

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

What's a Covenant ?

Some scholars tell us that the clearest way to understand the whole Bible—is to understand the concept of “Covenant.” And our First Reading this week gives us the chance to see how important the idea of “Covenant” is for our faith.

Not an old-fashioned concept from the past—it is as current as today. You yourself are involved in covenants already, even if you don't realize it. Think of your best friend. “Friendship” is one kind of covenant. Nowhere did you sign any papers to enter this covenant. And it is not up for renewal in five years. But you are nevertheless involved in a covenant relationship with your friend. Simply by mutual, perhaps unspoken agreement, you put this friendship into effect. It exists and is real, and you both know it. And it demands from each of you: honesty, loyalty, respect and the readiness to “be there” when your friend needs you.

Marriage likewise is a covenant. Two people promise to love and support each other for a life-time. Marriage doesn't start at the negotiating table, but at the altar table—before the Lord. These promises thus, are sacred.

Jeremiah in the First Reading, reminds the Jewish people that God was anxious to form a covenant relationship with them. *“I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”* God would promise to remain with them always, to protect them from enemies and to guide them into the future, and to fill their lives with peace. They, on their part, were called to recognize Him as their only God, and to obey His commandments. It would be a mutually satisfying relationship. Unfortunately, through the centuries, the people broke their part of the covenant, over and over again.

In time, Jesus Himself came to renew this covenant relationship. Jesus would make the covenant permanent through His death. On the cross, being God, Jesus expressed God's commitment to His people to the end. As man, He offered faithfulness to the Father to the end. These two sides of the “new and eternal Covenant” meet on the cross with Jesus' death. On the cross, in Jesus, the everlasting promises of both sides of this covenant were made.

This Covenant relationship between the Lord and humankind is renewed with each and every Mass. That is why each Mass is so crucial for the world, and why we must be there to renew it. We do our part each time we come together to celebrate God's love in the Eucharist. This love is passed down from generation to generation by the continuous celebration of the Mass. Think about it—if the Mass ever ceased to be celebrated, the Covenant relationship which Jesus brought by His suffering and death—would be lost.

Each of us is crucial for this relationship to continue and to thrive. May we make the week-end Mass our first priority—that we may do our part to enable God's sacred Covenant relationship with the world to continue.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 18, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Dom & Agnes Giordano at the
Request of their Family

SATURDAY, March 24

8:00AM – Barbara Gioielli
req. by her Family

PALM SUNDAY

March 25

8:00AM – Pearle Kohol
req. by Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi

11:30AM – Frank & Jane Varga
req. by their Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,847.00 – Regular Collection – March 4, 2018 +
\$ 145.00 – Online Giving
\$1,083.00 – Regular Collection – March 11, 2018 +
\$ 245.00 – Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,958.00 – Regular Collection – March 5, 2017
\$1,024.00 – Regular Collection – March 12, 2017

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 Kenneth R. Benson at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, March 19

9:00AM – Intentions of Joan Strehl
Mass of Thanksgiving
req. by Dan & Luisa

TUESDAY, March 20

9:00AM – Frank Kelly
req. by Diane & Jim Campbell

WEDNESDAY, March 21

9:00AM – Don Martin
req. by his Family

THURSDAY, March 22

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 23

9:00AM – Robert Hagerman
req. by his mom, Grace

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 24

4:30PM – Jerry & Judy Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family

PALM SUNDAY

March 25

9:30AM – Helene Ventrudo
req. by Aldo Greyez
-Intentions of John Gibbs
req. by Pete & Pat Lane
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,469.00 – Regular Collection – March 4, 2018 +
\$ 353.00 – Online Giving
\$2,180.00 – Regular Collection – March 11, 2018 +
\$ 411.00 – Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,358.00 – Regular Collection – March 5, 2017
\$2,670.00 – Regular Collection – March 12, 2017

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 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, James Brittain, Peg Coates, 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, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, 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



Last Sessions for Grades 6-10

Final session for Confirmation Candidates is **Saturday, March 24th** at 4:30PM Palm Sunday Vigil Mass until 7:15PM. We will meet at the REC immediately following Mass and then proceed with our Emmaus Walk. Final session for Grades 6, 7 & 8 is **Sunday, March 25th** at 9:30AM Palm Sunday Mass until 12:30PM. Our middle school students are encouraged to attend the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday when they are presented by our Confirmation Candidates. **(PLEASE NOTE: Rehearsal will take place on Sunday, March 25th from 1:00PM – 2:30PM.**



Catholic Teens

Join us for a special St. Patrick's Day celebration **TODAY, March 18th** from 6:00PM until 8:00PM at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish. The evening will include an inspirational talk, dinner, desserts and games. Bring a friend and plan on having a great time celebrating the great St. Patrick!!!

