

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, January 9, 2012
NOON Caroline Kelly
TUESDAY, January 10, 2012
6:30am Intentions of the Celebrant
NOON Eugene Tiernan
WEDNESDAY, January 11, 2012
6:30am Elizabeth Lynagh
NOON Stephan Sierra
THURSDAY, January 12, 2012
6:30am Patrick & Catherine McNicholas
NOON John Kane
FRIDAY, January 13, 2012
NOON Mary Mc Anenan
SATURDAY, January 14, 2012
8:30am James & Barbara Diamond
5:30pm Albin J. Mackiewicz
SUNDAY, January 15, 2012
8:00am Purgatorial Society
11:30am Therese Forestal
5:30pm People of the Parish



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DOYLE

Dear Parishioners:

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates God manifesting himself in Christ to all people. The Magi represent the Gentiles, all of us, and come with gifts to honor the newborn king. On this feast we see Jesus as Messiah coming to bring salvation to all people.

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning "manifestation." In ancient times the term referred to an official visit by a king or queen, a public showing to the people. As God showed himself to us through Jesus on this day, we are to show the presence of God to others in our daily lives.

It is said that a single star led the way for the Magi; these travelers from the East. Their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh represent products of the East. Whether these elements of the story are factual or not, the truth they represent is important for each of us. In Jesus, God reveals his plan of salvation for all people.

Each of us is called to follow our star, to search for truth and love in Jesus. We are all on a journey. To everyone we meet we reflect the light of God. We become an epiphany for others so that together we can honor Jesus as our King.

As you read this, I will be on a cruise visiting the islands of Princess Cays, Bahamas; St Thomas; Saint Kitts; Barbados; St Lucia and St Johns - back on the 17th.

Christmas peace!
Rev. Fr. Thomas V. Doyle

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- Eugene McLaughlin, Linda Swanston

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.

PARISH OFFICE TO BE CLOSED

In observance of the civil holiday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 16th. All emergencies will be responded to.

The Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday, January 17th at 9:00am.



IS GOD CALLING YOU?

"They offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Is God calling you to give him the gold of your freedom, the incense of your prayer, and the myrrh of your love through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? For more information call the Vocation Office of the Diocese of Brooklyn at 1-718-827-2454 or email vocations@diobrook.org.

THE CALL OF OUR BAPTISM

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to learn more about your faith? If so, you are in luck! We are going to begin a project in which we will highlight the seven sacraments of the Church. There will be a bulletin article every few weeks that highlights a particular sacrament and a bit of the theology about it.

Baptism is the first of three sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life. It is the first step in our Christian journey and opens us to receive the other six sacraments. It is through Baptism that we are claimed for Christ and having been baptized, we no longer belong to ourselves, but to Christ.

The principle effects of Baptism are purification and new birth. Through it, we are freed from all sin and are reborn as children of God. We become members of Christ's body, are incorporated into His Church, and are made sharers in the Church's mission. We also enter into the Lord's suffering and death, as we read in Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans: *Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life (6:3-5).*

As baptized persons, we share in Christ's priestly, prophetic and kingly mission. To be a "prophet" means that we are to talk to others about God with our words and deeds as we respond to our call to evangelize. To be a "priest" is to talk to God about others, by our life of prayer and devotion. To be a "king", is to live on earth with the dignity of a King, always remembering the tremendous value we have because of Christian life, which should lead us to live a life worthy of our call.

By our baptism, we receive the seal of baptism, which is an indelible spiritual mark on our soul that signs us for Christ. No sin we commit can ever erase this mark. We are permanently and irrevocably claimed for Jesus Christ. Tomorrow, January 9th, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and recall the begin-

ning of his ministry following his baptism in the Jordan. It is a chance for each one of us to ponder our own faith and our call to ministry that began with our own baptism and continues to grow and develop. How do you manifest the ministry of your baptism? What challenges and joys do you find in living out your faith in this world?

