

# 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**

# Earth Day, 2018



*The first Earth Day was observed on April 22, 1970. I was in my 4<sup>th</sup> year of seminary-college and our major was philosophy. That day was a Wednesday, and all of the professors, in all of our classes that day, centered their lectures on the theme of the earth, the environment, and our Catholic faith. It was a very interesting and thought-provoking day which I never forgot.*

*For Christians, Earth Day is seen through the perspective of God's creation: "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth ..." Genesis 1: 1. We see creation as God's first handiwork, and we humans as given the task of stewards, to enjoy and protect and build upon all that God has begun.*

*Pope Francis, in his second encyclical, Laudato Si, spoke of the crucial importance of caring for the environment. Here are a couple of excerpts from his teaching:*

## **1) An opening quote from St. Francis of Assisi:**

"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord." In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life, and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs."

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. (1-2)

## **2) Environmental destruction comes from the same evil that leads to social destruction: moral relativity**

The social environment has also suffered damage. Both are ultimately due to the same evil: the notion that there are no indisputable truths to guide our lives, and hence human freedom is limitless. We have forgotten that "man is not a freedom which he creates for himself. Man does not create himself. He is spirit and will, but also nature." (6)

## **3) The Pope's appeal to the world: we all must work together to protect our planet**

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. ...

Regrettably, many efforts to seek concrete solutions to the environmental crisis have proved ineffective, not only because of powerful opposition, but also because of a more general lack of interest. Obstructionist attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. We require a new and universal solidarity. ... All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. (14)

## ***A Prayer for Our Earth***

**All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.**

**Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.**

-- Pope Francis

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
April 22, 2018

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Muriel Kennel at the  
Request of her Family

**SATURDAY, April 28**

8:00AM – Intentions of Katelyn Donahue

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 29**

8:00AM – Josephine Yarosz  
req. by Art & Maria Henn

11:30AM – Emily Blickweidel  
req. by her Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

\$ 671.00 – Regular Collection – April 15, 2018 +  
\$ 100.00 – Online Giving  
\$ 325.00 – Additional Easter  
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

*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 Spinapolicce 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 Mavis Kaufman at the  
Request of her Family

**MONDAY, April 23**

9:00AM – Josephine Yarosz

**TUESDAY, April 24**

9:00AM – Owen Barr (9<sup>th</sup> anniversary)  
req. by his daughter, Mary Flexer  
-Intentions of Michael Toth  
req. by his Mom

**WEDNESDAY, April 25**

9:00AM – Walter Stoklosa  
req. by his daughter, Julia Jensen  
-John Kerrigan  
req. by the Gorman Family

**THURSDAY, April 26**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, April 27**

9:00AM – Josephine Yarosz  
req. by Janice Cerra

**SATURDAY, Vigil, April 28**

4:30PM – Helen Lotorto

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 29**

9:30AM – Father Gerald Lewis  
req. by Mary Flexer  
-Jerry & Judy Wainwright  
req. by the Wainwright Family  
-Intentions of the First Communicants

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

\$1,629.00 – Regular Collection – April 15, 2018 +  
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving  
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

*Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.*

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**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, Doug Kabbash, 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



### The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist

Please keep the 20 children of our parishes in your prayers as they will receive the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Jesus in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the very first time on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00AM and 1:00PM Masses. **Rehearsal Reminder: Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM for those receiving at the 11:00AM Mass and 7:00PM for those receiving at the 1:00PM Mass.**

### On This Day We Celebrate ~ April 23 ~

#### St. Giles of Assisi

He was St. Francis' best friend. Talk to your bff today!

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

“The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by His death, Christ liberates us from sin; by His Resurrection, he opens for us the way to new life.” ~ CCC, No. 654

### Catholic Summer Camp 2018

Once again, we invite and encourage your children entering Grades K through 4 to join us for a week of fun, learning the faith through music, prayers, games, skits, arts & crafts and friendship! Catholic Summer Camp will be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Branchville on Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM until 12 noon. You may begin the Online Registration at [www.olqpbranchville.org](http://www.olqpbranchville.org) under the Religious Education tab or forms may be obtained at the OLQP parish office from 9:00AM until 2:00PM. The requested fee for students in Grades K through 4 is \$25.00 for one child or \$30.00 Family fee for 2 or more. Register early because space is limited. For more information, please call Mary at 973-948-7004.



