

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



First Holy Communion

Yesterday was a very special day at both of our parishes. It was the day for which twenty-one of our children have been preparing for two years. It was the occasion on which they received Our Lord for the first time in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The children were nervous but ready, dressed beautifully in their First Communion dresses and suits. Parents, grandparents and relatives attended, and were full of pride and joy for their young ones.

Our children did for the first time yesterday—what we hope for them will be a life-time practice: that of receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord at Sunday Mass. The Eucharist is Jesus' precious gift of Himself to us; it is His pledge to be with us and with the world till the end of time. He had told us: *"I will be with you always, until the end of the age."* Each generation is called to hand down this truth to the next, by their words and example. We are called to witness to these children and help them to understand the supreme gift that the Eucharist is for us.

Each Mass actually brings us back to the Last Supper table. We are actually seated among the original disciples as we hear the priest pronounce the words of consecration. We experience nothing less than those first apostles, as we partake of the Body and Blood of the Lord.

But clearly, we are able to understand more than they did at the Last Supper. For those first apostles, the words *"This is my Body ... this is my Blood"* surely caught them by surprise. They thought that they were gathered for the annual Passover Meal. But Jesus transforms this meal by initiating a New Covenant. The Old Covenant, celebrated each Passover, assured the Jewish people of God's love, demonstrated long ago, by saving them from the Egyptians, through the Red Sea. Jesus institutes *"... a new and everlasting covenant"* which will save His followers from something worse—sin and death. It will come at the cost of His own death on the cross.

The apostles only came to realize all of this later, as they reflected upon Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. We today, 2000 years later, understand so much better all that the Eucharist—Jesus' Body and Blood—means for us. It is the greatest demonstration of Jesus' love for us; it is the promise of His companionship and guidance all throughout life; it is the pledge that He will bring us to resurrection and eternal life in His Kingdom of Heaven.

All this is too much for the children to understand right now. They're only seven or eight years old. It is we, their elders—and you their families—who must continue to help them grow in faith and knowledge.

May the Lord help parents to continue what you have begun for your children. May we, their Christian community, always be examples of faith for them to follow. Together, may we enable our Catholic faith to flourish and be an assurance of God's love for all the generations to come.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 29, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Pat Follette at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, May 5

8:00AM – Kate Olivo
req. by her Family

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6

8:00AM – Father Kenneth Hewitt

11:30AM – Father Michael Burke

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 789.00 – Regular Collection – April 22, 2018 +
\$ 255.00 – Online Giving
\$ 203.00 – Campaign for Human Development
\$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 in
Memory of Kate Olivo at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, April 30

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

TUESDAY, May 1

9:00AM – Bob & Evelyn Schweer and Josephine Yarosz
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, May 2

9:00AM – John Brehm, Jr.

THURSDAY, May 3

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 4

9:00AM – Intentions of the Gorman Men
req. by Kathleen Gorman & Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 5

4:30PM – Kate Olivo
req. by her Family
-Intentions of Deacon Wayne
Anniversary of Ordination

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6

9:30AM – Barbara K. Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles
-Jim Mahon
req. by his wife, Gerry & Family
-Intentions of the Catechists

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,414.00 – Regular Collection – April 22, 2018 +
\$ 411.00 – Online Giving
\$ 536.00 – Campaign for Human Development
\$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, James Brittain, Peg Coates, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Doug Kabbash, 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



Final Classes

The last class for grades 1 and 2 will take place on Tuesday, May 1st and for grades 3, 4 and 5 on Wednesday, May 2nd. May all of our children, teens and their families enjoy a safe, happy and holy summer!



First Holy Eucharist

It is with great joy that we welcomed the following children of our parishes to the Table of the Lord as they received the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ for the very first time on Saturday, April 28th at St. Thomas: Thomas Alsdorf, Isabella Belardo, Grace Benson, Gerard Empirio, Mackenzie Fischer, Cara Fletcher, Caylee Fletcher, Ranger Harper, Mason Hull, Thomas Jaust, Sam Mahoney, Emma McEvelly, Danica Pilger, Hailey Prokopenko, Zoe Reilly, Jayden Ricciardi, Angelina Sampson, Turner Sansone, Cameron Sorg and Kaya Teta. We congratulate their Parents, Grandparents, Godparents and Catechists, Rita Straka, Marie Mendez and Megan Jaust who have been so instrumental in bringing them to this very special day in their lives. May our children continue to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus and may they continue to receive Him lovingly and reverently all the days of their lives.

