



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



2018

Dear Parish Family,

Happy Easter! Today we reach the high point of the Christian year: Easter Sunday. Christ is risen! Jesus' mission is complete. Just as Jesus had promised would happen, God raised him up on the third day. Jesus has redeemed us and has given us the hope of eternal life. Easter is the most important Feast of our faith; The Resurrection of Christ is the hope in which we all share because of Jesus. As we gather with our families and friends on this glorious Easter Day, it is my prayer that the Risen Lord will continue to bless us with all that is good, for ...*"This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad for He has Risen from the dead exactly as he Promised... Alleluia!"*

We look forward to the Celebration of Confirmation with our Bishop, Arthur J. Serratelli, and our Confirmation Candidates which will be celebrated here at Saint Thomas of Aquin on Saturday morning, April 21st at 11:00. I am proud of our Confirmandi, they have a deep faith and will be making an adult Profession of Faith to our Bishop at Confirmation to live the life of faith that they received at their Baptism. Please keep them in your prayers as they receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I would also ask that we pray this month for our young second grade students who are in their final days of preparing for that special day when they will receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. Our celebration of First Eucharist is scheduled for Saturday morning, May 5th at 11 AM. Our 5 little cherubs receiving their First Eucharist this year are full of energy and have a faith that will grow as they learn more about their Catholic faith.

Our Religious Education and Confirmation classes are coming to a quick end. As a parish we are fortunate to have very devoted and caring catechists who teach our grammar school age children and our Confirmation Candidates, not an easy task at times, but one that they are truly committed to. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Ms. Brigette Hanley, our dedicated Director of Religious Education. I also thank our committed and hardworking grammar school Catechists for teaching our young parish family members our Catholic faith; the Salesian Sisters & Novices, and our Lay Catechists. I also wish to express my thanks to our Lay Catechists who teach our 9th and 10th grade Confirmation Candidates for their hard work and dedication to the teenage members of our parish family. Finally, I thank our parents, the first and best teachers of their daughters and sons in the ways of faith. Your example to them as their parents should be commended, and I encourage you to continue to walk with them as they continue to journey in their understanding of our Catholic faith.

Finally, as our Religious Education and Confirmation Classes conclude for the year, I feel it is my responsibility, as your Pastor, to again remind all of our young people and their parents that *the Eucharist is celebrated every weekend of the year, and not just from September to May*. Since all of our young people in our Religious Education and Confirmation Programs have not received their driving licenses as of yet, they rely on their parents to bring them to Church each weekend, yes, even during the summer months! Please do not let summer activities and sports programs take precedence over your commitment to your life of faith! It is most important *for all of us to remember* that the Lord Jesus is with us 24/7 – 365 days a year! Let us continue in our commitment to spend one hour with our Lord Jesus each weekend, and on Holy Days of Obligation, to celebrate and receive the great gift He gave to us - - the gift of His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist.



Save the date! The **Annual St. Thomas Tricky Tray** will be held on Friday, April 13th at the Ogdensburg Firehouse beginning at 6:30 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance of the church for tray donations. If you would like to help but don't have time to put together a tray, we'll do it for you! Monetary contributions can be put in the collection basket (clearly marked as "Tricky Tray") through April 8th or if you have an item that could be combined with something else to make a tray, let us know. Help is always needed the day of the event so please also consider donating your valuable time to this important parish fundraiser! Any questions please call Pattie Ganz (973-827-0360) or Sue Reimer (973-209-4090). Thank you.

IN APRIL WE CELEBRATE:



Income Tax Day - April 17th. US income tax forms are due on this day. I already filed my taxes!



Administrative Professionals Day (Formerly Professional Secretaries Day) - April 25th. On this day we honor all those Administrative Assistants who keep those professional offices so organized. I thank God for Connie, our Parish Office Administrator, everyday!



Arbor Day - April 27th. In most states, Arbor Day is observed the last Friday of the month, and several U.S. presidents have proclaimed a national Arbor Day on that date. Some New Jersey Arbor Day trivia for you: Our State Tree is Northern Red Oak and the number of Tree Cities in New Jersey is 140.



SOME IMPORTANT PARISH DATES IN APRIL:

- Wed., April 11th - Finance Council – 7:00 PM - Rectory
- Fri., April 13th - Annual Parish Tricky Tray - 6:30 PM at the Ogdensburg Firehouse
- Sun., April 15th - First Eucharist Parent Meeting following the 12 noon Liturgy - Church Hall
- Wed., April 18th - Parish Advisory Board – 7:00 PM – Rectory
- Fri., April 20th - Confirmation Rehearsal - 7:00 PM - Church
- Sat., April 21st - Confirmation - 11:00 AM
- Sat., April 21st - First Eucharist Retreat for 2nd Graders and their Parents – Sacred Heart Center, Newton
- Sun., April 22nd - First Eucharist Banner Making following the 12 Noon Liturgy- Church Hall
- Sun., April 29th - Spring Parish Breakfast following 8 and 10:30 AM Liturgies



GOD’S GATHERING OF CHILDREN ~ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Religious Education Classes will conclude for the year on Monday, April 23rd for grades 5-8 and on Wednesday, April 25th, for grades 1-4. Registration information for the 2018/2019 will be forthcoming to all families involved in our Religious Education program in May. For more information please contact our Director of Religious Education, Ms. Brigette Hanley at 973.864.4441.



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

Registration forms for the 2018-2019 Confirmation Program will be e-mailed in early May. To take advantage of the lower registration fee of \$25.00 (make checks payable to Saint Thomas of Aquin Church) please return the form with the fee to the Parish Office or by dropping it in the collection basket at Mass **by June 1st, 2018**. The registration fee for registrations received after June 1st, 2018 will be \$35.00.



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 wonderful month of April and a Most Blessed and Happy Easter!

In His Love,

