

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

Gaudete Sunday: The Sunday of Rejoicing

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, Rejoice !

--Philippians 4: 4

Saint Paul believed that rejoicing was a basic disposition that we all should try to maintain, even when things don't go our way. In his short Letter to the Philippians in fact, he spoke about rejoicing fifteen times. And let's not forget that Paul was in prison when he wrote the letter ! He was not going to let his circumstances rob him of joy.

So how did Paul maintain a joyful disposition ? First, he rejoiced because he knew Jesus' love. If you back up just two chapters in this letter, you'll see him singing a hymn that extols Jesus' willingness to empty Himself, become a man, and die on the cross (Phil. 2: 7–8). And then in the next chapter, he writes: *"I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."* (3: 8). The thought of Jesus' love—a love that gives of itself freely—continually filled Paul with joy.

Second, Paul rejoiced in the Philippians themselves. They were his joy and his crown (Phil. 4: 1). They were his dear friends who had joined him in a "partnership for the Gospel." (1: 5). He rejoiced because he knew he had brothers and sisters who loved him and supported him in his faith.

We will all encounter times of trial and suffering, But Jesus asks us to rejoice whether or not the sun is shining on us. He especially wants us to rejoice as we prepare for Christmas. If Paul were here, he would urge us to keep things in perspective—to look at our lives through the lens of God's love. He would urge us never to let anxiousness rule our lives, but to strive to keep our sense of peace at all times. He would urge us to pray through the tough times and to find reasons to rejoice.

Jesus has done so much for us. Let's repay Him by rejoicing in His love—and sharing that joy with the people around us.

**Lord, help me to hold on to my joy,
especially when I face the difficult challenges of life.**

--from: *The Word Among Us*
Advent 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 16, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Ray Sorg at the
Request of Lorraine

SATURDAY, December 22

8:00AM – Intentions of Father Alfred J. Vito

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 23

8:00AM – Pat Piserchio
req. by Suzanne Laggy & Family
-Cindy DelliSanti
req. by Suzanne Laggy & Family

11:30AM – Bishop Frank Rodimer

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,129.00 – Regular Collection- December 9, 2018
\$ 171.00 – Online Giving
\$ 205.00 – Retirement Fund for Religious
\$ 940.00 – Regular Collection – December 10, 2017
\$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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Louis & Helen Briegel at the
Request of their Family

MONDAY, December 17

9:00AM – Bishop Frank Rodimer

TUESDAY, December 18

9:00AM – John Sweeney
req. by his granddaughter, Mary Flexer
-Father Eugene McQuaid
req. by Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, December 19

9:00AM – Barbara Gioielli
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, December 20

No Mass

FRIDAY, December 21

9:00AM – Laura Damone
req. by her daughter, Frances Demalderis

SATURDAY, Vigil, December 22

4:30PM – Theresa & Walter Hoffman
req. by the Wainwright Family

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 23

9:30AM – Jerry Demalderis
req. by his wife, Frances
-Intentions of EMTs, Firefighters and Police Officers
req. by the Columbiettes

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,411.00 – Regular Collection – December 9, 2018 +
\$ 393.00 – Online Giving
\$ 608.00 – Retirement Fund for Religious
\$2,093.00 – Regular Collection – December 10, 2017
\$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.

The 8:00am St. James Coffee Hour takes place the first Sunday of the month except for July, August and September.



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.



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. James Altar & Floral Society If any ladies in the parish are interested in joining, please call Joan Henn at 973-293-3690 or Linda Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Margaret Accordino, Loretta Bauman, James Brittain, Agnes Ciesielski, Peg Coates, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Sofia Evelich, Rachel Gibbs, Gomez Family, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Mr. Harris, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Doug Kabbash, Bernadette Lang, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Beth Lucien, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Agnes Mantini, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, John Meehan, Robert Morenski, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Richard Nowicki, Robert Organes, Jim Pantelmo, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Nicole Perry, Flo Puccio, Sal, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, John Sikora, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Richard Vergona, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh and Joan White



Advent Joy

As we continue to journey through the Season of Advent, we become excited as we look forward to the activities and traditions of the Advent and Christmas season. But sometimes that excitement blurs our vision of what we should be focusing on – specifically, the birth of Jesus Christ. Here are some reminders of some of the things that bring us joy at this time of year:

- ❖ **Friends** ~ Family is blood. But visiting with friends and having a good laugh is also good for the soul. Jesus wants us to spread the good news about him. What better way than to live joy in the presence of others.
- ❖ **Scent of Pine** ~ Crisp and clean, the scents of pine is synonymous with Christmas. Christmas trees remind us of the everlasting life we have in Christ, while wreaths symbolize the never-ending circle of God's love for us.

(To be continued...Taken from Take Out-Family Faith on the Go)



Children's Christmas Pageant, Tree Lighting and Cookie Challenge

Please join us today, **Sunday, December 16th at 3:00PM at St. Thomas** as the youngest members of our parish family present their gift of time and talent through their beautiful **Children's Christmas Pageant**. Following the pageant, the Knights of Columbus will help us with the **Lighting of the Parish Christmas Tree** followed by the **2nd Annual Christmas Cookie Challenge**. Thank you to all who helped to make these events a wonderful way to spend Gaudete Sunday (the Third Sunday of Advent) as a day of joy!!!



Celebrate December

December 17th ~ The O Antiphons begin today. These antiphons focus on the coming of the Lord for the next seven days. Go to this web link to learn more: www.OAntiphonsTCK.com.

Columbiettes

Our Seminarian, Tom Costello, Jr., the son of Cindy and Tom Costello, is in preparation for the priesthood. The Columbiettes are sponsoring funding towards his education in this most holy endeavor. There are containers placed in both parishes. We appreciate any donations that are given. We thank all parishioners in advance and especially thank Father Wayne for his encouragement in this endeavor.

March For Life Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.

Our Lady Queen of Peace
209 US Highway 206
Branchville, New Jersey
973-948-3185
Friday, January 18, 2019

Itinerary:

- 6:00AM - Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace
- 6:30AM - Bus Departs Our Lady Queen of Peace
- 11:30AM - Arrive in Washington, D.C.
- 12:00 Noon - Rally begins at the Mall
- 1:00PM - March Begins
- 3:30PM - Return to the Bus
- 9:30PM - Return to Our Lady Queen of Peace

Come and Join us for our annual pilgrimage to give witness to the Beauty of Life. The cost is only \$10.00. Children and Students are free. The bus will make a food stop along the way and on the way back. Call the office at 973-948-3185 for more information and to sign up.

"SOUP ON A SATURDAY".....St. James the Greater will again be sponsoring a take-out soup fundraiser on Saturday, January 26th, 2019. Order a quart (or more) of Chili by Art & Maria Henn, Manhattan Clam Chowder by Bill & Joan Henn, Italian Wedding soup by Bill Ricciardi, Pasta e Fagioli by Mike & Linda Spinapolice, Split Pea with Ham by Janice Cerra, or Winter Harvest (Pumpkin base with apple) by Elaine Schuster. Price is \$7.00 per quart. Please get your orders in early as there will be limits on the Split Pea with Ham and Winter Harvest. **You must order in advance by January 20th**. Pick up is on January 26th from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm 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, December 16, 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent

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

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

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

3:00 p.m. STC Children's Christmas Pageant
Christmas Tree Lighting
K of C Christmas Cookie Challenge

Monday, Dec. 17

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

7:00 p.m. STC Sac. of Reconciliation

Tuesday, Dec. 18

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, Dec. 19

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

Thursday, Dec. 20

Friday, Dec. 21

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 22

Sunday, December 23, 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

Next Sunday's Readings: 4th Advent

1st Reading: *Micah 5: 1—4a*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 80*

2nd Reading: *Hebrews 10: 5--10*

Gospel: *Luke 1: 39—45*

Reflection on Readings. Join us for this informal sharing of the Scriptures which takes place each week at St. Thomas, after the morning Mass. We begin about 10 a.m. each Tuesday morning, and discuss the Readings of the next Sunday's Mass. It is a chance to grow in knowledge of God's Word, and to apply it to our daily lives and to current events. Sharing continues till 11 a.m. and always includes coffee "and."

Christmas Mass Schedule. To help with your planning, here is a sneak preview of our Mass Schedule for Christmas this year:

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Thomas

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. James

11:30p.m. Lessons & Carols Service at St. Thomas

12 Mid. Midnight Mass at St. Thomas

9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass at St. Thomas

11:30a.m. Christmas Day Mass at St. James

Come Home for Christmas. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** should be at the top of your list of preparations for Christmas. One last chance for Confession will be offered:

**Mon. Dec. 17 at St. Thomas
from 7 p.m. till 8 p.m.**

Christmas Trees. St. Paul's Abbey, on Route 206 one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas trees ready to **Choose 'n' Cut.** Open 7 days a week from Nov. 23rd to Dec. 23rd, 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. They also have the **Abbey Gift Shop** with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more.

Blessing Your Christmas Tree at Home

Lord our God,
We praise You for the light of creation:
The sun, the moon, and the stars of night.
We praise You for the light of Israel:
The Law, the Prophets, and the Wisdom of the Scriptures.
We praise You for Jesus Christ Your Son:
He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,
Who fills us with the wonder of Your love.

Lord God,
Let Your blessing come upon us
As we light our Christmas tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
Be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
Come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

--from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, God's joy, an inner joy of light and peace." -- Pope Francis