Calling All Middle School/Junior High and High School Parishioners

By now, you should have received information in the mail about these two exciting events! Middle School/Junior High and High School teens are invited to the Annual NJ Catholic Youth Rally at Great Adventure on Sunday, May 20th and High School Teens are invited to the Diocesan Pilgrimage to our newly-renovated Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson on Sunday, June 10th. Bishop Serratelli has asked that each parish be represented at both of these events!

We will be traveling by bus to Great Adventure with teens from Our Lady Queen of Peace, Branchville and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Swartswood. I need to register you ASAP, so please respond TO ME by Friday, May 4, 2018 (PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER ON LINE). If you are going to the Youth Rally, I will need a check for \$50.00 payable to St. Thomas Church. Also, please RSVP to me ASAP regarding the pilgrimage too!

Calling all Children from Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

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.

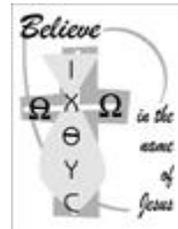
HOLD THE DATE

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.

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 FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Fifth Sunday of Easter April 29, 2018

“When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus... The church throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.”

We are familiar with the encounter and conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus. This passage tells us something of the struggle for acceptance by the Christian community in Jerusalem. Barnabas spoke in his behalf to the disciples, and then to the apostles. Paul presented his credentials. The Holy Spirit was at work.

What a great lesson for us today, to be sure that we are welcoming communities. Most likely on a weekly basis people visit our parish church for the first time. Some have recently moved into the community, some perhaps have been away from the church for some time. Others say now is the time for me and my family to become active. How ready are we to reach out, to invite and support those who come to our community. Pope Francis is constantly teaching us to go out to the streets, take a risk, feel the bruises as did Paul. Not sure what to do?

Look what happened to the great apostle.

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 29, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. STC Crowning of Bl. Mother at Mass

Monday, Apr. 30

Tuesday, May 1

Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, May 2

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

Thursday, May 3

Friday, May 4

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

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

6:30 p.m. STC St. Thomas Tricky Tray

Saturday, May 5

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 5th Easter

1st Reading: Acts of Apostles 10: 25--48

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 98

2nd Reading: 1 John 4: 7--10

Gospel: John 15: 9--17

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

Recommended by FORMED.org:

In honor the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, May 1, Listen to: **Saint Joseph: Patron of the Universal Church**

Congratulations to the children who received their **First Holy Communion** yesterday. May it be the beginning of a long and beautiful relationship with Our Lord. May their parents and families help them stay close to Jesus who loves them.

Saint James Church *** 75th Anniversary!

Back in the Day: In Nov. 1942, those desiring a local church volunteered their labors in advance and held a Card Party at the Staudt's farmhouse (at the bend of River Road) to raise funds. Bishop McLaughlin next authorized Fr. Hewetson to open a bank account for that purpose, as he shared plans to take up collections at the city parishes he was invited to preach at. It looks like things were getting serious about starting a Catholic Church in Montague.

Children's Garden to support Food Pantry.

Next month we are planning to place a small container garden with spring vegetables in front of the Father Lewis Center. The garden will be tended by children following the week-end Mass, and the vegetables grown will be available to families who utilize the Food Pantry. If you have ideas, time or materials to contribute to this project, please call or text Jane Farrell at 970-670-6077.

Gas Grill to donate ? Our monthly **St. Thomas Flea Market** is making progress. With the better weather coming, the event will be held outdoors. Cooked food could be a regular source of income for the parish. All we need is an outdoor gas grill to cook hotdogs, hamburgers, etc. If you have one to donate, please call the Parish Office—with our thanks.

St. James Clean-Up Days. Get out and enjoy the nice weather and get some exercise too ! St. James is asking for parishioner help as we collaborate with the Sussex Co. Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program. Clean-Up Days are **Mon. May 14 and Mon. May 21**—at 8:30 a.m. (or whenever you can get there). Let's make St. James Parish sparkle for our 75th Anniversary !

The Catholic Academy of Sussex County, Pre-K through Gr.12, is hosting an Open House on **today, Sunday, April 29** at all three Academy schools at **3:00 p.m.** Tours will be led by the faculty. Tour the premises, view the latest equipment and ask questions about the education offered at Pope John.