

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



Lord, Enter Our Homes and Be Our Guest

We celebrate today another moment in the beautiful Christmas Season, as we contemplate the three Magi finding their way to the crib of Jesus.

In some cultures, this day, the Feast of the Epiphany (Manifestation) is more truly Christmas than December 25th. That is because on Christmas Day we celebrate that the Savior promised to all Israel has finally been born. Today, we celebrate that this Savior, Jesus, is meant for all the Gentile nations too. The three kings lead the way. The acceptance of these foreigners at the manger of Jesus means that this baby belongs to all of us non-Jews, also. He is meant to be 'Savior of the World.'

They were called 'Wise Men' because they sought out the Lord. May we follow their example and welcome the Lord into our lives. They were known as 'Magi,' because they studied the stars and all creation, and were led to the Creator. May we allow creation to speak to us of its Lord, too. They were thought of as 'Kings,' yet in humility they acknowledged the 'King of Kings.' May we have their humility also, in reverencing the Lord by manner of our lives.

Through long tradition, we know them as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. As the Magi enter the house of the infant Jesus, we ask that the same Jesus enter into our homes. May He always be welcome to stay with us, and have the first place as Guest in our homes.

The Feast of the Three Kings is traditionally a time to bless our homes and to ask the Lord to keep our families together in love and peace.

Take some time today to gather as a family to bless your home. With chalk, write over the doorway: "20 + C + M + B + 18." As you do so, have someone offer the following prayer:

Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless our home, and all who live here. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for each other, and for all, may reflect Your own love. May the wisdom of the Magi be found in us, that we may always seek You. Amen.

May the Lord keep all our families in peace,
Father Wayne

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
January 7, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Terry Naletko at the
Request of his Family

SATURDAY, January 13

8:00AM – Intentions of Michael F. Dunn
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Family

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 14

8:00AM – Antoinette Crysler
req. by Art & Maria Henn
-Julia Olenick
req. by Mike & Linda Spinapolice

11:30AM – Joan Spoolstra
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,230.00 – Regular Collection – December 24, 2017 +
\$ 175.00 - Online Giving
\$4,199.00 – Christmas Collection
\$ 874.00 – Regular Collection – December 31, 2017 +
\$ 250.00 – Online Giving
\$ 165.00 – New Year's Collection 2018
\$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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Tarra Wagner & Donor at the
Request of the Puccio Family

MONDAY, January 8

9:00AM – Father James Gacquin
req. by Mary Flexer
-Stuart & Margaret Bass
req. by Luisa & Dan

TUESDAY, January 9

9:00AM – Intentions of Msgr. John Demkovich

WEDNESDAY, January 10

9:00AM – Grace Reich
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, January 11

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 12

9:00AM – Intentions of Ralph Gioielli
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, January 13

4:30PM – Walter & Theresa Hoffman
req. by the Wainwright Family
-Intentions of Tarra Wagner & Donor
req. by her Parents

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 14

9:30AM – Nelson Hinkley
req. by the Cunico Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$3,949.00 – Regular Collection – December 24, 2017 +
\$ 328.00 - Online Giving
\$7,699.00 – Christmas Collection
\$2,442.00 – Regular Collection – December 31, 2017 +
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$ 946.00 – New Year's Collection 2018
\$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.



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 Spinapolice 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, Thomas Lynch, 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, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh and Joan White



Christmas Season Gratitude!

As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season today with the Epiphany of the Lord, I would like to say thank you to all of you who truly became a "gift" to others! Thank you so much to our high school parishioners Nick Hough and Henry Kabbash who put up our dazzling Christmas tree (and promised to take it down too!), to our first and second grade classes and their catechists for providing such beautiful Christmas Card Ornaments to those in local nursing homes, to our third, fourth and fifth grade classes and their catechists for our "Reverse Advent Calendar" project that supplied so many nice gifts and treats to our homebound parishioners, to Jenna Dispenziere and the Girl Scouts for your gorgeous card and tag sale and for your donation to assist some of our parish families at this time, to all our children who participated and our teens who assisted in the Christmas Pageant and to their parents for their love, support and encouragement of this very special yearly event, to Father Wayne for the prayerful Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony that followed the pageant and to our Knights of Columbus for the awesome idea of the first-ever Christmas Cookie Challenge and to all the parishioners who provided the delicious cookies – and congratulations to our winners Mackenzie Fischer and Julianna VanderPloog!! May the Christ Child continue to bless each of you for your love, compassion and generosity and as the new year begins, may you all continue to use your "gifts" to always give glory, honor and praise to our God. Blessed Christmas

Finding Hope In The New Year

Did you ever see the text abbreviation H.O.P.E.? It means "have only positive expectations" and is a quick way to give someone encouragement. What if we worked on hope as a long term way to exercise our trust in God and joy as Christians with a four part **H. O. P. E.** plan for the year?

