

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

Thoughts on the Eucharist

*Here are excerpts from a homily of His Eminence, Péter Cardinal Erdő, spoken in the Basilica of Esztergom, Hungary during a meeting preparing for the next **International Eucharistic Conference**, to take place in Budapest, Hungary in 2020.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are preparing for the International 52nd Eucharistic Congress. According to the belief of our Church, the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a Sacrifice, a Feast and a Holy Presence. Christ gives himself for us--for our salvation--out of love and obedience to the Father. His sacrifice is renewed, or--to be more precise--becomes present at each and every Holy Mass. The sacrifice on the cross is one and only, but in every Mass, it is a reality being renewed again and again. How does this happen? From our side, from the point of the men, it is a great mystery. But from the side of God, time is not a limit. The "before" and the "after" exists only in this world. God's life is eternity itself. From eternity the Son is born; He becomes our eternal High Priest. In His earthly life--in time--He takes on death, but the value of His sacrifice is eternal. Once and for all He entered into the Sanctuary of God, taking with Him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but His own blood, having won an eternal redemption--as we read in the letter to the Hebrews (Heb. 9: 12).

But the Eucharist is a feast, too. We take the real Body and real Blood of Christ. That is what the Apostle Paul confessed. That was the solid belief of both the Western and the Eastern Church. "Those, who are in mortal sin, and wish to take the Eucharist, shall repent of their sins from their hearts, and shall get rid of them according to the rules of the Church, that is: one has to confess." Blessed Henry Suso speaks very poetically about worthy communion: even if in men there would be "the natural honesty of all the angels, the purity of all the saints and all the good deeds of all men ... even then, he would be unworthy." The grace of God in the sacrament of Baptism is what makes us worthy for Holy Communion. And if we have committed a mortal sin after our Baptism, He purifies us through Confession. For those, who struggle with venial sins and repent of them, the Eucharist itself is the source of purification and abundant grace. As Pope Francis also emphasized, the Eucharist is not the privilege of the perfect. No one is perfect on this Earth; we can get back into the state of grace through the mercy of God in Confession, so that we may take the Communion again.

Tradition is our teacher, not human speculation. Our human minds are open to the infinite, and our hearts desire God, but from our own strength we cannot explore or understand the richness of His existence. It is He who talks to us, it is He, who reveals to us what He wants to tell us for the sake of our happiness.

God is present everywhere. At the same time, He is beyond time and space, beyond the world, yet He exists in the depths of our material world. He is truly over all, through all and within all--as the Apostle Paul says (Eph. 4: 6). But He is able to be present at the same time in the Eucharist in a very special, intense way. The Creator, the Governor of this world, can play the whole range of existence like a musician. It is good to know that He wants to be present in the most convenient way for us men. That is why He wants to be near to us in the Eucharist. In this Mass we shall ask that the International Eucharistic Conference shall be a source of spiritual renewal for our Church and for the world. Amen.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 24, 2019

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, March 2

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

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

March 3

8:00AM – Phil Lange and Michael Henn
req. by Art & Maria Henn

11:30AM – Carl & Louise Flexer
req. by Flo Oliver

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 866.00 – Regular Collection – February 17, 2019

\$ 161.00 – Online Giving

\$ 175.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$1,238.00 – Regular Collection – February 18, 2018

\$ 301.00 – 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 Spinapolice at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Laura A. Pullis at the
Request of her sister, Lisa M. Dispoto

MONDAY, February 25

9:00AM – Intentions of Laura A. Pullis
Birthday Celebration
req. by her Aunt Rosie

TUESDAY, February 26

9:00AM – With thanks to St. Joseph
-Arthur Schwab
req. by Pat & Pete Lane

WEDNESDAY, February 27

9:00AM – Joseph Lukasik
req. by the Lukasik Family

THURSDAY, February 28

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 1

9:00AM – With thanks to St. Joseph

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 2

4:30PM – Cesare Macari
req. by Gabe & Anna Marie Macari

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

March 3

9:30AM – Kazimiera Szwajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon
-Barbara Leppert
req. by the Cunico Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,678.00 – Regular Collection – February 17, 2019

\$ 493.00 – Online Giving

\$ 425.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$2,476.00 – Regular Collection – February 18, 2018

\$ 545.00 – 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, 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



Kids Question – Who Is the Pope?

