

# 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 TROUBLING WORDS OF JESUS

*“Whoever denies me before others,  
I will deny before my heavenly Father.”*

Matthew 10: 33

Most of Jesus’ words are encouraging and inspiring. But occasionally He says something that shakes us up. For example, Jesus told us that our righteousness had better not be like that of the Pharisees, or we will not get into heaven (Matthew 5: 20). He told us that unless we eat His Body and drink His Blood, we will not have eternal life (John 6: 54). He even said: “Woe to you who are rich” (Luke 6: 24).

Of course Jesus is a God of mercy and love. But today’s Gospel is one of those seemingly harsh messages that make us worry about our eternal happiness. What are we supposed to do with statements like these ?

Let’s look at Saint Peter. He, the “Rock” of the Church, denied that he even knew Jesus ! But rather than scolding Peter or saying, “I am going to deny you before my Father,” Jesus simply asked Peter: “Do you love me ?” (John 21: 15, 16, 17). He knew that Peter felt deep remorse. He knew that Peter had wept bitter tears of sadness over his weakness. So Jesus’ question was clearly an invitation to reconciliation.

In a similar way, Jesus knows that we are all weak. He knows that we all betray Him in one way or another. And He treats us just as He treated Peter.

The key to understanding this unsettling passage from the Gospel is this: Where is your heart ? Peter loved Jesus. He wanted nothing more than to serve Jesus. He wasn’t a coward. He was just a human being, and human beings can be overcome by fear and temptation at times.

So for Peter, as well as for all of us, this is the important distinction: Are you a sinner who doesn’t care about loving God ? Or are you a lover of God who falls into sin ? Peter was a lover of God. So were all the other apostles who fled at Jesus’ arrest. They may have failed Jesus at that moment, but Jesus never failed them. And He won’t fail us !

**Jesus, I love You.  
Teach me to remain steadfast.**

--from: *‘The Word Among Us’*  
June 2017

**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**June 25, 2017**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of John Cerra at the  
Request of his wife, Janice

**SATURDAY, July 1**

8:00AM – Laura Shea

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**July 2**

8:00AM – Terry Naletko  
req. by his Family

11:30AM – Frank & Jane Varga  
req. by their Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,195.00 – Regular Collection – June 18, 2017 +**  
**\$ 160.00 - Online Giving**  
**\$ 146.00 – South & Latin American Missions &**  
**Overseas Relief**  
**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**  
**\$ 952.00 – Regular Collection – June 19, 2016**  
***Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.***  
\*\*\*\*\*

**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:**  
**[saintjamesthomas.org](http://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*

**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, Miriam Liggmari, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, John Meehan, Brian McKenna, Bill Myers, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Alex Sepiol, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner, Thomas Walsh, Joan White, Teri Winkler and Robert Woodcock

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the  
Intentions of Albert L. Dunn at the Request of his  
Brother, Michael, & Sisters, Annamarie & Rosemarie

**MONDAY, June 26**

9:00AM – Intentions of Father Joseph Ryan  
Mass of Thanksgiving  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

**TUESDAY, June 27**

9:00AM – Intentions of Mike & Family  
req. by his Mom

**WEDNESDAY, June 28**

9:00AM – Ezio Benini  
req. by Dolores & Lou Avenatti

**THURSDAY, June 29**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, June 30**

9:00AM – Timothy Yarosz  
req. by his mom, Josephine

**SATURDAY, Vigil, July 1**

4:30PM – Jerry & Judy Wainwright  
req. by the Wainwright Family  
-Patricia Wessel  
req. by Mary Ann & Tony Kaicher

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**July 2**

9:30AM – Nancy Gamba  
req. by Tara & Jason Deebie

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,940.00 – Regular Collection – June 18, 2017 +**  
**\$ 461.00 - Online Giving**  
**\$ 196.00 – South & Latin American Missions &**  
**Overseas Relief**  
**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**  
**\$1,939.00 – Regular Collection – June 19, 2016**  
***Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.***  
\*\*\*\*\*

**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:**  
**[saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org) Then go to On-Line Giving link.**

**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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.



## Registrations for 2017/2018 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children in Grades 2-8 for the upcoming catechetical year were mailed out. Please return all registrations by July 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid the late fee. Parents of children entering first grade, 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.

### Catholic Summer Camp

*"Birthday Blast"* Catholic Summer Camp will take place from Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00AM until 12:00PM at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville. It is open for children entering Grades K – 5. You may begin to register by going to [www.olqpbranchville.org](http://www.olqpbranchville.org). Go to the Religious Education tab on top and then select Catholic Summer Camp. We are hopeful that many of our children will take this wonderful opportunity to continue to grow in their faith through prayers, songs, crafts and activities. **We also welcome parents and teens of our parishes to come assist us that week – whatever time you have to offer, we are happy to receive! Please call Mary at 973-948-7004 if interested.**



### Catholic Teens

Our next gathering will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish **today, Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00PM**. There will be plenty of fun, games, music and prayer. Come join us and see what's going on!!! **Incoming Freshman are now welcome to join Catholic Teens.**

### Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry

Our parishes have an active group of women who knit and crochet prayer shawls, lap robes and scarves for those who need comfort and to feel the warm embrace of our loving community.

Since the beginning of this ministry in May of 2007, over 1,000 shawls/lap robes/scarves were blessed by Father Wayne and were given to many veterans and to all who may have been going through a difficult time in life. Baptismal blankets were also made and given to babies on the day of their Baptism to welcome the newest members of our family! Infant blankets were made and distributed to new parents through local hospital maternity wards. There is never a charge for these works of love, and we always have them available for whenever they are needed.

