

# 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**

# Being a Good Steward

**“And the master commended the dishonest steward for acting prudently.”**

-- Luke 16: 8

Today's Gospel gives us Jesus' parable of the devious but clever steward. It's a complicated story, and a little disturbing. After getting caught stealing from his boss, the steward brazenly goes on to stealing some more. He goes to each of his master's debtors, and allows them to lessen their debt to the master. In his mind, this will make those debtors so grateful to him that they will take him in when he eventually loses his job. Like many criminals, it's too bad that he didn't use his "cleverness" for better purposes.

Today's Gospel brings up the whole subject of "stewardship." We are called to be good stewards of our lives, our families, our community, and of the earth. A good steward nurtures and husbands those people or things under his/her care. Different from being an owner, a steward recognizes that he has been given a sacred duty to watch over his charge.

Stewardship is often broken down into three areas: **time, talent and treasure**. In each of these ways, we can give glory to the Lord by expressing true discipleship.

On **time**: Our Lord gives us 24 hours each day. It sounds like a lot, but where does it go? How we use our time is a reflection of our gratitude to the Lord. How much do we spend in prayer? How much in service to others? How much in our own personal pursuits?

On **talent**: Each of us is a treasury of talents and abilities which can make life easier for others, as well as for ourselves. All of your learned skills and knowledge can be a source of enrichment to those around you. And you don't have to be perfect to exercise your talents. A poet once observed: "The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those who sang best." So would churches.

On **treasure**: Treasure isn't just money, although that's a big part. It can also be "stuff." It tends to accumulate. In the last 20 years, witness the increase of storage facilities. Our treasure actually gives us a chance to be like God: sharing what we have with those in need. Whether it be monetary donations, or helping others with furniture, or baby clothes, our treasure can be re-cycled to yield continuing benefits.

May we look for opportunities to exercise good stewardship. As God the Father offers us His love and grace and blessings, may we spread them further by our generous use of our time, talents and treasure.

## A Prayer for Stewards

Lord God, You alone created this world and all that is good in it. You allow us our freedom, and entrust us with great responsibility. All of what we are, all our concerns, and the unique abilities we each have to help those around us: all come from You. We ask that You bless us as we strive to transform the earth through love, word and deed. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and lives. Guide our service and grant us a spirit of generosity and joy. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. Amen.

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 22, 2019**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the  
Intentions of Nick Dispoto at the  
Request of his Family

**SATURDAY, September 28**

8:00AM – Cécile St-Pierre Bordeleau  
req. by Steve & Rosemarie Babey

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 29**

8:00AM – Cathy Pullis  
req. by her nieces, Lisa & Laura

11:30AM – Ted Dunn  
req. by his Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 862.00 – Regular Collection – September 15, 2019**  
**\$ 151.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$ 156.00 – Diocesan Assessment**  
**\$ 499.00 – Regular Collection – September 16, 2018**  
**\$ 256.00 – Diocesan Assessment**  
**\$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.**

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Jimmy Reed at the  
Request of his Mom & Dad

**MONDAY, September 23**

9:00AM – Carl & Louise Flexer  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer and Family

**TUESDAY, September 24**

9:00AM – Jimmy Reed  
req. by his Mom & Dad  
- Intentions of Mike Toth  
req. by his Mom

**WEDNESDAY, September 25**

9:00AM – Donald Martin, Sr.  
req. by his Family

**THURSDAY, September 26**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, September 27**

9:00AM – Jerry Demalderis  
req. by his wife, Frances

**SATURDAY, Vigil, September 28**

4:30PM – Michael P. Gibbons  
req. by Margaret Gibbons  
- Cécile Bordeleau  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 29**

9:30AM – Gloria Shope and Kelly Nicole  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$2,097.00 – Regular Collection – September 15, 2019**  
**\$ 438.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$ 508.00 – Diocesan Assessment**  
**\$2,357.00 – Regular Collection – September 16, 2018**  
**\$ 450.00 – Diocesan Assessment**  
**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

*Consider a gift to St. Thomas 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 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

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



**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

**We are still awaiting registrations from many families! Please return your registrations immediately as we continue our second week as follows:**

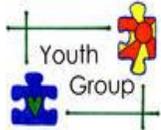
Grs. 8, 9 & 10 (Conf. II) - Sat., Sept. 28 - 4:30pm Mass - 7:15pm

Grs. 6 & 7 (Conf. I) - Sun., Sept. 29 - 9:30am Mass - 12:30pm

Grs. 1 & 2-Tues., Sept. 24 - 4:00pm – 5:15pm

Grs. 3, 4 & 5 - Wed., Sept. 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.



### 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 **7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders** and will meet

again **today, Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM until 8:00PM** at OLQP in Branchville. Last Sunday, we had an awesome first meeting with Father Phil and many teens and also had a great discussion about the future plans of the group. Please come down to the Youth Group for an evening of faith, fun and friendship! 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.

