

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

Christ—the Center of Conflict

Jesus' words in the Gospel today are surprising and disturbing. *“Do you think that I have come to establish peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.”* But don't we speak of Jesus as the 'Prince of Peace'? Didn't He say: *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you?”*

Jesus has truly come to bring us peace—but not that of this world. It is the peace of the next world that He offers—peace of spirit; peace of the Kingdom of God.

The peace of this world is only and always temporary; it is fleeting and partial; it leaves us—in the end—unfulfilled. Often it's based on uneasy compromise. And many places have never really known peace.

The peace that Jesus offers is not of this world. It comes from God and is brought to us by the Holy Spirit. It is the peace of being right with God and in line with His plans for us.

To enjoy this kind of peace demands a decision: we have to choose Jesus' way. We are to answer His call to be a disciple and to follow His teachings and His example in our manner of life.

Not all will accept this commitment to Christ. Many will choose not to be in alignment with the Lord. And herein lies the conflict. Sadly, this happens too often right within the family. Some will see the wisdom of following God's way; others will rely instead on their own guidance and choose to follow the ways of the world. This inevitably causes serious division, especially when moral decisions must be made. And these divisions are truly hurtful to all.

Pray for harmony in family life. Pray that each person in the family will feel respected and will offer respect to the others. And pray especially that the Lord will be a part of each family member's life. Then will that peace and unity of God's Kingdom begin to be enjoyed—even here on earth.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 18, 2019

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
 Memory of Leonie Flaskamp at the
 Request of her Family

SATURDAY, August 24

8:00AM – Charlie Lombaerde
 req. by his wife, Carol

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 25

8:00AM – Anne Esposito
 req. by her Family
 -Ariana Lee
 req. by the Rivera Family
 -Marion Youngster
 req. by her daughter, Victoria Gortlach

11:30AM – Mavis Kaufman
 req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 639.00 – Regular Collection – August 11, 2019

\$ 296.00 – Online Giving

\$ 321.00 – Missionary Cooperation Plan

\$1,528.00 – Regular Collection – August 12, 2018

\$ 185.00 – Missionary Cooperation Plan 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.

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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
 Memory of Linda Stephens at the
 Request of her Family

MONDAY, August 19

9:00AM – Ted Dunn
 req. by his Family

TUESDAY, August 20

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

WEDNESDAY, August 21

9:00AM – Cathy Pullis
 req. by her Family

THURSDAY, August 22

No Mass

FRIDAY, August 23

9:00AM – Linda Stephens
 req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, August 24

4:30PM – Carol A. Pierson
 req. by her Family

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 25

9:30AM – Robert DellaSanta
 req. by Terry Rand and the Heimall Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,598.00 – Regular Collection – August 11, 2019

\$ 438.00 – Online Giving

\$ 984.00 – Missionary Cooperation Plan

\$2,095.00 – Regular Collection – August 12, 2018

\$ 744.00 – Missionary Cooperation Plan 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:

Agnes Ciesielski, Teresa Mantini, Kelly Nicole, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn and Ricky Wunder



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 and teens in **grades 1 through 10** were due back by **July 31st** to avoid the late fee. Please return your registrations immediately.

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.

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.

R.C.I.A.: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

- ❖ Are you un-baptized, but recognize a need for spirituality in your life?
- ❖ Are you baptized Catholic, or, baptized in another faith tradition and never received any formal religious education?
- ❖ Are you married to a Catholic and go to Mass, but don't know how to become a Catholic?
- ❖ Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, the R.C.I.A. is the place for you! R.C.I.A. is the process through which the Catholic Church welcomes [initiates] new members. R.C.I.A. guides those who want to be Baptized into the Catholic Church, receive First Eucharist and Confirmation. R.C.I.A. guides those from another faith tradition into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church is continually welcoming new members. R.C.I.A.---an adult faith sharing process is ongoing and waiting to welcome you. Please call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004 and your phone call will be returned just 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/StJamesThomas/>



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 18, 2019

“Jeremiah ought to be put to death: he is demoralizing the soldiers that are left in the city, and all the people, by speaking such things to them; he is not interested in the welfare of the people, but in their ruin....let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.”

Jeremiah, the prophet, spoke for God. The role of the prophet is to disturb the comfortable and calm the disturbed. Unlike our current political promises, he was calling people back to the Lord. It is not easy to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, as our culture of selfishness, greed, and consumerism, are the cause of detours and distraction, of sadness and division.

As a missionary disciple, I am counter cultural, seeking to walk with others in pursuit of the values of the gospel. In this way I work for the well being of all. Where are your eyes and efforts directed?

Columbiettes

The Columbiettes are collecting school supplies for deprived students until Sunday, September 15th. There is a basket in the Gathering Space for donations from parishioners. Suggested supplies are notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, backpacks, folders, crayons, etc. They will be distributed to students in need throughout our state through Catholic churches and shelters.

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.

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 18, 2019

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

All Masses: Columbiettes School Supply Collection

Monday, Aug. 19

Tuesday, Aug. 20

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

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

Wednesday, Aug. 21

Thursday, Aug. 22

Friday, Aug. 23

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

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

Saturday, Aug. 24

Sunday, August 25, 2019

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Next Sunday's Readings: 21st Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 66: 18—21*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 117*

2nd Reading: *Hebrews 12: 5—7, 11--13*

Gospel: *Luke 13: 22--30*

FORMED.org A wealth of movies, audio C.D.'s, Study Programs available to you free as a parishioner. Simply go to our parish website saintjamesthomas.org. At home page, scroll down to FORMED banner to register.

Recommended by FORMED:

Watch: *'Augustine: A Voice for All Generations'*

Feast day: *August 28* Follow the story of the most dramatic conversion since Saint Paul.

"You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You."

--St. Augustine of Hippo (354—430 A.D.)

Sacrament of Confirmation: Policy up-date.

Bishop Serratelli has approved our request that, going forward, the **Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered to our 8th Grade students**, instead of in Grade 10 as in the past.

This coming year (2019—20) will therefore be a **transition year**, since we will be preparing 8th, 9th and 10th Grade students at the same time.

Because the **preparation for Confirmation is a two-year process**, all students who are to be confirmed must attend at least **two consecutive years** of instruction. For example, if a student enrolls in our 8th Grade program, but did not attend Grade 7, then he or she will need a second year of instruction and actually receive the Sacrament in 9th grade.

As a condition for Bishop Serratelli's approval, allowing us to confirm 8th Grade students, **the Bishop has insisted that every student must be an active member of our Parish Youth Group, beginning in Grade 7.**

In the coming weeks, we will be providing you with more details regarding this transition process. For questions on all this, please speak to Mrs. Mary Flexer, D.R.E. or Father Wayne.

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.