

# 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](mailto:stjamesthomas@aol.com)  
Website address: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://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.

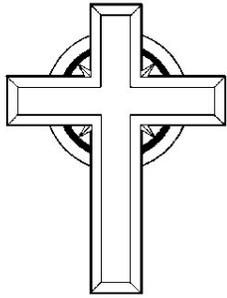
**The Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated during Mass providing that liturgical norms do not dictate otherwise. Please contact the office to schedule a Baptism and to make arrangements for preparations especially for first time parents. Baptisms may be scheduled at other times if extenuating conditions 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](http://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](http://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**



***“Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple”***

**Luke 14: 26**

Hate your parents ? Hate your own life ? Carry a cross ? That seems awfully harsh! Luke tells us that Jesus spoke these words to the “great crowds” that were with Him. (Luke 14: 25). Notice that the crowds were not necessarily “following” Him; they were just traveling along, watching to see what He would do next. Jesus knew that their motives were mixed, so He stopped and addressed them with these challenging words.

Jesus knew where each person in that crowd drew the line. Maybe one didn’t want to leave the security of his parents’ home. Or another was worried about becoming an outcast if she followed Jesus. Maybe a third was willing to begin the journey with Jesus but would not hold on when the going got tough. Or another just went with Jesus out of curiosity.

Jesus stopped and spoke to these crowds because He wanted to shake them up a bit and help them to push past whatever obstacles might be keeping them from following Him. He wanted them to see that discipleship was a serious decision that He couldn’t make for them. They had to decide on their own if He was worth following.

Each of us is like the people traveling with Jesus. We all have areas of our lives, perhaps relating to a sin or a grudge or a lack of trust, that we can’t seem to release. But Jesus is calling us further down the road of discipleship. So close your eyes for a moment and imagine Him calling to you. What is He saying ?

As you listen to the Readings at Mass today, notice if anything stands out to you. Is Jesus asking you to come closer ? Is He shining light on something keeping you from Him ? If so, then take this insight with you when you receive Communion, and ask Jesus to write it on your heart. Trust that He will show you how to live it out this week.

**Jesus, I want to follow You  
even more deeply !**

--from: *“The Word Among Us”*  
September 2019

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
September 8, 2019

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Emily Blickweidel at the  
Request of her Family

**SATURDAY, September 14**

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

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 15**

8:00AM – Kenneth Kohol  
req. by Linda & Michael Spinapolice

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

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,034.00 – Regular Collection – September 1, 2019**

**\$ 276.00 – Online Giving**

**\$1,711.00 – Regular Collection – September 2, 2018**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

***Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.***

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**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 Spinapolice at 973-293-7031.

**TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:**

Agnes Ciesielski, Bill & Teresa Mantini, 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*

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Richard W. Pullis at the  
Request of his wife, Ann

**MONDAY, September 9**

9:00AM – Henry Carral  
req. by the Gorman Family

**TUESDAY, September 10**

9:00AM – Melissa Maloney  
req. by the Gorman Family

**WEDNESDAY, September 11**

9:00AM – Intentions of Jim & Celia Kerrigan  
req. by the Gorman Family

**THURSDAY, September 12**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, September 13**

9:00AM – Richard W. Pullis  
req. by his daughters, Lisa & Laura  
-Intentions of Ann Mary Jennings  
Birthday Celebration  
req. by the Gorman Family

**SATURDAY, Vigil, September 14**

4:30PM – Kris Blauvelt  
req. by Andre & Gaetane Bordeleau  
-Intentions of the Catechists and the  
Religious Education Families  
req. by Mary Flexer

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 15**

9:30AM – Joseph Slisz  
req. by Gerry Mahon  
-Intentions of the Catechists and the  
Religious Education Families  
req. by Mary Flexer

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,441.00 – Regular Collection – September 1, 2019**

