

## MASS SCHEDULE



MONDAY, January 2, 2012  
NOON Mary & Thomas Callahan  
TUESDAY, January 3, 2012  
6:30am Thomas Ferguson & Jean  
Cipolla  
NOON Grace, Jim, & John Brady  
WEDNESDAY, January 4, 2012  
6:30am Intentions of the Celebrant  
NOON Joseph Sr. & Joseph Jr. Boffa  
THURSDAY, January 5, 2012  
6:30am Rev. A. Peter Gopaul  
NOON In Thanksgiving to St. Joseph  
& St. Thomas  
FRIDAY, January 6, 2012  
NOON Justina Jean Francois  
SATURDAY, January 7, 2012  
8:30am Roland Mense  
5:30pm Pearly Gopaul  
SUNDAY, January 8, 2012  
8:00am Purgatorial Society,  
Freddie Graham  
11:30am Andrew Quigley  
5:30pm People of the Parish

## REMEMBER IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



The Sick: Thomas Toal, Christine Walker, Stacy Lapenna, Ellen M. Lehane, Norma Allongo, Nicholas Zambrano

A Time to Die- Michael DeFendis,  
Mary Radigan, Ermina King

Those in the Armed Services-in these difficult times, let us lift up in prayer our brave men and women who fight for our freedom all over the world.

## A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR-2012

*Loving Father, you are the Lord of our history: our yesterday, today and tomorrow. We join all of creation in giving you praise and glory for the year behind us and for days you give us in the year ahead.*

*Forgive us for the misuse of days passed, and help us in this New Year to use your gift of days in a more loving and generous way.*

*Give us the strength to be less fearful and anxious, but to find our hope in the Good News brought about by the gift of your Son.*

*Show us how to face adversity with your grace and only the peace you can provide and to see challenges as opportunities to draw closer to you.*

*Fill us with your compassion, that we may do our part to bring about a more just and non-violent world, and to care for the most vulnerable among us.*

*We thank you for the gift of this New Year, and ask that you bless it, and help us be good stewards of the time you have so graciously entrusted to us.*

*We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever. Amen.*

## IS GOD CALLING YOU?

How are you letting God be present to you, and how is God present to others through you? The Church needs dedicated lay and ordained ministers to help make God present to the people. Please pray about it and, if you'd like more information about serving the Church in this way, contact the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Brooklyn at 1-718-827-2454.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DOYLE

Dear Parishioners:

As we gather together to worship, we focus on three different but inter-connected realities: the first day of a New Year 2012; Mary, Mother of God, and world peace. Yes, today is the first day of a New Year! In the liturgy we honor Mary, the Mother of God, and all Catholics all over the world united with Pope Benedict XVI, are praying today for peace in a special way.

Peace! How we yearn for true and lasting peace in our hearts, within our families and throughout the world. Peace is so intrinsically linked to Christmas. Saint Augustine writes: "The birthday of the Lord is the birthday of peace, as Paul the Apostle says: For he is our peace..."

Yes, Jesus is our peace! By his birth and then, by his dying and rising he takes away all that divides and separates us from God and one another, namely, our sins, He has reconciled us with God and with one another. Peace is born when we are reconciled.

On this New Year's Day, we long for true peace even as we see unrest and civil strife all over the world.

On this New Year's Day, we face the lack of peace in other areas of life: so many families experience bitterness and disunity, violence raises its ugly head in many ways, including domestic abuse, life itself continues to be attacked from conception through natural death.

So on this New Year's Day, we turn to the Mother of God, who is our mother, and ask her to obtain for us that conversion of mind and heart, which will lead to true and lasting peace.

As we pray for peace, we realize that there can be no peace among nations and within families unless there is first peace within each individual person. As the familiar song puts it: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." Therefore, gazing at the Prince of Peace lying in the manger and asking the help of Mary and Joseph, each of us prays today that we can become channels of God's peace.

Since peace begins with each of us, we individually must ask: am I just in my relationships beginning with family members? Do I forgive those who hurt me and those I love? Do I pray for the grace to learn how to forgive? Am I praying each day for the conversion of mind and heart, which leads to reconciliation between myself and God, myself and others-the reconciliation from which true peace begins to blossom and to endure?

Yes, on this first day of 2012, with our eyes turned toward Mary, the Mother of the Prince of Peace, we ask that we might be recreated into becoming and remaining channels of peace within our families and communities.

Wishing you a Blessed and Happy New Year!

*Christmas peace!*

*Rev. Fr. Thomas V. Doyle*

## TIPS FOR A HAPPIER LIFE IN 2012

Compiled from the wisdom of various authors, known and unknown, including the writers of the Gospel:

- Do not give into anger over the past or fear of the future. Enjoy the present!
- Forgive everyone for everything.
- Envy is a waste of time-God will provide what you need.
- Enjoy the simple things.
- Surround yourself with what you love: family, pets, keepsakes, music, books, plants, hobbies, sports.
- Keep learning and keep active. Learn hobbies, crafts, gardening, photography, the computer. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop."
- Take a 30 minute walk every day, and while you walk, smile. It's the ultimate anti-depressant. God made the body to be used. Use it.
- Be enthusiastic about all that you do even menial work.
- Sit in prayerful silence for at least 15 minutes every day.
- Don't wake yourself so seriously. Cultivate a sense of humor. Laugh a lot.
- Get rid of the clutter in your life and anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
- Focus less on yourself and more on how you can be of service to others.
- Count your blessings.

