

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

Decision Time

People have different attitudes about making important decisions. For some, it's a way of expressing control and power over a situation, and they make their decisions enthusiastically and confidently. Others hesitate, weighing both sides of the decision, seeing good on both sides and realizing that something will be sacrificed. Others just procrastinate: I'll think about it tomorrow. (And that was yesterday.) What is your style of decision-making ?

Today's Readings are full of decisions needing to be made: important decisions, with life-changing consequences. In the First Reading, Joshua has taken over from Moses. The Lord has enabled the Israelites to enter into the Promised Land. The Lord has helped them to defeat their enemies on every side. Now that their new life is established, Joshua exhorts the people to be faithful to the Lord. *"Decide today whom you will serve. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*

In the Gospel, there are also hard decisions to make. Jesus has just concluded His deepest and most personal teaching: about Himself as the Bread of Life. *"Unless you eat my Body and drink my Blood, you do not have life in you."* Whoever does: *"I will raise him up on the last day."* And: *"You will see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before."*

This kind of talk was just too much for many to accept. Could this Jesus be trusted ? Was He crazed or possessed ? Many couldn't accept this teaching, and made the decision to go back to their former lives. It certainly discouraged Jesus—that His most sincere and heart-felt words were being rejected by the majority. Still, He calls His closest disciples to make their decision: *"Do you also want to leave ?"* Peter gives the response for the Twelve: *"Master, to whom shall we go ? You have the words of eternal life."*

The same decision is needed to be made by each person who has been baptized. Each baptized person has been given the precious gift of faith. It is meant to accompany them, and enlighten them, and strengthen them throughout the trials of a lifetime on earth. Each baptized person is called to deepen that faith and live that faith and allow it to continually grow within them. Many, though, seem to have put their faith aside: rejecting outright the truths of the faith, or simply resorting to 'benign neglect.' Either way the benefits of faith go wasted, as people seek after other things.

We are called to make the decision again, each day, to take up our faith in Jesus, and decide again to allow Him to lead us. As Joshua and Peter in today's Readings, may we forcefully and enthusiastically accept, again today, the benefits and the challenges of living a life of faith in Jesus.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 26, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Ray Sorg at the
Request of Lorraine

SATURDAY, September 1

8:00AM – Erzsebet & Gabor Kaman
req. by their Family

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 2

8:00AM – Kenneth R. Benson
req. by his Family

11:30AM – Emily Blickweidel
req. by her Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 921.00 – Regular Collection – August 19, 2018 +

\$ 141.00 – Online Giving

\$1,388.00 – Regular Collection– August 20, 2017

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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 Altar & Floral 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 Linda J. Stephens at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, August 27

9:00AM – Alice Heimall
req. by the Heimall Family

TUESDAY, August 28

9:00AM – Intentions of Sal Brucculeri
req. by his Parents

WEDNESDAY, August 29

9:00AM – Stephen M. Macko
req. by his Family

THURSDAY, August 30

No Mass

FRIDAY, August 31

9:00AM – Owen Barr
req. by his Family
-Eric Cerra
req. by his Mom, Janice

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 1

4:30PM – Ted Rahoche
req. by Cheryl & Andrew Jorritsma
-Jerry & Judy Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 2

9:30AM – Orvil D. Jackson
req. by his Family

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,529.00 – Regular Collection – August 19, 2018 +

\$ 421.00 – Online Giving

\$2,262.00 – Regular Collection – August 20, 2017

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

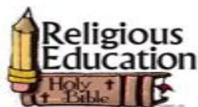
Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.

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, Loretta Bauman, James Brittain, Peg Coates, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Sofia Evelich, Rachel Gibbs, Gomez Family, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Doug Kabbash, Betty Lacovara, Bernadette Lang, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, John Meehan, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Richard Nowicki, Robert Organes, Jim Pantelmo, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Dolores Record, Sal, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, John Sikora, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Richard Vergona, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh and Joan White



Registrations for 2018/2019 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children and teens for the upcoming catechetical year were **due back by July 31st**. **Please send your registrations back ASAP.**

Parents of children entering first grade (unless they have a sibling here and can be included on the mailed out registration form), 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.

From the R.C.I.A.: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you, or someone you know, interested in finding out more 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.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Our Parishes will again offer preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation of adults beginning in January, 2019. These preparation sessions are for adults {18 or over} who are Baptized Catholic and who have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, and, for whatever reason, have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Those who present themselves for the sacrament will have an initial interview and then begin sessions to last for 10 sessions and will be confirmed during the Easter Season.

