

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, January 30, 2012
NOON Father James D'Amato



TUESDAY, January 31, 2012
6:30am Intentions of the Celebrant
NOON Rose Serrone

WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2012
6:30am Intentions of the Celebrant
NOON Mary Radigan

THURSDAY, February 2, 2012
6:30am Thomas Ferguson & Jean Cipolla
NOON Michael DeFendis

FRIDAY, February 3, 2012
NOON Maria & Gloria Klein

SATURDAY, February 4, 2012
8:30am Stephen Sierra
5:30pm Eileen Doherty

SUNDAY, February 5, 2012
8:00am Purgatorial Society, Joan Arnolo,
In Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit
11:30am People of the Parish
5:30pm Leonardo Nuzzo

REMEMBER IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



The Sick: Thomas Toal, Christine Walker, Stacy Lapenna, Ellen M. Lehane, Norma Allongo, Nicholas Zambrano, Helen Harvey, Matthew Sealey, Stella Sealey, Marie Collins, Nicholas Esposito

A Time to Die-

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.

MIDWOOD CATHOLIC ACADEMY CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

During the week of January 29th, Midwood Catholic Academy will join thousands of Catholic Schools across the nation in celebrating our educational commitment.

We will begin the celebration on Sunday, January 29th at the 11:30am Mass. At this celebration of Eucharist we will bless and distribute the school rings to the present 8th grade class and baptize two students.

The theme this year focuses on three priorities that Catholic school establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught faith-not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each reach his or her potential. Service, the giving of one's time and efforts to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.

For more information on Midwood Catholic Academy, please call the school at 1-718-377-1800.

A PRAYER FOR MIDWOOD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

God, our Father and Creator, be with us in our school. Help us to treasure your gift of life and treat one another with care. Let us always remember that we are all created in your image.

Come, Lord Jesus and be with us in our school. Guide our teachers, guide our parents, and lead out students to recognize you in all people.

Come, Holy Spirit, and be with us in our school. Give us a vision for the future, and the determination for shaping a faith-filled future.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DOYLE

Dear Parishioners:

Midwood Catholic Academy, along with other Catholic schools and academies across the Diocese of Brooklyn and the country, is celebrating Catholic Schools Week, January 29th through February 5th. Saint Thomas Aquinas has been one of the school's community partners since it opened in 2005. The celebration of Catholic schools and Midwood Catholic Academy is an opportunity to reflect on the unique and significant role that Catholic education has played and continues to play in our Diocese and community.

From the resources of the National Catholic Education Association, the earliest formal Catholic schools may have been those established in Florida in the 1660's, and the Jesuits in New York. As the years went on and the waves of European immigrants settled throughout the United States, more schools were opened by various religious communities and lay people. In addition to serving the educational needs of wealthy families, they also opened their doors to poor children in New England, children of slaves, pioneers and settlers.

Throughout the history of the United States women like Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Saint Katherine Drexel began schools for African American and Native Americans in the cities and the rural communities. Religious communities like the Sisters of Mercy and the Holy Cross Brothers, who staffed Saint Thomas Aquinas School, created a strong foundation of faith, academics, discipline and service to the community. As we have experienced within our local community and within the Diocese of Brooklyn over the last 20 years, the changing demographics have forced schools to close or merge.

Since it has opened, Midwood Catholic Academy has adapted and grown to meet the needs of families within Flatlands and the surrounding area. Midwood Catholic Academy has its own unique identity and strength serving 387 students from Nursery to 8th Grade. Parents seek out Midwood Catholic Academy because it offers strong academics, faith-based values, and respect for cultural diversity in a safe environment. The school is changing lives.

The parishioners of Saint Thomas Aquinas and the other parishes can be proud of the accomplishments of Midwood Catholic Academy as they continue to prepare children for success in work and in life.

As part of the events of Catholic Schools Week, two Open Houses are available: Tuesday, January 31st and Thursday, February 2nd from 9:00am to 11:00am. For more information please contact the school office at 718-388-1800.

