

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.

Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish

*See, I am doing something new!
... Do you not perceive it?*

First Reading: Isaiah 43: 19

It looks like God is at it again ! His first work was the creation of the world. In six days, as Genesis records it, God arranged the heavens, the earth and all living things.

Now He's at work again. This time it's a project of the spiritual world, not the physical world. This time it's taking a little longer—forty days. This Season of Lent is God's time of special creativity, as He works with all who would co-operate. He is ready and willing to create a new and improved version of you---if you will only work with His grace.

That is the whole purpose of this holy season: to allow the Lord to mold us and re-shape us into the most effective people we can be, the people He meant us to be: people of deep faith and committed service.

It means working to rid ourselves of all that would disappoint Him: our faults and bad habits and harmful ways of thinking, and to exchange them for those attitudes which would reflect Him. During Lent we are to work with the Lord to help us conquer pride and self-centeredness and duplicity and laziness and fear—all things that cripple us. We are called to take on the qualities of Jesus as we know Him from the Gospels. We are called to allow Jesus' values and priorities to become ours. In this way, we hope to hear someday the same words that Jesus heard from His Father at the Jordan: *"You are my beloved son (and daughter). With you I am well pleased."*
(Luke 3: 22)

The calendar tells us that the season of Spring begins very soon. In the next weeks, God will re-create the natural world as trees grow leaves, grass becomes green and flowers start to bloom. As Lent progresses (it's the Old English word for 'spring') may our spirits reflect the same kind of new life. May we allow God's love to fill us, His voice to inspire our hearts, and His creative genius to make us into the people He knows we can be.

When God says: *"Look, I am doing something new !"* : may He be referring to you.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 13, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of John Caradonna at the
Request of Mike Soletro

SATURDAY, March 19

8:00AM – Thomas B. Shea
req. by his Family

PALM SUNDAY

March 20

8:00AM – Sharon Falconer
req. by Harvey & Joan McKean

11:30AM – Terry Naletko

req. by his Family
-Intentions of Phil Lange
req. by Josephine Yarosz

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,545.00 – Regular Collection – March 6, 2016

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$ 859.00 – Regular Collection – March 8, 2015

Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.

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 eve 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.

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*

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Margaret Accordino, Mary Cunico, Rachel Gibbs, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Kimberly & Baby Macie, Bill Lange, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Cathy Moyer, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner and Thomas Walsh

Jesus Heals

The Healing Service at St. James is postponed until the Spring of 2016. If you have any questions, please call Deacon Wayne at 973-293-3344.

St. James Rosary & Altar Society If any ladies in the parish are interested in joining, please call Joan Henn at 973-293-3690 or Linda Spinaplice at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Myrtle Erickson at the
Request of Bill & Marge

MONDAY, March 14

9:00AM – Michael T. Wenning
req. by Paul & Rosemary Brislin

TUESDAY, March 15

9:00AM – Augustus Slater
req. by his sister, Joanna Stahl
- Michael Wenning
req. by Pat & Pete Lane

WEDNESDAY, March 16

9:00AM – James Connolly
req. by his wife, Barbara & Children

THURSDAY, March 17

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 18

9:00AM – Anna Sciora
req. by her daughter, Josephine

SATURDAY, Vigil, March 19

4:30PM – Carl & Ronnie Ferriere
req. by Mary Flexer
-Judy & Jerry Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family

PALM SUNDAY

March 20

9:30AM – Kazimira & Jozef Szwajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon
- Bernie Reich
req. by his wife, Grace

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,873.00 – Regular Collection – March 6, 2016

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,839.00 – Regular Collection – March 8, 2015

Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.



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.



Last Class for Students in Grades 6 through 10 is Sunday, March 20th from 9:30AM Mass until 12:30PM. Re-registrations will be mailed out in May. Have a safe and blessed summer.



Jubilee Year of Mercy

Lenten Reconciliation Service for Grades 6 – 10

The 7th and 8th Grade Religious Education Classes, under the guidance of their catechists, Mike Bussow and John Lucadamo, will lead a Lenten Reconciliation Service on **Tuesday, March 15th** beginning at 7:00PM at St. Thomas. All 6th through 10th grade parishioners and their parents are invited and encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this sacred season and special **Jubilee Year of Mercy**.



Family Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper

The last Children’s Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 4:30PM on Friday, March 18th at St. Thomas Church. All Parents and children are invited and encouraged to attend this beautiful prayerful experience during Lent. Following the Children’s Version of the Stations of the Cross (about 5:30PM), we will be enjoying a simple dinner and fellowship with a Soup Supper hosted by our Columbiettes.



The students in 6th grade will participate in the **Seder Supper on Wednesday, March 23rd**, which is hosted by the Knights of Columbus. The students are asked to arrive at the Father Lewis Center by 5:30PM. The evening should end by 9:00PM.

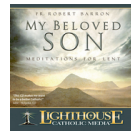


Our Confirmation Candidates will present their prayerful portrayal of the **Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 25th** at 7:30PM at St. Thomas. All candidates must arrive by 4:30PM for set-up and rehearsal. Dinner will be provided by the Columbiettes.

HOLD THE DATE

The **St. Thomas Tricky Tray** will take place on **Friday, May 6th**. More information will follow.

Lighthouse Catholic Media Audio CDs. This week we



highlight **“My Beloved Son – Meditations for Lent”** and in this CD, Fr. Robert Barron—now a bishop— offers 5 sermons on the spiritual discipline we must cultivate in the Lenten season, centering in Christ.

