

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

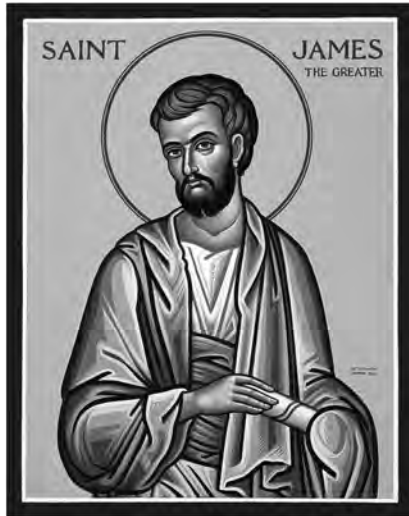
St. James the Greater

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

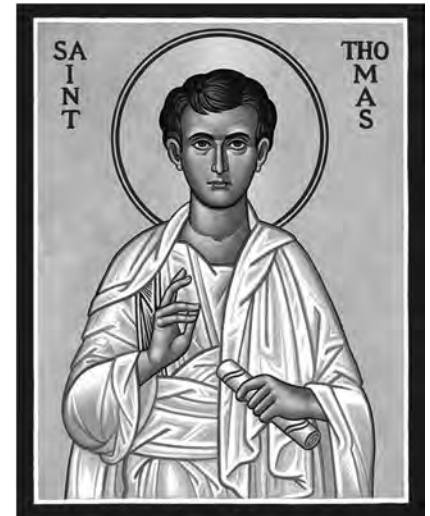
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

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)

Forgiveness:
The Key to Peace of Soul
and Peace in the World

*"Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant,
as I had pity on you?"*

--Matthew 18: 33



People saddled with impossible debt, desperate pleas for more time, threats of imprisonment and even torture—why did Jesus tell such an upsetting parable? To help His disciples understand the need to show mercy when someone sins against them.

Peter's question started it all: *"How often must I forgive?"* Mt. 18: 21. It was understandable. Shouldn't there be a limit to how often we should forgive, especially repeated offenses? An honest look at ourselves might help us see the answer. How often do we go to the Lord asking mercy for the same sins over and over again? We would never want Him to tell us that we have reached our limit. Thankfully, He never does; He repeatedly forgives us.

Not only does God forgive us again and again; He doesn't hold our sins against us. Remember the unforgiving servant. His entire debt was wiped out. There was nothing hanging over him. Similarly, God has pardoned every sin we have ever committed and stands ready to forgive every sin we will ever commit. Nothing is outside the scope of His mercy. He forgives us everything. (But let's not try His patience.)

This is the standard of mercy that Jesus calls us to imitate. It's not so different from the Lord's Prayer: *"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."* Mt. 6: 12. Granted, today's parable is more graphic. But it shows us that God doesn't want us imprisoned in unforgiveness and tortured by resentment. He knows how hard it is to forgive. But He went so far as to give us His only Son to cleanse us and soften our hearts so that we could share that same mercy.

Mercy goes beyond simply not punishing offenses. It forgives the entire debt. That's how God treats us. It's the essence of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let that truth change how you treat the people who offend you.

**Heavenly Father, strengthen me to be able to forgive others
as you have forgiven me.**

--from: *'The Word Among Us'*
September 2023

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 17, 2023

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Ray Sorg at the
Request of his Family

SATURDAY, September 23

8:00AM – Linda J. Stephens
req. by her Family

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 24

8:00AM – Ron Acker
req. by the Vitale Family

11:30AM – Francis J. Montimurro
req. by his Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 701.00 – Regular Collection – September 10, 2023

\$ 606.00 – Online Giving

\$1,424.00 – Regular Collection – September 11, 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, 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 for the
Birthday Intentions of Nick Dispoto at the
Request of his Family

MONDAY, September 18

9:00AM – Brother James Muffley
req. by Christian Brothers

TUESDAY, September 19

9:00AM – Ted Annese and Jen Wycalk
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, September 20

