

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.

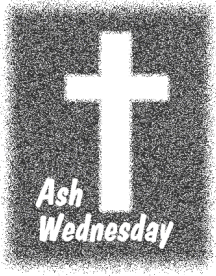
The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated during Mass providing that liturgical norms do not dictate otherwise. Please contact the office to schedule a Baptism and to make arrangements for preparations especially for first time parents. Baptisms may be scheduled at other times if extenuating conditions 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



The Season of Lent begins March 6

The powerful, life-changing Season of Lent begins this week. With the ashes we wear on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, the Church calls us to begin a solemn, world-wide, forty-day retreat. We are called, with the rest of the Church, to evaluate our lives and to see how close (or not) to the Lord we have been living. No matter what our present condition, the Lord calls us to be closer to Him. He invites us to trust in His goodness more fully, and to be His fervent apostles in the world. Plan now to take up some extra spiritual practice during Lent. And allow the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be a major part of your Lent.

Fast & Abstinence during Lent

A main purpose of fasting and abstinence is to increase and strengthen our powers of self-control. This helps us to reject evils and temptations as they crop up in our lives.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are Days of Fast and Abstinence. The Fridays of Lent are Days of Abstinence. **Fasting** means eating only **one full meal, and two lesser meals**. Those below 14 years of age, and those 59 and beyond, are not held to the rules of fasting. **Abstinence** means simply—**no meat**.

Reconciliation during Lent

“Welcome Home.” These two words immediately invoke a sense of acceptance, warmth, affection and security. During Lent they remind us of the forgiveness that God wishes to bestow upon us—a forgiveness of faults and failures, a forgiveness of intentional wrong-doing—and all that plagues us and leaves bitter consequences. It is a forgiveness and a forgetting of the past that God offers us, and an invitation to start all over again in His love.

During Lent, each Catholic Church of the Diocese of Paterson will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation **every Monday evening, from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.** A priest will be in each reconciliation room in each church to hear confessions and absolve sins. This absolution from the past is God’s on-going gift to the world. It’s His greatest way of showing us His love.

Lent with Our Neighbors

This year we are joining with 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.

To Start it all off: Mardi Gras & ‘Bury the Alleluia’

Our Knights of Columbus invite all parishioners to join us for a glee-filled Mardi Gras celebration on **Tuesday, March 5th**, the evening before Ash Wednesday. There will be food, dessert, music and a good time for children, parents and all parishioners. It begins at **5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas. Admission is FREE.** Enjoy this time with friends and neighbors.

To end the evening, we will be holding our **“Bury the Alleluia” Service**. We’ll process into church, where we’ll ‘confiscate’ all hats, noise-makers and balloons, and surrender them to the trunk. Also placed there will be the “Alleluia,” the symbol of our Christian rejoicing. This will mark the beginning of the Solemn Season of Lent. Join us as we enter into these forty days of prayer, fasting and charitable works—as a parish community.

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
March 3, 2019

St. James the Greater

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

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 6

8:00AM – Walter & Norma Journey
req. by their Family

SATURDAY, March 9

8:00AM – Intentions of Benjamin Dispoto
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Aunt Rosie

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 10

8:00AM – Marcjanna Klimkiewicz
req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

11:30AM – Frank DiBennardo
req. by Jose Cabrera

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 881.00 – Regular Collection – February 24, 2019

\$ 361.00 – Online Giving

\$ 137.00 – Eastern Europe

\$ 786.00 – Regular Collection – February 25, 2018

\$ 140.00 – Eastern Europe

\$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 Richard W. Pullis at the
Request of his daughters, Lisa & Laura

MONDAY, March 4

9:00AM – With thanks to St. Joseph

TUESDAY, March 5

9:00AM – Deceased Members of the Nacinovich Family
req. by Luisa & Dan Mantini

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 6

9:00AM – Barbara Leppert
req. by the Knights of Columbus

7:00PM – Michael Campbell

req. by Omar & Marie Mendez

THURSDAY, March 7

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 8

9:00AM – With thanks to St. Joseph

-Greta Kemether

req. by Donald & Patricia Swanson

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 9

4:30PM – Anna Murillo

req. by Gabe & Anna Marie Macari

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 10

9:30AM – Yorio & Mary Cunico and Carl & Louise Flexer

req. by Walter & Teri Winkler and Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,381.00 – Regular Collection – February 24, 2019

\$ 393.00 – Online Giving

\$ 378.00 – Eastern Europe

\$2,356.00 – Regular Collection – February 25, 2018

\$ 411.00 – Eastern Europe

\$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



Lent Begins

We made it! We are finally on the far side of winter!! Spring has sprung (right?) – well that's what the word lent means – “springtime”!!! Well it may not be officially spring, but the end of winter is in sight.

