

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

Following Jesus--and Bringing Company

Jesus said to them: "Come."

And they abandoned their fishing nets and followed Him.

--Mark 1: 17 – 18

Scripture has a way of condensing a lot of information into a few short sentences, and today's Gospel is a perfect example. It's possible that all Jesus had to do was say, "Come after me" to get Peter and Andrew to drop their nets, leave their families and become disciples. But it's far more likely that this story is the climax of a number of other encounters Jesus had with them. This observation can teach us two things.

First, our decision to follow Jesus is never a one-time choice. Second, our decision to help other people follow Jesus is never a one-time choice.

Some people marry only a few days after they meet. It's unusual, but it does happen. And when it does, the couple has to deepen their marriage commitment if they want to stay together. Just so, even if Peter and Andrew said "yes" at a moment's notice, their commitment to Jesus needed to grow. If it didn't, they would have eventually left Jesus.

The same is true for us. No matter how mature our "yes" is, the Holy Spirit wants to take it to a deeper level. He wants to help us mature in our commitment to Him, so that we can know Him better and become more effective servants of His Kingdom.

This principle also applies to our call to help other people follow Jesus. It's always possible that our children and friends will immediately take our advice and give their lives to the Lord. But knowing human nature, it's more likely that they will need more time and attention than one simple invitation. This means that we need to be consistent in mirroring Jesus to them. Never stop showing them your love. Never stop caring for them. Never stop telling them that Jesus is about love and mercy, redemption and reconciliation.

Jesus is calling you to follow Him. He is asking you to keep evangelizing people with love and compassion. It's a challenging call, but you don't have to do it alone. Jesus provides all the help and grace you will need.

Lord, I will follow You all the days of my life.

--from: *The Word Among Us*
Jan – Feb. 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 4, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Charlie Lombaerde at the Request of his wife, Carol

SATURDAY, February 10

8:00AM – Ellen Conklin

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 11

8:00AM – Harvey McKean
req. by Janice, Jan & Erin

11:30AM – Robert & Ann Lamb
req. by their daughter, Peggy Gray

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 794.00 – Regular Collection – January 14, 2018 +
\$ 225.00 – Online Giving
\$1,712.00 – Regular Collection – January 21, 2018 +
\$ 135.00 – Online Giving
\$ 914.00 – Regular Collection – January 28, 2018 +
\$ 250.00 – Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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 Spinapolice 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 Sean Bastian at the Request of his dad, Andy

MONDAY, February 5

9:00AM – Intentions of Happy & Ann Dunn

TUESDAY, February 6

9:00AM – Barbara K. Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles
-Angelo Damone
req. by his daughter, Frances Demalderis

WEDNESDAY, February 7

9:00AM – Intentions of Liam Donahue

THURSDAY, February 8

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 9

9:00AM – Intentions of Father Alfred Vito

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 10

4:30PM – Gloria & Robert Fichter
req. by the Wainwright Family
-Jimmy Mullins
req. by his wife, Margie

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 11

9:30AM – Charlie Salerno
req. by Brian & Colleen Buck
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,347.00 – Regular Collection – January 14, 2018 +
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$1,677.00 – Regular Collection – January 21, 2018 +
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$1,817.00 – Regular Collection – January 28, 2018 +
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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, Kathy McConnell, Brian McKenna, John Meehan, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Robert Organes, 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



Catechist Meeting

A meeting will take place on Thursday, February 8th at either 11:00AM or 7:00PM for your convenience. All catechists are encouraged to attend one of these sessions.

Family Rosary

On February 11th, the Church celebrates The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (although this year, due to the fact it falls on a Sunday, it is the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time and also World Day of the Sick).

This feast commemorates the first of 18 appearances of the Virgin Mary to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous. The young girl's visions occurred between February 11 and July 16, 1858, near the town of Lourdes. The Virgin led her to a nearby grotto, and the miraculous spring that appeared there has been associated ever since with the power to heal.

Pilgrimages to the grotto were authorized in 1862, and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was extended to the entire Roman Catholic Church in 1907 by Pope Pius X. A basilica named the Church of the Rosary now stands on this site and some five million people a year make the pilgrimage to Lourdes, making it one of the world's major pilgrimage sites.

As many of us may never be able to make such a pilgrimage, we would like to come together on this beautiful Marian feast and pray the Rosary as a family. We will begin at 2:00PM at St. Thomas Church. We would like a few families to lead one of the five Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, if they would like to – it is really not that difficult and help would be provided, need be! It will be a wonderful opportunity to pray for all those who are sick as well as all the intentions of your own families – so bring your rosary beads (we will have some available too).

Following the Rosary, our Knights of Columbus have another fund (and competitive) event planned! So bring your favorite cooked Chili to enter in the contest!!! Or at least bring your appetite and share some time together as a parish family. More information will be available on a flyer. Hope to see many families there!

