

# 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**



## “Welcome to the Family”

That might be the way to sum up all the words used in the *Ritual of Baptism for Children*. It is God Himself who offers these words of welcome to each newborn who is washed in the waters of Baptism.

God’s family is one that spans the globe and also transcends time. This family includes every other baptized person throughout the world at present, but also includes every saint in heaven, from all the ages past.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord follows logically from last week’s celebration of the Epiphany. Last week, we recognized that all peoples are invited to have faith in Jesus. Epiphany reminds us that Jesus belongs to all of us. The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus today celebrates this “one-ness” which faith in Jesus brings.

At our Baptism, we are immersed in this faith which Jesus brought to the earth. Jesus came to show the Father’s love in action. All His words, all His miracles and healings, were meant to show us the countless ways that the Father is concerned for all of the human race. All who are baptized share intimately in this love of the Father—and are called to spread it further.

Today we rejoice in the knowledge that the Lord has invited each of us, **individually and by name**, to be part of His world-wide family of faith. Each of us was baptized with the name of a saint, so that we could have a personal model of how to live out a life of faith. For each of us, our Baptism was the first step in a long journey that will end at the doorstep of the Kingdom of Heaven. Our baptismal saints are ready to help us at each moment along the way. We should get to know them better.

Let us rejoice in God’s calling us into His family. Let us take some time today to thank those who helped to make our Baptism possible: our parents and godparents. And may we take a moment also to pray for that world-wide system of brothers and sisters which Baptism has given us: that all may complete their journey to the Kingdom safely.

The next time you enter a church and bless yourself with holy water, let it be a reminder to you of that generous offer that the Lord has made to you—to be baptized into His very own family of faith.

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**  
January 12, 2020

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the  
Intentions of Ralph Gioielli at the  
Request of his Family

**SATURDAY, January 18**

8:00AM – Albert & Mildred Dunn  
req. by their Family

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**January 19**

8:00AM – Cyril (Bud) Meyer, Sr.  
req. by Marisa Stoll & Family

11:30AM – Vilmos Keidl  
req. by Emmy Masset

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,554.00 – Regular Collection – January 5, 2020**  
**\$ 161.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$ 100.00 – Additional Christmas**  
**\$ 199.00 – January 1, 2020**  
**\$1,344.00 – Regular Collection – January 6, 2019**  
**\$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 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.

**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 for the  
Intentions of Michael F. Dunn at the  
Request of his sister, Rosemarie

**MONDAY, January 13**

9:00AM – Mass of Thanksgiving to Donor  
req. by the Wagner & Puccio Families  
-Blessings & Thanksgiving  
req. by the Wagner & Puccio Families  
-Intentions of Michael F. Dunn  
Birthday Celebration  
req. by his Mom & Dad

**TUESDAY, January 14**

9:00AM – Frank Delman  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

**WEDNESDAY, January 15**

9:00AM – Maria Rath  
req. by Alicia Batko

**THURSDAY, January 16**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, January 17**

9:00AM – Anne & Olindo Rosanelli  
req. by the Rosanelli Family

**SATURDAY, Vigil, January 18**

4:30PM – Carol A. Pierson  
req. by her Family

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**January 19**

9:30AM – Kazimiera Szwajkiewicz  
req. by John & Maria Babon

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,951.00 – Regular Collection – January 5, 2020**  
**\$ 893.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$ 360.00 – Additional Christmas**  
**\$ 643.00 – January 1, 2020**  
**\$2,528.00 – Regular Collection – January 6, 2019**  
**\$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*

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



### 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 (Part 2):

**Focus on the Luminous Mysteries** ~ During Advent and Christmas, we focused on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and the Infancy Narratives of the Gospel. The period of Ordinary Time between Christmas and Lent is particularly well-suited to study the life of Christ between his birth and death. Spend time as a family in prayer and read the Gospel stories about Jesus' miracles and ministry and by praying the Luminous Mysteries in preparation for Lent.

**Consider a Religious Resolution** ~ New Year's resolutions are bound to fail, so why make them, right? Certainly, sometimes resolutions do fail, but even the act of making them forces us to take an assessment of where our lives are going well, and where they might not be. At the same time that you are giving your health habits a check-up, give your faith habits a closer look too. Some areas to specifically consider might be family prayer, Scripture reading (even from Children's Bible/stories) and sacramental participation – especially Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist at Mass. Blessed Ordinary Time!

