

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



Pope Francis' Easter 'Urbi et Orbi' Message 2019

A long-time tradition of the popes is to issue a proclamation and a prayer to the City of Rome (Urbi) and to the World (Orbi) at Easter. Below are excerpts from Pope Francis' message this year.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Easter!

Today the Church renews the proclamation made by the first disciples: "Jesus is risen!" And from mouth to mouth, from heart to heart, there resounds a call to praise: "Alleluia, Alleluia!" On this morning of Easter, in view of the perennial youth of the Church and of humanity as a whole, I would like to address each of you in the opening words of my recent *Apostolic Exhortation* devoted especially to young people:

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way He brings youth to our world. Everything He touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and He wants you to be alive! He is in you, He is with you and He never abandons you. However far you may wander, Christ is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and waits for you to return to Him and start over again. When you feel you are filled with sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, He will always be there to restore your strength and your hope" (*Christus Vivit*, 1-2).

Dear brothers and sisters, this message is also addressed to every person in the world. The Resurrection of Christ is the principle of new life for every man and every woman, for true renewal always begins from the heart, from the conscience. Yet Easter is also the beginning of a new world, set free from the slavery of sin and death: the world open at last to the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of love, peace and fraternity.

Christ is alive and He remains with us. Risen, He shows us the light of His face, and He does not abandon all those who are experiencing hardship, pain and sorrow.

[Pope Francis then calls for prayers and peace in some of the troubled parts of the world today: Syria; the Middle East especially Yemen; the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians; Libya; the entire African continent, especially in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, and South Sudan; the Ukraine; the Venezuelan people; Nicaragua.]

Before the many sufferings of our time, may the Lord of life not find us cold and indifferent. May He make us builders of bridges, not walls. May the One who gives us His peace end the roar of arms, both in areas of conflict and in our cities, and inspire the leaders of nations to work for an end to the arms race and the troubling spread of weaponry. May the Risen Christ, who flung open the doors of the tomb, open our hearts to the needs of the disadvantaged, the vulnerable, the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized, and all those who knock at our door in search of bread, refuge, and the recognition of their dignity.

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ is alive! He is hope and youth for each of us and for the entire world. May we let ourselves be renewed by Him! Happy Easter!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
April 28, 2019

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, May 4

8:00AM – Dom & Agnes Giordano
req. by their Family

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5

8:00AM – Phil Lange
req. by Linda & Mike Spinapolice
-Evelyn Schweer
req. by Victoria Gorlach

11:30AM – Kate Olivo
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$2,586.00 – Easter Collection – April 21, 2019

\$ 376.00 – Online Giving

\$5,175.00 – Easter Collection – 2018

\$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.

PLEASE NOTE that the **St. James Spring Clean-up** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18th** at 8:30AM.

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 Ann & Robert Lamb at the
Request of their daughter, Peggy

MONDAY, April 29

9:00AM – Father Gerald Lewis – 15th Anniversary
req. by Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, April 30

9:00AM – William F. Kelley
req. by Robert & Peggy Reich

WEDNESDAY, May 1

9:00AM – Intentions of Eddie Brae – 80th Birthday
req. by Omar & Marie Mendez

THURSDAY, May 2

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 3

9:00AM – Intentions of Grace Decker
Birthday Celebration
req. by her sister, Alice

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 4

4:30PM – Frank V. Guagliardi and Angela Lepore
req. by the Marzorati Family

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5

9:30AM – Mary Cunico
req. by Alan & Pat

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$6,094.00 – Easter Collection – April 21, 2019

\$ 568.00 – Online Giving

\$8,485.00 – Easter Collection – 2018

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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

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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, Bill Fulton, 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, Katie Onofry, Robert Organes, William Pagano, Jim Pantelmo, Tracey Perles, Nicole Perry, Flo Puccio, Sal, Sandberg, Dell SanValentin, 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



Last Classes

- ✓ Our last session for students in **Grades 1 and 2 is Tuesday, April 30th.**
- ✓ Our last session for students in **Grades 3, 4 and 5 is Wednesday, May 1st.**

Have a blessed and safe spring and summer!!! See you in Church!!!



The Sacrament of Confirmation

It is with great joy that we congratulate the following teens of our parishes who were Sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, April 25th at the 7:30PM Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville: Isabel Babio, Marie DeCollibus, Ryan Hickey, Stephen McNanna, Brandon Theobald, Jordyn Rodriguez and Aidan Wesighan. We also congratulate their Parents, Sponsors and Catechists, Dan and Lucy O'Keefe who have been so instrumental in bringing them to this very special day in their lives. May our teens know of our prayers for them as they witness to Jesus Christ throughout their lives.



The Sacrament of Holy Communion

It is with great joy that we welcome the following children of our parishes to the Table of the Lord as they received the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ for the very first time on Saturday, April 27th at the 11:00AM Mass at St. Thomas: Lindsay Alsdorf, Shianne Doyle, Kenzie Harper, John Lubchansky, Mauricio Munoz, Lily Shaub, Jayden Switach and Gabriel Sousa. We congratulate their Parents, Grandparents, Godparents and Catechists, Rita Straka, Marie Mendez and Meg Milligan who have been so instrumental in bringing them to this very special day in their lives. May our children continue to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus and may they continue to receive Him lovingly and reverently all the days of their lives.

