

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.

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

Divine Mercy Sunday

Saint Pope John Paul II proclaimed the first world-wide Divine Mercy Sunday in 2001. He did so to make more widely known the visions and promises which the Lord had given to a Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kowalska between 1931 and 1938 and which were written down in her Diary. Here are excerpts from Pope John Paul's homily on that first Divine Mercy Sunday:

Divine Mercy: The Easter Gift

“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one: I died, and behold I am alive for evermore” (Rev. 1: 17–18). We heard these comforting words in the Second Reading taken from the Book of Revelation. They invite us to turn our gaze to Christ, to experience His reassuring presence. To each person, whatever his condition, even if it were the most complicated and dramatic, the Risen One repeats: “Fear not! I died on the Cross but now I am alive forevermore;” “I am the first and the last, and the living one.”

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!” (Ps. 117: 1). This miracle of mercy has radically changed humanity's destiny. It is a miracle in which is unfolded the fullness of the love of the Father who, for our redemption, does not even draw back before the sacrifice of His Only-begotten Son.

Let us thank the Lord for His love, which is stronger than death and sin. It is revealed and put into practice as mercy in our daily lives, and prompts every person in turn to have the mercy of the Crucified One. Is not loving God and loving one's neighbor and even one's “enemies,” after Jesus' example, the program of life of every baptized person and of the whole Church?

A Great Joy

Immediately afterwards, “He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained’” (Jn 20: 22–23). Jesus entrusted to them the gift of forgiving sins, a gift that flows from the wounds of His hands, His feet, and especially from His pierced side. From there a wave of mercy is poured out over all humanity.

Let us relive this moment of mercy with great spiritual intensity. Today the Lord also shows us His glorious wounds and His Heart, an inexhaustible source of light and truth, of love and forgiveness.

The Heart of Christ!

His “Sacred Heart” has given men everything: redemption, salvation, sanctification. Saint Faustina Kowalska saw coming from this Heart that was overflowing with generous love, two rays of light which illuminated the world.

The two rays, [according to what Jesus Himself told her], denote blood and water (Diary, 299). The blood recalls the sacrifice of Golgotha and the mystery of the Eucharist; the water, according to the rich symbolism of the Evangelist John, makes us think of Baptism and the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Through the mystery of this wounded Heart, the restorative tide of Christ's merciful love continues to spread over the men and women of our time. Here alone can those who long for true happiness find its secret.

“Jesus, I trust in You”

This prayer, dear to so many of the devout, clearly expresses the attitude with which we too would like to abandon ourselves trustfully in Your hands, O Lord our Savior.

Mary, Mother of Mercy, help us always to have this trust in Your Son, our Redeemer. Help us, too, Saint Faustina, whom we remember today with special affection. Fixing our weak gaze on the divine Savior's face, we would like to repeat with you: “Jesus, I trust in You!” Now and forever. Amen

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
April 23, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Henry Drozdowski at the
Request of his daughter, Denise Bogle

SATURDAY, April 29

8:00AM – Kate Olivo
req. by her Family

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30

8:00AM – Jean Emerson
req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

11:30AM – Henry Drozdowski
req. by his daughter, Denise Bogle

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$3,502.00 – Easter Collection – April 16, 2017 +
\$ 85.00 - Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$5,527.00 – Easter Collection 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, Gabe Calandra, Mary Cunico, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, David Koehler, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Miriam Liggmari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White, Teri Winkler 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 Emily Blickweidel at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, April 24

9:00AM – Owen Barr – 8th Anniversary
req. by his daughter, Mary Flexer
- Stasia Batko
req. by the Batko Family

TUESDAY, April 25

9:00AM – Stacy Moore
req. by Pete & Pat Lane

WEDNESDAY, April 26

9:00AM – Rosemarie Bastian
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, April 27

No Mass

FRIDAY, April 28

9:00AM – Father Gerald Lewis
req. by Mary Flexer
- Jon Iglar
req. by Luisa & Dan

SATURDAY, Vigil, April 29

4:30PM – Matt Rudden
req. by Harry & Mary Dunleavy
- Jerry & Judy Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30

9:30AM – Ralph Lepore
req. by the Mannion Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$7,265.00 – Easter Collection – April 16, 2017 +
\$ 509.00 - Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$7,199.00 – Easter Collection 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.



Embracing the Sacramental Season

It's no accident that so many faith milestones take place in the spring. While the new Church year begins at Advent, spring is the time that many Catholics mark the beginning or the renewal of their sacramental life. It is so important for us to support those receiving the sacraments, and to recommit to our faith and deepen our relationship with God and with one another. Our "springtime resolution" should be this simple: Gather and celebrate more! May we pray for all those in our parishes who will be receiving spring sacraments – infants at Baptism, children at Holy Eucharist and teens and adults at Confirmation. Joyous Easter.



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today Sunday, April 23rd, from 6:00-8:00PM**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!!



First Holy Eucharist

It is with great joy that we welcome the following children of our parishes to the Table of the Lord as they receive the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ for the very first time on Saturday, April 29th at the 11:00AM Mass at St. Thomas: Ethan Blake, Enrico Brex, Salvatore Dispenziere, Vanessa Dispoto, Lukas Guida, Claire Gushea, Zackary Harper, Sofia Lawrence, Patrick Losey, Ava Marrero, Layla Marrero, June Pecoriello, Kenley Pierson, Tobias Pilger, Luka Shaub, Carleigh Stoll and Isabelle Tidona. We congratulate their Parents, Grandparents, Godparents and Catechists, Rita Straka, Karen Steinert and Marie Mendez who have been so instrumental in bringing them to this very special day in their lives. May our children continue to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus and may they continue to receive Him reverently all the days of their lives.

