

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



Judging from these first two weeks, this is going to be a l-o-n-g winter. Make the most of it by exploring our parish subscription to **FORMED.org**. We have an internet subscription for continuous, 24-7-365 religious education for adults, young people and children. It is available to you anytime, anywhere, when you click onto:

FORMED.org
Our Parish Code is: HCVWQC (case sensitive)
The Password is: formed

With this website—whole worlds of 21st century education and understanding of our faith become available. All manner of topics become available, anytime, during this next year. All computers and devices are capable of downloading the audio C.D.'s, Study Programs, Movies and E-books that are offered. And for you it is all **FREE OF CHARGE !**

Our parish has purchased this subscription to the Lighthouse—Augustine Institute website, based on the fact that a number of households have inspected the materials during our trial period in August. Among the materials offered are:

Audio C.D.'s: "From Atheism to Catholicism," "Marriage and Family: Love Unveiled,"
"Real Womanhood"

Study Programs: "Catholicism," by Bishop Robert Barron, "The Bible and the Virgin Mary,"
"Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained"

E-books: "Finding True Happiness," "Not God's Type," "Rome Sweet Home"

Movies: "Mother Teresa" (starring Olivia Hussey), "The Reluctant Saint," "The 13th Day,"
"Religious Mysteries"

Over 300 items are offered. All that is necessary to begin is:

On the Internet type in: FORMED.org
Choose: Formed
Choose: Register (the first time) Thereafter:
Type in Parish Code (above) Go to: Login
Fill in your E-mail address to register Click on: = for Programs,
Hit: Go and go to any item available. Movies, Audio & Books

I hope that you will make use of these educational and inspirational materials often. We live in a 21st century full of electronic wonders. The Church is striving to use these technologies to spread our faith further. May you find many hours of inspiration and growth in faith through the materials offered here.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 14, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Michael Kowal at the
Request of Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi

SATURDAY, January 20

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 21

8:00AM – Eric Cerra
req. by Joan & Harvey McKean
-Intentions of Jim Dorcas & Family

11:30AM – Muriel Kennel
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,730.00 – Regular Collection – January 7, 2018 +

\$ 175.00 – Online Giving

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,376.00 – Regular Collection – January 8, 2017

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.

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.



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. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Rosemarie Briegel at the
Request of Andy

MONDAY, January 15

9:00AM – Barbara K. Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles

TUESDAY, January 16

9:00AM – Emily Blickweidel
req. by her Family

WEDNESDAY, January 17

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

THURSDAY, January 18

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 19

9:00AM – Intentions of Deacon Wayne
Birthday Celebration

SATURDAY, Vigil, January 20

4:30PM – Mavis Kaufman
req. by her Family

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 21

9:30AM – Intentions of Michael Toth
For Good Health
req. by his Mom
-Kazimiera Sz wajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$3,747.00 – Regular Collection – January 7, 2018 +

\$ 328.00 – Online Giving

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,524.00 – Regular Collection – January 8, 2017

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, Betty Lacovara, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Joseph Ligammari, Thomas Lynch, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, John Meehan, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Jim Pantelmo, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, Pam Spencer, Joan Strehl, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh and Joan White



Finding Hope In The New Year

Did you ever see the text abbreviation H.O.P.E.? It means "have only positive expectations" and is a quick way to give someone encouragement. What if we worked on hope as a long term way to exercise our trust in God and joy as Christians with a four part **H. O. P. E.** plan for the year?

OPENNESS: Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us have the strength to follow him. As a family, talk about the Holy Spirit guiding you. Agree to be open to the Holy Spirit in a special way this year. Once a week, have each family member share all the different ways they have seen the Holy Spirit at work in nature, at church, at school or work and in other people. Make a Hope Jar and write down the ways you are seeing God each week, and then put the slips of paper in the jar. When you are feeling in need of a hope boost, read together what has been put in the jar!
(To be continued. Take Out ~ Family Faith On The Go)

Follow the Pope of Hope!

"Hope is the virtue of a heart that does not...remain locked in the past, but looks toward the future." - @Pontifex, Sept. 20, 2017

Dear Father Wayne, Deacon Wayne, Sister Columbiettes, Parish Family & Friends: I would like to thank all of you for the kindness shown to me at Christmas and for my 99th birthday. I was so overwhelmed by your cards, calls, visits and beautiful gifts – among them the beautiful basket of birthday gifts from the Columbiettes and Christmas gifts from the religious education children. I was so very humbled by all of the love and generosity shown to me. I truly feel that this was my BEST birthday yet and feel so very loved as I continue towards 100! I will keep all of you in my prayers, and I ask you to pray for me too.
Thank you again from the bottom of my heart,
Agnes Ciesielski



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. If it is not possible for you to check the internet, you can call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

