

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



Behold the Lamb of God !

“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.”
John 1: 29

We hear these words at every Mass, as the Host and Chalice are raised for all to see. They are so familiar that perhaps they have lost some of their force. So let’s take a closer look at this marvelous invitation.

Behold. Don’t just glance. Behold. Look deeply, carefully and prayerfully. Look with the expectation that you will discover something important. Trust that Jesus wants to reveal Himself to you.

Behold, the Lamb of God. What are you beholding ? God’s greatest gift to the world—and to *you*. You are beholding Jesus, the one true sacrifice sent from heaven. He is the spotless Lamb, innocent of all sin and meek and gentle of heart. He is the fulfillment of ancient Israel’s Passover celebration. He has come so that you can pass over death to life, from slavery to freedom.

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away sin. Look closely. See in this Host the promise of forgiveness. See Jesus, who surrendered His Body and Blood on a cross for you. See Jesus, who has taken your very sin upon Himself and brought it into the grave with Him. See Him rising again, leaving your sin behind in that grave, where it remains today--dead and buried. You are no longer bound by it. Jesus has borne it away, and you can walk away from it too—step by halting step as you continue to place your faith in Him.

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Not just your sin, but the sin of every single person on earth—past, present and to come. No one is beyond His reach. No one is devoid of hope. Everyone can know forgiveness and freedom. Even the people you are struggling to forgive. Behold Him, and believe that He can bring reconciliation and healing to all people.

Behold the Lamb of God ! And receive Him with joy and with an open heart.

**Lord, I am not worthy.
Only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.**

--from: *The Word Among Us*
January 2020

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 19, 2020

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Helen Briegel at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, January 25

8:00AM – Helen Briegel
req. by her Family

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 26

8:00AM – Charlie Lombaerde
req. by his wife, Carol

11:30AM – Katharina Maercz
req. by Emmy Masset

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,146.00 – Regular Collection – January 12, 2020

\$ 151.00 – Online Giving

\$ 600.00 – Additional Christmas

\$1,943.00 – Regular Collection – January 13, 2019

\$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.

Visit the Facebook page for The Parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle & St. James the Greater:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJamesThomas/>

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Kazimiera Sz wajkiewicz at the
Request of John & Maria Babon

MONDAY, January 20

9:00AM – Intentions of Derya Demirtas
req. by Jean Crowley

TUESDAY, January 21

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

WEDNESDAY, January 22

9:00AM – For the Unborn

THURSDAY, January 23

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 24

9:00AM – Donald Martin, Sr.
req. by his Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, January 25

4:30PM – Rosemary Dunleavy
req. by her Family
-Joseph & Eleanor Kacmarcik
req. by their Family

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 26

9:30AM – Grace Reich
req. by her Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,343.00 – Regular Collection – January 12, 2020

\$ 443.00 – Online Giving

\$ 145.00 – Additional Christmas

\$2,798.00 – Regular Collection – January 13, 2019

\$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*



January 22nd – Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

It has been 47 years since the Supreme Court ruled that abortion is a legal procedure here in the United States of America. Even though abortions have decreased in recent years, the struggle to make abortion illegal continues. Politicians still need to hear from us about what God teaches: all life is precious and has the right to be born. Please spend some time in prayer and fasting today that the overturning of this horrific law in our country happens soon. You may also want to make your voice and presence known in person. If so, **two buses (one is an overnight stay leaving this Thursday) will be leaving OLQP, Branchville to go to Washington, DC for the March for Life on Friday, January 24th. Please call them if you are interested.**



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **TODAY, Sunday, January 19th, from 6:00-8:00PM. All 7th – 12th Grade parishioners are invited to join us as we continue our journey of faith in Ordinary Time.**

Celebrate January

January 25th – The Conversion of St. Paul ~ Paul was such a great writer in the New Testament that sometimes we forget he (Saul) persecuted Christians before his conversion. If you have a friend or family member that is not strong in their faith or does not even believe in Jesus, pray for them, and remember that conversion is ALWAYS possible!



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.

2019 Bishop’s Annual Appeal

“For I Was Hungry...”

If you have not yet responded to the 2019 Bishop’s Annual Appeal, there is still time to do so since the 2019 Appeal funds ministries and programs through the end of the diocesan fiscal year on June 30, 2020. Your gift is a great blessing and valued so we can serve Christ by serving his people. For your convenience, you can make an online gift at www.2019appeal.org.

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:

- 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

NEW DATE FOR “SOUP ON A SATURDAY”.....Due to

circumstances beyond our control, the St. James the Greater “Soup on a Saturday” will now take place on **Saturday, March 14th, 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 (SOLD OUT), or Butternut Squash by Janice Cerra (SOLD OUT). 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 March 8th**. Pick up is on March 14th from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm 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. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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.

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 19, 2020

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, Jan. 20

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

Tuesday, Jan. 21

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

Wednesday, Jan. 22

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

Thursday, Jan. 23

Friday, Jan. 24

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

Saturday, Jan. 25

4:30 p.m. STC Mass & Conf. Prep. Gr. 9 & 10
5:30 p.m. STC Monthly Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, January 26, 2020

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Faith Sharing I
10:30a.m. REC Adult Confirmation

Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 8:23—9: 3*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 27*
2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:10—13, 17*
Gospel: *Matthew 4: 12—23*

St. James T-Shirt Fundraiser results: The sale is over for now, but will return in the spring. We sold **51 shirts and sweatshirts for a profit of \$ 445.** Thank you for supporting this fundraiser !

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

The first bus will be an overnight trip, leaving the day before. You will attend the Youth Rally for Life, and the Mass for Life with numerous Cardinals, Bishops and priests, along with witness talks and contemporary Christian music.

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.

Right to Life Prayers at St. Thomas: 12 Noon, Fri. Jan. 24th. As the March in Washington takes place, we will participate here with prayers and petitions for the safety of all unborn children. We will conclude with Solemn Benediction.

The Flu Epidemic seems to have found us. Therefore, **until further notice**, and to help contain the spread, **we will refrain from offering the Sign of Peace and 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.

On Line Giving. Simply reach our parish website, 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.

A Note from Father Wayne. Thank you very much for all your greetings and cards and gifts on my 70th birthday. It was really overwhelming, and I am very grateful for your outpouring of love and support. As I settle into my 70's, it's not as bad as I thought it might be. In fact, to all who are not there yet: I highly recommend it !