Celebrate May

May 1 ~ St. Joseph the Worker ~ As a carpenter in the first century, Joseph knew what it meant to work hard. Pray for your parents for their hard work in providing for you!

May 3 ~ Sts. Philip and James the Lesser, Apostles ~ Philip and James are remembered on the same feast day because their relics were brought to Rome together. We know nothing about James but his name. Philip is quoted in the Gospels a few times. Read John 14:8 for one of his important pronouncements!

SAVE THE DATE – Catholic Summer Camp

On June 24th – 28th from 9:00AM until noon at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Branchville, Catholic Summer Camp will once again be held for children entering grades K through 5 from the parishes of St. James the Greater, St. Thomas the Apostle and Our Lady Queen of Peace. More information to follow. We are always looking for parents and teens to help make this a great week for the kids!!! Please call Mary at 973-948-7004 if you are able to assist us for all or any of it.



THANK YOU – Our parish communities of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. James the Greater changed lives this Lent, and Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl wants to say **THANK YOU!** **Please return your Rice Bowl to the box in the Gathering Space at each church or the Religious Education Center by May 1st.**

The Sacrament of Confirmation for the 2 adults in the program will be administered on Saturday, May 11 at the 4:30PM Mass. We ask that you remember in prayer Heather and Melissa during these last few weeks of their final preparation.

We encourage any adult who has been Baptized Catholic and received their First Eucharist and wishes to be a fully initiated Catholic to join us in preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation consists of an initial interview and 10 sessions on topics of Catholicism. We generally meet for the sessions at the convenience of those involved. The program is free of charge and begins in December with the initial interview and in January the 10 topic sessions begin.

Should you have any questions or need further information on the Adult Confirmation Program, please call Patricia Hope at 862-266-6624 or email patriciahope56@hotmail.com.

In His Peace,
Pat Hope and Alex Sousa Co-Coordinator for the Adult Confirmation Program.

HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening, **May 3rd**, 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 Tuesday, April 30th**). Thank you for your cooperation.

Anyone can 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.

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 **starting on May 9 and ending on June 13** 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 862-266-8418. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the 6 week session for only \$30.00 or pay per class for \$6.00 each. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to our St. Thomas Parish. So, please come and try it out!

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, April 28, 2019

Divine Mercy Sunday

9:30 a.m. STC Crowning of Bl. Virgin Mary
--during Mass

Monday, Apr. 29

Tuesday, Apr. 30

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

Wednesday, May 1

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

Thursday, May 2

Friday, May 3

10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.
6:30 p.m. STC **St. Thomas Tricky Tray**

Saturday, May 4

Sunday, May 5, 2019

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 5: 27-32, 40b-41*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 30*

2nd Reading: *Revelation 5: 11--14*

Gospel: *John 21: 1--19*

Pilgrimage to Canada. Queen of Peace Church is hosting this trip to **Three Rivers, Canada.** Dates: **Mon. June 10—Fri. June 14.** They will be staying at the **Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape** for 4 nights. Pilgrimage includes a day-trip to Montreal and St. Joseph's Oratory, and a stop to Quebec City and the Basilica of St. Ann de Beaupre. Cost: \$ 590. double occ.// \$ 775. single occ. Breakfast, dinner included. For more info 973-948-3185.

Divine Mercy Sunday. This 2nd Sunday of Easter in recent times has become observed as Divine Mercy Sunday. First introduced by Sr. Faustina in Poland in the 1930's, this devotion has grown throughout the world. Enthusiastically supported by St. Pope John Paul II, it has been elevated to a major observance within the Church.

Spend some time **this afternoon at St. Thomas**, thanking the Lord for his readiness to show us His mercy always.

Beginning at **1:30 p.m. there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.** The **Divine Mercy Prayers and Benediction will be offered at 3 p.m.** Confession will be available during this time.

Cross Catholic Outreach. Next week-end, **Msgr. Andrew Martin** will be visiting our parishes and celebrating all the Masses. He will be representing **Cross Catholic Outreach**, a ministry which works and advocates on behalf of the poor in developing countries. This Outreach was formed to create meaningful links between parishes in America and the priests and sisters working in the Church overseas. They assist in missions in the Caribbean, in Africa, Asia, Central and South America. Their work is to spread our Catholic faith and to improve living conditions for people in these areas.

Msgr. Martin will **not** be taking up a special collection, but will be asking you to help in the good works of the Outreach.

During this next week, Fr. Wayne will be away, practicing his "uncle" skills in Florida.

Life in the Spirit Seminar. A dynamic and inspiring series on personal growth leading to greater openness to the Holy Spirit and a closer relationship with Jesus Christ will be conducted at **Our Lady of the Lake Parish, 294 Sparta Rd. (Rt. 517), Sparta, beginning Tuesday, May 7th.** This **8-week seminar** will be presented by a team of excellent speakers via DVD and supplemented by members of the Diocesan Service Team for Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The Seminar will run for 8 weeks and will take place in the church from **7:30 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.** Take advantage of this opportunity to experience a New Life of Faith through the action of the Holy Spirit. Refreshments will be served each time. For more info call Jeff Tucker at 973-726-9011.