

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, October 31, 2011

NOON Martin Darroux

7:30pm Rev. Gary Rogers

TUESDAY, November 1, 2011

6:30am Jack Rahming & Catherine Ryan

8:30am Midwood Catholic Academy

NOON James Nelson

WEDNESDAY, November 2, 2011

6:30am All Soul's Mass Remembrance

NOON All Soul's Mass Remembrance

THURSDAY, November 3, 2011

6:30am All Soul's Mass Remembrance

NOON Rev. Gary Rogers

FRIDAY, November 4, 2011

NOON All Soul's Mass Remembrance

SATURDAY, November 5, 2011

8:30am All Soul's Mass Remembrance

5:30pm Rev. Gary Rogers

SUNDAY, November 6, 2011

8:00am Purgatorial Society,

Madeline L. Carlsen,

Alex Augustin

11:30am All Soul's Mass Remembrance

5:30pm People of the Parish



REMEMBER IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



The Sick: Guy Fury, Theresa Stokes, Rita Tamaro, Noreen Charles, Thomas Toal, Christine Walker, Stacy Lapenna, Carlos Salcedo, Faye O'Malley, Hyacinth Khaleel, John Collins, Gladys Santiago, Ellen M. Lehane, Pfc Kevin Taunton, Marie Collins, Patricia Dillon Amenan, Susan McBride, Norma Allongo, Gertrude Singh, William A. Russo

A Time to Die— John J. Bergstrom, Blair Brookes

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.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Altar Bread & Wine— In memory of
Father Gary Rogers
donated by Mr. & Mrs. Dawson

Altar Candles— In memory of
Joseph DeMeo
donated by Annemarie DeMeo

VETERAN'S DAY

On Friday, November 11th we remember all those men and women who served in the Armed Forces protecting our freedoms.

The Parish Office will be **closed** and there will be only a 9:00am Mass. There will be **no** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday, November 11th.

ALL SAINTS DAY

For this feast day, our questions shifts from "What am I going to be for Halloween?" to "How am I going to live as a disciple of the Lord Jesus?" Today we join with the Communion of Saints in giving praise and thanks to God. Thanks be to God we have countless men and women in the communion of saints who have given us an example of witnessing to the love of Jesus in the world. Who is your favorite saint? How is he or she an example to you of a disciple of Jesus? **Tuesday, November 1st** is a Holy Day of Obligation and we will gather to celebrate Mass at the following times:

Monday at 7:30pm

Tuesday at 6:30am; 8:30am and Noon

ALL SOUL'S DAY

As we celebrate the Feast of All Souls, we remember our loved ones who have gone home to God. We entrust them to God's merciful love. We pray with them and for them that we will one day be together again in the heavenly banquet.

On **Wednesday, November 2nd** we will stop to remember all of our deceased relatives, friends and neighbors who have died. We will gather to celebrate Mass at the following times:

6:30am and Noon

On **Saturday, November 5th** we will remember all of those parishioners who have been buried from Saint Thomas Aquinas this past year at a Mass to be celebrated at **10:30am**. Invitations to this celebration have been mailed to the next of kin as provided to us from the Funeral Homes. All parishioners are encouraged to join us.



A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

Dear Parishioners:

Every Pope brings a great richness and blessing to the universal Church. Each demonstrates an absolute love of Christ and dedicated himself to the mission of the Church, while making a unique contribution to the Church by virtue of his personality, personal history, expertise or other endearing quality.

One description of Blessed Pope John Paul II was that he was considered “the Pope of Eastern Europe.” His pontificate began while Communism was continuing to create a choke hold on the Christian faith of the people of Eastern Europe. To a very large extent, Pope John Paul II was instrumental in the (non-violent) fall of Communism. This allowed for a resurgence of the Catholic faith in Poland and the countries of Eastern Europe.

With the election of Pope Benedict XVI, one hope was that he would be the “Pope of Western Europe.” With only 5% of Catholic in France attending Mass and less and 10% in Italy, it was hoped that Pope Benedict would be able to reawaken the full, active and conscious participation of the faith in the Catholics of Western Europe, as well as the rest of the world.

