



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



June  
2017

Dear Parish Family,

It hard to believe that we have begun the month of June; the lazy-hazy-days of summer are on the horizon. Summer is a time when families travel and are away from their parish but there is never a vacation from God. So, when you go on your well deserved vacation and you need to find a Church for weekend Mass - Mass Times is available on the World Wide Web at [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) to find a Church in your favorite vacation spot.

I also would like to remind you how important your continued financial contributions are to Saint Thomas when you are away. Your continued contributions enable our parish to carry out its Gospel-based mission of providing worship, education, sacraments and service to those in need – as well as ordinary everyday maintenance, salaries and insurances. A parish operates on prayer and good works. Good works include sharing our financial blessings to provide service and ministry. Since our Increased Giving Program, "*Celebrating our Gifts*" held last March, I can happily say that our weekly offertory collection has seen an increase, and for this I am most grateful to you for your continued commitment to your pledge and financial support to our wonderful parish. Thanks so much!

June is also the month for graduations! I would like to extend my personal congratulations to all those from our parish family who are graduating this month from Grammar School, High School, College or Graduate School. I wish all of our graduates the best in the future.

This will be the last issue of *The Saint Thomas Times* until September. Your editor and his proof-reader will again be taking the summer months to recoup so to begin fresh in September. So, we wish all of you a happy summer, filled with sunny, warm days, (don't forget your sun-screen), the refreshing cool waters of the pool, lake or the ocean waves (and don't forget air conditioning). Enjoy the company of family and friends, the backyard barbeques and picnics, and as you travel to your favorite vacation spot, remember that the beauty of these summer days and vacation spots are a gift from God who loves us so very much that he gave us this wonderful season to rejuvenate ourselves.

**Diocesan-Wide Food Collection:** Again this year the Diocese of Paterson Catholic Charities food pantries are asking for assistance. On the weekend of June 17/18 there will be a Diocesan-wide food collection in all parishes for this request. We are all being asked to bring ground or instant, regular or decaf coffee on that weekend. Cash donations will also be accepted. Please drop off your donations in the Church Hall when you come to Mass that weekend.



**Weekday Celebration of the Eucharist during the Summer:** Beginning on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup> until Labor Day our Weekday celebration of the Eucharist will be on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 AM unless other noted in the Weekly Parish Bulletin.



**Summer Office Hours** During the summer months of July and August, the Parish Office Hours will be as follows: Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM; Friday from 8:30 AM to 12 Noon. Please conduct all general business with the Parish Office during these hours. Normal Office hours will resume on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank You!



**ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE:** Our Annual Parish Raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at our Parish Picnic. This year there will be **Three (3) Prizes**. First Prize - 25% of raffle proceeds; Second Prize - 15% of raffle proceeds; Third Prize - 10% of raffle proceeds. 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 in June and conclude on September 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 soon be distributed to registered members of our parish family.



**PARISH FAMILY PICNIC:** Plans are in the works for *OUR PARISH FAMILY PICNIC* to be held on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**IN JUNE WE CELEBRATE:**



**Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>.** This day commemorates that day in 1777 when the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as our nation's flag. It then had only 13 stars, to match its 13 stripes. It is observed by displaying the flag. It is not an "official" Holiday, but in Pennsylvania it is a legal holiday.



**Father's Day, June 18<sup>th</sup>.** On this day we express our gratitude and appreciation to our Fathers by giving them gifts, sending cards and making or taking dad out for dinner.



**The Summer Solstice – The First Day of Summer - June 21<sup>st</sup>.** On this day in the Northern Hemisphere, the length of daylight is at its maximum. For most people in the Northern Hemisphere, this is the time to just relish the long daylight hours while we can, knowing that beginning the next day the nights will get longer and the fall and winter seasons will come once again.



**GATHERING OF GOD'S CHILDREN – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Registration forms for the 2017/2018 Religious Education classes, grades 1-8 are available on our website [stthomasofaquin.org](http://stthomasofaquin.org). When you log onto the Homepage go to the "Faith Formation Link" and click on the tab labeled "Religious Education." Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Registration Form for Religious Education." Download and print the registration form. Please return the completed form with the fee to the Parish Office or drop it in the collection basket at Mass on the weekend. Any questions please call our Director of Religious Education, Ms. Brigette Hanley at 973.864.4441. Thank You!



**"BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" – CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**

Registration forms for the 2017/2018 Confirmation classes, grades 9 & 10 are available on our website [stthomasofaquin.org](http://stthomasofaquin.org). When you log onto the Homepage go to the "Faith Formation Link" and click on the tab labeled "Confirmation Program." Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Registration Form for the Confirmation Program." Download and print the registration form. Please return the completed form with the fee to the Parish Office or drop it in the collection basket at Mass on the weekend.



**JUST A REMINDER:** Since our Religious Education and Confirmation Classes have ended I feel that it is my obligation as your Pastor to just remind our good parents that IT IS MOST IMPORTANT that our young people realize, and I have reminded them, that Mass is celebrated EVERY WEEKEND of the year, and not just from September to May. Since most of our young people in our Religious Education & Confirmation Programs have not as of yet received their driver's license, they rely on you their parents to bring them to Church every weekend, yes, even during the summer months! So, parents do not be surprised if your daughter or son, I hope, asks you to bring them to Mass on the weekend. What a great example our young people can be to all of us. It is most important for them to know that the Lord Jesus is with us all 24/7 – 365 days a year!



**PARISH MEETINGS:** The next **Finace Council Meeting** will be on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The next **Parish Advisory Board** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. These meetings are held at the Rectory. **The Rosary Society** meets on first Sunday of the months of October, November, February, March, April & May after the 8:00 AM Liturgy in the Church Hall. The **Holy Name Society** meets when necessary in the Church Hall.



During these warm summer weekends when you come to the House of the Lord to celebrate the Church's liturgy please dress comfortably, **but modestly**. Thank You!

Have a wonderful month of June, and an enjoyable, relaxing and safe summer! God Bless!

In His Love,