

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 Greater Purpose

“He strictly ordered His disciples to tell no one that He was the Christ.”

Matthew 16: 20

When the disciples heard Jesus say, “Do not tell anyone what you know,” they must have been surprised. Over and over again, they saw Jesus teach and perform awe-inspiring miracles. Over and over again, they saw crowds of people hanging on His every word.

Surely the people already knew that Jesus was a great teacher, and a prophet, and a miracle worker. Now that He had plainly revealed to His apostles that He was the long-awaited Messiah, it only made sense that they would tell everyone else the Good News. But Jesus told them to remain quiet. So once again we are confronted with an awkward truth: when it comes to Jesus, we have to learn how to think differently about almost everything.

Jesus gave them this warning because He knew that the people would want to make Him their king. In fact, John’s Gospel tells us that this is exactly what happened after the multiplication of the loaves. But John also tells us that Jesus was quick to withdraw to the mountains because He knew that an earthly kingship was not what His Father wanted for Him.

Of course Jesus is our King. But His kingdom is not based on miracles, or parables, or the homage of excited crowds. He didn’t earn His crown by performing signs and wonders and by speaking prophetic words. No, that happened only when He died on the cross. It was His death, not His miracles, that brought life to the world.

Jesus didn’t want anything to get in the way of His mission, not even the admiration of the very people He had come to save. He knew that He had come to offer a humble sacrifice, not to stage a political revolution, and He was determined to stay faithful to that calling to the end.

May we all pray for the humility and the resolve to be like Jesus. May nothing distract us from our call to work also for His Kingdom to come.

**“Lord, I want to be like You.
Give me a heart of humility and loving service.”**

--from: The Word Among Us
July / August 2017

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 27, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Eric Cerra at the
Request of his Mother

SATURDAY, September 2

8:00AM – Intentions of Lisa & James Donahue
req. by Mom

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 3

8:00AM – Rose Reed
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Intentions of William Borner & Family
-Barbara Gioielli
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

**\$1,298.00 – Regular Collection – August 20, 2017 +
\$ 90.00 - Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,094.00 – Regular Collection – August 21, 2016
Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.**

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



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.

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*

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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Rosemarie Bastian at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, August 28

9:00AM – Barbara K. Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles

TUESDAY, August 29

9:00AM – Joseph Lukasik
req. by his Mom

WEDNESDAY, August 30

9:00AM – Owen Barr
req. by his Family

THURSDAY, August 31

No Mass

FRIDAY, September 1

9:00AM – Deceased Members of the Iglar Family
req. by Dan & Luisa

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 2

4:30PM – Judy & Jerry Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 3

9:30AM – Auntie Alice
req. by Andrew, Florence & Tarra

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

**\$1,884.00 – Regular Collection – August 20, 2017 +
\$ 378.00 - Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,711.00 – Regular Collection – August 21, 2016
Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.**

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TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Margaret Accordino, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Rachel Gibbs, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, David Koehler, Betty Lacovara, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Joseph Ligammari, Miriam Ligammari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, John Meehan, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock



Registrations for 2017/2018 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for the upcoming catechetical year **were due back by July 15th** to avoid the late fee. **If you have not sent your re-registration back yet, please do so immediately.**

Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish or children enrolled in Catholic school or home school who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist or Confirmation must call the Religious Education Office to register. To enroll your child(ren) in the parish program, you must be a registered and participating member of the parish.



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, August 27th from 6:00-8:00PM.** There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!! **Incoming Freshman are now welcome to join Catholic Teens!**

Faith Talk for Families – 25 years of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” ~ John 16:33

“Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions.” (CCC No. 1808)

Another word for fortitude is courage (and is one of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism and sealed with at Confirmation). When was the last time you showed courage? How might you help others attain the virtue of courage? Pray for fortitude!

The Columbiettes are collecting school supplies until the end of August. A basket is in the gathering space.

The Columbiettes will be sponsoring a Cancer Ribbon Wall. We are asking for names to be remembered. Please call or leave names at the office.

Moms and Tots Playgroup will continue to meet most Fridays from 10:00am to 11:30am through the summer. If weather permits, we will be meeting at local parks also. Please check our Facebook page “Sandyston Tot Group” to find us each week.

