

# 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**

# Spreading Forgiveness Around

*“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”*

--Luke 6: 36

A young veterinarian was visiting a farm out in the country. He tried out a new treatment on a cow, and to his horror, the cow died a few days later. The farmer could have sued him and ruined his reputation in the farming community, but he did not. He never even brought it up again. The young vet was so struck by his behavior that throughout his life, whenever someone wronged him, he thought back on this experience with the farmer and tried to follow the example of forgiveness.

In a way, today's Gospel is like this story. Of all the words Jesus could have spoken to describe His heavenly Father, He chose “merciful” (Luke 6: 36). More than His justice, more than His power, more than His wisdom, Jesus made clear that He is a God of forgiveness and compassion—and He tells us to have that same attitude towards one another.

The disciples may have known this mercy historically, from the Scriptures, but Jesus didn't want them to stop there, just as He doesn't want us to stop. He wants us to experience His Father's mercy personally and, even more, to allow this mercy to move us to share that mercy with the people around us. Instead of finding faults in the people around us, He wants us to love and honor them. Rather than holding onto offenses, He encourages us to forgive.

Jesus knows that merely telling us about God's mercy wouldn't be enough. He had to model it as well. So He tells His disciples: “*Stop judging and you will not be judged*” (Luke 6: 37), and then demonstrates it by eating dinner at the home of the “unclean” tax collector Levi (Luke 5: 27—32). “*Stop condemning and you will not be condemned,*” He says (Luke 6: 37). Then He tells a woman caught in adultery, “*Neither do I condemn you*” (John 8: 1).

Finally, in His great object lesson, Jesus fulfilled His call to mercy in the most dramatic way possible. Hanging on the cross in agony, He humbly prayed: “*Father, forgive them, they know not what they do*” (Luke 23: 34).

What a merciful God we have ! Just like that farmer: He forgives, He forgets, and He blesses. Every time.

**Father, show me Your mercy today  
that I might show it to everyone around me.**

--from “*The Word Among Us*”

Lent 2019

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
March 24, 2019

**St. James the Greater**

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

**SATURDAY, March 30**

8:00AM – Orvil D. Jackson  
req. by his Family

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 31**

8:00AM – Phil Lange  
req. by Harry & Diane Cole  
-Katharina Modest  
req. by Victoria Gorlach

11:30AM – Dom & Agnes Giordano  
req. by their Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,252.00 – Regular Collection – March 17, 2019**  
**\$ 151.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$ 165.00 – Diocesan Assessment**  
**\$1,292.00 – Regular Collection – March 18, 2018**  
**\$ 205.00 – Diocesan Assessment**  
**\$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 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 Kenneth R. Benson at the  
Request of his Family

**MONDAY, March 25**

9:00AM – Deceased Members of the Mantini Family  
req. by Luisa & Dan Mantini  
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary  
req. by the Legion of Mary

**TUESDAY, March 26**

9:00AM – Carl & Louise Flexer  
req. by Rita & Milan Straka

**WEDNESDAY, March 27**

9:00AM – Barbara Leppert  
req. by Ed & Cathy Ashton & Family

**THURSDAY, March 28**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, March 29**

9:00AM – Mass of Thanksgiving  
req. by Fran

**SATURDAY, Vigil, March 30**

4:30PM – Earl Edwards  
req. by Gerry Mahon

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 31**

9:30AM – Msgr. James Gacquin  
23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
req. by Mary Flexer  
-Intentions of Michael Toth  
req. by his Mom

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,872.00 – Regular Collection – March 17, 2019**  
**\$ 518.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$ 914.00 – Diocesan Assessment**  
**\$2,042.00 – Regular Collection – March 18, 2018**  
**\$ 397.00 – Diocesan Assessment**  
**\$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 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



### How did the custom of Stations of the Cross originate?

The Stations of the Cross originated during the Crusades, when it was popular to visit Jerusalem to follow the steps to Calvary. After the Holy Land was captured, making pilgrimages there became very dangerous. A desire arose to reproduce these holy places in other lands as a substitute pilgrimage.