### Sacramental Preparation Parents Session

Our first Parent Session for all who have children preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist next Spring (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) will take place on **Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center**. Our pastor, Father Wayne, along with our catechist, Marie Mendez, will be speaking to you regarding this very important year for your child. It is imperative that at least one parent be present at this meeting.

### **2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal** **"For I Was Hungry..."**

For your convenience, you can support the Annual Appeal by making an on-line gift. Simply go to [www.2019appeal.org](http://www.2019appeal.org) and follow the instructions. You can either make a one-time gift or a pledge with monthly payments made automatically for your convenience.

Whether it is a pledge, a one-time gift, or an on-line donation, your support is greatly needed. Every single gift counts! Please participate in the 2019 Appeal today!

### From the C.L.O.W.

Children's Liturgy of the Word has resumed. All children grade 6 and lower are welcome to participate in C.L.O.W. Older children with younger siblings are also welcome at the 9:30AM Mass at St. Thomas. Dates for C.L.O.W. can be found on the website and in the bulletin.

Confirmed adults are welcome to participate as lay president, lector and hospitality minister. Please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 for further information. Thank you in advance!

In His Peace, Pat Hope – Coordinator for C.L.O.W.

### From the R.C.I.A.

Thus far, no one has registered for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Addults. Therefore, we will offer on certain Sundays after the 9:30AM Mass at St. Thomas topics for adult education. These are the topics that are also on the R.C.I.A. calendar. The dates and room can be found in the bulletin and on the website. Should you need further info, please feel free to call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004.

We look forward to being with our fellow parishioners for these informal topic talks.

Peace, Pat Hope and Alex Sousa – Co-Coordinators

### 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.

**THE FAMOUS ST. JAMES ANNUAL SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER** will be held on **Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** 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 Spinapolice at 973-293-7031 or by emailing [wjr218@optonline.net](mailto:wjr218@optonline.net). Sit-down tickets will be limited to 100.

### Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is offering a fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Wednesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm** for 8 weeks **starting on October 9** right here at St. Thomas. **You may join us at any time**. The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Any questions, please call instructor Chris Dube at 862-266-8418. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the 8 week session for only \$40.00 or pay per class for \$6.00. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to our St. Thomas Parish. So, please come and try it out!

## 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 22, 2019**

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

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

**Monday, Sept. 23**

**Tuesday, Sept. 24**

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. 25**

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

**Thursday, Sept. 26**

**Friday, Sept. 27**

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

**Saturday, Sept. 28**

4:30 p.m. STC Mass & Faith Sharing --Conf. II

**Sunday, September 29, 2019**

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

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.  
9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Faith Sharing--Conf. I  
10:30a.m. STC R.C.I.A.  
3:00 p.m. STC Healing Service

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**Next Sunday's Readings: 26<sup>th</sup> Ord.**

1st Reading: *Amos 6: 1a, 4--7*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 146*

2nd Reading: *1 Timothy 6: 11--16*

Gospel: *Luke 16: 19--31*

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**Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience.**

Today, Sun., Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Patrick's Church, Milford, PA. beginning at 1:00 p.m. This experience is courtesy of the North American Volunteers. They will present a 2-hour virtual pilgrimage of this holy site, where the Blessed Mother appeared to Bernadette.

**Silver & Gold Anniversaries.**

Congratulations to our married couples who are celebrating **their 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries** this year. You are an inspiration to all of us.

Bishop Serratelli would like to honor you at a special **Mass for Silver and Gold Couples on Sunday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 p.m.** The Mass takes place at the newly renovated St. John's Cathedral in Paterson.

We invite you to attend this Mass by filling out the **application** you will find in Church, and then submitting it to our parish office, where Rosemarie will submit your info on-line. You will then receive an invitation from the Diocese. The **deadline to register is: Oct. 15.** Guests are invited to attend with the jubilarians. We hope that you will join with the other married couples in this joyous occasion within our Diocese.

**Port Jervis Area Life Chain.** We are invited to gather in prayer and express our commitment to life with our fellow Christians. The date is: **Sunday, October 13, from 1:00 till 2:30 p.m.** The location is **along East Main St. in Port Jervis.** Signs in support of life will be available to you. You are asked to stand in witness to life, and in prayer, along with many other Christian church members, along East Main St. Parking is available at three lots along this road. Use this opportunity during Right to Life Month to defend God's precious gift of human life.

**2019 Public Square Rosary Crusade.** Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance and conversion. You are invited to join this Rosary Crusade on **Saturday, October 12 at either of two locations:**

**Port Jervis, N.Y.:** A **Rosary Procession** begins at 11:30 a.m. from the St. Mary's parking lot, down Ball St. and up Sussex St. to Orange Square. **Rosary Rally begins at 12 Noon.**

**Milford, PA.:** The **Public Square Rosary Crusade** begins at **12 Noon** at the **Milford Courthouse**, 410 Broad St. Contact Marie Biel at 570-686-4637 for more info.

Here are two simultaneous opportunities to express our faith. Both ask God to save America through the power of the Rosary.