

# 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.

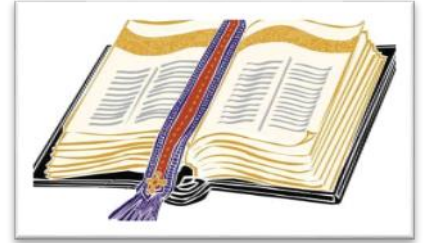
Part of our ministry is to **visit the sick** in hospital or at home. Privacy laws do not allow us to visit or pray publicly for the sick unless permission is given by the individual or their health care proxy. Please inform us of the needs of the sick, and we will be happy to respond as best we can.

**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**

# **Word of God Sunday**



***“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”***

Isaiah 9: 1

On September 30<sup>th</sup> of last year (the Feast of Saint Jerome, who translated the Bible from Greek to Latin), Pope Francis issued a letter declaring that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time was to be set aside each year as the *“Sunday of the Word of God.”* The Holy Father urged pastors to celebrate this day with special homilies, added reverence to the Scriptures in Mass, and by encouraging parishioners to take up the Scriptures anew and find in them the treasures of God’s Word for our lives.

In his letter, Pope Francis spoke about how we cannot read the Bible in the same way as we read any other book. “Since faith comes from hearing,” he wrote, “and what is heard is based on the word of Christ, believers are bound to listen attentively to the Word of the Lord, both in the celebration of the liturgy and in their personal prayer and reflection” (from his letter *Aperuit Illis*, # 7).

This “attentive listening” means asking the Holy Spirit, who has inspired the Scriptures, to breathe life into the words we read. It means trying to silence the other voices in our minds and quiet our anxious hearts so that we can hear God’s voice speaking to us. As Pope Francis wrote, “Without the work of the Spirit, there would always be the risk of remaining limited to the written text alone.” But as we take in God’s Word prayerfully, spiritually, it becomes for us “the living Word of God, experienced and handed down in faith to His holy people. (#9)

God has a message just for you today, and that message may well be embedded in the Readings you hear at Mass. It will be something personal and inspiring. No one else will hear these Readings in exactly the same way that you will. No one else will receive exactly the same message that you will. So practice the attentive listening that Pope Francis described. What is the Lord saying to you? How will the great light of God’s Word shine in your heart today?

**Come, Holy Spirit !  
Open my ears and my heart to Your Word today.**

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

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**January 26, 2020**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Dom & Agnes Giordano at the  
Request of their Family

**SATURDAY, February 1**

8:00AM – Ted Dunn  
req. by his Family

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**  
**February 2**

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

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

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 604.00 – Regular Collection – January 19, 2020**

**\$ 261.00 – Online Giving**

**\$ 74.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

**\$ 451.00 – Regular Collection – January 20, 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 Spinaplice 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 for the  
Intentions of Andrew Bastian at the  
Request of Rosemarie

**MONDAY, January 27**

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

**TUESDAY, January 28**

9:00AM – Danielle Duddy and Thomas Jacobellis  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer  
-Intentions of Lisa M. Dispoto  
Birthday Celebration  
req. by her Aunt Rosie

**WEDNESDAY, January 29**

9:00AM – James Smith  
req. by Omar & Marie Mendez

**THURSDAY, January 30**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, January 31**

9:00AM – Intentions of the Youth of our Parishes  
req. by Mary Flexer

**SATURDAY, Vigil, February 1**

4:30PM – Edward Lodema  
req. by his wife, Nancy  
-Walter & Theresa Hoffman  
req. by the Wainwright Family

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**  
**February 2**

9:30AM – Josephine Yarosz  
req. by her Family

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,045.00 – Regular Collection – January 19, 2020**

**\$ 443.00 – Online Giving**

**\$ 392.00 – Diocesan Assessment**

**\$ 75.00 – Additional Christmas**

**\$1,386.00 – Regular Collection – January 20, 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*



### Celebrate January

January 31<sup>st</sup> – The Feast day of St. (Don/Father) John Bosco ~ John Bosco educated the whole person – body and soul united. He believed that Christ’s love and our faith in that love should pervade everything we do – work, study, play. For John Bosco, being a Christian was a full-time effort, not a once-a-week, Mass-on-Sunday experience. It is searching and finding God and Jesus in everything we do, letting their love lead us.

With Pope Pius IX’s encouragement, John gathered 17 men and founded the Salesians in 1859. Their activity concentrated on education and missionary work. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters – the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians (our beloved Sisters in Newton), to assist girls.

He is the Patron Saint of Youth – therefore, the 9:00AM morning Mass on January 31<sup>st</sup> at St. Thomas will be offered for the intentions of our youth!

St. John Bosco, pray for us.



### Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish on **SATURDAY, February 1<sup>st</sup>, from 5:00-7:00PM**. Come join the Catholic Zoomers Youth Group for the celebration of the ancient tradition of Candlemas. The church, lit solely by candlelight, will see the procession and the blessing of all the candles used for the entire liturgical year. The blessing of candles at Candlemas signifies the conclusion of the season of light begun at Christmas and occurs on the Feast of the Presentation because it is that day that the light of Christ was presented to the temple of the world.

**All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade parishioners are invited to join us.** Following Mass there will be refreshments and friendship!



### 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 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>**. Pick up is on March 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 evening 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 26, 2020**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

**Monday, Jan. 27**

**Tuesday, Jan. 28**

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

**Wednesday, Jan. 29**

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

**Thursday, Jan. 30**

**Friday, Jan. 31**

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

**Saturday, Feb. 1**

**Sunday, February 2, 2020**

**Presentation of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

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### Next Sunday's Readings: Presentation

1st Reading: *Malachi 3: 1—4*  
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 24*  
2nd Reading: *Hebrews 2: 14—18*  
Gospel: *Luke 2: 22--40*

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**On Line Giving** gives you one less thing to think about. Simply reach our parish website, [saintjamestomas.org](http://saintjamestomas.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.

## Catholic Schools Week: Jan. 26—Feb. 1

### Supporting Our Catholic Schools:

*“The Mission of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Paterson is to develop communities that are Christ-centered, academically excellent and welcoming, that enable students to be life-long learners and good citizens of the world.”*

### Did You Know:

- There are 16 Catholic elementary schools and 3 Diocesan high schools within the Diocese
- We have schools that have earned *National Blue Ribbon* status; also schools that are STEM certified (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- Our elementary and secondary standardized test scores are well above national averages
- 100 % of our diocesan high school students were accepted into college this past spring, 2019
- Financial assistance is available and parents are encouraged to ask about scholarship opportunities

### A Message from Pope John XXIII (the school):

“Pope John Middle School is a thriving Catholic school with an enrollment of 243 students in Grades 5, 6 and 7. We are committed to providing students with a faith-based educational program that fosters academic excellence, cultivates global awareness, and develops a sense of social justice. Academics are complemented by an array of extracurricular programs including clubs and sports that promote self-confidence and a sense of community.

We invite you to attend an **Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** Please RSVP to Anne Kaiser at 973-729-6126.”

**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](http://saintjamestomas.org). At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register.

During January, the Month of **Right to Life**, recommended by FORMED.org:

Watch: *“Why I Left Planned Parenthood: From Death to Life”* by Abby Johnson

Abby Johnson is a widely recognized Catholic speaker who was once the director of one of Planned Parenthood's largest clinics when she came face to face with the reality of abortion. She shares an insider's perspective about the true motivations of the abortion industry, and her courageous journey away from it and towards life. Her story is a testament to God's grace and mercy, and the joy that comes from being an advocate for life.