

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

Create Your Own Future

by Father John Catoir

“All the way to heaven is heaven.”
— St. Catherine of Siena.

Fr. John Catoir is a retired priest of the Diocese of Paterson. For many years he was the Director of “The Christophers,” and produced countless T.V. interviews with prominent people throughout the world. His columns have a world-wide circulation, as does his current weekly blog, www.blog.messengerofjoy.com This article appeared in The Beacon on Nov.29, 2018:

We gradually become what we think about. The thoughts we dwell on enable us to become what we want to be. They have the power to transform us into extraordinary human beings. This is good news for saints-in-training.

Most of us think worthy thoughts most of the time. Sometimes fear and toxic thoughts barge in uninvited. In moments of exhaustion or sadness we become vulnerable. No one is perfect.

Not to worry; you are not your thoughts. You are the observer of your thoughts. More precisely, you are the editor of your thoughts. Delete the dark ones; affirm the light ones, and your life will be a lot happier.

Jesus is the Light that comes into the darkness. When you feel like you’re in a dark tunnel, instantly change the channel. Imagine yourself in heaven, at the beach having an adult beverage with the Lord. Life will be a lot easier if you manage your thoughts with a sense of humor.

“Don’t be afraid,” said the Lord.” Those words appear 365 times in the Bible. It means that you have the power to banish needless anxiety. Jesus would never have uttered them if they were not true. You have the power to reject fear. You can imagine yourself as Joan of Arc or the Angel Gabriel.

On a more intellectual note, the following ideas may be of help. They are taken from Dr. Abraham Low, the psychiatrist who wrote in *Mental Health Through Will Training*: “The will plays a crucial role in controlling your thoughts. It is vital that you reject upsetting thoughts.

The will is the center of the personality. St. Thomas Aquinas and Dr. Low agree on this point. It is a belief that is very much in harmony with Catholic thinking. The key is in the word: habitual. Make a habit of collecting uplifting ideas. Write them down. You can control your emotions better by controlling the thoughts you allow yourself to think.

You are responsible for your own actions. You know the courts will send you to prison if you commit a crime. Therefore, you must reject any thoughts or temptations that will lead to criminal behavior. And if you want to go further and become a saint, press the same reject button for thoughts that can lead to immoral activities.

Multiple addictions can develop in the life of a good person, if he or she has no long-range plan. Therefore, plan for the attainment of salvation. If you feel weak at times, don’t be discouraged. Be like St. Paul, who boasted of his weakness, “For when I am weak, then I call on Christ to make me strong.” With prayer and determination, you can do this.

If you’re already suffering from an addiction, check out the Third Step: “Turned my life and my will over to the God of my understanding.” For Christians, that would be Jesus. Millions of alcoholics, druggies, gamblers, overeaters and sexaholics have found salvation and sobriety through the twelve-step program. Turning control over to the Lord takes great faith, but it works.

Either way, you can control your thoughts, your feelings and your actions. Suicidal thoughts be damned. Replace them with the thought that God wants you to make others happy, not miserable. Set a good example, be brave. May the Lord be your strength and your joy.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 3, 2019

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of David Latini at the
Request of Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi

SATURDAY, February 9

8:00AM – Rosemarie Bastian
req. by her Family

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 10

8:00AM – Dorothy M. Onofry
req. by Doug & Jane Sandberg

11:30AM – Lian Mink
req. by Eleanor Roll and Ann Dilger

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 700.00 – Regular Collection – January 27, 2019

\$ 379.00 – Online Giving

\$ 139.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$1,164.00 – Regular Collection – January 28, 2018

\$ 246.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$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 Spinapolicce at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Edward Lodema, Jr. at the
Request of the Lodema Family

MONDAY, February 4

9:00AM – Mary Cunico and Pat Wilson
req. by Friends at Prayer Shawl & Rosary Ministries

TUESDAY, February 5

9:00AM – Barbara Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles
-Carolyn Lewis
req. by Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, February 6

9:00AM – Thomas Zimich
req. by Ken & Mary Burkhardt

THURSDAY, February 7

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 8

9:00AM – Intentions of Michael Briegel
Birthday Celebration
req. by Rosemarie

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 9

4:30PM – Doug Kabbash and Christopher Chesnut
req. by the Flexer Family

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 10

9:30AM – Mary Cunico
req. by Tess & Dick Martin

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,053.00 – Regular Collection - January 27, 2019

\$ 496.00 – Online Giving

\$ 569.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$2,245.00 – Regular Collection – January 28, 2018

\$ 351.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$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, Kathy Arnold, Loretta Bauman, James Brittain, Agnes Ciesielski, Peg Coates, Frances Demalderis, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Sofia Evelich, Rachel Gibbs, Gomez Family, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Mr. Harris, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Bernadette Lang, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Joe Lorenzo, Beth Lucien, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Gerry Mahon, Agnes Mantini, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, John Meehan, Robert Morenski, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Richard Nowicki, Robert Organes, William Pagano, Jim Pantelmo, Tracey Perles, Nicole Perry, Flo Puccio, Sal, Katie Onofry Sandberg, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, John Sikora, Shirley Strong, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Richard Vergona, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Fran Whitesell



Finding Time To Pray (Part 2)

It truly seems like we are living in chaotic times, and rarely do we have a quiet moment for ourselves. We are busy from the moment our feet hit the floor in the morning to when we collapse into bed at night. But, as a whole, our busyness is keeping us from what truly matters – developing our relationship with God. It is our prayer life that most often gets pushed aside. But each of us, if we're intentional, can take time throughout our busy day to grow closer to God through prayer. Here are a few ideas:

Do you eat dinner as a family? YES – Before dinner, everybody is hungry and the food is still hot, so begin with grace. During the meal, go around the table and ask each person where they saw God in their life that day – and how others saw God in them through their actions. NO – While we might see it as a burden sometimes to shuttle kids to and from practices, games and activities, take a few minutes – maybe while you are waiting in the drive thru line – to thank God for having blessed you with a healthy, talented family.

Do you have a bedtime routine? YES – Between making dinner, helping with homework, doing dishes and getting kids ready for bed, it often can seem that there is no time for rest or to pray in the evenings. The Divine Mercy Chaplet takes about five minutes. You can pray this alone or with the entire family before you send them off to bed. NO – After the busyness of the day has settled and the house is quiet, turn off the TV and put down the smart phones for half an hour to pray the Rosary as a family. If you have young children who need more sleep, pray the first decade and put them to bed, then you can finish with your spouse and older kids.

(Take Out – Family Faith On The Go)



Catholic Teens News

Catholic Teens – which NOW includes 7th through 12th graders – will meet again on Sunday, February 10th from 6:00PM until 8:00PM at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center!!!

We are now alternating sites to make it easier for all to attend – **so we are the host this month!!!** Please come to the Youth Group for an evening of fun and friendship! There will be plenty of food, games, music and prayer. **Come join us and see what's going on – you won't be disappointed!!!** For more information, please call Mary Flexer at 862-268-1876.

8th Grade Service Project

Our 8th Grade Religious Education Class is working on a service project for the children/teen patients at St. Joseph hospital in Paterson. They are collecting items to create gift baskets to help bring some joy to them during their illness. The list of items are on the board above the basket where the items may be placed. As always, we thank you for your support of the children there in our parish as well as those in St. Joseph's hospital too.



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 sponsoring a **Toiletry Drive** for women's shelters. If you can help us with any toiletry items, there is a basket in the gathering space. We will collect items through the month of February. Thank you for your contributions.

Soup on a Saturday was a success! Thank you to all who purchased soup and/or made donations. Thank you to the soup makers: Mike & Linda Spinapolice, Art & Maria Henn, Bill & Joan Henn, Janice Cerra, Elaine Schuster and Bill & Valerie Ricciardi. There were no expenses as these "chefs" donated the ingredients, containers, bags, and their time. 140 quarts were sold and \$1,026 was raised and turned over to Father Wayne.

ST. THOMAS COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for our next coffee hour scheduled for **Sunday, February 10th** after the 9:30AM Mass and bring your friends. 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.

St. Mary's Church

Court Madonna No. 114 will be having their Annual Tricky Tray **Sunday, February 17th**. Doors open at noon and drawing begins at 2:00PM. Tickets are 25 for \$1.00. No admission fee. All proceeds to benefit Community Charities.

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, February 3, 2019

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, Feb. 4

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

Tuesday, Feb. 5

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, Feb. 6

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

Thursday, Feb. 7

Friday, Feb. 8

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

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

1:00 p.m. STC Montague Seniors' Mtg

Saturday, Feb. 9

4:30 p.m. STC Mass & Conf. Prep. Gr. 9 & 10

Sunday, February 10, 2019

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 5th Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 6: 1–2a, 3--8*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 138*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 15: 1–11*

Gospel: *Luke 5: 1--11*

With the Cold and Flu Season upon us we will refrain from offering the Precious Blood at Communion time. We will also hold off on the Sign of Peace until the flu season is past.

Saint Blaise Day. February 3rd celebrates the memory of St. Blaise, Bishop of Armenia, who died as a martyr around 316 a.d., during a time of persecution. He was known for his holiness and for his miraculous cures. The tradition has developed of his coming to the rescue of a young boy who was choking on a fish bone. This day has become the opportunity to bless the throats of all, and to pray for deliverance from all types of sickness and evil. Happy Saint Blaise Day!

Pizza Night with the Bishop. Bring your appetite to this special opportunity to meet our Bishop and to think about your future. All **young men of high school and college age** are invited to hear our Bishop speak and to ask him questions. No commitments will be made, except the commitment to enjoy pizza and fellowship with other young men of our neighboring parishes. It all takes place **at Pope John Regional High School, 28 Andover Rd., Sparta, this Tuesday evening, Feb. 5th, from 7 p.m. till 9 p.m.**

Young Ladies only. An **Evening with the Sisters** is a chance to explore what life as a religious sister might be like. No commitments here either, just a chance to see life in the convent from the inside. The evening will be held at the **Academy of St. Elizabeth, 2 Convent Road, Convent Station N.J.** (near Madison in Morris County.) The date is **this Friday, Feb. 8th, from 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m.** Includes dinner. R.S.V.P. to Sr. Maryanne at 973-290-5325 or mtracey@scnj.org

FORMED.org can help you stay informed on this and many other issues of our faith. Simply go to our parish website: saintjamestomas.org. At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register.

Recommended by FORMED.org:

Watch: *Bakhita: From Slave to Saint*

The life of St. Josephine Bakhita

Feast day: Feb. 8

Prayer Attributed to Saint Blaise:

*Father of mercy and God of all consolation,
graciously look upon me and impart to me the
blessing which flows from this holy Sacrament.
Overshadow me with Your loving kindness,
and let this divine Mystery bear fruit in me.*