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

THURSDAY, September 21

No Mass

FRIDAY, September 22

9:00AM – Barbara & Charles Kientzler
req. by their son, Charles
-Healing Intentions of Father Edward Rama
req. by Margie Mullins

SATURDAY, Vigil, September 23

4:30PM – Mary Luteran
req. by Nancy Lodema & Family
-Walter & Theresa Hoffman
req. by the Wainwright Family
-Jimmy Reed
req. by his Mom & Dad

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 24

9:30AM – Mary Luteran
req. by Diane & Chris Sarao

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,344.00 – Regular Collection – September 10, 2023

\$1,017.00 – Online Giving

\$ 450.00 – Additional Power Washing Project Donations

\$3,021.00 – Regular Collection – September 11, 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.



Religious Education Classes for September

Grades 5 & 6 and Conf. I & II – Sunday, Sept. 17 – 9:30am Mass at STC until 12:30pm at REC

Grades 1 – 4 – Tuesday, Sept. 19 and 26 – 4:00pm until 5:30pm at REC

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. 17 – "Then Peter approaching {Jesus} asked... 'how often must I forgive?'...Jesus answered, 'I say to you, not seven times but seventy times'" (Matthew 18:21-22).

When was the last time I forgave someone?

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. 20 – Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions

Sept. 21 – St. Matthew ~ is a Gospel author. But before he was a follower of Jesus, he was a tax collector. Search your home for loose change, put it aside and place it in next Sunday's collection basket.

Sept. 23 – St. Pius of Pietrecina ~ lovingly known as Padre Pio
All you holy men, pray for us!

Catechetical Sunday and Religious Education Classes

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

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 Busow (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.

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 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.



Youth Group Gatherings

The Youth Group for 7th through 12th graders of Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. James the Greater parishes will be meeting on **Saturday, September 23rd at 2:00pm at the Bentley Assisted Living in Branchville**. The teens will be playing board games with the residents. Come and enjoy the companionship of new and old friends! Come for the food, fun and friendship! Come and find out about all the great activities and events they have planned for YOU! For more information, please call Mary Flexer at 862-268-1876.



Prayer Shawl/Rosary Makers Ministry

We will resume our ministry again on **Monday, October 2nd and 16th**. 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!**

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 17, 2023

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catechetical Sunday

9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Class Gr. 5 – 8
and Conf. I & II

Monday, Sept. 18

Tuesday, Sept. 19

10:00a.m. STC Bikers' Gang

1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study

4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 1 -- 4

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Thursday, Sept. 21

Friday, Sept. 22

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

Saturday, Sept. 23

Sunday, September 24, 2023

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

* * * * *

Next Sunday's Readings: 25th Ord.

1st Reading: *Isaiah 55: 6--9*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 145*

2nd Reading: *Philippians 1: 20c--24,27*

Gospel: *Matthew 20: 1--16a*

* * * * *

The Pilgrimage to Washington, sponsored by our Diocese, is drawing near. It is the bi-annual pilgrimage to the **National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Sat. Oct. 14th**. Deadline for sign-up of the one-day trip is Sept. 28. Cost is \$ 65. For more information or to register, please call Chris Higgins, Pilgrimage Coordinator, at 201-738-9968.

A New Religious Ed. Year Begins Today.

With this celebration of **Catechetical Sunday**, one of the most important tasks of our Church begins today. That, of course, is **the education of our children in our Catholic Faith**. The whole reason for our Church's existence is to celebrate and to pass on the gift of our Faith. That happens most especially in family life. The parish exists to **help** parents in the primary task of raising their children in the faith. For if children do not get to know their faith in their youngest years, it is likely that they will never come to faith.

We thank the men and women who have stepped up to serve as **Catechists** for our Religious Ed. Program. They take on a very important part in handing on the faith. May they be recognized as humble and caring examples of faith for the children to follow.

May we all pray that this new C.C.D. year will be a great success. Pray that it will be an important part of directing our children's lives toward the Lord and toward all good things.

"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

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.

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