

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.

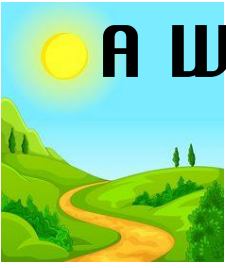
The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated during Mass providing that liturgical norms do not dictate otherwise. Please contact the office to schedule a Baptism and to make arrangements for preparations especially for first time parents. Baptisms may be scheduled at other times if extenuating conditions 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



A Walk Takes an Unexpected Turn

“Their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.”

(Luke 24: 31)

Don't you wish you could have been there when Cleopas and his friend were walking to Emmaus ? Wouldn't it have been exciting to hear Jesus interpreting the Scriptures and to see the look in their eyes when they recognized Him in the breaking of the bread?

Well, in a sense, we can be there. Even today, two thousand years after His Resurrection, Jesus' words can cause our hearts to burn, and bring us to the place where we recognize Him. How is this possible ? Because the Scriptures do more than teach us about Jesus—they *reveal Him to us* !

As many times as we hear the Scriptures read at Mass, it's good to be reminded that they aren't just words on a page. As the Letter to the Hebrews teaches us: they are “living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4: 12). Inspired by God, they are filled with His presence. They have the Spirit's own power to bring us His wisdom, peace and joy. All it takes is listening with faith.

Cleopas and his friend had to walk a long way with Jesus before they recognized Him, and sometimes we do too. So be patient with yourself. When you hear the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass, try to imagine that you are there in the middle of the action—In Galilee, or Jerusalem, or wherever the passage takes place. Imagine that you can hear Jesus speaking to you. Put aside distractions, and listen for what He may want to say to you personally.

You may not “hear” anything right away. You may not hear anything at all ! But that's O.K because the Holy Spirit is still at work in you, just as He was working with the Emmaus disciples every step of their journey. He is always pouring out His grace, even when you can't feel it. All you have to do is try your best to keep an open heart. Over time, you will recognize Him.

“Holy Spirit, help me to recognize Jesus in His Word today.

**Lord, let Your Word touch my heart
so that You can use me for Your glory !”**

--from: *The Word Among Us*
Easter, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 30, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the Intentions of Katelyn Donahue at the Request of her grandmother, Barbara

SATURDAY, May 6

8:00AM – Barbara Gioielli
req. by her Family

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 7

8:00AM – Gerald Tighe
req. by the Cerra Family

11:30AM – Muriel Kennel
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 709.00 – Regular Collection – April 23, 2017 +
\$ 60.00 - Online Giving
\$ 252.00 – Campaign for Human Development
\$ 345.00 – Additional Easter
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,357.00 – Regular Collection – April 24, 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 Ligmmari, 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 Spinaplice at 973-293-7031.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Kate Olivo at the Request of her Family

MONDAY, May 1

9:00AM – Stacy Moore
req. by Frances Demalderis

TUESDAY, May 2

9:00AM – Gus Eberhardt
req. by his Family

WEDNESDAY, May 3

9:00AM – Donald Powers
req. by his daughter, Flo and granddaughter, Tarra

THURSDAY, May 4

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 5

9:00AM – William Lange
req. by the Wainwright Family
- Kate Olivo
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, May 6

4:30PM – Intentions of Richie & Shawn Bailo
req. by Gary & Grace Decker
- Agnes & Leander Martin
req. by their Family

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 7

9:30AM – Jim Mahon
req. by his wife, Gerry & Family
- Intentions of the First Holy Communicants
and the Confirmed

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,340.00 – Regular Collection – April 23, 2017 +
\$ 398.00 - Online Giving
\$ 482.00 – Campaign for Human Development
\$ 596.00 Additional Easter
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,872.00 – Regular Collection – April 24, 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.



Ending of Religious Education Sessions

Last class for Grades 1 – 5 are as follows: Tuesday, May 2nd (grades 1 & 2) and Wednesday, May 3rd (grades 3, 4 & 5) from 4:00PM – 5:15PM. Have a safe and fun summer!

