The public sale of school houses in Sandyston township was held at the Consolidated School on Saturday afternoon. Anson V. Johnson was the auctioneer. The Layton school house was sold to Lawrence Ellett for $1,000, Hainesville school for $500 to a Mr. Gilston. Bids on Fisher’s school were rejected as being too low. The contents of all the school houses, too, were sold at the Layton school house. All goods were disposed of at fair prices.

- Diocese had set $500 aside to acquire property in Hainesville.
- The Gilston’s were of Newton, NJ and parishioners at St. Joseph’s. Msgr. Michael Donnelly, their pastor, was assisting Bishop McLaughlin in opening new Mission churches.
First Mass - July 6, 1941

Monsignor Michael J. Donnelly, rector of St. Joseph’s Church, has announced two new missions of the church will open Sunday. They are St. Matthew’s Mission at Walpack and St. Thomas the Apostle Mission, Hainesville.

Bishop Thomas H. McLaughlin of Paterson, who authorized creation of the missions after a series of conferences with Monsignor Donnelly, will officiate at the opening mass at the Walpack mission, which will be in a tent in River road near ridge road. The St. Thomas mission is in a former public school at Hainesville Center. The chapel is just off Route 821.

The mass at Walpack will be at 9 A.M. and 10 A.M. at Hainesville. A survey of the congregations will be made to determine the need for additional services and most convenient time for holding services the remainder of the summer.

Sunday masses at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Culver Lake, another mission of St. Joseph’s will be at 9 and 10:30 A.M. the remainder of the season. Masses at St. Joseph’s Church in Newton are at 8 and 10 A.M. Sundays.

Assigned To Rural Parish At Lafayette

Rev. John E. Hewetson, of Paterson, brother of Rev. Joseph Hewetson, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, has been assigned to the parish at Lafayette, by Bishop McLaughlin, of the Paterson Diocese, and conducted his first mass Sunday at 9 a.m. at Hainesville and at Lafayette at 11 a.m. Rev. Hewetson will live in Lafayette. His parish includes also Walpack, Montague and Sandyston.

Administrator of Western Sussex Missions 1942-44

St. Bartholomew Church/Chapel of Lafayette 1942 – 1951 Priest’s residence until Our Lady Queen of Peace was established in Branchville. It closed after the rectory for St. James Parish In Montague was built.
Both priests assisted at the mission churches and are recalled by long-time parishioners.

St. Thomas the Apostle, Hainesville, one of the Western Sussex Missions developed in 1943. (ADP Photo)

This photo is from the Archives of the Diocese of Paterson and is in Msgr. Raymond Kupke’s book, “Living Stones” – date taken unknown. The 1943 date though is in error. That was when St. James the Apostle Parish was officially named. Close-up photo shows the small entry porch added to original schoolhouse. Interior view shows the colored glass windows, Altar and Communion rail, Sanctuary lamp, and possible Stations of Cross between the windows.
Rev. Francis Warlikowski  
Administrator 1944  
He was appointed Pastor in 1945, oversaw the Missions. and the construction of the church for St. James in Montague.

Rev. Sylvius Mancini  
1950-1954  
Built rectory at St. James and was the first priest to reside in Montague.
St. Matthew Mission’s first Masses were held under a tent. “Little Church in Walpack”
It sat across the road from St. Ann’s Rest – the Bishop’s summer residence on the hill. Initial Masses off season were likely held in private homes.

The steps from Old Mine Rd. still remain – south of Pompey Road.

Rev. Peter Byron 1954-1961
Panaghiotes Flamiatos - actual Greek name
Held a popular Sunday evening Mass at St. James.

Rev. John Tully was assigned to the Mission at St. Matthew in 1957, and later to St. James & St. Thomas in 1962. Due to the increased number of summer residents and visitors crowding St. Matthew, he added a church at Blue Mountain Lakes - Our Lady of Blue Mountain in 1966. He remained with us until 1967.

Corporal Leo Fanning served in Italy during WW2, where he met Padre Pio. When introduced to him, Padre Pio responded “It is Father Leo Fanning.” He indeed later became a priest. Minutes before his ordination he received a congratulatory telegram from Padre Pio, though he had never informed him of the exact day or time.
**Rev. James Gacquin**

**Summer 1969**

Temporary Admin. of St. James, and of St. Thomas and St. Matthew Missions; Director at Pope John XXIII HS

---

**Rev. Karl Kraus**

Assisted at, and appointed as Administrator of St. Matthew’s & taught at Pope John XXIII HS

---

**Rev. Remigio Rocco**

now Msgr.

