

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

God Chose ME !

***“He chose us in Him,
before the foundation of the world.”***

Ephesians 1: 4

In June of last year, the United Nations estimated that there were 7.6 billion people living on Earth ! In an even more jaw-dropping statistic, the Population Reference Bureau has estimated that approximately 108 billion people have lived on Earth since the beginning !

So can you imagine that before God created the world, in the midst of these 108 billion people who would live in it, He knew you perfectly and chose you to be with Him.

When we hear that God chose us before the foundation of the world, it can sound so theoretical. We think of “us” as a universal group: God’s people. And while we are all part of this large group, we are not just anonymous members of the crowd. God’s love for us is not generalized. It is personal and specific. He loves you for who you are. He loves you in the best way that you can be loved.

As overwhelming as this may sound, let this truth sink in today. Even if there were 100 trillion people, it doesn’t matter. You—with all your quirks and idiosyncrasies—were in God’s mind and in His heart from the beginning. He created you with a specific purpose, and He longs for you to be with Him forever !

Here’s one way to ponder this amazing truth: take today’s Second Reading, and wherever you see the word “us,” substitute your name. For example, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed [your name] in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as He chose [your name] in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before Him.” (Ephesians 1: 3—4). Re-read the whole passage slowly a couple of times. Proclaim it out loud. Let God expand your understanding of how much He loves you. Then bask in that love today.

**Father, I am so amazed to know that I am in Your heart.
Help me to trust and rely on Your personal love today and every day.**

--from: *The Word Among Us*
July/August, 2018

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 15, 2018

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Richard Gray at the
Request of his wife, Peggy

SATURDAY, July 21
8:00AM – Laura Shea

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 22

8:00AM – Sherrie Rumick
req. by Stuart & Donna Rivera & Family

11:30AM – People of the Parish, Living & Deceased

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,537.00 – Regular Collection – July 1, 2018 +
\$ 240.00 – Online Giving
\$ 140.00 – Seminarians
\$1,120.00 – Regular Collection- July 8, 2018
\$ 135.00 – Online Giving
\$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.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Dale R. Briegel at the
Request of his wife, Rosemarie

MONDAY, July 16
9:00AM – With thanks to St. Joseph
req. by Dan & Luisa
-Intentions of the Legion of Mary
req. by the Legion of Mary

TUESDAY, July 17
9:00AM – Joseph Ligammarì
req. by Dan & Luisa

WEDNESDAY, July 18
9:00AM – Richard Gray
req. by his wife, Peggy

THURSDAY, July 19
No Mass

FRIDAY, July 20
9:00AM – With thanks to St. Joseph
req. by Dan & Luisa

SATURDAY, Vigil, July 21
4:30PM – Ted Rahoche
req. by the Cunico Family

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 22

9:30AM – Edmund & Mary Campbell
req. by their Children

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,148.00 – Regular Collection – July 1, 2018 +
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$ 180.00 – Seminarians
\$1,935.00 – Regular Collection – July 8, 2018
\$ 328.00 – Online Giving
\$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.



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 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.

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, Angela Lanzalotta, Jeff Librizzi, Jodi Lupo, Thomas Lynch, Betty Mastrelli, Sonny Mastrelli Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, John Meehan, Bill Myers, Kelly Nicole, Robert Organes, Jim Pantelmo, Danielle Parker, Tracey Perles, Flo Puccio, Sal, Sarah Scheckner, Alex Sepiol, Infant John Antonio Seti, John Sikora, Pam Spencer, Baby Teddy, Michael Toth, Jen Vaughn, 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 mailed out. **Please return by July 31st** to avoid the late fee.

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.



“For I know the plans I have for you.” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” ~ Jeremiah 29:11

Congratulations to all who have graduated from Elementary School, Junior or Senior High School, College or Graduate School. May you know of the love, prayers and best wishes of many who are praying for you to continue to seek the help of God as you move forward to different schools or career opportunities. May you always call on the Holy Spirit for His gifts to help you make decisions which will always give glory, honor and praise to Our Lord Jesus Christ.



