

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.

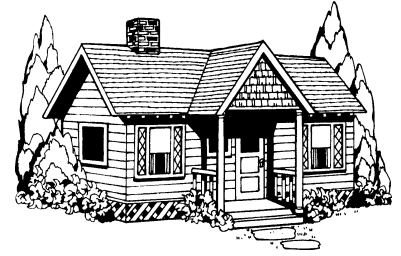
Part of our ministry is to **visit the sick** in hospital or at home. Privacy laws do not allow us to visit or pray publicly for the sick unless permission is given by the individual or their health care proxy. Please inform us of the needs of the sick, and we will be happy to respond as best we can.

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

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE



If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two—
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there—
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

*But—when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly visitor ?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,
Or hide some magazines, and put the Bible where they'd been ?
Would you turn off the radio, and hope He hadn't heard
And wish you hadn't uttered that last loud, hasty word ?*

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out ?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about ?
And I wonder—if the Savior spent a day or two with you,
Would you keep right on saying all the things you always say ?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day ?

*Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace ?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace ?
Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed ?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go,
Or maybe would you change your plans for just a day or so ?*

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends,
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends ?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone ?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,
If Jesus Christ came to your house to spend some time with you.

Our Lady of the Rosary Library
4016 Preston, Louisville, KY 40213

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 16, 2020

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Dale R. Briegel at the
Request of his son, Dale

SATURDAY, February 22

8:00AM – Charles & Elsie Lorber
req. by their Children

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 23

8:00AM – Ralph Meola, Sr.
req. by the Laggy Family

11:30AM – Frank DiBennardo
req. by Jose Cabrera & Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,560.00 – Regular Collection – February 9, 2020

\$ 151.00 – Online Giving

\$ 937.00 – Regular Collection – February 10, 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, Betty Mastrelli, Joshua Murch, Richard Nowicki, Ginny Sabia, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn, Tarra Wagner, Casandra Westbrook 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.

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 Mary Campbell at the
Request of her Children

MONDAY, February 17

9:00AM – Father Sylvester Livolsi
req. by Mary Flexer
-Barbara & Charles Kientzler
req. by their son, Charles

TUESDAY, February 18

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

WEDNESDAY, February 19

9:00AM – Linda Brinker and Richard Marczy
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer & Family

THURSDAY, February 20

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 21

9:00AM – Mary Campbell
req. by her Children
-Anna Gioielli
req. by her Children

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 22

4:30PM – Frank Kelly
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell
-Helen Tobin
req. by her Family

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 23

9:30AM – Mary & Joe Vergona
req. by Gerry Mahon & Family
-Intentions of Lawrence P. Gioielli
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,656.00 – Regular Collection – February 9, 2020

\$ 468.00 – Online Giving

\$2,253.00 – Regular Collection – February 10, 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*



Act of Charity (Love)

O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all-good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen
"Charity and love are the same – with charity you give love, so don't just give money, but reach out with your hand instead." ~ St. Teresa of Calcutta



Catholic Teens

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

Celebrate February

Feb. 20 ~ World Day for Social Justice ~ Although this day was founded by the United Nations, Catholics have a great history of standing up for social justice. In fact, Pope St. Paul VI once said, "If you want peace, work for justice."

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. 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.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 16, 2020

"If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you, if you trust in God, you too shall live. He has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him."

How blessed we are with freedom of choice. On a daily basis we make countless choices, some of little importance, others of great significance. Many times we give little thought to what we decide and choose. At other times we debate, struggle and finally make our choice.

As we reflect on the word of God today, may we wholeheartedly make the right choices. To help us keep the commandments, whether the short form of love of God and our neighbor, of the ten given to Moses on the tablets of stone, try seeing them as directives for sound living, not prohibitions but positive. The commandments we choose are based upon a single word – RESPECT. I respect God and my neighbor. I respect His name and His day. I respect authority, life, my sexuality and that of others, I respect the truth, property and in my thoughts, I respect other people and what is theirs.

We have been given these aides for our Christian living, not obstacles we need to hurdle. This might be the true meaning of pro-choice, for it helps us to be pro-life, our lives in the Lord.

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 16, 2020

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Monday, Feb. 17

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

Tuesday, Feb. 18

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, Feb. 19

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

Thursday, Feb. 20

Friday, Feb. 21

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

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

Saturday, Feb. 22

10:00a.m. STC First Reconciliation: Retreat
and Sacrament

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

5:30 p.m. STC Monthly Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, February 23, 2020

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

10:30a.m. REC Adult Confirmation

Next Sunday's Readings: 7th Ord.

1st Reading: *Leviticus 19: 1--2; 17--18*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 103*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 3: 16--23*

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 38--48*

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.

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: **today, Sun. Feb. 16.** Be there and see for yourself !

Lenten Ecumenical Services will be offered with our Christian neighbors during the Fridays evenings of Lent. Services will begin at 7 p.m. at one of our churches. The schedule is as follows:

Fri. Feb. 28 Minisink Reformed

Fri. Mar. 6 St. Thomas

Fri. Mar. 13 Delaware Valley

Fri. Mar. 20 Minisink Reformed

Fri. Mar. 27 St. Thomas

Fri. Apr. 3 Delaware Valley

Let us join with our Christian neighbors and share our Lenten traditions.

At the same time, **Stations of the Cross** will be offered each Friday of Lent at **St. James Church**, also beginning at 7 p.m.

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.

Principal Position Available. The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese is seeking applicants for the 2020—2021 school year for St. Mary's School, Pompton Lakes, N.J. St. Mary's School is a PK—8 elementary school. Closing date for applications is March 9th. A job description and application materials can be found at www.patdioschools.org/administrative-openings.