

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

“Every Life is Worth Living”
Reflections for Respect Life Month
Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Boston

My dear friends in Christ,

One of the deepest desires of the human heart is to discover our identity. So often, as a society and as individuals, we identify ourselves by what we do. We base our worth on how productive we are at work or at home, and we determine our lives to be more or less good--depending on the degree of independence or pleasure. We may even begin to believe that if our lives, or those of others, don’t “measure up” to a certain standard, they are somehow less valuable or less worth living.

Respect Life Month is a fitting time to reflect on the truth of who we are.

Our worth is based not on our skills or levels of productivity. Rather we discover our worth when we discover our true identity found in the unchangeable, permanent fact that we are created in God’s image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with Him.

Because of this, absolutely nothing can diminish our God-given dignity, and therefore, nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives. Others may fail to respect that dignity—may even try to undermine it—but in doing so, they only distance themselves from God’s loving embrace. Human dignity is forever.

Whether it lasts for a brief moment or for a hundred years, each of our lives is a good and perfect gift. At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God’s love.

An elderly man whose health is quickly deteriorating; an unborn baby girl whose diagnosis indicates she may not live long; a little boy with Down’s syndrome; a mother facing terminal cancer—each may have great difficulties and need our assistance, but each of their lives is worth living.

When we encounter the suffering of another, let us reach out and embrace them in love, allowing God to work through us. This might mean slowing down and taking the time to listen. It might mean providing respite care or preparing meals for a family facing serious illness. It might mean simply being present and available. And of course, it always means prayer—bringing their needs before the Father and asking Him to work in their lives.

Experiencing suffering—or watching another suffer—is one of the hardest human experiences. Fear of the unknown can lead us into the temptation of taking control in ways that offend our human dignity and disregard the reverence due to each person.

But we are not alone. Christ experienced suffering more deeply than we can comprehend, and our own suffering can be meaningful when we unite it with His. Especially in the midst of trials, we are invited to hold fast to the hope of the Resurrection. God is with us every step of the way, giving us the grace we need.

In times of suffering, let us have the courage to accept help that others genuinely want to give, and give the help that others need. We were made to love and be loved; we are meant to depend on one another, serving each other in humility and walking together in times of suffering. Our relationships are meant to help us grow in perfect love.

Let us learn to let go of our own standards of perfection and instead learn more deeply how to live according to God’s standards. He does not call us to perfect efficiency or material success; He calls us to self-sacrificial love. He invites us to embrace each life for as long as it is given—our own lives and the lives of those He has placed in our paths. Every life is worth living.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 22, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Ann & Robert Lamb at the
Request of their Children

SATURDAY, October 28

8:00AM – Nunzio Joseph Barone
req. by his cousin, Steve

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 29

8:00AM – Burt Meshnick
req. by Diane & Harry Cole

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

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 712.00 – Regular Collection – October 15, 2017 +
\$ 125.00 - Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$ 761.00 – Regular Collection – October 16, 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.

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 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, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, Pam Spencer, Joan Strehl, 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
Memory of Michael Reich at the
Request of Jim & Diane Campbell

MONDAY, October 23

9:00AM – Deceased Nardo & Flexer Families
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, October 24

9:00AM – Alice Heimall
req. by her Family

WEDNESDAY, October 25

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

THURSDAY, October 26

No Mass

FRIDAY, October 27

9:00AM – Jerome Heitmann
req. by Flo, Andy & Tarra

SATURDAY, Vigil, October 28

4:30PM – Anna & Neil Griffin
req. by the Wainwright Family

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 29

9:30AM – Richard Gray
req. by Rita & Milan Straka

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,037.00 – Regular Collection – October 15, 2017 +
\$ 328.00 - Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,023.00 – Regular Collection – October 16, 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.



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.



