

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.

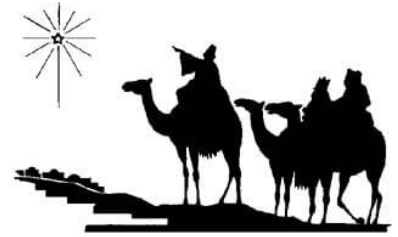
Part of our ministry is to **visit the sick** in hospital or at home. Privacy laws do not allow us to visit or pray publicly for the sick unless permission is given by the individual or their health care proxy. Please inform us of the needs of the sick, and we will be happy to respond as best we can.

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

What Do We Offer to the Lord ?



This Sunday finds us still enjoying the richness of the Christmas Season. We have prepared all during Advent with John the Baptist. We have rejoiced with the birth of God's Son at the Nativity. We have pondered the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph—the Holy Family. We have honored Mary on January 1st as the first and best of the human race.

And today we celebrate another beautiful part of the Christmas Season: as the Three Kings finally make their way to the crib of Jesus. As they do so, they worship Him and offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It reminds us of the words of the Psalm: *“What return shall I make to the Lord for all the good He has done for me ?”* Let us consider today: What do I offer the Lord for all His blessings to me ? Does He have first place in my life and in my heart ? Am I devoted to pursuing His Will in my life ? Is the Lord praised by all that I think, and say, and do each day?

May we honor the Lord by living lives of faith and deep trust in Him.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

Blessing of Homes on the Feast of the Epiphany

This Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the three kings—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—to the crib of Jesus. Tradition calls them ‘wise men’ for their wisdom in seeking the Savior; as ‘magi’ who studied the stars and were led to the Child; also as ‘kings’ for the gifts they brought to the King of kings. Their visit from the East reveals Jesus as Savior for the whole world.

To commemorate this event we bless the doorways of our homes, realizing that the Lord is the honored guest in our homes. With chalk, write over the doorway: **20+C+M+B++20**. And as you do, offer this prayer:

Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless our home, and all who live here. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for each other, and for all, may reflect Your own love. May the wisdom of the magi be found in us, that we may always seek You. Amen.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
January 5, 2020

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, January 11

8:00AM – Ted Dunn
req. by his Family

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
January 12

8:00AM – Emily Blickweidel
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Mavis Kaufman
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,379.00 – Regular Collection – December 22, 2019
\$ 261.00 – Online Giving
\$6,132.00 – Christmas Collection – December 25, 2019
\$ 899.00 – Regular Collection – December 29, 2019
\$ 626.00 – Online Giving
\$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, Michael Eiring, Bill & Teresa Mantini, Joshua Murch, Ginny Sabia, Shirley Strong, Barbara Theobald, Jen Vaughn, Tarra Wagner 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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Charles & Elsie Lorber at the
Request of their Family

MONDAY, January 6

9:00AM – Intentions of Grace Decker
req. by her sister, Alice

TUESDAY, January 7

9:00AM – Carl Lutz
req. by his classmate, Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, January 8

9:00AM – Father James Gacquin and A Special Intention
req. by the Batko Family

THURSDAY, January 9

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 10

9:00AM – Cathy Pullis
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, January 11

4:30PM – Theresa & Walter Hoffman
req. by the Wainwright Family
- Father James Gacquin
req. by Anne Gacquin

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 12

9:30AM – Dorothy Holly and Msgr. James Gacquin
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,954.00 – Regular Collection – December 22, 2019
\$ 418.00 – Online Giving
\$8,344.00 – Christmas Collection – December 25, 2019
\$1,740.00 – Regular Collection – December 29, 2019
\$ 418.00 – Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

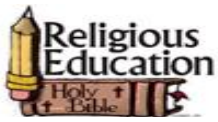
Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.

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*



Living the Lessons of Christmas

Twinkling lights, flowers, Nativity scenes at Mass, Christmas stockings, trees and wreaths at home, festive music everywhere we go. A few weeks of joyful celebration, and then what? We take down the lights and trees and put the decorations away. When the white and gold of Christmas have been exchanged for the green of Ordinary Time once again, how can we take the lessons of the Christmas season and bring them forward into the New Year? Here are some ideas to keep the celebrations and lessons of Christmas alive in your family's heart:

Recall Your Advent Promises ~ Before Christmas, we moved through the season of Advent preparing our hearts and homes to receive Jesus. Think back to your preparations: Are there any new habits made that you would like to continue as a family? Look for ways of continuing your evening family prayer time. Find new ways to celebrate and notice positive and caring interactions between family members!

