

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

Vanity of Vanities !

--Ecclesiastes 1: 2

Ecclesiastes is one of the most puzzling books in the Bible. From the very beginning, the author Qoheleth uncovers something we don't like to think about: the seeming futility of life. Material pleasures don't satisfy. Justice is rare. Death makes our accomplishments seem pointless. We feel trapped in an endless cycle, and "*nothing is new under the sun*" (Ecclesiastes 1: 9).

But far from sounding like a disgruntled old man, Qoheleth is a brave teller of uncomfortable truths. He is aware that people may not like what he has to say, but he doesn't want anyone to ignore reality.

Qoheleth is doing more than painting a gloomy picture. His book describes a world that is closed off to God. He is showing us what life would look like without a Father in heaven who promises to hold us in the palm of His hand. But then he ends his book by telling us that we do have such a Father. "*Remember your Creator,*" he says, "*before the evil days come.*" (Ecclesiastes 12: 1). Keep the memory of God alive so that you will be able to weather the bad times—because they will surely come. Never forget who God is and all that He has done. And never forget what He has done for you.

This is sound advice, but now there is more to the story. Jesus' Resurrection has changed everything ! Jesus has opened the gates of heaven, and we can now experience God, not just in our memory, but alive and active in our hearts. We can experience the presence of Christ, along with His comfort, His healing power, and His wisdom in our day-to-day lives. So where Qoheleth would have said: "Remember God!" you can say, "Yes, and experience Jesus !"

Brothers and sisters, our faith tells us that life is not futile. It may be wild and dangerous at times, but Jesus has conquered death and dispelled gloom. His promises are not vain, and His power is real. Reach out to Him today, and let Him show you that all is not vanity any longer.

**Praise to You, Jesus, for conquering death
and for opening heaven.**

--from: "*The Word Among Us*"
July-August, 2019

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 4, 2019

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, August 10

8:00AM – Lou & Helen Briegel
req. by their Family

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 11

8:00AM – Fred Detoro, Jr.
req. by Suzanne Laggy

11:30AM – Walter & Norma Journey
req. by their Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 626.00 – Regular Collection – July 28, 2019

\$ 394.00 – Online Giving

\$1,421.00 – Regular Collection – July 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.**

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. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Jozef Szwajkiewicz at the
Request of John & Maria Babon

MONDAY, August 5

9:00AM – Stephen Casper
req. by Knights of Columbus

TUESDAY, August 6

9:00AM – Kris Blauvelt
req. by Knights of Columbus

WEDNESDAY, August 7

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

THURSDAY, August 8

No Mass

FRIDAY, August 9

9:00AM – Gus Eberhardt
req. by his Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, August 10

4:30PM – Kris Blauvelt
req. by Andre & Suzanne Lacasse

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 11

9:30AM – Stephen Casper
req. by the Cunico Family
-Jozef Szwajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,995.00 – Regular Collection – July 28, 2019

\$ 438.00 – Online Giving

\$2,280.00 – Regular Collection – July 29, 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:

Lee Ann Ascolese, Agnes Ciesielski, Teresa Mantini, Kelly Nicole, Shirley Strong, 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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.



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 August – August 4 – St. John Vianney, Priest (Memorial)

John Vianney was born in Lyons, France in 1786. He was a very devout man and, after becoming ordained, became a parish priest of a lonely, neglected village called Ars, where he lived the rest of his life. Although not very academic, he was a great preacher and became renowned as a confessor spending up to eighteen hours a day in the confessional as tens of thousands flocked to him for the sacrament. He could read hearts, and many miracles of healing were credited to him. St. John Vianney is the Patron Saint of Parish Priests.

This week, pray for our pastor, Father Wayne, and make a decision to go to confession before the month is out!



Catholic Teens

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 on **Sunday, August 11th from 6:00PM until 8:00PM** at OLQP in Branchville. Please come down to the Youth Group for an evening of fun and friendship! There will be plenty of food, games, music and prayer. **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.

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.

From the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the joy-filled responsibility of the entire faith community. As a community of faith, we are called to encourage others to become fully initiated Catholics. Each of us, as followers of Jesus, are called to be both a hearer of the Word and a doer of the Word. Get involved in spreading the message of God's Word! Exercise your faith! Now is your opportunity. Be a motivator of another on their journey of faith. As a doer of the Word, you will become more aware of how God is present and active in your life each day.

Have those you motivate call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

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.

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

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, August 4, 2019

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, Aug. 5

Tuesday, Aug. 6

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

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

Wednesday, Aug. 7

Thursday, Aug. 8

Friday, Aug. 9

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, Aug. 10

Sunday, August 11, 2019

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Missionary Co-operative Plan—at all Masses

6:00 p.m. Catholic Youth Group, meets at
O.L.Q.P., Branchville, till 8 p.m.

Next Sunday's Readings: 19th Ord.

1st Reading: *Wisdom 18: 6--9*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 33*

2nd Reading: *Hebrews 11: 1--2, 8--19*

Gospel: *Luke 12: 32--48*

K of C at S.C.F. Stop by the Food Booth of the **Don Bosco Knights of Columbus** at the 2019 Sussex County Fair: August 2—11.

Visit also the Refreshment Booth of the **Frankford Fire Department** at the same fair on the same dates.

The donations will go to important causes.

"I do not promise you happiness in this world, but in the next."

"I am the Immaculate Conception."

--Blessed Mother to St. Bernadette, 1858

Missionary Co-operative Plan. Next week-end, we'll ask you to greet **Fr. Robert Kimbalala**, a priest of the **Diocese of Kayanga in Tanzania**. He is representing his diocese in the Missionary Co-operative Plan which our diocese sponsors each August.

The Diocese of Kayanga was created by Pope Benedict in 2008. It is located in the extreme north-western corner of Tanzania, in East Africa. Electricity and running water re for the most part unknown. There are no paved roads, and many of them are impassable during the rainy season. The Gospel was introduced to this are about 100 years ago, and the Church has taken root. About 66 % of the population is Catholic.

With this great growth of the faith goes the need for priests to minister to the faithful. This new diocese has been blessed with many young people who seek to train for the Priesthood. A great challenge comes from a lack of funds to meet the needs of proper training. A great fundraising project is being undertaken to raise money to support seminarians, who will be the near-future leaders and evangelizers of the Church of Africa. Our donations will help to strengthen the Church, and bring the Good News of the Kingdom to much more of the population of East Africa.

Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience.

You are invited to Lourdes, France on Sunday, Sept. 22nd. No passport necessary, only the \$ 1.00 toll to PA. This experience is courtesy of the North American Volunteers and will take place at **St. Patrick's Church, Milford, beginning at 1 p.m.** They will present a 2-hour virtual pilgrimage of this holy site, where the Blessed Mother appeared to Bernadette. During this time you will:

**immerse yourself in the Gospel message as given to St. Bernadette by Our Lady*

**be able to touch the Grotto Rock*

**receive the healing grace of Lourdes Water*

**receive a Eucharistic Blessing and pray a Candlelight Rosary*

**prepare a petition to be placed in the Grotto at Lourdes, France*

Come and encounter the healing grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ through His Immaculate Mother. Invite your family, children and friends. Our Lady extends her invitation to all. A Plenary Indulgence is granted to the faithful, under the usual conditions, who attend this Experience.