

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.

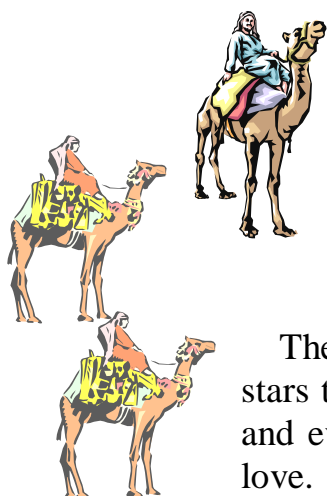
Part of our ministry is to **visit the sick** in hospital or at home. Privacy laws do not allow us to visit or pray publicly for the sick unless permission is given by the individual or their health care proxy. Please inform us of the needs of the sick, and we will be happy to respond as best we can.

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



LETTING the Magi Teach Us



“The star that they had seen at its rising preceded them.”

Matthew 2: 9

The Magi certainly weren't the first to follow a star. Ancient mariners used stars to navigate the seas. Greeks and Persians and Egyptians saw noble stories and even future predictions in them. Poets invoked their aid in their quest for love. But this star was different. This star led wise sages from the East to a humble carpenter, his wife, and ... the Son of God.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a bright star could lead us to Jesus? Life would be so much simpler, wouldn't it? We hear so many different voices and see so many different paths before us—how can we ever know the right way?

Actually, God has given us something much better than a star: the “Spirit of Truth” (John 16: 13). He is not just a distant star, but God Himself, living and active in our hearts. So let's practice how to hear Him.

One important way is through Scripture. More than just a set of stories and teachings, Scripture is “living and effective” (Hebrews 4: 12). That means that the Spirit can take a passage that was written thousands of years ago and bring it to life for you. He can show you God's love more deeply, give you guidance or console you in a time of trial.

Try listening to the Spirit today. Take one of the Readings from Mass, and read it slowly and prayerfully. Try to quiet the distractions in your mind, and keep your focus on Jesus. See if something from this passage speaks to you personally. If it's a good and encouraging thought, it may well be the Holy Spirit! Remain with that thought for a while, and watch as the Spirit opens your hear to Jesus a little bit more.

Remember, the Spirit's goal is not to tell you how to do every little task in life. Rather, He wants to help you recognize Jesus, even in the most unlikely places—just as the Magi did.

**Holy Spirit, thank you for guiding me.
Help me to follow Your lead today.**

--from: *The Word Among Us*
January 2017

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
January 8, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Intentions of Michael F. Dunn at the
Request of his sister, Rosemarie

SATURDAY, January 14

8:00AM – Fay Rusconi

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 15

8:00AM – Harry Johnson
req. by Janice & Jan Cerra

11:30AM – Mary Ann Lipari
req. by Eric Baumgarten

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$6,635.00 – Christmas Collection 2016
\$1,051.00 – Regular Collection – January 1, 2017
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$7,286.00 – Christmas Collection 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, Al, Mary Cunico, Derya Dimertas, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Clara Kane, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Darrin O'Keefe, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock



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. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Cordelia Cafone at the
Request of Alicia Batko

MONDAY, January 9

9:00AM – Lucille Franc
req. by Dawn Fugger

TUESDAY, January 10

9:00AM – Intentions of Ted Rahoche
For return to good health
req. by the Luscik Family

WEDNESDAY, January 11

9:00AM – Lucille Franc
req. by Gerry Mahon

THURSDAY, January 12

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 13

9:00AM – Intentions of Tarra Wagner
2nd anniversary of transplant
req. by her Parents
- Gertrude Lewis
req. by Mary Flexer
- Maria Nacinovich
req. by Luisa & Dan

SATURDAY, Vigil, January 14

4:30PM – Walter & Theresa Hoffman
req. by the Wainwright Family

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

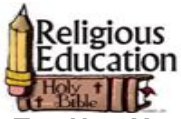
January 15

9:30AM – Deceased Members of the Mahon Family
req. by Gerry Mahon & Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$12,167.00 – Christmas Collection 2016
\$ 2,243.00 – Regular Collection – January 1, 2017
\$ 4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$11,727.00 – Christmas Collection 2015
Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.

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.



Ten New Year Resolutions for Catholics

- ❖ Attend Daily Mass
- ❖ Go To Confession Every Month
- ❖ Read The Bible
- ❖ Pray The Rosary
- ❖ Pray The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy
- ❖ Get Involved With Your Parish
- ❖ Read About Your Faith
- ❖ Spend Some Time In Front Of the Blessed Sacrament
- ❖ Listen To The Voice of God
- ❖ Help The Poor And Needy

May you all be Blessed with a Happy, Healthy and Holy New Year!



