

MASS SCHEDULE



MONDAY, December 12, 2011
NOON Blair Brooks

TUESDAY, December 13, 2011
6:30am Dean & McNicholas Families
NOON John, Irene & Michael Carroll

WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2011
6:30am Imma Pierre
NOON Norman Savory

THURSDAY, December 15, 2011
6:30am Msgr. Brian Callahan
NOON Winifred & Albert J. Wilson Sr.

FRIDAY, December 16, 2011
NOON John & Grace Boffa

SATURDAY, December 17, 2011
8:30am Louise & Frank DeSantis
5:30pm Felix (Phil) Curcuru

SUNDAY, December 18, 2011
8:00am Purgatorial Society
11:30am Intentions of the Ulasi Family
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, Ellen M. Lehane, Marie Collins, Norma Allongo

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.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Altar Bread & Wine- In memory of
Msgr. Brian Callahan
donated by Pastoral Staff of
Saint Thomas Aquinas

Altar Candles- In memory of
Msgr. Brian Callahan donated by
Pastoral Staff of Saint Thomas Aquinas

Sanctuary Lamp-In memory of
Msgr. Brian Callahan donated by
Pastoral Staff of Saint Thomas Aquinas

SHARE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS
Once again Saint Thomas Aquinas will be making Christmas cards available for purchase. As you know, we have been selling these cards for awhile and this year we will offer a deep discount!

2 boxes for \$5.00 with a Coffee Mug
5 boxes for \$10.00 with a Coffee Mug

Every box benefits Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish! Cards are available at the Aquinas Center.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish Altar Servers and Youth Ministry want to thank all who took part in our Christmas giving tree. We ask that you please have all gifts returned this weekend. Please bring all gifts unwrapped with the tag attached.

LIGHTING OUR WAY TO CHRISTMAS

From Christmas Eve through the end of the Christmas season, candles will be lit down the centre aisle of the Church in memory of or in honor of family members or friends; a donation of \$150.00 per candle is requested. Please place this donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Candles" and drop off at the Parish Office or in the collection basket. A complete list will be placed in the Christmas bulletin.

A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

Dear Parishioners:

The words of the Psalmist keep coming to mind these past few weeks: *Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage. Yes, wait for the Lord* (Psalm 27: 14).

As I reflect on these words, I recall a story told by Father Mark Pavlik: "When I was in the seminary at Mount Saint Mary in Emmetsburg, MD, each year we were assigned Apostolates in various forms of ministry. One year, eight of us were assigned to a state psychiatric hospital for the elderly. Every week we drove to the hospital to visit patients. As we entered the hospital, there was a woman named Mary who was always standing on the front steps, all dressed up. She would still be there when we left four hours later. After a few weeks, we asked the head chaplain why she was always standing there. He told us that 40 years earlier, her father, who at the time was an elderly man, had dropped her off at the hospital so they could take care of her. As he was leaving, he told Mary that she should not be sad, because he would come back for her. So every day for 40 years, Mary arose in the morning, got dressed, fixed her hair and went out to the front steps to wait for her father to pick her up. At the end of the day, Mary would go in for dinner, then go to sleep, until the next morning, when she would get up and go out again. Every day, without fail, in the rain, the snow, the heat-seven days a week, 365 days of the year, Mary was there waiting.

Once we heard the story, it made us uncomfortable to see Mary waiting there when we arrived at the hospital, but she was always in a good mood and never seemed to be saddened by the fact that her father did not come that day. Deep down, it seemed the Christian thing to do would be to take Mary aside and tell her that it had been 40 years and surely her father was dead by now and he was not going to be coming back for her. She could really make better use of her time. Then I thought, I wonder how long I would have waited before I gave up.

As weeks turned to months, I began to change my thoughts on the matter. Mary did not seem sad-as a matter of fact, she always seemed quite hopeful. If it was raining, she had an umbrella. If it were cold, she would watch from the entryway. Forty years of waiting did not dampen her hope. Each day was a new opportunity and that could be the day, in her mind, that he father would return. She wasn't to be pitied after all. Perhaps I was the one I should be feeling sorry for, because I didn't have that much hope. I would not have waited that long."

I know many people who are waiting. Some have cancer and are waiting to die. There's a family waiting to be healed of the pain they all experienced when one of their daughters was abused by a family member. Another person is anxiously awaiting to hear if he has the job for which he was recently interviewed. Yet another waits to know if she will have to move away from her home in which she has lived for over 30 years.

What does this waiting have to do with longing for God's coming. When we wait in tough times, we are in a special God-moment. We know we can't go it alone. The One who came into this world is our Peace-bringer. As we wait, we turn to our God and cry out for Peace to come and enfold us. While the world is playing Christmas carols since Halloween and Santa Claus can be seen on a regular basis at Kings Plaza and Macy's-Herald Square, we must work extra hard to be patient and prepare our hearts for Christmas.

