

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

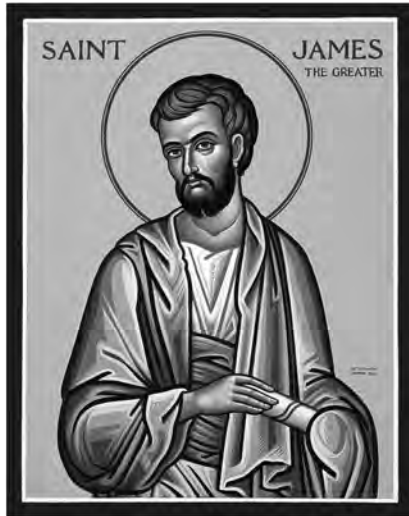
St. James the Greater

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

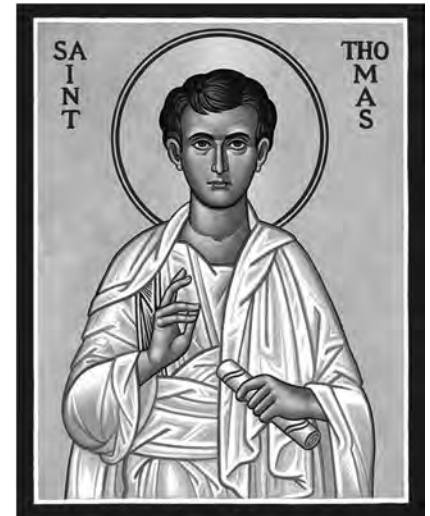
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

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)



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

If Jesus Came to Your House



If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two—
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there—
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But—when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heav'nly Visitor ?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been ?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word ?
Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out ?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about ?

And I wonder—if the Savior spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing all the things you always do ?
Would you keep right on saying all the things you always say ?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day ?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace,
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace ?
Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read ?
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed ?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you planned to go ?
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so ?
Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends,
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends ?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone ?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

--from: Our Lady of the Rosary Library
40126 Preston, Louisville, KY 40213

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 10, 2023

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Sandor & Rose Szabo at the
Request of their Family

SATURDAY, September 16

8:00AM – Brother James Loxham
req. by Christian Brothers

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 17

8:00AM – Kenneth Kohol
req. by Linda & Michael Spinapolice
- Christine Klimkiewicz
req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

11:30AM – Terry Naletko
req. by his Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,144.00 – Regular Collection – September 3, 2023
\$ 556.00 – Online Giving
\$1,768.00 – Regular Collection – September 4, 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 Spinapolice 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, Sara Mahon, Teresa Mantani, Gen Miller, Richard Nowicki, Kim Osonitsch, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Frances Sangiorgi, Joan Sangiorgi, Brian Scarpone, Kathleen Sibbio, Cecelia Smith, Yvonne Summers, 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 in
Memory of Irene & Frank Tanzariello at the
Request of their Family

MONDAY, September 11

9:00AM – Mary Luteran
req. by Mary & Ken Burkhardt

TUESDAY, September 12

9:00AM – Mary Frances Sarao and Marilyn Soisson
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, September 13

9:00AM – Mary Luteran
req. by Meg & Mike Milligan

THURSDAY, September 14

No Mass

FRIDAY, September 15

9:00AM – Healing Intentions of Father Edward Rama
req. by Margie Mullins

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 16

4:30PM – Alan Quick
req. by the Francis Family
-Deloris Spinks
req. by her Family

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 17

9:30AM – Mary Luteran
req. by Gerry Mahon
-For those in recovery from the disease of addiction

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,900.00 – Regular Collection – September 3, 2023
\$1,378.00 – Online Giving
\$ 245.00 – Additional Power Washing Project Donations
\$3,418.00 – Regular Collection – September 4, 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 and **were due back by Friday, August 4, 2023. Please return your registration immediately!**

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

Sept. 10 – "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20).

What or who can our family pray for, knowing that Jesus is with us when we do?

Celebrate September

The Church dedicates the month of September to Our Lady of Sorrows. This devotion recalls the Blessed Virgin Mary's spiritual martyrdom in virtue of her perfect union with the Passion of Christ. This was her role in salvation history, and what merited her place as the spiritual Mother of all Christians.

Sept. 12 ~ The Most Holy Name of Mary

Sept. 13 ~ St. John Chrysostom

Sept. 14 ~ The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sept. 15 ~ Our Lady of Sorrows

Sept. 16 ~ Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian

All you holy men and Dear Blessed Mother, pray for us!

Confirmation Candidates BBQ and Volleyball Game

All Confirmation Candidates (7th and 8th graders) are invited for a BBQ/Volleyball game get together on Friday, September 15th beginning at 4:00pm. There will be plenty of food, fun and friendship...well at least until we see which class wins the game!!! Hope to see you ALL there.

Catechetical Sunday and Religious Education Classes

On September 16th and 17th, we will celebrate Catechetical Sunday. The 2023/2024 theme is "*Come to me all you who labor and are burdened*" ~ Matthew 11:28.

Those who the Church community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth and commissioned for their ministry. The parents will also be blessed for their indispensable role in forming their children in the Catholic faith as they are the first and primary teachers for their children.

We ask your prayer and support for all of our Parents, Catechists, Aides, Teens and Children as we resume. In particular, we welcome all of our First Graders and any new families that will be joining us. It is our hope and prayer that as a part of our parish family, and through the sacraments, personal prayer, deeper knowledge of the Faith and our witness to the Gospel, we may all grow in love for the Lord and further the evangelizing mission of his Church.