The Mass of the Lord's Supper

This beautiful Liturgy will be celebrated on **Thursday, March 29th**, at St. Thomas Church at 7:00PM. **All First Eucharist and Confirmation II Candidates** are encouraged to participate in the **Foot Washing Ritual**. This is a very special way to celebrate your sacrament year. The sign-up sheets will be in the back of St. James and in the Gathering Space at St. Thomas or call the Parish Office at 973-948-2296.



Our youth and teens were once again invited to participate in the diocesan **Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program**.

Through Operation Rice Bowl, they will learn about the challenges facing the lives of their brothers and sisters around the world, as well as in their own diocese. Your children were asked to bring their Rice Bowls home, keep them in a place where they can see them and contribute to the program, learning the values of sacrifice and generosity to those in need. Rice Bowls will then be returned after Easter.



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1st

An Easter Egg Hunt for all children of the parishes (yes, 7th and 8th graders, you too!!!) will take place immediately following the 9:30AM Mass on Easter Sunday on the Great Lawn at St. Thomas. We will provide the "Easter Bags" or you can bring your own basket.



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.

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

Reflections on the Readings

Father Wayne will lead us in scripture study each Tuesday morning after Mass in the Father Lewis Center. All are welcome. Please join us.

Yoga-lates at St. Thomas

A new session began on **Tuesday, February 27th 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. **You may join us at any time**. 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!

HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening, May 4th, St. Thomas will be hosting our Annual Tricky Tray. If you are interested in assisting our committee in any way, please call Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092. All volunteers are welcome.

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, March 18, 2018

5th Sunday of Lent

- 11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg
- 2:00 p.m. REC “Catholicism”series (till 3:30 p.m.)
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Mtg. at O.L.Q.P.

Monday, Mar. 19

- 11:00a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers’ Mtg.
- 7:00 p.m. STC Confessions (till 8:30 p.m.)
--with Taize music

Tuesday, Mar. 20

- 10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings
- 4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2
- 6:00 p.m. STC Yoga-lates
- 7:00 p.m. REC Men’s Prayer Group

Wednesday, Mar. 21

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

Thursday, Mar. 22

Friday, Mar. 23

- 10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.
- 7:00 p.m. STC & SJC Stations of the Cross

Saturday, Mar. 24

- 8:00 p.m. STC Indoor Flea Market (till 2 p.m.)
- 4:30 p.m. STC Conf. Mass & Emmaus Walk

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Palm Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8
- 1:00 p.m. STC Living Stations rehearsal
- 2:00 p.m. REC “Catholicism”series (till 3:30 p.m.)

Next Sunday’s Readings: Palm Sunday

- 1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4--7
- Resp. Psalm: Psalm 22
- 2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6--11
- Gospel: Mark 14: 1--15: 47

FORMED.org Free to you as a parishioner, our parish code is: **HCVWQC**. The password is: **formed**.

Holy Week and Easter are upon us. We hope that you will make the time to attend the Masses and Services which commemorate our very salvation.

Our schedule for the Holy Days is as follows:

Palm Sunday: Masses at regular times.

Holy Thursday: *Mass of the Lord’s Supper*,
--at St. Thomas, 7 p.m.

Good Friday:

Service of Our Lord’s Passion and Death,
--at St. James, 3:00 p.m.

Living Stations of the Cross, --at St. Thomas,
7:30 p.m. presented by our Confirmation students

Holy Saturday:

Blessing of Easter Baskets, at St. Thomas, 12 Noon
The Easter Vigil, at St. Thomas,
beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Masses: at regular times

“Welcome Home” Reconciliation during Lent. Every Catholic Church in the Diocese will be open for Confessions **every Monday of Lent, from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.**

Our remaining schedule is as follows:

Mon. Mar.19 St. Thomas Mon. Mar. 26 St. James

“Catholicism” the D.V.D. series concludes today, at the Relig. Ed. Center, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will consider the “last things:” heaven, purgatory, hell and the Second Coming of Christ. All are welcome.

Lenten Quote of Pope Francis:

“Being Christian is not just obeying orders but means *being in Christ*: thinking like Him, acting like Him, loving like Him. It means letting Him take possession of our life and change it, transform it and free it from the darkness of evil and sin. ... Let us show the joy of being children of God, the freedom that living in Christ gives us: which is true freedom--the freedom that saves us from the slavery of evil, of sin and of death.”

Recommended by FORMED.org for Lent:

Glimpses Along the Way of the Cross

--by Msgr. James P. Shea

A Lent to Remember: a Lenten Encounter with Mercy

Is Religion a Crutch ? --Catholic Answers