

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.

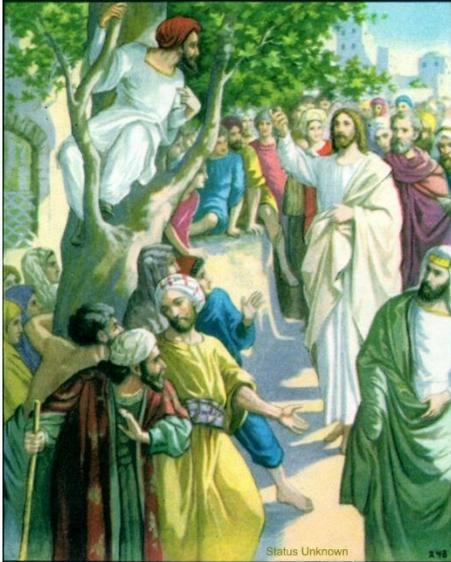
The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated during Mass providing that liturgical norms do not dictate otherwise. Please contact the office to schedule a Baptism and to make arrangements for preparations especially for first time parents. Baptisms may be scheduled at other times if extenuating conditions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



Jesus Changes His Plans

“...Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town.” On one of His journeys, Jesus found Himself walking through the ancient town of Jericho, on the Jordan River, near the Dead Sea. Some archeologists claim that it is the oldest continuously occupied settlement in the world (going back to 9,000 B.C.)

When I visited the Holy Land in 2014, we saw the work being done by archeologists to unearth levels upon levels of settlements over the course of millennia. It was truly amazing to come in contact with such historic ruins.

According to our Gospel passage today, as Jesus was making His way through the town, He suddenly stopped short. There, in the sycamore tree above Him, was this older man, Zacchaeus, in and amongst the branches. Zacchaeus was apparently severely challenged vertically (I can relate), but he didn't let his short stature stop him from his once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see who this Jesus was. And so he even forgot the dignity of his position as chief tax collector of the town, to climb the tree that was along Jesus' route.

Jesus likewise saw a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: to bring about healing and conversion. To actually enter the home of a despised tax collector would be shocking, but Jesus in His wisdom saw that the man wanted to change. And so Jesus changes His own plans, stays at the home of Zacchaeus overnight, and elicits from Zacchaeus a pledge to make right and wrongs he had done in the past.

Jesus' actions can instruct us. We too should be on the lookout for opportunities to perform good actions and spread the Word. For what more important work can we do with our time? Opportunities reveal themselves only for the moment. To miss the present chance to do good is to miss that chance forever.

May we always be ready to change our plans, as Jesus did, in order to contribute to the greater good. May we all sharpen our focus and re-dedicate our efforts to use every opportunity that comes to us: to spread God's Word, and to bring a little closer to fulfillment—His Kingdom.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
November 3, 2019

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Dom & Agnes Giordano at the
Request of their Family

SATURDAY, November 9

8:00AM – Leonie Flaskamp
req. by her Family

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
November 10

8:00AM – Pat Follette
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Peg O'Brien
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 720.00 – Regular Collection – October 27, 2019

\$ 431.00 – Online Giving

\$ 107.00 – World Mission Sunday

\$1,431.00 – Regular Collection – October 28, 2018

\$ 212.00 – World Mission 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.

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.

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Agnes Ciesielski, Bill & Teresa Mantini, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn and Ricky Wunder



We ask your continued prayers for the following men and women of our parish who are serving our country in the Armed Forces: Brandon Heimall, Nicholas and Karissa Kealy, Joseph Mannion, Hunter Olenick, Christopher & Ana Sarao, Nicole Sarao, Peter Spinks and James Orr.

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. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Eugene & Rosalie Mauro at the
Request of their Family

MONDAY, November 4

9:00AM – Intentions of Albert Guensch
req. by Paula and Toni

TUESDAY, November 5

9:00AM – Marsha Walaska
req. by Frances Demalderis

WEDNESDAY, November 6

9:00AM – Intentions of Mike Toth
req. by his Mom

THURSDAY, November 7

No Mass

FRIDAY, November 8

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

SATURDAY, Vigil, November 9

4:30PM – James Tobin
req. by his Family
-William Pagano
req. by Sue Friel and Aldo Cicchetti

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
November 10

9:30AM – Zofia Babon
req. by John & Maria Babon
-Cecilé St-Pierre Bordeleau
req. by the Columbiettes

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,490.00 – Regular Collection – October 27, 2019

\$ 443.00 – Online Giving

\$1,902.00 – Regular Collection – October 28, 2018

\$ 454.00 – World Mission 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.



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/>



Meals Strengthen Families

"For the almost 20 years of my priesthood, I've tried to remind families of St. Teresa of Calcutta's inspired method to holiness – small and simple acts, with great love!

