

# 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**

# Two Kinds of Conversion

*“This man welcomes sinners ...”*

Luke 15: 2

Isn't it ironic that this story, which is one of the best loved in all of Scripture, has a somewhat misleading title? Rather than calling it the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*, we should call it the *Parable of the Forgiving Father*. This is not a story only about one son. It's a story about two sons and their father. And as a parable, this story tells us about our heavenly Father's infinite love for us.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son has two distinct goals: it shows us that God wants everyone to know His love; and it shows us that God wants those who know His love to experience it more deeply.

In a sense, the prodigal son was “dead” because of the sins he had committed when he was away from home. But the moment he came back, it's as if he had come back to life. Jesus used this fellow to describe people who have not accepted the love that God has for them. They need to turn and come home to him. They need what we would call an “initial conversion.”

These are the people God asks us to lift up in prayer in a special way—especially our loved ones who are far from the Lord. May they all experience an initial conversion!

The prodigal son's older brother, however, was already “alive.” He was faithful and hard-working. But he also needed a conversion. He may have been obedient to his father, but a lot of sinful thoughts still occupied his mind. This fellow needed “ongoing conversion,” a deeper turning away from his habits of resentment, anger and self-righteousness.

Even if we believe in Jesus, pray every day, and go to Mass regularly, we still need ongoing conversion. We can be trying our best to live good lives and to care for our families. But we can easily fall into judgmental, self-righteous, self-centered ways of thinking. And so God asks us to keep turning to Him for help and healing.

God welcomes home everyone who comes to Him. No matter how big or small our sins, He is always waiting with open arms.

**Thank you, Father, for welcoming me home.**

--from: *God's Word Among Us*

Lent 2019

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 31, 2019**

**St. James the Greater**

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

**SATURDAY, April 6**

8:00AM – Charlie Lombaerde  
req. by his wife, Carol

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**April 7**

8:00AM – Thomas Quinn  
req. by Harry & Diane Cole

11:30AM – Carol Pierson  
req. by her Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 677.00 – Regular Collection – March 24, 2019**

**\$ 391.00 – Online Giving**

**\$1,310.00 – Regular Collection – March 25, 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 Then go to On-Line Giving link.**

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

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 Spinapolicce at 973-293-7031.

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Arthur & Elsie Bastian at the  
Request of their son, Andy

**MONDAY, April 1**

9:00AM – Earl Edwards  
req. by Tony & Alicia Batko

**TUESDAY, April 2**

9:00AM – Carl & Louise Flexer  
req. by Frances Demalderis

**WEDNESDAY, April 3**

9:00AM – Earl Edwards  
req. by Meg & Mike Milligan

**THURSDAY, April 4**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, April 5**

9:00AM – Sam Russo  
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell

**SATURDAY, Vigil, April 6**

4:30PM – Earl Edwards  
req. by the Cunico Family

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**April 7**

9:30AM – Markos Markou  
req. by George Keshish

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,885.00 – Regular Collection – March 24, 2019**

**\$ 393.00 – Online Giving**

**\$2,801.00 – Regular Collection – March 25, 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 Then go to On-Line Giving link.**

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

**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,  
Teresa Mantani, 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



### Living Forgiveness

The parable of the forgiving father on this Fourth Sunday of Lent sets a powerful example of how we should live forgiveness. Here are four tips to remember about forgiveness:

- ❖ When forgiving someone, be careful of showing anger. Accept the good intentions as Jesus would.
- ❖ Ask forgiveness from others. If you've hurt someone, let them know you are sorry.
- ❖ Don't worry about the small stuff. This one may be hard when your feelings are involved, but many small offenses are unintentional.
- ❖ Don't go to bed angry. Forgive others in your nighttime prayers to God.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** 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 Teens

Catholic Teens is a Youth Group for teen parishioners from St. James, St. Thomas and Our Lady Queen of Peace. It is open to **7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders** and will meet **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM until 8:00PM** at OLQP in Branchville. Please come down 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.

### Sacrament of Holy Eucharist Preparations

- ✓ The children of our parishes preparing for Holy Eucharist will be on a retreat on **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00PM until 3:30PM** at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton. Please keep these young members in your prayers.
- ✓ Our Parent Session for all who have children preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist will take place on **Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM** at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Our Pastor, Father Wayne will be our presenter for the evening. We are very hopeful that both parents of each child be present that evening.

### Sacrament of Confirmation Preparations

- ✓ Our 7 Confirmation Candidates will be participating in their final interview with Father Wayne on **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 4:30PM Mass.** Please keep these 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.

**4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent – ENCOUNTER KUMBA** – We encounter Kumba from Sierra Leone, who, through her education, is providing hope for her family and community. How has education given you opportunities in life? How do you use your education for the common good?

### 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!

### ST. THOMAS POT LUCK DINNER

A great big thank you to all who helped set-up, clean-up or otherwise assisted at our last Pot Luck Dinner. We had more than 30 people who attended and a good time was had by all. Our **next** Pot Luck Dinner is scheduled for **Saturday evening, April 6** after the 4:30PM Mass. Please join us for an evening of friendship and camaraderie.

### ST. THOMAS COFFEE HOUR

The next St. Thomas Coffee Hour is scheduled for **Sunday, April 14** after the 9:30 AM Mass. All are welcome to join us and enjoy the company of fellow parishioners.

### 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.

### 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.

### National Scrapbooking Day is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

Preserve your most cherished photos and memories of events and loved ones. Scrapbooking helps one to appreciate those blessed moments. Employ skills of expert instructors and get creative suggestions on assembling photo albums. Special tools will be available. Sessions will be one-half day (either 10am-4pm or 4pm-10pm for \$25.) Or spend the full day (10am-10pm for \$40.) Sessions will be held at the Religious Education Center. Digital or traditional scrappers welcome. Bring a lunch/dinner. For information or to register call Patrice Kealy 973-534-1722. Go to <https://www.creativememories.com/user/Patricekealy> to pre-order supplies.

## 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 31, 2019

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

#### Monday, Apr. 1

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

7:00 p.m. STC Sacrament of Reconciliation

#### Tuesday, Apr. 2

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

#### Wednesday, Apr. 3

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

#### Thursday, Apr. 4

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

#### Friday, Apr. 5

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

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

7:00 p.m. Minisink Reformed Church

-- Ecumenical Lenten Service

6:00 p.m. SJC Soup Supper

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

#### Saturday, Apr. 6

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

### Sunday, April 7, 2019

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

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

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

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

1:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Center, Newton

--1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Retreat (till 3:30 p.m.)

**On Line Giving.** This modern way of dealing with finances has even caught up with St. James and St. Thomas. It is an option we hope you will consider.

For those who do their banking and pay bills through the computer, we are set up to accept on-line donations to the Sunday collection. Simply reach our website, [saintjamesthomas.org](http://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.

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

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.**

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.

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### Next Sunday’s Readings: 5<sup>th</sup> Lent

1st Reading: *Isaiah 43: 16--21*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 126*

2nd Reading: *Philippians 3: 8--14*

Gospel: *John 8: 1--11*

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