Parishioners, please pass on the information to anyone who may not be fully initiated. Please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 for any questions you might have, leave a message, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Peace, Pat Hope, Co-Coordinator for Adult Confirmation

Children's Liturgy of the Word

C.L.O.W is set to resume again in September. While we still have several weeks of summer to enjoy, I would respectfully ask if during that time all parishioners would prayerfully consider ministering at C.L.O.W.

We welcome all Confirmed teens to serve as Lector and/or as Hospitality Minister. You will be prepared to serve in these positions. Preparation would be at your convenience. Please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 for further information and your call will be returned just as soon as possible.

Adult parishioners are welcome to serve as Lector, Hospitality Minister and/or as Lay Leader. You also will be prepared to serve in any of the mentioned positions at your convenience. Please call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 for further information.

During C.L.O.W., we want the children to have a positive experience, to come to know and love the Liturgy of the Word and to understand the Rites and Symbols. Our prayer is that the children will grow closer to Jesus with this opportunity of Children's Liturgy. Prayerfully consider serving the children of the Parishes.

In His Peace, Pat Hope

Columbiettes

Our Seminarian, Tom Costello, Jr., the son of Cindy and Tom Costello, is in preparation for the priesthood. The Columbiettes are sponsoring funding towards his education in this most holy endeavor. There are containers placed in both parishes. We appreciate any donations that are given. We thank all parishioners in advance and especially thank Father Wayne for his encouragement in this endeavor.

The Columbiettes are collecting school supplies at both churches until August 31st.

The Columbiettes are again sponsoring the Cancer Ribbon Wall. We ask that anyone who wishes to remember a cancer patient, whether living or deceased, share the name and type of cancer with the parish office. The wall will be from August 26th to September 29th.

The Columbiettes are looking for new members. Please call Pat Lane if you are interested at 973-300-1954. We look forward to welcoming you.

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 26, 2018

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00a.m. STC C.P. R. Course at St. Thomas
(till 2 p.m.)

Monday, Aug. 27

Tuesday, Aug. 28

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

Wednesday, Aug. 29

Thursday, Aug. 30

Friday, Aug. 31

10:00a.m. STC Adoration of Bl. Sac. (till Noon)

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

Saturday, Sept. 1

Sunday, September 2, 2018

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Next Sunday's Readings: 22nd Ord.

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4: 1–2, 6--8

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 15*

2nd Reading: *James 1: 17–18, 21b–22, 27*

Gospel: *Mark 7: 1–8, 14–15, 21--23*

FORMED.org Free to you as a parishioner; our parish code is: **HCVWQC**. The password is: **formed**.

Recommended by FORMED.org:

Read: *Saint Augustine's Confessions*

A Must Read Christian Classic. This fourth century prodigal turned influential Catholic bishop has inspired millions of people across time with his poetic and passionate autobiography. Saint Augustine's powerful proclamation of God's Truth and Mercy through the lens of his own conversion has made this book one of the greatest Christian classics of all time.

A Suicide Awareness Program, sponsored by our Knights of Columbus, will be offered on **Thursday, Sept. 6** in the Fr. Lewis Center at St. Thomas. It will run from **7 p.m. till 8 p.m.** Our presenter will be **Dr. Roger Cherney, Psy.D.** He is the Manager of Atlantic Behavioral Health—Western Region. We will be given information about the scope of the problem, and taught to recognize signs of depression and withdrawal, and also given information about preventing suicide. Join us for this one-time session and gain this valuable knowledge. Refreshments will be served.

Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice. Have you ever thought about becoming a hospice volunteer? The K.A.Q. Hospice is offering six classes for volunteers to learn how to be of support and help to families in terminal situations. Topics will cover the social, emotional, spiritual and physical needs of the dying person and their families. Classes will be from **10 a.m. till 12 Noon on these dates: Sept. 21, 26, 28, Oct. 2, 5, at the Bereavement Center, 5 Plains Rd., Augusta, N. J.** Classes are free of charge. Trained volunteers are of immense help to the dying and their families. For more info call Sue at 973-383-0115 or 800-882-1117.

Silver and Gold Wedding Anniv. Mass. Couples, were you married in 1968 or 1993? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th or 50th anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the **Cathedral of St. John the Baptist** in Paterson. Bishop Serratelli will be the main celebrant on this joyous occasion to be held on **Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.** Arrangements can be made by filling out the **Anniversary Form** and returning it to the Parish Office. The deadline for registering is Mon. Oct. 15. You will receive a formal invitation and additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion.*

On-Line Giving is now available to parishioners. If you do your banking or ordering on line, we are now set up to accept donations to the Sunday collection in that way, too. Simply reach our website, **saintjamesthomas.org**. You will find the link to on-line giving. Follow it through and it will easily set you up for weekly or monthly contributions. With our thanks.