

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



November: Month of All Souls

Each time a close relative passes away, it's a difficult time for the whole family. Maybe to ease and comfort ourselves in our loss, we imagine the loved one with the Lord in His Kingdom, enjoying the happiness and peace and joy that Jesus has promised. It's like, Heaven is an automatic next stop for those who have died: just as you can predict the next stop that the bus or train is going to make on its route.

It may not be as automatic as that. Heaven is our goal, of course. Union with the Lord and seeing Our Creator face to face is a promise of the Scriptures. But it can't be assumed or presumed. There is a judgment that takes place, a review of our lives, as lived throughout our years. It will reveal if we have cooperated with God's grace, God's help, in living the way God has called us to live. This review or judgment will reveal how closely we have followed the life-plan or vocation the Lord had planned for us when we were baptized. Did we take advantage of all the opportunities to do good—to do God's Will—that He had placed along our path? If the overall answer is "yes," then Jesus will personally escort us into His Father's presence—to hear those beautiful words: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Come, enter Your Father's joy."

But if there have been defects—or a sinfulness that has not been atoned for on earth—then, the Church teaches, there will be a period of cleansing, or purging, before entering God's direct presence. That purgation—we call it Purgatory—is God's last, merciful attempt to save us. We are called to cleanse ourselves, to repent, maybe to suffer, for the misguided actions or sinful choices that have not been repented of on earth. It is a time of separation from God.

Purgatory has been compared to hell—except for one big difference. There is the hope, in Purgatory, that the separation from God will one day end: that the pain and sadness and suffering of not being in the joy of Heaven will one day end. The souls in Purgatory have a serious cleansing to do—whatever that means and entails.

But the Church also teaches that we on earth can help them. And we do so by our prayers and sacrifices and Masses we offer on their behalf. The Church tells us that these sacrifices on our part—lessen the time spent in Purgatory by our loved ones—and brings on their entrance into Heaven more quickly.

All this is remembered on All Souls' Day. In fact, the whole month of November is dedicated to All Souls that are in need of prayers and purgation. It's a reminder that we can still help those who have died. And a reminder that we are still connected to them. This Month of All Souls is really a promise that we will see our loved ones again, in the happiness of God's Kingdom.

In the end, November, the Month of All Souls' is a celebration of the infinite mercy of God. May we thank the Lord for those insights into the depths of His mercy. May we often pray for our beloved dead. May we look forward, in Christian hope, to that great day when we will see them all again.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
November 12, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Patricia Soletro at the
Request of her granddaughters, Kate & Emilia

SATURDAY, November 18

8:00AM – Intentions of Father Alfred Vito

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 19

8:00AM – Deceased Members of the Columbiettes
req. by the Columbiettes

11:30AM – Richard Gray
req. by his wife, Peggy
-Deceased Members of the Columbiettes
req. by the Columbiettes

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,922.00 – Regular Collection – November 5, 2017 +

\$ 270.00 - Online Giving

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,702.00 – Regular Collection – November 6, 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.**

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Bernie Reich at the
Request of his wife, Grace

MONDAY, November 13

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

TUESDAY, November 14

9:00AM – Grace Reich
req. by Margaret Wingle

WEDNESDAY, November 15

9:00AM – Ed Kishel
req. by Dave Ovejero
-Mildred & Bob Walker
On the Occasion of their Wedding Day
req. by Ken & Mary Burkhardt

THURSDAY, November 16

No Mass

FRIDAY, November 17

9:00AM – Grace Reich
req. by Tony & Alicia Batko
-Wanda Wojcik
req. by her sister, Josephine

SATURDAY, Vigil, November 18

4:30PM – Thomas & Barbara Rogers
req. by the Wainwright Family
-Deceased Members of the Columbiettes
req. by the Columbiettes

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 19

9:30AM – Grace Reich
req. by the Columbiettes
-Deceased Members of the Columbiettes
req. by the Columbiettes

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,765.00 – Regular Collection – November 5, 2017 +

\$ 328.00 - Online Giving

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,192.00 – Regular Collection – November 6, 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.**

Please remember in your prayers during the month of November, the deceased members of the Columbiettes: Cordelia Cafone, Gail Collis, Margaret Gibbons, Ginny Monk, Sophie Mugan, Regina Quinn and Grace Reich.



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.

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.



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, 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



Catechist Meeting

A meeting will take place on **Thursday, November 16th** at either **11:00AM or 7:00PM** for your convenience. All catechists are encouraged to attend one of these sessions.

Sacramental Preparation Parents and Children Session

Our Parent Session for all who have children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will take place on **Saturday, November 18th, at 10:00AM at St. Thomas the Apostle Church**. Mrs. Eileen Morgan will be our presenter that morning. It is imperative that at least one parent for each child be present at this session.

