

# 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](http://www.tristatepregnancy.org) 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.

**Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish**

# My Lord and my God !

(John 20: 28)

Sometimes we get labeled, whether justly or unjustly. This is certainly the case in today's Gospel Reading. Jesus had appeared to the apostles, but Thomas had not been with them. When the other apostles told him that Jesus had come to them, he couldn't accept it. Even though they had been together for three years, Thomas still doubted them.

The Gospel of John is filled with expressions that give honor to Jesus. Some people spoke of Jesus as a great prophet. Others called Him a teacher. Still others addressed Him as the Christ (the Anointed One) or even the Son of God. But it was the Apostle Thomas—the one who has forever been labeled as “the doubter”—who first proclaimed Jesus to be “my Lord and my God.” (John 20: 28) In the words of biblical scholar Fr. Raymond Brown, Thomas made “the most complete affirmation of Christ's nature to be found on the lips of anyone in the Gospel.”

*My Lord and my God !* Every miracle Jesus performed, be it the healing of the man who was lowered through the roof, the healing of the blind Bartimaeus, or the raising of Lazarus, points to these four words. Every teaching Jesus gave, be it the Sermon on the Mount, the Parable of the Prodigal Son, or the Golden Rule, points to these four words. Every revelation of God's mercy and love points to who Jesus is and how He wants us to see Him.

This story about Thomas tells the story of every believer in the history of the Church. Thomas represents each of us when we say, “I find it hard to believe.” Just as Jesus rejuvenated Thomas' faith, He wants to rejuvenate ours when we are caught up in doubt. He wants us to be like Thomas—a people who overcome our very human and very natural doubts. He wants to help each one of us say, “Jesus, You are my Lord and my God.”

So today and all week long, proclaim these four precious words. Then watch to see how His grace will help you believe even more.

***“Jesus, You are my Lord and my God !”***

--from: *The Word Among Us*  
Easter Season 2016

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**April 3, 2016**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Eugene & Rosalie Mauro at the  
Request of their Family

**SATURDAY, April 9**

8:00AM – Marilyn Shea  
req. by her Family

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 10**

8:00AM – James Mudrick  
req. by Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi

11:30AM – Helen Briegel  
req. by her Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$5,102.00 – Easter Collection – March 27, 2016**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$5,644.00 – Easter Collection – April 5, 2015**

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

**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*

**TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:**

Margaret Accordino, Mary Cunico, Rachel Gibbs, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Kimberly & Baby Macie, Bill Lange, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Cathy Moyer, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner and Thomas Walsh

**Jesus Heals**

The Healing Service at St. James is postponed until the Spring of 2016. If you have any questions, please call Deacon Wayne at 973-293-3344.

**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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Ralph & Anna Gioielli at the  
Request of their Children

**MONDAY, April 4**

9:00AM – Nancy DeFelippo  
req. by Ken & Mary Burkhardt

**TUESDAY, April 5**

9:00AM – Anthony M. Gallo  
req. by George Abboud  
-Robert Morsell  
req. by Tom Jaust

**WEDNESDAY, April 6**

9:00AM – Janice Duke  
req. by Emrick & Luann Seabold

**THURSDAY, April 7**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, April 8**

9:00AM – Mary Siracusano  
req. by Tony & Alicia Batko

**SATURDAY, Vigil, April 9**

4:30PM – Helen Holod Poch  
req. by Lou & Dolores Avenatti

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 10**

9:30AM – James McGill and Joan VanderPloog  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$6,624.00 – Easter Collection – March 27, 2016**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$6,508.00 – Easter Collection – April 5, 2015**

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



**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.



### A Fifty-Day Celebration

Easter tide, or the Easter season, stretches for 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples). The Easter season is marked by the joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection and the Church as witness to his resurrection. The Sunday readings change during this season; the Old Testament reading is replaced by stories of the early disciples evangelizing in the Acts of the Apostles. So keep greeting everyone with "Happy Easter," as your way of evangelizing too! Joyous Easter!



Alleluia He is Risen!!! We have come to the end of our Lenten journey, and the diocesan *Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program* also comes to an end. **All Operation Rice Bowl almsgiving must be turned in at the Religious Education Center or to the container located in either church by April 10<sup>th</sup>.** Please make any checks payable to your parish. Thank you all for your spirit of prayer, compassion, self-sacrifice and generosity towards those in need.



### Save the Date!!!

A special **Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage** is being planned for our Middle-school and High-school parishioners to the Diocesan Holy Door at Holy Rosary Church/Shrine of Saint John Paul II in Passaic on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, so....save the date! We will be traveling to Passaic with Stocker Bus at a cost of \$10.00 per person. We will be leaving the Religious Education Center at 10:45AM, attending the 12:30PM Mass at Holy Rosary, having a quick packed lunch, then a tour of the church, shrine and Holy Door. We expect to depart by 3:00PM. More information will follow in the mail to parents. **After our RSVP date, if there is room on the bus, parishioners are very welcome to join us.** Please call Mary at 973-948-7004 if you are interested in being put on the waiting list.