Catechist Acknowledgement – 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, Meagan Gibbons, Karen Steinert, Marie Mendez, Patrice Kealy, Josephine Yarosz, Chris Higgins, Jennifer Guida, Dawn Bruno, Cathy McNanna, Maggie Nicole, Mike Bussow, John Lucadamo and Dan and Lucy O’Keefe. 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 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 very significant way.

SAVE THE DATE: Catechist Mass of Thanksgiving/Family Breakfast will take place on Sunday, June 4th at the 9:30AM Mass at St. Thomas.



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today Sunday, April 30th, from 6:00-8:00PM.** There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what’s going on!!!



Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Sunday, May 7th, at the end of the 9:30AM Mass, we will honor Our Blessed Mother with a May Crowning. We are asking all of our newly Confirmed teens and our new Communicants to participate in this tradition. Please come in your beautiful outfit that you wore for your sacrament. Following Mass, we will celebrate with all of you at our Coffee Hour.



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 May 3rd.** 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 – Back in 1951, the Ladies Guild of the Hainesville St. Thomas Church held a cake sale at the Road Side Rest on Route S-31 - now Route 206. Anyone recall where that was?
Besides Dempsey's Restaurant, what other businesses were nearby?

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

ST. THOMAS ANNUAL TRICKY TRAY

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. 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 is on **Tuesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm** for 8 weeks and started on **April 25th** right here at St. Thomas. **You may join us at any time.** 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

Third Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2017

“And it happened that while they were conversing and debating Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him... ‘But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astonished us... and did not find his body, they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive’... ‘Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is far over.’ ...how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.”

Did you ever decide to go out and take a walk. It is refreshing and it can renew us. Did you ever enjoy taking a walk with another person, talking about life, family, what is important to you. Pope Francis has a wonderful book entitled ‘Walking with Jesus.’ He is the companion to the reader, telling us what is important as we walk with Jesus.

The Emmaus account in Luke’s gospel is so special. I am the unnamed person accompanying Cleopas, and Jesus decides to join our walk and conversation. He asks what concerns me. For them it was the death of the missing Jesus. For me it is my eyes shielded from recognizing him in others. I too plead ‘stay with us...’ He does, in His word, in the Eucharist, in my companions in faith. He never leaves. May I recognize Him in the breaking of the bread and others.

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 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.)

Monday, May 1

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

Tuesday, May 2

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2 (last class)

Wednesday, May 3

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 3, 4 & 5 (last class)

Thursday, May 4

Friday, May 5

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 **No** Moms & Tots Play Group today

6:30 p.m. STC Annual Tricky Tray

Saturday, May 6

6:00p.m. STC Cinco de Mayo Family Celebration

Sunday, May 7, 2017

4th Sunday of Easter

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

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

9:30 a.m. STC Crowning of Bl. Mary during Mass

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

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

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: 4th Easter

1st Reading: *Acts 2: 14a, 36—41*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 23*

2nd Reading: *1 Peter 2: 20b—25*

Gospel: *John 10: 1--10*

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>.

Pilgrimage to Canada. Queen of Peace Church, Branchville invites us to join them on their Pilgrimage to Canada: Mon. June 26—Fri. June 30. They will stay at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape at Three Rivers, Canada for 4 nights. Pilgrimage includes a day trip to Montreal and St. Joseph's Oratory as well as a stop in Quebec City and the Basilica of St. Ann de Beaupre. Cost: \$575 per person (double occ.) or \$ 690 per person (single occ.) Breakfast & dinner meals included./ Brochures available. For more info, call Jenn at 973-948-3185. **A valid passport will be needed.**

Get FORMED during the Easter Season:

www.Formed.org Parish Code: HCVWQC

For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:

saintjamestomas.org Then go to the On-Line Giving link.

Our Lady of Fatima. Next month marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. Six times, beginning on May 13, 1917 Our Lady appeared to the three children. She told them to warn the people to turn back to God, and predicted terrible consequences if the world did not return to faith. She called them to pray the Rosary daily. There will be more information in future Bulletins.

"Only pagans have coincidences."

--Deacon Wayne von Doehren, 2017