

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

Disaster Preparedness or Opportunity Knocking ?

*“When people are saying ‘Peace and security,’
then sudden disaster comes upon them.”*

-- 1 Thessalonians 5: 5

Today’s Readings might remind you of the old Boy Scout motto: “Be prepared.” Be always alert because you never know what might come your way. Be always ready so that you aren’t just reacting to situations when they arise. Be proactive, never idle, but always prepared to do whatever good you can.

In today’s Second Reading, Saint Paul tells us that there will never be perfect peace or absolute security in this world. Wars will rage. Families and friends will suffer divisions. Poverty, disease and suffering will persist until the end of time. For the Christian, that means there will always be opportunities to reach out and help.

Today’s Gospel also tells us to be ready to care for the people around us. When we hear the parable of the talents, we usually focus our attention on developing our skills. But let’s take it one step further and focus on the mission of Jesus. Jesus is asking us to join Him in building His Kingdom here on earth. He is asking us to take all that He has given us and put it to good use, and not just for ourselves and our families. The world is in such deep need of peace and security. Our contributions—of intercession, of mercy, of generosity, and of love—can make an important difference. We can see dramatic returns on our investment, if we partner with the Lord.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if, when Jesus came back, He could say to each of us: “Well done, My good and faithful servant” Matthew 25: 21 ? Wouldn’t it be great to know that we can be with Him and share in the joy of His Kingdom (which we helped to build ?)

We can do great things for God. We can use our talents to help make this world a better place. So let’s pray today for all who are suffering in the world. Let’s pray for an end to war and poverty. And let’s join Jesus in bringing His peace and security to everyone we can.

**Lord, please take what little I have
and multiply it for the sake of Your people.**

--from: ‘The Word Among Us’
November 2017

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
November 19, 2017

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Deceased Members of the Columbiettes at the
Request of the Columbiettes

SATURDAY, November 25

8:00AM – Father Bernard McDonald

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

November 26

8:00AM – Pearle Kohol
req. by Joan & Bill Henn
- Anna Jaros
req. by Linda & Mike Spinapolice

11:30AM – Kate Olivo
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

**\$1,512.00 – Regular Collection – November 12, 2017 +
\$ 125.00 - Online Giving
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,308.00 – Regular Collection – November 13, 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.**

Please remember in your prayers during the month of November, the deceased members of the Columbiettes: Cordelia Cafone, Gail Collis, Margaret Gibbons, Ginny Monk, Sophie Mugan, Regina Quinn and Grace Reich.



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.

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.



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. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Deceased Members of the Columbiettes at the
Request of the Columbiettes

MONDAY, November 20

9:00AM – Robert Hagerman
req. by his Mom

TUESDAY, November 21

9:00AM – Grace Reich and Michael Reich
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, November 22

9:00AM – Margaret Barr
req. by her granddaughter, Mary Flexer

THANKSGIVING DAY

THURSDAY, November 23

9:00AM – In Thanksgiving for all Blessings

FRIDAY, November 24

9:00AM – Grace Reich
req. by Charles & Julia Jensen

SATURDAY, Vigil, November 25

4:30PM – Grace Reich
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell
-Michael Reich
req. by Fran Whitesell

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

November 26

9:30AM – Grace Reich and Marie Geraci
req. by Mike & Meg Milligan

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

**\$1,842.00 – Regular Collection – November 12, 2017 +
\$ 411.00 - Online Giving
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,106.00 – Regular Collection – November 13, 2016
Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.**

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

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, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, Pam Spencer, Joan Strehl, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Robert Woodcock



Religious Education Classes

Just a reminder that there will be **NO Religious Education Classes on Wednesday, November 22nd and Tuesday, November 28th.**

On This Day We Celebrate ~ November 22 ~ St. Cecilia

In honor of St. Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Music, play some favorite hymns while you eat your dinner tonight. Also, remember to pray for the musicians and choir members of our parishes, who faithfully each week help us to "make a joyful noise to the Lord" (Psalm 100).



Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish today, **Sunday, November 19th, from 6:00-8:00PM. All High School Teens** are invited to OLQP for an evening of fun and friendship! There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!!

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

"The letters of St. Paul often begin and end with thanksgiving, and the Lord Jesus is always present in it: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you;" "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." (CCC, No. 2638) Blessed Thanksgiving!

St. James Christmas Bazaar – December 2

We are **now accepting** donations of new and like new items for the "Second Time Around" tables. If you are a crafter, baker, volunteer or just editing some nice but unwanted pieces from your home, please call Linda Spinapolice 973-293-7031, Maria Henn 973-293-3243, Diane Johnson at 973-293-3306 or Joan Henn 973-293-3690. Let's make this fundraiser a great success!

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is having a fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (flexibility & calm mind) and Pilates (strength & tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Tuesday nights from 6:15-7:15pm for 6 weeks. We started on October 24th.** You may join us at any time. It is easy to follow but a full body workout. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for \$30.00 or pay \$6.00 per class. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to St. Thomas parish. So, please try it out and do something for yourself. Any questions, please call Chris Dube at 973-948-2329.

