

# 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**

# Spending Lent in the Mountains



People sometimes speak of “ mountaintop experiences.” They are highlights in a person’s life, moments when the purpose of life becomes clear. Sometimes such moments radically change the life of an individual. Often it describes an experience of God.

The Bible is filled with moments when God and His people meet at the mountaintop. The First Reading spoke of Abraham’s encounter with God on Mount Moriah, where he was assured to become the father of many nations. Elijah was hiding in a cave on Mount Horeb when he experienced God as a soft, whispering breeze. Moses finds God in the mountains, while tending sheep, when the burning bush spoke to him. And later it was on Mount Sinai that he received the Ten Commandments from God. Jesus likewise gave us the Beatitudes (“Blessed are the poor in spirit...” ) while preaching the Sermon on the Mount.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus invites Peter, James and John to accompany Him up Mount Tabor as He looks for a quiet place for prayer. In those moments the apostles experience Jesus in a new way—as Elijah and Moses appear—and the voice of the Father proclaims: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.”

That experience surely opened the eyes of the apostles, as they witness Jesus momentarily transfigured in glory. With clothes whiter than white, and His face glowing like the sun, this glimpse of Jesus’ full identity would be crucial for them in the days ahead. As Jesus is condemned and crucified, this momentary mountaintop experience would sustain them until the Resurrection.

Lent is meant to be a “mountaintop experience” for us, too. It is meant to be an opportunity to glimpse God’s purposes as we move more deeply into prayer. It can be a glimpse of God’s power and beauty in the world around us and in the people around us, as we open our eyes more widely to these blessings. And we can be vehicles to express God’s own power and love by our actions of love and concern. His infinite patience and forgiveness can be experienced by others in our attempts at these things.

And remember that each reception of Holy Communion is a receiving of the same Jesus who was transfigured on the mountaintop. May we ask the Lord to transfigure us more closely into His image. During this Lenten Season, may God the Father be able to say of each of us: “This too is my beloved son and daughter, in whom I am well pleased.”

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
February 25, 2018

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the Intentions of Richard W. Pullis at the Request of his daughters, Lisa & Laura

**SATURDAY, March 3**

8:00AM – Richard W. Pullis  
req. by his wife, Ann

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 4**

8:00AM – Pearle Kohol  
req. by Ann & Richard Dilger

11:30AM – Eugene & Rosalie Mauro  
req. by their Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,093.00 – Regular Collection – February 18, 2018 +**

**\$ 145.00 – Online Giving**

**\$ 301.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$1,227.00 – Regular Collection – February 19, 2017**

***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.**



**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*

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Jozef Sz wajkiewicz at the Request of John & Maria Babon

**MONDAY, February 26**

9:00AM – Intentions of Denise Chichelo  
req. by Pete & Pat Lane

**TUESDAY, February 27**

9:00AM – Bernie Reich  
req. by Peggy & Bob Reich  
-Intentions of Amy VonDerHeiden  
req. by Pete & Pat Lane

**WEDNESDAY, February 28**

9:00AM – Joseph Lukasik ~ 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
req. by his mom, Marie  
-Walt Lukasik  
req. by his mom, Marie

**THURSDAY, March 1**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, March 2**

9:00AM – Mary Galavage  
req. by Mary Burkhardt

**SATURDAY, Vigil, March 3**

4:30PM – Richard W. Pullis  
req. by his daughters, Lisa & Laura

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 4**

9:30AM – Anne Rossillo  
req. by Chris & Diane Sarao  
-Kazimiera Sz wajkiewicz  
req. by John & Maria Babon

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$2,148.00 – Regular Collection – February 18, 2018 +**

**\$ 328.00 – Online Giving**

**\$ 545.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$2,083.00 – Regular Collection – February 19, 2017**

***Consider a gift to St. Thomas 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.**

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

Margaret Accordino, James Brittain, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Betty Lacovara, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Joseph Ligammari, Thomas Lynch, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Kathy McConnell, Brian McKenna, John Meehan, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Robert Organes, 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



### **The Sacred Season of Lent**

The Gospel Reading on the First Sunday of Lent (Mark 1:12-15), helps us understand the beginning of Jesus' ministry. What lesson lies here for us? Lent is a time of preparation and renewal of self. We cannot give what we do not have! We need to take time over these next 40 days and allow God to show us where we need to change and give us the courage and conviction to act on those changes. This give and take is part of the flow of life and one of the greatest lessons of Lent.

**Pretzel Prayers** ~ Long considered a Catholic food of lent, pretzels date back at least 1,400 years. Because fat, eggs and milk were once part of the Lenten abstinence, these little bites of bread made only with flour, salt and water were invented. They were wrapped in the shape of arms crossed in prayer and the three holes created by the shape represented the Trinity. Traditionally, pretzels were perfect to share with people who were struggling for food or living on the streets because they didn't spoil easily. Make your own pretzels as a family and share them with someone in need in your neighborhood or community. Happy, Holy Lent.

### **Stations of the Cross**

**Children I Grades 1 and 2** will have their class on **Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:15PM at St. Thomas Church.** While there, we will pray the Children's Stations of the Cross and enjoy a bowl of soup from the generosity of our Columbiettes.

