

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

“You Are Witnesses of These Things”

Were you ever a witness in a court case? I was, once, when I was 18. I worked that summer in a factory as a deburrer (probably the dirtiest job in the world—but I was good at it.) Since I didn’t have a car, a neighbor who happened to work there gave me a ride to work each day. Not long after, he gets a summons to appear in court. He was accused of being a hit-and-run driver in an accident. I was a witness to state that there were no dents or scrapes on his car—before or after the alleged accident. And with a physical inspection of his car to back up his claim—he was declared innocent and the case was thrown out of court.

When we think of witnesses, we usually think of something “passive.” You *witness* an accident. You report—step-by-step—how it unfolded. The obligation of a witness is to testify accurately to exactly what transpired. No elaborations.

Witnesses to Jesus have a very different role. As the Gospel passage implies, witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection aren’t just supposed to wait around until someone asks them to testify. They are, instead, to actively go out and spread the news of Jesus’ life, death and glorious resurrection to the world. The apostles—touched by the Holy Spirit—couldn’t stop preaching the Good News to everyone. *The Acts of the Apostles* reports that they convinced 3000 in one day. Early traditions relate that the apostles went out in all directions—as far as Spain to the West and Persia and India to the East—declaring the news of Jesus’ resurrection—and urging all to have faith in Jesus and to rejoice in the knowledge of eternal life after death.

We today are called to be witnesses in this active sense. The Lord asks us to give testimony to Him to our co-workers, classmates, neighbors and family members. We are called to witness to the Christian life by our works of service and our attitude of reverence; by our readiness to be of help or support. Speaking up for Christian values such as respect for life can be done in words, but even more effectively on street corners. Defending the sanctity of marriage can be accomplished by living this sacrament in faithfulness, and by testifying in public to our beliefs. Witnessing can be done by voting for values-minded political candidates (if you can find one) and also by writing a check for a worthy cause. Witnessing to respect for the aged and infirm becomes real by looking in on an elderly neighbor.

Witnessing today is a calling to stand on the side of God and life—in a world of self-centeredness and self-indulgence, where the strong and the powerful generally get their way. May we always stand with the Lord as His faithful witnesses today, humbly and confidently being aware that Truth is on our side. And let’s not forget that we have the best Witness Protection guarantee possible: *“The Paraclete, who I will send to you, will tell you what to say in that moment.”*

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 15, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Josephine Yarosz at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, April 21

8:00AM – Peg O'Brien
req. by her Friend

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22

8:00AM – Grayce Ricciardi
req. by Linda & Mike Spinaplice

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

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,078.00 – Regular Collection – April 8, 2018 +
\$ 235.00 – Online Giving
\$ 800.00 – Additional Easter
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,506.00 – Regular Collection – April 9, 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 Spinaplice 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 Josephine Yarosz at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, April 16

9:00AM – Ryan Bubigkeit
req. by his Family
-Intentions of the Heimall Family
-Intentions of Lyse von Doehren
Birthday Celebration

TUESDAY, April 17

9:00AM – Timothy McCauley

WEDNESDAY, April 18

9:00AM – Intentions of Michael Toth
req. by his Mom

THURSDAY, April 19

No Mass

FRIDAY, April 20

9:00AM – Barbara K. Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles
-Harvey McKean
req. by Janice Cerra

SATURDAY, Vigil, April 21

4:30PM – Helene P. Ventrudo
req. by Edmund & Nicolina Bush
-Jimmy Reed
req. by his Mom & Dad

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22

9:30AM – Helene Ventrudo
req. by William & Lucille Pagano

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,368.00 – Regular Collection – April 8, 2018 +
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$1,260.00 – Additional Easter
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,827.00 – Regular Collection – April 9, 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



5 Ways to Live Easter Joy Each Day

- ❖ Do something nice for someone.
- ❖ Take a moment to appreciate the beauty of nature around you.
- ❖ Try to live more simply. Give away material things you no longer use.
- ❖ Don't contain your laugh when you see something funny.
- ❖ Begin and end each day by thanking God for all the good things in your life.



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **TODAY, Sunday, April 15th, from 6:00-8:00PM**. All High School teens are invited to OLQP for an evening of fun and friendship! There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!!

First Holy Eucharist Retreat

Please keep the young children of our parishes in your prayers on **Saturday, April 21st** as they participate in a morning of retreat at Camp Auxilium from 9:00AM until 11:30AM as they prepare to receive the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in Holy Eucharist for the very first time on Saturday, April 28th at St. Thomas the Apostle.



