

# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

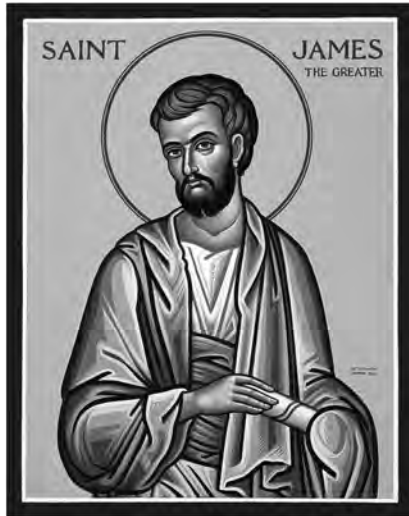
## *St. James the Greater*

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

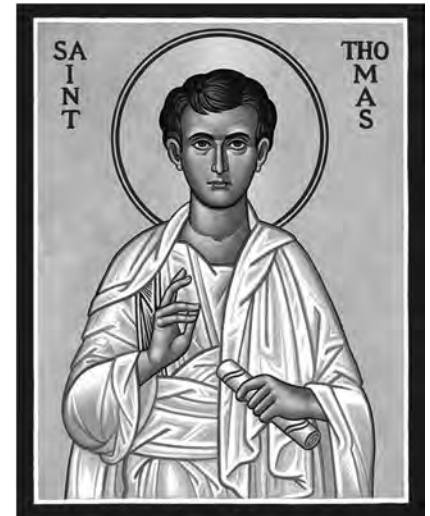
*Website* ----- saintjamesthomas.org

*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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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)



## November, Month of All Souls

There is nothing that equalizes us as much as death. We each get one, and none of us knows the day or the hour. The circumstances of our birth determine much about our lives and our future possibilities. We, who are born in this country, for example, are so fortunate compared to people born in poverty-stricken places throughout the world. Yet for each person born, no matter where or under what life-conditions, there is that moment when the things of this world come to an end.

Death for us humans is naturally experienced as sorrow and grief. When someone we love is taken from us in death, we know that deep, often wrenching changes must be faced. That person, who has been so intimate a part of our lives, is there no more to be a companion and support. All that was shared together can no longer be. We experience a profound sense of loss.

We sometimes contemplate our own future death. Perhaps it is in those moments that we most treasure the life that we do have. Yet we know, and fear, that some unknown day ahead will be our last. Again, a sense of sadness and even depression can come to us.

Perhaps right here is the beauty and the treasure of our faith. Our Lord Jesus has been through death and has shown us what lies on the other side: the fullness of life, a peace and happiness and joy to which there is no comparison on this earth. Jesus' three days in the tomb surely brought His disciples, and probably even His Mother, to the brink of despair. And then, on Easter Sunday, His glorious Resurrection and His appearances to them brought an unbounded, incomparable joy. The Lord wishes all believers to share in this kind of joy—a joy that “destroys death forever” as Isaiah prophesied six centuries before.

Our Lord's Resurrection, and our faith in Him, has changed the way we look at death. Yes, it still is the end of our life on this earth, but it is not a blank wall; it is not an end. Death, Jesus reveals, is a doorway, and it leads us to the greatest happiness imaginable. Perhaps the greatest happiness we will find is to discover our dear departed loved ones waiting for us, to share the Eternal Banquet of Heaven with them.

And so, although we naturally would put off the moment of death, we need not dread it, because it becomes the promise of greater and more wonderful things ahead. “Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, what God has ready for those who love Him,” as one of our hymns puts it.

Let us thank the Lord for the precious gift of faith, the gift that helps us look past the moment of death and to look forward to a union with Him and with our loved ones—which will last forever.

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**November 5, 2023**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Agnes Ciesielski at the  
Request of her Family

**SATURDAY, November 11**

8:00AM – Brother John Herron  
req. by Christian Brothers

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**November 12**

8:00AM – Russ Spinks  
req. by Art & Maria Henn  
-Intentions of Nancy Meshnick and Family  
req. by Dan Meshnick

11:30AM – John Szerencsits

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 929.00 – Regular Collection – October 29, 2023**  
**\$ 506.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$1,451.00 – Regular Collection – October 30, 2022**  
**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

*Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.*

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**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 Kathryn Walker at the  
Request of her Children

**MONDAY, November 6**

9:00AM – Mary Ann & Bob Takacs  
req. by their Family

**TUESDAY, November 7**

9:00AM – Geraldine Mele  
req. by her Family

**WEDNESDAY, November 8**

9:00AM – Brother William Fealy  
req. by Christian Brothers  
-Gus Eberhardt  
req. by his Family

**THURSDAY, November 9**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, November 10**

9:00AM – Kathryn Walker  
req. by her Children  
-Healing Intentions of Father Edward Rama  
req. by Margie Mullins

**SATURDAY, Vigil, November 11**

4:30PM – Mary Luteran  
req. by Bible Scripture Group  
-Bridie Coyne (nee Dunleavy)  
req. by Harry & Mary Dunleavy