---

**Rev. John O’Connor**

---

**Summer Assistants to Fr. Fanning**

- Rev. Karl Kraus
- Rev. Remigio Rocco
- Rev. Joseph Ryan
- Rev. John Boland, now Msgr.
- Rev. John O’Connor
- Rev. Remigio Rocco
- Rev. Joseph Ryan
- Rev. John Boland, now Msgr.
- Rev. John O’Connor
- Rev. Remigio Rocco
- Rev. Joseph Ryan
- Rev. John Boland, now Msgr.
- Rev. John O’Connor

---

**Assisted at St. Thomas and the Walpack Missions til they closed:**

- Rev. John Boland, now Msgr.
  1969 – early 1970’s

---

**Rev. Joseph Ryan**

covered occasionally

He later would serve as Parochial Vicar in 1993

---

Both were assigned to Pope John XXIII HS

---

Some of the changes between 1960 - 1970:

[These notations were hand written in an 1962/63 Announcement book the priest would carry to all the churches where he was serving Mass.]

Please use the Mass leaflets and pray out loud the Prayers at the foot of the Altar up and including the Kyrie Eleison

The Gloria, the Credo

The Orate Frates / “Pray, Brethren...”

The Sanctus, Sanctus

The Paternoster

The Domine Non Sumdignos / “Lord, I am not worthy..”

By Dec. 1st most of these prayers will be said by the people in English.

---

**Rev. Michota named new pastor at Montague church**

Archbishop of Paterson Lawrence Casey announced this week the appointment of the Rev. Thaddeus Michota as pastor of St. James R.C. Church in Montague and to the missions of St. Thomas, Hainesville and St. Matthew in Walpack Center.

Rev. Michota has been pastor of St. Agnes in Paterson.

Other diocesan changes include the Rev. James Gacquin as administrator at St. James in Montague to residence at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Sparta, Rev. Gacquin is director of Pope John XXIII Regional High School in Sparta.

The Rev. Hugh McDowney has been assigned from Our Lady of the Lake to St. Joseph parish in Lincoln Park.

---

**Ruling On Mass**

**Bishop to Permit Saturday Privilege**

Catholics of the Paterson Diocese will be able to fulfill their Sunday Mass obligation on Saturdays beginning April 19. Bishop Casey announced this week. The announcement made Paterson the 36th diocese out of 160 in the U.S. which has granted the so-called Sunday Mass privilege.

THE BISHOP made the announcement at a meeting of diocesan pastors on Monday, noting that the Pope had given all bishops of the United States permission to institute the privilege in their own dioceses.

Bishop Casey requested that those pastors who want the permission for their parishes should apply individually. Hating the particular needs of the parishes. The permission would also apply to days preceding holy days of obligation.

Attendance at Saturday mass between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m., the bishop said, will free members of the diocese from attending mass on the following Sunday.

While an invitation to attend would be extended, the bishop said, should make it possible for Catholics to celebrate memorably the day of the resurrection of our Lord.
Sept. 1970 OLBM Closes

Workmen Begin Job Of Moving Church

WALPACK TOWNSHIP — Workmen have begun to dismantle Our Lady of Blue Mountain Church, which will be moved to the campus of Pope John XXIII High School in Sparta for use as a large group instruction area and a library.

"It will relieve the present crowded conditions and it will afford faculty and students resources for independent study and research and team teaching," said Bishop Casey.

Pope John school officials hope actual moving of the church from the Teck's Island area to the school will take place in a week. The target date for completion of the change is early November.

The large instruction area will permit team teaching, large or small groups and will serve as an auditorium for assemblies, plays and concerts.

Included in the facilities will be a professional area for the faculty, a listening area for student use of tapes and records, a viewing area for individual use of films and films and space for 100 students to conduct study and research.

The existing school library seats 21 students adequately. The gymnasium auditorium is used 100 per cent of the school day and the classroom laboratories nearly 94 per cent of the day. This high use of facilities leaves no possibility of flexibility, school officials said.


St. Thomas the Apostle Mission Church was enlarged 1970-1971

1/15/71 Loan from St. Matthew to St. Thomas cancelled – St. Matthew’s no longer exists.

In 1974, with added space, St. Thomas hosted its 1st Confirmation - Bishop Casey also confirming those from St. James & the Walpack Missions.
1973-74  New Floor installed in Sacristy and body of church, new rug in Sanctuary, railing installed, new drapes, new rug in aisles.

Pews from OLBM were acquired later.

1978  St. Thomas received Stations of the Cross from St. Matthew Mission on its closure.

1984  Deacon John Grimes

Pews from OLBM were obtained for St. Thomas by Mr. Fred Battali, Sr. in exchange for his offer to dig a well at Pope John XXIII HS.
Often both St. James & St. Thomas held their First Communion and/or Confirmations together, followed by a breakfast given by the Rosary Society in the parish hall in Montague.

