

# 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**

# **“Get behind me, Satan !”**

Mark 8: 33

Try to imagine the look on Peter’s face when Jesus rebuked him. He must have gone from a beaming smile to a forlorn frown--in a split second.

Did Peter love Jesus when he said: “You are the Christ” (Mark 8: 29) ? Yes! Did he love Jesus when he urged Him to avoid the cross ? Yes! Peter loved Jesus with his whole heart on both occasions, even though the first response came from God, and the second one didn’t.

If it was hard for the great Saint Peter to recognize the difference between godly truth and ungodly temptation, what hope could there possibly be for us ? Sure, there are times when it’s not hard to spot the influence of the devil. But what about those times when we feel we are being sincere and honest, but we’re still wrong ?

What about those times when we say something out of a good motivation, but it ends up being the wrong words at the wrong time ?

The first thing we need to do is admit that we don’t always get it right. We’re going to make mistakes and hurt people, even when we have good intentions. There will even be times, humbling though they may be, when our good intentions end up serving devilish purposes. Praise God for His mercy and patience !

Second, we need to know that the Holy Spirit wants to teach us how to live. Saint Paul tells us that no matter how inscrutable the wisdom of God may be, “we have the mind of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 2: 16). This means that we really can learn how to discern spiritual things.

Over time, Peter learned how to discern God’s voice. He learned how to sort through his intentions and be a clearer instrument of God’s grace. We can too. Just keep telling yourself: “I have the mind of Christ. I believe that the Holy Spirit is my Guide.” With this little statement of faith, you can develop the gift of discernment.

**Lord, show me Your ways  
so that I may discern Your Will.**

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

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 16, 2018**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Ray Sorg at the  
Request of Lorraine

**SATURDAY, September 22**

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

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 23**

8:00AM – Bill Waters  
req. by Mike & Linda Spinapolice

11:30AM – Frank DiBennardo  
req. by Jose Cabrera

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 752.00 – Regular Collection – September 9, 2018 +**  
**\$ 231.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$1,722.00 – Regular Collection- September 10, 2017**  
**\$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.



**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 Altar & Floral 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 in  
Memory of Deloris Spinks at the  
Request of her Family

**MONDAY, September 17**

9:00AM – Dolores Record  
req. by Dan & Luisa

**TUESDAY, September 18**

9:00AM – Edward West  
req. by Dan & Luisa

**WEDNESDAY, September 19**

9:00AM – Intentions of Deacon Wayne  
Birthday Celebration

**THURSDAY, September 20**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, September 21**

9:00AM – Intentions of Michael & Rose Gorman  
Marriage Blessings  
req. by Kathleen & James Gorman

**SATURDAY, Vigil, September 22**

4:30PM – Patrick Sheridan  
req. by Harry & Mary Dunleavy

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 23**

9:30AM – Mary "Betty" Bothe  
req. by George Keshish  
-Kathleen Norman  
-Deacon Joe Malanga

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,344.00 – Regular Collection – September 9, 2018 +**  
**\$ 406.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$2,638.00 – Regular Collection – September 10, 2017**  
**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

*Consider a gift to St. Thomas 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.**

**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, Gomez Family, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Doug Kabbash, Betty Lacovara, Bernadette Lang, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, John Meehan, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Richard Nowicki, Robert Organes, Jim Pantelmo, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Nicole Perry, Flo Puccio, Sal, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, John Sikora, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Richard Vergona, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh and Joan White



### **Registrations for 2018/2019 Catechetical Year**

**All late re-registrations must be brought to the Religious Education Center ASAP. No re-registrations will be taken the first week of classes (Sept. 15-19). Please call 973-948-7004 if you have any questions or concerns.**

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.

### **Children's Liturgy Of the Word**

We celebrate C.L.O.W. for the month of September on the Sundays of: 23 and 30. We ask that the children listen actively for the Celebrant's invitation to come forward to be blessed as quickly as possible so that the Mass may continue reverently and smoothly. All adult parishioners are welcome to experience the Word with the children. Should you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

### **Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry**

We will begin our ministry again on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center on the first and third Mondays of the month from 11:00AM until 1:00PM and are always ready to welcome new members!

