

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

The Inspiring Words of Mary

As we enter into the month of May, we Catholics naturally think of our Blessed Mother. This seems to be her month, as well as being the month of all mothers, as we anticipate the second Sunday of this month.

Mary and motherhood go naturally together. Mary speaks four times in the Gospels; each time is connected with her role of Mother of the Lord.

One of her occasions of speaking is the beautiful hymn known as the Magnificat ('My soul magnifies the Lord.') In this hymn, Mary reveals what is deepest in her heart. It is a spirit of infinite gratitude for all that God has done for her—and for her people, Israel. She perceives God's plan of salvation unfolding, and gladly takes up the role that God asks her to play in His plan.

May we all breathe in Mary's spirit of faith, and confidence, and assurance that God's plan is for the best. In following her example, we give her the greatest honor. Here below is a version of Luke 1: 46–55, the Magnificat.

And Mary said:

*“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior
For He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.*

*From this day all generations will call me blessed:
The Almighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name.*

*He has mercy on those who fear Him
In every generation.*

*He has shown the strength of His arm;
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.*

*He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
And has lifted up the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty.*

*He has come to the help of His servant Israel,
For He has remembered His promise of mercy,
The promise He made to our fathers,
To Abraham and his children forever.”*

And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 6, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Rose Reed at the
Request of her Family

ASCENSION OF THE LORD
THURSDAY, May 10

8:00AM – Joan Spoolstra
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, May 12

8:00AM – Intentions of Jessica Mailett

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 13

8:00AM – Marcjanna Klimkiewicz and Dorothy Sandberg
req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

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

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,038.00 – Regular Collection – April 29, 2018 +
\$ 135.00 – Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$ 962.00 – Regular Collection – April 30, 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 Louis R. Briegel at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, May 7

9:00AM – Porfiria Gomez
req. Dan & Luisa

TUESDAY, May 8

9:00AM – Johnny Brehm
req. by St. Thomas Parish Family

WEDNESDAY, May 9

9:00AM – Intentions of Timothy Peterson
-Josephine Yarosz
req. by her Family

ASCENSION OF THE LORD
THURSDAY, May 10

9:00AM – Cordelia Cafone
req. by her Family
-Intentions of Denise McGee and Roger Nelson
req. by Pat & Pete Lane

7:00PM – Leonie Flaskamp
req. by her Family

FRIDAY, May 11

9:00AM – Josephine Yarosz
req. by Dan & Luisa

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 12

4:30PM – Kathy Sweeney
req. by the Barr Family
-William Lange
req. by his wife, Terry

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 13

9:30AM – Laura Damone
req. by her daughter, Frances Demalderis
-Maria Sousa
req. by the Sousa Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,006.00 – Regular Collection – April 29, 2018 +
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,149.00 – Regular Collection – April 30, 2017

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

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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, 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



Why We Pray To Mary

As we begin the beautiful month of May, our thoughts and hearts turn towards our own mothers, but also to Our Blessed Mother.

Praying to Mary is a common Catholic way of lifting our thoughts to God. When we ask for Mary's intercession, we actually are asking her to take our prayers to God, and who can be considered closer to God than his own mother. The Hail Mary includes the line, "the Lord is with thee," recognizing that intimate connection to Our Lord.

Praying to Mary is similar to praying to the saints. When we lift our prayers to heaven, we actually are asking those in heaven to pray for us, which is like asking family and friends to pray for us when we need support for challenges that face us.

