

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

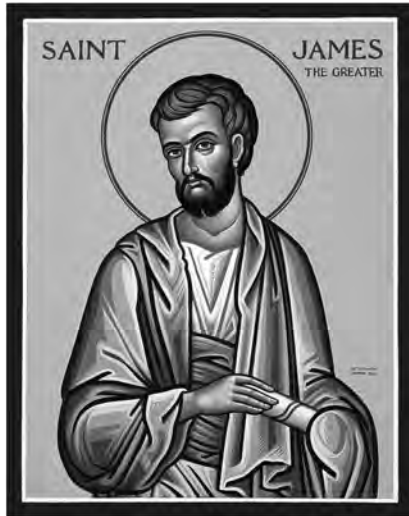
St. James the Greater

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

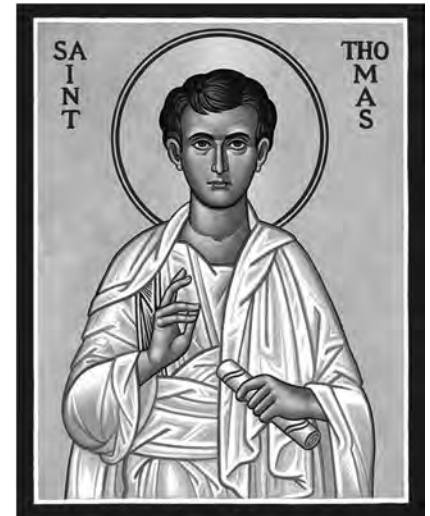
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org

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*)



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In the Dead of Winter: Life is Stirring Underneath

A number of people have told me that they have had enough of Winter. They're ready for warmer weather: bring on the grass and green leaves. I reminded them that we still have two-thirds of Winter to go yet. Sometimes the truth hurts. Yet we know that while Winter prevails now, Spring advances ever closer. With the sundown of each day, the next day holds a promise of approaching growth and warmth.

Our spiritual lives should follow the same pattern. But it is not automatic. We can remain 'stuck in neutral' as it were. Or we can move forward, even slowly, and grow in our spiritual lives. How can you tell if you're making any progress with growing in the spirit? Here are some questions to consider this week:

- ❖ Are you performing specific actions or not—regularly attending Mass; regular, daily prayer or adoration; regular Bible study or reading; devotions like the rosary or novenas—on-going, continuing ways of attending to the spirit.
- ❖ Also, is there a consciousness of doing things during the week for the sake of Christ: encouraging others in their faith; expressing your faith in public (saying grace in a restaurant, for example); any consciousness that your actions and words and example are important because you are a disciple of the Lord today?
- ❖ On personal habits: Are you consciously working to improve: overcoming cursing, for example, or white lies or gossip; defeating that tendency to put yourself first or always getting in the last word; working to change those habits that annoy your spouse or other family members. If you are consciously working on any improvement—you are growing in the spirit.
- ❖ Likewise, becoming more appreciative of nature—maybe not the freezing cold—but appreciative of the beauty and power of nature as God's creation, and allowing it to speak to you of God's majesty and wisdom.
- ❖ Do you follow those impulses to put ourselves out for the sake of others, knowing our natural tendency is just the opposite—to seek our own comfort first. Do you work to follow the Holy Spirit's lead in stepping out of your comfort zone and guiding your spirit to greater heights.

Growing, making progress in our spiritual life is as necessary as growing and maintaining our bodies. May we continually renew ourselves in spirit—and follow the way that the Holy Spirit points out to us.

God bless you, Father Wayne

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 21, 2024

St. James the Greater

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

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

SATURDAY, January 27

8:00AM – Eugene & Rosalie Mauro
req. by their Family

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 28

8:00AM – Joan Spoolstra
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Walter & Norma Journey
req. by their Family

MONDAY, January 22

9:00AM – Sr. Catherine Novo, FMA
req. by Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, January 23

9:00AM – Kathy Kelly
req. by Pat & Pete Lane

WEDNESDAY, January 24

9:00AM – Helen Briegel
req. by her Family

THURSDAY, January 25

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 26

9:00AM – Donald Martin, Sr.
req. by his Family

SATURDAY, Vigil, January 27

4:30PM – Birthday Intentions of Andy Bastian
req. by Rosemarie
-Dom & Kate Olivo
req. by their Family

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 28

9:30AM – Regina Shomer
req. by Geraldine Mahon and Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,529.00 – Regular Collection- January 14, 2024

\$ 506.00 – Online Giving

\$ 600.00 – Additional Christmas

\$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, 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, Steve Honik, Diane Hoos, Gene Hudson, T. J. Huffman, Charles Jensen, L. Lawson, Fred & Pat Leute, Nancy Lodema, Rose & Rand Macafoss, Gerry Mahon, Sara Mahon, Teresa Mantani, Gen Miller, Richard Nowicki, Kim Osonitsch, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Joan Sangiorgi, Brian Scarpone, Kathleen Sibbio, Tim Slavin, Cecelia Smith, Yvonne Summers, Pastor Mike Sweeney, Walter Winkler, Ricky Wunder

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,790.00 – Regular Collection- January 14, 2024

\$1,032.00 – Online Giving

\$ 75.00 – Additional Christmas

\$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.