Spaghetti with the Saints "Knight"

Our celebration will take place on Friday, November 3rd at 6:30pm in the

Father Lewis Center. We are asking all of our children in grades 1 through 6 to dress up like a saint and bring along a small index card with some information about that saint to share with others that night. We are asking our pre-teens and teens in grades 7 through 10 to also dress up if they would like or to assist us with the children, with the set-up or with the clean-up. In order to be properly prepared, please fill out the RSVP (**return or call by Oct. 30th**) that was handed out to your children and return by bringing it to class, by mail or by calling 973-948-7004. We look forward to a full house of holy men, women and children!!!



Catholic Teens Special Event – Pumpkin Carving, Painting and Campfire

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, October 22nd, from 6:00-8:00PM. All 7th and 8th Graders along with High School Teens** are invited to OLQP for an evening of fun and friendship.

Saint of the Month – St. Simon the Zealot (First Century)

Saint Simon the Zealot was one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles, but virtually all we know about him comes from lists of apostles (see Mt 10:2-4; Mk 3:16-18; Lk 6:14-16; Acts 1:13). It is Luke who calls him Zealot. The term "Zealot" may refer to his zeal in keeping the Law of Moses. He is said to have traveled with St. Jude through Egypt, present-day Iran and Lebanon, preaching the Gospel. Western tradition says he died a martyr. He shares the feast day of October 28 with Saint Jude.

In his memory, pray for all those Christians who are suffering persecution in the Middle East. Saints Simon and Jude, pray for us!

All Saints, Sauce, Spaghetti Knight

The Knights of Columbus, Mary Flexer and our Religious Education Program wish to invite you to a first time event here at St. Thomas scheduled for **Friday, November 3rd at 6:30pm**. This event is designed to join together our Parish in a fun yet competitive event. The event is the All Saints Sauce Spaghetti Knight...The children of our Religious Ed program will be dressing as their favorite Saint to be presented at a Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The Competition component involves a Spaghetti Sauce Contest. We are looking for many of you to enter your homemade sauce into our contest. The evening will feature our Saintry children and a spaghetti dinner served with our contestants' sauces. Tickets and Sauce entry forms will be available in the Parish office. The cost is only \$5 per ticket. Please join us for our First Annual Saints, Sauce, Spaghetti Knight.

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 Spinapolic 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.

St. Thomas is still in need of someone to wash weekly altar cloths used at Masses. If interested, see Father Wayne or Mary.

From the R.C.I.A. and Adult Confirmation

Sadly, our Parishes for 2017-2018 do not at present have any Catechumens (adult unbaptized) for the R.C.I.A. process. We do however have 1 adult Candidate coming from another faith tradition and 1 adult for the Sacrament of Confirmation. To that end, the Parishes will offer, beginning January 2018, a 10 session workshop to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be received during the Easter Season. The Confirmation workshops will also be combined with the R.C.I.A. process where/when possible. All adult parishioners are welcome to be present and/or contribute to both R.C.I.A. and adult Confirmation.

Hold the Date – St. Thomas Annual Bake & Craft Sale and Flea Market on Saturday, November 18th.

At the present time, we are in need of CRAFTERS and VENDERS. If anyone knows of someone who would be interested in renting a table or is a crafter, please ask them to contact Deirdre at 973-948-6092. There will be a table containing donated crafts or new and slightly used items. If you have an item you love but no longer use or need and wish to donate, please contact Deirdre at the above number. Thank you.

Columbiettes will be sponsoring a new toy drive for Project Self-Sufficiency until Sunday, November 26th. There is a basket in the gathering space. Thank you.

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is offering an Autumn 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 will be on **Tuesday nights from 6:15-7:15pm for 6 weeks starting on October 24th. (Please note that the First class will take place at the Religious Education Center)**. You may join us at any time. The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for \$30.00 or pay \$6.00 per class. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to St. Thomas parish. So, please try it out and do something for yourself. Any questions, please call Chris Dube at 973-948-2329.

