

# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

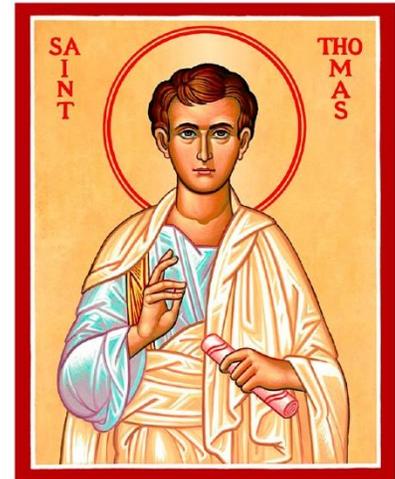
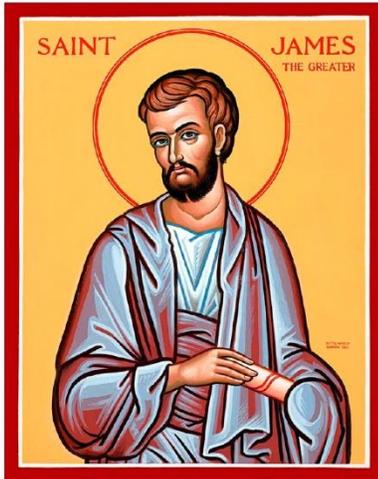
## *St. James the Greater*

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](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)

### 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)

*“Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,  
that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

--Romans 12: 2

How do you: *“be transformed by the renewal of your mind”*? Some commentators give us insights in understanding this crucial task for Christians:

\* \* \* \* \*

Renewing your mind requires **faith**, and faith is acting on the Word of God. You act on it just as you would act on the word of any honest man. You apply it in order to change the way you think about your life, your work, your relationships—everything. **Through His written Word**, God provided the way for you to be changed from the inside out.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Why Renew Your Mind with God’s Word?**

First, understand that it is God’s will for *all people* to be saved and to come into the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Peter tells us that God is not willing that any should perish. Not only is it His will for you to be saved, but it is also His will for you to be free so you can know “what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God” for you (Romans 12:2).

Second, you need to know that God reveals His will for humankind through His Word. As you study and put God’s Word into practice, you will come to understand God’s will for your life.

Third, Jesus and God’s Word are one. John 1:1, 14 says, “In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word (Jesus) became human and made his home among us.

The Bible is God’s testimony of what He has already prepared for His children. It is the Father teaching His family how to know His thoughts and live out His ways so that they can enjoy all that the lordship of Jesus offers.

The Bible is more than a history book; it is God speaking to you *now*. God’s Word is alive. It is the living voice from heaven. You can fearlessly act on the written Word of God—by renewing your mind—just as you would if Jesus called your name and spoke with you personally. The Word allows you to know Him and approach your life in a way that pleases Him—and is successful every time.

\* \* \* \* \*

Paul first encourages us to *“offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”* A living sacrifice to God is one who does not conform, but is transformed. We are not to be conformed to this world. Paul is using the word *world* here to refer to ‘the spirit of the age.’ It’s the popular worldview that rejects God and His revelation. As unbelievers, we are naturally conformed to the world ([Ephesians 2:1-3](#)). As believers, we are no longer conformed to this world because we no longer belong to ‘the spirit of this age.’ We have been plucked from the kingdom of darkness and brought into the kingdom of God’s beloved Son ([Colossians 1:13](#)). Therefore, rather than continuing to conform to this world, we are to be transformed by having our minds renewed.

The renewing of the mind brings your will into agreement with the Father’s will. As you fill your mind with His Word by reading, thinking about, memorizing, praying, speaking out loud, even singing, you begin to think in a way that pleases Him, and His ways become your ways. You become, through His power and wisdom, a master of the circumstances of life. When difficulties or decisions arise, you automatically view them through the eyes of God’s Word. That new perspective changes everything.

\* \* \* \* \*

As one modern (but unauthorized) Bible translation puts it:

*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**August 30, 2020**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Bob and Evelyn Schweer at the  
Request of their Family

**SATURDAY, September 5**

8:00AM – Bob & Evelyn Schweer

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 6**

8:00AM – Mike Spinopolice, Sr.  
req. by Mike & Linda Spinopolice

11:30AM – Deceased Pastors, Priests and Parishioners

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 667.00 – Regular Collection – August 23, 2020**

**\$ 396.00 – Online Giving**

**\$1,425.00 – Regular Collection – August 25, 2019**

**\$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](http://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.

**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.



We ask your continued prayers for the following men and women of our parish who are serving our country in the Armed Forces: Brandon Heimall, Mikey Heimall, Nicholas and Karissa Kealy, Joseph Mannion, Hunter Olenick, Christopher & Ana Sarao, Nicole Sarao, Peter Spinks and James Orr.



**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. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Jozef Sz wajkiewicz at the  
Request of John & Maria Babon

**MONDAY, August 31**

9:00AM – Owen Barr  
req. by His Family

**TUESDAY, September 1**

9:00AM – Rob Johnson  
req. by The Gorman Family

**WEDNESDAY, September 2**

9:00AM – Intentions of Bernie & Vivian Rafferty  
req. by Kathleen & James Gorman

**THURSDAY, September 3**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, September 4**

9:00AM – Kenny Burkhardt  
req. by Frances Whitesell  
- Intentions of Michael Toth  
req. by His Mom

**SATURDAY, Vigil, September 5**

4:30PM – Sonny Mastrelli  
req. by The Puccio & Wagner Families  
- Jerry & Judy Wainwright  
req. by The Wainwright Family

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**September 6**

9:30AM – Shirley Sechler  
req. by Gerry Mahon & Family

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,341.00 – Regular Collection – August 23, 2020**

