

# 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**

# How Do You Spell “Catholic” ?

Hint: I just did. Above. More important: How do you describe a Catholic ? What makes a person ‘Catholic’ ? What is particular or special about the Catholic faith ?

As we move through the Season of Lent, most people become more aware of the need to express our ‘Catholicity’ and to renew our faith. Lent is the spiritual version of springtime, a time to flower and flourish with new life and deepened convictions.

Matthew Kelly, a Catholic writer and speaker from Australia, has identified seven things that describe our Catholic faith and make it unique. He speaks of them as **Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality**, seven ways to help us grow closer to God. He speaks of them as spiritual wisdom, tools developed and found true over the course of the 2000 years of the Church’s life. Use them to help you grow during the Season of Lent that is upon us.

**1. Confession.** We must recognize our need to repent and turn back to God. When we do, we find that God is always ready to take us back. The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be one of His greatest gifts to us: the chance to begin again.

**2. Daily Prayer.** Who can claim to be close to someone without continuing conversation ? The Lord wishes us to speak to Him each day. Even more, He wishes to speak to us. Perhaps the most valuable part of prayer is when we are quiet and listen to God speaking to our heart.

**3. The Mass.** The Lord offers Himself to us totally at each Mass: in the wisdom of His Word; and in the unbounded love of the gift of His Body and Blood. As we share the Word and Eucharist, we realize how much we have in common; we realize that each other believer is also a precious gift of God.

**4. The Bible.** God gradually reveals Himself to us in the Scriptures. Jesus in the Gospels reveals the depths of God’s wanting only the good for us. The Scriptures show us how to act and how to live in this world, while preparing for the next.

**5. Fasting.** Matthew Kelly states: “We fast to cultivate the inner life. Authentic fasting draws us nearer to God and opens our hearts to receive God’s many gifts.”

**6. Spiritual Reading.** Continuing education in faith is crucial to growing in faith. If you are an adult, walking around with an 8<sup>th</sup> grade understanding of your faith, consider yourself under-educated. Just 15 minutes a day of spiritual reading can stir your soul, and deepen your knowledge.

**7. The Rosary.** No one knows the heart of Jesus better than His mother. Let Mary’s example of total trust in God be a role model for you in present and future troubles. Let the Joyful and Luminous and Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary re-assure you of God’s love for you and for our world.

These “Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality” have kept countless people on the right path throughout the centuries. May you make full use of them on your unique path through the Season of Lent.

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 19, 2017**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Patricia Soletro at the  
Request of her Granddaughters

**SATURDAY, March 25**

8:00AM – Irene & Raymond Guinn

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 26**

8:00AM – Charlie Lombaerde  
req. by his wife, Carol

11:30AM – John Morgiewicz  
req. by his daughter-in-law, Linda Lee

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,024.00 – Regular Collection – March 12, 2017**

**\$ 35.00 - Online Giving**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$ 983.00 – Regular Collection – March 13, 2016**

*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, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Miriam Liggmari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock

**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 Spinapolicce at 973-293-7031.

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Sophie Mугan at the  
Request of Roseann Hogan

**MONDAY, March 20**

9:00AM – Joseph & Margaret Whalen

**TUESDAY, March 21**

9:00AM – Merle Mullins  
req. by Frances Demalderis  
-Melissa Comiciotto  
req. by her godmother, Lyse von Doehren

**WEDNESDAY, March 22**

9:00AM – Sophie Mугan, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
req. by Roseann Hogan  
-Eric Burkhardt  
req. by Ken & Mary Burkhardt

**THURSDAY, March 23**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, March 24**

9:00AM – Thomas Moore  
req. by Luisa & Dan  
-Robert Hagerman  
req. by his mom, Grace

**SATURDAY, Vigil, March 25**

4:30PM – Judy & Jerry Wainwright  
req. by the Wainwright Family  
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary  
req. by the Legion of Mary

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 26**

9:30AM – Bernie Reich  
req. by his wife, Grace

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$2,670.00 – Regular Collection – March 12, 2017**

**\$ 398.00 - Online Giving**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$1,954.00 – Regular Collection – March 13, 2016**

*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.



### **Why We Pray, Fast and Give Alms**

Lent is the period of prayer and fasting leading up to the feast of Easter, recalling Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness. This sacred season began on Ash Wednesday and ends right before the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (although Lenten penance continues through Holy Saturday). During this penitential season, the Church calls all Catholics to spend more intentional time in prayer, as well as to fast and abstain from meat on Fridays and also to practice charitable giving.

**Why Do We Give Alms?** ~ Charitable giving is a very ancient practice; almsgiving was normative long before the time of Jesus. The Lenten call to almsgiving means making needs of other people our own. One of the central lessons of the cross is compassion; the heavy burdens we carry help us to appreciate the suffering in others. Sharing our material goods is often just the beginning of real Christian giving. We are also called to share our time tending to people in need.

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter; it is a necessary prelude. The sacrificial practices of Lent prepare and purify us in body, mind and spirit for the passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Blessed Lent.

(To be continued – Taken from Take Out – Family Faith On The Go)



### **Saint of the Month: St. Joseph – March 20<sup>th</sup>**

The husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus is often said to be a "carpenter". In fact, he was a *tekton*, a more general term of his time for someone who works in construction. As such, Joseph would have been more of a general contractor, working with iron or stone as well as wood. In fact, some scholars think he might have even worked on major Roman construction projects in Sepphoris, a larger city about three and a half miles from Nazareth, where the Holy Family lived.

