

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

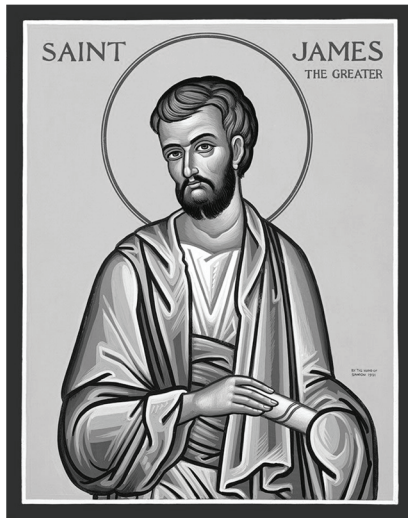
St. James the Greater

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

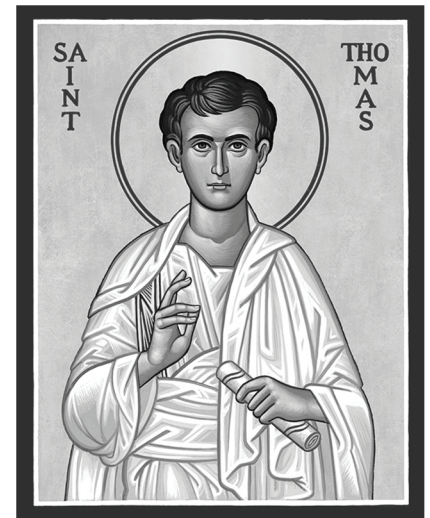
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

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)



***“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God.”***

--Matthew 22: 21



In first-century Palestine, taxes were a painful reminder that God’s people were living under the oppressive rule of a foreign power. So when the Pharisees “plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech” (Matthew 22: 15), the hot-button topic of taxation seemed like a clever strategy. If Jesus supported paying taxes, He would come across as disloyal to the Jews. If He opposed it, He could be accused of rebelling against Rome.

Jesus’ reply makes an important point for both first-century Jews and for us today: we can, and should, meet both our civic and religious obligations. What “belongs to Caesar” ? (Mt. 22: 21). In other words, what are our civic duties ? According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “It is the duty of citizens to contribute ... to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity and freedom.” (#2239). This includes a moral obligation “to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one’s country.” (#2240).

What about our religious obligations ? What exactly “belongs to God” ? (Mt. 22: 21). Our entire selves ! Regardless of nationality or citizenship, we are all made in the image of the living God. (Genesis 1: 26—27). So while we pay our taxes and cast our vote to fulfill our political obligations, we give to God what belongs to Him—and that involves the surrender of our entire lives.

Participating whole-heartedly at Mass is a wonderful way to offer to God what belongs to Him. Today, as you set aside other activities to listen to the Word of God and receive Jesus in the Eucharist, reflect upon what He has given you. Then invite Him to show you how to surrender to Him even more—of your time, treasure, dreams, and of all the people you hold dear.

Lord, I entrust my whole life to You.

--from: *The Word Among Us*
October 2023

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 22, 2023

St. James the Greater

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

SATURDAY, October 28

8:00AM – Brother Lawrence Oelschlegel
req. by Christian Brothers

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 29

8:00AM – Ann Silcox
req. by Suzanne Laggy

11:30AM – Esther Hernandez
req. by her daughter, Cecilia Rough

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 811.00 – Regular Collection – October 15, 2023

\$ 506.00 – Online Giving

\$1,090.00 – Regular Collection – October 16, 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, 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 Heimal, Mikey Heimal, 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
Intentions of Mary, Queen of all Hearts at the
Request of the Rimshnick Family

MONDAY, October 23

9:00AM – Vince Minardi
req. by Patricia Feulner
-Intentions of the Straka Family
req. by Julia & Charles Jensen

TUESDAY, October 24

9:00AM – Roy & Krista Sweeney
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

WEDNESDAY, October 25

9:00AM – Joseph Myers
req. by Christian Brothers

THURSDAY, October 26

No Mass

FRIDAY, October 27

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

SATURDAY, Vigil, October 28

4:30PM – Mary Luteran
req. by Edmund & Nicolina Bush
-Harry & Sophie Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 29

9:30AM – Dale R. Briegel
req. by his son, Dale

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,779.00 – Regular Collection – October 15, 2023

\$ 867.00 – Online Giving

\$2,357.00 – Regular Collection – October 16, 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 October

Grades 1 – 4 – Tuesday, Oct. 24 – 4:00pm until 5:30pm at REC
Grades 5 & 6 and Conf. I & II – Sunday, Oct. 29 – 9:30am Mass at STC until 12:30pm 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.



Grade 2 Church Tour and Parent Meeting ~ Our Second Grade Sacrament Preparation Class and their Parents will meet at St. Thomas Church on **Monday, October 23rd at 4:00PM.** The children will take a tour of the church while parents will be in the FLC for a meeting regarding the preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist.



Listen Up – It's in the Bible

Oct. 22 – “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” (Matt. 22:21). *How do we repay to God what belongs to him?*

Celebrate October

Oct. 22 – Pope St. John Paul II

Oct. 23 – St. John of Capistrano

Oct. 24 – St. Anthony Mary Claret

Oct. 28 – Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

As the patron saint of hopeless causes, St. Jude is a powerful intercessor for people in need of prayer. Do you know someone who is in need? Ask St. Jude to pray for that person.

All you holy men, pray for us!

Please make the Rosary part of your family prayer this Month of the Rosary and continue to pray for peace as Our Blessed Mother has asked us to do!



