



The Saint Thomas Times
 Church of Saint Thomas of Aquin
 Ogdensburg, NJ



Dear Parish Family,

The month of October is here and we are in the midst of the fall season. October is such a beautiful month. The cool weather sets in; God's creation is bursting with colors of red, yellow, orange, burgundy and brown. We are fully back to the old grind of going to work, school, Religious Education and Confirmation Classes; Parish activities and meetings have begun and we look forward to the holiday season and await the winter months.



Eucharistic Adoration Just a reminder: our monthly **Eucharistic Adoration** is held 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 this coming First Friday morning, October 6th, beginning with the Celebration of the Eucharist at 7:30 AM followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 8:30 AM.



I invite you to join us for a **Fall Harvest Breakfast** on Sunday morning, October 8th. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 – 12 Noon in the Church Hall. Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit, Bagels, Juice, Coffee and more. This breakfast is being sponsored by our Coffee And... Ministry. So, stop by and enjoy the best breakfast in the county.



You will notice in your Envelope Packet an envelope for **All Souls Day**. I would kindly ask that you please write the names of your deceased relatives and/or friends on the envelope and place it in the collection basket **on any Sunday during the month of October**. The donations made for *All Souls Day* will be deposited into our Cemetery account to be used for cemetery maintenance. The envelopes with the names of our beloved dead will then be placed on our Altar to be remembered at each Mass during the month of November.



Christmas Wreath Sale: Our Rosary Society is sponsoring a Christmas Wreath Sale again this year. You can place your order for wreaths on the weekends of Oct. 21st/22nd & Oct. 28th/29th by placing the order form, that will be available next weekend, in the Christmas Tin that will be on the table at the entrance of the Church. We all like to have a wreath to decorate our homes during the holiday season, so please support this Rosary Society Holiday activity.



SOME IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER:

- October 8th - Fall Harvest Breakfast from 8:30-12 Noon - Church Hall
- October 9th - Columbus Day. Morning Liturgy at 9:00 AM; Parish Office closed for the day; No Religious Education/Confirmation classes
- October 18th - Parish Advisory Board Meeting – 7:00 PM - Rectory
- October 25th - Finance Council Meeting – 7:00 PM – Rectory
- Weekend of October 21st/22nd and October 28th/29th - Orders will be accepted for our Annual Rosary Society Christmas Wreath and Spray Sale



IN OCTOBER WE CELEBRATE:



Columbus Day on October 9th we observe Columbus Day in honor of the great Italian navigator who discovered America. Columbus initiated the process of Spanish colonization which led to the general European colonization of the Americas. The King of Portugal turned down his request for a voyage, but the monarchs of Spain gave him the support he needed. In all he made four voyages to the New World and died at the age of 55. His remains are buried in the Cathedral of Seville in Spain. Our Morning Liturgy on Columbus Day will be at 9:00 AM; the Parish Office will be closed for the day and there will be no Religious Education or Confirmation Classes.



All Hallows' Eve – Halloween - October 31st began as an ancient Celtic and later Roman Harvest festival. When the Irish immigrated to the United States in the 1800's, they brought with them a Halloween tradition of lighting candles in turnips to keep spirits at bay. Finding turnips in short supply in America, however, they began carving pumpkins and thus the Jack-O-Lantern was born. As is my tradition I would like to invite our young people to stop by the Rectory on Halloween for Trick-or-Treat.



"THE GATHERING OF GOD'S CHILDREN" - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Religious Education Classes meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:45 – 8:00 PM for Grades 5 thru 8 and on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 - 4:00 PM for Grades 1-4 at the Ogdensburg School. 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 Grades 9 and 10 meet on Monday evenings at the Ogdensburg School from 6:45-8:00 PM. Bishop Serratelli will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our 10th Grade Confirmation Candidates here at Saint Thomas on **Saturday morning, April 29th, 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 25th at 7:00 PM the **Parish Advisory Board** will meet on Wednesday evening, October 18th at 7:00 PM. All 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.

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal
Diocese of Paterson



The theme of the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal is: "***In Giving We Receive.***" The Bishop's Annual Appeal funds our Catholic Charities Agencies, Elementary School Subsidy Fund, Seminarian Education and our Diocesan Priests' Retirement Residence. Saint Thomas of Aquin Parish has always been very generous to this yearly appeal. Our parish goal is \$15,675. Fifty percent of the amount received over our parish goal is returned to our parish and is used to assist us in paying the salary for our Director of Religious Education. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge so that we can fund the ministries of our diocese and our parish. Whatever you can pledge to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal is greatly appreciated. Thanks for your generosity!

Have a wonderful month of October!

In His Love,