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, Bryce Brigham, Saige Bruzard, Brandon Heimall, Mikey Heimall, Nicholas and Karissa Kealy, Ryan Kowal, Colton Lawrence, Joseph Mannion, Luke McDermott, Hunter Olenick, Christopher & Ana Sarao, Nicole Sarao, Marissa Snook, Peter Spinks and James Orr



Religious Education Classes for January

Grades 5 & 6 and Conf. I & II – Sunday, Jan. 21– 9:30am
Mass at STC until 12:30pm at REC

Grades 1 – 4 – Tuesday, Jan. 23 & 30 – 4:00pm until
5:30pm at REC

Wishing all of our Catechists, Aides and Religious Education Families a Beautiful, Blessed and Joyous Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Holy New Year!

Celebrate January – Making A Fresh Start

Many people make promises and resolutions to improve their lives or to make a fresh start. During this time of Eucharistic revival, we are called to renew our lives in Christ.

Jan. 21 ~ 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jan. 22 ~ Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Jan. 23 ~ St. Vincent, St. Marianne Cope

Jan. 24 ~ St. Francis de Sales

Jan. 25 ~ The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Jan. 26 ~ St. Timothy and Titus

Jan. 27 ~ St. Angela Merici

This is a week full of saint feast days! Take some time and find out about these holy men and women!

Sacred Scripture

Renewal means making things new again – restating, restoring or refreshing. When we let God work in us, He is always helping us grow, making our hearts new again and giving us second chances when we need them. Here are some verses from Sacred Scripture about renewal.

“The One who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new’” (Revelation 21:5).

God is able to give us a new start and to help us with difficult situations in our lives. What can we ask God to help us make things new again?

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!!!



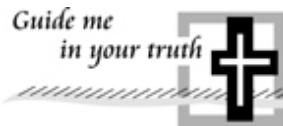
Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Statue

The beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima in the Sanctuary of St. Thomas is waiting to visit your home!

The purpose of the statue is a way the message of Fatima is spread throughout the world. It brings the graces of Fatima along with Our Lady's message of hope, peace and salvation. Each week, a family or a parishioner will receive this image at the end of Mass. You will be provided with a safe way for it to travel to and from your home. You may keep her in your home for the week and then return her back to church the following week before the start of Mass. Included in the box will be rosaries, prayer cards, books and holy water to help you in your prayer time. These things must be returned when you bring the statue back.

We encourage all of our Religious Education families and all parishioners to take part in this beautiful and holy experience! There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space at St. Thomas Church on the old altar near a picture of Our Lady of Fatima. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Mary at 862-268-1876.

Please note that Pot Luck has been changed to Saturday, January 27th.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by *Rev. William J. Reilly*
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 21, 2024

“Jonah had gone but a single day’s walk announcing, ‘Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed.’ When the people of Nineveh believed God they proclaimed a fast... When God saw their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil he had threatened... Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God, ‘This is the time of fulfillment, the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.’”

Two preachers, the same message. The people of Nineveh repented. Jesus called the Galileans to repentance. The message is the same for us today. Are we listening? Our world burdened by hate, war, promiscuity, family breakdown, is perhaps worse than was Nineveh and Galilee. If we all would respond by our own prayer and fasting things could be quite different. Our problem as we read the scriptures today is our own indifference.

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, January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, Jan. 22

Tuesday, Jan. 23

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

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Thursday, Jan. 25

Friday, Jan. 26

10:00a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed. Sacrament
--till 12 Noon

Saturday, Jan. 27

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

Sunday, January 28, 2024

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

* * * * *

Next Sunday's Readings: 4th Ord.

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 18: 15--20
Resp. Psalm: Psalm 95
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 32--35
Gospel: Mark 1: 21--28

* * * * *

Soup on a Saturday Thanks. Our thanks to all who supported our **Soup on a Saturday fundraiser** recently. We appreciate those who made the delicious soups, and **special thanks to Bill Riccardi** for organizing the project. These freezing winter days just got a little easier to deal with.

****** Our Advertisers on the back page** make our Bulletin possible, free of charge. When in need of services, please consider these local business people. (And let them know you found them through our Bulletin.)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Friday, from 10 a.m. till 12 Noon at St. Thomas Church. It is a chance to come before the Lord in reflection and silence. It allows you to experience inner peace, and enables God to speak to you from His very Presence on the altar. You can stay for 15 minutes or for two hours. A visit with the Lord can bring new hope and deeper trust into your life of faith. Give it a try. The Lord is waiting.

National Eucharistic Revival Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You give us Your Flesh and Blood for the life of the world, and You desire that all people come to the Supper of the Sacrifice of the Lamb. Renew in Your Church the truth, beauty and goodness contained in the Most Blessed Eucharist.

Jesus, living in the Eucharist, come and live in me.

Jesus, healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me.

Jesus, sacrificing Yourself in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me.

Jesus, rising in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me.

Jesus, loving in the Eucharist, come and love in me.

Lord Jesus Christ, through the Paschal Mystery of Your death and resurrection, made present in every Holy Mass, pour out Your healing love on Your Church and on our world. Grant that as we lift You up during this time of Eucharistic Revival, Your Holy Spirit may draw all people to join us at this Banquet of Life. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

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

Recommended by FORMED:

Watch: *The Fifth Commandment: Promote the Culture of Life* Building a culture which respects human life in all its ages and stages.

A Prayer Petition for our Nation:

For a national rejection of the idea that abortion is the solution to our economic problems; rather, that all children in the womb be respected as sacred gifts of God to our world, we pray

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