

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

“Peace be with you.”

John 20: 19

It's tempting to stay short-sighted when we think about these words of Jesus to His apostles. It's tempting to link our peace with the events of our day. If things are going well, we are at peace. But the moment one of life's trials comes along, we lose our peace.

Jesus experienced all the emotions we experience, both the good and the bad. He showed love and tenderness to a woman who washed His feet. He showed disappointment with the Pharisees who flaunted their religiosity. He was especially compassionate towards the crowds that followed Him, and He was surprisingly angry with the money-changers in the Temple. He applauded people's generosity, and He hated to see anyone suffering.

Yet for all of these different emotions, one thing remained constant: Jesus always held onto His peace. That's because the peace that Jesus had was not about things going His way. His peace was about knowing that His Father was always with Him, and that God would always be faithful to His promises.

It's ironic, isn't it? We can lose our peace, not only when things go wrong, but even when things are going our way. We can forget about God. We can begin to rely only on ourselves and end up feeling proud and self-righteous. And this kind of self-reliance can lead to a downward spiral of agitation and insecurity.

The peace that God offers us is rooted in knowing that we are loved by Him, forgiven by Him, and saved by Him. So when things are going your way, be sure to remain peaceful by thanking God for all of your blessings. And when you are feeling angry, resentful, or bitter, take those feelings to the Lord and ask Him to help you.

Love everyone. Seek what is best and just for everyone. Seek the Lord each day, and He will help you. *“Let the peace of Christ control your hearts”* in every situation. (Colossians 3: 15)

**“Lord, help me to hold onto Your peace
at all times and in every situation.”**

--from: *The Word Among Us*
Easter 2018

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
April 8, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Rosemarie Bastian at the
Request of her husband, Andy

SATURDAY, April 14

8:00AM – Intentions of Liam Donahue

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 15

8:00AM – Amy Bavoso
req. by Linda & Mike Spinapolice

11:30AM – Frank Morgiewicz
req. by Viola Gaweki

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

**\$3,900.00 – Easter Collection – April 1, 2018 +
\$ 150.00 – Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$3,932.00 – Easter Collection – April 16, 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.**



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 Aurelia Szlosowski at the
Request of her Daughter

MONDAY, April 9

9:00AM – Szigmond Varga
req. by his Family

TUESDAY, April 10

9:00AM – Onofrio Damone
req. by his sister, Frances Demalderis

WEDNESDAY, April 11

9:00AM – Intentions of Sandy Matthews
Birthday Celebration
req. by the Wedemeier Family

THURSDAY, April 12

No Mass

FRIDAY, April 13

9:00AM – Helen & Frank Moreski
req. by Cecelia Smith & Family
-Aracelia & Miriam Arniella
req. by their Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, April 14

4:30PM – Joseph & Margaret Devine
req. by the Rosanelli Family
-Louise & Rudolph Hoffman
req. by the Wainwright Family

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 15

9:30AM – Cresencia Miranda
req. by Gerry Mahon & Family
-Angela Gleason
req. by Gerry Mahon & Family

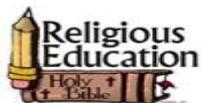
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

**\$6,872.00 – Easter Collection – April 1, 2018 +
\$ 353.00 – Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$8,370.00 – Easter Collection – April 16, 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.**

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



Celebrate the Easter Season

For Catholics, Easter isn't just a single day of celebration – it's an entire season where we celebrate our new life in Christ. Just like Christmas, Easter is celebrated for an extended period of time – 50 days to be exact! The feast proper is celebrated for the full octave (Easter Sunday through Easter Saturday). Then we enter Eastertide, the longer Easter season which ends on Pentecost Sunday. During these fifty days of Easter, we relive the joyous events of the Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary – the Resurrection, Ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles at Pentecost. There are many ways you can make Eastertide a very special time of year for you and your family. Here are three easy ways to make the most of the Easter season this year:

Spread the Easter Cheer ~ If you haven't done so already, continue to send Easter cards, surprise your children with Catholic Easter gifts that go beyond peeps and chocolate bunnies and greet people with a simple "Happy Easter" as a way of reminding them that the season lasts 50 days!

Decorate the House ~ Spring and resurrection go together. Keep fresh flowers on your tables as a sign of the Resurrection of Jesus and a sign of hope in our own resurrection.

Increase Your Devotion ~ The fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday is a great time to pray to the Holy Spirit to pour into your own life just as it did on Mary and the Apostles. The beautiful, simple prayers of the Novena to the Holy Spirit are a great way to foster devotion specifically to the Holy Spirit this Easter season. Also, today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Attend the service at church and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00PM – the hour of Divine Mercy!

With these simple ideas, hopefully you can enjoy the Eastertide in a new and special way with your family and friends. (Taken from the Catholic Company)



Our diocesan **Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program** has come to an end. Please start to return your Rice Bowls to the Religious Education Center or to the box/basket at Church. Thank you for your spirit of generosity and compassion to our brothers and sisters in need throughout the world.

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. Help make this fundraiser a success by donating a tray. All trays should be left in the conference room at St. Thomas no later than April 30th to allow time for displaying them properly. Thank you for your cooperation.



