

# 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](mailto:stjamesthomas@aol.com)  
Website address: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://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](http://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](http://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**

# The Challenge of Living the Beatitudes

*“Blessed are you who are poor.”*

--Luke 6: 20

Who actually wants to embrace a life of poverty, mourning and hunger ? Who actually believes that poverty is the way to blessing and happiness ? Jesus does, because that’s the way He lived, and it’s the way He wants all of us to live as well.

Deep down, we all know that money doesn’t make people happy. There are plenty of miserable millionaires. Rich or poor, it’s good relationships that make people happy. And what could be a more important relationship than our relationship with God ? No wonder Jesus was so happy. He had an unbroken relationship with His heavenly Father.

Jesus didn’t restrict His vision to the world around Him. He also kept his eyes fixed on His heavenly Father. With His heart lifted up to God’s presence, and His mind filled with truth by the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to look at life clearly and joyfully. He wasn’t bound by money or by the desire for a problem-free life where He always got His way. He was happy just knowing His Father, and following His Father’s Will.

Jesus gave us the Beatitudes to teach us the secret of happiness. He knows that prosperous sinners are miserable people—however much the world envies them. The world cannot see the emptiness of a heart that is devoid of God’s love. It’s important to know that Jesus isn’t against money itself. He only wants us to set goals that go far beyond the accumulation of wealth.

Jesus once told His disciples that He had ‘food’ that they knew nothing about, and that this ‘food’ was to do His Father’s Will (John 4: 32, 34). As we learn to keep our minds fixed on the promises of God, we too will discover the secret to Jesus’ peace and happiness. By following in Jesus’ footsteps, we can know the same happiness He knew—the same happiness that fills all the saints and angels in heaven.

**Jesus, fill my heart with Your vision of life.  
Teach me to be content with riches or poverty,  
with good times and bad.  
Lord, give me only Your love.**

--from: *The Word Among Us*  
February 2019

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
February 17, 2019

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Dorothy M. Onofry at the  
Request of Bill & Valerie Ricciardi

**SATURDAY, February 23**

8:00AM – Intentions of Lawrence P. Gioielli  
Birthday Celebration  
req. by his Family

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**February 24**

8:00AM – Ruth & Paul Szucs  
req. by Art & Maria Henn  
-Intentions of Thanh & Lan Pham  
25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
req. by the Pham Family

11:30AM – Virginia Madden  
req. by Pat & Dan Furlong

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 686.00 – Regular Collection – February 10, 2019**

**\$ 251.00 – Online Giving**

**\$1,311.00 – Regular Collection – February 11, 2018**

**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

***Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.***

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**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:**

**saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving link.**

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 Mary Campbell at the  
Request of her Children

**MONDAY, February 18**

9:00AM – Mary Cunico and Pat Wilson  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

**TUESDAY, February 19**

9:00AM – Carl Flexer  
req. by Gerry Mahon  
-Intentions of Mike Toth  
req. by his Mom

**WEDNESDAY, February 20**

9:00AM – With thanks to St. Joseph  
-Anna Gioielli  
req. by her Family

**THURSDAY, February 21**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, February 22**

9:00AM – Frank Kelly  
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell

**SATURDAY, Vigil, February 23**

4:30PM – Donald Martin, Sr.  
req. by his Family

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**February 24**

9:30AM – Mary Cunico  
req. by the Rahoche Family  
-Jozef Sz wajkiewicz  
req. by John & Maria Babon

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,585.00 – Regular Collection – February 10, 2019**

**\$ 668.00 – Online Giving**

**\$2,462.00 – Regular Collection – February 11, 2018**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

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

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**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, Kathy Arnold, Loretta Bauman, James Brittain, Agnes Ciesielski, Peg Coates, Frances Demalderis, Derya Dimertas, Judy Dressie, Sofia Evelich, Rachel Gibbs, Gomez Family, Mary Guimes, Barbara Haggerty, Mr. Harris, Carmen Howell, Jennifer, Bernadette Lang, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Joe Lorenzo, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Agnes Mantini, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Robert Morenski, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Richard Nowicki, Robert Organes, William Pagano, Jim Pantelmo, Tracey Perles, Nicole Perry, Flo Puccio, Sal, Katie Onofry Sandberg, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, John Sikora, Shirley Strong, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Richard Vergona, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White and Fran Whitesell



### **Sacrament of (first) Reconciliation Blessings**

Congratulations to the following children of our parishes who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time yesterday: Lindsay Alsdorf, Shianne Doyle, Kenzie Harper, John Lubchansky, Mauricio Munoz, Lily Shaub, Gabriel Sousa and Jayden Switach. Special thanks to their Parents, Grandparents, Godparents, Catechists, the Salesian Sisters and Father Wayne for all they have done to help bring them to this special day. May Our Lord bless them as they now continue with their preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Service Project**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education Class is working on a service project for the children/teen patients at St. Joseph hospital in Paterson. They are collecting items to create gift baskets to help bring some joy to them during their illness. The list of items are on the board above the basket where the items may be placed. As always, we thank you for your support of the children there in our parish as well as those in St. Joseph's hospital.

