

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

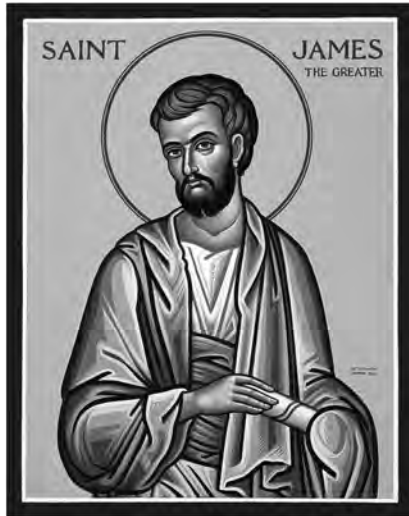
St. James the Greater

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

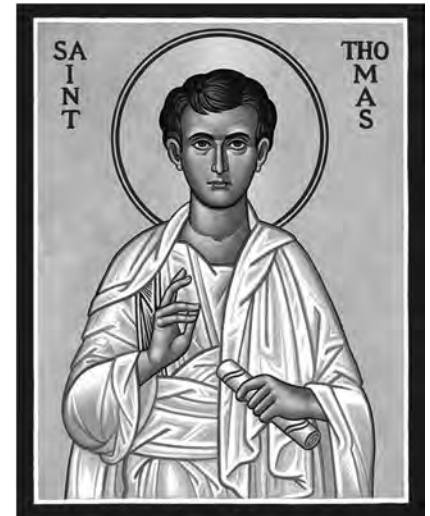
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

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)

Meeting Mary in Medjugorje

You know that I had the chance to go on pilgrimage to Medjugorje, a small town in Bosnia-Herzegovina in south-eastern Europe. It is the place of on-going appearances of the Blessed Mother, since 1981, to 'visionaries,' as they are called. For three of the visionaries, daily appearances to them have ended; they now receive them once a year. For the other three, the appearances occur daily, at the same exact time each day.



Our Blessed Mother speaks to them for several minutes, wherever they are, at 5:40 p.m. each day. We were privileged to stay with one of those visionaries—Ivan—who we joined in his chapel daily, each afternoon at 5 p.m. We pray together the Rosary. Then, at about the end of the prayers, 5:40 p.m., Ivan reports that he sees a white light. He immediately rises from his chair, and kneels at a kneeler that has been placed in front of the altar in the chapel. He seems to go into a trance as he sees the Blessed Mother hovering on a cloud above the altar. We the pilgrims do not see the visions, but we can feel the Blessed Mother's presence among us.

After 6—8 minutes, Ivan comes out of the vision, and shares with us the message of the day. Thus the Blessed Mother uses him to give her messages to us—and to the world.

What message does the Blessed Mother have for us ? First, to let us know that she is with us, and has not abandoned us. She is very much concerned with our world, and wants to be an active part of it. She has expressed this repeatedly in all the appearances she has made and continues to make throughout the world: in Lourdes, in Fatima, and now in Medjugorje.

She comes to encourage and promote devotion to her Son. It is not for herself but for her Son and the love of the world that she continues to appear and work to re-shape our world.

How can she do this ? By calling us to change our hearts; to be rid of all that moves us away from her Son, and to embrace all that draws us closer to Him. She calls upon the people of the world to turn back to her Son; and for those who are faithful—even more.

What does she look like ? Ivan reports that she appears wearing a gray robe with a white veil. She has blue eyes, brown hair and an olive complexion. She comes, floating or hovering on a white cloud, slightly above the altar. As he gazes at her he loses all sense of time and place on earth. Ivan has reported to us that usually, the Blessed Mother appears with a smile on her face, with a happy, confident disposition. Recently though, she appears with a look of serious concern, reflecting her concern for the current world situation.

Her message is first a "thank you." "Thank you for your faith; deepen it." "Mir, mir, mir" (Croatian for: "Peace, peace, peace") is her constant prayer for the world. She especially calls families to bring Jesus back into the center of family life: by weekly Mass and daily prayers. And by following our religious customs and practices. This is the sure way to peace.

There were no predictions about the future, but a general sadness and concern about all that is going on in the world right now.

These are not her exact words or quotes, but they summarize her message to us pilgrims to Medjugorje. But they are meant also for the entire world. Let us thank our Blessed Mother for continuing to show us her motherly care.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 29, 2023

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Josephine Yarosz at the
Request of her Family

WEDNESDAY, November 1

All Saints

8:00AM – Deceased Pastors, Priests and Parishioners

SATURDAY, November 4

8:00AM – Ronald H. Wildrick, Jr.
req. by his Family

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 5

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

11:30AM – Donald Martin, Sr.
req. by his Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 628.00 – Regular Collection – October 22, 2023

\$ 511.00 – Online Giving

\$ 220.00 – World Mission Sunday

\$1,041.00 – Regular Collection – October 23, 2022

\$ 156.00 – World Mission Sunday

\$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, Peggy Gray, Patricia Harrington, Tracy Harriott, Patricia Hassan, Erin Hockenberry, Diane Hoos, T. J. Huffman, Charles Jensen, 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 Dale R. Briegel at the
Request of his wife, Rosemarie