Parents' Night Out

Our first Parents' Night Out was held on November 4th, and was a great success! Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped to make this special night happen. Fun was had by all the children, volunteers and parents who enjoyed a quiet dinner and fellowship together at a local restaurant! We will be holding another Parents' Night Out in February or March, and we are looking forward to more parents and children joining the fun!

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal

In Giving, We Receive

This time of year, as our nation plans to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us reflect on how we use all of the gifts given to us by a loving God. Consider showing your thanks for all your blessings by making a gift to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. As we are reminded in this year's Appeal theme – *In Giving, We Receive* – your participation not only impacts the lives of tens of thousands of people in need, but it benefits you as well. Please make a pledge today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2017appeal.org.

Columbiettes are sponsoring a new toy drive for Project Self-Sufficiency until Sunday, November 26th. There is a basket in the gathering space. Thank you.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 19, 2017

"When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her has an unfailing prize. She brings him good and not evil all the days of her life... She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy."

The teaching of the book of Proverbs is both profound and practical. It opens our eyes to appreciate the gifts we already possess, and often overlook.

We are reminded that the fundamental message of Jesus is love, and its expression is found in respect. When we work to make both part of our lived experience at home, with others, or even in a quiet moment of appreciation, then we begin to appreciate once again, how special we are with a good wife, a loving husband, faithful friends.

Unfortunately, we sometimes fail to recognize how important it is to improve our family life, to work at it as a primary goal, so that God's peace, presence and happiness are found behind our front door. They become a driving force in our lives. Now is the time to begin.

Is Christ part of our lived experience? Is prayer something I bring to my family on a daily basis? Do I reflect joy, ask for forgiveness, and show my concern and interest in what my children are doing?

I recall a picture hanging in a home with the face of Christ. Beneath it was written, 'Christ is the head of this house, the guest who becomes our host at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation.' Is this my experience? May we appreciate what Proverbs teaches us today.



St. Thomas is still in need of someone to wash weekly the altar cloths used at Masses. If interested, see Father Wayne or Mary.

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, November 19, 2017

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8
11:00a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (at O.L.Q.P. till 8 p.m.)

Monday, Nov. 20

- 11:00a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros. Makers' Mtg
7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service
at Delaware Valley Methodist Church,
Layton-Haineville Rd., Sandyston

Tuesday, Nov. 21

- 10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings
4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2
6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates
7:00 p.m. REC Men's Prayer Group

Wednesday, Nov. 22

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

Thursday, Nov. 23

Happy Thanksgiving !

- 9:00 a.m. STC Special Mass of Thanksgiving Day

Friday, Nov. 24

- No Adoration today
10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.

Saturday, Nov. 25

- 11:00a.m. STC Montague Seniors Cruise Mtg.

Sunday, November 26, 2017

Feast of Christ the King

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

Next Sunday's Readings: Christ the King

1st Reading: *Ezekiel 34: 11–12, 15--17*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 23*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 15: 20–26, 28*

Gospel: *Matthew 25: 31--46*

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service. Join with our Christian neighbors as we thank the Lord for His countless blessings. Our annual Service is: **tomorrow, Mon., Nov. 20th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Delaware Valley Methodist Church** on the Layton-Hainesville Rd., Sandyston, (with Pastor Jo-Ann Winzer). The Minisink Reformed Church (with Pastor Michael Sweeney) and the Reformed Church of Port Jervis will be joining along with our two parishes. **Admission will be an item or two of canned goods**, which will help to stock our various food pantries. This collection will be taken up during the Service. There will be social time and refreshments served afterwards. Let us celebrate all that we share in common.

A Special Thanksgiving Day Mass will be held at **St. Thomas at 9 a.m.** We have so much to be grateful for. Let us express our gratitude to the Lord in the best way possible: by offering together the Eucharist, (which, incidentally, is Greek for "thanksgiving.")

Advent-Christmas Concert. The **Delaware Valley Choral Society** will again make an appearance at St. Thomas. The date is **Friday, Dec. 1st at 7:30 p.m.** They will offer a variety of Advent and Christmas music and hymns. Tickets are: \$ 15 for adults and \$ 10 for students. Tickets may be gotten at the door. Let this concert help you enter into the proper spirit of the season.

Get FORMED for the fall:

www.FORMED.org Unlock spiritual treasures with our Parish Code: HCVWQC

Recommended at FORMED:

Study Program: Lectio: "Eucharist"

For children: Video: "Brother Francis: The Bread of Life, Celebrating the Eucharist"

"Give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thes. 5:18). As Catholics, we have a pre-eminent source of our thanksgiving in the Eucharist. This month, may we be especially grateful for the gift of the Most Holy Eucharist.

"Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence."

--St. John Paul II