

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

Happy 50th Anniversary, St. Louis Hospital Orphanage, Bangkok

Did you know that a member of our parishes was the prime mover in organizing and building this children's orphanage in Bangkok, Thailand ?

It all began in 1965 when a young army Sergeant Albert Guensch was assigned service duty in this country during the Viet Nam War. He was assigned to the U.S. Army Strategic Communications Facility in Bangkok, supporting the Joint Military Advisory Group.

He found Bangkok to be a vibrant and bustling blending of ancient temples, palaces and towers with modern 20th century homes, buildings, banks and shops. He observed: "The new and the old stand proudly side by side as though the intermingling of eastern and western civilizations was at last a possibility." The people were easy-going and friendly, and seemed to accept life as it come to them.

Beginning his communications work in Thailand, Al was named Site Chief of three microwave terminals which provided communications throughout Thailand and to the U.S. Embassies at Vientian, Laos and Saigon. Later his duties were increased and he became the Non-Commissioned Officer of Systems Control, in charge of the entire overseas switchboard and message center. This included the installation of a new relay facility being built in nearby Bang Pla. Also, he took charge of installing a satellite terminal receiver site at Bang Ping, also near Bangkok.

During his time there, he became involved in working with underprivileged children. He helped organize a Christmas party for the children and orphans at the St. Louis Catholic Hospital in Bangkok. It was a great success, with happy children receiving presents such as tricycles and wagons, pull-string toys and sports balls, coloring books and crayons. During his work with the children, Al came to know the Mother Superior of the hospital, Sister Dympna. As he became familiar with the overall situation, he asked the Sister a "fatal" question: "What do you most need for these children ?"

Her answer took him aback at first, but then stirred him into action: "We need a building just for the children, so that they can be away from all the sickness and diseases of the hospital."

How could he refuse ? Seeing the living conditions of the poor children, he was determined to do all he could to fulfill her request.

To make a long story short: he went to his superiors and got their permission to proceed. He then began a fund drive to raise \$12,500 dollars for a children's building. He advertised the drive, and went to his fellow soldiers on payday to ask for donations—month after month after month. This, along with help from back home, enabled a good portion to be raised.

Unfortunately Al's 18-month tour of duty ended; but others took up the cause. Finally, on December 9, 1967, two years after that Christmas party, the Saint Louis Hospital Orphanage was dedicated and opened. Fifty years later, it continues to serve children today.

Congratulations, Al, on your great vision and follow-through. It will certainly stand as a silent tribute to your caring and generous and Christ-like spirit.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 3, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of John Cerra at the
Request of his Wife & Children

SATURDAY, December 9

8:00AM – Charlie Lombaerde
req. by his wife, Carol

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 10

8:00AM – Ryan Bubigkeit
req. by his Family

11:30AM – Deceased Members of the Gray Family
req. by Peggy

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,054.00 – Regular Collection – November 19, 2017 +
\$ 235.00 – Online Giving
\$ 627.00 – Regular Collection – November 26, 2017 +
\$ 125.00 - Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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.

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 Spinaplice 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*

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Rosemarie Bastian at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, December 4

9:00AM – Special Intentions
- William Rutkowski
req. by Dan & Luisa

TUESDAY, December 5

9:00AM – Special Intentions
-Jeffrey Wilson

WEDNESDAY, December 6

9:00AM – Deceased Youth & Catechists and
Father Vincent Klim
req. by Mary Flexer

THURSDAY, December 7

No Mass

FRIDAY, December 8

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

9:00AM – Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by The Legion of Mary

SATURDAY, Vigil, December 9

4:30PM – Grace Reich and Michael Reich
req. by Margie Mullins

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10

9:30AM – Grace Reich, Marie Geraci and Robert Leppert
req. by Dawn Hall & Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,997.00 – Regular Collection – November 19, 2017 +
\$ 328.00 - Online Giving
\$2,152.00 – Regular Collection – November 26, 2017 +
\$ 411.00 – Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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, Jim Pantelmo, 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



Symbols of the Season ~ Advent

Advent is rich with sacred symbols. The Scriptures are filled with images of darkness and light, disharmony and silence, waiting and fulfillment. The deep midnight blue or purple that graces our churches indicates that we are in darkness without Christ and also symbolizes the penitential nature of the season. Arrive a bit early at Mass each Saturday or Sunday and look around for the signs and symbols of the season!

The Advent Wreath ~ perhaps the most vivid symbol of Advent, reflects our collective anticipation for Christ our Light to come into the world. Both the circular shape and the evergreen nature are symbols of everlasting life. Each week, another candle is lit, the wreath becomes a little brighter, and we are a little closer to the moment when laid in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes he is born, the Child Divine!