R.C.I.A.: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you, or someone you know, interested in finding out about the Catholic Church? Explore your interest through the R.C.I.A.---- ‘Come and See’. When Jesus was approached by those who wanted to become His disciples, Jesus invited them to “...come and see”. Walk with us. Learn who we are, then make your decision to become Catholic, a disciple of Jesus. If you have thought about the R.C.I.A. before and passed on the opportunity, today may be the time that the Holy Spirit has chosen for you. The R.C.I.A. is a time for you and your needs and concerns. It is a journey in faith and a time to slow down to enjoy the journey. ‘Come and See’ by calling the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Children’s Liturgy Of the Word:

C.L.O.W. will resume on Sunday, September 10 at the 9:30am Mass at St. Thomas Church. All children from both St. Thomas and St. James Parishes K-6 (and older children with younger siblings) are welcome to participate in C.L.O.W. The Liturgy for children is God’s sacred Word in language the children can better understand----thus leading them into a closer relationship with Jesus, and a stronger faith life.

C.L.O.W. celebration begins after the Opening Prayer when Father calls the children forward to receive a special blessing. The children, along with adult leaders, process out of the Church into the Father Lewis Center where the Liturgy of the Word is celebrated with the children’s participation.

All adults are welcome and encouraged to participate in Children’s Liturgy Of the Word, and to come and experience it. All adult parishioners are welcome and encouraged to prayerfully consider ministering to the children at C.L.O.W. as Lectors and/or Hospitality Ministers. Please feel free to call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004 with any questions you might have, and your call will be returned as quickly as possible.

History of St. James & St. Thomas

Circa 1950, Rev. Hadelin Mueller, OSB, from St. Paul’s Abbey, assisted. Due to the tight Mass schedule for St. James, St. Thomas, St. Bartholomew and St. Matthew, there may have been other priests we are not aware of. If you recall any, please let us know.

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, August 27, 2017

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mission Co-op Week-end

1:00 p.m. SJC Eucharistic Ministers' Up-date Mtg.

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

Monday, Aug. 28

Tuesday, Aug. 29

10:00a.m. STC St. Thomas Bikers Gang

Wednesday, Aug. 30

Thursday, Aug. 31

Friday, Sept. 1

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, Sept. 2

Sunday, September 3, 2017

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:00 p.m. No Youth Group tonight

Next Sunday's Readings: 22nd Ord.

1st Reading: *Jeremiah 20: 7--9*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 63*

2nd Reading: *Romans 12: 1--2*

Gospel: *Matthew 16: 21--27*

Healing Retreat. Queen of Peace Church in Branchville is sponsoring this time of reflection and prayer for our area. The location is the **Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton.** The dates are **Fri. Sept. 8—Sun. Sept. 10.** **The cost is \$ 175 and includes all meals and lodging.**

Fr. Ed Rama will be conducting this weekend healing retreat, and offering the talks. Retreat includes a Healing Service on Sat. evening.

Come away with the Lord and experience His Peace and Healing Power. Call the O.L.Q.P. office to register: 973-948-3185 and speak to Jenn.

We welcome Fr. Thomas Rayar of the Diocese of Sivangangai, India. Fr. Thomas will speak to us of the situation of the Church and the conditions of the people in his diocese in the south-eastern section of the country.

The **Mission Co-op Weekend** is an annual program sponsored by our diocese in which we help believers in need in other areas of the world, and we in turn are reminded of the meaning of "catholic" in the Catholic Church. We are part of a world-wide system of believers who recognize Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. May Fr. Rayar's visit help you to understand the incredible ways our faith affects the whole earth.

Anointing of the Sick Mass: Sat. Sept. 9

All seniors and parishioners with any health problems are encouraged to attend a special Mass on Sat. Sept. 9th, beginning at 11:00 a.m. During this Mass the **Sacrament of the Sick** will be offered to all in need of physical or spiritual healing. This Sacrament helps us to understand that the Lord does not will our sicknesses, but instead is there with us in our sufferings. This Mass will be held at **St. Thomas Church**, which is fully handicap-accessible. A light lunch, hosted by our Religious Ed families, will follow in the Fr. Lewis Center.

For Young Adults, ages 20s & 30s.

Every First Friday the young adults of our area are invited to meet for fellowship, socializing and prayer. The **next event is Fri. Sept. 1, from 8 p.m. till 10 p.m.** We meet at Queen of Peace Church in Branchville, at the outdoor pavilion. Singer / songwriter Dan Ferrari will provide music. Join with other young Catholics of our area for mutual support in our Christian way of life.

Adult Ed. A fascinating educational series is planned for the fall. It will be based around **Bishop Robert Barron's** acclaimed series: *Catholicism: a Study of Our Faith.* With stunning photography from around the world, and insights which give deeper understandings of our faith, Bishop Barron teaches about our Catholic faith in unforgettable ways. The series will be presented at the **Religious Ed Center**, opposite the Sandyston Town Hall. It will be held on the **five Sundays of October, beginning at 1 p.m.** till 2:30 p.m. each time. Questions and discussion will follow the CD presentation. Plan to attend these first five sessions. The last five will take place in the spring.