Happiness ~ Jesus taught us the way to be truly happy is to live the beatitudes. These eight happiness, or blessing, statements can be found in Matthew 5:3-12 and help us to focus on having the right attitude as Christians. As a family, learn one beatitude each week and choose one way to live out that beatitude this year. For example, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (v.9), come to an agreement that you will avoid loud arguments by making time to talk about disagreements together.

(To be continued. Take Out ~ Family Faith On The Go)

Follow the Pope of Hope!

"If we are faithful to Christ and do good works, we can spread the light of God's hope."~ @Pontifex, Sept. 23, 2017



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.



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

The Epiphany of the Lord January 7, 2018

"You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit,...it was not made known to people in other generations as it now has been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

We hear the story of the visitors from the east, the magi, remember the three gifts and the guidance of the star. But St. Paul offers us something more for our consideration. God in His goodness has sent His Son, for the salvation of all people. Paul explained it clearly, as revealed now.

The 'now' in our time tells us the same awesome and meaningful message. We are 1) Coheirs, - something special is offered to us. 2) Members of the same body – we belong to the Lord and His church, a holy people and 3) copartners, called to do our part as Missionary Disciples.

These gifts have been given to us for our benefit, to be treasured and used for the building of His kingdom.

The Columbiettes are collecting toiletries for women's shelters for the month of January. There is a basket in the Gathering Space.

"SOUP ON A SATURDAY"....St. James the Greater will again be sponsoring a take-out soup fundraiser on **Saturday, January 27, 2018**. Order a quart (or more) of Venison Chili by Art & Maria Henn, Regular Chili by Bill & Joan Henn, Italian Wedding soup by Bill Ricciardi or Pasta e Fagioli by Mike & Linda Spinapolice. Price is \$7.00 per quart. Please get your orders in early as there will be limits on the Venison Chili and the Pasta e Fagioli. You must order in advance by January 21st. Pick up is on January 27th from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at St. James the Greater. Fill out an order form found in the back of the church and place in the collection basket OR give to Bill Ricciardi, Art Henn or Mike Spinapolice. You may also e-mail your order to Bill Ricciardi at wjr218@optonline.net.

St. Thomas Pancake Breakfast will be held on **Sunday, January 14th** in the Father Lewis Center. All are welcome. Come and enjoy a delicious meal!

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, January 7, 2018

Feast of the Epiphany

Three Kings

Monday, Jan. 8

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Tuesday, Jan. 9

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, Jan. 10

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

7:00 p.m. STC Adoration & Rosary with K of C

7:30 p.m. STC Knights of Columbus Mtg.

Thursday, Jan. 11

Friday, Jan. 12

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, Jan. 13

Sunday, January 14, 2018

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC Pancake Breakfast

Next Sunday's Readings: *2nd Ord.*

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 3—10, 19

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 40*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 6: 13—15, 17—20*

Gospel: *John 1: 35--42*

On Line Giving. This modern way of dealing with finances has even caught up with St. Thomas and St. James. Simply reach our website, saintjamesthomas.org. You will find the link to on-line giving. Follow it through and it will easily set you up for weekly or monthly contributions. With our thanks.

Feast of Three Kings. This Feast today celebrates the 'Epiphany' (or 'Manifestation') of the Savior to the whole world. The Three Kings represent all of us who would be considered Gentiles (non-Jews.) The acceptance of these foreigners at the crib of Jesus, shows that He is meant for all.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the conclusion of the Christmas Season. Usually it falls on the Sunday after the Epiphany. Occasionally the Church has to "make it fit" into the larger Liturgical Calendar. Therefore this year it is celebrated on Monday. It remembers Jesus' baptism by John, signifying Him to be of the People of Israel, looking forward to the promises of Salvation by God.

Your Continuing Education: Three great CD's from *Lighthouse Catholic Media*. Driving time or housework time is a great time to grow in your faith. Here are some CD titles available for \$ 3.00 in the gathering space:

1) *Angels Explained.* Why did God create angels ? How are they different from humans ? What you should know about the Nine Choirs of Angels.

2) *Mary: Handmaid of the Lord.* **Mother Teresa** shares her insights on Mary as a perfect model for womanhood and discipleship.

3) *The Seven Secrets of Confession.* Popular Catholic speaker Vinny Flynn explores the "hidden truths" of the Sacrament of Reconciliation., offering a whole new approach to this Sacrament.

Consider Weekday Mass. It's not too late to make a New Year's Resolution !! Start your day in the best way possible, by attending weekday Mass and offering your day to Him. Your joys will be increased, and your troubles lessened, knowing that the Lord is close to you. Weekday Mass is held at St. Thomas each day (except Thursdays) and begins at 9:00 a.m. Join our growing group of parishioners who attend daily Mass and dedicate their day to the Lord. Saturday morning Mass is celebrated at St. James, and begins at 8:00 a.m. Plan now to make it the "extra thing you do for the Lord" in the New Year.

"Let us go forward in peace, our eyes upon heaven, the only one goal of our labors."

-- St. Thérèse of Lisieux, 1873--1897