

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



Mary and the New Year

As we prepare to step through the entranceway to a brand New Year, we also will celebrate the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. It's not a coincidence that these two celebrations are linked. For us as Catholics, it is the most logical way to start the New Year.

Mary is the highest honor of our race. She had found total success in this life and, we believe, occupies the highest place in heaven among all creatures. As we study her life as known through the Gospels, we see the key to her success: she was always in complete union with the Lord. She and the Lord acted as one. As we first encounter her in prayer as a young girl in the scene of the Annunciation, we can understand that she was ready and willing to co-operate with God's Will, as revealed to her by the Angel Gabriel. Her "Yes" to the Lord was as natural for her as breathing. Even as a young girl of thirteen or fourteen, she believed that God's Will for her was the only fruitful way to live.

In today's Gospel passage, we hear that "*Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.*" The meaning of the events in her life (the angel's greeting, her pregnancy, the birth of her child, the coming of shepherds) the fuller meaning of these happenings would unfold gradually for her as she meditated upon them in her heart. God's purposes would gradually become clear to her. And so, much later, at a wedding feast at Cana, it was Mary who gave Jesus His first push by telling Him: "*They have no wine. (do something about it.)*" She could say this, because she knew that her Son was God's presence on earth, and that He was here to spread God's love. This understanding came to her, certainly, by pondering the events of her life.

As we begin this New Year 2019, let Mary's example remain before you. We all have busy, crazy lives: Mary's example of pondering the things around her should motivate us to stop and think about the events in our own lives. What advice is the Lord offering you so that you might avoid mistakes and choose the fruitful path?

Mary listened, and brought forth the Savior of the world. If we listen, we can use our time and effort to help build up the Kingdom of God that Jesus founded. May we look to the Lord for direction and inspiration, that we may truly lead effective and holy and happy lives in this brand New Year before us, 2019.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 30, 2018

St. James the Greater

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

TUESDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:00 AM – Victoria Vienckowski
req. by her granddaughter, Victoria Gorlach

11:30 AM – Richard Gray and Robert & Ann Lamb
req. by Peggy

SATURDAY, January 5

8:00AM – Marcjanna Klimkiewicz
req. by Doug & Jane Sandberg

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 6

8:00AM – Louise Flexer
req. by Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi
-James Harrison
req. by Vicki Gorlach

11:30AM – Eugene & Rosalie Mauro
req. by their Family

The 8:00am St. James Coffee Hour takes place the first Sunday of the month except for July, August and September.



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 Ralph & Anna Gioielli at the
Request of their Family

MONDAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE

9:00AM – Dom & Agnes Giordano
req. by their Family

6:00PM – Charles & Elsie Lorber
req. by their Children

TUESDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:30AM – Barbara K. Kientzler
req. by her son, Charles
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

WEDNESDAY, January 2

9:00AM – Bishop Frank Rodimer
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer & Family

THURSDAY, January 3

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 4

9:00AM – Joan Spoolstra
req. by her Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, January 5

4:30PM – Betty Lacovara
req. by the Catechists
-Walter & Theresa Hoffman
req. by the Wainwright Family

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 6

9:30AM – Richard W. Pullis
req. by his daughters, Lisa & Laura
-Special Intention for Christmas Benefactors

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Margaret Accordino, Loretta Bauman, James Brittain, Agnes Ciesielski, Peg Coates, Mary Cunico, Frances Demalderis, Rozanne DeNardo, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Sofia Evelich, Rachel Gibbs, Gomez Family, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Mr. Harris, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Doug Kabbash, Bernadette Lang, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Beth Lucien, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Agnes Mantini, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, John Meehan, Robert Morenski, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Richard Nowicki, Robert Organes, Jim Pantelmo, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Nicole Perry, Flo Puccio, 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



Advent and Christmas Thank You

Thank you to all who gave of their time, talent and treasure to others during the Advent and Christmas Seasons: The Children of the Parish and their Parents for their participation and support of our Christmas Pageant, and to the Knights of Columbus for the Parish Christmas Tree Lighting and Cookie Challenge; the First and Second Grade for the beautiful Ornament Cards for the residents of the Bentley Nursing Home; the Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade and their parents for the Reverse Advent Project, where they filled bags every day with a little something that was given to our nursing home and homebound parishioners, and to the Seventh and Eighth Graders who made Christmas cards to put in those baskets; to the Confirmation Candidates for their beautiful decorating of our church and to Jenna and Sabrina Dispenziere, Sophia Belardo, Lilly Hull and Madeline Jakob for their beautiful Christmas cards and ornaments, where monies made provided for struggling families of our parish. Also, special thanks to our selfless Catechists for all they do throughout the year to encourage and share their faith with the children and teens of our parishes and to Father Wayne and Deacon Wayne for their unending support and prayers for all of us! May Our Lord continue to bless and guide each of you as you bring the kingdom of heaven to so many on earth! Joyous Christmas.

December 30th ~ Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and we also celebrate our own holy family too. The 9:30AM and 11:30AM Masses today are being offered for the intentions of the families enrolled in our Religious Education Program.

Religious Education Classes

Please be reminded that there will be NO religious education classes from December 20, 2018 until January 5, 2019. Grades 9 & 10 resume on January 5th and grades 6 – 8 on January 6th. Grades 1 & 2 will resume on January 8th and grades 3, 4 & 5 on January 9th.