### **Celebrate February**

This month, as we are bombarded with ads for flowers and candy, let us remember what real love looks like – love that goes beyond the surface, love that can change hearts and the world. May we strive this month to dive into the sacrificial love to which Jesus calls all of us.

### **February 22 – Chair of St. Peter**

This feast focuses on the person who was given the authority from Jesus to continue His mission. On several occasions in the New Testament, Jesus talked to Peter (the first pope) about things that would happen. In Luke 22:32, he was told, “you must strengthen your brothers.” In John 21:18, Peter is told of his last witness: “When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” The chair represents all the popes, who do what the Lord asks them to do. Pray for Pope Francis today and listen to the Lord, who is also asking you to do things in this life.



**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](http://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.

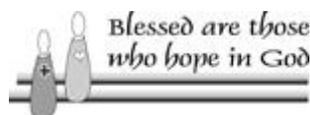
**The Columbiettes** are sponsoring a **Toiletry Drive** for women's shelters. If you can help us with any toiletry items, there is a basket in the gathering space. We will collect items through the month of February. Thank you for your contributions.

### **St. Mary's Church**

Court Madonna No. 114 will be having their Annual Tricky Tray **TODAY, Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**. Doors open at noon and drawing begins at 2:00PM. Tickets are 25 for \$1.00. No admission fee. All proceeds to benefit Community Charities.

### **St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner**

Our next pot luck dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** after the 4:30pm Mass. This is an opportunity for both parishes to come together and enjoy friendships and hospitality and to meet new parishioners as well as old friends. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering space. Come and join us!



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS  
**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 17, 2019**

**“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit.... ‘And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said...’”**

We are so familiar with the Sermon on the Mount, and the beatitudes of St. Matthew. They summarize the entire message of Jesus and provide the pattern for a healthy examination of conscience.

Today we meet St. Luke's teaching, the Sermon on the Plain, addressed to the disciples and to us. Instead of eight positive directives, we are given four, and then four warnings to help us move from the now to the promised reward. How helpful for us to fix our eyes on what the Lord has in store for us, to make us less complacent, eager to 'rejoice and leap for joy on that day!'

We know well the obstacles, barriers and challenges of the Christian life. St. Ignatius asks us to discern both the positive and negative to help us make good decisions.

# 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, February 17, 2019

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00 a.m. STC Columbiettes Mtg.

## Monday, Feb. 18

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

## Tuesday, Feb. 19

10:00a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

## Wednesday, Feb. 20

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

## Thursday, Feb. 21

## Friday, Feb. 22

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

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

## Saturday, Feb. 23

5:30 p. m. STC Pot Luck Dinner

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

## Sunday, February 24, 2019

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. REC Mass & Class Gr. 6, 7, 8

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### Next Sunday's Readings: 7<sup>th</sup> Ord.

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-23, 22-23

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 103

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 45--49

Gospel: Luke 6: 27--38

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**With the Cold and Flu Season upon us we will refrain from offering the Precious Blood at Communion time. We will also hold off on the Sign of Peace until the flu season is past.**

**On Line Giving** can be a time-saver. Simply reach our parish website, [saintjamesthomas.org](http://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.

**Divine Mercy Conference.** This 14<sup>th</sup> annual gathering takes place at Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx, N.Y. The date is Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. With all of the threats to the unborn recently, this year's main speaker will be Fr. Frank Pavone, Director of *Priests for Life*. He will explain the serious repercussions of the anti-life movement, and suggest how pro-life people can respond. Fliers are at both churches which give the 'schedule of events' of the day, and also info on bus transportation to the location. For more information, call 1-800-462-7426.

**FORMED.org** can help you stay informed on this and many other issues of our faith. Simply go to our parish website: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org). At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register.

### Recommended by FORMED.org.:

Watch: *Saint Peter*

--February 22 is the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

**About the Chair of St. Peter.** This feast is a reminder of the 'seat of authority' given to St. Peter by the Lord: "*You are Peter, and on this Rock I will build my Church.*" It is a continuous office, occupied by each succeeding pope throughout the ages. Since all Catholics recognize the Pope as leader of the Church, his office is a symbol of our oneness in Christ.

**Help!!** Help is always needed at church to coordinate ministries, run programs and maintain buildings. If you would like to make good use of our time and assist us in any way, please fill out and return the Volunteer Form below:

### "Here I am, Lord" Volunteer Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not know where I can be helpful, but would like to help at: St. Thomas \_\_\_\_ St. James \_\_\_\_

**In addition to helping your church and parish family, volunteering is a great way to meet new friends.**

**You can call the Parish Office as well.**