

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

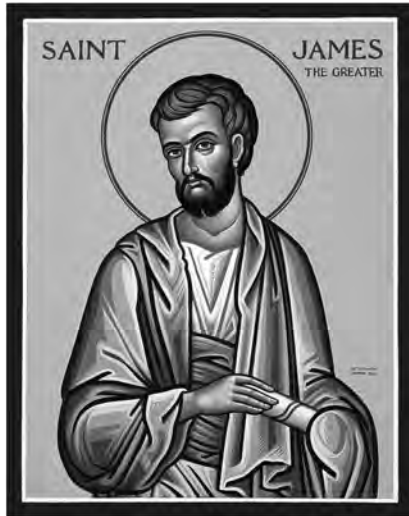
St. James the Greater

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

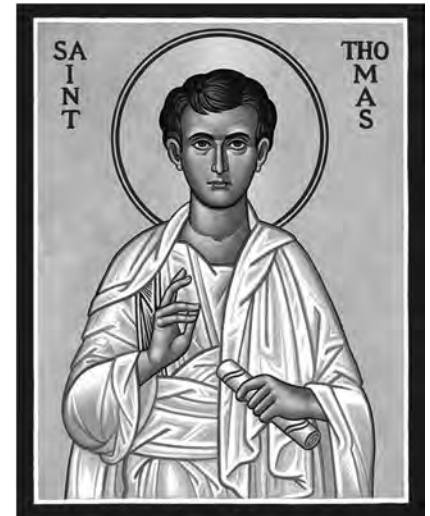
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

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. 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*)



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***“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure
buried in a field.”***

Matthew 13: 44

Today’s Gospel begins with two parables that, taken together, illustrate some truths about the Kingdom of God. In the first parable, a man discovers, quite by surprise, a treasure “buried in a field.” (Matthew 13: 44). In the second, a merchant also comes across a great treasure--this time, a pearl--but only after searching very hard for it. So what is the Kingdom of God like ? Is it something we discover by grace ? Or is it something we find through diligent seeking ?

Jesus seems to be saying that: *it’s both !*

On the one hand, God in His infinite goodness pours grace into our lives--treasures of His kindness, His love, His presence--in the hopes that we will find them--and thus, find Him. God provides these gifts for everyone, just as He causes the rain to fall “on the just and the unjust.” (Mt. 5: 45).

At the same time, there are some graces that we discover only *as we seek the Lord*. The very act of searching for God opens our hearts more fully to His grace. It stretches us and makes us more willing to let go of anything that would keep us from Him. And the more we seek Him, the more our capacity for His grace grows. As we “sell” what we have, we experience even more of His goodness, and mercy, and joy.

God has so much that He wants to give us. But this all-powerful, ever-generous God will not force His grace upon us. We have to choose to receive it. Even the man who finds the buried treasure by surprise ends up selling all that he has “and buys that field.” (Mt. 13: 44).

Today ask the Holy Spirit to help you unearth all the treasures of grace in your field. Ask Him to help you “sell all you have” to find the Lord and His pearls of grace. Pursue Him with all your heart. You won’t be disappointed.

Lord, You are my treasure !”

-- from: *The Word Among Us*

July / August 2023

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 30, 2023

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Mary Alice Luteran at the
Request of the Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi

SATURDAY, August 5

8:00AM – Walter & Norma Journey
req. by their Family

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

August 6

8:00AM – Tina Klimkiewicz
req. by Danielle & Mike Ulbrich

11:30AM – Mary Alice Luteran
req. by Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi
-Protection of Babies in the Womb
and their Families
req. by the Rosanelli Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 846.00 – Regular Collection – July 23, 2023
\$ 481.00 – Online Giving
\$1,131.00 – Regular Collection – July 24, 2022
\$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. James Altar & Floral 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.



