

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



The **Fortnight for Freedom** is a two-week period initiated by the Catholic bishops of the United States. During this time Catholics are called upon to pray and to re-dedicate themselves to preserving our precious First Amendment right to practice our Catholic faith freely.

“[Religious] freedom remains one of America's most precious possessions. And as my brothers, the United States Bishops, have reminded us, all are called to be vigilant, as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it.”
- Pope Francis

A PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

O God our Creator, from Your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as Your people and given us the right and the duty to worship You, the only true God, and Your Son, Jesus Christ, through the power and the working of Your Holy Spirit. You call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask You to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us the courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of Your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O Heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all Your sons and daughters gathered in Your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
June 30, 2019

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Susan Sheaffer at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, July 6

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 7

8:00AM – Janet Dunn
req. by Suzanne Laggy
-Intentions of the Pham Family
req. by the Pham Family

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

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 706.00 – Regular Collection – June 23, 2019

\$ 251.00 – Online Giving

\$ 971.00 – Regular Collection – June 24, 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 Frank & Rose Reed at the
Request of their Family

MONDAY, July 1

9:00AM – Gene & Rosalie Mauro
req. by their Family

TUESDAY, July 2

9:00AM – Intentions of Michael Toth
req. by his Mom

WEDNESDAY, July 3

9:00AM – Kris Blauvelt
req. by Toni and Mike

THURSDAY, July 4

9:00AM – Susan Sheaffer
req. by her Family

FRIDAY, July 5

9:00AM – Thanks to my Friends at St. Thomas
req. by Diane Campbell

SATURDAY, Vigil, July 6

4:30PM – Muriel Kennel
req. by her Family
-Intentions of Jen Wycalek
Birthday Celebration
req. by Sharon Spangenberg

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 7

9:30AM – Deceased Members of the Campbell
and Nolan Families
req. by the Campbell Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,571.00 – Regular Collection – June 23, 2019

\$ 538.00 – Online Giving

\$2,061.00 – Regular Collection – June 24, 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:

Lee Ann Ascolese, Agnes Ciesielski, Jen Vaughn and Ricky Wunder

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.

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*



Registrations for 2019/2020 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children in grades 1 through 6 were mailed out for the upcoming catechetical year and **are due back by July 31st** to avoid the late fee.

Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish, or children enrolled in Catholic school or home school who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist must call the Religious Education Office to register. To enroll your child(ren) in the parish program, you must be a registered and participating member of the parish.

After July 31st, all re-registrations must be brought to the REC. No re-registrations will be taken the week of September 15th (first week of classes). All late re-registrations must be brought to the Religious Education Office after September 18th. Please call to schedule an appointment.

Celebrate July – July 3rd – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saint Thomas is one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus. His name means “the twin”. He is most famous for not being present when the other apostles (Jesus’ followers and friends) first saw Jesus after he had been risen from the dead. Thomas was not there at the time and when he heard about it, he did not believe his friends. He said he wanted to see it for himself, even the marks in his hands where Jesus had been nailed to the cross. Jesus did return and showed Thomas. The phrase “Doubting Thomas” (a term for a person who does not believe something at first) comes from this story.

On his feast day, pray to St. Thomas for his intercession to Our Lord that we may not be a “Doubting Thomas” and that our faith and knowledge of Jesus will grow throughout the summer months. Happy and blessed feast day of our parish patron saint. St. Thomas the Apostle, pray for 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.

Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry

Our parishes have an active group of women who knit and crochet prayer shawls, lap robes and scarves for those who need comfort and to feel the warm embrace of our loving community. We also have a group of women who make Rosary Beads. Every year, our First Holy Communicants receive rosary beads as a gift from this parish ministry, as well as the dozens that are taken from the baskets in our Gathering Areas.

This past year, over 100 shawls/lap robes/scarves were blessed by Father Wayne and were given to many veterans and to all who may have been going through an illness or a difficult illness or a difficult time in life.

Baptismal blankets were also made and given to babies on the day of their Baptism to welcome the newest members of our family! Infant blankets were made and distributed to new moms through local hospital maternity wards. There is never a charge for these works of love and we always have them available for whenever they are needed.

Our ministry (and our hands) are resting for the next two months and we will begin again on September 16th. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center on the first and third Mondays and are always ready to welcome new members!

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Our Parishes will again offer preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation of adults beginning in January 2020. These preparation sessions are for adults {18 or over} who are Baptized Catholic and who have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, and for whatever reason have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Those who present themselves for the Sacrament will have an initial interview and then begin sessions to last for 10 sessions, and will be confirmed during the Easter Season. This Program is free of charge. The Program generally meets for sessions at the convenience of the Candidates. The session topics center on the Sacrament of Confirmation and Church teaching.

