

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

“My peace I give to you.”

John 14: 27

Wouldn't you like a little more peace in your life and in the world ? News reports are full of stories of conflicts, both national and international. Personal relationships suffer from discord or disagreements. Even our own thoughts and desires can be conflicted at times. Where can peace come from ?

From Jesus, of course ! In today's Gospel, when He offers peace to His disciples, the word Jesus uses is the Hebrew word '*shalom*,' which means 'welfare' and 'wholeness.' '*Shalom*' is used both as a greeting and a farewell—usually between two friends wishing the best for each other.

But Jesus doesn't simply wish His disciples peace; He gives it to them. The peace of salvation. The tranquility of knowing that He has restored them to His Father in heaven. The joyful certitude that everything has been put in its proper order, and all hindrances to peace have been removed.

Jesus gives that peace to you, too. It starts internally, as you come to know the mercy, love and salvation you have received in Christ. Every time you go to Confession, every time you pray before the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus' peace takes a greater hold on your life. It matures every time you stop yourself from getting agitated by what you see around you or within you. Every time you pray: "Come, Holy Spirit," you are reaching out to the One who speaks peace to your heart. Gradually, your heart opens up to trust that God's love for you can overcome any conflict you experience.

As you cultivate that internal peace, it will begin to extend out from you into your relationships. You'll be less likely to respond in kind if someone blows up at you. You'll find it easier to keep smiling when someone cuts you off in traffic. You might even seek reconciliation with an estranged relative or show kindness to an unfriendly neighbor.

And from there, who knows ? As each of us cultivates peace, it will make the world a more and more peaceful place.

Jesus, thank you for the gift of your peace.

--from: *The Word Among Us*
Easter Season, 2019

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 26, 2019

St. James the Greater

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

THURSDAY, MAY 30

The Ascension of the Lord

8:00AM – Genevieve Arnault

SATURDAY, June 1

8:00AM – Frank & Rose Reed
req. by their Family

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

June 2

8:00AM – William Cole
req. by Harry & Diane Cole
-Mass for Peace
req. by the Pham Family

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

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 840.00 – Regular Collection – May 19, 2019

\$ 251.00 – Online Giving

\$ 890.00 – Regular Collection – May 20, 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.**

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

MONDAY, May 27

Memorial Day

9:00AM – Ray Sorg
req. by Lorraine

TUESDAY, May 28

9:00AM – Tucher DeGroat
req. by Laura Guadagno

WEDNESDAY, May 29

9:00AM – Pat Follette
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, May 30

The Ascension of the Lord

9:00AM – Cordelia Cafone
7:00PM – Josephine Yarosz

FRIDAY, May 31

9:00AM – Barbara Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

SATURDAY, Vigil, June 1

4:30PM – Earl Edwards
req. by Nick & Laura Nicolette & Family
-Intentions of the Catechists
req. by Mary Flexer

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

June 2

9:30AM – Mary Cunico
req. by Rita & Milan Straka
-Special Intentions of Ensign Nicole Sarao
req. by her parents, Chris & Diane Sarao

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,852.00 – Regular Collection – May 19, 2019

\$ 538.00 – Online Giving

\$3,153.00 – Regular Collection – May 20, 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.**



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:

Agnes Ciesielski, Jen Vaughn, 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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.



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*



Parent Session for the Sacrament of Confirmation

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 in our Religious Education Program entering grades 7 through 10 in September.

Kids Question – Why Do We Pray?

What is the best way to get to know someone? Talking to them, of course! The same is true for God. When we pray, we get to know God. The more we pray, the better we know Him, and the better we get at hearing Him speak to us. Our relationship with God should be the most important thing in our lives. The best way to have a relationship with God is to talk to Him in prayer each and every day! Here are some Types of Prayer to help you along:

- ❖ **Praise** ~ God is great. We give glory to God and acknowledge our dependence on Him.
- ❖ **Petition** ~ When we need something, we often ask for God's help.
- ❖ **Intercession** ~ When someone we know needs God's help, we pray for them.
- ❖ **Thanksgiving** ~ We have been given many blessings. Be sure to thank God in your prayers for them.

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 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.