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 the parish office. *Pray the Family Rosary*

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

T.J. Albert, Agnes Ciesielski, Phyllis Coneys, John Conrad, Sr., Melissa Cunningham, Geraldine Dayko, Audrey DeMarco, Terri Eaton, Marge Erickson, Gerry Gacquin, Peggy Gray, Patricia Harrington, Tracy Harriott, Patricia Hassan, Erin Hockenberry, Diane Hoos, Charles Jensen, Jonathan Kim, L. Lawson, Fred & Pat Leute, Nancy Lodema, Gerry Mahon, Teresa Mantani, Gen Miller, Richard Nowicki, Andy Puccio, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Frances Sangiorgi, Joan Sangiorgi, Brian Scarpone, Kathleen Sibbio, Cecelia Smith, Pastor Mike Sweeney, Richard Vergona, Walter Winkler, Ricky Wunder



We ask your continued prayers for the following men and women of our parish who are serving our country in the Armed Forces: George Abboud, Saige Bruzard, Brandon Heimall, Mikey Heimall, Nicholas and Karissa Kealy, Ryan Kowal, Colton Lawrence, Joseph Mannion, Hunter Olenick, Christopher & Ana Sarao, Nicole Sarao, Marissa Snook, Peter Spinks and James Orr

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the
Birthday Intentions of Matthew Dunn at the
Request of his Aunt Rosie

MONDAY, July 31

9:00AM – Ralph Gioielli
req. by his Family

TUESDAY, August 1

9:00AM – Gus Eberhardt
req. by his Family

WEDNESDAY, August 2

9:00AM – Eleanor L. Macko
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, August 3

No Mass

FRIDAY, August 4

9:00AM – Tom McNamara
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell

SATURDAY, Vigil, August 5

4:30PM – Maryann & Bob Takacs
req. by his Family

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

August 6

9:30AM – Richard W. Pullis
req. by his daughters, Lisa & Laura
-For those who have died from the
disease of addiction

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,043.00 – Regular Collection – July 23, 2023
\$1,087.00 – Online Giving
\$2,437.00 – Regular Collection – July 24, 2022
\$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

The Legion of Mary for both St. Thomas and St. James parishes meets on Tuesday mornings at St. Thomas the Apostle Church after the 9 AM daily Mass in the Father Lewis Center. The Legion of Mary is a world-wide organization of the lay apostolate in which Catholic men, women and youth sanctify themselves through prayer and apostolic work in union with Our Lady under the guidance of a priest.



Registrations for 2023/2024 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for children and teens for the upcoming catechetical year were mailed out last week and **are due back by Friday, August 4, 2023.**

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 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.

Listen Up – It's the Bible

July 30 – “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again and, out of joy, goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” (Matthew 13:44).

What do we hear when we listen to Jesus?

Celebrate August

The most important part of our worship is the Eucharist, where Jesus is truly present. We can really meet him with our senses! Many of the saints we celebrate this month had a special love for the Eucharist. Set aside time this month to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays at St. Thomas the Apostle Church following the 9:00am Mass until noon.

August 4 ~ St. John Vianney ~ was a French priest who spent most of his time hearing confessions so that people could experience God's love and mercy. He is the patron saint of parish priests.

This month, pray for Father Wayne and all the priests, bishops and seminarians of our diocese during Mass and consider setting aside time for Confession and for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays following the 9:00am Mass at St. Thomas.

St. John Vianney, pray for us!



Congratulations Graduates

“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 and many blessings to all who are graduating from Elementary School, Junior and Senior High School, College or Graduate School. May you know of the 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 make decisions which will always give glory, honor and praise to Our Lord, Jesus Christ.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 30, 2023

“God said, ‘Ask something of me and I will give it to you.’ Solomon answered: ‘Oh Lord, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. Give me therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. Because you have asked for this... for understanding so that you may know what is right – I do as you requested.’”

