



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



2019

Dear Parish Family,

This coming Wednesday, March 6th, we begin the Season of Lent. Lent is a forty-day season of preparation for the great celebration of Easter. Why 40 days? Because Jesus fasted and was tempted in the desert for 40 days. Lent then, is our time for fasting, prayer, and repentance. The word "Lent" in fact means "fast." This is where the custom of giving up something for Lent originated. However, not to confuse you, Lent is actually 46 days rather than 40 days. Why? Because the 40 days of Lent are supposed to be days of fasting, meaning days of discipline. But Sunday, the Lord's Day, should never be a day of fasting, but a day of celebration! So each Sunday we can suspend our Lenten discipline and celebrate!

During the Season of Lent I would encourage, those of you who can, to take advantage of this year's Lenten offerings:
Daily Morning Liturgy - 7:30 AM (Mon., Tues. and Fri.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday Evenings of Lent (March 11th, 18th, 25th, April 1st & 8th) from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Saturday afternoons from 3:00-3:30 PM

Wednesday Evening Lenten Liturgy - 7:00 PM Msgr. Joseph Goode will celebrate the Liturgy and speak a Lenten Theme each week.

Friday Evenings - Stations of the Cross - 7:00 PM; The Living Stations of the Cross will be presented by our 7th & 8th Grade Religious Education Students on Friday, March 29th.

Lenten Mass of Healing & Anointing - Wednesday evening, March 20th - 7:00 PM

On the Sunday's of Lent, at the 10:30 AM Liturgy, we will have the *Children's Liturgy of the Word*.

I remind you that the Fridays of Lent are Days of Abstinence from eating meat.

Our Holy Week and Easter Celebrations Schedule has been included in your March/April contribution envelope packet and will also be printed in the bulletin as we get closer to the sacred days of Holy Week and Easter.

Let us pray for one another as we journey this Lent with Jesus Christ our Savior to the celebration of His Passion, Death and Resurrection.



Annual Parish Tricky Tray. Our annual Parish Tricky Tray will take place on **Friday evening, April 5th**, at the Ogdensburg Firehouse. Please plan on attending and start thinking about your trays! A sign-up sheet for tray/basket donations will be available soon on the table at the entrance of the church. If you have any questions or would like to assist us in this fundraiser for Saint Thomas, please contact the Chairpersons Mary Fitzgibbons or Mary Donegan.



THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY will again be selling Palm Crosses to place on the grave of your loved one's for the Easter season. If you would like to reserve a Palm Cross, please fill out the form that is in the weekly bulletin and drop it in the collection basket in an envelope by March 31st. The cost is \$10.00

IN MARCH WE CELEBRATE:



Ash Wednesday - March 6th. 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 Liturgy, at a 4:00 PM Liturgy of the Word Service (not a Mass) and during the 7:00 PM Liturgy only.** Ash Wednesday is a day of fast (one main meal) and abstinence (meatless).



Daylight Savings Time - March 10th. **Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to sleep on Saturday night, March 9th.**



Saint Patrick's Day - March 17th. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He almost didn't get the job of Bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship. Far from being a saint, he considered himself a pagan. He was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God. He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in a monastery for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity. Patrick was quite successful at winning converts, and this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of Ireland to Christianity. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.



Saint Joseph's Day – March 19th. Relatively little is known about the life of St. Joseph except for what is written in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Everything known about Joseph suggests he was poor. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem of Judea, but he had moved to Nazareth in Galilee to take up the occupation of a carpenter. Joseph was a man of great faith, who when called by God responded by taking Mary as his wife and to be the foster father of Jesus. Since Joseph is not mentioned during the ministry of Jesus or at the Passion, it is assumed that he had already died by that point. The feast of St. Joseph's Day is often celebrated by Italian communities and includes enjoying zeppole di San Giuseppe and other Italian dishes for their celebration.



First Day of Spring – Spring Equinox - March 20th. This day is the official beginning of springtime. After the long cold and snowy winter, the air is now alive with promises of new growth, fertility, swelling buds on all the trees, and new love. Soon there will be flowers everywhere. This is a time of balance, when day and night are of equal length. From this point on, we celebrate the oncoming season of longer days and shorter nights.



SOME IMPORTANT PARISH DATES IN MARCH:

- Sunday, March 3rd - Rosary Society Meeting following the 8:00 AM Liturgy - Church Hall
- Wednesday, March 6th - Ash Wednesday.
- Sunday, March 17th - Saint Patrick's Day Breakfast from 8:30 -12 Noon - Church Hall



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST: 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.



GOD'S GATHERING OF CHILDREN - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION EVENTS: **First Eucharist Parent Meeting** – Sunday, March 31st following the 12 noon Liturgy - Church Hall. **First Eucharist Retreat** – Sunday, April 7th from 1:00 - 3:30 PM at Camp Auxilium, Newton; **Sacrament of First Eucharist and May Crowning** - Saturday, May 4th 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, 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 and have a Blessed Lent!

L.R. John