We also have a group of women who make Rosary Beads. Every year, our First Holy Communicants receive rosary beads as gifts from this parish ministry, as well as the dozens that are taken from the baskets in our Gathering Areas.

Our ministry (and our hands) are resting for the next two months, and we will begin again on September 18<sup>th</sup>. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Center on the first and third Mondays and are always ready to welcome new members!

### From the R.C.I.A.

The Catholic Church continually welcomes new members. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is the Church's process of welcoming new adult members.

The R.C.I.A. is the experience through which the Catholic community:

- ❖ Baptizes new adult members
- ❖ Receives those adults from another faith tradition who want to be members of the Catholic Church.

R.C.I.A. is an adult faith sharing process which begins every October. To have your questions answered, you are invited to call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004 and leave your name and number for a return phone call.

**THE ST. THOMAS FEAST DAY PICNIC** will be held on **Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**, starting at 1:00PM. There is no charge. All are welcome. If you plan on coming, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the gathering space **so we know how many to cook for.** Hamburgers, hotdogs and chicken will be provided by the church along with soda, water, coffee, tea and a large cake.

**Volunteers are needed** to pick up tables from the Religious Education Center and to help with set-up and clean-up etc. Please contact Deirdre Burgos at 973-948-6092 or call Rosemarie at the church office and leave your name and phone number. Also, if you have a large tent that could be set up would be a great help. A small canopy tent would also be useful for shade in the cooking area.

**Tickets for the cash raffle** have been mailed to all St. Thomas parishioners and will also be on sale in the gathering space after Mass. There will be two prizes totaling 50% of the amount received from the raffle tickets sold. The First prize is 40% and the Second prize is 10%. The drawing will be held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the picnic. **Winner need not be present.**

### History of St. James and St. Thomas

We have an undated clipping about Rev. Peter Byron's 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Mass. It states it was held in his 5 year tenure as pastor [circa 1958-9]. Another article and Msgr. Kupke's book place his ordination in 1933 for the archdiocese of Athens, Greece in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome becoming the youngest priest to have been ordained in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Moms and Tots Playgroup** will continue to meet most Fridays from 10:00am to 11:30am through the summer. If weather permits, we will be meeting at local parks also. Please check our Facebook page "Sandyston Tot Group" to find us each week.

## 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, June 25, 2017

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

2:00 p.m. Milford Theatre: film ‘*Apparition Hill*’

### Monday, June 26

### Tuesday, June 27

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

### Wednesday, June 28

### Thursday, June 29

### Friday, June 30

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

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

10:00a.m. STC Moms & Tots Play Group

### Saturday, July 1

### Sunday, July 2, 2017

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time

#### St. Thomas Parish Picnic

### Future Events

Sun. July 2 St. Thomas Parish Picnic

Mon.—Fri., July 17—22 Summer Day Camp at  
O.L.Q.P. for kids entering Gr. K—5.

Teen volunteers needed to assist

Sat. July 22 St. James Parish Picnic

\*\*\*\*\*

### Next Sunday’s Readings: 13<sup>th</sup> Ord

1st Reading: 2 Kings 4: 8—11, 14—16a

Resp. Psalm: Psalm 89

2nd Reading: Romans 6: 3—4, 8--11

Gospel: Matthew 10: 37--42

\*\*\*\*\*

“Actions speak louder than words; let your words  
teach and your actions speak.”

--From a sermon of St. Anthony of Padua  
(1195—1231)

**Fortnight for Freedom 2017**, the two weeks before Independence Day, began June 21, and focuses on “our call to the mission of spreading our faith.” For pointers on speaking of faith, see this week’s Bulletin insert.

**Home Schooling Conference.** The *IHM New York Homeschool Conference* will be held at Ramapo College—at the Student Center, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N. J.. The dates are: Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> (12 Noon – 6 p.m.) and Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> (9:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m.) This is the perfect event for those who are curious and want to discover more about Catholic homeschooling. Admission is FREE and pre-registration is not required. For more info please visit [www.ihmconference.org](http://www.ihmconference.org)

**Miracles at Medjugorje.** A film exploring these miracles beginning in the 1970’s, “*Apparition Hill*” will be playing at the Milford Theatre **today, Sun. June 25** at 2:00 p.m. Tickets: \$ 10.

**Quo Vadis Days of Discernment.** A few days of reflection and recreation are being planned for all young men of our Diocese, ages 15—25. It will be held right in our neighborhood: **the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton.** The dates are **Tues. June 27—Thurs. June 29.** (That’s next week.) The younger priests and seminarians of our Diocese are planning this event, which will include prayer, discussion, recreation, sports, meals, and a chance to meet other young men of our Diocese. For more info or for reg. form, see Fr. Wayne.

### Get FORMED for the summer:

[www.Formed.org](http://www.Formed.org) Parish Code: HCVWQC

**Suggestion:** “*SAINT ANTHONY: The Miracle Worker of Padua.*” (Italian, with English subtitles)

**St. Thomas Bikers Gang.** Join us on the **Tuesdays of summer, right after 9 a.m. Mass.** We’ll be riding along the back roads as far as Peter’s Valley or Walpack. We plan to be back around Noon each time. All men & women invited to join us.

### Two Weeks of Vacation Bible School:

*Minisink Reformed Church Pavilion*, 300 Clove Rd. Montague. Mon.–Fri., July 10--14<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. – 12 Noon. For info call 973-293-3514.

and

*Catholic Summer Camp at Queen of Peace*, Branchville, Mon.–Fri., July 17—21, 9a.m. – 12 Noon. For info call 973-948-3185.