

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

God's Spiritual Big Bang

Many scientists subscribe to the 'Big Bang' theory to explain the origins of the universe. Some fifteen or twenty billion years ago, they theorize, all the matter and energy of the universe was concentrated into a space smaller than the head of a pin. When the density became intolerably intense, there was an enormous explosion which propelled matter into a constantly expanding space. This theory might even correspond with the Bible: (Then God said: "*Let there be light.*" *Genesis 1: 3*)

Leaving aside any judgment about the correctness of this theory according to the providence of God's plan, the truth is that there was a *spiritual* Big Bang less than two thousand years ago. All of God's love was concentrated in a single action. His love was so intense that it exploded with such force that it was propelled outward in a great sphere, moving not only forward but even backward in time. That action was the death and resurrection of God's Son. God's Big Bang is not a theory. It is a profound reality which we call the Paschal Mystery.

In the death and resurrection of Jesus we see clearly the providence of God the Father. The Father's plan is that *death* unfolds into *life*. The death of God's Son led to His resurrection. And His death will lead to our resurrection as well.

We come in contact with the Paschal Mystery for the first time at our Baptism. St. Paul wrote to the Romans: "*We who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. We were indeed buried with Him through Baptism into death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.*" When we come into church, we make the sign of the cross with holy water. That should remind us of our Baptism, and make us aware that we gather in church primarily to celebrate the Paschal Mystery.

Every time we participate in the Mass we do so in memory of Christ's death and resurrection, His Paschal Mystery. Once a year, in Holy Week, we celebrate the Paschal Mystery in a special manner during the three days which are called the *Sacred Triduum*. This solemn memorial begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday night, and concludes with the Masses of Easter Sunday. Our liturgical celebration is more than a mere recalling of events of the past. It is a living memorial of the Paschal Mystery. Through the liturgy, we enter into the memory of God.

Our final sharing in the Paschal Mystery comes through our physical death. Death for us means life. At that moment, the Eucharistic words of Jesus will be fulfilled: "*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have life everlasting, and I will raise them up on the last day.*" On that last day, the echo of God's Big Bang will sound in our ears as the joyful announcement of everlasting life.

Sunday Preaching,
Charles E. Miller, C.M.

PALM SUNDAY
March 25, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Claire Beemer at the
Request of her Family

HOLY SATURDAY, March 31

8:00AM – No Mass

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1

8:00AM – People of the Parish
Living & Deceased

11:30AM – People of the Parish
Living & Deceased

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,147.00 – Regular Collection – March 18, 2018 +

\$ 145.00 – Online Giving

\$ 205.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$ 929.00 – Regular Collection – March 19, 2017

\$ 225.00 – Diocesan Assessment – March 19, 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 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 in
Memory of Kate Olivo at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, March 26

9:00AM – Deceased Members of the Nacinovich Family
req. by Dan & Luisa

TUESDAY, March 27

9:00AM – Intentions of Jane Brower
req. by Aunt Pat & Uncle Pete Lane

WEDNESDAY, March 28

9:00AM – Father James Gacquin
req. by Mary Flexer

HOLY THURSDAY, March 29

7:00PM – Pastors of the Parishes
Living & Deceased

FRIDAY, March 30

9:00AM – Szigmond Varga
req. by his Family

HOLY SATURDAY, Vigil, March 31

7:30PM – Father James Gacquin
req. by his niece, Anne Gacquin
-Jimmy Reed
req. by his Mom & Dad

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1

9:30AM – People of the Parish
Living & Deceased
-Sam & Helen Lotorto
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,661.00 – Regular Collection – March 18, 2018 +

\$ 381.00 – Online Giving

\$ 397.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,434.00 – Regular Collection – March 19, 2017

\$ 336.00 – Diocesan Assessment – March 19, 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, James Brittain, Peg Coates, 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, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, 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



Holy Week: Enter Into The Passion of Christ

The week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, Holy Week, is the most sacred time of the year for Catholics. During this special time, we enter into the passion of Christ – His crucifixion, death and resurrection.

The three days, called the Triduum, begins at dusk on Holy Thursday and continues through dusk on Easter Sunday and is a great opportunity to become closer to the Savior through liturgical celebration and personal conversion. Please have your family plan on attending as many, if not all, of the most beautiful and meaningful liturgies of the entire year!

Last Sessions for Grades 6-10

Final session for Confirmation Candidates is **Saturday, March 24th** at 4:30PM Palm Sunday Vigil Mass until 7:15PM. We will meet at the REC immediately following Mass and then proceed with our Emmaus Walk. Final session for Grades 6, 7 & 8 is **Sunday, March 25th** at 9:30AM Palm Sunday Mass until 12:30PM. Our middle school students are encouraged to attend the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday when they are presented by our Confirmation Candidates. **(PLEASE NOTE: Rehearsal will take place on Sunday, March 25th from 1:00PM – 2:30PM.**

The Mass of the Lord's Supper

This beautiful Liturgy will be celebrated on **Thursday, March 29th**, at St. Thomas Church at 7:00PM. **All First Eucharist and Confirmation II Candidates** are encouraged to participate in the **Foot Washing Ritual**. This is a very special way to celebrate your sacrament year. The sign-up sheets will be in the back of St. James and in the Gathering Space at St. Thomas or call the Parish Office at 973-948-2296.