Fr. Ted had welcomed the Salesian Seminarians from Don Bosco in Newton to assist with retreats and religious education.

At present 135 of New Jersey's 710 parishes have only one priest. In Sussex County, Msgr. James Gacquin is the pastor of two parishes, driving the 12 miles between St. James the Greater in Montague and St. Thomas the Apostle in Sandyston Township, and then regularly taking another 14-mile trip to conduct services for juvenile inmates of the Mountainview Correctional Facility in Stokes State Forest. The constant travel, which adds up to 43,000 miles a year, evokes memories of the circuit rider ministries of an earlier age and brings east a taste of what is happening today in Catholic parishes in some Western states.

Lonely Life: One Parish, One Priest
By JOSEPH F. SULLIVAN
Published: March 6, 1993   NY Times
On December 9, 1987, the Jubilee Year of the Diocese of Paterson, Bishop Frank J. Rodimer elevated St. Thomas Mission (territorially the largest in the diocese) to full Parish status.

By 1988, with land donated by Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Clark and their daughter, Lydia, Father Gacquin initiated plans and fundraising for constructing a new church along Route 206.

Lacking a hall, St. Thomas had often utilized the old Firehouse, which was a Community Center for coffee hours, food or craft sales, and other functions. Church picnics or the Steak Bust were also held in the parking lot. Tricky Trays were held at the Sandyston School, before there was a Parish Hall.
1996 Installation
Parish secretary, Maureen McHugh, presenting
parish roll to Bishop Rodimer.

Rev. Thomas Rainforth
1996 - 1997

Administrador Named
Father Lewis to lead Montague, Layton parishes

Bishop Rodimer has announced that Father Gerald E. Lewis will serve as administrator of St. John Neumann, Whitemarsh, effective March 3.


Father Lewis was ordained a priest by Bishop Rodimer in 1981. Following a career as a Lutheran sales manager and vice president of marketing with a company, he organized the national rainy season ministry across the country.

He was involved in the manufacture and sale of material and equipment.
A native of Anywhere, Father Lewis was graduated from Camden Catholic High School and St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia.

Following ordination, he served as pastor of St. Anthony, Long Beach; Father Lawrence, Chicago, and Our Lady of the Lakes.

St. James, founded as a mission in 1975, was elevated to parish status in 1987. It has 114 registered families.


Rev. Gerald Lewis
1997 Admin; Pastor 1998-2003

Wayne von Doehren ordained to the Permanent Diaconate May 5th, 2001 with Fr. Lewis attending.
This was found on file at The Beacon, as what was initially envisioned for the new building:

Parish was to gain a parish hall and offices - versus the combination furnace, storage, office and Confessional space located behind the altar.

The old St. Thomas Church ceased being used in 2000. One final Mass was held in June 2006.
One chapter closes,
Another begins

The Prepare the Way diocesan campaign helped to fund the new structure.
Upon Father Lewis’ retirement, **Rev. A. Richard Carton** was appointed pastor 2003-2007.

On January 1, 2007, the Monsignor James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center was dedicated.

In Father Varga’s words: “Let us pray that the Lord will continue to bless us and help us to prosper. May our parish community remain strong in the Lord and continue to spread the Good News of His love.”

Rev. Wayne Varga
Temporary Admin. in 2002 returning as Pastor 2007 - present

Rev. Msgr. Peter McHugh
Temporary Admin. 2007
Our thanks to

Father Wayne Varga for offering us the privilege to compile the history of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and giving access to information; to Rev. Msgr. Raymond Kupke for providing initial data and his permission to use the Diocesan Archive photo; the information shared by Bishop Emeritus Frank Rodimer, Msgr. Joseph Ferrito, Rev. Msgr. John V. Boland, Rev. Edward Liptak SDB and other Salesians: Rev. Dave Moreno, SDB & Rev. Mark Hyde, SDB; The Beacon for permitting us to copy articles and file photos; Mike Milligan for copying the Luthman family’s photo of St. Bartholomew Church; the National Park Service for sharing photos of Our Lady of Blue Mountain - and the many photos taken and given to the parish by Peter Riili, along with the added photos shared by many parishioners - particularly those included here from Agnes Ciesielski, Pat Staudt Walsh, Fred Battali Jr., Greg DeVita, Mary LaRusso parents’, Richard Hollyer, Rosemarie Biegel, Mary (Pollara) Stoddard, Deacon Wayne von Doehren, Paul Brislin, Sheila Gagliano of OLBM, plus to Tom Costello for the Pope John XXIII HS Yearbook photos – and most especially to Sharon Spangenberg for her valued aid in collecting, scanning and/or printing photos and organizing the Anniversary albums, and her help with this slideshow and in researching, editing, etc., etc. Without her assistance, our parish would not have had retrieved as much information for its 75th celebration.