In his memory, pray for all fathers and grandfathers, those who are looking for work and for those who are dying.

***Saint Joseph, patron of the universal Church, watch over the Church as carefully as you watched over Jesus, help protect it and guide it as you did with your Holy Family. Amen***



Stations of the Cross for Families will take place on **Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**. Each Friday, we will begin at 4:00PM followed by a simple soup supper. We are very hopeful that many of our families will attend this prayerful Lenten devotion as often as possible and we thank the Columbiettes for their generosity and hospitality in providing this event for us.

**Look for Yoga-lates coming Tuesday nights in the Father Lewis Center after Easter. More information to follow.**

### **Lenten Family Faith Formation**

On **Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**, the **Feast of the Annunciation**, our parish will be blessed to host a traveling **Icon of the Holy Family**, which has an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis imparted on those who view it and pray before it. We usually break up our Family Faith Sessions by ages, but because our Knights of Columbus have made this very special visit possible for us, all of our students (grades 1 – 10) and their families are encouraged to attend a special Mass that morning. We will begin at 9:30AM with the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, followed by a 10:00AM Mass at St. Thomas. We are confident that many, many blessings will be bestowed on all of our families that day and are hopeful for full attendance!



### **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 gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00- 8:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

**Save This Date...Sunday, April 2 – Catholic Teens Lenten Celebration at OLQP. Bar BQ, Music, Prayer, Friendship...More info to follow.**

**The Religious Education Inclement Weather Policy** is that the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather will be announced and posted on [www.wsus1023.com](http://www.wsus1023.com). If it is not possible for you to check there, you can always call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.

**The Columbiettes** are collecting toiletries for women's shelters. There is a basket in the Gathering Space.

**The Columbiettes** are sponsoring soup suppers for children and their parents and caregivers each Friday afternoon in Lent in the Father Lewis Center. Stations of the Cross for children will be at 4:00PM in the church and the supper will follow. Please come for devotion and community.

**St. Thomas History** – In July 1950, Fr. Warlikowski replaced Rev. John E. Hewetson as pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Lincoln Park, when Fr. Hewetson returned to Sussex County - as the pastor of St. Joseph's in Newton. Rev. Sylvius Mancini was assigned and initially resided at Lafayette or by the new parish in Branchville.

### **HOLD THE DATE**

On Friday evening May 5<sup>th</sup>, St. Thomas will be hosting our Annual Tricky Tray. If you are interested in assisting our committee in any way, please call Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092. All volunteers are welcome. Help make this fundraiser a success by donating a Tray. All trays should be left in the Conference Room at St. Thomas as soon as possible to allow time for displaying them properly. (No later than Sat. April 30) Thank you for your cooperation.

**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, March 19, 2017**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent*

9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8  
9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

**Monday, Mar. 20**

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

**Tuesday, Mar. 21**

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings  
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2  
7:00 p.m. REC Men's Prayer Group

**Wednesday, Mar. 22**

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

**Thursday, Mar.23**

**Friday, Mar. 24**

9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
after Mass, till 12 Noon  
10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.  
10:00a.m. STC Moms & Tots Play Group  
4:00 p.m. STC Children's Stations & Soup Supper  
5:30 p.m. SJC Soup Supper  
7:00 p.m. SJC & STC Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, Mar. 25**

9:30 a.m. STC Family Faith Formation  
--for Grades 1 – 10

**Sunday, March 26, 2017**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

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**Next Sunday's Readings: 4<sup>th</sup> Lent**

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6–7, 10–13a  
Resp. Psalm: Psalm 23  
2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 8–14  
Gospel: John 9: 1–41

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**Get FORMED this Lent: (It's free!)**

[www.Formed.org](http://www.Formed.org) Parish Code: HCVWQC

**“Welcome Home for Lent.”** Reconciliation Night continues in all the churches of the Diocese of Paterson: **every Mon. in Lent, 7 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**

With our situation, the schedule will be as follows:

Mar. 20 St. Thomas Mar. 27 St. James

Apr. 3 St. Thomas Apr. 10 St. James

We hope that every Catholic will make use of this diocesan-wide opportunity to confess sins and grow in God's grace during Lent.

**2017 Women's Conference. “Feminine, Faithful, Fearless,”** a gathering for women at any age and any stage in life. Sponsored by the Diocese it will include dynamic speakers of all walks of life. Discussions and giveaways too. Our own Keaton Douglas will be the M.C., with Cindy Costello as a co-ordinator. The date and time: Sat. April 1, from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Place: St. Paul's Inside the Walls, 205 Madison Ave., Madison, N. J. Tickets: \$ 25. To order tickets or for info: 973-377-1004.

**NORWESCAP,** the Volunteer Resource Center of Sussex County, is announcing a new **Friendly Visitor and Telephone Reassurance Program.** Entitled **“Friendship at Heart,”** it is 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. Two points:

1) If you know of someone who could use this help, please contact **Nicole Friedberg at 973-579-0555, ext. 1293.** 2) Perhaps you might like to consider volunteering for this generous service to others: NORWESCAP will train you to either visit, or to do phone ministry. Call the same number for more information.

**Congratulation to Deacon Wayne,** who will be a speaker at the Drew United Methodist Church, 49 Sussex St., in Port Jervis, during one of their Wednesday Lenten Soup Lunches this season. The date is Wed. Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon. The Wednesday lunches (soup, bread, beverage & dessert) are open to all. Cost: \$ 3.00. For info, call 845-856-3423. Come out and meet some of our Christian neighbors.