Recently Pope Benedict XVI made a major step in this direction by announcing a “Year of Faith.” The Year will begin on October 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and will conclude on November 24, 2013, the Feast of Christ the King. Its aim *is to give renewed energy to the Church’s mission to lead men and women out of the desert in which they so often find themselves, and towards the place of life, towards friendship with Christ who gives life in all its fullness.* The Year will equally be an opportunity *to strengthen our faith in Christ and joyfully to announce Him to the men and women of our time.*

The Holy Father made his announcement by issuing an Apostolic Letter entitled *Porta Fidei*, coming from the first words of the text. Pope Benedict XVI begins by stating *The ‘door of faith’ is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into His Church. It is possible to cross the threshold when the word of God is pro-*

claimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace. This is a wonderful definition of faith and one which our Holy Father invites us to enter ever more deeply as individuals and as a “communion of faith”, the Church.

The Pope acknowledges that one of his priorities since ascending to the Chair of Peter has been to reawaken the faith amongst Catholics who have become complacent. He states, *Ever since the start of my ministry of Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter of Christ...Whereas in the past it was possible to recognize an unitary cultural matrix, broadly accepted in its appeal to the content of the faith and the values inspired by it, today this is no longer seem to be the case in large swathes of society, because of a profound crisis of faith that has affected many people.* The Pope seems to be expressing his concern that the faith practice of Catholics in Western Europe has weakened over the last decades while the active faith practice of non-Christians has grown rapidly. While not intimating any negative judgment on the growth of non-Christian religions, Pope Benedict XVI is articulating the need for a renewed enthusiasm for our Christian faith amongst Catholics and a return to allowing our faith to be more actively expressed in our family lives as well as our liturgical worship.

This is an important message not only for Western Europe, but for all Catholics throughout the world. As the Holy Father states, *During this Year of Faith we will have the opportunity to profess our faith in the Risen Lord in our cathedrals and in the churches of the whole world, in our homes and among our families, so that everyone may feel a strong need to know better and to transmit to future generations the faith of all times. Religious communities as well as parish communities, and all ecclesial bodies old and new, are to find a way, during this Year, to make a public profession of the Credo.* I look forward to Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish’s participation in this blessed “Year of Faith” and the opportunity to open the “door of faith” more fully in our lives, our families, our parish and our community.

Much peace!

Rev. Fr. Thomas V. Doyle

WE ARE GRATEFUL

A message from Father Brendan Duggan of the Holy Ghost Fathers: "On behalf of the Holy Ghost Fathers Mission Appeal deepest thanks to the great parishioners of Saint Thomas Aquinas for their generosity of \$694.00 in the recent sale of raffle tickets. God bless you all; the Holy Ghost Fathers are proud to serve in Haiti."

BROOKLYN IRISH AMERICAN PARADE COMMITTEE, INC.

Join the Brooklyn Irish American Community and Parade Committee at its annual Memorial Mass on November 12th at 5:30pm at Holy Name Church (245 Prospect Park West). Following the Mass there will be a fund-raising dance in the Church Hall. For more information please call 1-718-499-9482; tickets are \$20 per person.

A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

A Book of Remembrance has been placed under the image of Saint John the Baptist, please list the names of deceased relatives and friends who you wish to have remembered throughout the month of November; these names will be collectively remembered in the masses.

WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL!

Our parish goal is **\$53,685.00**. As of October 25th, **234** donors have pledged **\$59,847.50** with **\$55,387.95** received. This represents **111.48%** of our goal with **30.75%** of the parish participating. If all the pledges are fulfilled, Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish will receive back from the Diocese **\$6,162.50**; this money will be used to help in the sidewalk repair and the repair of the stairs into the entrances of the Church. The entire Pastoral Staff thanks you and prays that you will find the trust and courage to continue to respond again this year.

For those who may wish to contribute, materials are available throughout the Church.

ROSARY SOCIETY

All members of the Rosary Society are asked to attend the 11:30am Mass next Sunday, November 6th and to please sit up front and wear your medal.

