

# 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**

# The Art of Rejoicing

“*Rejoice always !*” is what Saint Paul recommends to us in his Letter to the Thessalonians (Thes. 5: 16) Notice that he didn’t say: “Party always” or “Take it easy always.” And so we ask today: what does it mean to ‘rejoice’ ?

Sometimes we find it hard to rejoice. The demands of our job or family life, or life in general, sometimes weighs us down and makes it difficult to be joyful. Often our problems or those of others—especially when we see no way out—gives us little incentive to rejoice. Then there is the world situation, and our national situation, and worries over finances and the future; all these concerns don’t exactly lend themselves to rejoicing.

But this is exactly where our faith in the Lord should come in. Yes, there are problems and troubles—too many to count sometimes—and they are real. But we can take comfort that the Lord knows them and understands. He sees the future—and the way out—even if we don’t. Think back to your last difficult situation. Somehow you survived. The Lord, in His own way, led you out of it. Or through it.

On a different and deeper level than even our day-to-day problems—is the Lord telling us to rejoice. On a deeper level than our sicknesses and struggles is the comforting promise of Jesus that “*I am with you always.*” As hard as our problems are, we can still offer them up and unite them with Jesus’ own suffering on the cross. Even in all His pain and suffering on the cross, Jesus was still joyful on that deeper level—because He knew in the depths of His soul that He was fulfilling the Father’s plan for our salvation.

It’s on that deeper, spiritual level that Saint Paul orders us (practically) to rejoice. He wrote those words while he was enduring all the opposition that his preaching caused. Though he suffered throughout his ministry, he was still able to live a life of continuous rejoicing. Continually he knew that the Lord was near.

May we learn that same spirit of rejoicing. May it color all our actions, our conversations, even our thoughts. In this way, we can master the art of rejoicing.

God bless you on this ‘*Gaudete Sunday*’ (the ‘*Sunday of Rejoicing*’),

Father Wayne

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
December 15, 2019

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Sandor & Rose Szabo at the  
Request of their Family

**SATURDAY, December 21**

8:00AM – Zsigmond Varga  
req. by his Family

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**December 22**

8:00AM – John Klimkiewicz  
req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

11:30AM – Terry Naletko  
req. by his Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

\$ 739.00 – Regular Collection – November 24, 2019

\$ 261.00 – Online Giving

\$1,688.00 – Regular Collection – December 1, 2019

\$ 276.00 – Online Giving

\$ 832.00 – Regular Collection – December 8, 2019

\$ 161.00 – Online Giving

\$ 200.00 – Retirement Fund for Religious

\$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](http://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 Spinapolice at 973-293-7031.

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

Agnes Ciesielski, Bill & Teresa Mantini, Joshua Murch, 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 Frank & Jane Varga at the  
Request of their Family

**MONDAY, December 16**

9:00AM – Irene & Frank Tanzariello  
req. by their Family

**TUESDAY, December 17**

9:00AM – John Sweeney  
req. by his granddaughter, Mary Flexer

**WEDNESDAY, December 18**

9:00AM – Msgr. Eugene McQuaid  
req. by Mary Flexer

**THURSDAY, December 19**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, December 20**

9:00AM – Laura Damone  
req. by her daughter, Frances Demalderis

**SATURDAY, Vigil, December 21**

4:30PM – Paddy Joe & Bridie Vahey  
req. by Mary & Harry Dunleavy  
-Judy & Frank Pastor  
req. by the Pastor Family  
-Jimmy Reed  
req. by his Mom & Dad

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 22**

9:30AM – Richard J. Little  
req. by George Keshish  
-Jerry Demalderis  
req. by his wife, Frances

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

\$1,475.00 – Regular Collection – November 24, 2019

\$ 443.00 – Online Giving

\$1,674.00 – Regular Collection – December 1, 2019

\$ 793.00 – Online Giving

\$1,535.00 – Regular Collection – December 8, 2019

\$ 443.00 – Online Giving

\$ 792.00 – Retirement Fund for Religious

\$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](http://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*



### **Religious Education Classes**

Please be reminded that there will be NO religious education classes from December 19, 2019 until January 4, 2020. Grades 8, 9 & 10 resume on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and grades 6 & 7 on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Grades 1 & 2 will resume on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and grades 3, 4 & 5 on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.



### **Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation**

All Mondays During Advent – Sacrament of Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates at 7:00PM alternating between St. Thomas Church (Dec.16<sup>th</sup>) and St. James Church (Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>). Sign in book will be in back of Church.



### **The Religious Education Inclement Weather**

**Policy** ~ is that the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather will be announced and posted on [www.wsus1023.com](http://www.wsus1023.com). If it is not possible for you to check the internet, you can always call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.