Parents' Night Out

Our Mom & Tot Group is currently in the planning stages of organizing a *Parents' Night Out* for parents of young children. You will have the opportunity to get together at a local restaurant with other parents while childcare (including dinner) is provided at St. Thomas Church. We are planning for **Saturday after Mass on November 4th (5:30pm-7:30pm)**. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the childcare, especially those with the appropriate safety clearances. Please contact the parish office or Mandi Sousa at 973-632-5536 if you are interested. If you are a parent looking for more information or to sign up, please contact Mandi at the above number.

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal

In Giving, We Receive

Did you know that this year our Diocese had the largest number of men ordained to the priesthood in the country? There are currently over 50 men now enrolled in seminaries to prepare for priestly life in the Paterson Diocese. That is a tremendous blessing, but one that comes with a significant cost for room, board, tuition and other related expenses. Your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps meet the annual expenses for seminarian education. It is a gift that will enhance the faith life of our Diocese for years to come. Please make a pledge at www.2017appeal.org. Thank you!

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, October 22, 2017

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2:00 p.m. REC “Catholicism” series (till 3:30 p.m.)

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

Monday, Oct. 23

Tuesday, Oct. 24

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

6:15 p.m. **REC (first class only)** Yoga-lates

Wednesday, Oct. 25

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

Thursday, Oct. 26

Friday, Oct. 27

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, Oct. 28

4:30 p.m. REC: Conf. Prep after Mass

Sunday, October 29, 2017

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8

2:00 p.m. REC “Catholicism” series (till 3:30 p.m.)

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 30th Ord.

1st Reading: *Exodus 22: 20--26*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 18*

2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 1: 5c--10*

Gospel: *Matthew 22: 34--40*

Get FORMED for the fall:

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

“Before any man can be considered a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe.”

--James Madison, 4th President of the U. S.

Saint Pope John Paul II. Today, Oct. 22nd

is the feast day of one of the saints of our own lifetime. Here is a brief summary of his life, from the official Catholic Ordo: “Karol Józef Wotjyla was born in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. As archbishop of Krakow, he took part in the Second Vatican Council. On Oct. 16, 1978 he was elected Pope and took the name John Paul II. His exceptional apostolic zeal, particularly for families, young people, and the sick, led him to make numerous pastoral visits throughout the world. He left as a heritage to the Church a rich body of teaching, and the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church; also the revised Code of Canon Law and the third edition of the Roman Missal. Pope John Paul II departed peacefully in the Lord on April 2, 2005. Pope Francis named him a saint on April 27, 2014.”

Along with Mother Teresa, Padre Pio and others, Pope John Paul demonstrates that sainthood is possible in our own day. In fact many “quiet” saints may be all around you.

On the Internet, go to FORMED.org (parish code HCVWQC) for John Paul’s short story made into a movie: *The Jeweller’s Shop*.

St. Patrick’s Church, Milford invites us to a program of Spiritual Music, ‘Living in Gratitude!’ today, Sun. Oct. 22nd and begins at 3:00 p.m.

No tickets or admission fee, but donations will be accepted for Catholic Charities USA Hurricane Relief. 100% of your donations will go directly to disaster victims. Enjoy an afternoon of music by their Deanery Choir, and donate to a worthy cause. St. Pat’s is at 111 West High St., Milford, PA.

Adult Ed. Our DVD series “Catholicism” continues on the Sundays of October. Today’s topic: “The Blessed Virgin Mary: Humanity’s Solitary Boast.” Produced by Professor (now **Bishop**) **Robert Barron**, it contains many valuable insights into our faith. Presented at the **Religious Ed Center**, beginning at **2 p.m.** Questions and discussion follow until 3:30 p.m. Plan to attend these remaining sessions. The last five will take place in the spring.

St. James Parish: 75th Anniversary next year !

We are still accepting photographs, old and new, of parishioners and events of the last 75 years. They will tell the story of our parish in a unique **2018 Anniversary Calendar**. All photos will be scanned and then returned promptly. Photos of yourself and your family would be perfect !