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY OCTOBER 30TH, 2011

To be servants of God, we are called to be humble as Jesus himself was humble. On this, the 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Church in the United States observes "Priesthood Sunday." Through the lens of the paschal mystery—that is, Christ's own life, death, resurrection and subsequent Spirit-gift who unites us to God's very self—all of the baptized are called to mission. Faithful servants, whether lay or ordained, recognize that life is a journey. None of us is perfect, which is why we seek God's grace to mold our hearts into the image of Divine Love. We do not do this alone. We belong to a community called Church. This ordered community is served by parish priests who lead us ministerially and spiritually. Today in particular, we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire the mission of Christ and to strengthen the humble service of our priests.

The ministries of the Church are many and varied, but God shows God's goodness by sending priests to care for the people of God. Today we ask God to bless Father Doyle, Father Gopaul and Monsignor Bennett who faithfully build up the Body of Christ.

WORLD PRIEST DAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your blessing on our brothers whom you have called to the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Lord Jesus, we ask that you support them with your presence and fill them with grace to serve you faithfully. Gracious Spirit, untie us in service with those who you have called. Open our hearts to encourage our brothers and sons to pursue your calling and open their hearts to hear your call to this most holy sacrament. Amen.

LIVE IN CONCERT

The Parish of Our Lady of Fatima proudly presents Live in Concert the "Singing Police Officer" Daniel Rodriguez on Sunday, November 20th at 2:30pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church (25th Avenue and 80th Street, Jackson Heights, NY). Tickets are \$25 if purchased in advance and \$30 at the door. To reserve tickets please call 1-718-899-2801.

DIOCESAN INVOICES

• 2011-2012 PARISH ASSESSMENT

Each year the parish receives a parish assessment invoice which must be sent to the Bishop to support the work of the diocesan church. The amount is calculated based on the ordinary parish income. The assessment for the 2011-2012 year is **\$40,500.00**; this is paid in 10 equal installments.

• 2011-2012 PARISH INSURANCE

Each year the parish has a responsibility to insure that all buildings are properly maintained and that they are properly insured. This year the property, liability, fidelity insurance invoices amounted to approximately **\$72,000.00**; this was paid in full to receive a 3% discount.

• 2011-2012 ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON TRUST

Based on the rental income that we receive from the Department of Education of the City of New York, a portion of this is to be sent to the Diocese of Brooklyn for education. The invoice for this year came to approximately **\$140,000.00** and is based on a percentage of the rental income. This invoice is paid in 10 equal installments.

As you can see we have received invoices amounting to approximately **\$250,000.00**. Your support of the weekly collection enables us to cover these bills. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please continue to give your weekly contribution.

VIRTUS PROGRAM

Recently all the volunteers who minister here at Saint Thomas Aquinas received a mailing with information in regard to VIRTUS Training, Background Checks and Code of Conducts—all this material are to be returned to the Rectory so that they can be processed by the diocesan office of Safe Environment.

Please note that if this material is not returned you will not be able to continue to volunteer here at Saint Thomas Aquinas. If you would like additional information please call Phyllis Dawson at 1-718-253-4404, extension 28.

ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

TRIP TO HUNTERDON PLAYHOUSE

The Rosary Society of Saint Thomas Aquinas is sponsoring a trip to the Hunterdon Playhouse in New Jersey for Friday, November 11th. The day will include a delicious dinner and a wonderful Christmas show. The total cost is \$80.00 per person. The bus will leave from in front of the Church at 9:00am. For more information please call Marianne at 1-718-258-5871. Everyone is welcome.

ROSARY SOCIETY ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

The Rosary Society is sponsoring a trip to Bally's Hotel in Atlantic City on **November 3, 2011**. 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 **November 15, 2011** 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.

BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Kearney High School, at 60th Street and Bay Parkway, will present the musical Hello Dolly, on Friday, November 11th, November 18th and November 19th at 7:30pm and on November 13th at 2:00pm. Tickets are adults \$13; Students and Senior Citizens are \$10; and children (6 and under) at \$8. To reserve tickets, please call 1-718-236-6363, extension 200.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

Ms. Kimberley Jarrett, a parishioner at Saint Thomas Aquinas, is seeking prayers for a proposed not-for-profit entitled ProjectKupcake, for single mothers and their children. This project is to seek assistance in the needs of single mothers and their children to be able to provide assistance, guidance, awareness and support to women raising their children without the presence of a father figure.



Welcoming The New Roman Missal

What will the priest be saying differently at Mass?

The Priest's Prayers

THE OPENING PRAYER

“**Let us pray**” at the beginning of Mass gathers together all the silent intentions of those gathered.

We address God...
We petition God..
And conclude through the
Mediation of Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Gifts of bread and wine are placed on the altar. The priest invites all to pray that they may be acceptable to God.

This prayer has been in the Mass since the 11th century. All present are united in the response.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

To conclude the Communion Rite, the priest prays that we may be graced by the mystery we have just received.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Eucharist is from the Greek word meaning “thanksgiving”.

This is the center and summit of the entire Mass. There are several prayers that the priest may choose. Some date from the 3rd or 4th century. The basic outline:

Opening dialogue between priest and people

Preface: a prayer of thanksgiving and will vary according to feast or season.

Holy, Holy: joining our voices with the angels

Institution narrative and Consecration:
Recounts the story of the Last Supper

Memorial acclamation: We proclaim the death and resurrection

Offering: The priest offers the consecrated bread and wine...the self-offering of Christ.

Final Praise: to God, through Jesus Christ

Amen: all respond in faith

Christ Jesus, Our Hope Yesterday & Today: What Have We Achieved?

www.ChristJesusOurHope.org

As *Christ Jesus, Our Hope* continues, it is important to look back and assess what has been accomplished. We ask ourselves, are the steps that we have taken been successful in addressing areas of critical concern?

Since *Christ Jesus, Our Hope* began, there has been significant improvement in the budgets of parishes that have been involved in the process so far. In the fiscal year of 2008 - 2009, the budgeted deficits of parishes in Phase I and II of the process totaled nearly \$3.4 million. For the current fiscal year, 2011 - 2012, this same group of parishes had a cumulative budget deficit of \$848,000. This can be attributed to parish mergers and strategic action plans.

The direct subsidy from the Diocese to those same parishes declined from \$1.2 million to zero.

When considering the success of parish mergers, the signs of success take somewhat longer to realize, though we can point to some immediate markers of success. The success of parish mergers often comes most quickly through the sharing of resources among the parishes merged.

One such example is St. Matthew's parish in Crown Heights. It was recently merged with St. Gregory the Great and previously with Our Lady of Charity. These three faith communities have significantly reduced their debts and balanced their budget. It happened because of their ability to share resources freely. Additionally, these three communities have come together as one new family of faith during a recent Corpus Christi procession to celebrate their identity as Catholics and find strength in their unity.

Parishes that have merged in the past few years are also showing new signs of growth through the sharing of clergy, staff and resources. Smaller parishes in our diocese, such as Holy Family in Park Slope, have been able to retain their church and continue the celebration of Mass by merging with St. Thomas Aquinas on 9th Street. Now, as one new parish, the pastor celebrates Mass at both locations. The same is true for all merged parishes.

These changes can be difficult to navigate and do require organization, but this sharing of resources helps the Church remain present in all the neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Queens.

The more intangible, but critical, success of parish mergers is building up of the communion of our Church and the sense of unity that we share as Catholics. When one of our members is struggling, Catholics are called to come together and support one another. It is in this way that we become a stronger community and a family of faith.

It was once said of us, "Look at those Christians, how they love one another." There will continue to be challenging days ahead for our Church, but the promise of Christ Jesus is that we will succeed in addressing our most dire challenges if we are willing to care for one another.

As Blessed Pope John Paul II said, "[the goal of communion is] to see my brother or sister in faith as part of me." To the extent that we accomplish this unity, we will be successful.

For more information, visit www.christjesusourhope.org.