



The Saint Thomas Times

Church of Saint Thomas of Aquin
Ogdensburg, New Jersey



Our **Holy Week and Easter Celebrations** were, as always, very moving and inspirational. Attendance at our celebrations for Holy Week was most impressive. Easter Sunday was a beautiful day and the good number of worshipers was again awe-inspiring! I wish to thank all those who made our celebrations of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection reverent, prayerful and very meaningful. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all those from our Parish Family for your generosity at Easter. The final total of this year's Easter collection amounted to \$8,525.00. Again, I THANK YOU and may God continue to bless you for your continued generosity and support to our wonderful parish.

The month of May is filled with four wonderful events: First Communion, Mother's Day, May Crowning and Memorial Day.



First Eucharist: On May 5th five second graders will receive Jesus, the bread of life for the first time. These fine young girls and boys are filled with much energy, excitement, curiosity and a faith that I believe will continue to grow in them as they develop and mature into fine members of our Catholic Church. Please pray for them as they receive the greatest gift God has given to us – the gift of His Son, Jesus in the Eucharist.



Mother's Day - May 13th is always a special day, as we remember those wonderful women who bore us in their womb, brought us forth into life, nurtured us and who were our first teachers. On Mother's Day we express our gratitude for our mothers, both living and deceased. We are also grateful to God for giving us these wonderful women we are proud to call our mothers, and for being the source of their motherhood.



MAY CROWNING is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual that occurs every year in the month of May. In many Catholic parishes, it takes place on or near Mother's Day. An image of the Blessed Mother is ceremonially crowned to signify her as Queen of Heaven and the Mother of God. Our May Crowning will take place after the celebrations of First Eucharist on May 13th.



Memorial Day - May 28th is a solemn day when we remember those brave men and women who served our country so faithfully during times of war, especially those who sacrificed their lives so that we can live as a free nation. On this Memorial Day let us especially pray for those brave men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces today that our God will continue to protect them. Memorial Day Parade from the Ogdensburg Firehouse to Saint Thomas will begin at 8:00 AM; **Memorial Day Services** will be held in Saint Thomas of Aquin Parish Cemetery following the parade. The **VFW's Memorial Day Services** at Heaters Pond will be held at 9:15 AM. Our **Memorial Day Liturgy** will be celebrated in our Cemetery Stations of the Cross Prayer Garden at 11 AM (weather permitting).



SOME IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY:

- **First Eucharist Rehearsal** - Wednesday, May 2nd - 7:00 PM
- **First Eucharist Celebration** - Saturday, May 5th - 11:00 AM
- **Ascension Thursday** – May 25th - Ascension Thursday is our annual commemoration of the triumphant reunion of the Father and the Son. Jesus, having completed his mission on earth, died, rose and ascended to heaven. Ascension Thursday is a Holy Day of Obligation meaning that all Catholics are obliged to participate at the Celebration of the Eucharist. Due to the Catechist's Appreciation Dinner scheduled for Thursday evening May 10, Liturgies for Ascension Thursday will be celebrated on the **Eve before the Holy Day, Wednesday evening, May 9th at 7:30 PM and on Ascension Thursday morning at 7:30 AM.**
- **Catechists Appreciation Dinner** – Thursday, May 10th - Bella Italia, Andover, at 6:00 PM.
- **Armed Forces Day** – Saturday, May 19th is observed in some areas of the U.S. as a holiday in honor of all branches of the Armed Forces.



GOD'S GATHERING OF CHILDREN ~ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Religious Education classes for the 2017/2018 School year have concluded. I wish to express my thanks to Ms. Brigette Hanley, our Director of Religious Education, the Salesian Sisters, Novices and lay catechist who so faithfully taught our young folks the doctrines of our faith this year.

2018/2019 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION: The 2018-2019 Religious Education Registration is now open. You will find the Registration Form on the Homepage of our parish website: www.stthomasofaquin.org. The Registrations Forms are due back **by June 1, 2018**, this is most important that so we can order the textbooks for our program. Checks are to be made payable to Saint Thomas of Aquin Parish. I like to remind our parents that you Parents are the primary religious educators of your children. Through work, example, and weekly Mass attendance, parents pass on the Faith to them. Thank you for your cooperation in this registration process and we look forward to working together to support and encourage your child's faith development.



"BE FILLED WITH THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT..." Confirmation Classes for the 2017-2018 school year have ended. Our 10th graders received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 21st. I wish to express my thanks to Mrs. Marianne Nichols and Mr. Tom Schwork, for teaching our Confirmation Candidates the doctrines of our faith.

2018/2019 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION: Registration Forms have been e-mailed to the families of the candidates involved in the Confirmation Program. **All Registration Forms for the 2018/2019 Program should be returned to the Parish Office by June 1st.** Registrations received after June 1st will not be able to take advantage of the lower registration fees. Your cooperation in this registration process is greatly appreciated. Thank You! Confirmation 2019 will be celebrated by Bishop Serratelli here at Saint Thomas of Aquin on Saturday, April 27th, 2018 at 11:00 AM.



ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE: Our Annual Parish Raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, September 9th at our Parish Picnic. There will be **Three (3) Prizes** again this year: First Prize is 25% of the proceeds; Second Prize is 15% of the proceeds and Third Prize is 10% of the proceeds. The tickets will sell for \$1.00 each, ten to a book, with two books sent to each family. Raffle tickets will be distributed on the weekend of May 19th & 20th. The proceeds from the Annual Raffle will again be used for the up-keep and maintenance of our Parish Plant (church, rectory & cemetery).



PARISH FAMILY PICNIC: Plans are in the works for *OUR PARISH FAMILY PICNIC* to be held on Sunday, September 9th on the field adjacent to the Rectory beginning with an outdoor Celebration of the Eucharist in our Cemetery Stations of the Cross Prayer Garden at 12 Noon. Please plan to attend and mark the date on your calendar. More information will follow in the months ahead.



PARISH MEETINGS: The next **Finance Council Meeting** will meet on Wednesday, July 25 and the **Parish Advisory Board** will meet on Wednesday, June 20. **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 May and a safe and Happy Memorial Day!

In His Love,

Fr. John

In Memory of America's Armed Forces

*For all
who gave
their yesterdays,
a thank you
today --
on this
Memorial
Day.*



Have A Happy & Safe Memorial Day!