Our diocesan **Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program** has come to an end. Please return your Rice Bowls to the Religious Education Center or to the box/basket at Church ASAP. Thank you for your spirit of generosity and compassion to our brothers and sisters in need throughout the world.

Catholic Summer Camp 2018

Once again, we invite and encourage your children entering Grades K through 4 to join us for a week of fun, learning the faith through music, prayers, games, skits, arts & crafts and friendship! Catholic Summer Camp will be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Branchville on Monday, June 25th through Friday, June 29th from 9:00AM until 12 noon. You may begin the Online Registration at www.olqpbranchville.org under the Religious Education tab or forms may be obtained at the OLQP parish office from 9:00AM until 2:00PM. The requested fee for students in Grades K through 4 is \$25.00 for one child or \$30.00 Family fee for 2 or more. Register early because space is limited. For more information, please call Mary at 973-948-7004.

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.



A Memorial Mass for Helen Lotorto will take place on Saturday, April 28th at 4:30PM at St. Thomas Church followed by a light Repast.

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.

A Special St. Thomas Coffee Hour is scheduled for **Sunday, April 22nd** after the 9:30 AM Mass for a visiting missionary. All are welcome to join us and enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Third Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2018

"Now I know brothers that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did. But God has thus brought to fulfillment what He had announced beforehand that through the mouth of all the prophets that His Christ would suffer. Repent, therefore and be converted that your sins may be wiped away... Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures... Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer, and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all the nations."

The wonderful sermon of Saint Peter offers encouragement, not judgment, summoning his hearers to listen more closely. The scriptures they knew, the prophets and psalms, pointed to the events which had taken place in Jerusalem. As they listened, they were able to conclude 'this makes sense, I'll follow what he says and begin living as a witness.'

Twenty centuries have passed, the sermon of Peter is repeated for my benefit as he opens our minds and hearts. If these words changed the hearts of his listeners, what is happening in my heart at this moment? Am I, or am I not a witness?

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, April 15, 2018

Third Sunday of Easter

11:00a.m. SJC Columbiettes' Mtg.

Monday, Apr. 16

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

Tuesday, Apr. 17

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

6:00 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

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

Wednesday, Apr. 18

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

Thursday, Apr. 19

Friday, Apr. 20

10:00a.m. STC Adoration of Bl. Sac. (till Noon)

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

Saturday, Apr. 21

8:00 a.m. STC Flea Market (till 2 p.m.)

9:00p.m. First Eucharist Retreat

-- at Camp Auxilium, Newton

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

12:45p.m. SJC 75th Anniversary Mtg.

Next Sunday's Readings: 4th Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 4: 8--12*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 118*

2nd Reading: *1 John 3: 1--2*

Gospel: *John 10: 11--18*

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

Recommended by FORMED.org:

Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead? Q and A format which examines the historical evidence of Jesus' Resurrection.

Welcome Msgr. David Walker. This week-end we are happy to have Msgr. David Walker speaking to us at all the Masses about the Catholic organization known as **Food for the Poor**. Their mission is to care for the destitute, as a means of living out the Gospel mandate of easing the physical and spiritual plight of the poor. Their concentration is Latin America and the Caribbean. Msgr. Walker will not be taking up a collection, but he will ask us to consider supporting their efforts to spread our Catholic faith by effective Catholic action.

Saint James Church ***75th Anniversary!

Please join us for a meeting to finalize plans for our 75th anniversary year. It will be held **next Sunday, April 22, at 12:45 p.m.** in the St. James Church Hall.

Back in the Day: Rev. John E. Hewetson celebrated the first Mass in the township of Montague on a Monday morning—All Souls' Day, 1942 at the Staudt home on River Road. A Mass, to be held on Christmas Day at the Staudt home, was also scheduled at that time.

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.

Come to my assistance.

“If at first you don't succeed . . .” As you read these words, you likely have already completed the proverb in your mind with the words, “try, try again.” And there are others: “Don't give up the ship.” “Never, ever give up.” We know that persistence is usually the better way. Parents and teachers, coaches and mentors have encouraged and reminded us that simply giving up rarely solves a problem. That seems to be God's opinion as well. No matter the difficulty, the hopelessness, the apparent silence, never stop talking to God and never stop asking for God's help.