

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



God's Lost and Found Dep't



What do gloves, umbrellas, baby bottles, eye glass cases and cell phones have in common? They are all items that occasionally are left behind at the end of a week-end in church. Most parishes, in fact, have a table where these things can be claimed—once they are noticed to be missing.

God has such a place, too. It's called the Reconciliation Room. It's the place where sinful behaviors can be confronted and left behind, guilt is removed, and most importantly, sinners are reunited with their Lord (and Owner.)

Our Gospel today speaks of the shepherd who rejoices to be reunited with his lost sheep. It tells us of the housewife who is overjoyed to find again her ceremonial coin (as important as a wedding ring today.) These are compared to God Himself in His joy at being reunited with the person who strays from the path of goodness.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is in fact the Lord's most powerful way of reaching out to us and claiming us. He is always ready to do everything it takes—even to forgiving and forgetting sins and offenses against Him—so that we might be reunited with Him. He will allow nothing to separate Himself from us. Jesus' death on the cross—in order to reunite God and sinful humanity—ought to be all the proof of this we need.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the seven closest experiences we can have with the Lord, while on this earth. To receive reconciliation is to be restored to exactly the state we were in at the moment we were baptized. At that moment, God claimed us as His very own beloved son or daughter. He promised to stay close to us, to guide us and give us comfort and strength, all throughout our lives. He claims us again, and renews those promises, each time we approach Him in this powerful Sacrament of Forgiveness.

The Lord knows what's best for us. He knows that His influence is necessary to fulfill us and guide us. May we always enjoy the happiness of giving up the burden of our faults and sins so that we may be fully reunited with the Lord—who is our only Source of Truth and Good.

So, do something special to make God happy. Come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation sometime soon.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 15, 2019

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Ralph & Anna Gioielli at the
Request of their daughter, Ann

SATURDAY, September 21

8:00AM – Cathy Pullis
req. by her Family

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 22

8:00AM – Fran Doss
req. by Pat Long & Family

11:30AM – Lou & Helen Briegel
req. by their Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 998.00 – Regular Collection – September 8, 2019

\$ 276.00 – Online Giving

\$ 983.00 – Regular Collection – September 9, 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 Spinaplice 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*

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

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Arthur & Elsie Bastian at the
Request of their son, Andy

MONDAY, September 16

9:00AM – Anne & Olindo Rosanelli
req. by the Rosanelli Family

TUESDAY, September 17

9:00AM – Intentions of Marie Mendez
Mass of Thanksgiving
req. by Columbiette Sisters

WEDNESDAY, September 18

9:00AM – Stasia Batko
req. by the Batko Family

THURSDAY, September 19

No Mass

FRIDAY, September 20

9:00AM – Joseph F. Slisz, Jr.
req. by Cheryl & Andrew Jorritsma

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 21

4:30PM – Helen Salza
req. by the Batko Family

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 22

9:30AM – Barbara Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles
-Kelly Nicole
req. by the Glenbrook Golf Club Ladies
-Intentions of Nick Dispoto
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,262.00 – Regular Collection – September 8, 2019

\$ 438.00 – Online Giving

\$1,750.00 – Regular Collection – September 9, 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.

2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal

"For I Was Hungry..."

The 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal is officially kicking-off this weekend. The theme of this year's Appeal is "*For I Was Hungry...*" It is a reminder that what we do for our neighbors in need, we do for Christ himself. Please support this important annual cause that helps so many of our brothers and sisters in our Diocese.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal supports the work of our Catholic Charities, priests' extraordinary healthcare needs as well as Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests' retirement residence, urban elementary schools and seminarian education. These are all critically important ministries that touch many lives, and so please make a pledge today. Please know that funds from the Appeal are used only for the causes described in the campaign materials. They are used for no other purpose. Thank you in advance for your generous support.



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

31st 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 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.



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2019

Today 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 Busso (14 yrs.), John Lucadamo (14 yrs.), Dan and Lucy O’Keefe (4 yrs.), Alex Sousa (6 yrs.) and Patricia Hope (32 yrs.).

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.



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 again **today, Sunday, September 15th from 6:00PM until 8:00PM** at OLQP in Branchville. Please come down to the Youth Group for an evening of faith, fun and friendship! Pizza will be served. Also, OLQP new Administrator, Father Philip-Michael Tangorra will be there to introduce himself and discuss plans for the year. **Please RSVP by text to my cell number or at the first Confirmation Prep Classes, so we can be properly prepared with food!**

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.

(Note: As a condition for Bishop Serratelli’s approval, allowing us to confirm 8th grade parishioners, the bishop has insisted that every candidate must be an active member of our parish youth group that we share with OLQP parish.)

Celebrate September ~ Sept. 21 – St. Matthew, Apostle

St. Matthew, one of the four Gospel writers, was first a tax collector and was called by Jesus with the simple phrase, “follow me” (Mt 9:9). We don’t know a lot more about Matthew, but we can follow his example of being an evangelizer by talking about Jesus with our friends. Talking about Jesus like Matthew might be difficult, but not impossible!

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 immediately to register.**



Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry

We will begin our ministry again on Monday, September 16th. 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 call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, for further information and to have any questions you might have answered.

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 of the Adult Confirmation Program

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 Spinapolic 973-293-7031, Joan Henn 973-293-3690 or Maria Henn 973-293-3243 for more information.

THE FAMOUS ST. JAMES ANNUAL SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

will be held on **Saturday, October 19th** at 6:00pm. Bring your own drink. Take-outs available. Adults: \$12.00, Children under 12: \$6.00, Children under 6: Free. Tickets will be available after 8:00am and 11:30am Masses on September 22 & 29, October 6 & 13, by calling Mike Spinapolic at 973-293-7031 or by emailing wjr218@optonline.net. Sit-down tickets will be limited to 100.

THE COLUMBIETTES

first meeting of the calendar year will be held, **TODAY, Sunday, September 15th** at 11:00am in the Father Lewis Center.

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 15, 2019 24th 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.

Monday, Sept. 16

- 11:00 a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers Mtg.

Tuesday, Sept. 17

- 10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings
- 10:00a.m. STC St. Thomas Bikers' Gang
- 4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

Wednesday, Sept. 18

- 4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 3, 4 & 5

Thursday, Sept. 19

Friday, Sept. 20

- 10:00a.m. STC Adoration of Bl. Sac. (till Noon)
- 10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.

Saturday, Sept. 21

- 4:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner after Mass

Sunday, September 22, 2019 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 2:00 p.m. Pilgrimage to Tomb of Blessed Miriam Demjanovich (Madison, N.J.)

Next Sunday's Readings: 25th Ord.

- 1st Reading: Amos 8: 4--7
- Resp. Psalm: Psalm 113
- 2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 2: 1--8
- Gospel: Luke 16: 1--13

Healing Service. Our next service will be **Sunday, Sept. 29th at 3 p.m.** Included will be: a short homily, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayers for healing, personal blessings, counseling and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Service takes place at St. Thomas Church.

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.

This experience is hosted by the North American Volunteers and will take place at **St. Patrick's Church, Milford, next Sun. Sept. 22nd 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.