Christmas Thank You's

Thank you to the First Grade students and their Catechists for the beautiful Nativity Ornaments that they made for the residents of the Bentley Nursing Home. They were delighted with them, and we are so proud of your love and thoughtfulness to them!

Thank you to all of the Religious Education Families from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Grades and their Catechists for your generosity towards our senior parishioners through the **"Reverse Advent Calendar Project"**. In place of opening a door on an Advent Calendar and receiving a small gift or candy, our students took home grocery bags (compliments of Shop Rite in Montague) which they had decorated and had attached an Advent Calendar (with prayers and acts of kindness suggestions on it) and filled it each day of Advent with a grocery item, small gift, etc. They returned the bag each week at their class, placing it on a table, watched the pile grow, and then took the bag home for the next week. During our last session before Christmas, the children and catechists filled seven baskets which were delivered to our homebound/nursing facility parishioners. They were all so delighted with them and were so very touched by this beautiful act! May each of you be blessed for your kindness to them and for your precious "birthday gift" to Our Lord.

Also, special thanks to Nikki Delgado, Jenna Dispensiere, Natalie Dube and Allison Lombardi, all First-Year Confirmation Candidates, for all their time and energy spent making their beautiful Christmas Cards and Gift Tags that were so generously purchased by parishioners. They raised \$300.00 that was turned into Gift Cards and given to families of our parish in need of a little help this Christmas. These girls have been doing this for several years now, and have certainly made Christmas a little brighter for so many! Thank you girls for that and for your witness to Jesus Christ through your love and actions!

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 there, you can always call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.



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, Sunday, January 8th from 6:00- 8:00pm**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

Soup on a Saturday

St. James the Greater will again be sponsoring a take-out soup fundraiser on Saturday, January 28, 2017. Order a quart (or more) of Venison Chili by Art & Maria Henn, regular Chili by Bill & Joan Henn, Italian Wedding soup by Bill Ricciardi or Pasta e Fagioli by Mike and Linda Spinapolic. Price is \$7.00 per quart. You must order in advance by January 22nd. Pick up is on the 28th from 12:00pm to 2:00pm 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 Spinapolic. You may also e-mail your order to Bill Ricciardi at wjr218@optonline.net.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions and begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will be held from Friday evening, January 27 through Sunday afternoon, January 29, 2017 in the Stirling area. To register or for more information, contact Marie at 973-377-1004, ext. 425. All calls will be held in the strictest confidence.

We would like to thank the church and community for the love and support we received throughout Harry's illness and in his passing. Thanks to so many, we were able to hold a beautiful service and repast at St. James on Monday the 19th. We are so thankful for your prayers, kind words and condolences. A special thanks to those who participated in bringing food and prepared for the repast that day.

Sincerely, Diane Johnson and Family

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, January 8, 2017

The Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.
9:30 a.m. STC Relig. Ed. Gr. 2
9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8
11:30a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Monday, Jan. 9

Tuesday, Jan. 10

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

Wednesday, Jan. 11

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 3, 4 & 5
7:00 p.m. STC Adoration & Rosary with K of C
7:30 p.m. STC Knights of Columbus Mtg.

Thursday, Jan. 12

11:00a.m. REC Catechists' Mtg.
7:00 p.m. REC Catechists' Mtg.

Friday, Jan. 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, Jan. 14

Sunday, January 15, 2017

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

Next Sunday's Readings: 2nd Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 49: 3, 5--6*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 40*
2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 1: 1--3*
Gospel: *John 1: 29--34*

The Blessing of Homes on the Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Three Kings- Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar--at the crib of Jesus.

To commemorate this event we bless the doorways of our homes, realizing that the Lord is the honored guest in our homes. With chalk, write: "20+C+M+B+17" over your doorway. As you do so, offer this prayer:

Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless our home, and all who live here. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for each other, and for all, may reflect Your own love. May the wisdom of the Magi be found in us, that we may always seek You. Amen.

The Christmas Season officially comes to a close tomorrow. Because Christmas fell on a Sunday this year, certain important parts of the season were relegated to weekdays. That includes the *Feast of the Holy Family* (Fri. Dec. 30th) and the *Baptism of the Lord*, (Monday, Jan. 9th.) They were **not** Days of Obligation; nevertheless they are major facets of the beautiful Christmas Season. They will be back on Sundays next year.

Getting FORMED in our faith.

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 any other electronic device.

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)