

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.

Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish

ME? AN EVANGELIZER?

During his time as pope, Pope John Paul spoke often about the need for a “new evangelization.” He was really speaking about imitating the apostles as they encouraged people to have faith in Jesus. Pope Francis has taken up the same message as he calls all believers to show forth the joy of their faith.

As their message filters down to us in north-west Sussex County we are called to do the same. And so, in our parishes we are embarking on a project to call others to share the faith that sustains us. Jesus Himself told His apostles to go out and baptize the whole world. Make the whole world and its peoples to be new again—reborn with faith and hope in Him. Let all people enjoy a new kind of peace and wisdom that our faith offers.

As it turns out, it’s not that hard to do. It’s as simple as having a personal encounter with the neighbors. During this season of Easter, our parishes are embarking on a Project of Evangelization—basically a project of inviting our neighbors to try our church.

Next week-end, dozens of welcome packets will be available which we ask you to bring to your neighbors. These packets will contain: 1. a Letter, welcoming them to come to our church; 2. a Schedule of Masses for both our churches; 3. a current Bulletin, giving them a sense of the life of our parishes; and 4. a Booklet of Introduction to our faith, which will offer some basic information about the Catholic Faith.

We’ll ask you to take with you as many Welcome Packets as you’d like. We’ll ask you to simply bring them to your neighbors’ homes. It might be an opportunity (or an excuse) to meet a neighbor for the first time. It might be an encounter that begins a new friendship. We’re just asking you to introduce yourself, mention that you’re there as part of our parish’s “Welcome Project,” and invite them to our parish. You might be able to answer any questions they might have. Leave the Welcome Packet and invite them to consider attending Mass on Sunday or Saturday evening.

What if they already belong to a church? Then say “Halleluiah” and encourage them to continue. We’re not trying to steal people from other Christian (or Catholic) churches. We’re hoping to find those who don’t currently attend church at all. Keep in mind this statistic: The *largest* number of people are those who belong to the Catholic Church. *The second largest* number are former Catholics. You, by your gentle and warm invitation, might just be the one to bring them back. Remember, all we can do is invite. It’s God’s grace, and their willingness to co-operate with it, which will do the rest.

As you go to the several neighbors in your area, realize that you are picking up where the first apostles left off. They worked wonders—converting as many as 3,000 people in a single day. Let’s see what we can do. Correction: let’s see what God can do through us.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 24, 2016

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Dick Gross at the
Request of Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi

SATURDAY, April 30

8:00AM – Joe Urban
req. by Carol Lombaerde

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 1

8:00AM – John Caradonna
req. by Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi

11:30AM – Cousin Joan von Doehren
req. by Lyse & Wayne von Doehren

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 771.00 – Regular Collection – April 17, 2016

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$ 992.00 – Regular Collection – April 19, 2015

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

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*

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Margaret Accordino, Mary Cunico, Rachel Gibbs, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Clara Kane, Kimberly & Baby Macie, Bill Lange, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Cathy Moyer, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner and Thomas Walsh

Jesus Heals

The Healing Service at St. James is postponed until the Spring of 2016. If you have any questions, please call Deacon Wayne at 973-293-3344.

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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Cathy Pullis at the
Request of her Family

MONDAY, April 25

9:00AM – Owen Barr
req. by his Family

TUESDAY, April 26

9:00AM – Intentions of Russ Spinks
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Friends

WEDNESDAY, April 27

9:00AM – Holy Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, April 28

No Mass

FRIDAY, April 29

9:00AM – Rev. Gerald Lewis
req. by Mary Flexer

SATURDAY, Vigil, April 30

4:30PM – Jerry & Judy Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family
- Intentions of Russ Spinks
Birthday Celebration
req. by his Family

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 1

9:30AM – Michael Wenning
req. by 2nd Grade Religious Education Class
- John Wojciechowski
req. his wife, Dolores & Children
- Intentions of the First Communicants

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,275.00 – Regular Collection – April 17, 2016

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,348.00 – Regular Collection – April 19, 2015

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



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.



Saint Tarcisius and First Holy Eucharist

April is the month of holy Eucharist, and St. Tarcisius is one of the great Eucharistic saints. He was a 12 year old acolyte who lived during the Roman persecutions of the third century. Each day, a deacon would take holy Communion to those awaiting death in the prisons. One day, no deacon was available, so Tarcisius was chosen. Romans killed him after he refused to hand over the Eucharist. One of the patrons of altar servers, Pope Damasus, immortalized his sacrifice in a Latin poem about the "boy martyr of the Eucharist" in the fourth century.

In his memory:

- ❖ Encourage your children to become altar servers.
- ❖ Become an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.
- ❖ Talk about what you would be willing to do to protect the Eucharist.

Our parish joyfully celebrates with the following children who will be receiving their First Holy Eucharist on Saturday, April 30th at an 11:00AM Mass at St. Thomas:

Joaquin Brex, Jonathan Diani, Mason Dube, Vincent Falchetta, Waylon Harper, Kirsten Jaust, Mackenzie Reilly, Lauren Salokas, Levi Seville, Cadence Sorg, Ave Steinert, Ella Teta and Maggie Vanderploog.

May they consciously and lovingly welcome Our Lord each and every time they receive Him in the Eucharist. Congratulations also to their parents – their first and greatest catechists. May they always make the spiritual life of their children the most important part of their life.

Special thanks to their parish catechists Rita Straka, Karen Steinert, Rita Wenning and Marie Mendez for their selfless love and dedication to these children. Finally, thank you to Father Wayne and Deacon Wayne for their prayerful presence and officiating and to our choir who provides the beautiful music for our Mass.



