



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

2019

Dear Parish Family,

HAPPY LABOR DAY WEEKEND! Here we are in the month of September. Those lazy-hazy days of summer sure flew by. Those summer days were pleasant, somewhat humid at times and rainy, which was good for the grass and crops, but all in all it has been a pleasant summer.

I hope that all of you had a relaxing summer, are fully refreshed in mind, body and spirit and ready to return to your regular schedules. September is that pre-autumn month when we get a little taste of summer and fall weather. The days are less humid, the nights get a bit cooler and we know that winter is on the horizon. This month is also the start of another academic year, so I wish all the students of our Parish family in pre-school, grammar school, high school and college much success as you return to school. Be assured of my prayers for you each day at the Table of the Lord.

I look forward to our **Annual Parish Family Picnic** and the drawing of our **Annual Raffle** next Sunday, September 8th. The afternoon festivities will begin with an outdoor Liturgy at 12 Noon. Join your fellow parishioners for an afternoon of fellowship and fun along with some good food and drink! The Raffle drawing will be held at 3:00 PM. Just as a reminder: the Raffle is an important fund raiser for our parish, so I ask that you please sell your tickets and return them to the Parish Office or drop them in the collection basket this weekend. Thank you for your support!

We also look forward to the beginning of our **Religious Education and Confirmation Classes** for the 2019/2020 academic year which will begin the week of September 23rd. We are still in need of folks getting involved in our **Parish Ministries**. We are especially in need of Ministers of the Word (Lectors), Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers for our weekend celebrations. So pray and think about which Ministry is right for you.



DAILY MASS: There is no better activity that anyone of us can do than attend Mass daily, and receive Jesus in the Eucharist for daily spiritual nourishment. Attending Mass during the week helps further strengthen our relationship with God and provides us with a continued opportunity for spiritual growth. Taking about 20 minutes of our time, at the start of our day to attend Mass helps to reinforce the value of God in our lives. Daily Mass is a spiritual exercise that will renew and strengthen us and our performance throughout the entire day. So folks, why not take advantage of all the spiritual blessings you will receive by attending as many Daily Masses as possible. Just as daily exercise is good for the heart; daily Mass attendance is good for the soul! As a reminder: Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30 AM on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday unless otherwise noted in the Bulletin.



Just a reminder: our monthly **Eucharistic Adoration** is held in the morning on the First Friday of each month. I invite you to come spend some time in prayer before our Lord truly present in the Eucharist on this coming Friday, September 6th, beginning with the Celebration of the Eucharist at 7:30 AM, followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 8:30 AM.

FEAST DAYS IN SEPTEMBER



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th). The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church at least since the 8th Century. The birth of Mary was also miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son.



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14th). This feast celebrates a double anniversary: the discovery of our Lord's cross by the empress, St Helena in 320 and the dedication of the Constantinian basilicas at the sight of the Holy Sepulcher and of Calvary in 335.



Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (September 21st). Matthew the Apostle is one of the greatest evangelists, whose account, in the first book of the New Testament, of Christ's teaching and life, is the most detailed and complete - the most accurate catechism, if you will, for the Christian faithful. As his gospel reveals, Matthew was a tax collector and he abandoned being a publican when called by Our Lord to follow Him while sitting in the tax-collector's seat in Capharnaum.



Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels (September 29th). These biblical messengers signify God's transcendence and loving care: Michael, meaning who is like God, is the patron of security forces and of the sick. Gabriel meaning God's Strength, is the patron of telecommunications and the postal service. Raphael meaning God's Remedy, is patron of travelers and the blind.

IN SEPTEMBER WE CELEBRATE:



Labor Day (September 2nd). This holiday, which always is observed on the first Monday of September, has been a federal holiday since 1894. Its purpose is to honor the nation's working people. Most Americans consider Labor Day the end of the summer, and the beaches and other popular resort areas are packed with people enjoying one last three-day weekend. For many students it marks the opening of the school year. The Eucharist will be celebrated Labor Day morning at 9:00 AM. Please join me to thank God for the blessings of our daily labor.



Patriots Day (September 11th). We remember on the 18th Anniversary this tragic day the 2,793 fellow Americans who lost their lives in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania in 2001. We also remember their families, those injured, the rescue workers, clean-up crews, our government officials, our military and all others affected by this tragedy. We must never forget what was taken from us and we pray that those who lost their lives on this day 18 years ago may rest in peace.



Autumn Equinox - First Day of Fall/Autumn (September 23rd). The air is crisp, the foliage is spectacular, and there is a nip in the air. Summer is over, and winter is quickly approaching. Autumn is the second time of balance in the year, when day and night are of equal length. It is a time to celebrate the harvest and to store our abundance for the coming cold but cozy months of winter; there is great energy in the air. From this point on, we celebrate the oncoming season of shorter days and longer nights.



GOD'S GATHERING OF CHILDREN - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES for 2019/2020 will begin on **Monday evening, September 23rd** from 6:45-8:00 PM for Grades 4-7 and on **Tuesday afternoon, September 24th** from 3:00-4:00 PM for Grades 1-3. Our Religious Ed classes will meet at the Ogdensburg School at the times indicated. There will be a **Mandatory Parent Meeting on Wednesday evening, September 18th** at 7:00 PM in the Church for **ALL** the parents of our children in Grades 1 – 7, who are registered in our Religious Education Program. For more information about our Religious Education Program (Grades 1-7) please feel free to call Ms. Deb Henegan our Coordinator of Religious Education at 908.914.6656 or via email at: stthomasfaithfrm@gmail.com



"BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" – CONFIRMATION PROGRAM
Confirmation Classes for 2019/2020 will begin for **Grades 8, 9 and 10 on Monday evening, September 23rd** at the Ogdensburg School from 6:45-8:00 PM. There will be a **Mandatory Parent Meeting on Monday evening, September 16th** from 7:00-8:00 PM in the Church for all parents of the students who are registered in our Confirmation Program. As you know by now there are changes in our Confirmation Program beginning this year. Bishop Serratelli has approved our parish to have students receive their Confirmation in the 8th grade. This upcoming academic year (2019/2020) our 8th, 9th and 10th grade students will receive their Confirmation in May 2020. Beginning in 2021 and forward, all students will receive their Confirmation in the 8th grade. More details will be given at the up-coming Parent Meetings.

Finally, Bishop Serratelli will be with us to celebrate two Liturgies for the Sacrament of Confirmation here at Saint Thomas on **Saturday May 2nd for our 10th Grade Confirmation Candidates at 10 A.M. and for our 8th and 9th Grade Candidates at 12 Noon.** Any questions about our Confirmation program please call the Parish Office. Thank You!



PARISH MEETINGS: The Finance Council and Parish Advisory Board will meet in October. 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.

Have a wonderful month of September!

In His Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

