

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

How Christmas Has Changed Us



Here is part of a sermon given by Saint Pope Leo the Great (440–461 A.D.) He is the first to be given the title “Great.” He was known as an excellent administrator in the times of the early Church, and spoke out fiercely against the heresies of his day. His sermon is as clear and meaningful today as it was when he preached it in the 5th century.

Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God’s wisdom, the Son of God took for Himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its Creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which the devil had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest*, and they proclaim: *peace to His people on earth* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God’s goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men ?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through His Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in His great love for us He took pity on us. ... Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways, and as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, now that you share in God’s own nature. ... Through the Sacrament of Baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. ...

Today true peace came down to us from heaven. Today the whole earth is filled with heaven’s sweetness.

Along with our parish staff, I wish all of you a happy and holy Christmas Season. May the joy of this day remain with you always.

Father Wayne

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2018

St. James the Greater

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

MONDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00PM – Marion Youngster
req. by her daughter, Victoria Gorchach

TUESDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 AM – No Mass

11:30 AM – People of the Parish, Deceased Parishioners and
Pastors

SATURDAY, December 29

8:00AM – Charlie Lombaerde
req. by his wife, Carol

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 30

8:00AM – Fred Detoro, Sr.
req. by Suzanne Laggy & Family

11:30AM – Mavis Kaufman
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,223.00 – Regular Collection- December 16, 2018

\$ 407.00 – Online Giving

\$1,224.00 – Regular Collection – December 17, 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.

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 Spinapolice at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Linda J. Stephens at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00AM – Rosemarie Bastian
req. by her Family

4:00PM – People of the Parish, Deceased Parishioners and
Pastors

Midnight – Donald & Mary Powers
req. by their Daughters and Grandchildren
-Bill Wagner
req. by his daughter, Tarra

TUESDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30AM – People of the Parish, Deceased Parishioners and
Pastors

WEDNESDAY, December 26

9:00AM – Kate Olivo
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, December 27

No Mass

FRIDAY, December 28

9:00AM – Intentions of Father Wayne
Birthday Celebration

SATURDAY, Vigil, December 29

4:30PM – Yvonne Keogh-Dwyer
req. by Edmund & Nicolina Bush
-Intentions of Jim & Sandy Matthews
Anniversary Celebration
req by the Wedemeier Family

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 30

9:30AM – Carol A. Pierson
req. by her Family
-Intentions of Christopher & Ana Sarao
Marriage Blessings
req. by the Sarao Family
-Intentions of the Religious Education Families
req. by Mary Flexer

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,477.00 – Regular Collection – December 16, 2018 +

\$ 393.00 – Online Giving

\$3,065.00 – Regular Collection – December 17, 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.

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 enter the last week 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:

- ❖ **Baking** ~ Crafting them from scratch, perhaps from a family recipe, Christmas cookies are a labor of love meant to be shared with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. It might seem like a simple gesture, but you never know what kind of encounter might occur when you offer a sweet treat.
- ❖ **Gift Giving** ~ Picking out the perfect gift and anticipating the receiver's response is a true joy of the season. We give gifts to show our love and appreciation for others. Christmas is God's way of giving us the ultimate gift, Jesus, our salvation.



Celebrate December

December 25th ~ We may all call it Christmas, but may we all remember what we truly celebrate – The Nativity (birth) of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Happy birthday Dear Jesus!!!

December 27th ~ Speaking of birthdays...Happy and blessed birthday to our Pastor, Father Wayne!!!

December 30th ~ Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and we also celebrate our own holy family too. Go to Mass, then do something fun as a family today!

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 23, 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

Monday, Dec. 24

See Christmas Eve & Midnight Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Feast of Christmas

See Christmas Day Mass Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Thursday, Dec. 27

Friday, Dec. 28

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

Saturday, Dec. 29

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Feast of the Holy Family

Next Sunday's Readings: *Holy Family*

1st Reading: *1 Samuel 1: 20—22, 24—28*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 84*

2nd Reading: *1 John 3: 1—2, 21—24*

Gospel: *Luke 1: 41—52*

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."**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful way to grow closer to the Lord. Just you and Him. No sermons, no announcements, no singing, no time limits. Simply speak to the Lord on the Altar, and let Him speak to you. Each Friday, 10 a.m. till 12 Noon at St. Thomas.

A Blessed Christmas to All ! As we observe the 4th Sunday of Advent today, we find that Christmas is right around the corner. On behalf of our Parish Staff, I would like to wish all of our parishioners and families—all the blessings of Christmas Day. May your knowledge of the Savior's presence in the world make your journey through this life happier, and more confident.

I also thank the members of both our parishes for all the countless ways you serve and assist our parishes throughout the year. May the Lord bless you greatly for your service to His people.

Christmas Mass Schedule. We look forward to greeting you at one of our Masses at Christmas:

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

New Year's Mass Schedule. **The Feast of Mary the Mother of God** celebrates our Blessed Mother as the first and best of the human race. She is our model of how to live in a way that is pleasing to God. Being closest to God, she intercedes for us. This Feast is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses for the Feast are as follows:

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 6:00 p.m. St. Thomas

New Year's Day, Jan. 1: 8:00 a.m. St. James

9:30 a.m. St. Thomas

11:30a.m. St. James

You're invited to a Surprise 100th Birthday Celebration for our good parishioner:

Agnes Ciesielski, better known as "**Agnes.**"

Agnes has been a member of St. Thomas Church, probably before it was even formed, and now she turns 100 years old the day after Christmas. A birthday party and covered dish luncheon is being planned at the Fr. Lewis Center at St. Thomas, on **Saturday, Dec. 29, at 12 Noon till 4 p.m.** If you're able to bring a dish or desert, please contact Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092. Come and celebrate with Agnes.

P.S. Don't let her see this. It's a SURPRISE !