In a special way, please keep in your prayer the following men and women of our parishes who have selflessly devoted themselves to the ministry of catechesis and share the faith of the Catholic Church with the adults, families, teens and children of our parishes for so many years: Rita Straka (18 yrs.), Sabrina Dispenziere (2 yrs.), Marie Mendez (12 yrs.), Diane Green (2 yrs.), Chris Higgins (8 yrs.), Patrice Kealy (16 yrs.), Martina Shewack (3 yrs.), Maria Sampson (4 yrs.), Heather Lubchansky (4 yrs.), Mike Bussow (18 yrs.) and John Lucadamo (18 yrs.). **In case you lost count – that is a total of 105 years!!!** Thank you all for this selfless, beautiful and vital gift to our parishes!

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel and it is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. Religious Education Classes will also resume that week.

Catechesis Sessions

Based on the vision and practices enumerated in the *New Directory of Catechesis*, these classes offer a fresh vision of catechesis, providing catechists with new directions and initiatives for proclaiming and teaching the Catholic faith in our world today. All catechists are encouraged to participate – whether new or existing catechists who have served in ministry for years.

These classes will be offered in Sussex County at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church in Sparta on the following Mondays at 7:00PM: September 11, 18, 25 and October 2. You can register at www.insidethewalls.org/intro-to-catechesis. Carpooling will be available to those who want.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

C.L.O.W. is set to resume again on Sunday, October 1st. While we still have a few weeks of summer to enjoy, I would ask you prayerfully consider ministering at C.L.O.W. Training is given at the volunteer's convenience. We welcome all Confirmation Candidates (grades 7 and 8) and Confirmed teens to serve as Lector and/or as Hospitality Minister. Adult Parishioners are asked to serve as the Lay Presiders. You will be prepared to serve in any of the above mentioned positions at your convenience. Please call Mary at the Religious Education Office (973-948-7004) or cell (862-268-1876) for further information and your call will be returned just as soon as possible.

It is our hope and prayer that the children will have a positive experience, that they may come to know and love the Liturgy of the Word and that they grow closer to Jesus with this opportunity of Children's Liturgy.

Please prayerfully consider serving the children of the Parishes in this beautiful ministry. All are welcome and needed!

R.C.I.A. and Adult Confirmation

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 those new adult members to grow in their faith and enter into full communion.

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.

We also encourage any adult who has been Baptized Catholic and received their First Eucharist and wishes to be a fully initiated Catholic to join us in preparation to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. Preparation consists of an initial interview and sessions on topics of Catholicism. We generally meet for these sessions at the convenience of those involved. Both R.C.I.A. and Adult Confirmation are adult faith sharing processes which begin in September with interviewing, with sessions usually beginning in October.

To have any of your questions answered, you are invited to call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004, and leave your name and number, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.



Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry

We will resume our ministry again on **Monday, September 18th**. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Center on the first and third Mondays of the month from 11:00AM until 1:00PM. **We are always ready to welcome new members!**

Please note that the first **Pot Luck** of the season at **St. Thomas** is scheduled for **Saturday, September 16th** after the evening Mass. Come join us.

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, September 10, 2023

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

10:30a.m. STC Columbiettes' Mtg.

Monday, Sept. 11

Tuesday, Sept. 12

10:00a.m. STC Bikers' Gang

1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study

6:30 p.m. STC K or C Rosary & Adoration

7:00 p.m. STC K of C Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 13

Thursday, Sept. 14

Friday, Sept. 15

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

Saturday, Sept. 16

4:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Supper after Mass

Sunday, September 17, 2023

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catechetical Sunday

* * * * *

Next Sunday's Readings: 24th Ord.

1st Reading: *Sirach 27: 30 – 28: 7*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 103*

2nd Reading: *Romans 14: 7–9*

Gospel: *Matthew 18: 21--35*

* * * * *

FORMED.org Simply go to our parish website: saintjamesthomass.org. At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register (first time) or login (each time after).

Recommended by FORMED.org:

“Marriage: God’s Design for Life and Love”

--presenting the Catholic vision of this Sacrament, especially the beauty and meaning of human sexuality, family and children. Considers the challenges and joys of marriage.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje. I mention that I will be going on a pilgrimage to this site in Bosnia-Herzegovina where the Blessed Mother has appeared to six ‘visionaries’ since the early 1980’s. The appearances still take place, though not as frequently as in the past. The Blessed Mother often speaks of her desire for the world to turn back to her Son. The appearances are regarded as authentic by the Vatican.

Joining together in this pilgrimage will be parishioners of Queen of Peace, St. Thomas, and beyond. The dates are **Oct. 9 thru Oct. 17**. Vocationalist Fathers from the Sanctuary of Mary will be covering the Masses on the week-end.

It is a custom for prayer intentions to be brought to the site of the Blessed Mother’s appearances. I offer to take your petitions to Medjugorje. Simply write them on 3” x 5” index cards or paper, and bring them, in an envelope, to either church. Drop them in the collection basket or bring them to the Parish Office. They will be placed before the Blessed Mother during my time there.

Please pray that this will be a fruitful experience for all the pilgrims, and for me.

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 Coordinator, at 201-738-9968.

Religious Ed. begins with Catechetical Sunday. Our thanks to the men and women of our parish who have stepped up to serve our children as their teachers. They share their lives, their time and their faith in this most important work of our parish. Pray that our catechists may reach the young people, and help them to recognize the great gift that their Catholic faith is for them.

If you know of children or youth who should be attending religious ed. classes, please have their parents contact Mary Flexer at the Rel. Ed. Office at 973-948-7004, or the Parish Office at 973-948-2296.

“Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic Schools and Programs. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.”
--Pope Francis

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