### **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

**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. You name is optional. You may also email your tally to [hailmarysforsos@gmail.com](mailto:hailmarysforsos@gmail.com). Thank you.

### **SOUP ON A SATURDAY....**

St. James the Greater will again be sponsoring a take-out soup fundraiser on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Order a quart (or more) of Chili by Art & Maria Henn, Manhattan Clam Chowder by Bill & Joan Henn, Italian Wedding soup by Bill Ricciardi, Pasta e Fagioli by Mike & Linda Spinapolice, Split Pea with Ham by Janice Cerra (limited quantities), or Butternut Squash by Janice Cerra (limited quantities). Price is \$8.00 per quart. Please get your orders in early as there will be limits on some choices. **You must order in advance by January 19<sup>th</sup>**. Pick up is on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at St. James the Greater. Fill out an order form found in the back of the church and place in the collection basket OR give to Bill Ricciardi, Art Henn or Mike Spinapolice. You may also e-mail your order to Bill Ricciardi at [wjr218@optonline.net](mailto:wjr218@optonline.net).

### **Christmas Bazaar 2019 Thank You**

The St. James Christmas Bazaar Committee is happy to announce a 2019 net profit of over \$2,250.00. Results like this do not happen without the hard work of many people, especially Linda & Mike Spinapolice, Joan & Bill Henn, Art & Maria Henn, Bill & Valerie Ricciardi, Diane & Harry Cole, Doug & Jane Sandberg, Diane Johnson, Norma Lange, Sonia Herdman, Janet Scarpone, Wendy Wesighan, Michelle Henn, Jennifer Olenick, Alyssa Olenick, Louise Backus, Marilyn Zukowski, Louise Raczynski, the late John Zaorski and everyone else who contributed in any way to the success of this event. Thank you one and all.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

# 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, December 15, 2019 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Faith Sharing--Conf. I  
9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.  
10:30a.m. STC R.C.I.A.  
--Topic: You ask/ we answer (All welcome)  
11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.  
3:00 p.m. STC Childrens' Christmas Pageant;  
Tree Lighting; Cookie Challenge

## Monday, Dec. 16

11:00a.m. STC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers Mtg.  
7:00 p.m. STC Sacrament of Reconciliation

## Tuesday, Dec. 17

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings  
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

## Wednesday, Dec. 18

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

## Thursday, Dec. 19

## Friday, Dec. 20

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

## Saturday, Dec. 21

## Sunday, December 22, 2019 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

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### Next Sunday's Readings: 4<sup>th</sup> Advent

1st Reading: *Isaiah 7: 10—14*  
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 24*  
2nd Reading: *Romans 1: 1--7*  
Gospel: *Matthew 1: 18--24*

*"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."*

--St. Jerome, 347—420 A.D.

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### On Line Giving: a way to give and forget.

Simply reach our parish website, [saintjamestomas.org](http://saintjamestomas.org). You will find the link to on-line giving. Follow it through. With our thanks.

**Christmas Mass Schedule.** To help with your planning, we announce this schedule of Masses at our churches for 2019. (Remember that we alternate the times of the Christmas Eve Masses each year.)

4:00 p.m. *Christmas Eve Mass at St. James*  
6:00 p.m. *Christmas Eve Mass at St. Thomas*  
11:30 p.m. *Lessons & Carols Service at St. Thomas*  
12 Mid. *Midnight Mass at St. Thomas*  
9:30 a.m. *Christmas Day Mass at St. Thomas*  
11:30 a.m. *Christmas Day Mass at St. James*

**Confessions during Advent.** "Prepare the way of the Lord" is John the Baptist's advice to us. We do that best by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament is available from **7 p.m. till 8 p.m.** on the **Mondays of Advent** according to this plan:

Dec. 16 at St. Thomas; Dec. 23 at St. James.

**Keep Christ in Christmas.** To remind ourselves and our neighbors what this season is all about, **yard signs** with this message are available at both our parishes. Cost: only \$ 5.00 for sign and stand. Use it as an opportunity to evangelize your neighborhood and all who drive by.

### Blessing Your Christmas Tree at Home

Lord our God,  
We praise You for the light of creation;  
The sun, the moon and the stars of night.  
We praise You for the light of Israel:  
The Law, the Prophets, the Wisdom of the Scriptures  
We praise You for Jesus Christ Your Son:  
He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,  
Who fills us with the wonder of Your love.

Lord God,  
Let Your blessing come upon us  
As we light our Christmas tree.  
May the light and cheer it gives  
Be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.  
May all who delight in this tree  
Come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

--from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

*"Christmas is joy, religious joy, God's joy, an inner joy of light and peace."* --Pope Francis