



The Saint Thomas Times

Church of Saint Thomas of Aquin, Ogdensburg, New Jersey



2019

Dear Parish Family,

During this Lenten Season we are, as a Parish family, journeying with Christ to the celebration of His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The recalling of these events of our salvation will begin on the weekend of April 13th and 14th with the celebration of *Palm Sunday* leading us to the great Feast of our Lord's Resurrection from the Dead on *Easter Sunday*, April 21st.

I invite you during these remaining Lenten days to participate in our 2019 Lenten Offerings:

Daily Liturgy - 7:30 AM (Mon., Tues. and Fri.); **Sacrament of Reconciliation** on Monday evening April 1st and 8th; our **Wednesday Evening Lenten Liturgy** at 7:00 PM with Msgr. Joe Goode and **Stations of the Cross** on Friday evenings at 7:00 PM.

The schedule for our **Holy Week Celebration** is as follows:



Weekend of April 13th and 14th - Palms will be blessed and distributed this weekend at all of our Eucharistic celebrations.



The Eucharist for Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week (April 15th, 16th & 17th) will be at the usual time - 7:30 A.M.



April 18th - Holy Thursday. This is the day when Jesus established the Holy Eucharist and Priesthood. It is a very special day. There will be **NO** morning Eucharist. The **Celebration of the Lord's Supper** will begin at 7:00 P.M. Six married couples will have their feet washed at this celebration. A procession with the Eucharist will follow our Liturgy. Weather permitting, we will process outside around the church. Following the procession there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose until 9:15 P.M.



April 19th - Good Friday. It is a day of fast (one full meal) and abstinence (no meat). We will celebrate the **Stations of the Cross** at 12:00 P.M. in our Cemetery Prayer Garden (weather permitting). The church will remain open so members of our parish family can spend time in private prayer and meditation on the saving act that Jesus endured on that first Friday. At 3:00 P.M. we will gather to remember our **Lord's Passion and Death with the Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion**; and at 7:00 PM we will gather again for Meditations on the **Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross**.



April 20th - Holy Saturday. I will Bless Easter Foods and Baskets in the Church at 12 Noon. There will be no Confessions and no 5:00 PM Liturgy. **The Easter Vigil** will begin at **7:00 P.M.** We will gather on this most Sacred night for the Blessing of the Easter Fire and process with the newly lit Easter Candle into the darkened Church bringing the light of Christ into our beautiful worship space.



April 21st - Easter Sunday, the day when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 12:00 Noon.

Easter Monday, April 22nd, there will be no morning Liturgy.

Easter is the most important Feast of our faith; the Resurrection of Christ is the hope in which we all share because of Jesus. I invite you to join us for the Liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. As a Parish Family we have much to praise and thank God for, especially our eternal life won for us by Jesus Christ.

We look forward to the Celebration of Confirmation with our Bishop, Arthur J. Serratelli, for our Confirmation Candidates which will be celebrated here at Saint Thomas of Aquin on Saturday morning, April 27th, 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 am happy to inform you that Saint Thomas of Aquin Parish has been given permission by Bishop Serratelli to lower the age of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation to the 8th grade. This change will take effect this coming September with the beginning of the 2019-2020 Academic Year. Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation earlier will enable our high school students to better participate in our parish community by serving as Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers and in the Music Ministry. We trust this change will greatly benefit the young people of our parish family. It is my hope and prayer that our young folks will continue to grow in the knowledge and love of our Catholic faith and in their commitment to be witnesses of God and His Son Jesus Christ.

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 4th at 11 AM. Those receiving their First Eucharist are full of energy and have a faith that will grow as they learn more about their Catholic faith.



TRICKY TRAY: Our *Annual Parish Tricky Tray* will take place this Friday evening, April 5th, at the Ogdensburg Firehouse beginning at 6:30 PM. Donations can be dropped off at the firehouse on Friday, April 5th, from 10:00 am to 5 pm. . No trays will be accepted after 5:00 PM. If you need to make other arrangements or have any questions, please contact co-chairpersons Mary Fitzgibbons (973.827.6707) or Mary Donegan (973.827.5347). Thank you.



IN APRIL WE CELEBRATE:

Income Tax Day - April 18th. US income tax forms are due on this day. I already filed my taxes!



Administrative Professionals Day (Formerly Professional Secretaries Day) - April 24th. 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 26th. 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:

- Wednesday, April 3rd - Finance Council – 7:45 PM - Rectory
- Friday, April 5th - Annual Parish Tricky Tray - 6:30 PM at the Ogdensburg Firehouse
- Sunday, April 7th - First Eucharist Retreat for 2nd Graders and their Parents – Sacred Heart Center, Newton
- Tuesday, April 9th - Parish Advisory Board – 7:00 PM – Rectory
- Friday, April 26th - Confirmation Rehearsal - 7:00 PM - Church
- Saturday, April 27th - Confirmation 11:00 AM



GOD’S GATHERING OF CHILDREN ~ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Religious Education Classes will conclude for the year on Monday, April 29th, for grades 5-8 and on Tuesday, April 30th, for grades 1-4. Registration Information for the 2019-2020 Religious Education will be distributed this week during class and must be returned no later than the weekend of April 27th/28th.



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

Our 9th and 10th grade Confirmation Classes will conclude for the year on Monday, April 15th. Registration information for the 2019-2020 Confirmation Program will be distributed this week during class and must be returned to the Parish Office no later than May 6th.



PARISH MEETINGS: The next **Finance Council** Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:45 PM; the next **Parish Advisory Board** will meet on Tuesday, April 9th; they are held at the Rectory. **The Rosary Society** meets on the first Sunday of each month after the 8:00 AM Liturgy in the Church Hall. The **Holy Name Society** meets quarterly on a Sunday after the 8:00 AM Liturgy in the Church Hall.

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

In His Love,

L.R. John



Jesus is Risen