As Catholics, we are part of a large group of people all over the world who follow Jesus. We believe that the pope is on earth to lead like Jesus would if he were here today. The pope leads other men, including bishops and priests, who also help lead the Body of Christ, of the people of the Church. The leadership of the Church upholds the tradition of the Church and helps bring people to God.

There have been many popes throughout the Church's history. Here are three you may know:

Pope Francis is our current pope. He is known for his friendly approach to leadership.

Pope St. John Paul II was pope for 27 years (1978-2005). He traveled to many countries to meet with the faithful.

St. Peter was the first pope. Jesus asked him to be the leader of the Church (see Mt16:16-19).

Family Activity – Help your children answer these questions:

My Parish is....

My diocese is....

My bishop is....

My priest is....

(Taken from Take Out – Family Faith On the Go)

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.



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.

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is offering a fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Thursday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm** for 6 weeks and will start on **March 7th** right here at St. Thomas. **You may join us at any time.** The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Any questions, please call instructor Chris Dube at 973-948-2329. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for only \$30.00 or pay per class for \$6.00. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to our St. Thomas Parish. So, please come and try it out!



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 24, 2019

“But love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful...Stop judging...stop condemning, forgive and you will be forgiven.”

If we wished to choose one word to describe the ministry of Pope Francis, it would be ‘mercy.’ His writings reflect this teaching of Jesus in the beatitudes. He proclaimed a holy year of mercy. He constantly is extending the compassionate hand of Jesus to the poor and marginalized.

Luke's teaching asks us to consider what seems so difficult. Love enemies, give without expecting a return, be concerned for ungrateful and those so distant from the gospel.

When driving and someone cuts you off, pray for him. If you are offended by someone's remark, chalk it up to a bad day and don't brood over it. Don't live the expression 'I don't get mad, I just get even.' Spend a moment discerning who might be an 'enemy' and seek a way to open the door to friendship, by prayer, a smile, or another sign of peace.

Didn't Jesus tell us to forgive so we may be forgiven?

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 24, 2019

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, Feb. 25

Tuesday, Feb. 26

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, Feb. 27

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

Thursday, Feb. 28

Friday, Mar. 1

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

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

Saturday, Mar. 2

Sunday, March 3, 2019

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 8th Ord.

1st Reading: *Sirach 27: 4--7*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 92*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 15: 54--58*

Gospel: *Luke 6: 39--45*

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.

The best, the surest and the most effective way of establishing PEACE on the face of the earth is through the great power of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

--Saint Pope John Paul II

Lent with Our Neighbors. This year we are joining with our fellow Christians of the Minisink reformed Church and the Delaware Valley United Methodist Churches. We will be observing the Season of Lent at our various churches, experiencing our various traditions. Join us **each Friday of Lent, at 7:00 p.m.**, to grow closer to the Lord with fellow believers. The Services will be held according to this schedule:

Fri. March 8 St. Thomas (Evening Prayer)

Fri. March 15 Minisink Reformed Church

Fri. March 22 Delaware Valley U. M. Church

Fri. March 29 St. Thomas (Stations of Cross)

Fri. April 5 Minisink Reformed Church

Fri. April 12 Delaware Valley U. M. Church

Plan on joining us with other faithful people of our community to pray for God's blessings upon us, and upon our nation.

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: *Presence: the Mystery of the Eucharist*

--Come to a deeper appreciation of this most central truth of our faith: that Jesus is truly with us in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood.

Help!! Help is always needed at church to coordinate ministries, run programs and maintain buildings and grounds. If you would like to make good use of our time and assist us in any way, please fill out and return the Volunteer Form below:

"Here I am, Lord" Volunteer Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Interested in: _____

I do not know where I can be helpful, but would like to help at: St. Thomas ____ St. James ____

In addition to helping your church and parish family, volunteering is a great way to meet new friends.

You can call the Parish Office as well.