### **Family Faith Formation – “A Walk through the Holy Land” with Father Wayne**

**Grades 6 – 10, Parents, Sponsors and Parishioners** are invited to join us on **Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM at St. Thomas Church** as Father Wayne relives and shares his Anniversary Ordination trip to the Holy Land. The presentation will last about an hour, followed by some “Holy Land Cuisine” in the Father Lewis Center.

### **Confirmation II Final Retreat**

Please keep the teens of our parishes in your prayers as they participate in their final retreat on **Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in April.

### **Sacramental Preparation Parent/Child Session**

Our Parent/Child Session for all who have children preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist will take place on **Saturday, March 10 at 10:00AM at St. Thomas Church.** Mrs. Eileen Morgan will be our presenter that morning. It is imperative that at least one parent and child be present at this session.

### **Faith Talk for Families – 25 Years of the Catechism of the Catholic Church**

“By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.” ~ CCC, No. 540

~ What can you do over the next several weeks to show people Jesus lives in you?

~ What will you do this Lent as an outward sign of repentance?



### **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](http://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.

### **40 Cans for Lent**

The Msgr. Gacquin Council of The Knights of Columbus from Sandyston and Montague are encouraging participation in a Lenten Preparation Program that began in 2011 in Helotes, Texas.

While Christian based, it is entirely non-denominational. The program is open to those of all beliefs and most especially to those with no belief. All that is required is the desire to help others.

### **The Program is simple.**

Collect one can of food per day during the 40 days of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday, and then one extra can per person on Easter Sunday. Drop off your cans at any time throughout the Season to ANY church, organization or charity that collects and distributes food to those in need.

Designated drop-off locations are preferred, but God doesn't care as long as it gets to the people that need it.

**The Columbiettes** are collecting toiletries for women's shelters until the end of February. There is a basket in the Gathering Space.

**The Columbiettes** are looking for new members. Please call Pat Lane if you are interested at 973-300-1954. We look forward to welcoming you.

### **Yoga-lates at St. Thomas**

A new session begins on **Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00pm.** Keep your New Year's Resolutions by coming in for a class. Keep your body and mind active and de-stressed! Yoga is for peace of mind and flexibility and Pilates is for strength, good posture and core muscles. The session will run for 8 weeks on Tuesday nights. Come try a class for \$6.00 each or \$45.00 for the 8 week session. 20% of proceeds goes to the parish. Bring a mat, hand held weights and a friend. Come try out Yoga-lates!

# 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, February 25, 2018

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

- 9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8
- 2:00 p.m. REC “Catholicism”series (till 3:30 p.m.)

## Monday, Feb. 26

- 7:00 p.m. SJC Confessions (till 8:30 p.m.)

## Tuesday, Feb.27

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

## Wednesday, Feb. 28

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

## Thursday, Mar. 1

### Friday, Mar. 2

- 10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.
- 7:00 p.m. STC Family Faith Formation:  
“A Walk through the Holy Land”
- 7:00 p.m. SJC Stations of the Cross

## Saturday, Mar. 3

- 10:00a.m. Confirmation II Retreat at  
Sacred Heart Center, Newton

## Sunday, March 4, 2018

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

- 11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.
- 2:00 p.m. REC “Catholicism”series (till 3:30 p.m.)

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## Next Sunday’s Readings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent

- 1st Reading: Exodus 20: 1—17
- Resp. Psalm: Psalm 19
- 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 22--25
- Gospel: John 2: 13--25

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**FORMED.org** is your ticket to a wide selection of DVD’s, audio C.D.’s, movies and study programs on our faith. Free to you as a parishioner, our parish code is: **HCVWQC**. The password is: **formed**.

## “Welcome Home”: Reconciliation during Lent.

As in past years, every Catholic Church in the Diocese will be open for Confessions **every Monday of Lent, from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.**

With our situation, Confessions will alternate between our two churches. The full schedule will be as follows:

- Mon. Feb. 26 St. James      Mon. Mar. 5 St. Thomas
- Mon. Mar. 12 St. James      Mon. Mar. 19 St. Thomas
- Mon. Mar. 26 St. James

“Catholicism” ;a D.V.D. series exploring our faith is being viewed **each Sunday of Lent at 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Religious Ed. Center.** All are welcome as Bishop Robert Barron, author and theologian, takes us around the world to help us understand better the doctrines we believe. It’s a perfect way to grow in the knowledge and appreciation of our faith.

## Pizza Night with Bishop: This Tues. Feb. 27.

All young men of our parish are invited to join with Bishop Serratelli in an evening to think about their future. The date is **Tuesday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at Pope John H. S. in Sparta, beginning at 7 p.m.** The Bishop will speak, there’ll be time for prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and then unlimited pizza! No commitments will be taken, but you will be asked to think about what plans the Lord may have for you. Please speak to Fr. Wayne or call the Office to count you in. Parents are welcome too.

**C P R Course.** Our Knights and Columbiettes are teaming up to offer a course in **C P R Training** to all who would attend. This course will instruct you in how to possibly save a life if someone goes into cardiac arrest. **The place will be the Father Lewis Center at St. Thomas. Date still to be determined.**

At present, the Knights and Columbiettes would like to know how many would be interested. Please fill out the form below, or take one from the Gathering Space at Church. Return forms to the Parish Office, or drop into the next collection basket.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone /Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_