Our youth and teens were once again invited to participate in the diocesan **Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program**.

Through Operation Rice Bowl, they will learn about the challenges facing the lives of their brothers and sisters around the world, as well as in their own diocese. Your children were asked to bring their Rice Bowls home, keep them in a place where they can see them and contribute to the program, learning the values of sacrifice and generosity to those in need. Rice Bowls will then be returned after Easter.



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1st

An Easter Egg Hunt for all children of the parishes (yes, 7th and 8th graders, you too!!!) will take place immediately following the 9:30AM Mass on Easter Sunday on the Great Lawn at St. Thomas. We will provide the "Easter Bags" or you can bring your own basket.



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.

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.

Reflections on the Readings

Father Wayne will lead us in scripture study each Tuesday morning after Mass in the Father Lewis Center. All are welcome. Please join us.

Yoga-lates at St. Thomas

A new session began 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. **You may join us at any time**. 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!

The next St. Thomas Coffee Hour is scheduled for **Sunday, April 8th** after the 9:30AM Mass. Please note that there will be a **special Coffee Hour on April 22nd** for a visiting missionary. All are welcome to join us and enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners.

The next St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner will take place on **Saturday, April 14th** in the Father Lewis Center immediately following the 4:30PM Mass. As always, members of both churches are welcome. This is an opportunity for families in both parishes to come together and enjoy friendships and hospitality. It is also an opportunity to meet new parishioners as well as old friends. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering space or call the parish office. Pot luck dinners are free; just bring a dish to share.

HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening, **May 4th**, 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 no later than April 30th to allow time for displaying them properly. 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 25, 2018

Palm Sunday

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

1:00 p.m. STC Living Stations rehearsal

Monday, Mar. 26

7:00 p.m. SJC Confessions (till 8:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, Mar. 27

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

6:00 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Wednesday, Mar. 28

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

Holy Thursday, Mar. 29

7:00 p.m. STC Mass of the Lord's Supper
--Adoration until Midnight

Good Friday, Mar. 30

3:00 p.m. SJC Service of the Lord's Passion

7:30 p.m. STC Stations of the Cross, presented
by Confirmation Candidates

Holy Saturday, Mar. 31

10:00a.m. STC Morning Prayer /Lit. of the Hours

12 Noon STC Blessing of Easter Baskets

7:30 p.m. STC The Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. SJC Easter Sunday Mass

9:30 a.m. STC Easter Sunday Mass

11:30a.m. SJC Easter Sunday Mass

Next Sunday's Readings: *Easter Sunday*

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 10: 34, 37--43*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 118*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 5: 6--8*

Gospel: *John 20: 1--9*

FORMED.org Free to you as a parishioner,
our parish code is: **HCVWQC**. The password is:
formed.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week. With the Masses of Palm Sunday we enter into the most sacred time of the Church year. We contemplate Jesus' last days on earth and His love for us, which continued unto the sufferings of the cross. His Resurrection on Easter Sunday changes our lives, so that we can strive for a happiness which will be everlasting.

This week, put aside all lesser concerns and truly enter into the spirit of Holy Week.

"Welcome Home" Reconciliation during Lent. Your final opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation: **Mon. Mar. 26 St. James**

Pray for our Confirmation Young People.

They will be receiving this great Sacrament on Thurs., April 5th—the Thursday of Easter Week. Pray that they will open their hearts to the Holy Spirit's counsel and wisdom. May they dedicate themselves to leading lives pleasing to the Lord and inspiring to us all.

Enter Here. Scripture scholars and novelists alike have observed that Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His cleansing of the Temple were purposely provocative. A royal welcome, complete with chants, palm branches, and garments strewn in front of Jesus—even a modest parade would have been enough of a photo op! These writers point out that Jesus knew His actions were giving the religious authorities a final chance to recognize His Messianic authority and heed His message. This scene from Palm Sunday should also challenge us to see Jesus' "controversial" values—Forgive! Love! Serve!—as well as His original message: "Repent and believe the Good News."

--Prepare the Word

Recommended by FORMED.org for Holy Week: *Stations of the Cross: A Journey with Christ to Calvary*, by St. Alphonsus Ligouri

Personally follow Christ and His Sorrowful Mother on their journey to Calvary. Moving meditations by St. Alphonsus Ligouri accompanied by the beautiful Latin hymn *Stabat Mater*, draw you into a more intimate experience of the Church's powerful Lenten prayer.