Children's Liturgy of the Word

C.L.O.W. will take place again on Sunday, October 29th at the 9:30am Mass. We welcome all Confirmation Candidates (grades 7 and 8) and Confirmed teens to serve as Lector and/or as Hospitality Minister. 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.

All Saint's Day

Wednesday, November 1st is All Saints Day and a Holy Day of Obligation. Therefore, we anticipate all families will attend the special **4:00PM Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle** celebrated by Father Wayne. **Students in grades 1 through 6 are asked to dress as a saint and bring an index card with 2 facts about their saint.** This will take the place of the Homily at that Mass. This is a very easy thing to do and a wonderful way for all that are present to learn about the many known and maybe the “not so known” saints of the Catholic Church! We look forward to a full house of holy men, women and children!!! **Following the Mass, we will enjoy a delicious “Ice Cream Sundaes with the Saints.”**

The Sacramental Sign-In Book for our children and teens who are preparing for the Sacraments of First Eucharist (**grades 1 & 2**) and Confirmation (**grades 7 & 8**) These Binders (**Red – Conf. Class / White – FE Class**) will be kept in the back of BOTH churches and **must be signed each week.** Joyful participation in the weekly Celebration of the Eucharist as well as on Holydays of Obligation is a requirement for the reception of these sacraments. It is also expected of all faithful Catholics!!!



Youth Group for 7th through 12th graders of Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. James parishes has resumed! 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! **REMEMBER – we were given the option of an 8th grade Confirmation because we have an active Youth Group for our teens!!!** For more information, please call Mary Flexer at 862-268-1876. **Here is the October Schedule:**
October 29 – Trunk-Or-Treat/Haunted House Set-up-Clean-up at OLQP – 12-7pm

EMBARK Youth Conference

Our Confirmation II Candidates will be participating in the **EMBARK Youth Conference** on Sunday, November 5th from 10am until 5pm at St. Elizabeth University in Convent Station. There they will join the youth of our diocese in grades 8 through 12 in a day of Music, Talks, Service Project and Mass with Bishop Sweeney. Please keep our young teens in your prayer!

Yoga Classes at St. Thomas Church

St. Thomas is offering a fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Wednesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm** for 8 weeks **starting on October 18th** right here in the Father Lewis Center. **You may join us at any time.** The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Any questions, please call instructor Chris Dube at 862-266-8418. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the 8 week session for only \$40.00 or pay per class for \$6.00. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to our St. Thomas Parish. So, please come and try it out!

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, October 22, 2023
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, Oct. 23

Tuesday, Oct. 24

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

Wednesday, Oct. 25

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga exercises

Thursday, Oct. 26

Friday, Oct. 27

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

Saturday, Oct. 28

Sunday, October 29, 2023
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC Mass & Class Gr. 5 – 6
and Conf. I and II

* * * * *

Next Sunday's Readings: 30th Ord.

1st Reading: *Exodus 22: 20--26*
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 18*
2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 1: 5c--10*
Gospel: *Matthew 22: 34--40*

* * * * *

Right to Life Raffle. Tickets are available again this year to support the activities of the **New Jersey Right to Life Org.** Tickets are \$ 10 each. **There are four prizes this year:** 1st Prize: 2024 Volvo XC40 SUV, valued at \$ 43,000; 2nd Prize: \$ 1000.00 ShopRite Gift Card; 3rd Prize: \$ 750.00 ShopRite Gift Card; 4th Prize: \$ 500.00 ShopRite Gift Card. Drawing date is: Nov. 17th. Tickets available after Mass or from the Parish Office.

Good Counsel Homes. A fundraising Dinner Party to benefit the Homes will be held at **St. Mary's Parish Hall in Port Jervis, N. Y.** The date is **Sat. Nov. 4 at 6 p.m.** Musical entertainment by the **"360" band.** **Tickets are \$ 15 each; or a family ticket of \$ 45 (with children under 13).** There will be a free-will offering request at the Dinner. For tickets or info: call 845-239-8845.

The Great Legos Challenge ! All young people and kids are invited to try their hand at building a church or cathedral from Legos. Research some designs from the Internet, (google: 'photos of churches' for example), or use your imagination to build your very own church. Bring it to the Fr. Lewis Center on **Sun. November 12th** and display your work during the monthly Coffee Hour. All are welcome to join. There is no registration. And yes, Dads can help.)

Camp Auxilium Kids' Club. For all kids in **Grades 1--8** for **Saturday afternoons** of fun. From **1 p.m. till 4 p.m.** Includes games, arts & crafts, sports and music--according to age. Also a short time of prayer and learning about our faith. Snacks too ! All this is run by the young **Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Heart Retreat Center**, 14 Old Swartwood Rd., Newton. You are not required to come every week. So what do you have to lose ? To register: bit.ly/cakidsclub Or call: 973-383-2620 for more info.

A World Series and Superbowl Prayer:

Help me to be a good sport in the game of life. I don't ask for an easy place in the line-up. Put me any place you need me. I only ask that I can give you 100 per cent of all I have. If all the hard drives seem to come my way, I thank you for the compliment. Help me to remember that you never send a player more trouble than he can handle.

Help me, O Lord, to accept the bad break as part of the game. And may I always play on the square, no matter what the others do. Help me to study the Book so I'll know the rules.

Finally, God, if the natural turn of events goes against me, and I'm benched for sickness or old age, please help me to accept that as part of the game, too. Keep me from whimpering or squealing that I was framed or that I got a raw deal. And when I finish the final inning, I ask for no laurels. All I want is to believe in my heart that I played as well as I could and that I didn't let you down.

-- By Richard Cardinal Cushing,
Archbishop of Boston, 1944 -- 1970

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