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?

ENTHUSIASM: Jesus encouraged us to live fully as children of God. The word enthusiasm comes from a Greek word meaning to live in God or to be inspired by God. If we are really living in God and seeing Christ in others, we will have a spirit of God's grace and love when we interact with them. As a family, agree that this year you will greet new ideas and people with enthusiasm – with a willingness to participate and work together. Also agree to greet difficulties that come up with the same spirit – a hopeful trust that God will bring about good.

Follow the Pope of Hope!

"Do not let yourselves be robbed of hope! And not only that, but I say to us all: let us not rob others of hope; let us become bearers of hope!" – Rio de Janeiro, July 24, 2013



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.

C.L.O.W.

We ask our adult parishioners to prayerfully consider assisting in our **C**hildren's **L**iturgy **O**f the **W**ord. There are several roles available to you: Lector, Hospitality Minister, Music Leader, Lay Leader of the Word. All materials and training would be provided. Support on the days you are able to serve will also be provided. Please call our Religious Education Center at 973-948-7004 for any questions or additional information. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration. Pat Hope, our Pastoral Associate, is coordinator.

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

The Columbiettes are looking for new members. Please call Pat Lane if you are interested at 973-300-1954. We look forward to welcoming you.

"SOUP ON A SATURDAY" at St. James the Greater was a success! Thank you to all who purchased soup. Thank you to the soup makers: Mike & Linda Spinaplice, Art & Maria Henn, Bill & Joan Henn and Bill and Valerie Ricciardi. There were no expenses as these "chefs" donated the ingredients, containers and their time. 95 quarts were sold and \$673.00 was raised and turned over to Father Wayne.

Yoga-lates at St. Thomas

A new session begins on **Tuesday, February 27th from 6:00 to 7:00pm**. Keep your New Year's Resolutions by coming in for a class. Keep your body and mind active and de-stressed! Yoga is for peace of mind and flexibility and Pilates is for strength, good posture and core muscles. The session will run for 8 weeks on Tuesday nights. Come try a class for \$6.00 each or \$45.00 for the 8 week session. 20% of proceeds goes to the parish. Bring a mat, hand held weights and a friend. Come try out Yoga-lates!

St. Thomas Coffee Hour

Join us on Sunday, **February 11th** after the 9:30am Mass.

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, February 4, 2018

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

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

11:30a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

Monday, Feb. 5

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

Tuesday, Feb. 6

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, Feb. 7

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 Knights of Columbus Mtg.

Thursday, Feb. 8

11:00a.m. REC Catechists' Mtg.

7:00 p.m. REC Catechists' Mtg.

Friday, Feb. 9

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

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

1:00 p.m. STC Montague Seniors Mtg.

Saturday, Feb. 10

11:00a.m. STC Montague Seniors Special Mtg.

Sunday, February 11, 2018

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

Future Events

Tues. Feb. 13 STC Mardi Gras and

Bury the Alleluia Night

Wed. Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday

Next Sunday's Readings: 6th Ord.

1st Reading: Leviticus 13: 1—2, 44--46

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 32*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 10: 31—11: 1*

Gospel: *Mark 1: 40--45*

Lent is on the Way. This is a first alert that the Season of Lent begins soon. Actual start is with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th. Make plans now to use these precious days to grow in your friendship with Jesus. That should be the basis for any sacrifices or practices you take on during Lent.

The Catholic Academy of Sussex County

invites you over, any Wednesday of the school year, to *Welcome Wednesdays*. All three schools: Pope John Regional H.S. (Gr. 8—12), Pope John Middle School (Gr. 5—7), and the Rev. Brown School Gr. Pre-K—4) are **open at 8:30 a.m.** for anyone who would like a tour. For more info, contact Anne Kaiser, Admissions Director, at 973-729-6126 or at annekaiser@popejohn.org

Pizza Night with the Bishop: Tues. Feb. 27

All young men of our parish are invited to join with Bishop Serratelli in an evening to think about their future. The date is **Tuesday, Feb. 17th at Pope John H. S. in Sparta, beginning at 7 p.m.** The Bishop will speak, there'll be time for prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and then unlimited pizza. No commitments will be taken, but you will be asked to think about what plans the Lord may have for you. Please speak to Fr. Wayne or call the Office to count you in. Parents are welcome too.

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, saintjamesthomas.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.

Personal Thanks. I am writing to thank all for your wonderful and generous gift to me at Christmas. I am very grateful for your thoughtfulness. With it, I plan to visit my sister and my little nieces and nephews in Florida. The flight is already booked for April, after Easter. It's just going to be a l-o-n-g time till April gets here. Thanks again !

--- Father Wayne.