

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

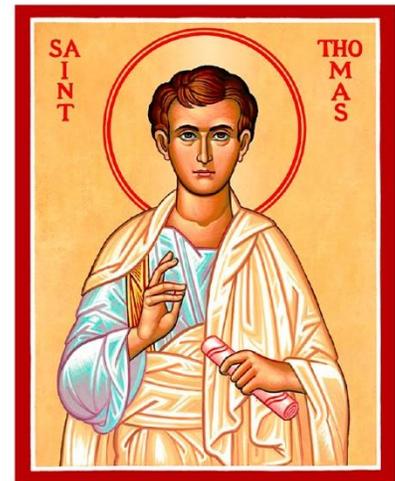
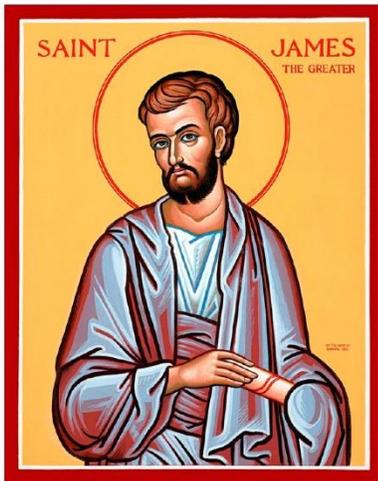
St. James the Greater

75 River Road
Montague, New Jersey



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 ----- stjamesthomas@aol.com
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org
Rectory ----- 973-293-7582
Office Hours
Monday - Friday ----- 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Welcome

Father Wayne Varga, *Pastor*
Mr. Wayne von Doehren, *Deacon*
Mrs. Mary Flexer, *CRE*
Mrs. Patricia Hope, *Pastoral Associate*
Mrs. Rosemarie Briegel, *Parish Secretary*

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.

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.

MASS SCHEDULES

St. James

Sunday: 8:00 am & 11:30 am
Saturday: 8:00 am

St. Thomas

Saturday: 4:30 pm (*Vigil*)
Sunday: 9:30 am
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &
Friday: 9:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:20 pm or by appointment

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN (CCD)

Phone: 973-948-7004

Religious Education/Youth Office and classes are located at the Msgr. Gacquin Youth/Religious Education Center, 122 Layton-Hainesville Rd, Sandyston (*mail should be sent to parish office address listed above*)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

(September through April)
At St. Thomas the Apostle Church as part of the 9:30 am Mass.

Adoption Services

Adoption@CatholicCharities

The Schools of The Catholic Academy of Sussex County
973-729-6125 ext. 225

Rev. George A. Brown School
(Pre-K to Grade 4)

Pope John XXIII Middle School
(Grade 5 to 7)

Pope John XXIII High School
(Grade 8 to 12)

 [Facebook/StJamesThomas](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesThomas)

Parish Safety during Unusual Times

Doubtless you are deeply affected by the Coronavirus which is now causing concern, and fear, and sometimes panic, throughout our nation and the world. This virus has stopped daily life like nothing before, and shows us how vulnerable we are—in spite of all the modern scientific discoveries and inventions of the 21st century. To believers, it reminds us that we humans do not have the last word on the things of this world. It's giving a deeper meaning to the sacrifices of Lent.

For believers, this is a time to recognize the value and beauty of our Catholic faith. We do not need to panic, but rather to look to the Lord for help. *"Fear is useless, what is needed is trust."* These are our Lord's words over and over in the Gospels. They certainly apply now.

Among the Christian virtues is prudence. It is in the spirit of prudence that our Bishop Serratelli has mandated the following practices to be implemented until the crisis has passed:

1. Masses throughout the Paterson Diocese are suspended until further notice. This includes Sunday Masses. Bishop has given a dispensation from the obligation of Sunday Mass to all in the Diocese.
2. Monday night Confessions are suspended. Confessions and Anointing of the Sick will generally be available weekdays, 9 a.m.—1 .m. by appointment with Father Wayne (but call first at 973-948-2296).
3. St. Thomas Church will be open for private prayer and for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each weekday, from 9 a.m. till 12 Noon.
4. St. Thomas Parish Office will be open weekdays, from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m.
5. Funerals will be arranged in agreement with local funeral directors.
6. First Communion and Confirmation will take place—we just don't know when.
7. Holy Week and Easter Masses and Services will be decided as time goes on.

