

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.

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

Wisdom ! Be Attentive !

If this were a Byzantine Catholic Church, the Gospel Reading would be introduced with the words above. The Gospel is the height of wisdom, of course, because it reveals the words and actions of God Himself in Jesus. The Gospels, along with the rest of the inspired Scriptures, give us gems from the mind of God—infinite wisdom from Him who is the Author and Preserver of all. To follow such wisdom is to be in tune with the Source and Culmination—the Alpha and Omega—of All.

Young King Solomon in the First Reading, at the beginning of his reign, had a grasp of all this as he made his request to the Lord. God had offered to give Solomon anything he wanted. Solomon, in reply, ask the Lord for an “understanding heart,” so the he might wisely and justly lead the people placed under his care. God was pleased with this request: that he had asked for wisdom and not power, or wealth, or personal fame. In fact, he was given all three; “the wisdom of Solomon” is still a synonym for true integrity and uprightness and understanding.

Believe it or not, each of us who have been confirmed has access to the same wisdom and understanding as Solomon. It is one of the seven gifts given to us when the Holy Spirit came fully upon us at Confirmation. We too are able to tap into True Wisdom—the mind of God Himself.

To do so, we need to go to that deeper level, to the place that prayer can take us. It is in prayer, in meditation and contemplation that the Lord can speak to us. Here He can reveal something of the meaning of the things that happen to us. Here, in the depths of prayer, we can discern the outlines of the larger picture; we can see something of God’s plans for the world and how we fit in. We find that our lives are not at all by accident, but planned by God for this specific time and place. We are called to be a part of this particular family, and this particular faith community. The Lord helps us to see our place in the world—and how we can contribute. If Wisdom guides our words and actions, then God’s Kingdom is being fulfilled in us.

May we all dig more deeply into the treasures of God’s Wisdom—in prayer, in Scripture, in Sacrament. Let us allow that Wisdom to speak and act through us—for our fulfillment and for the good of God’s world. We may not be Byzantine, but we’d be wise to follow their advice: when Wisdom is spoken—be attentive !

God bless you,
Father Wayne

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 30, 2017**

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Richard Gray at the
Request of his wife, Peggy

SATURDAY, August 5

8:00AM – Leonie Flaskamp

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

August 6

8:00AM – Rosemarie Bastian
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Kate Olivo
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

**\$1,247.00 – Regular Collection – July 23, 2017 +
\$ 60.00 - Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$ 972.00 – Regular Collection – July 24, 2016
Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.

**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 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 Ralph Gioielli at the
Request of his Grandchildren

MONDAY, July 31

9:00AM – Ralph Gioielli
req. by his Children

TUESDAY, August 1

9:00AM – Gus Eberhardt
req. by his Family

WEDNESDAY, August 2

9:00AM – John Brehm

THURSDAY, August 3

No Mass

FRIDAY, August 4

9:00AM – Tom McNamara
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell

SATURDAY, Vigil, August 5

4:30PM – Joseph & Margaret Devine
req. by the Rosanelli Family

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

August 6

9:30AM – Richard M. Soisson
req. by his Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

**\$1,930.00 – Regular Collection – July 23, 2017 +
\$ 378.00 - Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,666.00 – Regular Collection – July 24, 2016
Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.

**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, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, David Koehler, Betty Lacovara, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Joseph Ligammari, Miriam Ligammari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, John Meehan, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White, Teri Winkler and Robert Woodcock



Registrations for 2017/2018 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children in Grades 2-8 for the upcoming catechetical year **were due back by July 15th** to avoid the late fee. **If you have not sent your re-registration back yet, please do so immediately.**

Parents of children entering first grade, 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.



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, July 30th from 6:00-8:00PM.** There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!! **Incoming Freshman are now welcome to join Catholic Teens.**

Catholic Summer Camp Thank You

We have recently finished a fun (and Hot) week of Catholic Summer Camp! Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents of our parish who encouraged their children to attend. We hope they grew in their faith; all while having a good time and making new friends! Thanks to the staff at OLQP for all of their involvement, cooperation and hospitality. Also to all the catechists and parishioners who assisted us – especially our Rita Straka, Marie Mendez, Chris Higgins and Mandy Sousa and to all of the teens – especially our Lauren Cunico, Sean Kealy, Maggie Nicole, Emilia, Julianna and Mary VanderPloog. Special thanks to OLQP Pastor Father Ed, Father Brian and our Pastor, Father Wayne and to our catechist, Karen Steinert who served as the coordinator for this successful parish event. God was so good and gracious to us and we look forward, in prayer, to next year!

From the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the joy-filled responsibility of the entire faith community. As a community of faith, we are called to encourage others to become fully initiated Catholics. Each of us, as followers of Jesus, is called to be both a hearer of the Word and a doer of the Word. Get involved in spreading the message of God's Word! Exercise your faith! Now is your opportunity. Be a motivator of another on their journey of faith. As a doer of the Word, you will become more aware of how God is present and active in your life each day.

