

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

REFLECTING JESUS

“I give you a New Commandment. ... As I have loved you so also should you love one another.” John 13: 34

They say that couples who have been married a long time start to look alike. Whether or not it's true physically, it probably is true that a loving married couple, over the years, starts to think alike. They share the same desires and goals. They tend to make similar choices. They even complete each other's sentences !

Well, if this is true of the relationship between a husband and wife, it is most certainly true when it comes to our relationship with Jesus. After all, the Church is the bride of Christ. That means that as His beloved, we should resemble Him more and more each day.

But how do we do that ? By loving other people as Jesus loves us.

This is the New Commandment. We all have heard the Greatest Commandment: telling us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. But Jesus took this even further as He spoke to His disciples on the night before He died. He wants us to love as He loves. This is what will set us apart as His people, His bride. This is what will make us start to look like Him: loving like Him.

If you want to know what Jesus' love looks like, make a list. Think about the various Scripture passages that have touched your heart. Think, too, about your personal experiences of the Lord. Write down the words that describe what these experiences felt like. Was His love: generous, forgiving, compassionate ? Was He, in those moments: trustworthy, faithful, comforting ?

Next, thank Jesus for the way He loves you, and ask Him to put that same love into your heart. Make it a point to take just one of the descriptions on your list and live it out today. This is what will set you apart as a member of the bride of Christ.

**Jesus, pierce my heart with the love You have for me.
Come, Lord, and expand my love
so that I can pour it out on others.
I want to become Your reflection in this world.**

--from: *The Word Among Us*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 19, 2019

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, May 25

8:00AM – Muriel Kennel
req. by her Family

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 26

8:00AM – Andrew Kohol
req. by Linda & Mike Spinapolice

11:30AM – Emily Blickweidel
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,105.00 – Regular Collection – May 12, 2019

\$ 151.00 – Online Giving

\$1,063.00 – Regular Collection – May 13, 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 25th** 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.

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Margaret Accordino, Kathy Arnold, Loretta Bauman, James Brittain, Agnes Ciesielski, Peg Coates, Frances Demalderis, Derya Dimertas, Fran Doss, 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, Ricky Wunder and Jen Wycalek

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 for the
Intentions of Happy & Ann Dunn at the
Request of their Children

MONDAY, May 20

9:00AM – Intentions of Dan Gormley
req. by Omar & Marie Mendez

TUESDAY, May 21

9:00AM – Thomas Jordan, Jr.
req. by Omar & Marie Mendez

WEDNESDAY, May 22

9:00AM – Charles & Elsie Lorber
req. by their Family

THURSDAY, May 23

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 24

9:00AM – Rosemarie Bastian
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 25

4:30PM – Helen Lotorto
req. by Mary & Lori De Gaetano
-William Lange
req. by the Wainwright Family
-Intentions of Father Wayne Varga
45th Anniversary of Ordination

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 26

9:30AM – Helen Andreano
req. by Ann Cali
-Jerry Demalderis
req. by his wife, Frances & Children
-Intentions of Father Wayne Varga
45th Anniversary of Ordination

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,740.00 – Regular Collection – May 12, 2019

\$ 541.00 – Online Giving

\$ 75.00 – Additional Easter Collection – 2019

\$1,874.00 – Regular Collection – May 13, 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.



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*



SAVE THE DATE ~

A very important meeting will take place on **Monday, June 10th at 7:00PM** at St. Thomas the Apostle Church **for all parents of students entering grades 7 through 10 in September.** More information will follow in a letter being sent to your home shortly.



Lenten and Easter Thank You

As we continue to celebrate this beautiful season of Easter, I would like to thank all of those who gave of their time, talent and treasure to our Religious Education Program over the past several weeks: As we began Lent - to the Knights of Columbus for the Mardi Gras and Stations of the Cross and Pasta and Fish Sticks Dinner for our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and to the Columbiettes for the Children's Stations of the Cross and Mac and Cheese and Chicken Nuggets Dinner for our 1st through 5th grade students. As we ended Lent – again, to the Knights and our middle-school students for the wonderful Seder Supper and to the teens and children who participated in the Holy Thursday Foot Washing and the newly confirmed teens and 7th and 8th graders for their prayerful portrayal of the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and to Mark and Donna Lewandowski for the delicious dinner that evening. To our Music Ministers and Choir for their beautiful and sacred music throughout Lent, Easter and for the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist and to John and Jennifer Lucadamo for the Easter Sunday Egg Hunt for all of our children. To all of the devoted Catechists of our parishes for their weekly selfless gift to the children and teens in sharing their faith and serving in this very essential ministry and to the parishioners of our parishes for your constant support and generosity to us. To the parents and grandparents for your ongoing dedication to the spiritual formation of your children and grandchildren and to Father Wayne and Deacon Wayne for their always holy and loving presence to us each and every day, especially through the Sacraments of the Church. May Our Risen Lord continue His many blessings to you and Joyous Easter to all.