It soon became popular to have outdoor markers indicate not only the scenes in Christ's path to Golgotha, but also the actual distances from location to location. Crude markers eventually gave way to elaborate artwork depicting the events of Jesus' trial, torture and execution. By the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Stations were allowed inside churches and served as a focus for Lenten devotions.

The Stations of the Cross help the participant make a spiritual pilgrimage to the major scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. Prayers are said until the entire route is complete, enabling the faithful to more literally take up their cross and follow Jesus.

**PLEASE NOTE – The Lenten Ecumenical Series continues this Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas the Apostle, where we will share our Catholic tradition of the praying of the Stations of the Cross. Please join us at 7:00pm.**



### 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!



will take place on **Wednesday, April 3rd** for students in **Grades 3, 4 & 5** from **4:00-5:15PM (the regular class time)** at **St. Thomas Church** with a **Chicken Nugget/Macaroni & Cheese Dinner** generously provided by our Columbiettes. Parents are always welcome to join us too!



### 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.

**3rd Week of Lent – ENCOUNTER THE DHATHCROOS FAMILY –** The Dhathcroos family returned home, after fleeing violence in their country, to build a prosperous farm and became a vital contributor to their community. How can you assist refugees in your community to rebuild their lives?



**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 from **March 7<sup>th</sup> through April 11<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>.

### HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, St. Thomas will be hosting our Annual Tricky Tray. If you are interested in assisting our committee in any way, please call Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092. All volunteers are welcome. Help make this fundraiser a success by donating a tray. All trays should be left in the Conference Room at St. Thomas as soon as possible to allow time for displaying them properly (no later than Saturday, April 27). Thank you for your cooperation.

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 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.

### Monday, Mar. 25

7:00 p.m. STC Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Tuesday, Mar. 26

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

### Wednesday, Mar. 27

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

### Thursday, Mar. 28

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

### Friday, Mar. 29

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

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

7:00 p.m. St. Thomas Church

Ecumenical Lenten Service

6:00 p.m. SJC Soup Supper

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

### Saturday, Mar. 30

### Sunday, March 31, 2019

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

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#### Next Sunday's Readings: 4<sup>th</sup> Lent

1st Reading: *Joshua 5: 9a, 10--12*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 34*

2nd Reading: *2 Corinthians 5: 17--21*

Gospel: *Luke 15: 1-3, 11--12*

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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. 25 St. Thomas Apr. 1 St. James

Apr. 8 St. Thomas Apr. 15 St. James

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

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.

**Women's Retreat.** All ladies of our parishes are encouraged to attend the *“Oasis 2019: A Day of Prayer for Women,”* arranged by the Religious Sisters Philippini of Morristown. It takes place on **Sat. April 6, 9:30 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.** Included will be two multi-media conferences, Mass, Rosary and the chance for Reconciliation. Guest speaker: Avis Clendensen, speaking on: *“Weaving a Tapestry of Holiness.”* Cost: \$ 15. Bring a lunch. Takes place at **Villa Walsh, 455 Western Ave., Morristown.** For more info and to register, please contact Sr. Elaine at 973-538-2886 ext. 143 or at [srelaine@villawalsh.org](mailto:srelaine@villawalsh.org).

**Seder Supper.** A Catholic Seder Supper offers an experience that informs, educates and inspires Christians to understand the Passover Meal, and how it became our Mass. It is a way to understand that Jesus was a Jew, and lived in a particular time and place—which included celebrating the Passover. The Christian observance of this ritual meal celebrates not only our tradition of Christ's Last Supper, but our own Jewish heritage which provided the context for Jesus' institution of the Eucharist.

Our Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Seder Supper on **Wed. April 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Fr. Lewis Center.** Tickets are \$ 15. Join us for this enjoyable and delicious celebration.

**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.

Watch: *Mary of Nazareth*

Mary of Nazareth is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. The film vividly captures the essence of Mary's profound faith and trust in God amidst the great mysteries that she lived with as the Mother of the Messiah.