We continue to celebrate Children's Liturgy of the Word, C.L.O.W. on the Sundays of January 21, 28 and February 4, 11 and 25 at St. Thomas Church 9:30am Mass in the Father Lewis Center. We ask that the children listen actively for the Celebrant's invitation to come forward to be blessed as quickly as possible so that the Mass may continue reverently and smoothly. All adult parishioners are welcome to experience the Word with children. C.L.O.W. welcomes confirmed teens and adults to serve as Lectors, Leaders of the Word and Hospitality Ministers. Should you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

ADULT CONFIRMATION:

God's invitation for us to receive the sacraments is always present. God patiently awaits our response to His invitation. If you are ready to respond to God's invitation to prepare for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, our parishes are ready to assist you in your ongoing journey of faith. The adult confirmation program is 10 weeks of sessions beginning on Monday, January 22nd. We will meet at the Religious Education Center from 7:00-8:30pm. Should you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 14, 2018

"John was standing with two of his disciples and as he watched Jesus walk by he said 'Behold the Lamb of God.' The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following Him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to Him, 'Rabbi...where are you staying?' He said to them 'Come, and you will see.'"

The scene from John's gospel is simple and clear. John, the arrow, points out Jesus, with words we hear as we celebrate the Eucharist. It aroused the curiosity of Andrew. The conversation continues, as He asks, 'what are you looking for?' The same question is posed for the followers of Jesus today but we can change the what to who. 'Come and you will see.'

This encounter with Jesus led Andrew to bring Peter to Jesus, and the rest is history. Pope Francis in his beautiful book 'Walking with Jesus' points out for us today the way of Jesus. May we look and find Him.

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

"SOUP ON A SATURDAY"....St. James the Greater will again be sponsoring a take-out soup fundraiser on **Saturday, January 27, 2018**. Order a quart (or more) of Venison Chili by Art & Maria Henn, Regular Chili by Bill & Joan Henn, Italian Wedding soup by Bill Ricciardi or Pasta e Fagioli by Mike & Linda Spinapolice. Price is \$7.00 per quart. Please get your orders in early as there will be limits on the Venison Chili and the Pasta e Fagioli. You must order in advance by January 21st. Pick up is on January 27th from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at St. James the Greater. Fill out an order form found in the back of the church and place in the collection basket OR give to Bill Ricciardi, Art Henn or Mike Spinapolice. You may also e-mail your order to Bill Ricciardi at wjr218@optonline.net.

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, January 14, 2018

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC Pancake Breakfast

Monday, Jan. 15

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

Tuesday, Jan. 16

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

7:00 p.m. REC Men's Prayer Group

Wednesday, Jan. 17

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

Thursday, Jan. 18

Friday, Jan. 19

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

10:00a.m. STC Moms & Tots Play Group

Saturday, Jan. 20

5:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner after Mass

Sunday, January 21, 2018

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Special Class Gr. 2

Warming Station. The **Tri-State Interfaith Council of Churches**, have begun a **Warming Station in Port Jervis**, for those who need shelter during these winter nights. It is located at one of their participating churches. If you would like to contribute to this working, practical, local Christian effort, make your check payable to: **DRC-Interfaith Council**, and send to:

Deerpark Reformed Church,
Attn Interfaith Council,
30 E. Main St.
Port Jervis, N.Y. 12771

For more info, or to cook and bring a meal: call Chris Kidney at 845-672-5453

March for Life. January 22nd will mark the 45th sad anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Since then over 58 million babies have been assailed and killed in the womb. This "freedom" of choice is a sad mark on our country. It leaves no choice for the child in the womb, the most innocent victim of all.

Millions continue to protest this outrageous and flawed decision of the Court. The annual **March for Life** has developed into a counter-movement which is gaining strength each year.

This year, the date set for this protest is **Friday, Jan. 19th**. (The actual date, this year, will be a legal holiday, and our Congress people will make sure to be out of town and unavailable.)

Therefore a bus will leave from **Our Lady Queen of Peace on Friday, Jan. 19th, departing at 6:00 a.m.** The bus is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of Don Bosco Council, Newton. Cost will be \$ 25.00. Children under 12 and Confirmation students will go free. Join this annual march and give witness to the sanctity of all human life. For more info or to sign up, call **973-948-3185**.

NORWESCAP, the **Sussex County Senior Services Division** is looking for **volunteers** to help in two of its very successful programs. They have a **Telephone Reassurance Program**, where isolated seniors receive a phone call to check up on them and to provide a friendly voice. Also in place is a **Friendly Visitor Program**, where volunteers visit the homes of the elderly, to provide company and to help them with small needs.

If you have time and would like to use it in a valuable way, call **973-579-0555 ext. 1293** and speak to Nicole for info about the programs and about training. It may open up a new career (or adventure) for you. It certainly is a way of witnessing to the value of all human life.

Likewise, if you know a senior who could be helped by these services, call the number above.

Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Ord.

1st Reading: Jonah 3: 1—5, 10

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 25*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 7: 29--31*

Gospel: *Mark 1: 14--20*