The Religious Education Inclement Weather Policy ~ is that the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather will be announced and posted on www.wsus1023.com. If it is not possible for you to check the internet, you can call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.

March For Life Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace
209 US Highway 206
Branchville, New Jersey
973-948-3185
Friday, January 18, 2019**

Itinerary:

6:00AM - Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace
6:30AM - Bus Departs Our Lady Queen of Peace
11:30AM - Arrive in Washington, D.C.
12:00 Noon - Rally begins at the Mall
1:00PM - March Begins
3:30PM - Return to the Bus
9:30PM - Return to Our Lady Queen of Peace

Come and Join us for our annual pilgrimage to give witness to the Beauty of Life. The cost is only \$10.00. Children and Students are free. The bus will make a food stop along the way and on the way back. Call the office at 973-948-3185 for more information and to sign up.

“SOUP ON A SATURDAY”.....St. James the Greater will again be sponsoring a take-out soup fundraiser on Saturday, January 26th, 2019. Order a quart (or more) of Chili by Art & Maria Henn, Manhattan Clam Chowder by Bill & Joan Henn, Italian Wedding soup by Bill Ricciardi, Pasta e Fagioli by Mike & Linda Spinapolicc, Split Pea with Ham by Janice Cerra, or Winter Harvest (Pumpkin base with apple) by Elaine Schuster. Price is \$7.00 per quart. Please get your orders in early as there will be limits on the Split Pea with Ham and Winter Harvest. **You must order in advance by January 20th**. Pick up is on January 26th from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at St. James the Greater. Fill out an order form found in the back of the church and place in the collection basket OR give to Bill Ricciardi, Art Henn or Mike Spinapolicc. You may also e-mail your order to Bill Ricciardi at wjr218@optonline.net.

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.

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, December 30, 2018

Feast of the Holy Family

Monday, Dec. 31

1:00 p.m. STC Montague Seniors N.Y.E. Party
6:00 p.m. STC Vigil Mass of Mary, M. of God

Tuesday, January 1

Feast of Mary the Mother of God New Year's Day

8:00 a.m. SJC Mass of Mary, Mother of God
9:30 a.m. STC Mass of Mary, Mother of God
11:30a.m. SJC Mass of Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Thursday, Jan. 3

Friday, Jan. 4

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

Saturday, Jan. 5

4:30 p.m. STC Mass & Conf. Prep. Gr. 9 & 10

Sunday, January 6, 2019

The Epiphany of the Lord Three Kings

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass
9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8

Next Sunday's Readings: Epiphany

1st Reading: *Isaiah 60: 1--6*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 72*
2nd Reading: *Ephesians 3: 2--3a, 5--6*
Gospel: *Matthew 2: 1--12*

"Observe what is right; do what is just."

(Isaiah 56: 1) This succinct guideline of behavior is very general, but it is the basis on which our morality is grounded. Jesus' life is an example of how to carry out this principle in particular situations. *Observe what is right:* Love God and neighbor, keep the commandments, forgive enemies, treat all creation with respect, be good examples to children, trust in God's providence, serve others. *Do what is just:* Take care of those in need, be merciful, share your bounty. At Christmastime we all seem to be more aware of others and grateful for God's blessings. But every day we should have Isaiah's injunction written in our hearts. --from:

Celebration Magazine

Feast of Mary, the Mother of God.

Happy New Year ! We as Catholics celebrate the New Year as another generous gift of our Lord. We celebrate it in the best way possible, by offering praise (not worship) to **Mary, the Mother of God.** She is the best of the human race; she was chosen to be the vessel through which God's own Son would enter the world. She, along with Joseph, was entrusted with the task of raising Jesus so that He would fulfill His role as our Savior. She intercedes for us, and gives us the example of how to please the Lord in all things. We celebrate the day as a **Holy Day of Obligation.** Masses for this Feast are:

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 6:00 p.m. St. Thomas
New Year's Day, Jan. 1: 8:00 a.m. St. James
9:30 a.m. St. Thomas
11:30a.m. St. James

A New Year's Resolution: Try something new this year by taking advantage of the many services and groups offered at our Churches:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful way to grow closer to the Lord. Just you and Him. **Each Friday, 10 a.m. till 12 Noon at St. Thomas.**

Reflection on Readings. A weekly informal sharing of next Sunday's Readings; **each Tuesday at St. Thomas, after the morning Mass, 10 a.m.—11 a.m.** A chance to grow in knowledge of God's Word, and to apply it to our daily lives and to current events. **Always includes coffee "and."**

Service Groups within our parishes:

Knights of Columbus: for all men, meets monthly, sponsors service & social works throughout the year.

Columbiettes: for all ladies, meets monthly, sponsors other projects to help the community.

Legion of Mary: meets weekly at St. Thomas: Offers devotion to the Blessed Mother, and gains her inspiration for corporal works done throughout the week.

Men's Prayer Group: for all men, meets monthly to pause from the business of life and reflect on how our faith elevates our lives.

Prayer Shawl and Rosary Makers Guild: for ladies: knits blankets and shawls and makes rosary beads to distribute to all sick and ailing members of the community. Meets bi-monthly, Monday, 11 a.m.

Altar and Floral Committee: ladies at St. James: decorate and prepare the Church and grounds for seasons and celebrations.