



February
2018

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

Happy Super Bowl Sunday! Even though I am a Giants fan, I am going with the Philadelphia Eagles this year. May the best team win!

I think of February as the “transition month.” The holidays are behind us; the Christmas decorations and the festive lights have been dismantled and stored away for another year; we celebrated the New Year and now we can relax from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We are half way through the winter season; spring will be upon us next month. The red hearts and the Valentine decorations catch our eyes as we walk into stores leading up to Feb. 14th and green shamrocks and Irish leprechauns remind us that Saint Patrick’s Day is just around the corner.

As a Community of Faith we are in that season of the Liturgical Year we call **Ordinary Time**, a season that recalls the first day of the week (Sunday) when the Lord of Life was raised from the dead and also that creation came at last to its completion. We also look forward to the start of the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14th and to the Celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 1st. I must say, the seasons do fly by when you are having fun in the country, so enjoy these winter/pre-spring days!



To help us on our Lenten journey we will be offering the following Lenten opportunities:

Daily Morning Liturgy - 7:30 AM (Monday, Tuesday, and Friday) PLEASE NOTE: Mass will be celebrated during the Season of Lent on Friday mornings at 7:30 AM. We usually do not have Mass on Fridays during the year.

Monday Evenings of Lent (February 19th, 26th, March 5th, 12th, & 19th) Sacrament of Reconciliation from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Liturgy (February 21st, 28th March 7th, 14th, and 21st) at 7:00 PM. Msgr. Francis Duffy will celebrate the Liturgy and speak a Lenten theme each week.

Lenten Liturgy with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick – Wednesday Evening, March 21st at 7:00 PM celebrated by Msgr. Francis Duffy.

Friday Evenings - Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM.

IN FEBRUARY WE CELEBRATE:



February 2nd - Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas Day. On this day the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. This feast occurs 40 days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas Day.



Groundhog's Day is a holiday celebrated in New York and Pennsylvania on February 2. In weather lore, if a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day and fails to see its shadow because the weather is cloudy, winter will soon end. If the groundhog sees its shadow, it will return into its burrow, and the winter will continue for 6 more weeks.



February 3rd - Saint Blase. St. Blase has been extremely popular for centuries in both the Eastern and Western Churches. He was a physician and the Bishop of Sebaste, Armenia. He once saved a child who was choking on a fish bone, which led to the blessing of throats on Saint Blases’ feast day. I will bless throats after all of our celebrations this weekend.



February 13th - Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras). Falls on the day before Ash Wednesday and marks the end of the carnival season, which once began on Epiphany but is now usually celebrated the last three days before Lent. In France, the day is known as Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), and celebrations are held in several American cities, particularly New Orleans. The day is sometimes called Pancake Tuesday by the English because fats, which were prohibited during Lent, had to be used up.



February 14th - Ash Wednesday. This day is a Catholic holiday marking the start of the Season of Lent. Catholics place ashes symbolizing mortality and repentance on their foreheads. **Ashes will be blessed and distributed on ASH WEDNESDAY during the 7:30 AM Mass, at a 4:00 PM Liturgy of the Word Service and during the 7:30 PM Mass only.** Ash Wednesday is a day of fast (one main meal) and abstinence (meatless).



February 14th - Valentine’s Day. The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. Some experts say that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine." Hence, February 14 became the date for exchanging love messages and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. The date is marked by sending poems, cards and simple gifts such as candy and flowers to those special people in our lives.



February 19th - President's Day. Until 1971, both February 12th and February 22nd were observed as federal public holidays to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12th) and George Washington (February 22nd). In 1971 President Richard Nixon proclaimed one single federal public holiday, Presidents' Day, to be observed on the 3rd Monday of February, honoring all past presidents of the United States of America.



SOME IMPORTANT PARISH DATES FOR FEBRUARY:

- Sunday, February 4th - Super Bowl Sunday. Enjoy the Game!
 - Social Action Ministry "Souper Bowl for Caring" can of soup with a Dollar attached Collection
 - Rosary Society Meeting after the 8:00 AM Liturgy
- Saturday, February 10th - 10th Grade Confirmation Candidates Retreat - St. Thomas of Aquin Church Hall from 11 AM - 2 PM
- Monday, February 19th - *President's Day*. Morning Liturgy - 9:00 AM; Parish Office closed; No Religious Education/ Confirmation classes

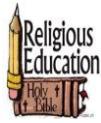


INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: For the safety of our parishioners, whenever weather conditions on the weekdays are such that the Ogdensburg School and/or Walkill Valley Regional High School are closed or have a delayed opening, the 7:30 AM Liturgy is cancelled. This also gives our snow removers time to clear the walkways, roadways and parking lot on our parish campus. On inclement weather days, tune in to radio station WSUS (102.3 FM) for Saint Thomas Parish, Ogdensburg cancellations. Cancellations will also be posted on the Home Page of our Parish website: www.stthomasofaquin.org



ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARTY: Join your fellow leprechauns for a Traditional Corned beef and Cabbage dinner along with wine, beer, soda, Irish soda bread, tea and Irish coffee. **Date:** Sunday March 11th, 2018 beginning at 4:00 PM in the Church Hall. **Cost:** \$12.00 for an individual; \$30.00 for a family. Reservation forms will be forth-coming.

GOD'S GATHERING OF CHILDREN - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM



UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION EVENTS: First Eucharist Parent Meeting – Sunday, April 15th following the 12 noon Liturgy - Church Hall. First Eucharist Retreat – Saturday, April 21st from 1:00 - 3:30 PM at Camp Auxilium, Newton; Sunday, April 29th First Eucharist Banner Making following the 12 noon Liturgy - Church Hall. First Eucharist Celebration and May Crowning - Saturday, May 5th at 11:00 AM. The Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation - Saturday, April 21st 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. Bishop Serratelli will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our 10th Grade Confirmation Candidates here at Saint Thomas on **Saturday morning, April 21st, 2018 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, April 11th, 2018 at 7:00 PM. The next **Parish Advisory Board** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, April 18th, 2018, at 7:00 PM. All meetings are held at the Rectory. These Parish Committees meet four times a year.

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.

Have a great month of February!

In His Love,

P. John

