

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



The Presentation of the Lord

Every so often a feast day turns up on the liturgical calendar which is so important that it overrides the Sunday prayers and Readings. Such is this feast which we celebrate today: the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**.

This feast commemorates the occasion, recorded in Luke, when Mary and Joseph brought their baby to the Temple. It was a requirement of the Mosaic Law that each family present to the Lord their first-born son, and offer a sacrifice for having him. This was to remember the time, in the distant past, when the Hebrew people escaped from slavery in Egypt during the time of Moses. Each family was to sacrifice a lamb, and sprinkle its blood on the doorposts of their homes. This would be a sign to the Angel of Death, who ‘passed over’ those homes but took the lives of the first-born of all the Egyptian families (the 12th plague). All Jewish families ever since were to remember this occasion by offering to God the sacrifice of a lamb, or a pair of young pigeons.

This was to be observed on the fortieth day after the child’s birth. And so Mary and Joseph, as a faithful Jewish couple, were complying with this dictate in the Law of Moses. At the same time Mary herself would have undergone a purification ritual, after having a baby.

But of course, nothing would be normal for the holy family. As they brought their baby into the Temple, the old man Simeon was inspired by the Holy Spirit to take the child into his arms, bless the parents, and then prophesy that this child would be “...*a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of his people Israel.*” In recognizing that this child was the future ‘light of the world’—this day is also known as Candlemas Day. Candles, as agents of light, are often blessed.

Then the elderly lady Anna, who is also inspired by the Holy Spirit, confirms that this child will be the salvation of the people of Israel.

This feast day did not develop in the Church until the 4th century (the 300’s A.D.) Originally it was observed on February 14—40 days after Epiphany. (Christmas Day did not yet have its own celebration.) Only towards the end of the 4th century, (around 375 A.D.) did Christmas Day begin to be celebrated on December 25th. Forty days after that is Feb. 2nd, the present date of this feast.

The Eastern Church (Constantinople) began celebrating this feast day before the Western Church (Rome.) It was actually a minor feast until the year 541. In that year a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople. Prayers and processions were called for on this feast day. The plague soon afterwards broke, and from the next year, 542 on—the day was elevated to a major celebration within the Church. It is also the earliest of the feasts honoring the Blessed Mother.

May we rejoice in the prophesy of the old man Simeon today. May we rejoice and appreciate that Jesus is the true light of the world.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
February 2, 2020

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Michael W. Briegel at the
Request of his Family

SATURDAY, February 8

8:00AM – Intentions of Michael W. Briegel
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Family

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 9

8:00AM – Cathy Pullis
req. by her Family
- Intentions of the Rivera Family

11:30AM – Susan Sheaffer
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,031.00 – Regular Collection – January 26, 2020

\$ 261.00 – Online Giving

\$1,279.00 – Regular Collection – January 27, 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 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 Sean Bastian at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, February 3

9:00AM – Gertrude & Carolyn Lewis
req. by Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, February 4

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

WEDNESDAY, February 5

9:00AM – Ronnie Behan
req. by Omar & Marie Mendez
-Intentions of Sean Bastian
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Family

THURSDAY, February 6

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 7

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

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 8

4:30PM – Orvil D. Jackson
req. by his Family

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 9

9:30AM – Sam Preziosi
req. by Carl & Elaine McDonald

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,817.00 – Regular Collection – January 26, 2020

\$ 443.00 – Online Giving

\$2,549.00 – Regular Collection – January 27, 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*



8 Ways to Celebrate Your Marriage

What does it mean to celebrate your marriage? There are many approaches that work – the important thing is to be intentional about celebrating the gifts and graces of marriage and the ways your love has shaped the two of you. Here are some concrete ideas you might use to engage each of these perspectives, or perhaps discover a new one:

Honor Your Wedding Anniversary~

#1 ~ Return to the church of your wedding for your anniversary. If possible, attend Mass and ask the priest for a blessing before you leave.

#2 ~ If there is not a Mass being offered that day, sit in a back pew and remember your wedding liturgy together. What do you remember it looking like, feeling like and sounding like? Another way is to recall the moments that stick out to you as if they are still-frame photographs.

Look Back Over Your Shared Life ~

#3 ~ Choose a certain period of time in your marriage and look through pictures of that time together. Reminisce Share memories.

#4 ~ Get a banner type of paper and make a timeline of the highlights in your married life including homes you have lived in, fun trips, new vehicles, births and additions, family celebrations and important moments. You'll be surprised at how many blessings will add up!

(To be continued....from Take Out - Family Faith on the Go)

Celebrate February

Feb. 3 ~ St. Blaise was a physician who helped a young boy who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. Get your throat blessed at Mass and then eat fish for lunch or dinner to recall St. Blaise's merciful act.

Feb. 8 ~ St. Josephine Bakhita was a slave who later became a religious sister. Pray for her intercession today for those who are still oppressed and lack freedom.



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.

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 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, February 2, 2020

Presentation of the Lord

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

Monday, Feb. 3

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

Tuesday, Feb. 4

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

Wednesday, Feb. 5

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

Thursday, Feb. 6

Friday, Feb. 7

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

10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.

Saturday, Feb. 8

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

Sunday, February 9, 2020

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Faith Sharing Conf. I

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

10:30a.m. REC Adult Confirmation

Next Sunday's Readings: 5th Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 58: 7–10*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 112*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 2: 1–5*

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 13–16*

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. At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register.

Pizza Night with the Bishop. Bishop Serratelli invites **all young men of our parish** (in high school or college) to join him for an enjoyable evening of discussion, reflection, adoration and pizza on **Thurs., Feb. 13 at Pope John H. S. in Sparta. It begins at 7 p.m. and continues till 9 p.m.** The discussion and prayers will give you a chance to think about your future, and to consider what vocation the Lord has in mind for you. It will be a chance to get to meet our Bishop and to ask questions. For more info, contact the Vocations Office at 973-777-8818 x 715.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on the young people of our parishes on **Sunday, April 26th at the 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas.** For the next two months, all parishioners are asked to keep these young people in your prayers—that they may truly be open to the Holy Spirit's awesome influence in their lives.

Court Madonna Tricky Tray Takes place on Sun. Feb. 16th at the St. Mary's Church Hall, 48 Ball St., Port Jervis. Doors open at 12 Noon. Drawings begin at 2:00 p.m. It is being held to benefit the community charities of Port Jervis. Tickets are: 25 for \$ 1.00. For more info, call 914-443-8222.

Educational events at St. Paul's Inside the Walls. Two evenings are lined up for February:

1) **Sat. Feb. 8 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. *Evolution and Faith: What is at Stake?*** Dr. John Haught, Professor of Theology at Georgetown, will discuss Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection and how it challenges religious trust in a providential God who purposefully creates, influences and cares for the world. For info or to register, visit: insidethewalls.org/evolution

2) **Thurs. Feb. 13th, 7 p.m.—9 p.m. *Purified.*** With best-selling author Jason Evert. The innocence of the family is under attack like never before. Come and hear author Jason Evert and discover how to protect and heal your family. To learn more or to buy tickets, visit: chastity.com/purified

St. Paul Inside the Walls,

205 Madison Avenue Madison, NJ 07940
973-377-1004