

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.

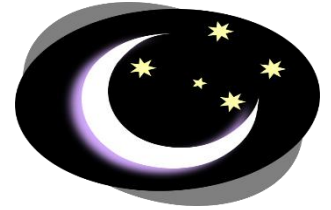
Part of our ministry is to **visit the sick** in hospital or at home. Privacy laws do not allow us to visit or pray publicly for the sick unless permission is given by the individual or their health care proxy. Please inform us of the needs of the sick, and we will be happy to respond as best we can.

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

Nic at Night



During the Easter Season, in the weekday Readings, we meet a character named Nicodemus. He is found in the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, and is described as a “ruler of the Jews.” Scholars say that he was a Pharisee, also a member of the Jewish High Court (the Sanhedrin), and a rabbi or teacher of the Jewish faith. He possessed something very unique among the Pharisees—an open mind. He had heard Jesus speak and had seen some of His miracles, and was curious enough to try to learn more about Jesus. This in itself showed a humility that seemed to be rare among the self-assured Pharisees we find in the Gospels.

Nicodemus arranges to meet Jesus and “... came to Him at night.” Obviously it would not have been good for a respected rabbi to be seen in open company with this unauthorized preacher. Yet Nicodemus was attracted to Jesus’ words, and wanted to know more.

But from the conversation in Chapter 3, Nicodemus seems more confused than ever. Jesus speaks of the need to be re-born, and Nicodemus asks: “How can a man be born again once he is old?” The Lord then describes the Spirit as like the wind, and Nicodemus responds: “How can this happen?”

We must give Nicodemus a lot of credit. He didn’t just walk away from Jesus, but sincerely tried to absorb what the Lord was saying. Perhaps he sensed in Jesus’ words an answer to all that the Old Testament prophets had suggested. He strains to comprehend.

Nicodemus just might be the Patron Saint of Adult Continuing Education. He is a reminder that no one “knows it all.” With his curious mind, he demonstrates that, at any age, we can gain in knowledge.

May we take up Nicodemus’ example and always challenge ourselves to grow in the knowledge of our faith. With each new piece of the puzzle, our faith becomes clearer; it becomes more real and makes more sense to us.

An informed faith is a living faith. Let us make the commitment to use every opportunity to grow in the deeper knowledge of our precious Catholic faith.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 5, 2019

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, May 11

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 12

8:00AM – Virginia Madden
req. by Linda & Mike Spinaplice
-Mothers of the Parish – Living & Deceased

11:30AM – Mothers of the Parish – Living & Deceased

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 917.00 – Regular Collection – April 28, 2019

\$ 196.00 – Online Giving

\$ 705.00 – Additional Easter Collection – 2019

\$1,173.00 – Regular Collection – April 29, 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 Spinaplice at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Kate Olivo at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, May 6

9:00AM – Earl Edwards and Msgr. Paul Knauer
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, May 7

9:00AM – Lou & Helen Briegel
req. by their Family

WEDNESDAY, May 8

9:00AM – Cordelia Cafone
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, May 9

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 10

9:00AM – Intentions of Heather & Clark Dorsey
req. by their Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 11

4:30PM – Helen Lotorto
req. by Mary & Lori Di Gaetano

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 12

9:30AM – Mary Cunico
req. by Gerry Mahon
-Mothers of the Parish – Living & Deceased

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,587.00 – Regular Collection – April 28, 2019

\$ 438.00 – Online Giving

\$ 645.00 – Additional Easter Collection – 2019

\$2,334.00 – Regular Collection – April 29, 2018

\$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, 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, Fran Whitesell and Jen Wycialek



Understanding Mary

The month of May is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother (and all Mothers). Here are four important teachings about Mary, according to our Catholic faith:

- ❖ She was conceived without sin in her mother's womb; also known as the Immaculate Conception.
- ❖ She was a virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus; which is known as her perpetual virginity.
- ❖ She is the Mother of God. Yes, she is Jesus' mother – but she is also God's mother – because Jesus is fully God.
- ❖ She was assumed body and soul into heaven when her life was finished on earth.



Catholic Teens – Diocesan Youth Rally and Mass

We are heading to Great Adventure on Sunday, May 19th for the Diocesan Youth Rally and Mass. The bus leaves OLQP parking lot at 7:15AM and returns approximately at 9:30PM. The cost of the trip is \$50.00 and includes park entrance and rides, lunch buffet and a return ticket for later in the season. **You must register by Tuesday, May 7th by calling Jenn at OLQP at 973-948-3185.**

St. Joseph Hospital Baskets for Kids

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle Church,

We would like to wholeheartedly thank our parish for contributing as generously as you did for the 8th grade Religious Education Service Learning Project. With your generous donations, including that from the Knights of Columbus, we were able to fill our 10 basket goal with two additional baskets as extra Easter surprises! We are blessed to be surrounded by such kind and caring people. Thank you again.

Joey, Marilyn, Andy, Max, Dionne, Avery and Vince (the 8th Grade Class)

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 IMMEDIATELY.**

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.

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!



Believe!

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Third Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2019

“But Peter and the apostles said in reply, ‘We must obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.’”

When people wonder how to get started in learning about the Catholic Church, or to read the bible, the clearest answer is found in this or any other sermon of St. Peter and St. Paul in the Acts of the Apostles. These teachings from the bible introduce us to Jesus Christ and His saving mission. Because of my encounter with Jesus through the announcement of Peter, I am moved to learn more as He accompanies me.

The talks summarize what is most important – Jesus is Savior, He died and rose, and has been glorified. I suggest that you look at similar teachings, which will provide the foundation of this great time of Easter. Look at the Acts of the Apostles chapter 2,3,4,9,19. These are called the kerygm, or the announcing sermons of Peter and Paul.

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, May 5, 2019

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

Monday, May 6

Tuesday, May 7

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

Wednesday, May 8

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 3, 4 & 5
7:00 p.m. STC Adoration & Rosary with K of C
7:30 p.m. STC K of C Monthly Mtg.

Thursday, May 9

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Friday, May 10

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.

Saturday, May 11

11:00a.m. STC First Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Mother's Day

Next Sunday's Readings: 4th Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 13: 14, 43--52*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 100*
2nd Reading: *Revelation 7: 9, 14b--17*
Gospel: *John 10: 27--30*

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.

We Welcome Msgr. Andrew Martin to our parishes this week-end. Msgr. Martin is visiting on behalf of **Cross Catholic Outreach**, a ministry which serves the poor of the developing countries of the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, South and Central America. He will explain the good work being accomplished by the priests and sisters of the Outreach. They serve by both spreading the Catholic faith, and by improving the living conditions of the poor. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create meaningful links between the parishes of America and those missionaries working in difficult parts of the world. Please pray for the success of this Outreach in bringing hope and help to God's poor.

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

“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. May 19, 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 promises; then prayers for individual healing. Individual counseling will be available (for healing of the emotions) as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation (for healing of the spirit.) Join us during this Easter Season and receive the healings and blessings that Jesus wishes to offer you.

Quo Vadis Days. Vocations Discernment for young men 15-25. **“Quo Vadis” = “Where are you going?”** More info to follow.