Taken from Take Out...Family Faith on the Go)

### Grade 2 ~ Mass & Class

A session helping the children to get ready for their first Reconciliation will take place **TODAY, Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> beginning with the 9:30am Mass and ending at 11:30am at St Thomas Church.** Parents are required to stay as the session may end sooner than scheduled.



### Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish on **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-8:00PM.** All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade parishioners are invited to join us as we continue to celebrate Christmas.



### 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.

### FROM THE R.C.I.A., ADULT CONFIRMATION, C.L.O.W.

As the New Year begins, may all adult parishioners prayerfully consider offering their time and talent to the Parishes ministries. In particular R.C.I.A., C.L.O.W. and Adult Confirmation are in need of adult parishioners to participate. Training and support will be provided. Please contact Fr. Wayne or Pat Hope to have any questions answered and additional information provided. The New Year reminds us that time is a gift from God and, like all gifts from our God, needs to be used well and wisely. Peace and Joy in this New Year, Pat Hope

### FROM ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM:

The Confirmation Program for adults has begun with four Candidates participating. All adult parishioners are welcome to join us for the sessions at the Religious Education Center directly after the 9:30am St. Thomas Mass. Please know your participation would be at your comfort level.

For future reference the topics and dates are:

Jan. 12 The Sacraments

Feb. 09 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Feb. 23 Liturgical Calendar, Prayer

March 08 The Mass, Works of Mercy, Precepts of the Church

Peace and Joy in the New Year, Pat Hope

**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](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 Spinapolic, 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 Spinapolic. You may also e-mail your order to Bill Ricciardi at [wjr218@optonline.net](mailto:wjr218@optonline.net).

## 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 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. REC R.C.I.A. – Adult Confirmation

### Monday, Jan. 13

#### Tuesday, Jan. 14

- 10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings
- 4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2
- 7:00 p.m. STC Adoration & Rosary with K of C
- 7:30 p.m. STC K of C Monthly Mtg.

### Wednesday, Jan. 15

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

### Thursday, Jan. 16

#### Friday, Jan. 17

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

### Saturday, Jan. 18

#### Sunday, January 19, 2020

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group at O.L.Q.P., Branchville

#### Future Events

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

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#### Next Sunday’s Readings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ord.

- 1st Reading: *Isaiah 49: 3, 5--6*
- Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 40*
- 2nd Reading: *Corinthians 1: 1--3*
- Gospel: *John 1: 29--34*

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

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**The Annual Right to Life March to Washington D.C.** takes place this year on **Friday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>**. Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Branchville will be hosting two buses.

The first bus will be an overnight trip and will leave the day before, providing a special opportunity for families to attend the Youth Rally for Life, and the Mass for Life with numerous Cardinals, Bishops and hundreds of priests, along with contemporary Christian musicians and youth evangelists giving witness talks before the March.

The second bus will be the regular one-day trip for the March for Life, leaving early on the morning of the March.

For more info please contact the OLQP parish Office at 973-948-3185 ext. 1 and speak to Jenn.

**The Flu Epidemic** seems to have found us. At this writing, New Jersey is among 34 states where the outbreak is the worst. Therefore, **until further notice**, and to help contain the spread, **we will refrain from offering the Precious Blood at Mass**. As soon as things clear up, we will resume.

#### Notice from the Diocese: Gift Card Scam.

Be alert to this scam. A number of priests throughout the country have found that their parishioners are receiving e-mails or text messages claiming to be from their pastor, and asking parishioners to purchase gift cards to help the poor. This is a fraud. Please do not respond to any appeal you receive which asks you to purchase gift cards to help the poor, and uses the name of the parish or diocese.

**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.

Go to our parish website: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org). At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner in the right column. Then click “next.” Then register. Each time after, simply click “sign in.” Make it a “favorite.”

**On Line Giving** gives you one less thing to think about. Simply reach our parish website, [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org). You will find the link to on-line giving. Follow it through and it will easily set you up for weekly or monthly contributions. With our thanks.