

# 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](mailto:stjamesthomas@aol.com)  
Website address: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://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](http://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](http://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**

# **'GIVE UPS' FOR LENT**

By Fr. John Catoir

What should you give up for Lent ? Well, if you're 10 years old or under, candy might be just the right thing. It will give you a little discomfort so you can feel good about yourself. It's a child's way of doing penance, but even for adults it can have salutary benefits. However, if you're 11 years old or older, you might want to reflect more deeply.

St. Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, gives some food for thought. *"Fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honor, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise."* (Phil. 4: 8)

It seems to me to be a question of concentrating on what you really want to do with your life. Who are you ? Who are you becoming ? Here are a few suggestions, if you'd like to be a better human being:

- Give up complaining; focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism; become an optimist.
- Give up harsh judgments; think kindly thoughts.
- Give up worry; trust Divine Providence.
- Give up discouragement; be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness; turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred; return good for evil.
- Give up negativism; be positive.
- Give up anger; be more patient.
- Give up gloom; enjoy the beauty around you.
- Give up jealousy; pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping; control your tongue.
- Give up sin; turn to virtue.

St. Paul encouraged us to *"fill our minds with everything that is true, good and pure ..."* because he knew that holiness is possible. In fact, if there is one thing upon which all spiritual luminaries agree, it is this: holiness is possible.

It is the one truth you must never abandon. No matter how unworthy or sinful your life may be, Jesus died to save you. He will lead you to repentance and holiness—if you ask. Holiness is possible. Go for it. Pray as though everything depended upon God's grace, but act as if everything depended upon you.

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*Fr. John Catoir is a retired priest of the Paterson Diocese. For many years he was the Director of The Christophers, interviewing people from all walks of life on topics of faith on the T.V. show Christopher Close-up. He currently writes a column found in many Catholic newspapers, including The Beacon, and has a web page, [messengerofjoy.com](http://messengerofjoy.com), a daily meditation.*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 17, 2019**

**St. James the Greater**

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

**SATURDAY, March 23**

8:00AM – Eugene & Rosalie Mauro  
req. by their Family

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 24**

8:00AM – Carl Flexer  
req. by Janice Cerra

11:30AM – Rosemarie Bastian  
req. by her Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 798.00 – Regular Collection – March 10, 2019**

**\$ 271.00 – Online Giving**

**\$1,328.00 – Regular Collection – March 11, 2018**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

***Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.***

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**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:**

**[saintjamesthomas.org](http://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 Albert E. & Mildred Dunn at the  
Request of their Family

**MONDAY, March 18**

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

**TUESDAY, March 19**

9:00AM – Intentions of Father Wayne & the Parish

**WEDNESDAY, March 20**

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

**THURSDAY, March 21**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, March 22**

9:00AM – Intentions of Sal

**SATURDAY, Vigil, March 23**

4:30PM – Robert Hagerman  
req. by his Mom, Grace

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 24**

9:30AM – Louise Flexer  
req. by her Family

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,797.00 – Regular Collection – March 10, 2019**

**\$ 393.00 – Online Giving**

**\$2,591.00 – Regular Collection – March 11, 2018**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

***Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.***

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**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:**

**[saintjamesthomas.org](http://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



### Why is Lent 40 Days?

In the bible, the number 40 represents a period of testing or judgment. Lent's duration of 40 days reflects several other times of trial, testing and hardship found in the Scripture.

- ❖ The story of Noah tells of rain falling on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights (Gn7:11-23).
- ❖ Moses fasted for 40 days before beginning his mission (Ex 34:28).
- ❖ The Hebrews wandered for 40 years in the desert after leaving Egypt (Jos 5:6).
- ❖ Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert for 40 days before beginning his ministry (Mt 4:2).

In Church history, penitents were temporarily expelled for the entire season in imitation of God's expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. They were sent away with the admonition, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return." The penitents lived isolated for the 40 days of Lent. This temporary separation gave us the word *quarantine*, whose root is Latin for the number 40.



will take place on **Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** for **students in Grades 1 & 2 from 4:00-5:15PM (the regular class time) at St. Thomas Church with a Soup/Macaroni & Cheese Dinner** generously provided by our Columbiettes. Parents are always welcome to join us too!



### Confirmation I and II Retreat

Our Confirmation Candidates will be participating in their retreat on **Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** which will begin at 10:00AM and conclude at 3:00PM at Our Lady Queen of Peace Pavilion, Branchville. Please keep our teens in your prayers!



### Catholic Relief Service Rice Bowl – ENCOUNTER LENT

Join our faith community and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. You can pick up a Rice Bowl from the Gathering Area at either Church. During the 40 days of Lent we will encounter the needs of the world.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent – ENCOUNTER NORMA** – In Guatemala, we encounter Norma, who as a young mother supports her family and shares her skills with her community. Reflect on the importance of family in your life. How can you contribute to support families in your community?