**St. Thomas History – Bishop Thomas H. McLaughlin officiated at the opening Mass held July 6, 1941 at the St. Thomas the Apostle Mission chapel – the former Hainesville schoolhouse. Mass was then initially celebrated in Hainesville on every Sunday & Holy Day from Memorial Day to the first Sunday in October.**



### Mother's Day Plant Sale

St. James Church will be having a plant sale on Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>, after both Masses. Remember that "special lady" in your life on her "special" day. There will be 10" and 12" assorted hanging baskets while supplies last. Prices vary depending on the size and type of flower you choose.

### 2016: St. Thomas 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

Good Deed Journaling. All parishioners are invited to make note of the good deeds they perform during the course of the day. There are little notebooks on the table in the Gathering Space. Please take one and use it as a personal diary to record the good deeds you perform for the Lord each day. You may surprise yourself. These notebooks are for your personal use only, and can be a wonderful offering to the Lord of your time well spent for His honor and glory.



### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golf Outing???

It has been suggested to the Anniversary Planning Committee that perhaps it would be nice to plan a Golf Outing. This would most likely take place late summer or early fall. If anyone is interested in participating in this event, please call Mary at 973-948-7004. The number of participants will help us to decide on the golf course. Also, if you are interested in assisting with this event, just let us know!

**The next St. Thomas 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year meeting will be Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> after the 4:30pm Mass. This is a change from the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting that was set to take place.**

**SAVE THE DATE:** On Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00PM in the Father Lewis Center, the Columbiettes will be having a dance with great music provided by "KOZ THE DJ". Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at either church after Masses or through Rosemarie, the parish secretary. Join us for a night of fun. Hotdogs, Sauerkraut, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea will be served. BYOB. Checks made payable to Msgr. James F. Gacquin Auxiliary #12974.

### HOLD THE DATE

**The St. Thomas Tricky Tray** will take place on **Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.** More information will follow.

### Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is offering a **Spring** fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Tuesday** nights from 6:15-7:15pm for 8 weeks **starting April 12<sup>th</sup>.** **You may join us at any time.** The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for only \$40.00 or pay \$6.00 per class. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to St. Thomas parish. So, please try it out and do something for yourself. Any questions, please call Chris Dube at 973-948-2329.

## 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 3, 2016

#### Divine Mercy Sunday

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

9:30 a.m. STC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Begins  
-- Coffee Hour

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

3:00 p.m. STC Divine Mercy Chaplet

### Monday, Apr. 4

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

### Tuesday, Apr. 5

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

### Wednesday, Apr. 6

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

### Thursday, Apr. 7

9:30 a.m. REC Moms & Tots Play Group

### Friday, Apr. 8

9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
after Mass, till 12 Noon

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

1:00 p.m. STC Montague Seniors Mtg.

### Saturday, Apr. 9

### Sunday, April 10, 2016

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

#### Future Events

Sat. Ap. 23 STC Spring Dance

Fri. May 6 STC Annual Tricky Tray

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#### Next Sunday's Reading: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 5:27-32; 40-41*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 30*

2nd Reading: *Revelation 5: 11 -- 14*

Gospel: *John 21: 1 -- 19*

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## 2016: St. Thomas' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations begin today, April 3<sup>rd</sup> with a **"Kick-Off Coffee Hour"**. It will take place **after the 9:30 a.m. Mass**, There are displays and photos and memorabilia from the 'good old days.' Our thanks to Alicia Batko and Sharon Spangenberg for all their detective work in piecing together our history.

Older parishioners are encouraged to write down their memories so that we can include them in future Bulletins. Other events of the year will be published soon.

## Congratulations to our Confirmandi !

Yesterday 13 of our young people received their Sacrament of Confirmation at a Mass with Bishop Serratelli. They joined young people from Mt. Carmel in Swartswood and St. Jopseph's in Newton, for the Service at St. Joseph's. Pray that our young people will always allow the Holy Spirit to work within them, giving them Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and a reverent Fear of the Lord.

**The Year of Mercy** continues. It is emphasized today as we celebrate 'Divine Mercy Sunday.' It is a time to thank the Lord for the boundless mercy which He extends to all of us. The Prayers of the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** will be recited at St. Thomas Church at **3 p.m. today**. Please join us.

## Announcing: Our Parishes' Website.

Launched and operational just recently, we proudly announce our Website:

**[saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org)**

It is powered by E-Catholic, and is linked (we think) with the other churches and agencies of the Diocese of Paterson. We hope to have all events and news available continually.

## Next Week we will welcome: Fr. Michael J.

**Goodavish** of the Catholic organization *Food for the Poor*. He will explain to us the good work done by this group in providing direct relief to the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. Fr. Goodavish will share his personal witness about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel's mandate to love one another.

Fr. Goodavish was ordained in 1987 and is a member of the Diocese of St. George in Grenada. He will offer all the Masses next week-end, as Fr. Wayne visits his sister and family in Florida.