,221.00 – Regular Collection – August 28, 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 Spinapolice at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Art & Elsie Bastian at the
Request of their son, Andy

MONDAY, September 4

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

TUESDAY, September 5

9:00AM – Intentions of the Mantini Family
req. by Dan & Luisa

WEDNESDAY, September 6

9:00AM – Michael Bailo
req. by his Family

THURSDAY, September 7

No Mass

FRIDAY, September 8

9:00AM – Deceased Members of the Nacinovich Family
req. by Dan & Luisa
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 9

4:30PM – Devan Owens
req. by his Family

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 10

9:30AM – Deceased Members of the Nacinovich Family
req. by Dan & Luisa

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,483.00 – Regular Collection – August 27, 2017 +

\$ 378.00 - Online Giving

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,478.00 – Regular Collection – August 28, 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 must be received immediately in order for your child or teen to begin class.

No re-registrations will be taken the week of September 17th (first week of classes). All late re-registrations must be brought to the Religious Education Office the week of September 24th. Please call to schedule an appointment.

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.

On This Day We Celebrate – Sept. 5: St. Theresa of Calcutta

Do a family member's chores for them in service and love.



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2017

On Saturday, September 16th and Sunday, September 17th, we celebrate Catechetical Sunday and will honor those who share in the evangelization mission of the Church through

a special Rite of Commissioning and Blessing. We ask your prayer and support for the following men and women of our parishes who selflessly devote themselves to the ministry of catechesis and share the faith of the Catholic Church with the adults, families, youth and children of our parishes: Rita Straka, Karen Steinert, Marie Mendez, Patrice Kealy, Chris Higgins, Cathy McNanna, Maggie Nicole, Emilia VanderPloog, Mike Bussow, Sharon Falchetta, John Lucadamo, Dan and Lucy O'Keefe, Alex Sousa and Patricia Hope. Thank you all for showing us how to live our faith! Father Wayne will be blessing both catechists and all parents too! Here we will recognize the very important role both they and you have in forming your children in the Catholic faith.

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel and it is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry

We will begin our ministry again on September 18th. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Center on the first and third Mondays of the month from 11:00AM until 1:00PM and are always ready to welcome new members!

From the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

All adult parishioners are welcome to gather twice a month with the R.C.I.A., where we examine our understanding of how our religion and our faith in God is part of our lives. During these sessions, we break open the upcoming Sunday Readings to be used as our basis for sharing. We also reflect on our understanding of how the Scriptures can affect us on our journeys in faith. In upcoming bulletins, you will find the outline of topics for our sessions. These sessions are no-pressure--- 'Come and See'. We invite you at no obligation to discover what the Church and our faith is all about. Please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be promptly returned.

Children's Liturgy Of the Word:

We celebrate C.L.O.W. the September Sundays of 10 and 17. We ask that the children listen actively for the Celebrant's invitation to come forward to be blessed as quickly as possible so that the Mass may continue reverently and smoothly. All adult parishioner are welcome to experience the Word with the children. Should you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

History of St. James & St. Thomas

By the 1970's, Salesian Brothers assisted by teaching CCD. A 5th grade Savios group held at the Montague School was moderated by Brother Mark Hyde. A 1976 First Communion/Confirmation photo taken at St. James shows a Brother Jose and another Brother Mark in attendance. Any old-time parishioners remember them or have any other information?

St. Thomas Coffee Hour

Please note that Coffee Hour will be on Sunday, **September 17th** after the 9:30am Mass.

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.

The Columbiettes will be sponsoring a Cancer Ribbon Wall. We are asking for names to be remembered. Please call or leave names at the office.

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, September 3, 2017

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:00 p.m. No Youth Group tonight

Monday, Sept. 4

Labor Day

9:00 a.m. STC Mass for Blessing of Human Labor

Tuesday, Sept. 5

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

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Thursday, Sept. 7

Friday, Sept. 8

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.

Saturday, Sept. 9

Sunday, September 10, 2017

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 22nd Ord.

1st Reading: *Ezekiel 33: 7--9*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 95*

2nd Reading: *Romans 13: 8--10*

Gospel: *Matthew 18: 15--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.

Labor Day is a good chance to reflect upon what we do for much of our lives. Our work actually shapes us and in large part describes us. It is also one of the ways that we are made in the image and likeness of God. (Genesis chap. 1 and 2 describes God at work.) Join us for a special **Mass for the Blessing of Human Labor** tomorrow, **Monday, Sept. 4th at 9 a.m. at St. Thomas.**

Pizza Night for Women. Bishop Serratelli invites all high school and college aged young women to come together for an evening in which to think about their future. What are the Lord's plans for you? How can you discern a vocation that will be fulfilling and satisfying and will make a difference? Join with Bishop Serratelli for **Pizza Night for Women.** It will be held at **Pope John XXIII High School, 28 Andover Rd. in Sparta.** The date: **Mon. Sept. 25; 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** For more info, call the Office of the Delegate for Religious at 973-777-8818, ext. 207 or contact: kerry@patersondiocese.org.

Anointing of the Sick Mass: Sat. Sept. 9

All seniors and parishioners with any health issues are encouraged to attend a special Mass on Sat. Sept. 9th, beginning at 11:00 a.m. During this Mass the **Sacrament of the Sick** will be offered to all in need of physical or spiritual healing. This Sacrament helps us to understand that the Lord does not will our sicknesses, but instead is there with us in our sufferings. This Mass will be held at **St. Thomas Church**, which is fully handicap-accessible. A light lunch, hosted by our Religious Ed families, will follow in the Fr. Lewis Center.

Adult Ed. A fascinating educational series is planned for the fall. It will be based around **Bishop Robert Barron's** acclaimed series: **Catholicism: a Study of Our Faith.** With stunning photography from around the world, and insights which give deeper understandings of our religion, Bishop Barron teaches about our Catholic faith in unforgettable ways. The series will be presented at the **Religious Ed Center**, opposite the Sandyston Town Hall. It will be held on the **five Sundays of October, beginning at 1 p.m.** till 2:30 p.m. each time. Questions and discussion will follow the CD presentation. Plan to attend these first five sessions. The last five will take place in the spring.