

# 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**

# How Many Times ???

*“How often must I forgive ? Seven times ?”*

(Matthew 18: 21)

In his very first Sunday homily as the Holy Father, Pope Francis proclaimed, “This is the Lord’s most powerful message: mercy.” (March 17, 2013) Since that day, he has repeated over and over the marvelous truth that God’s mercy has no bounds. That’s precisely the problem with the heartless servant in today’s Gospel: he forgot his master’s mercy and his own mercy had limited, clearly defined boundaries.

How boundless is God’s mercy ? The best way to answer that is to consider what our lives would be like without it. Imagine a world with no tenderness, no forgiveness, no compassion. Imagine being bound in your sin and selfishness, your guilt and shame, with no way out. Now imagine God sacrificing Himself not only to rescue you, but to offer you the promise of eternal life with Him in heaven. That’s how boundless His mercy is. That’s how deeply He loves you.

Struck by the depth of God’s love, how can we do anything but bow down to Him in worship and show that same mercy to the people around us ?

Mercy is not just an abstract idea or a nice theory. It’s a concrete reality. It’s not just a message that we can choose to live out when it’s convenient for us. God’s mercy to us is meant to be at the heart of how we think and act towards each other. It’s meant to be the characteristic that sets us apart in a world caught up in self-righteousness, division and getting even. It’s the best way we can reveal God’s love and invite people to taste it themselves.

Peter asked Jesus, *“How often must I forgive ?”* (Matthew 18: 21). He was looking for a limited number of times, after which he was off the hook. He was asking about the rules. But for the one who has grasped the depths of God’s mercy, rules and limits no longer matter. May we all taste this mercy more deeply today so that we can become more merciful as well.

**Thank you, Jesus, for showering me with Your love.**

**Lord, help me to be more merciful.**

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

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 17, 2017**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Eric Cerra at the  
Request of a family friend, Peggy Gray

**SATURDAY, September 23**

8:00AM – Lou Black

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**September 24**

8:00AM – Burt Meshnick  
req. by the Cerra Family

11:30AM – Georg Assmann  
req. by Emma Masset

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,552.00 – Regular Collection–September 10, 2017 +  
\$ 170.00 - Online Giving  
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need  
\$1,189.00 – Regular Collection – September 11, 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.**

**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.

**TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:**

Margaret Accordino, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertias, 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, Sarah Scheckner, 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

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Honor of the Catechists

**MONDAY, September 18**

9:00AM – Stasia Batko  
req. by the Batko Family

**TUESDAY, September 19**

9:00AM – Bob Walker  
req. by his daughter, Mary Burkhardt  
- Barbara K. Kientzler  
req. by her son, Charles

**WEDNESDAY, September 20**

9:00AM – Kenneth R. Benson  
req. by his Family

**THURSDAY, September 21**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, September 22**

9:00AM – Intentions of the Gomez Family  
req. by Dan & Luisa  
-Intentions of Chris Higgins  
Birthday Celebration  
req. by the Legion of Mary

**SATURDAY, Vigil, September 23**

4:30PM – Joseph & Elizabeth Hoffman  
req. by the Wainwright Family

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**September 24**

9:30AM – Louis Turco  
req. by the Puccio & Wagner Families  
-Jimmy Reed  
req. by his Mom & Dad

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$2,260.00 – Regular Collection–September 10, 2017 +  
\$ 378.00 - Online Giving  
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need  
\$2,012.00 – Regular Collection – September 11, 2016  
Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.**

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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.



## Registrations for 2017/2018 Catechetical Year

**No re-registrations will be taken this week – September 17<sup>th</sup> (first week of classes). All re-registrations must be brought to the Religious Education Office the week of September 24<sup>th</sup> before your child(ren)/teens begin their class. 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.

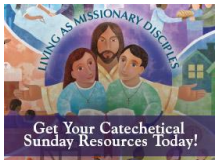
### Religious Education Classes Begin as Follows:

Grs. 9 & 10 – Sat., Sept. 16 & 30 – 4:30pm Mass-7:15pm

Grs. 6,7&8-Sun., Sept.17 & Oct.1 - 9:30am Mass-12:30pm

Grs. 1 & 2 – Tues., Sept. 19 & 26 – 4:00pm – 5:15pm

Grs. 3, 4 & 5 – Wed., Sept. 20 & 27 – 4:00pm – 5:15pm



## CATECHETICAL SUNDAY – LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Today, the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday. The 2017 theme will be *“Living as Missionary Disciples”*.

Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists were called forth and were commissioned for their ministry. The parents were also blessed for their very important role in forming their children in the Catholic faith.