**\$ 788.00 – Online Giving**

**\$2,375.00 – Regular Collection – September 2, 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.**



**Registrations for 2019/2020 Catechetical Year**  
**We are still awaiting registrations from many families!** Re-registrations for children and teens in grades 1 through 10 were due back by July

31<sup>st</sup> to avoid the late fee. Please return your registrations immediately as we begin as follows:

Grs. 8, 9 & 10 (Conf. II) - Sat., Sept. 14 & 28 - 4:30pm Mass - 7:15pm  
 Grs. 6 & 7 (Conf. I) - Sun., Sept. 15 & 29 - 9:30am Mass - 12:30pm  
 Grs. 1 & 2-Tues., Sept. 17 & 24 - 4:00pm - 5:15pm  
 Grs. 3, 4 & 5 - Wed., Sept. 18 & 25 - 4:00pm - 5:15pm

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 15<sup>th</sup> (first week of classes). All late re-registrations must be brought to the Religious Education Office after September 18<sup>th</sup>. Please call to schedule an appointment.**

**Celebrate September ~ Sept. 8 – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & Grandparents Day**

Only three Church feasts recognize births – that of Jesus, John the Baptist and, today, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Also, happy and blessed Grandparents Day to all the wonderful grandparents of the children in our parishes. You enrich the lives of your grandchildren and our parish program by your witness to the faith and by your love.

Pray a decade (or more) of the Rosary today to honor the Blessed Mother on her birthday as well as for your grandparents too!

**Youth Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich**

On Sunday, September 22, 2019 from 2:00pm until 6:00pm, all high-school teens are encouraged to join hundreds of youth in the diocesan pilgrimage from St. Paul Inside the Walls to Holy Family Chapel in Convent Station. The program includes a 30-minute walk, a spiritual tour of Bl. Miriam Teresa's life, games, snacks, music and Mass with Bishop Serratelli. **Please call Mary Flexer at 862-268-1876 as soon as possible to register.**



**Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry**

We will begin our ministry again on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Center on the first and third Mondays of the month from 11:00AM until 1:00PM and are always ready to welcome new members!

**From the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

All adult parishioners are welcome to gather twice a month with the R.C.I.A., where we examine our understanding of how our religion and our faith in God is part of our lives. During these sessions, we break open the upcoming Sunday Readings to be used as our basis for sharing. We also reflect on our understanding of how the Scriptures can affect us on our journeys in faith. In upcoming bulletins, you will find the outline of topics for our sessions. These sessions are no-pressure--- 'Come and See'. We invite you at no obligation to discover what the Church and our faith is all about. Please all the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, for further information and to have any questions you might have answered.

**St. James Christmas Bazaar**

It is never too early to start thinking about the **December 7, 2019 St. James Christmas Bazaar!** We will be accepting donations after the **October 19, 2019 St. James Spaghetti Dinner.** We will be looking for donations of time and talent from bakers, crafters, volunteers and those just editing some nice but unwanted items from their homes. Please mark your calendars and call Linda Spinapolice 973-293-7031, Joan Henn 973-293-3690 or Maria Henn 973-293-3243 for more information.

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



**CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2019**

On Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday. The 2019 theme is **"Stay With Us."** Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth and commissioned for their ministry. The parents will also be blessed for their **very essential role in forming their children in the Catholic faith.**

We ask your prayer and support for all of our Parents, Catechists and Aides. In particular, we welcome all of our First Graders and any new families that are joining us. It is our hope and prayer that as a part of our parish family, and through the sacraments, personal prayer, deeper knowledge of the Faith and our witness to the Gospel, we may all grow in love for the Lord and further the evangelizing mission of his Church.

