

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



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



We celebrate a special moment today as we honor all mothers on this Mother's Day. What a perfect time of year to have Mother's Day—as the world bursts forth with new life. For who is in touch with new life more than a mother. And so today we honor all those who accept the task of motherhood—all mothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, step-mothers, godmothers, even mothers-to-be.

For them, that one basic command of the Lord to “love one another” reaches to its deepest dimensions. And at that level it becomes, not a command or a task or a job—but a vocation and (most of the time) a joy.

It's been said that our Lord called it a ‘new commandment’ because He meant this kind of love to be different: to be self-less, forgetful of self, self-sacrificing. Perhaps Jesus had in mind the kind of love that He Himself knew from His mother, Mary. We can imagine the Blessed Mother's love for her child, expressed in her total devotion, her total dedication, to her child. It was a love that surely helped Jesus to grow and to thrive in His youngest years. And then, when the time seemed right, it was her love that encouraged Him to begin the work of our salvation. Remember that it was Mary who gently encouraged Jesus to “do something” at the Wedding Feast of Cana. It was Mary again, not any of the supposed loyal followers, who stayed with her son till the end on Calvary. We can imagine her joy as certainly the deepest—as she discovers that her son has truly risen from the grave.

And we, too, have experienced that same kind of devotion, probably in more ways than we can count. For who knows how many times our mothers have gotten up in the middle of the night to take care of us. Who can count how many times we have been comforted from bruised knees or the scary darkness. Untold are the ways we have been encouraged by our mothers through the transitions of life. It's a devotion that defies any real description. To try to analyze it would be a distortion and just inadequate. Rather, it moves us to gratitude. This kind of unconditional love goes to the heart of being human; it is life-giving and nourishing, and pushes us forward into the wider world. The love of our mother brought us to life, not just bodily, but emotionally and spiritually as well. It's a mysterious hint of God's own love that we experience as we experience the love of our mothers. It's an introduction to the future possibilities of love in our lives. It's a devotion that our mothers have given us instinctively, without counting the cost.

Today we stop from our normal activities and errands to reflect upon and to thank our mothers for all the ways they have nurtured us. We pray for all mothers in our parish as well as in our families—all those mothers, proud grandmothers, dedicated god mothers, loyal step-mothers and foster mothers, and those hope-filled mothers-to-be. We ask the Lord to bless them for all that they have sacrificed and done for us, their children. We ask God's protection upon them, that He take care of them as they have taken care of us. And likewise, we commend to the Lord, all those mothers who have passed on, that they may know a wonderful reward for all their sacrifices for us.

May the example and perseverance of the Blessed Mother be for all mothers a comfort and a strength. May the Lord continue to bless all mothers, as they continue to care for, and worry about, and pray for, us.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 8, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Joe Urban at the
Request of Carol Lombaerde

SATURDAY, May 14

8:00AM – Albert J. Eckmuller
req. by his Family

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 15

8:00AM – Freddie & Malea Cooper
req. by the Cerra Family
-John & Anna Onuschak
req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

11:30AM – Fran Conklin
req. by Mike Soletro

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,378.00 – Regular Collection – May 1, 2016

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,433.00 – Regular Collection – May 3, 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, Clara Kane, Kimberly & Baby Macie, Bill Lange, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Cathy Moyer, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner and Thomas Walsh

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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Sophie Wolf at the
Request of Marion & Dave

MONDAY, May 9

9:00AM – Intentions of Thomas Yarosz
Birthday Celebration
req. by his mother, Josephine

TUESDAY, May 10

9:00AM – Patricia Ann Barr and Joan Spoolstra
req. by Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, May 11

9:00AM – Leslie Wojcik
req. by her Aunt Josephine

THURSDAY, May 12

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 13

9:00AM – Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 14

4:30PM – Sophie Wolf
req. by Marion & Dave

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 15

9:30AM – Joan VanderPloog
req. Lyse & Wayne von Doehren
-Dr. John Rahoche
req. by his wife, Arlene

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,941.00 – Regular Collection – May 1, 2016

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,817.00 – Regular Collection – May 3, 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.



Catechist Acknowledgement

As we have recessed our parish religious education program for the summer, I know you join me in sincerely thanking the following faithful men and women of our parishes who unselfishly gave so much of themselves to the children and teens of our parishes over the past months: Rita Straka, Karen Steinert, Rita Wenning, Marie Mendez, Patrice Kealy, Chris Higgins, Donna Blevins, Tracy Edwards, Cathy McNanna, Mike Bussow, John Lucadamo and Tom and Cindy Costello. Special thanks also to our Pastor, Father Wayne and Deacon Wayne for all they do for us! Our catechetical and evangelization efforts are possible because of the selfless love and dedication of each and every one. Please continue to keep them in your prayer of thanksgiving to Christ, the Teacher. Also, please consider answering your own baptismal call through the Ministry of Catechesis. It is very rewarding – just ask any of us! Just call the Religious Education office if you may be feeling called by Our Lord to serve in this way.



Catechist Appreciation Mass & Breakfast

In Gratitude for your Faithful Service to the Ministry of Catechesis, all Catechists and their Families are invited to join us on Sunday, May 22nd at 9:30AM at St. Thomas the Apostle Church for Mass being offered for your Intentions followed by a Breakfast in your Honor in the Father Lewis Center. Please RSVP to Mary at 973-948-7004 by May 9th.