(First Holy Eucharist Rehearsal will take place on Thursday, April 27th at 6:00PM at St. Thomas Church.)

Alleluia! He is Risen! The diocesan **Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program has come to an end**. All Operation Rice Bowl almsgiving must be turned in to the Religious Education Center or to the container located in either church **by April 30th**. Please make any checks payable to your parish. Thank you all for your spirit of prayer, compassion, self-sacrifice and generosity toward those in need.

St. Thomas History – St. James and St. Matthew Mission had a Holy Name Society by 1950, and a Ladies Guild existed at St. Thomas by 1951. In 1955, all 3 churches participated in a joint Rosary Society. Anyone recalling details of or having photos related to these - we'd welcome that.

The Columbiettes are sponsoring a Cinco De Mayo party after the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, May 6th in the Father Lewis Center. Tickets are now available in the parish office or after each Mass.

HOLD THE DATE

On Friday evening May 5th, St. Thomas will be hosting our Annual Tricky Tray. If you are interested in assisting our committee in any way, please call Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092. All volunteers are welcome. Help make this fundraiser a success by donating a Tray. All trays should be left in the Conference Room at St. Thomas as soon as possible to allow time for displaying them properly. (No later than Sat. April 30)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas will be offering a 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 will be on **Tuesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm** for 8 weeks starting **April 25th** right here at St. Thomas. The class will be easy to follow but a full body workout. Any questions, please call instructor Chris Dube at 973-948-2329. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for only \$40.00 or pay per class for \$6.00. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to our St. Thomas Parish. So, please come and try it out!

Moms and Tots Play Group at St. Thomas

We are now meeting on Friday mornings from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Father Lewis Center. All babies and young children and their caregivers are welcome to join us for fun and fellowship! For details, please contact Mandi Sousa at 973-632-5536.



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

Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy **April 23, 2017**

"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers... All who believed were together and had all things in common... Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes... and every day the Lord added to their numbers."

Such a description seems 'too good to be true' but this is the description of the first disciples of the Lord. The teaching of the apostles, the kerygma, telling of the resurrection of Jesus and His victory gave their discipleship new meaning. Like a family, they formed a support group, sharing joy, as well as fears, anxieties and triumphs because Christ was alive. The Eucharist became the common bond, uniting them with Christ and one another. Prayer became a binding force.

Can I not see that my life in my parish, my small group, is a mirror of those described by St. Luke or of those gathered in the upper room? Can the presence of Christ in my life, lead me to recognize His presence in others? Can I truly believe that I am not alone in my faith and move from 'God and me' to 'God and we?' On Divine Mercy Sunday, it can happen.

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, April 23, 2017

Divine Mercy Sunday

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

11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg

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

Monday, Apr. 24

Tuesday, Apr. 25

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

Wednesday, Apr. 26

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

Thursday, Apr. 27

6:00 p.m. STC First Communion rehearsal

Friday, Apr. 28

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

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

10:00a.m. STC Moms & Tots Play Group

Saturday, Apr. 29

11:00a.m. STC First Holy Communion

Sunday, April 30, 2017

3rd Sunday of Easter

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

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

Future Events

Fri. May 5 STC Tricky Tray

Sat. May. 6 STC *Cinco de Mayo* Family Night

--hosted by Columbiettes

Next Sunday's Readings: 3rd Easter

1st Reading: Acts 2: 14, 22--33

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 16

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1: 17--21

Gospel: Luke 24: 13--35

Get FORMED during the Easter Season:

www.Formed.org

Parish Code: HCVWQC

Divine Mercy Sunday. This 2nd Sunday of Easter in recent times has become observed as Divine Mercy Sunday. First introduced by Sr. Faustina in Poland in the 1930's, this devotion has grown throughout the world. Enthusiastically supported by St. Pope John Paul II, it has been elevated to a major observance within the Church. Join us this afternoon, at St. Thomas, beginning at 1:30 p.m. with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Divine Mercy Prayers and Benediction will be offered at 3 p.m. Confession will be available during this time.

"But I want to tell you that eternal life must begin already here on earth through Holy Communion. Each Holy Communion makes you more capable of communing with God throughout eternity.

--Blessed Mother to Sr. Faustina

Congratulations to our Confirmandi !

Last Thursday evening eight young people of our parishes received the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was the moment that the Holy Spirit came to them fully, and gave them the power and authority to live as a full disciples of the Lord. We rejoice with them today: Amanda Brauchle, Genevieve Delgato, Emilia DeGroat, Elizabeth Donkersloot, Brandon Gamutan, James Gorman, Jacob Hickey and Lillian Kornmeyer. Pray that our young people will always allow the Holy Spirit to work within them, giving them Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and a reverent Fear of the Lord.

ENDOW: A Women's Study Group.

'Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women' is a study group which brings women together to discover their God-given dignity, and to help them understand their role in transforming society. It promises lively discussion, a deepened faith and renewed friendships. This group will be facilitated by our own **Cindy Costello**, and will take place on **8 consecutive Wednesday evenings: Wed. April 26th—June 14 at O. L. Queen of Peace Church, Branchville. Time: 7 p.m.—8:30 p.m.** Discussions will center around St. Pope John Paul II's *"Letter to Women."* For more info: <https://store.endowonline.org/cindycostello-p3554.aspx>.

For On-Line Giving: log onto our website: saintjamesthomas.org Then go to the on-Line Giving link.