



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 **\$6,836**. Again, I THANK YOU and may God continue to bless you for your continued generosity and support to our wonderful parish.

During the month of May we celebrate four events: First Communion, May Crowning, Mother's Day and Memorial Day.



**First Eucharist:** On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, our second graders received 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.



**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. The statue of Mary in front of our church was ceremonially crowned, after our First Communion celebration, on May 4<sup>th</sup> by our Second graders signifying her as Queen of Heaven and the Mother of God.



**Mother's Day - May 12<sup>th</sup>** 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.



**Memorial Day - May 27<sup>th</sup>** 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. The Memorial Day Parade from the Ogdensburg Firehouse to Saint Thomas will begin at 7:30 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:**

- **Catechists Appreciation Dinner** – Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> - Bella Italia, Andover, at 6:00 PM.
- **Ascension Thursday** – May 30<sup>th</sup> - 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. Liturgies for Ascension Thursday will be celebrated on the **Eve before the Holy Day, Wednesday evening, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and on Ascension Thursday morning at 7:30 AM.**
- **Armed Forces Day** – Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2018/2019 School year have concluded. I wish to express my thanks to Ms. Deb Henegan, our Coordinator of Religious Education, the Salesian Sisters, Novices and lay catechist who so faithful taught our young folks the doctrines' of our faith this year.

**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2019-2020 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:** Registration for the 2019/2020 Religious Education Program took place on the weekend of April 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. All returning students, as well as new students, must register for next year's classes, no student is automatically re-registered. If you have not registered your daughter or son as of yet, please do so as soon as possible as we need to know the number of students attending next year so we can order textbooks and other materials for the classes. Registration information can be found on the Homepage of our parish website: [www.stthomasofaquin.org](http://www.stthomasofaquin.org) For more information you may also contact our Coordinator of Religious Education, Ms. Deb Henegan at 908.914.6656.



**"BE FILLED WITH THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT..."** Confirmation Classes for the 2018-2019 school year have ended. Our 10<sup>th</sup> graders received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 27<sup>th</sup>. I wish to express my thanks to Mrs. Marianne Nichols and Mr. Tom Schwork, for teaching our Confirmation Candidates the doctrines of our faith.

**2019/2020 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 2019/2020 Program should be returned to the Parish Office by Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.** Registrations received after May 6<sup>th</sup> will not be able to take advantage of the lower registration fees. Your cooperation in this registration process is greatly appreciated. For any questions, please contact the Parish Office. Confirmation 2020 will be celebrated here at Saint Thomas of Aquin on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 11:00 AM.

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 our prayer that your daughters and sons 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.



**ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE:** Our Annual Parish Raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Raffle tickets will be distributed to each Parish family in the near future. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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, June 5<sup>th</sup>, and the **Parish Advisory Board** will meet on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. **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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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!*