

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



Got a Light ?

“... that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5: 16

Be salt that’s really salty; be a lamp set on a high stand. Those are tough standards to live by ! This passage might make you feel like you have to get out on a soapbox and start preaching on a street corner—right now. Of course you should talk to people about your faith, but it’s not the only way to be a salty, light-filled positive influence.

One of the most effective ways you can have an impact on the world around you is in how you behave. Your actions speak volumes to family, friends, neighbors, even strangers. Jesus Himself says that our “good deeds” help people see and glorify God (Matthew 5: 16). Isaiah goes so far as to say that actions like sharing what we have and not turning our back on people have the power to turn the gloom around us into “midday” (Isaiah 58: 10).

If you look around, you’re certain to see areas that seem dark. Gossip might be out of control in your neighborhood. At home, your spouse might be deflated by a setback at work. A child you know might be the victim of bullying. There may even be a poor or homeless family huddled just outside your church door.

So how do you shine ? Change the subject if a conversation starts veering into gossip. Make your spouse’s favorite dinner, and listen while they unburden their heart. Offer an encouraging word to a sullen teenager. Bring a bagged lunch to give away the next time you go to church. Or share your copy of *The Word Among Us* with someone in your neighborhood or workplace. The opportunities really are endless.

You can be a light in your everyday world. And as you’re trying your best to shine, God will be shining through you. That means the people who see you will also see their heavenly Father.

**Father, I want to be a light
that shows people Your love and mercy.**

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 9, 2020

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of James & Barbara Mudrick at the
Request of the Ricciardi Family

SATURDAY, February 15

8:00AM – Barbara Gioielli
req. by her Family

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 16

8:00AM – Harry Esposito
req. by his Family

11:30AM – Dale R. Briegel
req. by his son, Dale

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 994.00 – Regular Collection – February 2, 2020

\$ 276.00 – Online Giving

\$1,728.00 – Regular Collection – February 3, 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, 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 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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Jozef Szwajkiewicz at the
Request of John & Maria Babon

MONDAY, February 10

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

TUESDAY, February 11

9:00AM – Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

WEDNESDAY, February 12

9:00AM – Joan Spoolstra
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, February 13

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 14

9:00AM – Timothy McCauley
req. by Chris Lord
-Intentions of Barbara Guinn
req. by Chris Lord

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 15

4:30PM – Ann & Fred Newman
req. by Dolores & Lou Avenatti

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 16

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

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,215.00 – Regular Collection – February 2, 2020

\$ 893.00 – Online Giving

\$ 100.00 – Additional Christmas

\$2,793.00 – Regular Collection – February 3, 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*

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



8 Ways to Celebrate Your Marriage (Part 2)

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:

Take Stock of Commitment Now ~

#5 ~ Reread the Scripture passages you chose for your wedding. Remember together why you chose them; reflect on what strikes you, and what they mean to you today.

#6 ~ Choose a quote that defines your marriage. It could be from literature, a song, an inspirational saying or Scripture. Perhaps choose to post the quote in a prominent place in your home.

Push Your Comfort Zone ~

#7 ~ Learn something new together. This could be taking a cooking class, ballroom dancing, picking up a new card game, researching a home improvement project, learning a new language, etc.

#8 ~ Go on a (mini) adventure. Go on a thrill ride at an amusement park, try to beat an escape room or do a rope climbing course together to share in the fun of encountering new and unusual experiences with your beloved.

Happy and Blessed World Marriage Day!
(From Take Out – Family Faith on the Go)

Celebrate February

Feb. 11 ~ Our Lady of Lourdes ~ Three years after Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Immaculate Conception as dogma, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to a peasant girl at Lourdes, France and proclaimed herself the *Immaculate Conception*. The young girl, Bernadette Soubirous, would later become a religious sister and a saint.

Feb. 14 ~ Valentine ~ The culture celebrates today with cards, roses and chocolates. St. Valentine – there may have been more than one living about the same time – was a martyr, showing a different kind of love – dying for his Lord.

Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette and St. Valentine, pray for us!



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish next Sunday, **February 16th, from 6:00-8:00PM**. Come join the Catholic Zoomers Youth Group for some faith, food and friendship!

First Reconciliation Retreat and Sacrament

Please keep in prayer the 9 children from our parishes who will spend **Saturday, February 22nd** on a morning retreat at St. Thomas with the Salesian Sisters and then receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time. May they experience the forgiveness and love of Jesus and return to Him always for years to come through this beautiful sacrament.



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.

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 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

Monday, Feb. 10

Tuesday, Feb. 11

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, Feb. 12

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

Thursday, Feb. 13

7:00 p.m. Pizza Night with Bishop

Pope John H. S., Sparta till 9 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 14

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

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

1:00 p.m. STC Montague Seniors Mtg.

Saturday, Feb. 15

Sunday, February 16, 2020

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Next Sunday's Readings: 6th Ord.

1st Reading: *Sirach 15: 15—20*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 119*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 2: 6—10*

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 17--37*

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:

saintjamesthomas.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 **this 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.

Catholic Zoomers Youth Group. We have teamed up with Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville to form a Catholic youth group known as the **Zoomers**. We meet every two weeks on a Sunday at O.L.Q.P. and enjoy activities planned by the youth themselves. Evenings include food and social time. There have been trips to New York and Washington D.C., movies nights and prayer time. **All young people—Grades 7 through H.S.** are encouraged to attend. Meetings are from **6 p.m. till 8 p.m.** Next meeting: **Sun. Feb. 16.** Be there and see for yourself!

Mass is available 7 evenings a week at the **Sanctuary of Mary, 252 Wantage Ave., Branchville.** Mass begins at 6:00 p.m. Fr. Louis Caputo or an assistant are available each day, anytime for Confessions also. You may also stop in for private prayer during the day. For info: 973-722-7142.

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.

Leave your light on for Christ. A Catholic Church is never completely dark—as long as the Blessed Sacrament is present. You'll always see at least a small red flicker of a sanctuary lamp before the tabernacle, while it contains the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. The tradition goes back to the Book of Exodus, when God told Moses to perpetually burn a lamp filled with pure oil in the tabernacle. Three thousand years later, Christ is always there, burning with a light and love that never goes out. Likewise, keep the flame for Him in your soul steadfast and bright.