



2019

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

Happy Super Bowl Sunday! 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, March 6th and to the Celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 21st. I must say, the seasons do fly by when you are having fun in the country, so enjoy these winter/pre-spring days!

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 Blaise. St. Blaise 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. Throats will be blessed after all of our celebrations this weekend.



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 18th - 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 3rd - 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
- Monday, February 18th - *President's Day*. Morning Liturgy - 9:00 AM; Parish Office closed; No Religious Education/ Confirmation classes
- Saturday, February 23rd - 10th Grade Confirmation Candidates Retreat - Sacred Heart Center, Newton from 10 AM-4 PM.



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST: Since Saint Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday this year, I thought it would be a good idea to have a Saint Patrick's Day Breakfast. So, save the date and join us for a Saint Patrick's Day Breakfast on Sunday, March 17th, from 8:30 AM -12 Noon in the Church Hall. A free-will offering will be accepted for this breakfast. More information will be forth-coming.



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: In the event of inclement weather on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, and the Ogdensburg School is either **closed or has a delayed opening** ... the Morning Mass will be canceled. Please tune in to Radio Station WSUS-FM 102.3 for Inclement Weather Closing Announcements. You can also log on to our parish website: www.stthomasofaquin.org to check if Daily Mass is cancelled. On snowy mornings the church parking lot may not be plowed out and the walkways not cleared in time for Mass. For your safety, we also do not want folks to venture out in hazardous weather conditions.



GOD'S GATHERING OF CHILDREN - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION EVENTS: **First Reconciliation** - Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 at 7:00 PM; (Snow date: Tuesday Feb. 26th) **First Eucharist Parent Meeting** – Sunday March 31st, 2019 following the 12 Noon Liturgy in the Church Hall; **First Eucharist Retreat** Sunday, April 7th, 2019 from 1:00 - 3:30 PM at Sacred Heart Center 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. 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, April 3rd, 2019 at 7:00 PM. The next **Parish Advisory Board** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, April 10th, 2019, at 7:00 PM. All meetings are held at the Rectory. All 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.

Enjoy the month of February!

In His Love,