"If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon Our Lady – just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.'" ~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

Catechist Gratitude

We are so, so very grateful to the following faithful men and women of our parishes who unselfishly gave so much of themselves to the children and teens of our parishes over the past months and ask you to keep them in prayer: Rita Straka, Marie Mendez, Megan Jaust, Patrice Kealy, Chris Higgins, Stephanie Pierson, Cathy McNanna, Sharon Falchetta, Mike Bussow, John Lucadamo and Dan and Lucy O'Keefe. Also, to our devoted Teen Aides: Jake Hickey, Maggie Nicole and Emilia VanderPloog. Today, we celebrate and thank them all with Mass and a Family Breakfast to follow. Special thanks also to our Pastor, Father Wayne, and Deacon Wayne for all they do for us! Our catechetical and evangelization efforts are possible because of the selfless love and dedication of each and every one. Also, please consider answering your baptismal call through the Ministry of Catechesis (Catechist or Aide). It is so very rewarding – just ask any of us! Just call the Religious Education office if you may be feeling called by Our Lord to serve Him in this very significant way. May all of our catechists, children, teens and their families enjoy a safe, happy and holy summer!

On This Day We Celebrate – May 10 – Ascension Thursday

On this glorious holyday, read Acts 1:6-11, then serve whipped cream for dessert to represent the clouds in the Ascension story!

Calling All Middle School/Junior High and High School Parishioners

By now, you should have received information in the mail about these two exciting events! Middle School/Junior High and High School teens are invited to the Annual NJ Catholic Youth Rally at Great Adventure on Sunday, May 20th and High School Teens are invited to the Diocesan Pilgrimage to our newly-renovated Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson on Sunday, June 10th. Bishop Serratelli has asked that each parish be represented at both of these events!

We will be traveling by bus to Great Adventure with teens from Our Lady Queen of Peace, Branchville and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Swartswood. **I need to register you ASAP, so please respond TO ME by TODAY (PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER ON LINE).** If you are going to the Youth Rally, I will need a check for \$50.00 payable to St. Thomas Church. **Also, please RSVP to me ASAP regarding the pilgrimage too!**

Calling all Children from Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

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 25th through Friday, June 29th from 9:00AM until 12 noon. You may begin the Online Registration at 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.

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.

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, May 6, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

11:30a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

Monday, May 7

11:00a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers' Mtg

Tuesday, May 8

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

Wednesday, May 9

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

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

Thursday, May 10

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

8:00 a.m. SJC Ascension Thurs. Mass

9:00 a.m. STC Ascension Thurs. Mass

7:00 p.m. STC Ascension Thurs. Mass

Friday, May 11

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, May 12

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

Sunday, May 13, 2018

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 6th Easter

1st Reading: Acts of Apostles 1: 15-17, 20-26

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 103

2nd Reading: 1 John 4: 11--16

Gospel: John 17: 11b—19

Feast of the Ascension. Ascension Thursday falls this week. It is an essential part of the Easter Season and celebrates Jesus' reunion with the Father. It marks the moment that the Apostles finally and clearly understood that Jesus, their friend and teacher, was truly God's Son. Before He ascends, Jesus commissions the apostles to spread the Good News of God's love, and to keep His name alive until He returns. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation** for us, and Masses to celebrate this day will be as follows:

8:00 a.m. at St. James; 9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas; 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas.

St. James Clean-Up Days. Get out and enjoy the nice weather and get some exercise too ! St. James is asking for parishioner help as we collaborate with the Sussex Co. Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program. Clean-Up Days are **Mon. May 14 and Mon. May 21**—at 8:30 a.m. (or whenever you can get there). Let's make St. James Parish sparkle for our 75th Anniversary !

Children's Garden to support Food Pantry.

This month we are planning to place a small container garden with spring vegetables along side the Father Lewis Center. The garden will be tended by children following the week-end Mass, and the vegetables grown will be available to families who utilize the Food Pantry. If you have ideas, time or materials to contribute to this project, please call or text Jane Farrell at 970-670-6077.

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

Recommended by FORMED.org: Listen to: **This Changes Everything** by Ted Yasinski. Many religions make contrasting claims about Jesus. Even different Christian denominations can't decide what they believe. So how do we know what's true? In this talk, Ken Yasinski gets to the heart of the issue by looking at what Jesus said about himself and the impact this has on

On-Line Giving. 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, **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.