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**November 12**

9:30AM – Jimmy Smith  
req. by Robin Zidek  
-Birthday Intentions of Ann Benson  
req. by her sister, Rose

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,652.00 – Regular Collection – October 29, 2023**  
**\$1,037.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$2,315.00 – Regular Collection – October 30, 2022**  
**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

*Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.*

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**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 November

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

Grades 5 & 6 and Conf. I & II – Sunday, Nov. 19 – 9:30am Mass at STC until 12:30pm 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

**Nov. 5** – “The greatest among you must be your servant.” (Matt. 23:11). *How can you serve your family this week?*

### 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. 5 ~ St. Elizabeth** – She was the cousin of Mary. She was filled with joy when God gave her a baby boy, even though she was too old to have children. Her son, John the Baptist, would grow up to prepare the way for Jesus.

**Nov. 9 ~ The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** – We celebrate the feast of the Dedication of St. John Lateran, the seat of the Pope as the Bishop of Rome and one of the major basilicas of Rome. Here are the others: Basilica of St. Peter, Basilica of The Holy Cross, Basilica of St. Lawrence, Basilica of St. Paul, Basilica of St. Mary Major and Sanctuary of Our Lady of Divine Love. These seven churches are traditionally visited on Holy Thursday.

**Nov. 10 ~ St. Leo the Great**

**Nov. 11~ St. Martin of Tours**

**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!!!



### Children's Liturgy of the Word

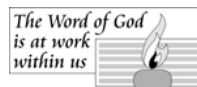
C.L.O.W. will take place again on **Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** at the 9:30am Mass.

### 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 18<sup>th</sup>** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 Spinapolic 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!!!



### A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

### Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

**November 5, 2023**

**“With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you, not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us...And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.”**

Saint Paul had no difficulty identifying his deep concern for the communities he served. His mission to preach the gospel is so evident in the fourteen letters of the New Testament. But he also commends those who accepted the word, acknowledging it as the Word of God. Whenever we come to mass, or when we open the bible, may we begin acknowledging that the Lord has a message for us. May we humbly open our ears and our heart as we say, ‘See Lord, your servant is listening.’

When the priest or deacon begins his homily, may we pray that the Lord speak clearly through him and let the Word of God continue to be at work in 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, November 5, 2023**

**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. STC Patriotic Rosary -- after Mass  
10:00a.m. EMBARK Youth Conference Conf. II  
--at St. Elizabeth Coll. Convent Station

**Monday, Nov. 6**

4:00 p.m. STC 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Church Tour;  
and Parents' Sacramental Prep.

**Tuesday, Nov. 7**

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

**Wednesday, Nov. 8**

6:15 p.m. STC Yoga exercises

**Thursday, Nov. 9**

**Friday, Nov. 10**

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

**Saturday, Nov. 11**

4:30 p.m. STC Veterans' Day Ceremony led by  
Columbiettes (after Mass)

**Sunday, November 12, 2023**

**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass  
9:30 a.m. STC Legos Challenge for youth

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Sunday's Readings: 32<sup>nd</sup> Ord.**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *Wisdom 6: 12--16*  
Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 63*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *1 Thessalonians 4: 13--18*  
Gospel: *Matthew 25: 1--13*

\* \* \* \* \*

**2024 Lottery Calendars Available.** We thank the K. of C. of Milford, PA for including St. James in their Calendar fundraiser this year. Lottery Calendars are \$ 20 each, and make it possible to win every day in 2024. Winning numbers are based on the daily N.Y.State Lottery. Make great Christmas gifts. Available after Masses or by reaching Bill Ricciardi at [wjr218@optonline.net](mailto:wjr218@optonline.net)

**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 **next Sun. November 12<sup>th</sup>** and display your work during the Monthly Coffee Hour. All are welcome to join. There is no registration. (And yes, Dads can help.)

**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.

**Our Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service** is set for **Mon. Nov. 20.** It is a chance for all Catholics and Christians of our area to celebrate all that we have in common. **The Service will be held at the Minisink Reformed Church on River Rd., Montague. It begins a 7 p.m.** Let us join with our friends at the Minisink Reformed and Delaware Valley United Methodist Churches, along with Pastors Mike and Jo-Anne, and thank the Lord for His countless blessing to all of us. May this also be a time to pray for greater peace in our world.

### Message of Our Lady at Medjugorje:

January 25, 2023: *"Dear children ! Pray with me for peace, because Satan wants war and hatred in hearts and peoples. Therefore, pray and sacrifice your days by fasting and penance, that God may give you peace. The future is at a crossroads, because modern man does not want God. That is why mankind is heading to perdition. You, little children, are my hope. Pray with me, that what I began in Fatima and here may be realized. Be people of prayer, and witness peace in your surroundings, and be people of peace. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

--from: *Medjugorje, The Messages of the Queen of Peace*, 2023

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