

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 You are the Son of God ...”

Matthew 4: 3, 6

What father would send his son on a starvation mission in the wilderness? That's the cunning strategy the devil used: sow doubt about God's goodness and love into Jesus' mind. If he could shake Jesus' trust in His Father, then maybe Jesus would feel less obligated to stay faithful. The temptations pile up until the final gambit: *God isn't helping you here; He's left you with hunger and humiliation. Is it worth all the pain? I can give you so much more, so why not bow down to me instead? Do we have a deal?*

This is the same strategy the serpent used against Adam and Eve in today's First Reading: “Did God really say ...?” (Genesis 3: 1). *God knows that if you eat that fruit, you'll be just like Him. He's trying to keep you from becoming all that you can be because He doesn't want any rivals.*

But where our first parents failed, Jesus succeeded. And in succeeding, He opened the way for us to succeed as well. He beat back the devil's temptations by doing the one thing that even we can do when we are tempted: He exercised stubborn faith. Yes, Jesus was hungry and exhausted. Yes, He desperately wanted relief. But He knew what God had asked of Him, and He held fast to God's will and God's promises.

In the end, Jesus won out. Where once He heard only the devil's words of harassment, now He heard angels singing songs of comfort and praise.

Make no mistake: you will be tempted this Lent if you haven't been already. The devil will try to convince you that God doesn't care about you or that obeying the commandments will leave you unsatisfied. Don't believe it! Hold fast to your Lenten commitments. Stay faithful in prayer. And if you should fall short, remember that you are still a child of God. He loves you and He will always help you. He may even send an angel to comfort you.

**Lord, strengthen me with Your grace this Lent,
so that I can overcome any temptation.**

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2020

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Rosemarie Bastian at the Request of her husband, Andy

SATURDAY, March 7

8:00AM – Eugene & Rosalie Mauro
req. by their Family

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8

8:00AM – Michael McCarthy
req. by Linda & Mike Spinapolic

11:30AM – Emily Blickweidel
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,302.00 – Regular Collection – February 23, 2020

\$ 226.00 – Online Giving

\$ 137.00 – Eastern Europe

\$1,242.00 – Regular Collection – February 24, 2019

\$ 137.00 – Eastern Europe 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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Richard W. Pullis at the Request of his daughters, Lisa & Laura

MONDAY, March 2

9:00AM – Ryan Stark
req. by Dolores & Christine McGlew

TUESDAY, March 3

9:00AM – Richard W. Pullis
req. by his wife, Ann

WEDNESDAY, March 4

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

THURSDAY, March 5

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 6

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

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 7

4:30PM – Roman Salza
req. by his daughter, Sharon Spangenberg
-Patrick W. Higgins
req. by his sisters, Chris & Teresa
-Barbara Theobald
req. by the Confirmation Class

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8

9:30AM – Kazimiera Szwajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon
-Barbara Theobald
req. by the Confirmation Class

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,382.00 – Regular Collection – February 23, 2020

\$ 393.00 – Online Giving

\$ 395.00 – Eastern Europe

\$1,774.00 – Regular Collection – February 24, 2019

\$ 378.00 – Eastern Europe 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*



Confirmation II Class

On **Saturday, March 7th**, the soon-to-be confirmed will be taking an active role at the **4:30PM Mass**. They will serve as Greeters, Altar Servers, Lectors, Gift Bearers, Collection Takers and Bulletin Providers. This is done to introduce them to some of the ways for their adult participation within the parish community after their Confirmation. Following the Mass, we will have pizza and a shorter class time in the Father Lewis Center.

Sacramental Preparation Parents Session

Our last session for all who have children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist will take place on **Tuesday, March 10th at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center at 7:00PM**. Sister Theresa Kelly from the Sacred Heart Center will be our presenter that evening. It is imperative that at least one parent for each child be present at this session.



will take place at **St. Thomas Church on Wednesday, March 11th for Grades 3, 4 & 5** from 4:00PM until 5:15PM (during their class time with Chicken Nuggets/Macaroni & Cheese Dinner); **on Friday, March 20th for Grades 6 & 7** from 5:00PM until 6:30PM (with Pasta & Fish Dinner) and **Tuesday, March 24th for Grades 1 & 2** from 4:00PM until 5:15PM (during their class time with Chicken Nuggets/Macaroni & Cheese Dinner).



Knights at the Races will take place on **Saturday, March 14th** following the 4:30PM Mass at St. Thomas Church. Bring your fastest Hot Wheels Car and join in on all the fun.



Confirmation II Retreat will take place on **Sunday, March 15th** beginning at 10:00AM and will conclude at 3:00PM at the **Sanctuary of Mary, Our Lady of the Holy Spirit, Branchville**. Please keep our Candidates in your prayers!



Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **TODAY, Sunday, March 1st, from 6:00-8:00PM**. Join our Pastor, Father Wayne, as he gives a short talk on the Ten Commandments followed by a **Talent Show** planning session. **WE NEED YOUR TALENTS FROM GOD!!!** Come join the Catholic Zoomers Youth Group for some faith, food and friendship!

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



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.

The last date and topic is:

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.

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, March 1, 2020

1st Sunday of Lent

6:00 p.m. Youth Group Mtg. at O L Q P.

-- Gr. 7, 8, H.S. --till 8 p.m.

Monday, Mar. 2

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

7:00 p.m. Confessions at St. Thomas (till 8:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, Mar. 3

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, Mar. 4

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

Thursday, Mar. 5

Friday, Mar. 6

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:
St. Thomas Church

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

Saturday, Mar. 7

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

Sunday, March 8, 2020

2nd Sunday of Lent

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: 2nd Lent

1st Reading: *Genesis 12: 1–4a*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 33*

2nd Reading: *2 Timothy 1: 8b--10* Gospel:

Matthew 17: 1--9

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.

Confession during Lent: “Welcome Home to Healing.” 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. With our situation, Reconciliation will be available according to this schedule:

March 2 St. Thomas; March 9 St. James

March 16 St. Thomas; March 23 St. James

March 30 St. Thomas; April 6 St. James

We hope that all will take advantage of this special opportunity to find peace in the Lord.

Suggestion: come early; avoid the rush

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.

Calling All Hot Wheels. Our K. of C. is sponsoring a family evening: *Knights at the Races*. All kids, teens and adults are invited to bring your fastest hot wheels cars and enter the race on our 30 ft. track. Maybe, bring home First Prize ! And pizza will be served. It all takes place on **Saturday, March 14 at St. Thomas**. Enjoy a great evening of competition and camaraderie, **following the 4:30 p.m. Mass**. An adult must accompany each child present. Parents also welcome to race.

First Thursdays at Sacred Heart Center, Newton. The Sisters hold a “Reflection Day” each First Thursday at their Center on 20 Old Swartwood Rd. For men and women, the days begin at 9 a.m. with coffee, then opening prayer, then a short talk, Eucharistic Adoration, opportunity for Confession, then Mass. Lunch follows. The day ends about 1:30 p.m. \$ 15 is a suggested donation; no need to pre-register. For more info call 973-383-2620 or visit sacredheartspiritualitycenter.org. **Next reflection day: this Thursday, March 5th.**