

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

IT'S BEEN 15 YEARS ...

... since the terrible events of 9 / 11. I can still remember clearly making my bed at St. Peter's rectory in Parsippany, with the radio news on, about 9:15 a.m., and hearing of a plane crashing into one of the World Trade Center Towers. What kind of accident was this? Was it a mechanical failure? Pilot error? How could a plane crash into the very visible towers on such a beautiful and clear Tuesday morning? I turned on the T.V. and smoke was pouring out of the building, about one-third from the top, with the plane sliced into it. Incredibly, as I was trying to understand how this could happen, the second plane comes into view from behind and slams into the second tower.

At that moment, I think, many people realized that their lives were changed. The news reported suspicions that the U.S. was under attack. Two more incidents—at the Pentagon and in the Pennsylvania field—would confirm it. An eerie silence set in, as the skies over the metropolitan N.Y. area became quiet (all flights being cancelled), and people questioned and contemplated what all this might mean.

The phones at the office at St. Peter's began ringing off the hook. Will there be Mass tonight? At what time? We scheduled a Mass that evening, at 7 p.m., and the church was packed to the walls—even more than on Christmas Eve. Easily over a thousand people were there. I said the Mass because the pastor was occupied at the nursing home with his dying mother. People were basically in shock and disbelief and angry. For the next month or so our church, and all the area churches would have many more parishioners than usual.

Almost 3,000 people died on their way to work at the towers and vicinity that morning, not counting all those passengers in those four planes, and many at the Pentagon. Many more, the first responders, have developed sicknesses due to the toxins released at the Twin Towers site.

Since then we have come to understand what happened—and life truly has changed in many ways. It is said that America had lost its innocence or its naiveté that day, and has had to adjust many things about daily life. Since then terrorist attacks and attempted attacks have occurred with disturbing frequency—in our own nation and throughout the world.

What is the solution to this on-going nightmare? The world has to turn back to God, who loves us and has shown us the way to live—through Jesus. The whole world has to be baptized, as Jesus commanded: *“in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”* In that way all will know the truth of God, and His law of love, and understand that this is His Will for the world and its people.

Will it ever happen? Only God Himself knows. But He has entrusted us with the knowledge of His desires for us. May we live the way He calls us to live, and serve as His dedicated disciples to a truly mixed-up world.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 11, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Arthur & Elsie Bastian at the
Request of their Family

SATURDAY, September 17

8:00AM – Kate Olivo
req. by her Family

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 18

8:00AM – Eric Cerra
req. by his Family

11:30AM – Leonie Flaskamp
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,753.00 – Regular Collection – September 4, 2016

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,664.00 – Regular Collection – September 6, 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, Derya Dimertas, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Clara Kane, 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

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 in
Memory of Robert Foti at the
Request of Joseph & Carol Foti

MONDAY, September 12

9:00AM – Beatrice Gioielli
req. by her Children

TUESDAY, September 13

9:00AM – Richard W. Pullis
req. by his wife, Ann

WEDNESDAY, September 14

9:00AM – Joan Spoolstra

THURSDAY, September 15

No Mass

FRIDAY, September 16

9:00AM – Olindo & Anne Rosanelli
req. by the Rosanelli Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 17

4:30PM – Richard W. Pullis
req. by his daughters, Lisa & Laura

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 18

9:30AM – Barbara Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles
- Intentions of Bill & Marge Erickson
50th Wedding Anniversary

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,366.00 – Regular Collection – September 4, 2016

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,737.00 – Regular Collection – September 6, 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.



**Catechetical Sunday –
“Prayer: The Faith Played”**

On September 17th/18th, at the 4:30PM/9:30AM Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle, we will be celebrating Catechetical Sunday and blessing and commissioning our catechists during the liturgy. Father Wayne will also be blessing all parents too! Here we will recognize the very important role both they and you have in forming your children in the Catholic faith. Let us remember to hold each other in prayer during those Masses. We will then begin/resume our catechetical sessions at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center as follows:

- Grades 9 & 10 – Sat., Sept. 17 – 4:30PM Mass – 7:15PM
- Grade 10 – Sun., Sept. 25 – 2:30 - 5:00PM – Bishop Serratelli & Confirmandi at Pope Saint John Paul II High School
- Grades 6, 7 & 8 – Sun., Sept. 18 – 9:30AM Mass until 12:30PM
- Grades 1 & 2 – Tues., Sept. 20 & 27 – 4:00PM until 5:15PM
- Grades 3, 4 & 5 – Wed., Sept. 21 & 28 – 4:00PM until 5:15PM

Registrations for 2016/2017 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children in **Grades 2-8** and **teens in the Confirmation Preparation Program** for the upcoming catechetical year **were due back by July 30th to avoid the late fee. We are still waiting for many re-registrations!!! Please return all registrations ASAP!!! Thank you.**

No re-registrations will be taken the weeks of (first week of classes). All late re-registrations must be brought to the Religious Education Office after September 18th. Please call to schedule an appointment.

Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish, 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.

Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry

We will begin our ministry again on September 19th. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Center on the first and third Mondays of the month from 11:00AM until 1:00PM and are always ready to welcome new members!



Catholic Teens

Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. James the Greater have formed a new youth group for all teens in High School. **Come join us and see what's going on!!!** Our next meeting will take place in the pavilion at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, September 11th from 6:00-8:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music events and prayer. For more information please call Jenn at the office at 973-948-3185.

**2016: St. Thomas 75th Anniversary Year
1941-2016**

Senior “Vintage” Memories – The media of the 50’s and early 60’s was quite a bit different than today’s media. It consisted of radio and the beginnings of full-on T.V. programming. Faith was a celebrated topic in music, T.V. and movies, which were the beginnings of entertainment, as well as Vaudeville from the beginning of the 20th century. In our youth, we saw movies such as “Boystown”, “Going My Way”, “Bells of St. Mary”, “Our Lady of Fatima” and “The Song of Bernadette”. Songs made popular on radio were “Dominique”, “The Three Bells”, “Our Lady of Fatima” and “Bless this House”. Entertainers on T.V. were Perry Como, Bing Crosby (with their Christmas shows featuring Christmas hymns), the Christopher Movement Shows (Light one Little Candle) and Bishop Fulton Sheen (Uncle Fultie” and his angel on the blackboard) as he competed against Milton Berle (Uncle Miltie) and the Bishop usually won the ratings as they were both on at the same time. It is sad to see how all of our media programming has gone so downhill. I heard Father Catoir speak at a meeting one time about the faith of some of the Show Biz people he knew through The Christophers. Perry Como was the most devout catholic performer he had ever met. There were others, of course, but not mentioned by him. We need more like Perry Como today.

St. Thomas History – Corrections to Sept. 1 issue of The Beacon: Father Francis Warlikowski oversaw the construction of the church for St. James (not St. Thomas). Only the two Walpack Mission churches closed (not Hainesville). Rev. Msgr. John V. Boland concelebrated the Aug. 28th Mass. He had assisted Fathers Gacquin and Michota in covering the Hainesville and Walpack Missions, administered by St. James, on weekends from 1969 until the Walpack churches closed.

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 11, 2016

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

9:30 a.m. STC R.C.I.A. (after Mass)

6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Monday, Sept. 12

Tuesday, Sept. 13

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

Wednesday, Sept. 14

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 15

9:30 a.m. STC Moms & Tots Playgroup

Friday, Sept. 16

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

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

Saturday, Sept. 17

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

Sunday, September 18, 2016

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catechetical Sunday

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

10:30a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Next Sunday's Readings: 25th Ord.

1st Reading: *Amos 8: 4--7*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 113*

2nd Reading: *1 Timothy 2: 1--8*

Gospel: *Luke 16: 1--13*

*"There is no place beyond the reach of God's
mercy; no space or person it cannot touch."*

-- Pope Francis

75th Anniv. Photo Directory. Our Directory is available for sale after each Mass or through the Parish Office. I think you will be pleased with the results. It includes photos of all who had their pictures taken, as well as a history of St. Thomas Parish, researched thoroughly by Alicia Batko and Sharon Spangenberg. Cost is \$ 10.

My thanks to Tom Costello for working many hours with the publishing company Jostens, and the photographer SchoolCraft Studios. In his spare time Tom serves as Principal of Pope John XXIII H. S.

Diocesan Men's Conference. Our Diocese will be holding its first **Men's Conference** on **Saturday, October 15 at St. Paul Inside the Walls in Madison.** Join us from 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. for the opportunity to enhance men's spirituality and encourage them to be more involved with their parishes. Speakers include: former NFL receiver, Danny Abramowicz; Peter Herbeck, Director of Renewal Ministries; and Pete Burak, Director of Young Adult Outreach for Renewal Ministries. The conference will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Serratelli. Visit insidethewalls.org for more details and to register.

NORWESCAP, the Volunteer Resource Center of Sussex County, is announcing a new **Friendly Volunteer and Telephone Reassurance Program.** Especially for isolated seniors or disabled persons, they provide much needed friendship and support to fight depression, disorientation, and loneliness.

Seniors and disabled persons are matched with a friendly visitor who will visit them about once a week; they can also receive a daily phone call from a "telephone reassurance" volunteer. These services are free through the county.

If you know of someone who could use this help, please contact **Nicole Friedberg at 973-579-0555, ext. 1293.** Perhaps you might like to consider volunteering for this generous service to others: NORWESCAP will train you. Call the same number for more information.

Project Self Sufficiency of Newton is beginning a **N. J. Youth Corps Program** for Sussex Co. youth who do not have a high school diploma or a job. It will offer an equivalency diploma and skills for work and life. Program begins Oct. 16th. Call 973-940-3500 for more info. More details in next week's Bulletin.