Family Faith Idea ~ Take out your Advent Wreath. On the way home from Mass on the Sundays of Advent, talk about what you heard in the Scripture readings and what they teach us about Jesus. Sunday is always a great day to light your candle(s) each week!



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, December 3rd, 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!!!

Save the Date...Sunday, December 17th, 6:00-8:00PM ~ All High School Teens and 7th & 8th Graders are invited to this event!!! Join us for an Evening of Music by Singer/Songwriter Dan Ferrari, an Inspirational Talk by Youth Minister Stephanie Twedt, Dinner and Desserts and Campfire and Games.



The Religious Education Inclement Weather Policy ~ is that the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather will be announced and posted on www.wsus1023.com. If it is not possible for you to check the internet, you can call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.



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



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

First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2017

“Jesus said to His disciples: ‘Be constantly on watch, stay awake. You do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge each with his own task, and he orders the man at the gate to watch with a sharp eye. Look around you.’”

We begin a new season of grace, the wonderful time of preparing the way of the Lord, recalling His coming in history, His abiding presence among us now, and looking to discover the way He enters our lives. This year we have four full weeks to live advent.

Like the person in Mark's gospel, the Lord has entrusted each of us with distinct, yet important tasks. My work is different from others, and if I fail to do it, it will remain undone. How am I going to begin this time of prayer?

I can make a resolution not to get caught up only with the material things in our consumer oriented society. My prayer with my family, my reflection on the scriptures, will certainly point me in the right direction. As I consider what I am going to do, I want to include others, the elderly, the sick and the poor, those alone or lonely, to make their lives better. They are part of God's gift for me to take care of.

May the closing words of the Bible become my mantra each day, simply repeating three words prayerfully 'Come Lord Jesus.'

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.

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, December 3, 2017

1st Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, Dec. 4

- 11:00 a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers' Mtg
7:00 p.m. STC Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday, Dec. 5

- 10:00 a.m. STC Reflections on Readings
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2
6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Wednesday, Dec. 6

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

Thursday, Dec. 7

Friday, Dec. 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary Patronal Feast day of United States of America

- 8:00 a.m. SJC Mass of Immaculate Conception
9:00 a.m. STC Mass of Immaculate Conception
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
after Mass, till 12 Noon
10:00 a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.
10:00 a.m. STC Moms & Tots Play Group
7:00 p.m. STC Mass of Immaculate Conception

Saturday, Dec. 9

Sunday, December 10, 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. STC Pancake Breakfast after Mass
10:00 a.m. Sacred Ht. Ctr., Newton Conf. I Retreat
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Next Sunday's Readings: 2nd Advent

1st Reading: *Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 85*

2nd Reading: *2 Peter 3: 8–14*

Gospel: *Mark 1: 1–8*

Dec. 8: Feast of Immaculate Conception.

This day celebrates the conception of Mary in her mother's womb, without Original Sin. God saw beforehand that Mary would strive for holiness and that she would co-operate with His plan of salvation. Hence this special gift of being without the stain of sin or separation from God: a fitting vehicle for His Son Jesus to come into the world. The Blessed Mother, under her title "Immaculate Conception" is the **Patron Saint of our nation**. This day is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Masses on **Friday, Dec. 8th will be:**

8:00 a.m. at St. James; 9 a.m. at St. Thomas;
7 p.m. at St. Thomas.

Confessions during Advent. St. John the Baptist warns us to repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand. It's a warning for all time, for the Lord can come at any moment. This Advent Season is a call to penance, and to watchfulness. Make use of this Season in the best way possible: by making a good Confession.

Confessions will be available on Mondays at 7 p.m.—8 p.m. acc. To this schedule:
Mon. Dec. 4—St. Thomas
Mon. Dec. 11—St. James
Mon. Dec. 18—St. Thomas

Get FORMED for Advent:

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

Recommended at FORMED:

Study Program: The Bible and the Virgin Mary:
Lesson 4: "The New Eve"

Choose Your Tree. St. Paul's Abbey, on Route 206 one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n cut. Open 7 days a week from Nov. 24th till Dec. 23; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

They also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, jewelry and more.

St. Patrick's Church, Milford is offering a course: "A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother." Dates: Tues. Dec. 5, 12, and 19. Choice of times: either 12:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. each day. Meets at Office Building, 111 East High St. No registration fee. For more info call: Mr. Ray Proulx at 570-296-7645.