MONDAY, October 30

9:00AM – Brother Steven Casale
req. by Christian Brothers

TUESDAY, October 31

9:00AM – Intentions of the Flexer and Barr Families
req. by Julia & Charles Jensen
-Eamon Conlin, Adam Youngman and
Dominick Merusi
req. by the Flexer Family

WEDNESDAY, November 1

All Saints

9:00AM – Louise Flexer
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer
4:00PM – Cordelia Cafone and Intentions of
Religious Education Children & Families
7:00PM – Deceased Pastors, Priests and Parishioners

THURSDAY, November 2

No Mass

FRIDAY, November 3

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

SATURDAY, Vigil, November 4

4:30PM – Mary Luteran
req. by Rita & Milan Straka

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 5

9:30AM – Dennis Marshall
req. by Sharon & Joe Falchetta

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,199.00 – Regular Collection – October 22, 2023

\$ 867.00 – Online Giving

\$ 462.00 – World Mission Sunday

\$2,509.00 – Regular Collection – October 23, 2022

\$ 424.00 – World Mission Sunday

\$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/November

Grades 5 & 6 and Conf. I & II – Sunday, Oct. 29 and Nov. 19 – 9:30am Mass at STC until 12:30pm at REC
 Conf. II – Sunday, Nov. 5 – EMBARK Youth Conference – 10:00am until 5:00pm at St. Elizabeth University
 Grades 1 – 4 – Tuesday, Nov. 7, 14, 21 and 28 – 4:00pm until 5:30pm at REC



Grade 2 Church Tour and Parent Meeting ~ Our Second Grade Sacrament Preparation Class and their Parents will meet at St. Thomas Church on **Monday, November 6th 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. 29 – “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matt. 22:37, 39). *How are all of God's laws connected to loving God and loving others?*



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
You can come for any amount of time during these hours. This is a fun way to acquire service hours!

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!



Children's Liturgy of the Word

C.L.O.W. will take place again on **Sunday, November 12th** at the 9:30am Mass.

Celebrate November

“All you holy men, women and children pray for us!” We believe in the Communion of Saints. This month, we celebrate All Saints and All Souls, honoring all who are part of the family of God. **Please pray this Prayer for All Souls each day:**

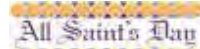
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Nov. 1 ~ All Saints Day

Nov. 2 ~ All Souls Day

Nov. 3 ~ St. Martin de Porres

Nov. 4 ~ St. Charles Borromeo



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!!!

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 and **started 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!

St. James Christmas Bazaar will take place on **December 2nd** from 9am to 3pm. If you wish to donate new or gently used household or holiday items, bake or volunteer, please contact Joan Henn 973-293-3690 or Linda Spinapolice 973-293-7031.

Lottery Calendar - St. James will again be selling the Lottery Calendars for 2024. The calendars are \$20 each and are eligible to win every day in 2024. Benefit of St. James and Knights of Columbus #13395 (Milford). Tickets will be available after Masses in November and December or contact Bill Ricciardi wjr218@optonline.net. They make great Christmas presents!!!

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 29, 2023

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, Oct. 30

Tuesday, Oct. 31

1:00 p.m. STC Bible Study

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

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Feast of All Saints

8:00 a.m. SJC Mass of All Saints

9:00 a.m. STC Mass of All Saints

4:00 p.m. STC Mass of All Saints

7:00 p.m. STC Mass of All Saints

Thursday, Nov. 2

All Souls Day

Friday, Nov. 3

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

Saturday, Nov. 4

Sunday, November 5, 2023

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC Patriotic Rosary -- after Mass

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Next Sunday's Readings: 31st Ord.

1st Reading: *Malachi 1: 14b--2:2b; 8--10*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 131*

2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 2: 7b--9; 13*

Gospel: *Matthew 23: 1--12*

* * * * *

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.

All Saints Day: Wed. Nov. 1. It's a celebration of the Church's greatest victories: all the souls who have made it through this life, and have gained the Kingdom of Heaven for eternity ! It's the goal to which we aspire at the end of our earthly lives. The saints show us how to reach it, with their lives of faith and commitment to the Lord. We honor them on this **Holy Day of Obligation.** **Masses on Wed. Nov. 1** will be: 8 a.m. at St. James; 9 a.m. at St. Thomas; 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Thomas.

The Great Legos Challenge. All young people and kids are invited to try their hand at building a church or cathedral from Legos. **Not a contest, but a challenge.** 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.)

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.

First Thursdays. The **Salesian Sisters** of the **Sacred Heart Center in Newton** (at 20 Old Swartswood Rd.) offer a **Morning of Reflection** each month, on the First Thursday. The schedule begins at 9 a.m. with coffee +; a short talk, Adoration, Mass, lunch, and departure by 1 p.m. No need to pre-register, just come. For more info, call 973-383-2620 or e-mail at shretreatcenter@gmail.com.

Veterans' Day Tribute. Our Columbiettes are taking the lead in offering prayers and remembrances of our American Veterans, both living and deceased. **A brief flag-placing ceremony and prayers will be held after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Sat. Nov. 11, at St. Thomas.** Simply fill out the form in back of Church, which identifies your servicemen and women and branch of service. All donations are appreciated and will be sent directly to the **"Send a Hero Home"** Campaign, sponsored by the State of N.J. Knights of Columbus.

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