Catholic Summer Camp

As our enrollment for Vacation Bible School has lessened over the past two years, as has also been the case at Our Lady Queen of Peace, we have decided to try something new and combine our talents and join together! We are encouraging all children entering grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade to join us for a week of learning our faith through music, prayers, games, skits, arts and crafts, friendship and fun at **Catholic Summer Camp**. This will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish on Route 206 in Branchville from Monday, June 20th through Friday, June 24th from 9:00AM until 12:00PM. Registration is free and was handed out to students last week in their classes. **Please return your form by June 3rd, so we can be properly prepared.** If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mary at 973-948-7004. We look forward to a wonderful week with old friends while making new friends too!!!

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is offering a **Spring** 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 **Tuesday** nights from 6:15-7:15pm for 8 weeks and **started April 12th. You may join us at any time.** The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for only \$40.00 or pay \$6.00 per class. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to St. Thomas parish. So, please try it out and do something for yourself. Any questions, please call Chris Dube at 973-948-2329.

2016: St. Thomas 75th Anniversary Year 1941-2016

Anniversary items are in and ready for sale. Travel mugs with the 75th anniversary logo are now available for \$5 each. Also available are anniversary logo magnets for \$4 each. Items are for purchase before and after the 4:30pm and 9:30am Masses. Grace Reich also has the items available. Be the first to celebrate the occasion of St. Thomas 75th Anniversary!!

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.

Calling all “Vintage People”

Perhaps you have great memories of the Catholic Church and the America of our youth. We ask if you would like to share a memory or two with all of our parishioners as we celebrate our 75th year. Please pick up a blue sheet of paper in the gathering space.

Senior “Vintage” Memories

– Remember when it was mandatory for women to always cover their heads when they went to church? Once in the 1960’s just before attending Mass, I realized I had forgotten my lace head covering which was usually in my purse. However, I quickly solved the dilemma by pinning a tissue to the top of my head! Seems humorous now! Barbara Connolly

St. Thomas History – From the first Mass in 1941 through the late 1960’s, Masses were always in Latin. The priest faced the altar through most of the service. It was placed against the rear wall in the sanctuary. Communion could only be received while kneeling at the altar rail and on the tongue. Altar boys would hold a Communion plate or “chin” paten, should the consecrated Host or any portion of it accidentally drop.



GOLF OUTING **Golf Outing???**

It has been suggested to the Anniversary Planning Committee that perhaps it would be nice to plan a Golf Outing. This would most likely take place late summer or early fall. If anyone is interested in participating in this event, please call Mary at 973-948-7004 or by email at maryflexer@yahoo.com. The number of participants will help us to decide on the golf course. Also, if you are interested in assisting with this event, just let us know!

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, May 8, 2016

7th Sunday of Easter

Happy Mother's Day !!

8:00 a.m. SJC Mother's Day Plant Sale

11:30a.m. SJC Mother's Day Plant Sale

Monday, May 9

Tuesday, May 10

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Wednesday, May 11

7:00 p.m. STC Adoration & Rosary with K of C

7:30 p.m. STC Knights of Columbus mtg.

Thursday, May 12

9:30 a.m. REC Moms & Tots Play Group

Friday, May 13

9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
after Mass, till 12 Noon

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

1:00 p.m. STC Montague Seniors Mtg.

Saturday, May 14

Sunday, May 15, 2016

Pentecost Sunday

9:30 a. m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

10:30 a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Next Sunday's Reading: *Feast of Pentecost*

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 2: 1--11*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 104*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 12:3--7, 12--13*

Gospel: *John 20: 19--23*

The Powerful Influence of a Mother. "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well."
(Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy 1: 5)



Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms of our parishes!! That includes grandmas, godmothers, mothers-to-be, and all who offer that nurturing role so important for their families. We love you and thank you for all that you do for us. We pray that God will bless you in many ways. Have a wonderful day !

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate Jesus sending His Holy Spirit to the disciples, huddled in fear in that upper room. As they received the Spirit, they burst into the streets to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah, risen from the dead. **In honor of this great occasion, consider wearing something red: the color of the Holy Spirit.**

Trips & Travel with St. Thomas. We are arranging a variety of trips in celebration of our parish's 75th Anniversary. Our one-day trips include *Samson at Sight & Sound Millenium Theatre* (Sat. May 28) and *Hershey Park* (Fri. Jun. 24). We are also gauging interest in a 3-day weekend trip to *Washington D.C.* You may have seen the brochures in the vestibule for our *Irish Pilgrimage* trip available in September. This very special trip, as with all the others, is open to everyone. Feel free to extend the invitation to others outside our parishes. If you are interested in any one of the above, please contact Christy Mahon at 862-354-8448 or visit this website: cmahon@cruiseone.com for details.

For young men, 15 – 25. Our diocese has developed a unique retreat for young men, ages 15 – 25. It is an informal three-day experience during which you are asked to think about your future, and God's plans for you. It is the **Quo Vadis Retreat**. 'Where are you going ?' is the theme, and also the translation in English. The Retreat will be held June 29—July 1. It will be held in our neighborhood: the **Sacred Heart Center in Newton**. It will include reflection time, sports, meals, Mass and discussion. You will meet young priests of our Diocese who will be running the Retreat. High school students and those of college age will have separate programs. And the cost is: Free !

Give yourself a chance to think ahead about your future, and enjoy the time with other young Catholic men of our Diocese. Call the Diocese of Paterson, 973-777-8818 x 711 for more info.