These meditations cover topics such as finding our identity in God, prayer as the key to mission, our thirst for God, how to end our alienation from God, and how to joyfully embrace the way of happiness. **Only \$3 each.** **Bishop Robert Barron** is a much-sought-after speaker, lecturer, and evangelist. Ordained a priest in 1986, he is often seen



on EWTN, heard on Catholic Radio, speaks around the world, and occasionally has a column in “The Beacon”. He also founded **Word On Fire**, which reaches millions of people worldwide. Check out **WordOnFire.org** for more info.

SAVE THE DATE: On Saturday, April 23rd at 7:00PM in the Father Lewis Center, the Columbiettes will be having a dance with great music provided by “KOZ THE DJ”. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at either church after Masses or through Rosemarie, the parish secretary. Join us for a night of fun. Hotdogs, Sauerkraut, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea will be served. BYOB. Checks made payable to Msgr. James F. Gacquin Auxiliary #12974.

St. James Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 19th at 6:00PM in the church hall. All are welcome to attend! Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7.00 for children under 12 and babies are free. Take outs are available from 5:00 to 5:30PM. 50/50 tickets will be available. BYOB. Tickets will be on sale after Masses. If you have any questions or can help, please contact Betsy Gardner at 845-858-7892 in the evenings, please.

2016: St. Thomas 75th Anniversary Year

Good Deed Journaling. All parishioners are invited to make note of the good deeds they perform during the course of the day. There are little notebooks on the table in the Gathering Space. Please take one and use it as a personal diary to record the good deeds you perform for the Lord each day. You may surprise yourself. These notebooks are for your personal use only, and can be a wonderful offering to the Lord of your time well spent for His honor and glory.

St. Thomas History - St. Thomas the Apostle was one of the Western Sussex Missions started by Bishop McLaughlin in 1941. Along with St. Matthew Church in Walpack, both had their first Masses celebrated on July 6, 1941 and were initially administered via St. Joseph’s Parish of Newton.

If anyone has church bulletins dating prior to 2006, would you please bring them to the parish office to be copied?

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 13, 2016

5th Sunday of Lent

- 9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.
- 9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass
- 9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8
- 9:30 a.m. STC Confirmation II Prep after Mass
- 9:30 a.m. 2nd Grade Parents & Children
- 10:00a.m. Confirmation I Retreat, Sacred Heart Center
- 10:30a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Monday, Mar. 14

- 11:00a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros.Makers' Mtg.
- 7:00 p.m. STC Sac. of Reconciliation

Tuesday, Mar. 15

- 10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings
- 4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2
- 7:00 p.m. STC Reconciliation Service Gr. 6--10

Wednesday, Mar. 16

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

Thursday, Mar. 17

- 9:30 a.m. REC Moms & Tots Play Group
- 7:00 p.m. Pizza Night with Bishop, Pope John H.S.

Friday, Mar. 18

- 9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
after Mass, till 12 Noon
- 10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.
- 4:30 p.m. STC Family Stations of the Cross
- 5:30 p.m. Columbiettes serve Soup Supper
– both churches
- 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross – both churches

Saturday, Mar. 19

- 6:00 p.m. SJC Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
- 5:30 p.m. STC St. P & St. J Pot Luck Dinner after Mass

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Palm Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8
- 9:30 a.m. STC Confirmation Prep after Mass
- 12:30p.m. STC Stations of the Cross Rehearsal
- 1:00 p.m. STC Confirmation Interviews

Next Sunday's Reading: Palm Sunday

- 1st Reading: *Isaiah 50: 4--7*
- Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 22*
- 2nd Reading: *Philippians 2: 6--11*
- Gospel: *Luke 22: 14--23: 56*

2016: St. Thomas 75th Anniversary Year

Our 75th Anniversary celebrations will begin with a "Kick-Off Coffee Hour" on Sunday April 3rd. It will take place after the 9:30 a.m. Mass, and will begin to display photos and memorabilia from the 'good old days.' Older parishioners are encouraged to write down their memories so that we can include them in future Bulletins. Other events of the year will be published soon.

For info on trips planned for this anniversary year, please log onto cmahon@cruiseone.com.

Welcome Home. Monday night confessions continue in each church of the Diocese of Paterson, 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. With our situation, the Confession schedule will be as follows:

Mon. Mar. 14 St. Thomas Mon. Mar. 21 St. James
"God's will is to save us, and nothing pleases Him more than our coming back to Him with true repentance." St. Maximus the Confessor, (d. 662)

Pizza Night with the Bishop. All young men of our parish are invited to join with Bishop Serratelli for an evening to think about their future. The date is **this Thursday, March 17th at Pope John H. S. in Sparta, beginning at 7 p.m.** Parents are welcome & encouraged to join us.

Open House for Pope John Middle School.

The *Catholic Academy of Sussex County* announces the opening of **Pope John XXIII Middle School** in Autumn 2016. This will be for Grades 5, 6 and 7. **An Open House to explain and orient us about all the new programs for Grades Pre K – 7** will be held on **Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at 294 Sparta Ave., Sparta.** With questions, call Linda Artigliere at 973-729-9174, # 3.

Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy is a moving, live production performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of St. Luke Productions. It will be presented at Pope John XXIII H. S. on **Saturday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.** The event is sponsored by the Legion of Mary.

The performance runs 90 min, and is suitable for ages 13 and up. Tickets: students: \$ 6.24; adults \$ 11.54. Tickets available at www.faustinasparta.eventbrite.com or call 862-648-0984.

Parish Rebates. Thank you for your continuing support of the on-going Diocesan *Partners in Faith* Campaign. As promised, each year we receive 25 % back from all donations made to the campaign. Recently we received these amounts for 2015:

St. James: \$ 2795.28 St. Thomas: \$ 3260.25
Thank you for making this possible.