It is easy to give up and give in to all the stress and celebration in these weeks prior to Christmas, but we would do well to follow the example of Mary, who waited for her father each day with renewed anticipation and was not deterred.

Advent peace!
Rev. Fr. Thomas V. Doyle

MOVIE NIGHT

As part of our Advent preparation for Christmas, please come join us in Monsignor King Hall on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 7:00pm for the movie "The Fourth Wiseman." Cookies and hot chocolate will be served, a free will offering will be accepted. All are welcome.

HEALING MASS

The parish of good Shepherd will be having a Healing Mass on Friday, December 16th, 2011 at 7:30pm. The Rosary will be prayed at 7:15pm. Come and share the prayers and praises of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Our parish Bereavement Group will meet on December 19th, 2011. The group gathers at the Aquinas Center from 7:00pm to 8:30pm and any person grieving the loss of a loved one is welcomed to participate. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Sister Terry at 1-1718-253-4404, extension 30 and arrange to attend one of the upcoming sessions. Please remember all those parishioners, friends, neighbors and family members who are grieving during this very difficult holiday time.

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 December 13, 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.

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 TV. 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 tshirt.

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.



FROM THE SISTERS IN THE CONVENT

Dear Parishioners, friends and benefactors of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish,

With the spirit of Advent, a joyful expectation of the coming of Christ, we write first, a deep gratitude and thankfulness for the generosity and welcome that we have found here at St. Thomas. Our religious family has been graced to begin the only monastery of our province here, for over 13 years. It has been for us a place in which we have been allowed to carry out our contemplative vocations, giving ourselves in the sole dedication to God in prayer for his Church, His greater glory and the salvation of souls.

As you know our convent is in need of many major repairs. Now in the loving providence of God, we will be located at the Monastery of the Precious Blood on Tuesday December 13, 2011. Through the course of events, the change is quick so we would like to express our great thanks to God for this opportunity for us to continue our service to the Church here in Brooklyn. We would also like to thank Fr. Doyle, Fr. Gopaul, and Msgr. Bennett who have assisted us in many ways materially and spiritually, and remembering Msgr. Callahan who welcomed us years ago and made us part of this family. Finally, we thank you faithful, for your extensive support and hand in allowing us to carry out our simple mission.

Lastly we would like to reassure you of our prayers for all of you and your families that through God's great Mercy and Mary's protection you remain faithful to God's will for you as members of the Mystical Body of Christ and as a parish. We entrust ourselves as well to your prayers.

We invite you to stop by the convent after Masses on Sunday or tomorrow, Monday December 12, between 10:00am-1:00pm and 3:00pm-5:00pm.

A Mass will be held in Thanksgiving to you at the Monastery of the Precious Blood Convent presided by Fr. Doyle on Tuesday, January 24th 2012, at 6:30pm. We invite you all to assist with us at this Mass.

Monastery of the Precious Blood
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Brooklyn, NY 11219
718-233-2877
mon.edithstein@servidoras.org

Church of St. Thomas Aquinas

t550 Hendrickson Street • Brooklyn, New York 11234

Phone: 718 253-4404 • Fax: 718

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December 6, 2011

Dear Parishioners:

Since the establishment of the Diocese of Brooklyn the presence of contemplative religious communities has been an important part of the mission of the local Church. Five groups presently are in the Diocese: the Carmelite Sisters; the Visitation Sisters; the Missionaries of Charity; the Adorers of the Precious Blood and the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara, the Sisters in our convent. These Sisters have had a significant presence within our parish community.

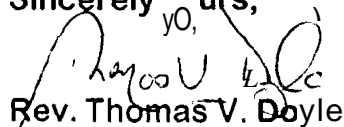
As I indicated a few weeks ago I have meet with the local representatives of the Sisters, the Superior General from Rome, the Episcopal Delegate representing Bishop DiMarzio and the Office of Building and Property of the Diocese to discuss the needed repairs to the convent and the health and safety of the Sisters.

On Monday, December 5th I again met with Sister Maryann Seton Lopiccolo, SC, who represents Bishop DiMarzio, and we talked about her conversations with the Sisters and it has been decided that the Sisters will move to Precious Blood Monastery (5400 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn) on Tuesday, December 13th. This move is needed to be done to ascertain the necessary repairs to the building and to determine the approximate cost of those repairs. The Sister Adorers of the Precious Blood, numbering five Sisters over the age of 80, have opened their home to our Sisters for at least a year; possibly a renewal after that or the possibility of a more permanent home.

I am aware that this is a short notice of the Sisters move, but the Sisters decided to do this in conjunction with their Christmas mailing to their benefactors. Over the next few days, please stop by and wish the Sisters well and the assurance of our prayers.

I am

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Thomas V. Doyle

Saint Thomas Aquinas - Flatlands

