

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 Birth of John the Baptist

“What, then, will this child be?”

Luke 1: 66

We can ask that question of every child who is born. Each new-born is a mystery of talents and abilities and a future that is unveiled as time goes on. Each child comes into this world with a purpose and a vocation that is given by none other than God Himself. We are called to help each child to discover his or her unique place in this world, and to help them make the most of the opportunities that God gives them.

Today, June 24, celebrates the birth of St. John the Baptist. The only child of the elderly Elizabeth and Zechariah, John would become known as “the last prophet of the Old Testament and the first prophet of the New.” John carried forward the teachings of Isaiah and the other prophets, but also announced the arrival of Savior to whom all those other prophets pointed.

John prepared the people for their salvation by calling them to renounce the past sin in their lives and to reform. His baptism was a bath in water, meant to symbolize the washing away of sin and a cleansing of their spirits. This would be the way they would be prepared to recognize the Savior when He came: with new eyes and a new vision. We hear his words at the beginning of Lent (and Advent) as he calls us also to “Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.”

We celebrate his birthday today, exactly six months before Christmas Eve.

Here is a Prayer from the Vatican on the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist:

O glorious Saint John the Baptist, greatest prophet among those born of woman, although you were sanctified in your mother’s womb and led a most innocent life, nevertheless it was your will to retire into the wilderness, there to devote yourself to the practice of austerity and penance.

Obtain for us the grace to be wholly detached, at least in our hearts, from earthly goods, and to practice Christian mortification with interior recollection and with a sincere spirit of prayer. Thus may we always be prepared to receive our Savior. Amen.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
June 24, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of John Cerra at the
Request of his Children

SATURDAY, June 30

8:00AM – Muriel Kennel
req. by her Family

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 1

8:00AM – Eric Cerra
req. by Joan McKean

11:30AM – Ann Lamb
req. by her daughter, Peggy Gray

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 922.00 – Regular Collection – June 17, 2018 +
\$ 225.00 – Online Giving
\$ 217.00 – Missions & Overseas Relief
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,355.00 – Regular Collection – June 18, 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.



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. 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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Albert L. Dunn at the
Request of his sister, Rosie

MONDAY, June 25

9:00AM – Father Joseph Ryan
req. by Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, June 26

9:00AM – Michael Tiefenworth
req. by Frances Demalderis

WEDNESDAY, June 27

9:00AM – Raffaella DiScala and Mary Santonocito
req. by Dan & Luisa Mantini

THURSDAY, June 28

No Mass

FRIDAY, June 29

9:00AM – Ann Lamb
req. by her daughter, Peggy Gray
-Intentions of Michael Toth
req. by his Mom
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

SATURDAY, Vigil, June 30

4:30PM – Edward & Marie Hoffman
req. by the Wainwright Family

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 1

9:30AM – Josephine Yarosz
req. by Joyce Simpson

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,084.00 – Regular Collection – June 17, 2018 +
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$ 498.00 – Missions & Overseas Relief
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,401.00 – Regular Collection – June 18, 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, Loretta Bauman, James Brittain, Peg Coates, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Sofia Evelich, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Doug Kabbash, Betty Lacovara, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, 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, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh and Joan White



Nativity of St. John the Baptist – Feast Day: June 24th

In the tradition of the Catholic calendar, only three individuals are celebrated on their birthdays: Jesus, Mary and St. John the Baptist. John was a relative of Jesus. Mary visited Elizabeth, her relative, before the birth of Jesus. John is sometimes called John the Forerunner because he prepared the way for Jesus. John preached a baptism of repentance for sin and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan just prior to Jesus' public ministry. John condemned King Herod for marrying his brother's wife and, at the wife's insistence, Herod had John beheaded.

In his memory: Renew your baptismal promises, read the beginning of the Gospel of John and take a trip to our diocesan Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson – it is named in the honor of this great saint!!!



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **TODAY, Sunday, June 24th, from 6:00-8:00PM**. All High School teens **and those who are entering High School in September** are invited to OLQP for an evening of fun and friendship! There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!!

Registrations for 2018/2019 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children and teens for the upcoming catechetical year were mailed out. **Please return by July 31st** to avoid the late fee.

Parents of children entering first grade (unless they have a sibling here and can be included on the mailed out registration form), new children to the parish or children enrolled in Catholic school or home school who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist or Confirmation must call the Religious Education Office to register. To enroll your child(ren) in the parish program, you must be a registered and participating member of the parish.



“For I now the plan I have for you.”

Declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” ~Jeremiah 29:11

Congratulations to all who are graduating from Elementary School, Junior or Senior High School, College or Graduate School. May you know of the love, prayers and best wishes of many who are praying for you to continue to seek the help of God as you move forward to different schools or career opportunities. May you always call on the Holy Spirit for His gifts to help you make decisions which will always give glory, honor and praise to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Columbiettes

Our Seminarian, Tom Costello, Jr., the son of Cindy and Tom Costello, is in preparation for the priesthood. The Columbiettes are sponsoring funding towards his education in this most holy endeavor. There are containers placed in both parishes. We appreciate any donations that are given. We thank all parishioners in advance and especially thank Father Wayne for his encouragement in this endeavor.

PLEASE NOTE that there will be no 8:00 AM Coffee Hour at St. James for the months of July, August and September. We will resume in October. Have a nice summer.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist June 24, 2018

“From this man’s descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded His coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals on His feet. My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent.’”

The church celebrates the birth of three persons – Mary, Jesus and John the Baptist. We spend time with John, especially during advent, recalling his conception, the meeting of his mother with Mary, and his ministry in the desert, preparing the way of the Lord. St. Paul today, in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, helps us focus on the role of John.

He was a ‘herald’ announcing the coming of the Messiah, an arrow pointing out the One he would call the ‘Lamb of God.’ The church today is the herald of the Good News. In the ‘Joy of the Gospel’, Pope Francis points out that the kerygma, the announcement or proclamation of the Good News is vital for us today. We are to be like John the Baptist, announcing, being the herald that we have salvation in the person of Jesus Christ. ‘Hear ye, hear ye.’

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, June 24, 2018

The Birth of St. John the Baptist

12:45p.m. SJC 75th Anniv. Luncheon Mtg.

Monday, June 25

9:00 a.m. STC Sussex Co. Senior Services

7:00 p.m. STC Church Calendar Meeting

Tuesday, June 26

10:00a.m. STC St. Thomas Bikers Gang

Wednesday, June 27

Thursday, June 28

Friday, June 29

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

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

Saturday, June 30

8:00 a.m. STC Flea Market

Sunday, July 1, 2018

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1:00 p.m. STC St. Thomas Parish Picnic

--on the Great Lawn

Next Sunday's Readings: 13th Ord.

1st Reading: *Wisdom 1: 13–15; 2: 23--24*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 30*

2nd Reading: *2 Corinthians 8: 7, 9, 13--15*

Gospel: *Mark 5: 21–43*

On Religious Liberty:

"[Religious] freedom remains one of America's most precious possessions. And, as my brothers, the United States Bishops, have reminded us, all are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it."

- Pope Francis

The New Church Calendar for 2018--19 is ready to be presented for review. A meeting to unveil our masterpiece will be held tomorrow, **Mon. June 25, at 7 p.m. at the Fr. Lewis Center.** A rep from each group is requested to attend to work out any conflicts. Light refreshments will be served.

St. Thomas Parish Picnic Next Sunday. Plan to join us for our annual picnic on the Lawn Sunday, July 1. There will be food, music, games for the kids and a nice relaxing afternoon for all. It all begins at 1 p.m.

Saint James: Our 75th Year. Our 75th Anniv. Mass and Luncheon will take place on **Sunday, July 22nd.** Mass will be at 11:30 a.m., followed by Luncheon at High Point Golf Club Banquet Center at 1:30 p.m. Tickets for Luncheon are \$ 18 each or two for \$ 35. Tickets are available after Masses or through the Parish Office.

St. Thomas Bikers' Gang starts up its 5th season of leisurely bike rides throughout the area. It is a great way to get some exercise and to see the sights. Open to all, we meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. We start up on Tues. June 26. Join us.

The Fortnight for Freedom. This two-week period, started by the American Bishops, has begun for this year, on June 21st. As we prepare to celebrate the liberties won during the American Revolution on July 4th, these days preceding have become a chance to reflect upon our freedoms, and to re-dedicate ourselves to preserving them. Among them, and basic to us, is our Freedom of Religion. The **Wall of Separation between Church and State** was never meant to suppress religion. It is meant to suppress the State from imposing any state-sponsored religion upon the citizenry. It is up to us to be vigilant and keep our freedom of religion strong. During these days we thank God for our freedoms, and also pray for guidance for our nation.

Quo Vadis Days: for young men, 15–25. A great chance for young men to think about their future life's direction. This informal retreat will take place at the **Saint Mary's Abbey Retreat Center**, 230 Mendham Road, Morristown. The dates are **Wed. June 27–Fri. June 29.** The cost is **free.** Call the Office of Vocations 973-777-8818, x 711 for more information.