The Chinese speak of 'crisis' as *danger* and *opportunity*. While we spend more time at home, this might be a great opportunity to read the Gospels, enter into deeper prayer with the Lord, offer the rosary daily for recovery of our world, follow through on your Lenten practices.

It might also be a great chance for Spring cleaning, yardwork, games with the family. I am hoping to study Hungarian; work on my genealogy with Ancestry.com; go on hikes in the woods behind St. James and St. Thomas; other hikes down by the river; explore the waterfalls of our area; catch up on reading; straighten up this office (if I get to that).

May we also use this situation to thank the Lord for all the blessings which He has already offered us—blessings which we often miss. May we pray for each other, and for all around the globe, that all may recover from this pandemic, and grow into a more peaceful world.

God bless you,

Father Wayne

P.S. Don't keep your 'social distance' from the Lord !



Religious Education Classes

Out of an abundance of caution, in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and following the advice from government and medical sources and under the direction of the Bishop of the Diocese of Paterson, **we are cancelling all religious education classes and activities until further notice.**

There are wonderful resources out there – take advantage of them while you are at home: Check EWTN listings for Daily Mass, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Praying of the Rosary. There are wonderful programs and movies on formed.org as well as many Catholic videos on You Tube.

Just as their academic learning will still be going on at home, so should their religious education be too. Most importantly, please remember to pray each day for those affected by this virus, those who will pass away from it and the countless doctors, nurses, medical teams and scientists who are working so very hard at this time. Pray for a quick end and pray for each other to stay healthy. Your families are in my prayers each day at Mass.

Why We Fast

There are many reasons we fast during Lent. Jesus showed us why to fast. He went into the desert and fasted to prepare himself for his ministry. To remember that, we fast and sacrifice as well. We also fast and sacrifice to form good habits. If we are able to say no to food or pleasure, we're more capable of saying no to temptation. Finally, fasting is penitential. We can pray for forgiveness for ourselves and others while we fast.

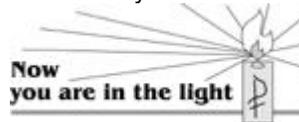
Celebrate March

March 22 ~ Laetare Sunday ~ On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the season of Lent is celebrated as halfway complete. Discuss as a family what you have done so far this Lent while sharing a meal. Remember...it's never too late to get started or to restart!!!

Blessed Lent.

March 25 ~ Annunciation of the Lord ~ The angel Gabriel came to Mary to tell her of the Lord's coming birth. Are you open to hearing what angels, especially your guardian angel, might be saying to you?

Soup on a Saturday was a success! Thank you to all who purchased soup and/or made donations. Thank you to the soup makers: Mike & Linda Spinapolice, Art & Maria Henn, Bill & Joan Henn, Janice Cerra and Bill & Valerie Ricciardi. There were no expenses, as these "chefs" donated the ingredients, containers, bags and their time. 134 quarts were sold and \$1,082.00 was raised and turned over to Father Wayne.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 2020

“Surely the Lord’s anointed is here before him. But the Lord said to Samuel: ‘Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart... Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in his hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the Spirit of the Lord rushed on David.”

Midway through the holy season, preparing to celebrate the Paschal mystery and live Holy Week, today is a fine time to pause, look into our hearts, and ask what else needs to be done. Our journey through prayer, devotion and good works has been quite good. Maybe we can make it better. But let's reflect on the words of the Book of Samuel.

We judge by appearance, but 'God looks into the heart'. What He sees is probably quite good, but we know there might be some shadow to be removed, or mess to be cleaned up. The Sacrament of Reconciliation perhaps has been put on a back burner, but today becomes the source for our improvement and growth. Decide today to use this gift of Jesus to His church and make a good confession. 'Be reconciled to God.'

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

- \$1,047.00 – Regular Collection – March 15, 2020
- \$ 151.00 – Online Giving
- \$ 120.00 – Diocesan Assessment
- \$1,403.00 – Regular Collection – March 17, 2019
- \$ 165.00 – Diocesan Assessment
- \$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

- \$1,653.00 – Regular Collection – March 15, 2020
- \$ 583.00 – Online Giving
- \$ 301.00 – Diocesan Assessment
- \$2,390.00 – Regular Collection – March 17, 2019
- \$ 914.00 – Diocesan Assessment
- \$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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

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Please Continue To Pray For

 World Peace

Reach or throw, don't go!
 If someone is in trouble in the water, throw them the life preserver, don't go in!


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