

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

Getting FORMED for Advent & Christmas

The beautiful Season of Advent is upon us. It is a shortened time, only four weeks, and, yes, there is so much to do before Christmas. We so easily get so caught up in the smaller things that we can lose track of the reason for Advent and Christmas. This year, take some time to grow in your faith during this special time of year that the Lord has given us.

Our parishes have an Internet subscription to **Formed.org**. It is a website of Catholic education and information, with programs, movies, e-books and audio features available for download to your computer, laptop, i-phone or and any other electronic device. At this time of year, these particular items are highlighted:

Programs: for adults: *“Advent”*
“Lectio” (Bible studies)
for children: *“Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree”*

Movies: *“Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message”*
“Mary of Nazareth”

E-Books: for children: *“Bible Stories for Little Children”*
“Read-Along Bible Stories”
for adults: *“Angels (and Demons): What Do We Really Know About Them”* by Peter Kreeft

Audio: for adults: *“Prepare the Way of the King”* by Dr. Scott Hahn
“The True Meaning of Christmas” by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
“Mary: The Indispensable Mother of God” by Tim Staples
for children: *“Our Lady of Guadalupe”*

These and so many more materials are offered at this site.

To get on for the first time: **On the Internet type in: www.Formed.org**
Choose: Formed
Choose: Register (the first time)
Type in Parish Code: HCVWQC (case sensitive)
Fill in your own e-mail address to register
Then: go to any item available

After your first visit: Go to: **Login**
Click on:  **(for menu of programs, movies, audio & e-books)**

Education in our faith should be a life-long, continuing endeavor. The more we know, the more our faith makes sense. Let us take the time to nourish our faith by learning more about what we believe.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 4, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Claire Beemer at the
Request of Claire Tobin & Family

THURSDAY, December 8
FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:00AM – John Cerra
req. by his wife, Janice

SATURDAY, December 10

8:00AM – Robert A. Donahue & Family
- Intentions of Lisa & James Donahue

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 11

8:00AM – Patricia Soletro
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Robert & Ann Lamb
req. by Peggy & Richard Gray

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 897.00 – Regular Collection – November 20, 2016
\$1,123.00 – Regular Collection – November 27, 2016
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$ 962.00 – Regular Collection – November 22, 2015
\$1,090.00 – Regular Collection - November 29, 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, Derya Dimertas, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Clara Kane, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock

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 Spinapolicce at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of David Cosman, Sr. at the
Request of Dave & Marion

MONDAY, December 5

9:00AM – Father Vincent Klim
req. by Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, December 6

9:00AM – Jerry Dilger
req. by his parents, Ann & Richard Dilger

WEDNESDAY, December 7

9:00AM – Barbara Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles
- David Cosman, Sr.
req. by Dave & Marion

THURSDAY, December 8

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

9:00AM – Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary
7:00PM – Deceased Parishioners

FRIDAY, December 9

9:00AM – Intentions of Mary Ellen Spandonis and
Miriam Ligammari – For Healing
req. by Luisa

SATURDAY, Vigil, December 10

4:30PM – Deceased Youth & Catechists
req. by Mary Flexer

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11

9:30AM – Jim Mahon
req. by his wife, Gerry

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,058.00 – Regular Collection – November 20, 2016
\$2,017.00 – Regular Collection – November 27, 2016
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,153.00 – Regular Collection – November 22, 2015
\$2,104.00 – Regular Collection – November 29, 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.



The Advent Wreath

Perhaps the most vivid symbol of Advent, the Advent Wreath, reflects our collective anticipation for Christ, our Light, to come into the world. Each week, another candle, a little brighter, we are a little closer to the moment when, laid in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes, He is born, the Christ Divine!

❖ **The First Week of Advent** – Light a purple candle.

Advent Family Prayer when Lighting the Candle – Dear God, help each person in our family to wait patiently for the coming of Jesus. Fill us with hope. Give us your love. Amen.

Read the Christmas Story from the Bible – One of the best ways to prepare for Christmas is to read to your children the accounts of the Birth of Jesus from Matthew 1:18-23 and Luke 2:1-20.

❖ **The Second Week of Advent** – Light a purple candle.

Advent Family Prayer when Lighting the Candle – Dear God, help each person in our family get ready to welcome Jesus at Christmas. Open our hearts. Fill us with peace. Amen.

Sing It Out! – With your children, practice singing traditional Christmas carols that celebrate the Birth of Jesus. Perhaps, even plan an evening with some friends to carol in your neighborhood!

Blessed Advent – Don't miss it.

Saint of the Month – St. Juan Diego (1374-1548)

We honor St. Juan Diego, the first indigenous saint from the Americas on December 9th. While on his way to church, he was visited by Our Lady, who instructed him to have a church built in her honor on the hill at Tepeyac, in Mexico. When the local bishop asked for a sign that this was true, Juan Diego filled his *tilma* (cloak) with out-of-season roses Mary had showed him. When he unrolled his tilma before the bishop, the famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12th) was imprinted on it. While widely regarded as a saint for centuries, he was not canonized until July 31 2002, by Pope John Paul II.