Much peace!

Rev. Fr. Thomas V. Doyle

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

feast recalls the holy day on which Jesus was presented in the Temple, fulfilling the Law of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple and proclaimed Christ as their Lord, the Light of revelation to the nations. The traditional Blessing of Candles will take place at the 6:30am and Noon Masses on Thursday, February 2nd.

FEAST OF SAINT BLASE

This feast has been part of the Church's liturgical calendar since the 8th century. Saint Blase is venerated as patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. The blessing of throats will take place as the concluding prayer of the General Intercessions, this pray will be prayed collectively. Following Mass we will have a period of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction; we pray in a special way for all who are sick and suffering, and for blessings of good health for all.

2011 INCOME TAX STATEMENTS

This past week we have prepared and mailed out the 2011 Income Tax Statements to all parishioners who contributed more than \$250.00 this past year in the weekly collection. For those who contributed under the \$250.00 amount you may call and request a copy of your statement.

Please note that we can only send out statements to those who use the parish envelopes, for those who regularly contribute cash in the Sunday collection please know that we are grateful for your continued support to the parish, but we will not be able to substantiate your generosity.

As you review your prepared statement and you have questions concerning it please call the Parish Office at 718-253-4404 and ask to speak to Phyllis.—

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's gospel we hear proclaimed the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. He teaches. He heals. All are amazed. By their baptism, Christian stewards realize they are called to do the same in their lives. They are called to be the light of Christ each day. As we bring closure to the beginning of this new year, now is a good time to ask the Lord to fill our hearts with courage and faith, so that we too may publicly minister in his name, that we may be liberated from our insecurities and fear so that we can share the gospel authoritatively and work to heal at least one wounded relationship in the coming months ahead.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Our next bereavement support group meeting dates are February 6th and 27th, at 7pm in the Aquinas Center, 2000 Flatbush Avenue. If you or someone you know would benefit from this assistance please contact Sister Terry at 718-253-4404 X30.

ROSARY SOCIETY ATLANTIC CITY TRIP



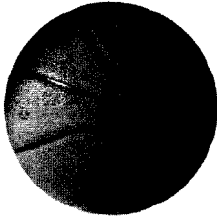
The Rosary Society is sponsoring a trip to Bally's Hotel in Atlantic City on February 2, 2012. The bus leaves from in front of the Church at 8:30am. For more information please call Noreen at 718-253-7824. Please leave a message. All are welcome.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY ATLANTIC CITY TRIP



The Holy Name Society is sponsoring a bus trip to Atlantic City on February 21, 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.

STASPORTSPROGRAMS



Intramural Basketball - Saturday's Intra-mural Basketball has had a terrific response. We begin with the clinic at noon then enjoy watching the kids scrimmage throughout the afternoon. We will continue with

basketball every Saturday thru March - the remainder of the season.



In-door Soccer - Certainly with Ray Vega running the Soccer Program on Thursday evenings, we expected a big turnout, but what we received was nothing short of a tremendous response! For the

younger children, they are given coaching and drills, then they finish their hour with a scrimmage. The older children, complete short lessons then they continue with games.

Monsignor King Hall - While we've made a few renovations to Monsignor King Hall, most importantly, one of the fathers who have two sons playing for our teams has recently completed painting our kitchen. His name is Rob Halasy, of *Precision Painting*, he donated all the paint and his time - to help clean up our kitchen. If you are interested in a painting quote, please use the e-mail address below.

Any questions, please contact STAsports-guy@aol.com.

PARKING AT SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

Throughout the year there is a need to remind parishioners and guests concerning parking-no parking is available in the school yard on school days. This is a school yard and parking is limited to an area for teachers and staff; the remainder of the yard is used for the students throughout the day.

Parking is also not possible in the Rectory parking lot, this is reserved for the priests and parish staff. There are times throughout the year when deliveries are made and access must be available for the rear entrances of the Rectory.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