Have those you motivate call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, and their call will be returned.

Please Join Us For A Fond Farewell

It is with a bittersweet heart that we have to say "farewell" to our parishioners Tom and Cindy Costello and their family.

Like many parishioners, the Costello's have truly given of themselves to our parish. Ben and Josh have served as Altar Servers since they were small boys and have served as Children's Liturgy of the Word Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for several years also. They could always be counted on at Coffee Hours, Picnics, Snowstorms or wherever we needed them to lend a hand. Tom has served as a Eucharistic Minister and has been an active Knight of Columbus, including holding office for many years. Cindy has faithfully proclaimed the Word of God as a Lector and has been a very significant servant throughout the Diocese of Paterson bringing Pope Saint John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* teaching to many parishes. Both Tom and Cindy have facilitated the diocesan's *God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage* Pre-Cana instruction and served as Confirmation Catechists here for over 10 years, touching the hearts and minds of countless teens, while guiding them on their faith journey. Now the next part of their faith and life journey is taking them to Steubenville, Ohio.

As a parish family, we would like to wish them well and have a chance to say good-bye to them on **Sunday, August 6th at the 9:30AM Mass and with a Coffee Hour** to follow. If you would like, feel free to bring something to share, but more than that, please stop in to thank them all for their many years of faithful service to our parish and to wish them a heartfelt farewell.

Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you. Until we meet again. ~ Jiminy Cricket

The Columbiettes are collecting school supplies in July and August. A basket is in the gathering space.

History of Western Sussex Missions

In the summer of 1965, St. James and St. Thomas held a Bazaar. In May, 1966, children from St. Matthew, St. Thomas and St. James received First Holy Communion at the St. James 10:30AM Sunday Mass. Afterwards, the Rosary Society served breakfast.

Moms and Tots Playgroup will continue to meet most Fridays from 10:00am to 11:30am through the summer. If weather permits, we will be meeting at local parks also. Please check our Facebook page "Sandyston Tot Group" to find us each week.

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, July 30, 2017
17th Sunday in Ord. Time

Monday, July 31

Tuesday, Aug. 1

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

Wednesday, Aug. 2

Thursday, Aug. 3

Friday, Aug. 4

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

Saturday, Aug. 5

1:00 p.m. SJC St. James Parish Picnic

Sunday, August 6, 2017
Transfiguration of the Lord

Future Events

Sat. Aug. 5 St. James Parish Picnic. Begins 1 p.m.

Next Sunday's Readings: *Transfiguration*

1st Reading: *Daniel 7: 9–10, 13--14*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 97*

2nd Reading: *2 Peter 1: 16--19*

Gospel: *Matthew 17: 1--9*

Get FORMED for the summer:

www.Formed.org Unlock spiritual treasures with our Parish Code: HCVWQC

Suggestion: “*Can You Trust God ?*” by Dr. Tim Gray. Answering a question many people ask.

Consider Weekday Mass. Start your day in the best way possible. Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. at St. Thomas. Sat. 8 a.m. at St. James.

St. James Parish Picnic Next Saturday !

Join us for a relaxing afternoon on our parish grounds as we hold our **Annual Parish Picnic**. There will be food, drink, music, games for the kids and raffle prizes. It will be a chance for parishioners to reunite and spend time together. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like and be with us **next Sat. Aug. 5th beginning at 1 p.m.**

Admission: only \$ 5.00 for adults and children. You are invited to bring a salad or dessert specialty to share.

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors Update Meetings.

To keep up our knowledge and appreciation for these ministries, we are holding brief meetings to explore the importance and purpose of each. All Euch. Ministers and Lectors of both parishes are asked to attend.

A meeting of each has already taken place at St. Thomas. Similar meetings will take place at St. James. **Lectors** will meet at 1 p.m. on Sun. Aug. 20th and **Eucharistic Ministers** will meet on Sun. Aug. 27. Meetings will be one hour or less. Suggestions for improving our service will be discussed

Strike it rich

Where does true wealth lie? In his *Spiritual Exercises*, Saint Ignatius writes, “If I have nothing, my only possession is Christ . . . and this is to be really true to myself—the humility of a person whose whole reality and value is grounded in being created and redeemed in Christ.” The call of a Christian is to be spiritually secure, not taking stock in what the world gives, but in the promises of Christ. That is where true wealth lies: in being fully given to Christ, so that nothing can come between you and the love of God. Feast day of St. Ignatius: July 31

On Line Giving. This modern way of dealing with finances has even caught up with St. Thomas and St. James! It is an option we hope you will consider.

For those who do their banking and pay bills through the computer, we are set up to accept on-line donations to the Sunday collection. Simply reach our website, saintjamestomas.org. You will find the link to on-line giving. Follow it through and it will easily set you up for weekly or monthly contributions. With our thanks.