Catholic Summer Camp Thank You

Thank you to all the parents who encouraged their children to spend the last week of June “Shipwrecked” at Catholic Summer Camp. God blessed us with beautiful weather and a faith and fun filled week as we joined with the children and teens of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish. Thank you to our teens: Aidan Blevins, Lauren Cunico, Marie DeCollibus, Nora O’Keefe, Emilia, Julianna and Mary VanderPloog and our adult catechists: Patricia Hope and Marie Mendez for their gift of time and talent to us. Special thanks to Father Wayne, Father Ed and Father Brian, along with the adult volunteers and staff of OLQP for all of their time and devotion. May Our Lord continue to bless each of you for your love and generosity.

From the R.C.I.A.:

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process will begin again in September. The R.C.I.A. sessions are for adults for faith sharing and instruction. The sessions are approximately one to one hour and fifteen minutes to be held at the convenience of all participants. There is no cost for the R.C.I.A. Don’t wait any longer to invite others to be Baptized Catholic! Don’t wait any longer to become a fully initiated member {Sacraments of: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation} of the Catholic Church! Don’t wait any longer to have your questions answered! Call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and your call will be returned.

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

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.

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.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 15, 2018

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise and glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.”

A lengthy introduction to Saul’s letter to the Ephesians, not revealing his own identity, but that of all Christians. Through Christ we have been gifted with so much including His choice of us with our calling to be holy, that is, living in His grace and friendship.

Identity is so important. We hear so much about identity theft. Here we learn that we are not only especially chosen, but adopted giving us all the rights and privileges which are given as our inheritance. They cannot, in the words of Pope Francis, be taken from us. As I recognize my special identity and status, I ask that I move beyond self and see those same gifts in others. Made in His image and likeness, I want to be able to join with them on my journey, as they too share in the same gift and destiny.

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, July 15, 2018

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:00 p.m. Youth Group Get-Together. at O.L.Q.P.

Monday, July 16

9:00 a.m. STC Sussex Co. Senior Services

Tuesday, July 17

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

Wednesday, July 18

Thursday, July 19

Friday, July 20

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

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

Saturday, July 21

Sunday, July 22, 2018

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:30a.m. SJC St. James 75th Anniversary Mass

1:30 p.m. St. James Anniversary Luncheon at High Point Golf & Banquet Center

Next Sunday's Readings: 16th Ord.

1st Reading: *Jeremiah 23: 1--6*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 23*

2nd Reading: *Ephesians 2: 13--18*

Gospel: *Mark 6: 30--34*

A Playground for St. Thomas ? Do you think a small play area on the Great Lawn would be a good idea? Would it be a chance for young families to come together for recreation and fellowship? Would it be an investment in our future? The VanderPloog family is exploring this idea. If you have suggestions, or can donate time, talent or treasure in this direction, contact Jason VanderPloog at 973-670-1818.

Saint James: Our 75th Year. Our 75th Anniv. Mass and Luncheon will take place next **Sunday, July 22nd**. Mass will be at 11:30 a.m., followed by Luncheon at High Point Golf Club Banquet Center at 1:30 p.m. Tickets for Luncheon are \$ 18 each or two for \$ 35. Tickets are available after Masses or through the Parish Office.

Back in the Day: From a letter of Fr. John Hewetson, founding Pastor, in Jan. 1944: "This is a Mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Paterson, St. James the Apostle Mission, Montague Township, N.J., John E. Hewetson, Agent.." The mailing address of St. James was given as: R.F.D. 1, Port Jervis, N.Y.

For your information: The groundbreaking for the church took place on Sept. 2, 1945, with Senator Alfred Littell as a distinguished guest.

Do You have a problem with food ? Overeating, undereating, binge-ing. There is hope ! **Overeaters Anonymous** is a world-wide fellowship offering hope and healing for compulsive eaters. Please join us **every Tuesday at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Branchville at 7 p.m.** in the Community Room.

Good Counsel Homes is the "child" of parishioner Chris Bell and Fr. Benedict Groeschel. Thirty years ago they saw the problems of unwed troubled young mothers, and began to find shelter for them. This has grown into *Good Counsel Homes*, a series of seven havens for pregnant women in crisis. Baby bottles are available at the back of Church. We ask you to fill those bottles with cash or change or checks which will help fund these Homes. We ask you to return the bottles by next Sunday if possible. For a crisis-pregnancy, call toll free 800-723-8331.

St. Thomas Bikers' Gang has started up its 5th season of leisurely bike rides throughout the area. It is a great way to get some exercise and to see the sights. Open to all, we meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. Come out and join us.

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

Recommended by FORMED.org
Watch: *The Miracle of Saint Thérèse*