



The Saint Thomas Times
Church of Saint Thomas of Aquin
Ogdensburg, New Jersey

2017

This Year our **Holy Week and Easter Celebrations** were, as always, very moving and inspirational. Attendance at our celebrations for Holy Week was most impressive. Easter Sunday was a beautiful day and the good number of worshipers was again awe-inspiring! I wish to thank all those who made our celebrations of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection reverent, prayerful and very meaningful. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all those from our Parish Family for your generosity at Easter. The final total of this year's Easter collection amounted to \$7,100.00. Again, I THANK YOU and may God continue to bless you for your continued generosity and support to our wonderful parish.

The month of May is filled with four wonderful events: First Communion, Mother's Day, May Crowning and Memorial Day.



First Eucharist: On May 13th thirteen second graders will receive Jesus, the bread of life for the first time. These fine young girls and boys are filled with much energy, excitement, curiosity and a faith that I believe will continue to grow in them as they develop and mature into fine members of our Catholic Church. Please pray for them as they receive the greatest gift God has given to us – the gift of His Son, Jesus in the Eucharist.



Mother's Day - May 14th is always a special day, as we remember those wonderful women who bore us in their womb, brought us forth into life, nurtured us and who were our first teachers. On Mother's Day we express our gratitude for our mothers, both living and deceased. We are also grateful to God for giving us these wonderful women we are proud to call our mothers, and for being the source of their motherhood.



MAY CROWNING is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual that occurs every year in the month of May. In many Catholic parishes, it takes place on or near Mother's Day. An image of the Blessed Mother is ceremonially crowned to signify her as Queen of Heaven and the Mother of God. Our May Crowning will take place after the celebrations of First Eucharist on May 13th.



Memorial Day - May 29th is a solemn day when we remember those brave men and women who served our country so faithfully during times of war, especially those who sacrificed their lives so that we can live as a free nation. On this Memorial Day let us especially pray for those brave men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces today that our God will continue to protect them. **Memorial Day Services** will be held in Saint Thomas of Aquin Parish Cemetery at 8:15 AM. The **Borough's Memorial Day Services** at Heaters Pond will be held at 9:15 AM. Our **Memorial Day Liturgy** will be celebrated in our Cemetery Stations of the Cross Prayer Garden at 11 AM (weather permitting).



SOME IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY:

- **First Eucharist Rehearsals** -Wednesday, May 10th - 6:00 PM for the 10:00 Group; 7:00 PM for the 12 Noon Group in the Church
- **Catechists Appreciation Dinner** – Thursday, May 11th - Bella Italia, Andover, at 6:00 PM.
- **First Eucharist Celebrations** - Saturday, May 13th at 10:00 AM & 12 Noon
- **Armed Forces Day** – Saturday, May 20th is observed in some areas of the U.S. as a holiday in honor of all branches of the Armed Forces.
- **Parish Breakfast** – Sunday, May 21st from 8:30 to 12 noon in the Church hall.
- **Ascension Thursday** – May 25th - Ascension Thursday is our annual commemoration of the triumphant reunion of the Father and the Son. Jesus, having completed his mission on earth, died, rose and ascended to heaven. Ascension Thursday is a Holy Day of Obligation meaning that all Catholics are obliged to participate at the Celebration of the Eucharist. Masses will be celebrated on this Holy Day at 7:30 AM and 7:30 PM.



GOD'S GATHERING OF CHILDREN ~ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Religious Education classes for the 2016/2017 School year have concluded. I wish to express my thanks to Ms. Brigitte Hanley, our Director of Religious Education, the Salesian Sisters, Novices and lay catechist who so faithfully taught our young folks the doctrines of our faith this year.



"BE FILLED WITH THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT..." Confirmation Classes for the 2016-2017 school year have ended. Our 10th graders received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 29th. I wish to express my thanks to Mrs. Marianne Nichols and Mr. Tom Schwork, for teaching our Confirmation Candidates the doctrines of our faith.

2017-2018 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION. Registration Forms have been e-mailed to the families of the candidates involved in the Confirmation Program. **All Registration Forms for the 2017/2018 Program should be returned to the Parish Office by June 1st.** Registrations received after June 1st will not be able to take advantage of the lower registration fees. Your cooperation in this registration process is greatly appreciated. Thank You! Confirmation 2018 will be celebrated by Bishop Serratelli here at Saint Thomas of Aquin on Saturday, April 21st, 2018 at 11:00 AM.



ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE: Our Annual Parish Raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, September 10th at our Parish Picnic. This year there will be **Three (3) Prizes.** First Prize; \$1,000; Second Prize: \$500; Third Prize \$250. The tickets will sell for \$1.00 each, ten to a book, with two books sent to each family. Selling of the tickets will begin June 1st and conclude on September 10th. The proceeds from the Annual Raffle will again be used for the up-keep and maintenance of our Parish Plant (church, rectory & cemetery). Raffle tickets will be distributed to registered members of our parish family after all of our celebrations in early June.



PARISH FAMILY PICNIC: Plans are in the works for *OUR PARISH FAMILY PICNIC* to be held on Sunday, September 10th on the field adjacent to the Rectory beginning with an outdoor Celebration of the Eucharist in our Cemetery Stations of the Cross Prayer Garden at 12 Noon. Please plan to attend and mark the date on your calendar. More information will follow in the months ahead.



PARISH MEETINGS: The next **Finance Council Meeting** will be on Wednesday, June 7th at 7:00 PM. The next **Parish Advisory Board** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, June 14th at 7:00 PM. These meetings are held at the Rectory. **The Rosary Society** meets on the first Sunday of each month after the 8:00 AM Liturgy in the Church Hall. The **Holy Name Society** meets 4 times a year after the 8:00 AM Liturgy in the Church Hall.

Have a great month of May and a safe and Happy Memorial Day!
In His Love,

L. E. John

In Memory of America's Armed Forces

*For all
who gave
their yesterdays,
a thank you
today --
on this
Memorial
Day.*



Have A Happy & Safe Memorial Day!