



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



June  
 2019

Dear Parish Family,

It's hard to believe that we have begun the month of June; the lazy-hazy-days of summer are on the horizon. Summer is a time when families travel and are away from their parish but there is never a vacation from God. So, when you go on your well deserved vacation and you need to find a Church for weekend Mass - Mass Times is available on the World Wide Web at [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) to find a Church in your favorite vacation spot.

I also would like to remind you how important your continued financial contributions are to Saint Thomas when you are away. Your continued contributions enable our parish to carry out its Gospel-based mission of providing worship, education, sacraments and service to those in need – as well as ordinary everyday maintenance, salaries and insurances. A parish operates on prayer and good works. Good works include sharing our financial blessings to provide service and ministry. I am most grateful to you for your continued commitment of financial support to our wonderful parish. Thanks so much!

June is also the month for graduations! I would like to extend my personal congratulations to all those from our parish family who are graduating this month from Grammar School, High School, College or Graduate School. I wish all of our graduates the best in the future.

This will be the last issue of *The Saint Thomas Times* until September. Your editor and his proof-reader will again be taking the summer months to recoup so to begin fresh in September. So, we wish all of you a happy summer, filled with sunny, warm days, (don't forget your sun-screen), the refreshing cool waters of the pool, lake or the ocean waves (and don't forget air conditioning). Enjoy the company of family and friends, the backyard barbeques and picnics, and as you travel to your favorite vacation spot, remember that the beauty of these summer days and vacation spots are a gift from God who loves us so very much that he gave us this wonderful season to rejuvenate ourselves.



During the summer months of July and August, the Parish Office hours will be as follows: Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM; Friday from 8:30 AM to 12 Noon. Please conduct all general business with the Parish Office during these hours. Normal Office hours will resume on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank You!



During these warm summer weekends when you come to the House of the Lord to celebrate the Church's liturgy please dress comfortably, **but modestly**. Thank You!



**ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE:** Our Annual Parish Raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at our Parish Picnic. This year there will again be **Three (3) Prizes**. First Prize - 25% of raffle proceeds; Second Prize - 15% of raffle proceeds; Third Prize - 10% of raffle proceeds. The tickets will sell for \$1.00 each. Selling of the tickets will begin next weekend when Connie will be distributing them before and after all of the Liturgies and will conclude on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the Annual Raffle will again be used for the up-keep and maintenance of our Parish Plant (church, rectory & cemetery). Thank you for your continued support!



**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.

## IN JUNE WE CELEBRATE:



**Flag Day**, June 14<sup>th</sup>. This day commemorates that day in 1777 when the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as our nation's flag. It then had only 13 stars, to match its 13 stripes. It is observed by displaying the flag. It is not an "official" Holiday, but in Pennsylvania it is a legal holiday.



**Father's Day**, June 16<sup>th</sup>. On this day we express our gratitude and appreciation to our Fathers by giving them gifts, sending cards and making or taking dad out for dinner.



**The Summer Solstice** – The First Day of Summer - June 21<sup>st</sup>. On this day in the Northern Hemisphere, the length of daylight is at its maximum. For most people in the Northern Hemisphere, this is the time to just relish the long daylight hours while we can, knowing that beginning the next day the nights will get longer and the fall and winter seasons will come once again.



### GATHERING OF GOD'S CHILDREN – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2019-2020 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:** Registration is now open for our 2019/2020 Program. Information can be found on the Home Page Parish Website: [www.stthomasofaquin.org](http://www.stthomasofaquin.org) All returning students, as well as new students, must register for next year's classes, no student is automatically re-registered. For more information you may also contact our Coordinator of Religious Education, Ms. Deb Henegan at 908.914.6656 or via Email at: [stthomasfaithfrm@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasfaithfrm@gmail.com)



### "BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" – CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Registration forms for the 2019/2020 Confirmation classes, grades 8, 9 & 10 are available on the Homepage of our website: [stthomasofaquin.org](http://stthomasofaquin.org). All returning students must register for next year's classes, no student is automatically re-registered. Please return the completed form with the fee to the Parish Office or drop it in the collection basket at Mass on the weekend. 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.

As mentioned in the Bulletin and in last month's Saint Thomas Times, 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.



**PARISH MEETINGS:** The next **Finance Council Meeting** will be in July. The next **Parish Advisory Board** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. These meetings are held at the Rectory. **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.



When vacationing this summer and don't know the Mass schedule at your vacation spot, there is an easy to find out. Go to: **[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org)** on your tablet, smart phone or laptop and you can find the schedule for places around the country and the world.

Have a wonderful month of June, and an enjoyable, relaxing and safe summer! God Bless!

In His Love,