**\$1,040.00 – Online Giving**

**\$2,016.00 – Regular Collection – August 25, 2019**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

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

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[saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org) Then go to On-Line Giving link.**

**TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:**

Vincent Chirico, Agnes Ciesielski, Michael Eiring, Bill Fulton, Abigail Hirsch, Bill & Teresa Mantini, Joshua Murch, Richard Nowicki, Ginny Sabia, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn, Tarra Wagner, Casandra Westbrook and Ricky Wunder



### **Registrations for 2020/2021 Catechetical Year**

Registrations for our 2020-2021 Religious Education Catechetical year were mailed out. We have adjusted our tuition fees as to consider any of the many new situations some families may now be in. We have also made a few changes regarding our sessions that we hope will make it a smooth transition back. We are now planning on classes being held every other week at the REC and every other week at home for grades 1 through 6. Our Confirmation Classes (now grades 7 and 8) will continue to meet at the REC every other week as in the past.

We will be following all of the safety precautions that have been instituted since the beginning of the Coronavirus outbreak. We will be able to take non-contact temperatures upon entering, keep a distance of at least 6 feet from each other (as we plan for only one class on each floor), hand wash and sanitize, and all catechists and students will need to wear masks. The building will also be cleaned before and after each session. Students will be given a tote bag with everything they need in it and they will bring it back and forth from class to home every other week. We are planning, God willing, to begin the first week in October. As soon as we have made plans with returning catechists, a schedule for the first half of the year (October through December) will be given to you. Parents of first children entering first grade (younger first-grade siblings can be registered with older siblings), 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 at 973-948-7004 to register. To enroll your child(ren) in the parish program, you must be a registered and participating member of the parish.

We may be in need of Catechists and teen helpers. Please prayerfully consider if the Lord is calling you to this awesome ministry. Please speak to Mary Flexer if you are interested or have questions. Thank you.



### **A Student's Prayer at the Beginning of the School Year**

We give you praise, O God, for everything that is new and beautiful, for everything which holds promise and brings us joy. Bless us as we start this new year with our friends and teachers. Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start anew. May we show love to one another and to all. May the new beginning of this school year remind us that you give us chances to start over again and again. Help us to forgive others as we receive your forgiveness. Help us to learn and to work together. Help us to listen when we should and to know the best words when we speak and when it is better not to speak. We thank you for our friends. Help us to be good friends this year. Help us to be patient with ourselves and with others. Bless our school and keep us safe. Be with us as we travel each day. Help us to be aware of your love shown to us in the people around us. Bless all those who care for us in school and at home. Help us show our care for them and to say sorry when we need to. May the Blessed Mother Mary protect us and help us to live as well as we can giving thanks and glory to God as she did. Amen

**May all of our children and teens from Pre-school through College have a happy, holy and healthy new school year.**

**Our Food Pantry** is in need of the following: cereal, tuna, mac & cheese, coffee, mayonnaise, soap and laundry detergent. Please help if you can. Thank you.

## 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, August 30**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Monday, August 31*

**Tuesday, Sept. 1**

**Wednesday, Sept. 2**

**Thursday, Sept. 3**

**Friday, Sept. 4**

**Saturday, Sept. 5**

*Sunday, September 6*  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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**Next Sunday's Readings: 23<sup>rd</sup> Ord**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *Ezekiel 33: 7--9*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 95*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *Romans 13: 8--10*

Gospel: *Matthew 18: 15--20*

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**FORMED.org:** an excellent way to grow in our faith. It can help you learn more about: the lives of the saints, doctrines, history, current issues of our faith. **Free to you as a parishioner**, and available through all devices. Simply go to our parish website: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org). At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register.

### Suggestions from FORMED:

Movie: *Mother Teresa: Seeing the Face of Jesus*

**On-Line Giving** gives you one less thing to think about. 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.

**Welcome Back to Music.** It is plain for all to see: this Virus pandemic will be with us for some time to come. As we learn to deal with it and live with it, we are trying also to bring normalcy and life to our Masses and Church services. We are, of course, keeping to the guidelines, and sanitizing the pews between Masses, requiring masks, and keeping the social distance, etc. But we are working to make the Mass to be the joyful celebration of God's love that it is meant to be. The sign of peace is important to many. And so is music. Although we cannot sing, (and the hymnals are still out of the pews), we are trying to safely include music in our liturgies. Our musicians are aware that many are cautious, and some are at risk, in coming to church. And they are committed to keeping to the guidelines that have been established. At the same time, with music, they bring to each Mass the joy and spirit that the Liturgy should have. And although we cannot encourage singing, we can't stop you if you feel the need to hum behind your mask !

**R.C.I.A.** We are in the process of gathering people for our next R.C.I.A. season. If you know an adult who is considering joining our faith, or at least exploring it and learning about it, please have them call the Parish Office so that we can include them in the next round of R.C.I.A. If an adult has not yet received their Sacrament of Confirmation, this is for you.

**Woodchips are wanted** for our Blessed Mother Grotto at St. Thomas. They would need to be delivered to the premises. Please call Sharon at 862-268-5667 for more information if you can help us in this project.

**Pope John XXIII Academy (Grades Pre-K –8<sup>th</sup>) and Regional High School** report that they plan to begin the new school year with 5 full days, in school, each week. Safety practices will be in place and buildings will be sanitized each evening. Classes are almost full, and waiting lists for some grades are being taken. For more info please call 973-729-6125.

*"I have hope. I have hope in humanity, I have hope in men and women, ... I have hope in the peoples of the world, who are going to take lessons from this crisis to re-evaluate their lives. We're going to come out better."*  
--Pope Francis