There is the adage ‘be careful what you ask for, you may just get it.’ Although Solomon was endowed with many gifts, he asked for the gift of understanding. It is one of the gifts of the Spirit for us. From it flow kindness, forgiveness, joy and hope. We have just witnessed the coronation of a king. What is he asking for?

When I approach my God in prayer, what do I ask for? Do I go before Him with great confidence? What do I really need, what is my basic want in prayer? Did Jesus not say, ‘ask and you shall receive, seek and you will find, knock and it shall be given to 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, July 30, 2023

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, July 31

Tuesday, Aug. 1

10:00a.m. STC Bikers' Gang

1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study

Wednesday, Aug. 2

12 Noon Sanctuary of Mary Mass & Picnic
honoring St. Justin

Thursday, Aug. 3

Friday, Aug. 4

9:45 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, Aug. 5

Sunday, August 6, 2023

Transfiguration of the Lord

* * * * *

Next Sunday's Readings: *Transfiguration*

1st Reading: *Daniel 7: 9–10, 13–14*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 97*

2nd Reading: *2 Peter 1: 16–19*

Gospel: *Matthew 17: 1–9*

* * * * *

Father & Son Catholic Camp will be held at Worthington State Forest from August 14 thru 18th. Enjoy the beauty of God's creation as you camp along the Delaware River. Fathers and sons can go hiking, swimming, rafting and fishing. There will be a visit and an outdoor Mass with Bishop Sweeney, as well as talks by priests and prayer time.

This opportunity is open to young men ages 13 and older **and** their fathers. Campers provide their own tent and sleeping bags. Fee: \$ 100 per person (includes all meals and fees). Registration is required and **deadline to register is July 31**. Enjoy a few days away and get to appreciate each other on deeper levels.

The Sanctuary of Mary and St. Justin, in Branchville, is celebrating the **Feast of St. Justin on August 2nd**. St. Justin is the founder of the Order of Vocationalist Fathers. The Feast begins with a Solemn Holy Mass at 12 Noon, and will be followed by a picnic-reception. To attend, please R.S.V.P. to Fr. Thomas at 973-393-7600.

A masterpiece hand-crafted Icebox Wine

Cabinet is being raffled off at our parishes. It is the latest furniture creation of master craftsman Doug Sandberg. It is 4 ft. tall, of solid oak construction, with golden oak finish and authentic polished brass hardware. **Valued at \$ 1500. Raffle will be drawn at St. James Church on Columbus Day, Mon. Oct. 9th**. Tickets are \$ 10 each or 3 for \$ 25. Tickets are available after Mass at both churches and at the Parish Office. **Cabinet is on display at St. Thomas.** Stop in at Mass times or during office hours.

Pilgrimage to Washington. Our Diocese is arranging for its bi-annual pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The date is **Saturday, October 14th**. Bishop Sweeney will offer Mass at the Basilica for Paterson pilgrims. Buses will depart from strategic locations, to be determined. Thousands are expected. For more information or to register, please call Chris Higgins, Pilgrimage Co-ordinator, at 201-738-9968.

Blue Army Shrine. Parishioners will be visiting this Shrine, also known as the **Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima**, located in Washington, N. J. A special Mass is offered each month on the 13th. On **Sunday, Aug. 13th**, the Mass will be celebrated by our Bishop Sweeney. Parishioners will **meet at St. Thomas parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and travel by car-pool, or follow** (1hr 15 min.)

The **schedule for the day** includes:

10:30 a.m. Confessions available

12 Noon Rosary, Procession with Pilgrim Statue

12:30 p.m. Speaker

1:15 p.m. Mass with Bishop Sweeney; then: Eucharistic Procession, Benediction; Divine Mercy Chaplet; Blessing of religious articles; Enrollment prayers for Brown Scapular

For more info, call Mandi Sousa at 973-632-5536.

"By your prayers you can bring down the rain of mercy."
--St. Sharbel Makhoul, (1828—98)

--priest and hermit of Lebanon

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