

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.

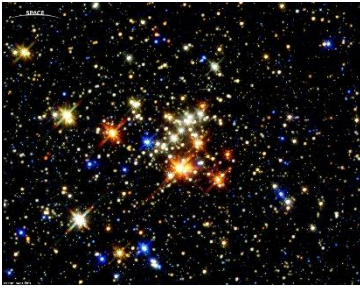
The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated during Mass providing that liturgical norms do not dictate otherwise. Please contact the office to schedule a Baptism and to make arrangements for preparations especially for first time parents. Baptisms may be scheduled at other times if extenuating conditions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



The Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

As you received Holy Communion today, did you really recognize Who it is that you received ? Saint Paul gives us a reminder of the Power and the Majesty of Jesus Christ, King and Center of the Entire Universe. It is well worth our meditation:

*He is the image of the invisible God,
The First-Born of all creation.
For in Him were created all things in heaven and on earth,
The visible and the invisible,
Whether thrones or dominations or principalities or powers:
All things were created through Him and for Him.*

*He is before all things,
And in Him all things hold together.*

He is the Head of the body, the Church.

*He is the beginning, the First-Born of the dead,
That in all things He Himself might be pre-eminent.*

*For in Him all fullness was pleased to dwell,
And through Him all things are reconciled--
Making peace, through the blood of His cross
For all things: whether on earth or in heaven.*

Colossians 1: 15—20

And we are privileged to receive Him at each and every Mass.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
November 24, 2019

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
 Memory of Ann & Robert Lamb at the
 Request of their daughter, Peggy

SATURDAY, November 30

8:00AM – Rosemarie Bastian
 req. by her Family

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 1

8:00AM – Phil Lange
 req. by his wife, Norma

11:30AM – Thapia Abraham-Meeker, Robert Meeker and
 Jules LeDuc
 req. by Judith LeDuc

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

MONDAY, November 25

9:00AM – Margaret Barr
 req. by her granddaughter, Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, November 26

9:00AM – Joseph Bachstadt
 req. by Terry Ferlo

WEDNESDAY, November 27

9:00AM – Dorothy Holly
 req. by Knights of Columbus

THURSDAY, Thanksgiving Day, November 28

9:00AM – Mass of Thanksgiving

FRIDAY, November 29

9:00AM – Dorothy Holly
 req. by Cheryl & Andrew Jorritsma

SATURDAY, Vigil, November 30

4:30PM – Helen Salza
 req. by the Columbiettes
 -Joan Polanski
 req. by Mary & Harry Dunleavy

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1

9:30AM – Kelly Nicole
 req. by Catholic Teens Youth Group
 -Bridget Peachman
 req. by her granddaughter, Laurie

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 844.00 – Regular Collection – November 17, 2019

\$ 151.00 – Online Giving

\$1,465.00 – Regular Collection – November 18, 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

\$1,535.00 – Regular Collection – November 17, 2019

\$ 559.00 – Online Giving

\$2,489.00 – Regular Collection – November 18, 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/>



Keeping holy days holy

Don't look now, but Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas will be here

before you know it. We all want our family holidays to be meaningful, yet we are distracted by a season that's bursting with extra everything.

How can we maintain our resolve to keep the holy days holy – that is, set apart for God – while our to-do lists get longer by the minute? This year, count on three powerful words to keep yourself and your family focused on what truly matters: Eucharist, Maranatha and Emmanuel.

MARANATHA (Advent) ~ While society tempts us towards parties and presents, our faith invites us to prepare our hearts for the Savior's birth. During Advent, we pray "Maranatha", which means, "Come, Lord Jesus". Ponder how your family might anticipate the arrival of the Christ Child with love, hope and joy.

Idea to focus on the holy ~ Practice delayed gratification by waiting to deck your halls. Keep a simple Advent wreath on your dining table instead. Mark the days of this Church season with an Advent calendar. Listen to and even sing Advent songs. Set up your Nativity scene without the Christ Child. Read stories about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

(To be continued...taken from Take Out-Family Faith on the Go)



Catholic Zoomers

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **TODAY, Sunday, November 24th from 6:00PM until 8:00PM**. All of our Confirmation Candidates are encouraged to participate in this Catholic teen group as often as possible.



Waiting with Joy Advent Evening Prayer

All Confirmation Candidates, Parents, Sponsors and Catechists, are invited to join us on **Friday, December 6th at 7:00PM at St. Thomas the Apostle Church** for an Advent Evening of Prayer (**this is in place of class time and all candidates are expected to be present as attendance will be taken**). Light refreshments and fellowship will follow.