We ask your prayer and support for all of our Catechists and Aides. In particular, we welcome Stephanie Pierson as the Fifth Grade Catechist, Sharon Falchetta who joins as a Seventh and Eighth Grade Catechist and Maggie Nicole and Emilia VanderPloog as our Aides for the Middle School Program. We also welcome all of our First Graders and any new families that are joining us. It is our hope and prayer that as a part of our parish family, and through the sacraments, personal prayer, deeper knowledge of the Faith and our witness to the Gospel, we may all grow in love for the Lord and further the evangelizing mission of his Church.

Also, please keep in your prayer the following men and women of our parishes who have selflessly devoted themselves to the ministry of catechesis and share the faith of the Catholic Church with the adults, families, youth and children of our parishes for so many years: Rita Straka (11 yrs.), Karen Steinert (8 yrs.), Marie Mendez (6 yrs.), Patrice Kealy (9 yrs.), Chris Higgins (2 yrs.), Cathy McNanna (19 yrs.), Mike Bussow (12 yrs.), John Lucadamo (12 yrs.), Dan & Lucy O’Keefe (2 yrs.), Alex Sousa (5 yrs.) and Patricia Hope (30 yrs.). That’s a total of 116 YEARS!!! Thank you all for this beautiful gift to our parishes! 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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!

**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.

## History of St. James & St. Thomas

The former St. Thomas Ladies Guild sponsored yearly Communion Breakfasts which were held at a local restaurant in the Fall with a priest or religious invited as guest speaker. The Guild initiated the parish’s Tricky Tray and some were held at the Sandyston School.

## St. Thomas Pot Luck

Our first Pot Luck of the season will be on **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** after the 4:30pm Mass. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Space.

## 2017 Bishop’s Annual Appeal

### In Giving, We Receive

The 2017 Bishop’s Annual Appeal is currently underway. This year, the theme of the Appeal is *“In Giving, We Receive”*. By being generous with God-given gifts, we not only help people in need, but we also help ourselves. Jesus reminds us of the blessings that come from being good stewards.

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal supports four causes: our Catholic Charities agencies; seminarian education, Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests’ retirement residence and our inner-city area elementary schools. You can help make this year’s Appeal an even greater success by making a generous pledge today. Every single gift is important, valued and changes lives. Whatever you do to help is a profound blessing!

## Save the date

The famous St. James Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Bring your own drink. Take-outs available. Adults \$12.00, Children under 12 \$6.00 and Children under 6 are Free. Tickets will be available after 8:00am and 11:30am Masses on September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup> or by calling Mike Spinapolice at 973-293-7031 or by sending an email to [wjr218@optonline.net](mailto:wjr218@optonline.net). Sit down tickets will be limited to 100.

## St. James Christmas Bazaar – December 2

We will soon be accepting donations of new and like new items for the *“Second Time Around”* tables. Crafters, bakers and volunteers should also start making plans for their contributions now. If you are a crafter, baker, volunteer or just editing some nice but unwanted pieces from your home, please call Linda Spinapolice 973-293-7031, Maria Henn 973-293-3243 or Joan Henn 973-293-3690. Please mark your calendars and start planning for this exciting fundraiser now.

## 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 17, 2017

#### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

##### Catechetical Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass  
9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8  
11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes' Mtg.  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

### Monday, Sept. 18

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

### Tuesday, Sept. 19

- 10:00a.m. STC St. Thomas Bikers Gang  
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2  
7:00 p.m. REC Men's Prayer Group

### Wednesday, Sept. 20

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

### Thursday, Sept. 21

### Friday, Sept. 22

- 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, Sept. 23

- 4:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner (after Mass)

### Sunday, September 24, 2017

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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#### Next Sunday's Readings: 25<sup>th</sup> Ord.

- 1st Reading: *Isaiah 55: 6--9*  
Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 145*  
2nd Reading: *Philippians 1: 20c--24, 27a*  
Gospel: *Matthew 20: 1--16a*

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**The Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center** will host an Interfaith Memorial Service to honor loved ones who have died. It will be held **Mon. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Newton**, on High St., Newton. For info call 973-948-2283.

**St. James Parish is celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** next year ! One of our projects will be to assemble a **2018 Anniversary Calendar**. To accomplish this, we are requesting photographs—old and more recent—to help tell the story of our parish. We are asking all to search through their photo albums and lend to us any photos which will help to recall our history. All photos will be scanned and then returned promptly. Photos of yourself and your family would be great !

**Hurricane Harvey & Irma Help.** A basket will be placed at the back of both our churches for the next few weeks. You are invited to make a donation towards the relief of the victims of the recent destructive storms in Texas, Florida and beyond. We will make sure that your donations get to an authorized Catholic organization for use where most needed.

**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](mailto:kerry@patersondiocese.org).

**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.

**Consider On Line Giving.** Check our parish website for more info.