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

### HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening, **May 4<sup>th</sup>**, 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 30<sup>th</sup> to allow time for displaying them properly. Thank you for your cooperation.



A Memorial Mass for Helen Lotorto will take place on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 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.



### **A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS**

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

#### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 22, 2018**

“Peter filled with the Holy Spirit said: ‘Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was done in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in His name this man stands today before you healed... There is no salvation through anyone else.’”

When people inquire where they should begin reading the bible, I suggest a great place is in the Acts of the Apostles, and in particular the kerygmatic sermons of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. They are clear and concise statements about Jesus, His passion and resurrection, and through the Spirit are the source of the enthusiasm as the two great preachers tell of their reason for preaching.

It was not much earlier that Peter denied and Paul persecuted those who were curious and seeking. That is what we are about as we reflect on His Word Today and every day – we are desirous of knowing and loving Jesus better, and as we do, we serve as His witness.

The great sermons, the announcement or proclamation give meaning to our lives as disciples and are the call to others to come to Jesus.

# 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 22, 2018

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

12:45p.m. SJC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mtg.

## Monday, Apr. 23

## Tuesday, Apr. 24

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

## Wednesday, Apr.25

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

## Thursday, Apr. 26

6:00 p.m. STC 1st Holy Communion rehearsal

## Friday, Apr. 27

10:00a.m. STC Adoration of Bl. Sac. (till Noon)

10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.

## Saturday, Apr. 28

11:00 a.m. STC 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion: St. Thomas

1:00 a. m. SJC 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion: St. James

## Sunday, April 29, 2018

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. STC Crowning of Bl. Mother at Mass

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## Next Sunday's Readings: 5<sup>th</sup> Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 9: 26--31*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 22*

2nd Reading: *1 John 3: 18--24*

Gospel: *John 15: 1--8*

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

**Recommended by FORMED.org:** In honor of St. Gianna Molla, 1922—62 (Feastday April 28)

**Read:** *Divine Mercy, Episode 9, Mary's Knight*

**Welcome Fr. Michael Snyder, M.M.** to our 9:30 a.m. Mass. Fr. Snyder is a priest of the Maryknoll Missionaries. He will speak to us of his work and experiences after 20 years in Tanzania. You can greet him personally at the Coffee Hour right after the Mass.

**First Holy Communion.** Pray for the 21 young children of our parishes who will be receiving their First Holy Communion on Saturday. May it be a very special day for them and their families. May this day be the beginning of a life-long relationship of trust and companionship with Jesus our Lord.

**On Line Giving.** This modern way of dealing with finances has even caught up with St. Thomas and St. James. It is an option we hope you will consider.

For those who do their banking and pay bills through the computer, we are set up to accept on-line donations to the Sunday collection. Simply reach our website, [saintjamestomas.org](http://saintjamestomas.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.

## Saint James Church \*\* 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Planning meeting today: 12:45 p.m. in the St. James Church Hall. All are welcome to join us and help.

*Back in the Day:* In letters to the Bishop of Paterson, the Most Rev. Thomas H. McLaughlin discusses various tracts of land being considered for a new Catholic Church in Montague. Father Hewetson, pastor in St. Bartholomew's Church in Lafayette, identifies several tracts on River Road, including part of the Staudt farm. Father H. identifies thirty possible Catholic families, all residing within a four-mile section of River Road.

**The Original Red Cross.** Imagine the sorrow Saint Camillus de Lellis' mother felt when she dreamt her son would wear a red cross, which was the sign of a death sentence in 16th-century Italy. Her dream came true, but not in the way she feared. After a colorful life, Camillus felt called to serve the sick, founding the Order of Clerks Regular, Ministers of the Infirm, better known as the Camillians. With cassocks marked with a large red cross, they helped wounded soldiers on the battlefield, saving countless lives and transforming the red cross into a sign of charity and service for sick people everywhere.