Mother's Day Plant Sale

St. James Church will be having a plant sale on Mother's Day, May 8th, after both Masses. Remember that "special lady" in your life on her "special" day. There will be 10" and 12" assorted hanging baskets while supplies last. Prices vary depending on the size and type of flower you choose.

HOLD THE DATE

The St. Thomas Tricky Tray will take place on **Friday, May 6th**. More information will follow.

The next St. Thomas Pot Luck Dinner will be on **April 30th** after the 4:30pm Mass. All are welcome.

Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is offering a **Spring** fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Tuesday** nights from 6:15-7:15pm for 8 weeks and **started April 12th**. **You may join us at any time**. The class 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 only \$40.00 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.

2016: St. Thomas 75th Anniversary Year **1941-2016**

Anniversary items are in and ready for sale. Travel mugs with the 75th anniversary logo are now available for \$5 each. Also available are anniversary logo magnets for \$4 each. Items are for purchase before and after the 4:30pm and 9:30am Masses. Grace Reich also has the items available. Be the first to celebrate the occasion of St. Thomas 75th Anniversary!!

Good Deed Journaling. All parishioners are invited to make note of the good deeds they perform during the course of the day. There are little notebooks on the table in the Gathering Space. Please take one and use it as a personal diary to record the good deeds you perform for the Lord each day. You may surprise yourself. These notebooks are for your personal use only, and can be a wonderful offering to the Lord of your time well spent for His honor and glory.

Calling all "Vintage People"

Perhaps you have great memories of the Catholic Church and the America of our youth. We ask if you would like to share a memory or two with all of our parishioners as we celebrate our 75th year.

Senior "Vintage" Memories

I remember when the fruit and Dugan bread truck, vegetable wagon, milkman, the knife sharpener truck, ice wagon and the wonderful Good Humor truck all visited our neighborhood on a weekly basis.

St. Thomas History – The Spring of 1942 saw food rationing. Victory gardens and home canning were encouraged – as canned goods were saved for those overseas. By Dec., mandatory gas rationing and 35MPH speed limits were in effect. In 1943, Fr. Hewetson wrote of being issued one new tire by the Branchville Board and his concerns over the 3 remaining badly worn tires due to covering Lafayette, Walpack, Hainesville and the newly inaugurated Mission of St. James the Apostle in Montague.



GOLF OUTING???

It has been suggested to the Anniversary Planning Committee that perhaps it would be nice to plan a Golf Outing. This would most likely take place late summer or early fall. If anyone is interested in participating in this event, please call Mary at 973-948-7004 or by email at maryflexer@yahoo.com. The number of participants will help us to decide on the golf course. Also, if you are interested in assisting with this event, just 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, April 24, 2016

5th Sunday of Easter

Monday, Apr. 25

Tuesday, Apr. 26

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

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

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga-lates

Wednesday, Apr. 27

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

Thursday, Apr. 28

9:30 a.m. REC Moms & Tots Play Group

Friday, Apr. 29

9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
after Mass, till 12 Noon

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

Saturday, Apr. 30

11:00a.m. STC First Eucharist

5:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, May 1, 2016

4th Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. STC May Crowning at Mass

Future Events

Fri. May 6 STC Annual Tricky Tray

Next Sunday's Reading: 6th Sun. of Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 15: 1–2, 22--29*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 67*

2nd Reading: *Revelation 21: 10–14, 22--23*

Gospel: *John 14: 23--29*

“Honk if you love Jesus.

Text while driving and you may just meet Him.”

--seen on a church signboard

St. Thomas Church: Our 75th Anniv. Year

My thanks to all the Committee Members who are working on various parts of our Anniversary Year. The Kick-Off Coffee Hour was an enjoyable time. The displays of our history, in the Gathering Space, are the continuing work of Alicia Batko and Sharon Spangenberg. Souvenirs are being made available. Several Trips (Ireland, several day trips) are planned. Some future events include:

--Anniversary Picnic: Sun. June 26

--Commemoration of First Mass at old
St. Thomas Church: Wed. July 6

--Anniversary Mass and Brunch: Sun. Aug. 28

For young men, 15 – 25. Our diocese has developed a unique retreat for young men, ages 15 – 25. It is an informal three-day experience during which you are asked to think about your future, and God's plans for you. It is the **Quo Vadis Retreat**. *‘Where are you going ?’* is the theme, and also the translation in English. The Retreat will be held June 29—July 1. It will be held in our neighborhood: the **Sacred Heart Center in Newton**. It will include reflection time, sports, meals, Mass and discussion. You will meet young priests of our Diocese who will be running the Retreat. High school students and those of college age will have separate programs. And, the cost is: Free !

Give yourself a chance to think ahead about your future, and enjoy the time with other young Catholic men of our Diocese. Call the Diocese of Paterson, 973-777-8818 x 711 for more info.

Photo Directory Back on Track. Thanks to a resourceful parishioner, we have found a way to bring our **75th Anniv. Photo Directory** back to life. At this time we would like to know if there are other parishioners or families that would like their photos in the album. Please call the Parish Office (973-948-2296) or speak to Fr. Wayne to be included. We can arrange a local photographer to come in and take professional photos.

Announcing: Our Parishes' Website.

Launched and operational just recently, we proudly announce our Website:

saintjamesthomas.org

It is powered by E-Catholic, and is linked (we think) with the other churches and agencies of the Diocese of Paterson. We hope to have all events and news available continually.