



2010

THE SAINT THOMAS TIMES  
Church of Saint Thomas of Aquin  
Ogdensburg, New Jersey

Dear Parish Family,

Well summer is coming to an end. I felt that we were never going to see the rain, as the month of July was the second hottest in history! I hope that we all were able to deal with those torrid temperatures! I am looking forward to a cool and brisk Fall! Other than the uncomfortable 100 degrees plus temperatures during the lazy-hazy days of summer 2010, I hope that you all had a relaxing summer, are fully refreshed in mind, body and spirit, ready to return to your regular schedules at work and school.

September is that pre-autumn month when we get a little taste of summer and fall weather. The days are less humid, the nights get a bit cooler and we know that winter is on the horizon. This month is also the start of another academic year, soon we will be seeing the buses rolling the streets of our county and the cherubs returning to school. I wish all the students of our Parish Family in grammar school, high school and college much success as you return to school. Be assured of my prayers for you each day.



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Starting in the month of September, our monthly Eucharistic Adoration will take place on the **FIRST FRIDAY** each month instead of the second Sunday of the month. We will begin our Holy Hour with the celebration of the Eucharist at 7:00 PM followed by an hour of Eucharistic Adoration closing with Benediction at 8:30 PM. Come spend some time in prayer before our Lord truly present in the Eucharist this Friday evening, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.



There is only 2 weeks left until the drawing of our **Annual 50/50 Raffle** on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM during our Parish Family Picnic. This is an important fund raiser for our parish, so I ask that you please sell your tickets and return them to the Parish Office or drop them in the collection basket. Thank you for your support!



**PARISH PICNIC:** I look forward to Our *Annual Parish Family Picnic* that will take place **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**, beginning with an outdoor Liturgy at 12 Noon. The Picnic will be held in conjunction with the drawing of our *Annual 50/50 Raffle*. Join your fellow parishioners for an afternoon of fellowship and fun along with some good food and drink!



**COFFEE AND... & BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY:** Our first *Coffee And...* for the season will be on Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> after the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Liturgies. As part of on-going Evangelization efforts it is also *Bring A Friend to Church Sunday*. Do you know someone who has been away from the Catholic Church? I encourage you to invite them to attend Saint Thomas of Aquin's "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday". Invite them to attend either the 8:00 AM or 10:30 AM Liturgy with you and invite them to the Church Hall afterwards for fellowship with members of our Parish Family. This should be a wonderful opportunity for you to share your faith and fellowship with a friend or friends who are interested. Perhaps this simple invitation may be the light that will welcome them back home.



**SILVER AND GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** Couples married in 1960 or 1985 are invited to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Paterson on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 PM. Retired Bishop Frank J. Rodimer will preside at the Liturgy. Registration forms are available at the Parish Office to make your arrangements for this wonderful occasion.

#### FEAST DAYS IN SEPTEMBER



**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8<sup>th</sup>).** The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church at least since the 8th Century. The birth of Mary was also miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son. There is nothing contained in Scripture about the birth of Mary or her parentage, though Joseph's lineage is given in the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. The names of Mary's parents were Joachim and Anna. According to one tradition, the house in which Mary was born in Nazareth is the same one in which the Annunciation took place. In celebrating the nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and birth of her Divine Son, and give honor to the mother of Our Lord and Savior.



**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14<sup>th</sup>).** This feast celebrates a double anniversary: the discovery of our Lord's cross by the empress, St Helena in 320 and the dedication of the Constantinian basilicas at the sight of the Holy Sepulcher and of Calvary in 335.



**Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (September 21<sup>st</sup>).** Matthew the Apostle is one of the greatest evangelists, whose account, in the first book of the New Testament, of Christ's teaching and life, is the most detailed and complete - the most accurate catechism, if you will, for the Christian faithful. As his gospel reveals, Matthew was a tax collector and he abandoned being a publican when called by Our Lord to follow Him while sitting in the tax-collector's seat in Capharnaum.



**Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels (September 29<sup>th</sup>).** These biblical messengers signify God's transcendence and loving care: Michael, meaning who is like God, is the patron of security forces and of the sick. Gabriel meaning God's Strength, is the patron of telecommunications and the postal service. Raphael meaning God's Remedy, is patron of travelers and the blind.

**IN SEPTEMBER WE CELEBRATE:**



**Labor Day (September 6<sup>th</sup>).** This holiday, which always is observed on the first Monday of September, has been a federal holiday since 1894. Its purpose is to honor the nation's working people. Most Americans consider Labor Day the end of the summer, and the beaches and other popular resort areas are packed with people enjoying one last three-day weekend. For many students it marks the opening of the school year.



**Patriots Day (September 11<sup>th</sup>).** We remember on this tragic day the 2,793 fellow Americans who lost their lives in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania in 2001. We also remember their families, those injured, the rescue workers, clean-up crews, our government officials, our military and all others affected by this tragedy. We must never forget what was taken from us and we pray that those who lost their lives on this day nine years ago may rest in peace.



**Autumn Equinox - First Day of Fall/Autumn (September 21<sup>st</sup>).** The air is crisp, the foliage is spectacular, and there is a nip in the air. Summer is over, and winter is quickly approaching. Autumn is the second time of balance in the year, when day and night are of equal length. It is a time to celebrate the harvest and to store our abundance for the coming cold but cozy months of winter; there is great energy in the air. From this point on, we celebrate the oncoming season of shorter days and longer nights.



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

Our Religious Education Classes for 2010/2011 will begin for **Grades 1 to 4 on Wednesday afternoon, September 15<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.** at the Ogdensburg School and for **Grades 5 to 8 on Tuesday evening, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** at the Ogdensburg School. If you have not registered your child/children for Religious Education classes, please do so as soon possible by returning the form to the parish office with the required fee and \$10 late fee per child.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** There will be a **Parent Meeting on Sunday evening, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall for **ALL** the parents of our children in Grades 1 – 8, who are registered in our Religious Education Program. For more information about our Religious Education Program (Grades K-8) please feel free to call Sister Margaret Wilhelm at 973-383-2620.



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

Our Confirmation Program will begin for **Grades 9 on Monday evening, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>** and for **Grade 10 on Monday evening, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>** in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. Class schedules for Grades 9 and 10 have been mailed. The date for Confirmation is **Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 12 Noon at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Branchville.** Any questions about our Confirmation program, please call Deacon Ed Reading at 973-729-6511. Thank You!



I am planning a **Canada & New England Cruise from August 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** Departs from Brooklyn, New York - 7 days. Ports of call include Halifax, Nova Scotia, Saint John, New Brunswick, Bar Harbor, Maine, Boston, Massachusetts, and Newport, Rhode Island. Prices: \$985.77/interior cabin; \$1,245.77/window cabin; \$1,485.77 balcony cabin. Price per person/double occupancy guaranteed through 12/01/2010. For information call 973.503.0550 or Rich Donaldson 973.729.5907 An **Information Meeting** for those who may be interested will be held on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 AM and 12 Noon Liturgies.



**PARISH MEETINGS: The Finance Council** will meet on Wednesday evening, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM; **The Cemetery Committee** will meet on Wednesday evening, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. **The Parish Advisory Board** will meet on Wednesday evening, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. All 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 on the third Sunday of each month after the 8:00 AM Liturgy in the Church Hall.

Have a wonderful month of September!  
In His Love,

*R. John*