Children's Christmas Pageant

Our parish Christmas Pageant, Tree lighting and Cookie Challenge (with the Knights of Columbus) will take place on **Sunday, December 15th at 3:00PM at St. Thomas the Apostle Church**. All parishioners in grades 1 through 6 and their Parents are encouraged to participate as: Pageant Actors: Grades 1 through 6; Choir: Confirmation Candidates; Pageant Narrators, Stage Crew and Costume Handlers: Parents/Confirmation Candidates.

Rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 7th from 9:30AM until 11:00AM at STC (Snow date is same time on December 14th).

For more information or to help, please call Mary at the REC at 973-948-7004.

"SOUP MAKERS WANTED"....The St. James the Greater "Soup on a Saturday" committee is soliciting soup makers for the next event on Saturday, January 25, 2020. If you are willing to make and donate from 5-20 quarts of soup, please contact Bill Ricciardi at 845-341-3686 by text or call. Containers will be supplied. We would love to have some different soups to supplement the past favorites.

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 for the Adult Confirmation Program

Adult Continuing Formation:

All adult parishioners are invited and encouraged to meet at St. Thomas after the 9:30AM Mass on December 1st in the Father Lewis Center for discussion on the Season of Christmas. This is an informal gathering and an opportunity to further explore Catholicism. Participation is at your comfort level. Discussion will be led by Pat Hope and all are welcome.

In His Peace, Pat Hope

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

2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal

"For I Was Hungry..."

This time of year, as we come together to celebrate Thanksgiving, please consider making a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal as a way to give thanks for our many blessings. Each year, tens of thousands of people in profound need seek out the services of our Catholic Charities and, with the help for the Bishop's Annual Appeal, they find an open door and a compassionate response. Please make a pledge to our Annual Appeal today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2019appeal.org.

The Columbiettes are collecting new toys to be delivered to Project Self Sufficiency for underprivileged children at Christmas. There is a basket in the gathering space. We will be collecting toys until Sunday, December 15th. Thank you for your generosity.

The Columbiettes are sponsoring a campaign for parishioners to offer one million Hail Mary's for the salvation of souls. If you wish to be a part of this, please write down how many Hail Mary's you have said on the sheets of paper provided. Your name is optional. You may also email your tally to hailmarysforosos@gmail.com. Thank 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 24, 2019

Feast of Christ the King

3:00 p.m. STC 'Jesus Heals' Healing Service

6:00 p.m. Youth Group Mtg. at O.L.Q.P

Monday, Nov. 25

Tuesday, Nov. 26

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

Wednesday, Nov. 27

6:00 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Thursday, Nov. 28

Thanksgiving Day

9:00 a.m. STC Mass of Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov. 29

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

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

Saturday, Nov. 30

Sunday, December 1, 2019

1st Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

10:30a.m. STC R.C.I.A.

--Topic: Season of Christmas (all welcome)

Next Sunday's Readings: 1st Advent

1st Reading: *Isaiah 2: 1--5*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 122*

2nd Reading: *Romans 13: 11--14*

Gospel: *Matthew 24: 37--44*

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

--St. Jerome, 347--420 A.D.

Plan to use Advent well: Spend ½ hour each day with a resource from FORMED.org. Our education in faith should never be finished.



“Jesus Heals” Healing Service. All are invited to experience the healing powers of Jesus, for their mind, body and spirit. A Healing Service will be held **today, Sunday at St. Thomas, at 3 p.m.**

There will be an explanation of Jesus’ healing powers today, along with Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. This will be followed by a Sprinkling and Renewing of our Baptismal promises; then prayers for individual healing. Reconciliation (a healing of the spirit) will be available. Join us and receive the healings and blessings that Jesus wishes to offer you.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service. Plan to join with our fellow Christians for our Annual T-giving Service. This year the **Minisink Reformed Church** is our host. **The date is Monday, Nov. 25. Service begins at 7:00 p.m.** Pastor Joanne of the Delaware Valley United Methodist Church will deliver the message. You are asked to bring a donation of canned goods for the food pantries of our churches. Refreshments will follow the Service. Join with our Christian neighbors in thanking the Lord for His countless blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving ! This Thursday has traditionally been set aside as a day for our nation to give thanks to the Lord for His countless blessings. Often our troubles come to mind first—but in truth, our blessings outweigh them by a lot. As a way of expressing gratitude to the Lord you are invited to a special Mass of Thanksgiving, at 9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas on Thanksgiving Day. May it serve as a small way of showing the Lord how grateful we are for all that He does for us.

FORMED.org can help you learn more about our faith: lives of the saints, doctrines, history, current issues of our faith. Free to you as a parishioner.

Simply go to our parish website: saintjamestomas.org. At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register. Recommended by FORMED: Study: *“Lectio: Philippians—All Things in Christ.”*