

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

A New Way of Fasting during Lent



*Thus says the Lord:
“If you remove from your midst oppression,
False accusation and malicious speech;
If you bestow your bread on the hungry
And satisfy the afflicted:
Then the Lord will guide you always ...
And will renew your strength.”*



--from: Isaiah 58: 9b—14

(Pope Francis recently suggested for Lent: “Put down your iPhone; pick up your Bible.” Others seem to have caught on to this idea. Here is a helpful article that comes from “Weekday Homily Helps,” February 2020)

Today Isaiah challenges us in what has been called his great “fasting chapter.” Isaiah 58 encourages a fast of whatever gets in the way of living authentic human lives rooted in our God. This is the goal of all fasting and abstinence.

For this Lent, the Archdiocese of Hartford encouraged a technological fasting initiative entitled: *“I Phone Fast! Will U?”* Lenten days are set aside for fasting from a least one element of technology—text messaging, for example. Compared to such an “unplugging” this Lent, the traditional giving up of chocolate is really “a piece of cake” (no pun intended.) Screens can dominate our lives. We could start with the question: is our use of technology sometimes not essential? Are we missing the world and the people around us because our eyes are always on those screens?

Is it possible to have any long-term technological fast, given our society’s dependence upon it? Most of us would need to fast on days when we weren’t at work. One writer (Kevin Ott) suggests the baby-step of a “phone sabbath”—not bringing phones to church. Or refusing to bring your phone when visiting friends. Or when eating at a restaurant. This can reverse the effect of pushing human interaction aside. Many observe that our young people don’t seem to know how to relate face-to-face. Such a “phone sabbath fast” won’t be easy. Pairing up with a fasting partner for mutual support might help.

Once Lent has passed into Easter, we need not return to being controlled by social media. Our new-found discipline will then, according to the Archdiocese of Hartford, give God a chance to “call our hearts.”

-- by Tim Cronin,
“Weekday Homily Helps,”
February 2020

According to one study: the average American adult spent approximately **2 hours and 51 minutes** on their smartphone every single day in 2017.

I can’t even imagine the average American teen-ager.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
March 8, 2020

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Larry Belcher at the
Request of his Family

SATURDAY, March 14

8:00AM – Peg O'Brien
req. by her Family

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 15

8:00AM – Marcjanna Klimkiewicz
req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

11:30AM – Pat Follette
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,151.00 – Regular Collection – March 1, 2020

\$ 421.00 – Online Giving

\$2,067.00 – Regular Collection – March 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 Fulton, Bill & Teresa Mantini, 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 Ben Dispoto at the
Request of his Grandma Annie

MONDAY, March 9

9:00AM – Intentions of Ann & Mike Gorman and Family
req. by James & Kathleen Gorman
-Intentions of Ben Dispoto
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Aunt Rosie

TUESDAY, March 10

9:00AM – Intentions of Ann Jennings and Family
req. by James & Kathleen Gorman

WEDNESDAY, March 11

9:00AM – Marian Miller
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

THURSDAY, March 12

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 13

9:00AM – Intentions of Margaret & Pat Gorman and Family
req. by James & Kathleen Gorman

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 14

4:30PM – Albert Macchi
req. by the Cunico Family
-Intentions of James Abboud and Chris Miller
req. by Omar & Marie Mendez

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 15

9:30AM – Barbara Theobald
req. by the Cunico Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,579.00 – Regular Collection – March 1, 2020

\$1,401.00 – Online Giving

\$3,026.00 – Regular Collection – March 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*



Ways to Pray – Part I

Jesus is the greatest example of living a faithful life dedicated to God. He learned to pray at home from his parents, especially from his mother, Mary. We learn to pray in our families through religious education class and at Mass. Though there are many ways to pray, traditionally, Catholic prayer includes **praise, adoration, contrition, thanksgiving** and **supplication**.

Praise ~ is a movement from the heart that lauds God for who He is and not for what He does for us. God is always worthy of our praise. We can praise God by simply lifting our eyes toward heaven and smiling at how truly good God is.