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

God calls us to live our faith and seek our vocation to become a deacon, priest, religious brother or sister, married or single person. Perhaps, God is calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life. Will you have the courage to follow your heart? We are called to love and serve Him and one another. As we continue to walk in the light of Christ and to serve our Lord with our whole heart, mind and soul, may we be with the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and seek to forgive all who have hurt us. National Vocation Awareness Week is a time for reflection. During this week, you are encouraged to:

- Take time to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.
- Reflect on our own vocation and strengthen our personal relationship with Christ.
- Educate our young people about the importance of silent prayer and taking the time to truly listen to God's voice in our hearts.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

To the members of the Holy Name Society we are grateful for your donation of \$2,000.00 towards the parish and its ministries.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Today's gospel reading reveals the story of the Magi who come from the East to pay homage to Jesus, the newborn King. The story of the Magi teaches Christian stewards three Christmas truths: God, in the person of Jesus Christ is present and active in the world, and stewards must follow his star. Second, each of us, no matter our circumstances or station in life, has a gift to bring to the Lord. And finally, our life's journey always leads to Christ, even at times we do not know where the road is heading.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR-2012

Gracious and loving God, the old year has passed and a new year begun. We thank you for your active presence in our busy lives, for the opportunities given and for blessings received.

As we embrace a new year, breathe feely through us and renew our spirits with fresh resolve and purpose.

Give us the grace to be good stewards of all that your have entrusted to us and to serve you with generous, compassionate and loving hearts.

Bless our days ahead. Give us the courage to be faithful. And show us how to proclaim the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.

38TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

The Consul General of Grenada and the Grenada Independence Committee of NY will be commemorating Grenada's 38th Anniversary on Independence with an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, January 29th at Holy Cross Church, 2530 Church Avenue, Brooklyn at 4:00pm (please be seated by 3:30pm). All are invited with a reception to follow.

NOVENA TO OUR PARISH PATRON SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

Please join the parish in praying the Novena to Saint Thomas Aquinas beginning on Thursday, January 19th through January 27th. The Novena is prayed immediately following daily Mass each day with the veneration of the relic of Saint Thomas Aquinas. The novena prayers to Divine Mercy and Miraculous Medal will be prayed privately. On the weekend masses the novena prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas will be the closing prayer of the Prayer of the Faithful.

NOVENA PRAYER TO SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

Saint Thomas Aquinas, patron of students and Catholic schools, I thank God for the gifts of life and knowledge he bestowed on you, which you have used to build up the Church in love. I thank God, too, for the wealth and richness of theological teaching you left in your writings. Not only were you a great teacher, you lived a life of virtue and you made holiness the desire of your heart. If I cannot imitate you in the brilliance of your academic pursuits, I can follow you in humility and charity which marked your life. As Saint Paul said, charity is the greatest gift, and it is open to all. Pray for me that I might grow in holiness and charity. Pray also for Catholic schools, and for all students. In particular, please obtain the favor I ask during this novena (mention your request). Amen.

Saint Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.

2011 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL WE HAVE MADE OUR GOAL!

Our goal was \$53,685.00. As of December 28th, 2011, 278 donors have pledged \$63,547.50 with \$61,717.62 received. This represents 118.37% of our goal with 32.72% of the parish participating. Saint Thomas Aquinas anticipates receiving, thus far, \$8,032,62 from the Diocese for our participation in this important fundraiser for the Diocese and the Parish.

All monies over the assigned goal are returned back to the parish for the ordinary and extraordinary expenses we face each year. This year the monies will be used towards the replacement of the sidewalks around our property.

Thank you for your continued prayerful and financial support.

CALLED BY NAME

Called by Name, a program to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, will begin next weekend in the Diocese of Brooklyn and in our parish. Pray for vocations. Details next Sunday.

THANK YOU FROM THE PASTORAL STAFF

The Pastoral Staff wants to thank you so very much for your beautiful Christmas cards and gifts. We received an outpouring of love in the forms of fruit, cookies, wine, and an assortment of wonderful treats. None of the food that you have been kind enough to give goes to waste, but it certainly goes to our waists.

To all who so generously gave of their time to make our Christmas celebrations so special, thank you: to our Altar Servers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters and Ushers; to our Folk Group, Choir and all ministers of music-good liturgy just does not happen, it has to be well prepared.

We also extend our deepest appreciation to the staff of Marine Florist who added to the beauty of our sacred place floral arrangements prepared for us by creative people.

We cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing our profound appreciation for your financial generosity to our parish. So many of you have made sacrificial gifts to the parish this year. Your financial support of the parish and the Annual Catholic Appeal have enabled us to continue to meet our on-going financial obligations.

As we turn the calendar on another year, please be assured of our daily prayers for each of you.

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 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

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.