Hold an Un-decorating Party ~ All of the Christmas decorations are usually put away at the end of the season in one full swoop. Instead of one person doing the job alone and seeing it as a chore, do the task as a family. Listen to one last round of Christmas music, pause to read a favorite Christmas story, share favorite memories from the year and even think ahead to new traditions for next Christmas!

(To be Continued...Taken from Take Out...Family Faith on the Go)



Advent Thank You's

Thank you so very much to all of our families who encouraged their children to participate in our Christmas Pageant, Tree Lighting and Cookie Challenge. Their very precious "birthday present" to Jesus was filled with love and pure joy!

Also to all of our families and children that participated in the Reverse Advent Project. Your many bags that you returned each week filled with food, goodies and small gifts were given to our homebound parishioners who were so delighted by your love and generosity!! Our parish is very blessed by all of you!!! May Our Lord Jesus continue to bless and guide your families on the path to holiness into this New Year and for years to come.



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **TODAY, Sunday, January 5th, from 6:00-8:00PM. All 7th – 12th Grade parishioners are invited to join us as we continue to celebrate Christmas.**

Celebrate January

January 5 – The Epiphany of the Lord ~ In remembrance of the gifts the Magi gave the Baby Jesus, do a simple act of kindness for a family member, friend or neighbor as one more Christmas gift.



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. 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.

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 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 19th**. Pick up is on January 25th 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.

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.

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, January 5, 2020

Feast of the Epiphany

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 I
10:30a.m. STC R.C.I.A. – Adult Confirmation

Monday, Jan. 6

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

Tuesday, Jan. 7

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

Wednesday, Jan. 8

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

Thursday, Jan. 9

Friday, Jan. 10

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

Saturday, Jan. 11

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

Sunday, January 12, 2020

The Baptism of the Lord

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.
9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Faith Sharing I
9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass
10:30a.m. STC R.C.I.A. – Adult Confirmation

Future Events

Sat. Jan. 25 St. James “Soup on a Saturday”

Next Sunday’s Readings: Baptism of the Lord

1st Reading: *Isaiah 42: 1–4, 6–7*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 29*
2nd Reading: *Acts of Apostles 10: 34–38*
Gospel: *Matthew 3: 13–17*

“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”
--St. Jerome, 347–420 A.D.

You Can’t Even Remember your New Year’s Resolution ?? It happens. But all is not lost. Here’s a second chance to make a real difference this year. Consider the services and groups offered at our churches:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful way to grow closer to the Lord. Just you and Him. **Each Friday, 10 a.m. till 12 Noon at St. Thomas.**

Reflection on Readings. A weekly informal sharing of next Sunday’s Readings; **each Tuesday at St. Thomas, after the morning Mass, 10 a.m.—11 a.m.** A chance to grow in knowledge of God’s Word, and to apply it to our daily lives and to current events. **Always includes coffee “and.”**

Service Groups within our parishes:

Knights of Columbus: for all men, meets monthly, sponsors service & social works & events throughout the year.

Columbiettes: for all ladies, meets monthly, sponsors many projects to help the community.

Legion of Mary: meets weekly at St. Thomas: Offers devotion to the Blessed Mother, and gins her inspiration for corporal works done throughout the week.

Healing Ministry: for help in healing troubles of body, mind and spirit.

Prayer Shawl and Rosary Makers Guild: for ladies: knits blankets and shawls and makes rosary beads to distribute to all sick and ailing members of the community. Meets bi-monthly, Monday, 11 a.m.

Altar and Floral Committee: ladies at St. James: decorate and prepare the Church and grounds for seasons and celebrations.

Here is a Thought from a young lady of my previous parish of St. Peter’s in Parsippany. It fits in well with the beginning of the New Year.

Moments

by Coleen Moran Caulfield

*Inside every moment
Is a choice waiting to be made,
A memory waiting to happen.
So choose wisely and
Cherish fully,
For it is from these moments
That our lives are made.
And when you fail—
As you sometimes will—
Simply step into the next moment
And try again ...*