Lent and Easter Thank You's

As we continue to celebrate this beautiful season of Easter, I would like to thank all of those who gave of their time, talent and treasure to our Religious Education Program over these past several weeks: to the Knights of Columbus for the Mardi Gras and Family Rosary and to the Columbiettes for the Children's Stations of the Cross and Soup Suppers. To Father Wayne for his interesting presentation on his trip to the Holy Land and to Patricia Hope for the refreshments that followed. To the teens and children who participated in the Holy Thursday Foot Washing, to the Confirmation Candidates for their prayerful portrayal of the Living Stations of the Cross and to John Burgos for his beautiful musical accompaniment and to Mark and Donna Lewandowski for the delicious dinner. To John and Jennifer Lucadamo for providing the Easter Egg Hunt and to all of the devoted Catechists of our parishes for their weekly selfless gift to the children and teens in sharing their faith and serving in this very essential ministry. To the parents and grandparents for your ongoing dedication to the spiritual formation of your children and grandchildren and to Father Wayne and Deacon Wayne for their always holy and loving presence to us each and every day, especially through the Sacraments of the Church. Joyous Easter to all.



For all those who have inquired, a Memorial Mass for John (Johnny) Brehm, Jr. will take place on Saturday, April 14th at 11:00AM at St. Vincent DePaul Church, 101 St. Vincent Dr., Milford, PA. As a loving gesture from our parish family, we would like to help Sue with her son's funeral expenses. If you would like to do so, please give your monetary gift to Mary Flexer or bring it to the parish office. Thanking you in advance for your generosity always.

Also, a Memorial Mass for Helen Lotorto will take place on Saturday, April 28th at 4:30PM at St. Thomas Church followed by a light Repast.

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.

The next St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner will take place on **Saturday, April 14th** in the Father Lewis Center immediately following the 4:30PM Mass. As always, members of both churches are welcome. This is an opportunity for families in both parishes to come together and enjoy friendships and hospitality. It is also an opportunity to meet new parishioners as well as old friends. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering space or call the parish office. Pot luck dinners are free; just bring a dish to share.

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, April 8, 2018

Divine Mercy Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass
- 9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass
- 11:30a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass
- 3:00 p.m. STC Divine Mercy Prayers

Monday, Apr. 9

- 7:00 p.m. STC Finance Council Mtg: (St. James)
- 7:45 p.m. STC Finance Council Mtg: (St. Thomas)

Tuesday, Apr. 10

- 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, Apr. 11

- 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, Apr. 12

Friday, Apr. 13

- 10:00a.m. STC Adoration of Bl. Sac. (till Noon)
- 10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.
- 1:00 p.m. STC Montague Seniors' Mtg.

Saturday, Apr. 14

- 4:30p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner (after Mass)

Sunday, April 15, 2018

- 11:00a.m. SJC Columbiettes' Mtg

Next Sunday's Readings: *Divine Mercy*

- 1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 10: 34, 37--43*
- Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 118*
- 2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 5: 6--8*
- Gospel: *John 20: 1--9*

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

Recommended by FORMED.org:
Divine Mercy: The Second Greatest Story Ever Told.

Divine Mercy Sunday. We center our attention this Sunday on the merciful goodness of God. It is His beneficence offered to all who humbly call upon it. Among the things that Easter reveals to us—is God’s endless mercy. We dwell upon this great hope today, which has evolved into this more recent celebration of *Divine Mercy Sunday*. Our schedule for honoring this great truth is:

- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Adoration of the Bl. Sac.**
Confessions available
- 3:00 p.m. Prayers of the Divine Mercy Chaplet**

Congratulations to our Confirmation Young People. Thirteen of our young parishioners received the Holy Spirit last Thursday as they were anointed by Bishop Serratelli in Confirmation. The anointing is a sign of their being chosen by the Lord to be His apostles today. The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit were given to them so that they may lead the happiest and most effective lives possible. May they always allow the Holy Spirit to lead them in His ways.

Saint James Church*** 75th Anniversary!

This year marks the anniversary of the beginning of **Saint James the Apostle Parish**, as it was known at the beginning. Founded in 1943, the first Masses were celebrated at the farmhouse of Elizabeth Stoudt and daughter Anna, on River Road by Fr. John Hewetson, founding pastor. More info to follow.

- Among our activities this year:
- a 75th Anniversary Calendar, available now
- the raffle of a hand-made red oak and glass Wine Cabinet, valued at \$ 1400.
- Anniversary Mass and Brunch on Sun. July 22
- other events in-between

“Do Not Be Afraid.” These words are spoken to the shepherds at the beginning of Jesus’ life, and they are spoken to the women at the tomb, first by the angel, then by Jesus Himself: *“Do not be afraid.”* Do not be afraid of life in all its beauty and all its messiness; do not be afraid of death in its many disguises—perhaps the death of a beloved friend or family member, the death of a dream; or the overwhelming deaths that come as a result of disaster or war. We live in a Good Friday world, and yet we proclaim that love is bigger than any grim, bleak, terrible thing that Good Friday can throw at us. The bad diagnosis, the heartbreak, the tornado, even the funeral, is not the last word. **“Lord, fill us with the hope, courage and faith of Easter.”** -*Celebration*, April 2014