Saint Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!



Children's Christmas Pageant

Children of the parishes in Grades 1 through 6 are encouraged to participate in the Children's Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 18th at 3:00PM** at St. Thomas Church. Following the pageant, we will be lighting our Christmas Tree and enjoying cookies and punch. **The rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 10th at 10:00AM** at **St. Thomas**. Several Confirmation Candidates have offered to take this on – and more are welcome too! We look forward to seeing you all on December 10th as we prepare for this beautiful "birthday gift" to Our Lord.



Catholic Teens

Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. James the Greater have formed a new youth group for all teens in High School. **Come join us and see what's going on!!!** Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, December 4th from 6:00-8:00pm. We will be decorating Gingerbread Houses!** There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

The Msgr. Gacquin Columbiettes are sponsoring a Membership Drive. Any Catholic female age 18 and over may join. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, stop by and see them or contact Membership Chairlady, Dawn Hall, at 201-317-3379.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2016

"Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide. But he shall judge the poor with justice and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips... When John the Baptizer made his appearance as a preacher in the desert of Judea, this was his theme 'Reform your lives. The reign of God is at hand.'"

Although the prophet Isaiah offers an image of the ideal king to come, we are able to apply his vision to the person of John the Baptist and even better to the future Messiah. Jesus, the Prince of Peace and King of Justice, offers hope to a people in turmoil, at the time of Isaiah, and in our own day.

The theme of John's preaching seems to fall on deaf ears and hardened hearts. The brief period of advent invites us to refocus on what is truly important. If the kingdom of God is at hand, what must I do to make it real in my life? What can I do to build that kingdom now? How often Jesus taught using parables to tell us what the kingdom of heaven, what the kingdom of God is like. It is found today in our church. Advent summons us to listen and recognize that the kingdom is here and we are to make it apparent. 'Come Lord Jesus.'

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

St. Thomas History – Father Lewis sought to fulfill Msgr. Gacquin's vision and resumed work towards building the new church. With the assistance of the Paterson Diocese's Prepare the Way Campaign, ground was broken for the structure in 1999. The project saw its completion in 2000.

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, December 4, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

9:30 a.m. STC Family Faith Formation
--for Gr. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

10:30 a.m. STC 'History of Parish on 75th Anniv.'
--with refreshments

11:30 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Monday, Dec. 5

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

Tuesday, Dec. 6

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

Wednesday, Dec. 7

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

Thursday, Dec. 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, Dec. 9

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

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 10

12 Noon STC Christmas Pageant rehearsal

4:30 p.m. REC Conf. Prep after Mass Gr. 9 & 10

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8

9:30 a.m. STC Annual Christmas Pancake
Breakfast (after Mass)

10:00 a.m. Confirmation I Retreat

--at Camp Auxilium, Newton

6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Advent

1st Reading: *Isaiah 35: 1—6a, 10*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 146*

2nd Reading: *James 5: 7--10*

Gospel: *Matthew 11: 2—11*

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

will be celebrated **this Thursday, December 8th**.

It is the recognition that Mary, when she was conceived, was conceived without the stain of Original Sin which marks the rest of us. This was so that she could be the sinless and spotless vessel through which Jesus would come into the world. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be held at these times:

Thurs. morning 8:00 a.m. at St. James

Thurs. morning 9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas

Thurs. evening 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas

Confession before Christmas. St. John the Baptist calls us to "*Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!*" And he meant it. In his day, people underwent a baptism of repentance which changed their lives and woke them up to the coming of the Savior. Through our Church we have an even more powerful way to repent. And that is by receiving the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Each Reconciliation restores us to the state we were in at the time of our Baptism as infants. Reconciliation restores us to innocence before the Lord. There will be two special opportunities to receive this Sacrament before Christmas. They are:

Mon. Dec. 12 7 p.m.--8:30 p.m. at St. Thomas

Mon. Dec. 19 7 p.m.--8:30 p.m. at St. James

Make Confession a highlight of your Advent Season.

Christmas Schedule. To help with your planning for Christmas, here is our schedule of Masses for Christmas Eve and Day:

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Thomas

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. James

11:30 p.m. Lessons & Carols Service at St. Thomas

12 Mid. Midnight Mass at St. Thomas

9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass at St. Thomas

11:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass at St. James

Keep Christ in Christmas. If we can do this, our celebration of Christmas will be a success. To remind ourselves and our neighbors what this season is all about, Yard Signs with this message are available at both parishes. Cost: only \$ 5.00 for sign and stand. Use it as an opportunity to evangelize your neighborhood and all who drive through.