

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.

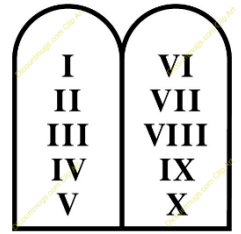
Pregnancy Assistance
Call 1-800-395-HELP or Tri-State Pregnancy 570-491-5151
Good Counsel: 1.800.723.8331 for pregnant mothers in need anytime, anyplace.
www.goodcounselhomes.org
Post Abortion Healing:
Project Rachel 973-777-8818, ext. 272
Lumina: Hope and Healing After Abortion: 1.877.LUMINA1 (877.586.4621)
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

Getting Back to Basics

Here are some things that are basic to our Catholic faith. Spend some time reviewing them, and maybe even memorizing them.



The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. You shall keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Two Great Commandments

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The Seven Precepts of the Church

1. To assist at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. To fast and abstain on days appointed.
3. To go to Confession at least once a year.
4. To receive Holy Communion at least once a year, during the Easter Season.
5. To contribute to the support of the Church.
6. To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage.
7. To take part in the missionary activity of the Church.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feeding the hungry
2. Giving drink to the thirsty
3. Sheltering the homeless
4. Clothing the naked
5. Visiting the sick
6. Visiting the imprisoned
7. Burying the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Admonishing the sinner
2. Instructing the ignorant
3. Counseling the doubtful
4. Comforting the sorrowful
5. Bearing wrongs patiently
6. Forgiving all injuries
7. Praying for the living and the dead

John 3: 16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life.”

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 23, 2020

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Laura A. Pullis at the
Request of her sister, Lisa M. Dispoto

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 26

8:00AM – Josephine Yarosz
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, February 29

8:00AM – Joan Spoolstra
req. by her Family

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1

8:00AM – Joan Plotsky
req. by Linda & Mike Spinapolice

11:30AM – Leonie Flaskamp
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 646.00 – Regular Collection – February 16, 2020

\$ 171.00 – Online Giving

\$ 171.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$ 1,027.00 – Regular Collection – February 17, 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 Spinapolice 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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Lawrence P. Gioielli at the
Request of his sister, Ann R. Dunn

MONDAY, February 24

9:00AM – Christine McDermott
req. by Albert Guensch

TUESDAY, February 25

9:00AM – Patrick McInnis
req. by Pat & Peter Lane
-Intentions of Laura A. Pullis
Birthday Celebration
req. by her Aunt Rosie

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 26

9:00AM – Angelo Damone
req. by his daughter, Frances Demalderis
7:00PM – Jimmy Costello and Al Parker
req. by James & Kathleen Gorman

THURSDAY, February 27

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 28

9:00AM – Tommy Gragg
req. by James & Kathleen Gorman

SATURDAY, Vigil, February 29

4:30PM – Maureen Rice
req. by Mary & Harry Dunleavy

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1

9:30AM – Cecelia Cerbo
req. by her Granddaughter, Heather Lubchansky,
and Family
-Intentions of Michael Toth
req. by his Mother

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,463.00 – Regular Collection – February 16, 2020

\$ 561.00 – Online Giving

\$ 549.00 – Diocesan Assessment

\$2,171.00 – Regular Collection – February 17, 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*



**Mardi Gras Celebration –
Tuesday, February 25th**

All families are invited and encouraged to attend the FREE Pancake and Sausage Dinner and celebrate Mardi Gras from 5:30-7:00PM at St. Thomas Church hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Please come and enjoy the fellowship, food, music and activities and then help bury the ALLELUIA!!!!

Celebrate February

Feb. 26 ~ Ash Wednesday ~ Today is not a holy day of obligation, but attending Mass and obtaining ashes on your forehead is a great way to start the holy, penitential season of Lent.

First Reconciliation Retreat and Sacrament

Congratulations to the following children of our parishes who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time this weekend: Charlotte Adam, Kayden Carney, Natalie Gushea, Madelyn Lawrence, Raya Pecoriello, Kyla Romano, Lia Sampson, Griffin Sansone and Hailey Tappen. Special thanks to their parents, their catechists and Father Wayne who helped to prepare them for this very special encounter with Jesus. Please keep these young members of our parishes in your prayer as they continue to prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Christ this spring.



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish next **Sunday, March 1st, from 6:00-8:00PM**. Come join the Catholic Zoomers Youth Group for some faith, food 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. 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.

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

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 wj218@optonline.net. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Fast and Abstinence during Lent

These are time-honored ways of self-sacrifice: training our spirits by checking our bodily cravings. **Fasting** refers to *eating only one full meal and two lesser meals* during the day. **Abstinence** means *not eating meat*. All who are over the age of 59 are not bound to the rules of fasting. Likewise, children under 18 are not bound to the rules of fasting. All who are under the age of 14 are not bound to the rules of abstinence.

During Lent, the Church calls us to a **strict fast and abstinence** on *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday*. All other *Fridays of Lent* are **days of abstinence**.

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 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

Monday, Feb. 24

Tuesday, Feb. 25

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

5:30 p.m. STC Mardi Gras Celebration

--sponsored by K of C: all invited to attend

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26

See Column II for Masses

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

Thursday, Feb. 27

Friday, Feb. 28

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

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

7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Service at
Minisink Reformed Church, Montague

7:00 p.m. SJC Stations of the Cross

Saturday, Feb. 29

Sunday, March 1, 2020

1st Sunday of Lent

Reconciliation during Lent. “*Welcome Home to Healing*” is a program sponsored by the entire Diocese of Paterson. **Every Monday evening of Lent, in every Church of the Diocese, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available, from 7:00 p.m. till 8:30p.m.** You are encouraged to make a good Confession during Lent, and welcome to enter any Catholic Church during those hours. We hope that all will take advantage of this special opportunity to find peace in the Lord.

“*Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.*” ---Pope Francis

Have a Cheerful Lent. It all depends on attitude. You might know that the word “Lent” is Old-English for “Spring.” Spring conjures up warmer days, green grass, flowers and crops. It is the season of growing. The trees and plants all come back to life. That could be true for our spirits also, if we start out with a positive attitude about Lent. May the Season of Lent 2020 be for you a time of growing closer to the Lord, by our religious practices. May it be an enlivening of our spirits by becoming more aware of God’s blessings all around us. It’s not an oxymoron, but rather it captures the true spirit of the season to say: “Happy Lent !”

Mardi Gras: Tues, Feb. 25 Enjoy a great Pancake & Sausage Dinner and a last carefree evening before we settle down to Lent. Our K of C invites all to join us for this exuberant time for kids and adults. We will close with a “*Bury the Alleluia*” Ceremony, which will draw us into the Season of Lent. All are welcome: **this Tuesday, at St. Thomas, beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday comes at the middle of the week, in the midst of all our busy-ness. It stops us, and reminds us of our mortality: that one day we will be taken from our usual routines to account for our lifetime on earth. The ashes we wear are both a symbol of our mortality and an acknowledgement of sinfulness. They spur us on to co-operate more fully with God’s grace to become the people the Lord calls us to be. Ashes will be distributed at these times:

8:00 a.m. Mass at St. James

9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas

4:00 p.m. Services at Relig. Ed. Center

7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Thomas

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.