

# 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](mailto:stjamesthomas@aol.com)  
Website address: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://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](http://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](http://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**

# Just Deal with It !

*“...be children of your heavenly Father. He makes His sun to rise on the bad and the good; and causes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust.”* -- Matthew 5: 45

Have you ever planned a summertime family gathering, looking forward to seeing relatives you haven't seen in ages? You plan a perfect backyard bar-be-que—and it rains all afternoon. Or you look forward to a long-awaited vacation—and the weather is just horrible.

Don't take it personal.

I remember one of Pope John Paul's visits to the N.Y.-N.J. area. He would be offering Mass at Giants' Stadium in the Meadowlands. I had signed up to be one of 175 priests giving out Holy Communion. I was so excited.

Now it hadn't rained for the past two months. They had even declared our area to be under a drought emergency. I couldn't believe it but, just that night of the Pope's Mass, the skies opened up and it poured all throughout the whole Mass ! The Pope and the altar were under a canopy, but the rest of the stadium got soaked. I couldn't believe that it would happen on that very night !

Well, somehow we all survived. And maybe the soaking rain made the event that much more memorable. It broke the drought, so in the long run it was helpful. But I couldn't believe that it had to rain on just that night.

God certainly has His reasons for the things that happen beyond our control. Perhaps He tests us on those occasions. In two ways: first, to test our ingenuity in dealing with the adversity, and second, to test our faith. Do we really love God if we always get our way ? Perhaps it is at those times when things don't go right, that we see the true depth of our faith. Maybe that's why martyrs are so highly revered. Their trust in God continued even in spite of suffering and death for their faith.

Our acceptance of adversity in our lives actually expresses our faith in a loving God. That acceptance actually deepens our faith.

May we show that we are true and faithful children of God our Father by the way we deal with the problems, disappointments, adversity and opposition that will inevitably come to us in our lives.

And then, may we also remember all those countless times when things did go exactly the way we hoped.

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**February 19, 2017**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the  
Intentions of Lawrence P. Gioielli at the  
Request of his Family

**SATURDAY, February 25**

8:00AM – Barbara Henry

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**February 26**

8:00AM – Sandor & Rose Szabo  
req. by their Family

11:30AM – Dorothy Reading

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 328.00 – Regular Collection – February 12, 2017**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$ 606.00 – Regular Collection – February 14, 2016**

***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, 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 Spinapolice at 973-293-7031.

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Anna Gioielli at the  
Request of her Family

**MONDAY, February 20**

9:00AM – Thomas DeAngelo  
req. by Richard & Mary Gotti

**TUESDAY, February 21**

9:00AM – Mary Campbell  
req. by her Children

**WEDNESDAY, February 22**

9:00AM – Intentions of Brian Emma  
req. by Omar & Marie Mendez & Family

**THURSDAY, February 23**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, February 24**

9:00AM – Intentions of Ken & Barbara Urgovitch  
req. by Ken

**SATURDAY, Vigil, February 25**

4:30PM – Marge Green  
req. by Omar & Marie Mendez

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**February 26**

9:30AM – Marie Connors  
req. by Dawn Hall & Family

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,834.00 – Regular Collection – February 12, 2017**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

**\$1,908.00 – Regular Collection – February 14, 2016**

***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.



### Marriage-Growing Together in Faith and Love

Pope Francis wrote beautifully of spousal love in his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* ("The Joy of Love"):

"In joining their lives, the spouses assume an active and creative role in a lifelong project. Their gaze now has to be directed to the future that, with the help of God's grace, they are daily called to build. For this very reason, neither spouse can expect the other to be perfect. Each must set aside all illusions and accept the other as he or she actually is: an unfinished product, needing to grow, a work in progress..."

"Fostering growth means helping a person to shape his or her own identity. Love is thus a kind of craftsmanship."  
(Nos. 218-221)



### 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, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00- 8:00pm.** There will be plenty of fun, games, music, events and prayer.

### Important Calendar Changes

We have **cancelled our Confirmation Class on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.** We have also **cancelled our Family Faith Formation Session scheduled on March 4<sup>th</sup>,** therefore the **Confirmation Class will now meet on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** at their regularly scheduled time. Also, **the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will now meet on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at their regularly scheduled time.

**We will then hold our Lenten Family Faith Formation on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – The Feast of the Annunciation – for all families with a special Rosary and Mass to be celebrated.** The icon of the Holy Family, blessed by Pope Francis, will be visiting our area. This icon travels throughout the U.S., prompting prayer for families and an apostolic blessing comes to all who pray before it. The beautiful icon will be placed in the sanctuary of St. Thomas. We will begin the Rosary at 9:30AM, followed by Mass at 10:00AM. More information to follow.