Parishioners please pass this information on to your family, friends and neighbors.

Please call the Religious Education Center at 973-948-7004 for any questions you might have, leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

May the Peace of Our Lord Be With You,

Patricia Hope and Alex Sousa,

Co-Coordinator for the Adult Confirmation Program

From the R.C.I.A.

The Catholic Church continually welcomes new members. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Addults {R.C.I.A.} is the Church’s process of welcoming those new adult members.

The R.C.I.A. is the experience through which the Catholic community:

- ❖ Baptizes new adult members.
- ❖ Receives those adults from another faith tradition who want to be members of the Catholic Church.

R.C.I.A. is an adult faith sharing process which begins every September with interviewing, sessions begin in October. To have your questions answered, you are invited to call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004, leave your name and number, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

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



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS **HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly **Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** **June 30, 2019**

“On the way they entered a Samaritan village, but they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem... As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him ‘I will follow you wherever you go... and to another He said ‘Follow me’”

Such great contrasts. No welcome, hesitation, and commitment, all within a few short verses. Today, we find rejection of the invitation, insecurity concerning discipleship, and complete dedication. I ask myself, where do I stand.

Our society and culture finds it difficult to meet the challenge of the gospel. At best there is indifference. Some begin, attracted to the person of Jesus and life in the church, but become lax, or are caught just in routine. Many are dedicated and enthusiastic, as the gospel gives meaning to their lives, enriches their families and brings great joy and peace.

As vacation time begins, it might be a good time to ask where discipleship is leading me and discover the potential I have and the call of the Lord for me in these summer months.

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, June 30, 2019

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1:00 p.m. STC St. Thomas Parish Picnic

Monday, July 1

7:00 p.m. STC Meeting to present new calendar

Tuesday, July 2

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

10:00a.m. STC St. Thomas Bikers' Gang

Wednesday, July 3

Thursday, July 4

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

Friday, July 5

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

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

Saturday, July 6

Sunday, July 7, 2019

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Future Events

Sat. July 27 St. James Parish Picnic

Next Sunday's Readings: 14th Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 66:10—14c*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 66*

2nd Reading: *Galatians 6: --18*

Gospel: *Luke 10: 1—12, 17--20*

Good News. Fr. Livolsi would be very happy:

The Sanctuary of Mary, outside Branchville, has been given new life. It had been for a while the residence of Fr. Jim and the S.O.L.T. Fathers, but had closed. Now it will be re-opened by the Vocationalist Fathers of Florham Park, and will be available for Masses, Confessions, Bible courses, retreats and days of recollection. They are planning to build 12 rooms on the site.

All will be invited to a re-dedication and ground-breaking Mass with Bishop Serratelli **on Sat. Sept. 7th at 12 Noon.** Invitations to follow.

St. Thomas Parish Picnic Today ! This afternoon join with parishioners and friends on the Great Lawn of St. Thomas, for a relaxing time under the trees. Food, dessert, drink, music, sports and games for the kids are all part of the day. It all begins at 1 p.m. and continues throughout the afternoon.

The 2019—2020 Calendar of Events is ready to take shape. There will be a meeting tomorrow, **Mon. July 1st at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas** to present the provisional calendar and to iron out any conflicts. All interested parties should be there. Refreshments will be served.

Fortnight to Freedom is a program sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of the U.S. It is a means of raising consciousness and praying for God's rightful place to be recognized in public life. It is a two-week program of prayers to prepare us for the celebration of Independence Day, July 4th. The program reminds us that our forefathers depended upon God for His guidance in their fight for liberty. May we offer prayers, beginning on Fri., July 21, that we and our fellow citizens will again allow God to guide us in the important issues we face today.

Fourth of July "Mass for Our Nation."

Join us as we give thanks to the Lord for the blessings He has showered upon our nation from its beginnings. May we pray that all citizens turn back to the Lord and recognize His first place in our lives, and in the life of our nation. **Mass will be at St. Thomas at 9 a.m.**

St. Thomas Bikers' Gang revs up for another season. All men and women are invited to join us as we peddle through our beautiful countryside. Bicycle trips are usually 2 hours or so long, and start at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas, beginning this week. Join us for some exercise and fresh air. We'll start this Tuesday.

Two Forefathers Speak:

"It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His Will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favors." --George Washington

"The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." --Thomas Jefferson