**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](http://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 started on **March 7<sup>th</sup>** 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!

**PLEASE NOTE** that the **St. James Spring Clean-up** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** at 8:30AM, and, if necessary, again on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### FROM THE DIOCESE (second notice)

"We have just learned of allegations of sexual abuse of minors committed by Rev. John E. Hewetson. Father Hewetson had been assigned to Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and St. James the Greater Parish (known as Western Sussex Mission) from 1942-1944. If any person may have been abused by any priest, they should immediately contact their local County Prosecutor's Office and also Monsignor James T. Mahoney, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, Diocese of Paterson. He may be reached at 973-777-8818, Ext. 205."

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

### Altar Linen Ministry - Urgent need

St. Thomas is in need of help with maintaining the linens used at every Mass. Volunteer(s) pick up, wash, iron & return the altar linens. They are washed, weekly or so, in your own home. If more than one person volunteers, a rotating schedule can be set.



### 40 Days For Life Campaign

(Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish)

### **Mondays during Lent – March 11 - April 15 – 9:15 - 10:15am**

Come & Join us for an hour of prayer each Monday at 9:15am in the Season of Lent at **Planned Parenthood at 8 Moran Street, Newton, New Jersey** to pray The Rosary.

40 Days for Life is a community-based campaign that takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of His plan for the end of abortion. It draws attention to the evil of abortion through the use of a three-point program: Prayer and fasting, constant vigil, Community outreach.

For those who cannot join us, please support us through your prayers, especially by Praying the Rosary.

## 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 17, 2019

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

St. Patrick's Day

Good Counsel Homes Baby Bottle Drive

### Monday, Mar. 18

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

7:00 p.m. SJC Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Tuesday, Mar. 19

St. Joseph's Day

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

### Wednesday, Mar. 20

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

### Thursday, Mar. 21

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

### Friday, Mar. 22

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

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

7:00 p.m. Delaware Valley Methodist Church  
Ecumenical Lenten Service

6:00 p.m. SJC Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. SJC Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, Mar. 23

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

### Sunday, March 24, 2019

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

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

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

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### Next Sunday's Readings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent

1st Reading: *Exodus 3: 1–8a, 13--15*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 103*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 10: 1–6, 10--12*

Gospel: *Luke 13: 1--9*

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**“Welcome Home” Mondays.** Confessions available at **each church of the Paterson Diocese, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** Our schedule:

Mar. 18 St. James Mar. 25 St. Thomas

Apr. 1 St. James Apr. 8 St. Thomas

Apr. 15 St. James

**Good Counsel Homes** is a mission helping homeless, pregnant women as well as parenting mothers and their babies. Founded by Chris Bell of our St. James Parish, Good Counsel operates five houses for pregnant women and children. They also host a national pregnancy help-line at **800-723-8331**. Chris and his family are here this week-end to explain their life-saving work and to ask us to help. Please take a **baby bottle**, and fill it with change or cash, to help fund their work. Your donations will be greatly appreciated, and the bottles can be returned right after Easter. This is practical help we can offer to support our pro-life beliefs.

**Lent with Our Neighbors.** An Ecumenical Prayer Service, **each Friday of Lent, at 7 p.m.**

Mar. 22 Delaware Valley Mar. 29 St. Thomas

Apr. 5 Minisink Ref. Apr. 12 Delaware Valley

**Stations of the Cross.** **Each Friday, also at 7:00 p.m.** the Stations of the Cross will be prayed at **St. James Church.** Beforehand, at 6 p.m. there will be a Soup Supper served.

**FORMED.org** can help you learn more about our faith: lives of the saints, doctrines, history, current issues of our faith. Free to you as a parishioner.

Simply go to our parish website:

[saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org). At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register.

### Recommended by FORMED.org.:

Watch: *Patrick: Brave Shepherd of the Emerald Isle*

--children & families Fun-loving Patrick had it easy at his parents' seaside villa. At 16, he thought he had it made for life—that is, until the day riders kidnapped him to nearby Ireland. Blending historical facts with beloved traditions, *Patrick: Brave Shepherd of the Emerald Isle* brings to life a long-lost world of Druids, warriors, and kings—one that brave Patrick illuminated forever.

Watch: *Joseph of Nazareth*

The first feature film ever on the story of St. Joseph, who was a carpenter, the husband of Mary, and the foster father of Jesus Christ. We are shown the human, noble, and deeply spiritual aspects of Joseph the carpenter, son of David, servant of God, and loving husband of Mary. He is presented as a man of faith who must grapple greatly with profound mysteries: the miraculous conception, the Virgin Birth, the Incarnation of the Son of God, and the incredible challenges of protecting and raising Jesus amidst the threats on his life from the moment of his birth and beyond.