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

The **next St. Thomas Pot Luck** will be on **Saturday, May 25th** after the 4:30 PM Mass. Come join us.

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.



Catechist Gratitude

We are so, so very grateful to the following faithful men and women of our parishes who unselfishly gave so much of themselves to the children and teens of our parishes over the past months and ask you to keep them in prayer of thanksgiving to Our Risen Lord: Rita Straka, Marie Mendez, Meg Milligan, Patrice Kealy, Chris Higgins, Stephanie Pierson, Mike Bussow, John Lucadamo, Sharon Falchetta and Dan and Lucy O'Keefe. Also, to our devoted Teen Aides: Jake Hickey, Maggie Nicole and Emilia VanderPloog – who are all off to college and we will miss them very much! Also to Sean Kealy who we hope joins us again next year with a few others!

We thank in a very special, but bittersweet way, Cathy McNanna, who is "retiring" after 22 years of serving in the Ministry of Catechesis, where she has shared her love of God and touched the lives of more than 250 children in our small parishes! We will miss her dearly, (along with her Sunday morning Breakfast Buffet), but know she will be available to us when needed. Special thanks also to our Pastor, Father Wayne, and Deacon Wayne for all they do for us! Our catechetical and evangelization efforts are possible because of the selfless love and dedication of each and every one. Also, please consider answering your baptismal call through the Ministry of Catechesis (Catechist or Aide). It is so very rewarding – just ask any of us! Please call the Religious Education Office if you may be feeling called by Our Lord to serve Him in this very significant way. May all of our catechists, children, teens and their families enjoy a safe, happy and holy summer!

We will thank and celebrate our Catechists and their families on Saturday, June 1st at the 4:30PM Mass and with an Appreciation Dinner to follow. Catechists, please RSVP to 973-948-7004 by May 20th if you have not done so yet.



SAVE THE DATE - Catholic Summer Camp

On June 24th – 28th from 9am 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. To register, go to www.olqp.org and go to the Religious Education page and click Catholic Summer Camp 2019.

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.

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 which **started on May 9 and will end 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, May 19, 2019

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass
10:30a.m. STC K of C Meeting
11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.
N. J. Catholic Youth Rally
--at Great Adventure
3:00 p.m. STC Healing Service

Monday, May 20

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

Tuesday, May 21

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

Wednesday, May 22

Thursday, May 23

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Friday, May 24

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

Saturday, May 25

8:30 a.m. SJC Clean-Up Day at St. James, Part II
4:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner after Mass

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Next Sunday's Readings: 6th Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 15: 1—2, 22--29*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 67*
2nd Reading: *Revelation 21: 10—14, 22--23*
Gospel: *John 14: 23—29*

Make St. James Great Again. All hands are needed on deck as we enter into our **Annual Spring Clean-Up**. We hope to spruce up the grounds and parking lot, mulch and weed flower beds and rake up tree branches and limbs. Your help is greatly needed on **Saturday, May 25th, beginning at 8:30 a.m., or whenever you can come.** Please bring rakes and equipment. Think of it as good exercise in the great outdoors.

“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 today, 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.

On Line Giving. Here's how to make life a little easier: set up an On-line Giving account for the weekly Church offering. Simply reach our parish website: saintjamesthomas.org and click onto the On Line Giving tab. Follow the brief instructions—and then make plans for all the extra free time you'll find.

Quo Vadis Days. Vocations Discernment for young men 15-25. **“Quo Vadis – Where are you going?”** Where is the Spirit acting in your life? Where is the Lord encouraging you to go? ‘Quo Vadis Days’ is a time of recreation, fellowship, and prayer to help you explore the Lord's call in your life. Activities will include prayer, Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary, games, sports, talks, great food, and discussions. It is a time to share our faith and meet other young men seeking God's will. Quo Vadis Days will be held **June 26- 28, 2019 at the Saint Mary's Abbey Retreat Center in Morristown, New Jersey.** There is no cost. For more information and/or registration, contact the coordinators: Fr. Edgar Rivera and David Monteleone in the Vocations Office at (973) 777-8818, ext. #711, by email: revedgar@patersondiocese.org or Dmonteleone@patersondiocese.org

Be a “Friendly Visitor.” The Sussex Co. Dep't of Senior Services is looking for people who could visit isolated, home-bound seniors. It is a once-a-week program for which you would receive training. For more info, call Stephanie Redvanly, co-ordinator at 908-303-5664.