Spaghetti with the Saints Thank You

Thank you very much to our parents and their "saintly" children that attended our first ever All Saints Day event. It was a wonderful evening and was enjoyed by all. Thanks also to all of our parishioners who came out to support the children, to all who entered their sauce, to our Columbiettes and others who provided desserts and to Omar Mendez for the music. Special thanks to our Knights of Columbus who worked so hard to set-up, clean-up and provide us with a wonderful meal. We are so very blessed to belong to such awesome parishes!!!



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, November 12th, from 6:00-8:00PM**. All **High School Teens** are invited to OLQP for an evening of fun and friendship! There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!!

St. James Christmas Bazaar – December 2

We are **now accepting** donations of new and like new items for the "Second Time Around" tables. 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, Diane Johnson at 973-293-3306 or Joan Henn 973-293-3690. Let's make this fundraiser a great success!

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is having a fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (flexibility & calm mind) and Pilates (strength & tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Tuesday nights from 6:15-7:15pm for 6 weeks. We started on October 24th**. You may join us at any time. It 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.



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

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. It would take place on a Saturday after Mass (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

After decades of service to our parishes, our diocesan priests have the opportunity to live at Nazareth Village in Chester. A number of our priests reside there while also serving parishes by celebrating Mass. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps support Nazareth Village. Your pledge is a great way to recognize the generous gift of their priestly vocation. Please make a gift to the Annual Appeal today as a way of showing thanks.

Hold the Date – St. Thomas Annual Bake & Craft Sale and Flea Market on Saturday, November 18th 10:00AM – 4:00PM indoors, rain or shine. There will be all kinds of baked goods, crafts and a large flea market.

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



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 12, 2017

“Go instead to the merchants and buy some oil for yourselves.’ While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the doors were locked. Afterwards the others came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us.’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

How often we hear the expression 'this is a wakeup call.' It might call us to study harder, begin a healthier life style, or even to express gratitude for escaping an accident or tragedy.

The parable of Jesus, who many have read this year, is directed to me today. How ready and prepared am I to accompany the Lord, who is walking with me today. The lamp oil is God's grace. Is it burning in me, at this moment? If the battery is low, where can I have it recharged? God's grace we find in the sacraments.

How often we have been offered the example of a door, as opening the door of our hearts to the Lord, or He Himself knocking at the door wanting to enter. He is the gatekeeper. A door allows entrance to another place.

Don't put off applying the parallel to your own spiritual life. It is my wakeup call.

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, November 12, 2017

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, Nov. 13

8:30 a.m. SJC St. James Clean-up Day

7:00 p.m. STC Quarterly Finance Com. Mtgs

Tuesday, Nov. 14

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Wednesday, Nov. 15

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

Thursday, Nov. 16

11:00a.m. REC Catechists' Mtg.

7:00 p.m. REC Catechists' Mtg.

Friday, Nov. 17

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, Nov. 18

10:00 a.m. STC Bake, Craft Fair & Flea Market

4:30 p.m. STC Mass & Confirmation Prep.

Sunday, November 19, 2017

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.)

Next Sunday's Readings: 33rd Ord.

1st Reading: *Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 128*

2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5: 1--6*

Gospel: *Matthew 25: 14--30*

Have your deceased loved ones remembered at every Mass in November. Simply add their names to an All Souls' envelope and place on the altar.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service. This time our Service will be held at the **Delaware Valley United Methodist Church**, on the Layton-Hainesville Rd. in Sandyston. The Minniskink Reformed Church and the Reformed Church of Port Jervis will be joining along with our two parishes. Guest speaker may be someone you know. The Service will be held **on Monday, Nov. 20th, beginning at 7:30 p.m.** Admission will be an item or two of canned goods, which will help to stock our various food pantries. There will be social time and refreshments served afterwards. Plan to join with our fellow Christian neighbors in prayer and thanksgiving to God for all His countless blessings. Let us celebrate all that we share in common.

Advent-Christmas Concert. The **Delaware Valley Choral Society** will again make an appearance at St. Thomas. The date is **Friday, Dec. 1st at 7:30 p.m.** They will offer a variety of Advent and Christmas music and hymns. Tickets are: \$ 15 for adults and \$ 10 for students. Let this concert help you enter into the proper spirit of the season.

Get FORMED for the fall:

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

Recommended at FORMED: "Answering Common Objections: Purgatory" (Audio CD)

As a former Protestant minister, Dr. Scott Hahn knows all too well the disputes between Catholic and non-Catholic Christians. In this series, he carefully examines the most widely held objections and explains how and why they have arisen. Dr. Hahn's powerful presentations will not only show you how to use the Bible to defend the truths of Catholic teaching, but will also give you an invaluable tool for sharing the Faith with others.

Did You Know This: 'Why does Catholic imagery often portray Mary as wearing blue?'

In the ancient world, the color blue was associated with royalty. Beginning around 500 a.d., Mary is displayed in Byzantine art wearing a dark blue mantle, which is a sign of her dignity as queen. The association of Mary with the color blue spread to the West and has continued throughout the ages.

"Prayer is the oxygen of the soul."

--Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina