

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

Rushing Headlong to Destruction

Never underestimate the damage that politicians can do. Take the Governor of New York, for example, and the majority of elected representatives of both the N. Y. State Assembly and Senate. On January 22nd, they voted to enshrine into their State's Constitution, a woman's 'right' to an abortion--through all nine months of her pregnancy. This, in case the Supreme Court of the U.S. should ever consider overturning Roe v. Wade. (Watch for New Jersey to follow suit.)

And then the Governor of Virginia, a doctor before entering politics, just last week spoke of keeping a handicapped, born, baby 'comfortable' until the parents decide whether to keep it or end its life. This is the language of infanticide.

These are two most disturbing developments in a trend that seems to be growing within our country. Our nation and its culture is consistently de-valuing the gift of life, regarding new-born babies as 'useful' or not, according to the wishes of those upon whom they most depend.

I believe it all stems from the overemphasis on and constant demands for 'my individual rights,' with no corresponding recognition of 'my responsibilities.' This has degenerated into mere self-centeredness and selfishness and convenience. By dismissing God's first place over our lives, we rely only upon ourselves. I am my highest authority. As a result: my will is always done. It's not hard to see that this widespread attitude within our culture will tend towards our destruction.

Catholics and Christians, though, reject the culture of our times—just as Jesus did in His. We are called to be counter-cultural—working against the self-centeredness of our era. We are called (baptized) to recognize God the Father above, and to seek out His Will and His wishes for our lives and for our nation.

It is the only reasonable hope left. Catholics, and indeed all Christians, who recognize God the Father and Jesus the Son—are called to promote God's Spirit of Goodness in the world.

The Pro-Life area is the best place to start, because it is the most under attack. It calls for resisting the lead of our ill-advised or immoral government leaders—and demonstrating that there is a Higher Law. One hundred thousand people marched in Washington two weeks ago; four days later Gov. Cuomo signed his new law into the State Constitution guaranteeing unrestricted abortion, to the cheers of the legislators. Those marchers in Washington were demonstrating the truth of the sacredness of human life, even as Cuomo was ensuring its legal destruction. Who will win this life-and-death struggle ?

I've said it before: If we wonder why we have to settle for the politicians we have; if we wonder why scientists have not yet cured cancer, or heart disease, or M.S. or A.L.S.; if we are searching for people with better answers to solve the problems of life—we might look mournfully to the 58 million infants killed through abortion since 1973. Surely God has tried to send us gifted individuals among those millions, but their voices have been silenced before they could make their contributions.

May our prayers be just the beginning of our efforts to reverse the terrible trends of our society. May we be ready to speak out when the occasion demands it; may we be ready to demonstrate and to write personal letters to our representatives, demanding that they truly represent us. May we be ready to express and explain our pro-life convictions.

The steady down-hill road to destruction is easy. The push back up-hill is so much harder. But we should remember that the Lord is on the side of life. After all, He create it ! May we always cherish it, and work to move our culture back to one which values every human life—from conception to natural demise.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 10, 2019

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, February 16

8:00AM – Dale R. Briegel
req. by his wife, Rosemarie and son, Dale

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 17

8:00AM – Phil Lange
req. by Janice Cerra

11:30AM – Carl Flexer
req. by Pat & Pete Lane

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,552.00 – Regular Collection – February 3, 2019

\$ 176.00 – Online Giving

\$1,652.00 – Regular Collection – February 4, 2018

\$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 for the
Intentions of Tarra Wagner & her donor at the
Request of her Parents

MONDAY, February 11

9:00AM – Angelo Damone
req. by his daughter, Frances Demalderis
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary
-Intentions of Andrea Flexer
 Birthday Celebration
req. by Mary & Ray Flexer

TUESDAY, February 12

9:00AM – Aline McLaughlin
req. by Pat & Pete Lane

WEDNESDAY, February 13

9:00AM – Carl & Louise Flexer
req. by Mark & Donna Lewandowski

THURSDAY, February 14

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 15

9:00AM – With thanks to St. Joseph
-Mary Cunico
req. by Legion of Mary

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 16

4:30PM – Betty Francis
req. by Alan & Pat

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 17

9:30AM – Mary Cunico and Carl & Louise Flexer
req. by Dawn Hall & Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,050.00 – Regular Collection – February 3, 2019

\$ 743.00 – Online Giving

\$2,112.00 – Regular Collection – February 4, 2018

\$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, Agnes Mantini, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, 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



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.



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.

Celebrate February

This month, as we are bombarded with ads for flowers and candy, let us remember what real love looks like – love that goes beyond the surface, love that can change hearts and the world. May we strive this month to dive into the sacrificial love to which Jesus calls all of us.

February 14 – Valentine's Day

Candy and cards are often the focus of Valentine's Day. This year, send a card with a note to a loved one who you may not visit much, such as an aunt or uncle or grandparents who may live far away. Blessed Valentine's Day!

February 16 – Sacrament of (first) Reconciliation

Please keep the 8 young children of our parishes in your prayers this week as they will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time on Saturday, February 16th at St. Thomas. They will begin their day with a morning retreat led by the Salesians Sisters of the Sacred Heart Center, followed by lunch with their families, and then the reception of the sacrament. May Our Lord continue to bless them and their families.



Catholic Teens News

Catholic Teens – which NOW includes 7th through 12th graders – will meet again TODAY, 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.



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.

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.

St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner

Our next pot luck dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, February 23rd** after the 4:30pm Mass. This is an opportunity for both parishes to come together and enjoy friendships and hospitality and to meet new parishioners as well as old friends. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering space. Come and join us!



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 10, 2019

“Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts! He touched my mouth...and said ‘See now, that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for me?’ ‘Here I am, I said, send me.’”

The call of the prophet and the new vocation of the fishermen can be the image of the call that Jesus makes for us today. We need to respond to the invitation He graciously gives us, to be sent to announce His message. It is easy for us to make excuses, to hesitate, or even flee.

The ‘unclean lips’ of Isaiah were purified to prepare him for his role. Our own lips are unclean when we use them to criticize, speak ill of others, or complain, or even use bad language. We can use the same tongue to pray, praise and show others His presence in our lives.

Peter speaks for us all as he says: ‘but at your command I will lower the nets.’ What a surprise, leading him to the humble confession ‘depart from me Lord for I am a sinful man.’ Jesus responds with the familiar phrase ‘Do not be afraid...from now on...they followed Him.’

May we identify with Isaiah, seeking what the Lord asks of us. May we leave our tangled nets, acknowledge the Lord's call and forgiveness, and follow Him.

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 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

6:00 p.m. STC Youth Group

This time: meets at Religious Ed. Center

Monday, Feb. 11

Tuesday, Feb. 12

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, Feb. 13

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

7:00 p.m. STC Adoration & Rosary with K of C

7:30 p.m. STC K of C Monthly Mtg.

Thursday, Feb. 14

Saint Valentine's Day

Friday, Feb. 15

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

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

Saturday, Feb. 16

10:00a.m. STC 1st Reconciliation Retreat
& Sacrament

5:30 p. m. STC K of C Chili Challenge

Sunday, February 17, 2019

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00 a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Next Sunday's Readings: 5th Ord.

1st Reading: *Jeremiah 17: 5--8*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 1*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16--20*

Gospel: *Luke 6: 17, 20--26*

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.

Chili Challenge. Our Knights of Columbus give us an excuse to break out of the winter hibernation. They are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Chili Challenge. You are invited to enter your homemade family chili sauce recipe, and perhaps win 1st place and be named Chili King or Queen of the Year.

Or you may just enjoy the treat of trying the many entries. Tickets are \$ 5.00 each for children and adults. It all takes place this Saturday, Feb. 16th at 5:30 p.m. at the Fr. Lewis Center. For more info or to register, pick up a flyer at either church or call the parish office at 973-948-2296.

Divine Mercy Conference. This 14th annual gathering takes place at Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx, N.Y. The date is Saturday, April 6th. With all of the threats to the unborn recently, this year's main speaker will be Fr. Frank Pavone, Director of *Priests for Life*. He will explain the serious repercussions of the anti-life movement, and suggest how pro-life people can respond. Fliers are at both churches which give the 'schedule of events' of the day, and also info on bus transportation to the location. For more information, call 1-800-462-7426.

On Line Giving gives you one less thing to think about. Simply reach our parish website, **saintjamesthomas.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.

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

Recommended by FORMED.org.:

Watch: *Marriage: God's Design for Life and Love*

Watch: *The Jeweller's Shop*, based on a play written by Saint Pope John Paul II

Valentine's Day. No less than **three Saint Valentines** are listed in the early histories of the Church. All were priests or bishops. All died as martyrs for the Lord. All put into practice Jesus' words: "*This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*" (Jn. 15:12-13). All three fulfilled this command. May we do the same.