Adoration ~ is like what we read about in the Scriptures with the visit of the shepherds and Magi to the infant Jesus and teaches us to worship. Worship is a fitting response to believing in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We adore Jesus in word, song, silence and even action, especially in the Mass.

Contrition ~ means to be sorry for the things we did or failed to do that have hurt our relationship with God. Acknowledging you have made a poor or wrong choice takes courage and, therefore, very much pleases Jesus. Forgiveness is the heart of Jesus' teaching, making this a very special prayer for us to offer. Blessings on your Lenten journey!

(To be continued...From Take Out – Family Faith on the Go)

The Way of the Cross – Franciscan Mystery Players

A moving version of The Way of the Cross will be presented **TODAY, Sunday, March 8th at 8:00PM** at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville. This prayerful experience uses special lighting, a stirring soundtrack, pantomime actions and inspirational narrative to portray the Stations of the Cross and how it relates to our lives today. The group is comprised of 14 teens and 10 adult supervisors from several parishes in the Paterson Diocese. Teens are especially encouraged to attend this special Lenten experience.

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!



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.

Adult Confirmation

Presently preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be received during the Easter Season are three adults one of whom was Baptized Catholic and two who were Baptized in another Faith Tradition and are preparing now to be in Full Communion with the Catholic Church. We have welcomed our Candidates and encouraged the Continuing Conversion of those who are preparing for Full Communion.

We invite and welcome all adult parishioners to join us in this preparation process. Your participation is at your comfort level. The sessions meet in the Religious Education Center directly after the St. Thomas 9:30am Mass. To that end, the upcoming sessions are noted here.

- March 22 The Creeds, The Father & Son
{chronology of Christ's life}
- April 5 The Holy Trinity, The Church, Community of Saints
- April 19 The Bible
- May 3 Christian Mortality, Conscience, Christian Living

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you might have to 973-948-7004.

May your Lenten Season be Blessed! Pat Hope

St. Patrick/St. Joseph Pot Luck Dinner

Please note that this Pot Luck Dinner has been rescheduled for **MARCH 28TH**. Just bring a dish. Sign-up sheet is in the gathering space.

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is offering a fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 7:00pm** for 6 weeks **starting on March 18th** right here at St. Thomas. The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Any questions, please call instructor Chris Dube at 862-266-8418. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the 6 week session for only \$30.00 or pay per class for \$6.00. **You may join us at any time**. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to our St. Thomas Parish. So, come and try it out!

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesThomas/>

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 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

Monday, Mar. 9

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

Tuesday, Mar. 10

- 10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings
4:00 p.m. STC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2
Stations of Cross & Mac & Cheese Fest
7:00 p.m. REC First Euch. Parents Mtg.
7:00 p.m. STC Adoration & Rosary with K of C
7:30 p.m. STC K of C Monthly Mtg.

Wednesday, Mar. 11

- 4:00 p.m. STC Relig. Ed. Gr. 3, 4 & 5
Stations of Cross & Mac & Cheese Fest

Thursday, Mar. 12

Friday, Mar. 13

- 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.
4:00 p.m. STC Set up for Knights at the Races
7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Service at:
Delaware Valley United Methodist Church
7:00 p.m. SJC Stations of the Cross

Saturday, Mar. 14

- 9:00 a.m. SJC Soup on a Sat. pick-up (till 2 p.m.)
5:30 p.m. STC Knights at the Races

Sunday, March 15, 2020

3rd Sunday of Lent

- 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Retreat: at Sanctuary
of Mary, Branchville (till 3 p.m.)
11:00 a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Lent

- 1st Reading: *Exodus 17: 3--7*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 95*
2nd Reading: *Romans 5: 1--2, 5--8*
Gospel: *John 4: 5--42*

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 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.

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. 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 **this 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.

Soup on a Saturday. Today is the last day to order the soups that will get you through the rest of this winter. Order forms are at St. James. **Pick up is this Saturday at St. James, 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.** Our thanks to Bill Ricciardi for organizing this heart-warming event.

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.