## 2011 INCOME TAX STATEMENTS

Tax Statements for donations made during 2011 are in the process of being printed and checked for accuracy. Please note we can only account for donations made through the Church envelopes, not cash placed in the basket. Any donation made after December 31st will be reflected in the 2012 statement. Thank you for your continued financial support to Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish.

## LIGHTING THE WAY FOR CHRIST

We are grateful to all those who made the "Lighting the Way for Christ" possible and to those who sponsored a pew candle. These parishioners also made this possible. Please remember them in your prayers:

In memory of Jerry Dormody,  
McDougall Family, & Shields Family  
donated by Ann Dormody & Maureen Shields

For the Intentions of the Dolisca Family,  
Ronald Dolisca & Richard Dolisca  
donated by Rogette F. Dolisca

For the living and deceased members of  
the Krainchich Family  
donated by Eva A. Krainchich

A donation was made by  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank DiDio  
towards Lighting the Way for Christ

A donation was made by Marie Henriquez  
towards Lighting the Way for Christ

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The Christmas Flowers, Wreaths and decorations were donated through the generosity of many parishioners and friends of the Parish of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Thank you all for your continued generosity to the parish and for helping decorate our Church, Rectory, Parish Center and Convent for Christmas

M/M Joseph Astarita  
Miss L Bellucci  
John & Patricia Castillo  
Gerald Charles  
Coreen Christopher  
Mr. Joseph Digiovanna  
M/M Davitt/Sweeney  
Ms. Susan Essinfeld  
Mr. Thomas E. Kmiotek  
Herve Laurent  
M/M Eddy Myrthil  
Joyce Nelson  
Ms. Angela Reed  
Saulino Family  
Regina Savarese  
Marie Rose F. Thomas  
M/M Kesner Vilsaint

## NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

The week of January 9th-14th parish communities across the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week. It begins with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. You are invited to renew your baptismal commitment and to pray for a strengthening of all vocations.

Pray! Invite! Encourage! Affirm!  
Vocations

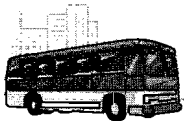
For more information on vocations in the Diocese of Brooklyn, please call the Vocation Office at 1-718-827-2454.

### ROSARY SOCIETY ATLANTIC CITY TRIP



The Rosary Society is sponsoring a trip to Bally's Hotel in Atlantic City on January 5, 2012. The bus leaves from in front of the Church at 8:30am. For more information please call Noreen at 718-253-7824. Please leave a message. All are welcome.

### HOLY NAME SOCIETY ATLANTIC CITY TRIP



The Holy Name Society is sponsoring a bus trip to Atlantic City on January 17, 2012 to Showboat. The bus leaves from in front of the Church at 8:30am. For more information please call Bill or Dorothy at 1-718-377-4061. All are welcome.

### SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS SPORTS

#### Intramural Basketball

Beginning on January 7th, lasting 12 weeks, we are offering Boys and Girls, In-house, Intramural Basketball on Saturdays, registration cost is \$75.00.

#### In-door Soccer

Also, we are thrilled to announce beginning in January, indoor soccer is back for athletes between the ages of 5-13. All games will be on Thursday evenings in Monsignor King Hall, this program will last 12 weeks, registration cost \$75.00.

So for all young athletes, finish your homework, turn off the T.V. and unplug those video games, In-door soccer is fun for all!!

**Registration** for all above will be held in Msgr. King Hall on Saturday mornings between 10am-12pm. If you have any questions regarding St. Thomas Aquinas Sports  
Please e-mail: [STAsportsguy@aol.com](mailto:STAsportsguy@aol.com)

### BASEBALL CLINIC FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 6 TO 13

To prepare for the 2012 Baseball Season, we will again be conducting an indoor clinic in the Saint Thomas Aquinas Gymnasium. The clinic will teach basic skills to younger ballplayers while honing the skills of the more experienced players. It will also help players get a jump start on the season while the weather is too cold for outdoor play. The program will be 6 consecutive Saturdays starting January 7th from 10:00am to Noon. The fee is \$35.00. Each child will receive a Saint Thomas Aquinas Baseball Clinic t-shirt.

Registration is at Monsignor King Hall from 4:30pm to 6:00pm Mondays and 10:00am to Noon on Saturdays. Checks are to be made payable to Saint Thomas Aquinas. If you have any questions, please email Robert Maffia at [maffiar@aol.com](mailto:maffiar@aol.com).

### PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Our parish support group for those grieving the loss of loved ones will take place at the Aquinas Center on Mondays, January 9th, 2012 and January 23rd, 2012 at 7pm....

(Date adjustments due to holidays on the 1st and 3rd Mondays which are the usual meeting nights...) If you or someone you know would benefit from this support group please contact Sister Terry at 718-253-4404 X30. Please continue to pray in this new year for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.