The sacred season of Lent begins on Wednesday with Ash Wednesday. This 40-day season of preparation prior to Easter is a time for us to grow closer to the Lord and also in our faith. Please take every opportunity to celebrate the many events that this beautiful season has to offer. You will find all the information in the bulletin, on the Rel. Ed. Calendar and on the **new Facebook page – The Parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle & St. James the Greater** – which also has wonderful articles and information for Catholics of all ages! Blessed Lent.



Tuesday, March 5th – All families are invited and encouraged to attend the FREE Pancake and Sausage Dinner and celebrate Mardi Gras from 5:30-7:00PM at St. Thomas Church hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Please come enjoy the fellowship, food, music and activities and then help bury the ALLELUIA!!!!



Wednesday, March 6th – All are Welcome to the Liturgy of the Word and Ash Distribution beginning at 4:00PM at the Msgr. Gacquin Youth & Religious Education Center.



Catholic Teens – which **NOW** includes **7th through 12th graders** – will meet on **Sunday, March 10th from 6:00PM until 8:00PM** at OLQP in Branchville. Please come down to the Youth Group for an evening of fun and friendship! We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day!!! For more information, please call Mary Flexer at 862-268-1876.



will take place on **Friday, March 15th for students in Grades 6, 7 & 8 from 5:00-6:30PM with a Pasta & Fish Dinner** generously provided by our Knights of Columbus.



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.

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
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
March 3, 2019

“As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace, so in tribulation is the test of the just. The fruit of the tree shows the care it has had, so too does one’s speech disclose the bent of one’s mind. Praise no one before he speaks for it then that people are tested...a good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good.”

The scriptures use so many images to teach us, form us, and lead us. Consider for a moment... the potter shapes an object, maybe your coffee mug, a vase to hold a spring flower, or even ourselves. (Abba, Father). Soon trees will begin to bud, and the care we give them now, pruning, trimming, fertilizing, will produce long awaited fruit. The words we use, reflect how we feel, what we know and what we desire.

We need not limit ourselves to the image of a tree, but apply the teaching to our own way of life. How we walk the path of holiness according to the teaching of Pope Francis is found in the beatitudes. Our words, our thoughts, our good works are the steps we take on that path, accompanied by God’s grace and the support of one another.

Visit the Facebook page for The Parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle & St. James the Greater:
<https://www.facebook.com/JamesThomas/>

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, March 3, 2019

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, Mar. 4

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

Tuesday, Mar. 5

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

5:30 p.m. STC K of C Mardi Gras Dinner & “Bury the Alleluia” Ceremony

Ash Wednesday, Mar. 6

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule: see column 2

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

Thursday, Mar. 7

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Friday, Mar. 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.

7:00 p.m. STC Ecumenical Lenten Service

Saturday, Mar. 9

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

Sunday, March 10, 2019

1st Sunday of Lent

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

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

6:00 p.m. Teen Group at O.L.Q.P., Branchville

Next Sunday’s Readings: 1st Lent

1st Reading: *Deuteronomy 26: 4--10*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 91*

2nd Reading: *Romans 10: 8--13*

Gospel: *Luke 4: 1--13*

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.

Ash Wednesday begins our 40 day Lenten

Journey. Let us resolve to use well this special time of prayer and fasting and good works. We begin by wearing the ashes—the symbol that all things of this world, including our bodies, will turn to dust. We place our hope in God’s goodness and the future life He promises.

Masses for Ash Wednesday will be:

8:00 a.m. at St James

9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas

4:00 p.m. at the Religious Ed Center

7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas

“Jesus Heals” Healing Service. All are invited to experience the healing powers of Jesus, for their mind, body and spirit. A Healing Service will be held **at St. Thomas on Sun. March 10, beginning at 3 p.m.**

There will be an explanation of Jesus’ healing powers today, along with Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. This will be followed by a Sprinkling and Renewing of our Baptismal blessings; then prayers for individual healing. Reconciliation (a healing of the spirit) will be available. Fr. Ed Rama of Queen of Peace Church will assist Deacon Wayne and Fr. Wayne in this service.

Join us during this Lenten Season and receive the healings and blessings that Jesus wishes to offer you.

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: *What’s the Deal with Ashes on Ash Wednesday* Offers some quick ways of sharing your Faith in an articulate way when others ask what the blessed ashes on your forehead are all about.

Watch: *YDisciple: Disciplines of a Disciple*

Jesus’s invitation to be his disciple is an invitation to become like him. Explores the practical things people can do to effectively be like Christ wherever they are: in their personal lives, at home, school, with their peers, and in the world at large.