

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.

Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish

Nic at Night

During the Easter Season in the weekday Readings, we meet a character named Nicodemus. He is found in the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, and is described as a “ruler of the Jews.” Scholars say that he was a Pharisee, also a member of the Jewish High Court (the Sanhedrin), and a rabbi or teacher of the Jewish faith. He possessed something very unique among the Pharisees—an open mind. He had heard Jesus speak and had seen some of His miracles, and was curious enough to try to learn more about Jesus. This in itself showed a humility that seemed to be rare among the self-assured Pharisees we find in the Gospels.

Nicodemus arranges to meet Jesus, and “... came to Him at night.” Obviously it would not have been good for a respected rabbi to be seen in open company with this unauthorized preacher. Yet Nicodemus was attracted to Jesus’ words, and wanted to know more.

From the conversation in Chapter 3, Nicodemus seems more confused than ever. Jesus speaks of the need to be re-born, and Nicodemus asks: “How can a man be born again once he is old ?” The Lord then describes the Spirit as like the wind, and Nicodemus responds: “How can this happen ?”

We must give Nicodemus a lot of credit. He didn’t just walk away from Jesus, but sincerely tried to absorb what the Lord was saying. Perhaps he sensed in Jesus’ words an answer to all that the Old Testament prophets had suggested. He strains to comprehend.

Nicodemus might just be the Patron Saint of Adult Continuing Education. He’s a reminder that no one “knows it all.” With his curious mind, he demonstrates that, at any age, we can gain in knowledge.

May we take up Nicodemus’ example and always challenge ourselves to grow in the knowledge of our faith. With each new piece of the puzzle, our faith becomes clearer; it becomes more real and makes more sense to us.

An informed faith is a living faith. Let us make the commitment to use every opportunity to grow in the deeper knowledge of our Catholic faith.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 10, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Ryan Bubigkeit at the
Request of Dawn Hall

SATURDAY, April 16

8:00AM – Ryan Bubigkeit
req. by his Family

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 17

8:00AM – Thomas O'Keefe
req. by Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi

11:30AM – Ryan Bubigkeit
req. by his Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,508.00 – Regular Collection – April 3, 2016

\$ 425.00 – Additional Easter

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,553.00 – Regular Collection – March 29, 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 Rev. Msgr. James Gacquin at the
Request of Alicia Batko

MONDAY, April 11

9:00AM – Anthony Marvella
req. by Frances Demalderis

TUESDAY, April 12

9:00AM – Walter & Genevieve Stoklosa
req. by Julia Jensen

WEDNESDAY, April 13

9:00AM – Aracelia Arniella
req. by her Family
- Zoraida Enriquez-Lugo
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, April 14

No Mass

FRIDAY, April 15

9:00AM – Bud Whitesell – 1st Anniversary
req. by his wife, Frances

SATURDAY, Vigil, April 16

4:30PM – Ryan Bubigkeit
req. by Mary Flexer
- Intentions of John O'Connor
req. by Mary Flexer

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 17

9:30AM – Frank & Helen Morenski
req. by Cecelia Smith & Family
- Intentions of Tom & Cindy Costello and
Mary Flexer
req. by Confirmation Class of 2016
- Intentions of Confirmation Class of 2016
req. by their Families

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,439.00 – Regular Collection – April 3, 2016

\$ 425.00 – Additional Easter

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,681.00 – Regular Collection – March 29, 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.



Extraordinary Jubilee year of Mercy Pilgrimage

Information was sent to our Middle-school and High-school parishioners, their parents and our Catechists regarding a pilgrimage to the Diocesan Holy Door at Holy Rosary Church/Shrine of Saint John Paul II in Passaic on Sunday, May 1st. 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 10:30AM, 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. **(You must RSVP to Mary by phone at 973-948-7004 or by email at maryflexer@yahoo.com by Friday, April 15th. (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 – Based on the broadside formally announcing the 1941 opening of St. Thomas the Apostle Mission, the building would be appropriately furnished with the items it needed later, as noted by Bishop McLaughlin's requests. Our tiny Mission church had opened amidst World War 2 (1939 to 1945) and a period of rationing.



Mother's Day Plant Sale

St. James Church will be having a plant sale on Mother's Day, May 8th, 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.

A huge thank you to all those who worked and attended the **ST. JAMES ANNUAL CORNED BEEF DINNER**. We had a wonderful evening, and it was a huge success bringing in over \$1,500 in profit. A special thank you to the following people: Bob Gardner, Kerry, Bill, Janet and Philip Michael Applegate, Rena and Joseph Esposito, Louise Backus, Eva Hobson, Bill and Joan Henn, Art and Maria Henn, Cathy and Harry Space, Janice Cerra, Omar Mendez, the Meshnicks and friends and Father Wayne, who washed most of the dishes. We hope to do as well or even better next year!

2016: St. Thomas 75th 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.

DANCE NIGHT: On Saturday, **April 23rd** at **6:00PM** 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.

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

HOLD THE DATE

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

The next **St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner** will be on **April 30th** after the 4:30pm Mass. All are welcome.

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 12th**. **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.

Senior "Vintage" Memories

"I went to St. Joseph's in Newton. Mass was spoken in Latin. I couldn't understand—it was boring for me. Confirmation was in 6th grade wearing white robe and beanie. Always getting dressed in "Sunday Best" each week and stopping by Newton Bakery after church for delicious donuts. Kneeling for Communion at altar rail. Receiving Communion in the hand was never an option."



GOLF OUTING 75th 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 or by email at maryflexer@yahoo.com. 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!

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 10, 2016

3rd Sunday of Easter

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

Monday, Apr. 11

Tuesday, Apr. 12

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Wednesday, Apr. 13

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

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

7:30 p.m. STC K of C. Monthly Mtg.

Thursday, Apr. 14

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

Friday, Apr. 15

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

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

7:00 p.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Saturday, Apr. 16

5:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, April 17, 2016

4th Sunday of Easter

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

10:30a.m. SJC Columbiettes Mtg

Future Events

Sat. Ap. 23 STC Spring Dance

Fri. May 6 STC Annual Tricky Tray

Next Sunday's Reading: 4th Sun. of Easter

1st Reading: Acts of Apostles 13: 14, 43--52

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 100

2nd Reading: Revelation 7: 9, 14--17

Gospel: John 10: 27--30

Welcome Fr. Michael Goodavish ! Fr. G. represents the Catholic organization **Food for the Poor**, which is active in at least 16 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Their mission is based on the words of Jesus in the Gospel of St. Matthew: "As often as you did it for one of these least ones, you did it for me." (Mt. 25: 40) They serve the hungry, the homeless, orphans and the uneducated—by providing practical, concrete services.

Let us be grateful that such good works are being performed, and do what we can to help.

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

Announcing: Our Parishes' Website.

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

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.

2016: St. Thomas' 75th Anniversary Year

There are displays and photos and memorabilia from the 'good old days' in the Gathering Space. Our thanks to Alicia Batko and Sharon Spangenberg for all their detective work in piecing together our history and collecting the photos.

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

Photo Directory Back on Track. Thanks to a resourceful parishioner, we have found a way to bring our **75th Anniv. Photo Directory** back to life. At this time we would like to know if there are additional parishioners or families that would like their photos in the album. Please call the Parish Office (973-948-2296) or speak to Fr. Wayne to be included. We can arrange a local photographer to come in and take professional photos.

"If people really understood what the Mass was about: our churches would be packed every Sunday."
--Bishop Serratelli