Catholic Teens – A Night of Fishing

Catholic Teens is a Youth Group for teen parishioners from St. James, St. Thomas and Our Lady Queen of Peace. It is open to **7th through 12th graders** and will meet again on **Sunday, June 9th from 6:00PM until 8:00PM** at OLQP in Branchville. Please come down to the Youth Group for an evening of fishing, fun and friendship! Hamburgers, Hot dogs and S'mores will be served. **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.



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.

This program will include prayer, crafts, games, skits, music, water fun and a bounce house and is **FREE!!!** 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.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

C.L.O.W. is set to resume again in September. While we still have many weeks of Spring and Summer to enjoy, I would respectfully ask that during that time all parishioners prayerfully consider ministering at C.L.O.W. Training is given at the volunteer's convenience. Support is provided during C.L.O.W. We welcome all Confirmed teens to serve as Lector and/or as Hospitality Minister. You will be prepared to serve in these positions. Preparation would be at your convenience. Please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 for further information and your call will be returned just as soon as possible.

Adult parishioners are welcome to serve as Lector, Hospitality Minister and/or as Lay Leader. You also will be prepared to serve in any of the above mentioned positions at your convenience. Please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 for further information.

During C.L.O.W., Ministers prepare so that the children will have a positive experience, that the children may come to know and love the Liturgy of the Word, and that they come to understand the Rites and Symbols. Our prayers that the children will grow closer to Jesus with this opportunity of Children's Liturgy.

Prayerfully consider serving the children of the Parishes. All are welcome and needed!

In His Peace, Patricia Hope,
Coordinator for Children's Liturgy of the Word.

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 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 26, 2019
6th Sunday of Easter

Monday, May 27
Memorial Day

9:00 a.m. STC Mass for our Nation

Tuesday, May 28

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

Wednesday, May 29

Thursday, May 30
Ascension Thursday

Ascension Day Masses ⇌⇌⇌⇌⇌⇌⇌⇌⇌

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Friday, May 31

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

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

Saturday, June 1

4:30 p.m. STC Catechists' Appreciation Dinner
-- after Mass

Sunday, June 2, 2019
7th Sunday of Easter

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

Next Sunday's Readings: 7th Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 7: 55--60*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 97*

2nd Reading: *Revelation 22:12—14, 16—17, 20*

Gospel: *John 17: 20—26*

Pentecost Novena. A “novena” is a nine-day preparation for a special event. Today’s red insert (you can’t miss it) contains the prayers of a novena leading up to the Feast of Pentecost Sunday. This is the moment when the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles, giving them understanding and courage to begin the mission of converting the whole world to Jesus. Pray these prayers **beginning Friday, May 31st** as a way of opening your heart to the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Memorial Day had its beginnings after the Civil War, to honor soldiers of both sides who died in battle. It was meant to be a way of healing our nation after that terrible conflict. We continue the tradition of honoring those who have died in our nation’s wars, and pray for our country, which is now suffering such serious divisions. Join us for a special Memorial Day Mass on **Monday morning, at 9 a.m. at St. Thomas.** May we pray to ask God’s Wisdom to come upon our leaders and people—and for all to listen.

Ascension Thursday. This week also finds us observing **Ascension Thursday—a Holy Day of Obligation.** It celebrates the moment that Jesus left the earth, rose to be reunited with the Father in heaven, and commissioned the Apostles to continue His life-saving work. Masses will be held:

8:00 a.m. at St. James

9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas

7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. A special Mass celebrating the Sacrament of the Sick will be offered on **Saturday, June 8th, beginning at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas.** All those with physical ailments or simply due to older age are welcome to receive the comfort of Jesus’ healing in this Sacrament. After the Mass, a light luncheon will be served in the Fr. Lewis Center. Call the Parish Office so that plans can be made for the lunch 973-948-2296. Handicap accessible.

Delaware Valley Choral Society announces its up-coming performance: **Karl Jenkins’ The Peacemakers.** It takes place at the Delaware Valley High School Auditorium, route 209 Milford PA. on Sunday June 2, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$ 15. Students \$10. The Dingman Delaware Children’s Choir will also perform.

Women’s Week-end Retreat at Sacred Heart Center, Newton. All ladies are invited to this Retreat to be held Fri. May 31—Sun. June 2. The theme will be: “Compassion.” Retreat begins at 5 p.m. on Fri. and closes at 1:30 p.m. on Sun. Registration forms and info available at their website: sacredheartspiritualitycenter.org or call 973-383-2620