



Advent 2018



Christmas 2018

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

Dear Parish Family,

We are now into the Advent/Christmas Season. This season is a sacred one for all of us. It is a time filled with rich tradition. The Christmas tree, the manger scene, the music and carols, the lights shining in the winter darkness, all happily proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ and summon us to come and adore him.

It is my prayer, that in addition to sharing our gifts during this Advent/Christmas season, that we will also share God's gifts of hope, love, joy and peace to all we meet, and that the Grace and peace of the Christ Child will be with you during this most joyful season and the New Year of Grace 2019.

As we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I invite you to participate in the following Advent/Christmas offerings:



The "Christmas Giving Tree" is a symbol that the Parish Family of Saint Thomas of Aquin remembers and cares for needy adults and children at Christmas. Please place the gifts under the tree, wrapped, with the card attached (This is important, so "The Elves" know where to deliver the gift.) Please return all gifts by the weekend of December 15th and 16th so "Santa's Elves" have time to make their deliveries in time for Christmas.



Advent Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on the Monday evenings of Advent (Dec. 3rd 10th & 17th) from 7:00 - 7:30 PM. The Sacrament will also be celebrated at the usual time on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 - 3:30 PM.



Advent Service of Healing and Anointing: An Advent Service of Anointing and Healing will be celebrated on Saturday morning, December 15th at 11:00 AM. I invite anyone who feels a need for healing in their lives to join us for this special Advent Celebration. I invite all members of our parish family to attend with a special invitation to those who are struggling with sickness or preparing for surgery, as well as those who are serving as caregivers.



Cookie Walk: Our Rosary Society is sponsoring a *Cookie Walk* on Saturday, December 15th, beginning at 10:00 am in the Church Hall. If you are interested in baking and donating cookies, they would be most appreciated. Baked items can be dropped off in the Church Hall on Saturday morning, December 15th by 10:00 AM.



We will begin our **Celebration of Christmas** on Christmas Eve, Monday evening, December 24th with the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Liturgy. (PLEASE NOTE: This is the most crowded Liturgy on Christmas Eve.) Christmas Carols will begin on Christmas Eve at 7:30 PM followed by the Liturgy of Christmas during the Night beginning at 8:00 PM. On Christmas morning, Tuesday, December 25th, our Liturgies will be celebrated at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. As always, remember the additional people who come to Mass on Christmas and let us take this as an opportunity for us to demonstrate our faith through our worship and by extending to them a warm welcome.

On Wednesday, December 26th, and Thursday, December 27th, there will no morning Eucharistic celebrations. On Friday morning, December 28th the Eucharist will be celebrated at 9:00 AM.

On the weekend of December 29th & 30th we will have our regular weekend Liturgy schedule. On Monday morning, December 31st the Eucharist will be celebrated at 9:00 AM. On Tuesday January 1st, 2019, the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God and New Year's Day, the Eucharist will be celebrated at 10:00 AM. We will resume our regular Morning Liturgy schedule on Wednesday, January 2nd at 7:30 AM.

Our **PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS:** The Office will be closed on Monday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 26th. Regular Office hours (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM) resume on Wednesday, January 2nd. Please conduct any business with the Office during these hours. Thank you!

As we enter this wonderful season of the year, it is my prayer that the Gift of Love; the Gift of Peace; and the Gift of Happiness may all be yours during the Advent Season and at Christmas.

I wish you and yours a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

In His Love,





FOURTH ANNUAL BEEFSTEAK DINNER - Saturday evening, January 26th, 2019 at the Ogdensburg Firehouse. Price is \$45.00 per person. If you would like to reserve your tickets, please contact Dion Derkach at 973.827.5458 or the Parish Office.

IN DECEMBER WE CELEBRATE:



The Feast of Saint Nicholas – December 6th - Saint Nicholas was well-known for his great kindness and generous aid to those in distress. He is the Patron Saint of Children.



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Saturday, December 8th. The observance of this feast began with a Papal encyclical by Pope Pius IX, when he formally defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1854. The Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday, December 8th at 9:00 AM



Pearl Harbor Day - December 7th - On this day we recall the Anniversary of Japan bombing Pearl Harbor in 1941. Many lost their lives in service to our country this day.



The Winter Solstice - December 21st - The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year and, therefore, the longest night. It is also a time to remember that, beginning the next day, the nights will begin getting shorter and the days longer and spring and summer will come once again with flowers, warmth, and the singing of birds.



Christmas – December 25th - The Nativity of the Lord. On this day Mary brought forth her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. **MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!**



New Year's Eve - December 31st - On this day we give thanks for the Year of Grace 2018 and look forward to the New Year of Grace 2019. **HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!**



SOME IMPORTANT PARISH DATES FOR DECEMBER:

- December 7th - First Friday Liturgy - 7:30 AM followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 8:30 AM
- December 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception the Eucharist will be celebrated at 9:00 AM
- December 15th - Advent Service of Healing & Anointing - 11:00 AM
- December 15th - Rosary Society Cookie Walk - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Snow date: December 16th)
- December 15th & 16th - Giving Tree tags returned with wrapped gifts and placed under the tree in Church



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: Whenever weather conditions on the weekday (Monday-Friday) are such that the Ogdensburg Public School is closed or has a delayed opening for the day, the 7:30 AM Liturgy is cancelled. On inclement weather days please listen to radio station WSUS (102.3 FM) for cancellations for Saint Thomas Parish Ogdensburg. You can also log on at www.wsus1023.com and click on the Snow Closing and Delays Link. Weather related cancellations will also be posted on the Homepage of our parish website - www.stthomasofaquin.org



GOD'S GATHERING OF CHILDREN - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION EVENTS: **First Reconciliation Parent Meeting** – Sunday, January 13th, 2019- following the 12 Noon Liturgy - Church Hall. **First Reconciliation** - Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 at 7:00 PM; **First Eucharist Parent Meeting** - Sunday, March 31st, 2019 following the 12 Noon Liturgy - Church Hall **First Eucharist Retreat** – Sunday, April 7th 2019 from 1:00 - 3:30 PM at Camp Auxilium in Newton; **Sacrament of First Eucharist** – Saturday, May 4th, 2019 at 11:00 AM



"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. **10th Grade Confirmation Candidates Retreat** will be held on Saturday, February 10th, 2018 from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Church Hall. Bishop Serratelli will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our 10th Grade Confirmation Candidates here at Saint Thomas on **Saturday morning, April 27th, 2019 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 9th, 2019 at 7:00 PM. The next **Parish Advisory Board** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, January 16th, 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.