**The St. James Annual Spaghetti Dinner** will be held on **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM**. Bring your own drink. Take outs are available. Adults: \$12.00, Children under 12: \$6.00 and Children under 6: Free. Tickets will be available after 8:00AM and 11:30AM Masses on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup> or by calling or texting Bill Ricciardi at 845-341-3686 or by emailing to [wjr218@optonline.net](mailto:wjr218@optonline.net). Sit-down tickets will be limited to 100.

### **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.

### ***2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal Here I Am, Lord!***

Over the years, more and more parishioners have chosen to support the Bishop's Annual Appeal by making an on-line gift. Simply go to [www.2018appeal.org](http://www.2018appeal.org) and follow the instructions. You can either make a one-time gift or a pledge with monthly payments made automatically for your convenience.

**The St. James Altar and Floral Society** will hold their annual Mum sale after Masses on **Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Congratulations** to Deirdre Burgos and Al Guensch on receiving the *Vivere Christus* (To live is Christ) Award from Bishop Serratelli at the St. John Cathedral in Paterson last Sunday. The Award recognizes someone from each of the parishes of our diocese who offer continuing service to their parish throughout the year. Deirdre represented St. Thomas and Al represented St. James. Congratulations to them both. And my thanks to all who help us in all our parishes' needs.

### **Men's Prayer Group**

All men of our parishes are invited to come together for a special hour of prayer and reflection. Our **Men's Prayer Group** meets monthly, on the **third Tuesday, from 7:00pm till 8:30pm at the Religious Education Center**. It is a time to get away from the regular distractions and cares of life, and to reflect upon where the Lord is in our lives. This special time can help to deepen our commitment to the Lord and to our families and responsibilities. Try it once. And see if you don't leave—more at peace and assured of God's love for you.

## 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, September 16, 2018

#### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

##### Catechetical Sunday

9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

### Monday, Sept. 17

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

### Tuesday, Sept. 18

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

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

7:00 p.m. REC Men's Prayer Group

### Wednesday, Sept. 19

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

### Thursday, Sept. 20

### Friday, Sept. 21

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

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

### Saturday, Sept. 22

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

### Sunday, September 23, 2018

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC Children's Lit. of the Word

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#### Next Sunday's Readings: 25<sup>th</sup> Ord.

1st Reading: Wisdom 2: 12, 17–20

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 54

2nd Reading: James 3: 16–4: 3

Gospel: Mark 9: 30–37

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

**Recommended by FORMED.org:**

Watch: *Y Disciple: Just for Parents*

A great resource for parents to have meaningful conversations with their teenager about faith, moral decision making, and the important things in life.

**Parents' Night Out.** We will be holding a special evening for parents on **Mon. Sept. 24, at the Religious Ed Center.** It begins at 7 p.m. and continues till 8:30 p.m. It will be an informal evening, with wine & cheese refreshments, a short prayer service, followed by a short presentation of issues in parenting. It is meant to be a chance for parents to compare notes and discuss matters important to them. Theirs is the most important task in the world: that of raising the next generation. We want to offer them a chance to discuss issues of mutual concern, and to offer tips about raising precious children in today's world. Please call the Parish Office (948-2296) or the RE Office 948-7004 to let us know that you'll be there.

**The Relics of Padre Pio** will be visiting our diocese this month. Two parishes of our area will be hosting the relics:

**Thurs. Sept. 20** St. Peter the Apostle Church, Parsippany, from 8:30 a.m. till 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 14** Our Lady Queen of Peace, Branchville, from 8:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

*"The tradition of honoring the relics of the saints is a rich part of our Catholic heritage. While we ask for their powerful intercession, there have been many blessings and conversions that have come through devotion to these saints. Those who attend are encouraged to bring articles of devotion (rosaries, holy cards, pictures of loved ones, etc.) which may be touched to the reliquaries as a means of intercessory prayer."* Bishop Serratelli

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is a perfect way of honoring our Lord, who came to the earth 2000 years ago, and who remains among us in this Sacrament. It is a chance to become quiet in God's presence and open your heart and mind to His love. During this time He can speak to you most clearly. Important decisions can be made; serious problems can be thought out—under His guidance. Adoration is held at St. Thomas Church every Friday, from 10 a.m. till 12 Noon. Use this precious time to make a visit, or even a Holy Hour. It could be the best hour of your week.

A Family of our parish is in desperate need of a car or minivan. Theirs is in need of too many repairs and is actually undependable to drive. If you know anyone who could possibly donate a car, please call the parish office. We could supply a statement for tax purposes.