



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

The month of November is the overture to the symphony we know as the winter months. We see that the beauty of creation is barren with leaf-less trees, brown meadows, colder days and longer nights.

During this month we celebrate, on November 1<sup>st</sup>, the glorious **Feast of All Saints**, a Christian holiday that honors and recognizes all of the saints of the Christian church, many of which were martyrs. The church sets this day aside to celebrate over 10,000 recognized saints. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrate the Christian holiday of **All Soul's Day**, which pays respect and remembers the souls of all friends and loved ones who have died and gone to heaven. As this month winds down, we celebrate, on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of Thanksgiving when we, as a community of faith and as a nation, give thanks to our God for all of our life blessings. Finally, November also is a month of anticipation as we look forward to the **Season of Advent** when we prepare again to celebrate the Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at Christmas. Will we have a white Christmas this year? With all this moisture in the air, maybe?



**In Remembrance:** During the month of November we remember those people who have touched our lives in different ways: family members, friends, co-workers and members of our parish family who have been called home to the Father. We pray that they are enjoying the eternal paradise that our God has prepared for all of us. All of our faithful departed will be remembered at each Mass celebrated during the month of November.



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** All of us need to seek time to reflect prayerfully upon our lives and make a commitment to the Lord. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the First Friday of each month following the 7:30 AM Liturgy until 8:30 AM. I invite you to come and spend some time with the Lord in private prayer and adoration on, and receive the many blessings and graces our Lord wishes to give us.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to a conflict in my schedule, there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of November. Our next Eucharist Adoration will be held on December 7, the First Friday of December.



**REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR THIS COMING SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



**SAVE THE DATE:** Our Holy Name Society is in the planning stages for our **Fourth Annual Beefsteak Dinner** scheduled for Saturday evening, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. More details will be forth-coming concerning this Annual Parish Event.

**In November we celebrate:**



**Election Day** on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Please exercise your right to vote.



**Veterans Day** on November 11<sup>th</sup>. On this day we honor our Veterans who sacrificed so much for our freedom.



**Thanksgiving Day** on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. On this day we commemorate the feast held at Plymouth in 1621 by the Pilgrim colonists, marked by the giving of thanks to God for the harvest and healing. Our Thanksgiving Liturgy will be celebrated on Thanksgiving morning at 9:00 AM.



## SOME IMPORTANT PARISH DATES FOR NOVEMBER:

- November 1<sup>st</sup> - All Saints Day - Liturgies will be celebrated at 7:30 AM & 7:30 PM
  - St. Thomas Group prepares & serves lunch at Manna House in Newton
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> - All Souls Day - Morning Liturgy for all the faithful departed will be celebrated at 7:30 AM.
- November 4<sup>th</sup> - Rosary Society meeting after the 8:00 AM Liturgy
- November 17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Food Basket Collection. Please drop off your donations in the Church Hall
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thanksgiving Day Liturgy – 9:00 AM (**Please note** that there will be No Mass celebrated the Friday after Thanksgiving and the Parish Office will be closed for the day.)
- November 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Wreath and Spray pick-up after all of our celebrations in the Church Hall
- November 25<sup>th</sup> - The Feast of Christ the King



### “THE GATHERING OF GOD’S CHILDREN” - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Religious Education Classes meet on Monday evenings from 6:45 – 8:00 PM for Grades 5 thru 8 and on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 - 4:00 PM for Grades 1-4 at the Ogdensburg School. Any questions concerning our Religious Education Program (Grades K-8) please feel free to contact Ms. Deb Henegan, our Coordinator of Religious Education at stthomasfaithfrm@gmail.com



### “BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT” – CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

**Confirmation Classes for Grades 9 and 10 meet on Monday evenings** at the Ogdensburg School from 6:45-8:00 PM. Bishop Serratelli will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation candidates here at Saint Thomas on **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM**. Any questions about our Confirmation program please call the Parish Office. Thank You!



**PARISH MEETINGS:** The next **Finance Council** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7:00 PM. The next **Parish Advisory Board** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 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. Our **Holy Name Society** meeting dates will be announced.



This time of year, as we come together to celebrate Thanksgiving, please consider making a gift to the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal as a way to give thanks for our many blessings. Our parish goal is \$15,675. Fifty percent of the amount received over our parish goal is returned to our parish for our own use. So, if your means permit, prayerfully consider making a pledge so that we can fund the ministries of our diocese and our parish. Whatever you can pledge to the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal is greatly appreciated. Thanks for your generosity!

Enjoy the month of November, and I wish all of you **A Most Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!**

In His Love,

*F.R. John*