How? Eat together. Take time to share just one out of 24 hours together, nourishing loved ones with food prepared lovingly and satisfying hungry hearts and souls with your presence. It's both simple and incredibly challenging. It takes regular, intentional and even heroic efforts at times. The evil one doesn't want you to have family unity – that is, community. He throws at us busyness and schedule complications with obstacles and excuses, while our family starves. It takes a *super hero*, not a superhero, to save our family – and God's family!" ~ Father Leo Patalinghug (is a popular television and radio host, an award winning cook and founder of PlatingGrace and The Table Foundation. His newest book is "Saving the Family" as is available through Sophia Institute Press)

Celebrating November Saints

November 4 – St. Charles Borromeo was the nephew of Pope Pius IV and was named a cardinal at the young age of 22. He was once struck by gunshot, but the bullet deflected off his body. Pray to St. Charles Borromeo for an end to gun violence.



Catholic Zoomers

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish on **Sunday, November 10th from 5:00PM until 8:00PM**. We will once again be making Father Phil's Dills (Pickles) to fulfill orders taken and to sell remaining jars. All of our Confirmation Candidates are encouraged to participate in this Catholic teen group as often as possible.

Sacramental Preparation Parents Session ~ Reconciliation

Our Parent Session for all who have children preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist next Spring (2nd grade) will take place on **Monday, November 11, 2019 at 7:00PM in the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center**. Sr. Theresa Kelly from the Sacred Heart Center, will be speaking to you regarding this very important sacrament for your child. It is imperative that at least one parent be present at this meeting.

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 6:00 to 7:00pm** for 8 weeks and **started 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!

St. James Christmas Bazaar

It is never too early to start thinking about the **December 7, 2019 St. James Christmas Bazaar!** We are now accepting donations. We are 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 Spinaplice 973-293-7031, Joan Henn 973-293-3690 or Maria Henn 973-293-3243 for more information.

November Wall of Remembrance

If anyone wishes to add a photo, please submit to the parish office as soon as possible.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time November 3, 2019

"But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook people's sins that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned...therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them, and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O Lord... 'Today salvation has come to this house.'"

How wonderful that we believe in a merciful God, who looks past our sins, to gift us with mercy. That does not mean I am to overlook my fault but I have reason to repent. My goal is not to convince God that I deserve His mercy, but ask the Lord who sees me as I am to shower me with His love.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but the Lord was looking for him. The word today speaks to me, reminding me to ask for forgiveness, to forgive others and believe in a loving merciful God. We hear warning alarms, sirens and smoke detectors. The word today reminds me of what I must abandon, change and seek. Jesus is looking for you.

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, November 3, 2019

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

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. Topic: The Creed
(all welcome)

Monday, Nov. 4

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

Tuesday, Nov. 5

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

Wednesday, Nov. 6

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

6:00 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Thursday, Nov. 7

Friday, Nov. 8

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, Nov. 9

4:30 p.m. STC Columbiettes Veteran Flag Service
(after Mass)

Sunday, November 10, 2019

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

5:00 p.m. Youth Group at O.L.Q.P:

Next Sunday's Readings: 32nd Ord.

1st Reading: 2 Maccabees 7: 1—2, 9--14

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 17

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2: 16—3: 5

Gospel: Luke 20: 27—38

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

--St. Jerome, 347—420 A.D.

Pope John XXIII Middle School and High School

is hosting an *Open House* today, Nov. 3 at 1 p.m.—3 p.m. Students and their families in Grades 4 to 11 are invited to explore the 70+ acre campus and to meet members of the Middle and High School communities. Come and find out why the investment in your child's Catholic education is worth it. Address: 28 Andover Rd., Sparta. Get more info at www.popejohn.org/visit or call 973-729-6126. Scholarships and tuition assistance is available. *Be More!*

Rev. George A. Brown School (Pre-K to Gr. 4) 973-729-9174

Pope John Middle School (Gr. 5—7) 973-729-1967

Pope John High School (Gr. 8 to 12) 973-729-6125

The annual Respect Life Mass sponsored by the Knights of Columbus (Paterson Federation) will be celebrated at **St. John's Cathedral, Paterson on Sat. November 16 at 10 a.m.** All are invited and encouraged to attend and to pray that all human lives are protected and valued as unrepeatable gifts from God Himself. Bishop Serratelli to preside.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service is being planned. Save the date: Mon. Nov. 25. More info to follow.

First Thursdays at Sacred Heart Center.

Join in the First Thursday Retreats at Sacred Heart. The theme is: "Living as Missionary Disciples !" (Sounds like the task of most grandparents as they work to introduce the Catholic faith to their grandchildren.) **Next session: Thurs. Nov. 7th.** The day begins at 9 a.m. with 'coffee and,' and includes an opening prayer, a short talk, Eucharistic Adoration, the chance for Confession, Mass at 12 Noon and a light lunch. The day concludes about 1:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$ 15. No need to pre-register. All are welcome. For more info: call 973-2383-2620 or reach shretreatcentermail.com 20 Old Swartswood Rd., Newton.

Paper Shredding Services. Have your confidential documents professionally shredded on site for only \$ 6.00 per grocery bag. At the same time support the Karen A. Quinlan Hospice program. Bring documents for shredding to: 99 Sparta Ave. Sparta. Rain or shine.