



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

September  
2017

Dear Parish Family,

Well, as we begin the first week of September we realize that the summer season is coming to a quick end. It was a grand one weather wise, with many comfortable days, very few humid days and no heat waves.

I hope that you all 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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 Parish Activities: **Religious Education and Confirmation Classes** for the 2017/2018 academic year begin the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Plans are in the working with our Rosary Society to conduct their **Annual Christmas Wreath Sale** in November and **Tricky Tray** in the Spring. The Holy Name Society is planning to sponsor another **Beefsteak Dinner** to be held in January. We will be having a **Ministry Fair** on the weekend of September 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of folks getting involved in our Parish Ministries. So pray and think about which Ministries are right for you. More information will be in the bulletin on the weekend of September 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>. So folks, it looks like a busy fall season ahead!



**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 the next First Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning with the Celebration of the Eucharist at 7:30 AM followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 8:30 AM.

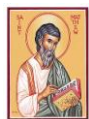
**FEAST DAYS IN SEPTEMBER**



**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8<sup>th</sup>).** The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church at least since the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>).** 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 21<sup>st</sup>).** 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 29<sup>th</sup>).** 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 4<sup>th</sup>)** 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 11<sup>th</sup>)** We remember on the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16 years ago may rest in peace.



**Autumn Equinox - First Day of Fall/Autumn (September 22<sup>nd</sup>).** 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 2017/2018 will begin on Monday evening, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:45-8:00 PM for Grades 5-8 and on Wednesday afternoon, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:00 PM for Grades 1-4. All of our Religious Ed classes will meet at the Ogdensburg School at the times indicated. If you have not registered your child/children for Religious Education classes, please do so as soon as possible by returning the form to the Parish Office with the required fee. There will be a **Parent Meeting on Thursday evening, September 7<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM in the Church for **ALL** the parents of our children in Grades 1 – 8, who are registered in our Religious Education Program. For more information about our Religious Education Program (Grades 1-8) please feel free to call Ms. Brigette Hanley, our Director of Religious Education at 973.864.4441.



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

**Confirmation Classes** for 2017/2018 will begin for **Grades 9 and 10 on Monday evening, September 11<sup>th</sup>** at the Ogdensburg School from 6:45-8:00 PM. There will be a **Parent Meeting on Wednesday evening, September 6<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00-8:00 PM in the Church for all parents of the students who are registered in our Confirmation Program. Finally, Bishop Serratelli will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Candidates here at Saint Thomas on **Saturday morning, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 11:00 AM.** Any questions about our Confirmation program please call the Parish Office. Thank You!



**PARISH MEETINGS:** The **Finance Council** will meet on Wednesday evening, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM the **Parish Advisory Board** will meet on Wednesday evening, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. All meetings are held at the Rectory. The **Rosary Society** meets on the 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,

*F.R. John*