In a special way, please keep in your prayer the following men and women of our parishes who have selflessly devoted themselves to the ministry of catechesis and share the faith of the Catholic Church with the adults, families, teens and children of our parishes for so many years: Rita Straka (13 yrs.), Marie Mendez (8 yrs.), Patrice Kealy (11 yrs.), Chris Higgins (4 yrs.), Stephanie Pierson (3 yrs.), Sharon Falchetta (3 yrs.), Mike Bussow (14 yrs.), John Lucadamo (14 yrs.), Dan and Lucy O'Keefe (4 yrs.), Alex Sousa (6 yrs.) and Patricia Hope (32 yrs.). That's a total of 112 YEARS!!! (And as I regularly attend Diocesan CRE/DRE meetings and gatherings, I can tell you that this is very unheard of in many places – **we are very blessed here with such love and commitment**). Thank you all for this beautiful gift to our parishes! Also, it is with tremendous gratitude that we thank Cathy McNanna for 22 years of service to our children and families! She will be "retiring" from weekly catechesis but we know we can still count on her when needed.

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel and it is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

**Why do we have a special day set aside to commission catechists?**

Catechesis is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, "Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church's life . . . her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis" (no. 7). This ministry of teaching in the name of the Church has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church. It is only fitting that we set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others.

**How are parents, the primary catechists of their children, recognized on Catechetical Sunday?**

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation. This is why the rite of blessing of catechists used on Catechetical Sunday includes a blessing of parents and guardians.

**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.

**Columbiettes**

The Columbiettes are collecting school supplies for deprived students until Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

# 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, September 8, 2019**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

**Monday, Sept. 9**

**Tuesday, Sept. 10**

10:00a.m. STC St. Thomas Bikers' Gang  
10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings  
7:00 p.m. STC K of C Rosary, B-diction, Mtg.

**Wednesday, Sept. 11**

**Thursday, Sept. 12**

**Friday, Sept. 13**

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, Sept. 14**

4:30 p.m. STC Commissioning & Blessing of  
Catechists & Parents  
4:30 p.m. STC Mass & Conf. II Faith Sharing

**Sunday, September 15, 2019**

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Catechetical Sunday**

9:30 a.m. STC Commissioning & Blessing of  
Catechists & Parents  
9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.  
9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Conf. I Faith Sharing  
10:30a.m. STC R.C.I.A.  
11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

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## Next Sunday's Readings: 24<sup>th</sup> Ord.

1st Reading: *Exodus 32: 7–11, 13–14*  
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 51*  
2nd Reading: *1 Timothy 1: 12–17*  
Gospel: *Luke 15: 1–32*

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**On-Line Giving** is easier than ever. Simply reach our parish website, [saintjamestomas.org](http://saintjamestomas.org). You will find the link to 'on-line giving.' Follow it through and it will easily set you up for weekly or monthly contributions. With our thanks.

## Sacrament of Confirmation: Policy up-date.

Bishop Serratelli has approved our request that, going forward, the **Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered to our 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**As a condition** for Bishop Serratelli's approval, allowing us to confirm 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Hospice Volunteers.

The **Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice Network** is now seeking help in their hospice work, and are offering a six-class training course, free of charge. The dates are: Wed. Sept. 11, Fri. Sept. 13, Tues. Sept. 17, Fri. Sept. 20, Wed. Sept. 25, with Graduation on Fri. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> **All classes are held 10 a.m. – 12 Noon at the Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center, 5 Plains Rd. Augusta, N. J.** Course topics include:

- \* Presentations from a hospice nurse, a social worker, a bereavement counselor and a chaplain.
- \* Ways to support others and ourselves when faced with terminal illness
- \*The social, emotional, spiritual and physical needs of the dying person and their family

Upon completion, participants are Certified Hospice Volunteers.

For more info call: Sue Dougherty, 973-383-1117.

## Paper Shredding Services.

The **Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice**, at 99 Sparta Ave, Newton, is sponsoring this service. Confidential documents will be professionally shredded on-site for only \$ 6.00 per grocery bag. You will also be supporting the work of the Hospice in our area. Dates are: **Sat. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and Sat. Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m.—12 Noon**, rain or shine. For more info call 973-383-0115.