### Save this Date...Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> for Mardi Gras

All families are invited and encouraged to attend the Pancake and Sausage Dinner and celebrate Mardi Gras from 5:30-7:00PM at St. Thomas Church hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Please come and enjoy the fellowship, food, music and activities and then help bury the ALLELUIA as we begin to enter the sacred season of Lent.

**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](http://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.

**The St. James Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner** will be held on **Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.** Doors will open at 6pm. Tickets are on sale after both Masses. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. BYOB. If you can help in any way or you have any questions, please contact Betsy Gardner at 845-858-7892 in the EVENINGS.

### 2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal

*Be Rich in Good Works*

If you received a final request from our Bishop asking for your support of the 2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal, please respond as your means permit. The Appeal is essential to the work of the Church in reaching out to those in great need who come to our Catholic Charities agencies. It also supports seminarian education, inner-city area education and our priests' retirement residence. Every gift is important, so whatever you can do is a blessing. Please respond today. For your convenience, you can make an online gift at [www.2016appeal.org](http://www.2016appeal.org). May God bless you for your support!

**The Columbiettes** are now collecting toiletries for women's shelters. There is a basket in the Gathering Space.

**St. Thomas History** – As of February 24, 1945, Rev. Francis B. Warlikowski was named to succeed Fr. Sharkey as Administrator of the Western Sussex Missions and resided at Lafayette. A few old time parishioners relate that Father took parishioners who had no other way to get to Lafayette for the Sunday Mass when the bitter cold prohibited heating the church sufficiently.

### Tricky Tray:

Port Jervis Business and Professional Women's Club presents the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Stars of Tomorrow Tricky Tray Fundraiser on **Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>** at Port Jervis High School, 10 Route 209 in Port Jervis, NY. Doors open at noon and calling begins at 2:00pm. Free admission and children are welcome. Tickets are \$1.00 per sheet with a chance of \$200.00 cash prize. More than 275 baskets/gift certificates, raffle table, 50/50, special table and super special table. Proceeds to fund scholarships for high school seniors. Call 845-858-7892 for questions or information. Snow date is Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## 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, February 19, 2017

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

### Monday, Feb. 20

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

### Tuesday, Feb. 21

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

7:00 p.m. REC Men's Prayer Group

### Wednesday, Feb. 22

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

### Thursday, Feb. 23

### Friday, Feb. 24

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

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

### Saturday, Feb. 25

### Sunday, February 26, 2017

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Next Sunday's Readings: 8<sup>th</sup> Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 49: 14--15*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 62*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 4: 1--5*

Gospel: *Matthew 6: 24--34*

\*\*\*\*\*

**To grow in faith:** Visit: [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org);  
Parish Code: HCVWQC; Password: formed

*"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile."* ~ Mother Teresa

## "Building on Our Past; Securing Our Future"

### On-Line Giving: Yes we can! and Halleluiah!

Thanks to the folks at *Our Sunday Visitor*, electronic, online giving is a reality here at the parishes of St. Thomas and St. James! For those who prefer to pay bills and order items online, it is now possible to set up your Offertory program this way also. Simply go to our parish website: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org) and click on the 'online giving' tab. Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> century !

### Our Increased Offering Campaign.

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted their Commitment Card to the church. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a letter will be mailed to you with a personalized Commitment Card. It is important that all parishioners complete a Commitment Card as we will be mailing out a Summary Report of the program and need all commitments accounted for in this report. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

All parishes of our Diocese are taking part in this program. Please help us to keep our parish's future secure.

**Pizza with the Bishop.** Bishop Serratelli invites all young men of our parishes (high school and college age) to join him for pizza at Pope John XXIII High School in Sparta on **Tuesday, March 7**. Things start at 7 p.m. with adoration, reflection, fellowship and pizza, and continue till 9 p.m. It would be your chance to get to know our Bishop and to ask any questions you may have.

**Our Parishioner Christopher Bell**, founder and director of **Good Counsel Homes**, will be speaking at **St. Paul's Inside the Walls**, the diocesan catechetical center, in Madison, N. J. The date is **Wednesday, Feb. 22, from 7:30 p.m.--9:30p.m.** His topic: "Homes + Hope for Babies + Mothers" about his work to help homeless, expectant mothers.

### Lent is coming soon.

#### Ash Wednesday is March 1<sup>st</sup>

Mardi Gras Family Pancake Dinner: Tues. Feb. 28  
More info in next week's Bulletin.