

MASS SCHEDULE



MONDAY, February 6, 2012
NOON Joseph Cunneen

TUESDAY, February 7, 2012
6:30am Monette Romelien
NOON Lorraine Browning

WEDNESDAY, February 8, 2012
6:30am Intentions of the Celebrant
NOON In Thanksgiving to the 110bi Family

THURSDAY, February 9, 2012
6:30am Patrick & Catherine McNicholas
NOON The Galligan Family

FRIDAY, February 10, 2012
NOON Rev. Thomas Lyons

SATURDAY, February 11, 2012
8:30am In Thanksgiving to
Our Lady of Lourdes
5:30pm Ciro Petrillo

SUNDAY, February 12, 2012
8:00am Purgatorial Society, Denira Pierre
William K Elliott
11:30am People of the Parish
5:30pm Margie Cully

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 Lucille Murphy, Joanna Delfino

A Time to Die- Pierre J. Pascal, John K Vera, Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Albert Oquendo

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.

2011 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

WE MADE OUR GOAL!

Our assigned parish goal was \$53,685.00; due to the generosity of 249 donors who pledged \$65,084.17 (with \$64,339.17 received) representing 121.23% of our goal with 33.51% of the parish participating. Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish recently received \$10,654.17 from the Diocese representing all monies received over the assigned goal. This money will be used to help defray the cost of the sidewalk repair around the parish property.

Whether it is the needy being assisted through Catholic Charities, our youth being formed in their faith through religious education programs, a young man or woman discerning a religious vocation or parishioners deepening their faith through ongoing formation and sacramental participation, so many in the Diocese of Brooklyn depend on the Church and the support provided by the Annual Catholic Appeal. Thank you for your continued generosity.



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DOYLE

Dear Parishioners:

In last weeks TABLET, the headline read: ***Church Loses Conscience Exemption- Pope Outlines Threats to Religious Freedom in U.S.*** Today the Church is facing grave and unprecedented threats to our religious freedom. President Obama's administration, through the Department of Health and Human Services, has decided to impose a nationwide mandate for coverage of all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs; including one abortion drug, sterilization procedures and education and counseling to promote these to "all women" with reproductive capacity." The ruling from HHS includes an exemption for "religious employers" so narrowly crafted that Catholic health care providers, educational institutions and social service agencies would have to be listed in the tax code as a church or similar narrowly defined entity, make the inculcation of religious doctrine their organizational purpose, and largely refuse to hire or serve non-Catholics to be fully eligible.

As Americans, who cherish the principles on which our nation was founded, this attack on our religious freedom is unacceptable. Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan has pointed out the following:

- The contraceptive mandate imposed on health plans by the Department of Health and Human Services violates freedom of conscience, which is guaranteed by the First Amendment and several federal laws.
- The Bill of Rights says we are free to live by our religious beliefs. Forcing all of us to buy coverage for sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that induce abortion, is a radical incursion into freedom of conscience.
- Never before in the history of the United States of America has the federal government forced citizens to directly purchase a product that violates their beliefs.

As a Church we cannot be silent in the face of this grave threat to religious liberty and the sanctity of human life. Cardinal DiNardo, chairman of the Bishop's Committee on Pro-Life Activities has stated: "The bishops of the United States have long supported the goal of universal access to health care. We have encouraged government leaders to advance this goal through morally responsible health care reform. At the same time, we have consistently stated that such reform must not be-

come a vehicle for abandoning or weakening longstanding federal policies that respect unborn human life and rights of conscience."

I encourage everyone who reads these words to write our Congressional representatives. Insist that respect for the rights of conscience be an integral part of all health-care legislation and policy. This request has greater urgency now that the administration has refused to allow Americans who work for religious organization that serve all people the right to respect their consciences. We must speak out in defense of life and out of respect for religious liberty.

To contact our local representatives and Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand; the U.S. Capital switch board number is 1-202-224-3121 or visit www.house.gov or www.senate.gov. The following information can be helpful: *Please co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179; S. 1467) and help enact it into law. The Obama administration's decision to require religious institutions to provide coverage of sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that can cause an abortion, makes passage of this measure especially urgent. Please ensure that the rights of conscience of all participants in our nation's health care system are respected.*"

Much peace!

Rev. Fr. Thomas V. Doyle

HEALING MASS

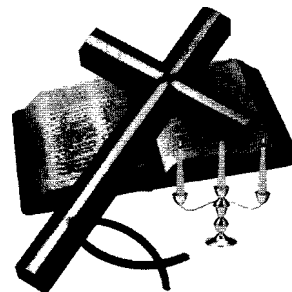
The Parish of Good Shepherd will be hosting a Healing Mass on Friday, February 10th beginning at 7:15pm with the Rosary followed by Mass celebrated by Father Francis Obumends. Come and share in the prayers and praises of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK

Like Saint Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, *That when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as to not make full use of my right in the gospel.*

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

During the month of February, our Bereavement Group will meet in the Aquinas Center (2000 Flatbush Avenue) on Monday, February 6th and Monday, February 27th. If you or someone you know would benefit from a support group at this time contact Sister Terry at 1-718-253-4404, extension 30.



REVERENCE AT COMMUNION

The congregation completes the Eucharistic action by eating and drinking together the Body and Blood of Christ consecrated during the celebration. This means that the action of receiving Holy Communion is not simply a reception of something that is being distributed, but rather an action of eating and drinking connected to what has gone before it during the Eucharistic Prayer. Therefore the distribution of Holy Communion has a specific meaning: it is Christ himself giving himself to us as food so that we might be more intimately joined with him and share in his life. The procession has a specific meaning to it; it is to move reverently from our seats to receive Holy Communion. It makes sense that parents should bring their little ones with them so they will have the opportunity to become used to doing this because in the near future they will be receiving Holy Communion with their parents, rather than leaving them behind in the pew. A blessing or a pat on the head by the ordained or lay ministers is not appropriate at this time. Everyone will be blessed at the conclusion of the Mass. The minister, ordained or lay, will say "The Body of Christ," the proper response is "Amen," which means "Yes, I believe it is so." After the Amen the reception of the host is accomplished either of two ways: on the palm of one hand extended, supported by the other palm, to form a throne for the King, one must then immediately step to the side and reverently consume the host; or in the open mouth with the tongue extended so there is no ambiguity on how you wish to receive the host.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's gospel we hear of a great number of suffering people seeking the healing touch of Jesus. He could not respond to them all. But the gospel also reveals Jesus, after praying in solitude, sensing an urgency to proclaim the Good News of his Father's redemptive love to those who suffer in the nearby villages and towns. Stewards are called to follow in Jesus' footsteps, to respond to those who suffer with compassion. How are we responding to the suffering in our world? How are we using our gifts to continue the works of Christ's redemptive healing?

ROSARY SOCIETY ATLANTIC CITY TRIP



The Rosary Society is sponsoring a trip to Bally's Hotel in Atlantic City on March 1, 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.

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL GIVES BACK!

Donate your car-for each car, truck or van, running or not, the Society of Saint Vincent DePaul will give back to our parish \$50/\$75/ or\$100 per each vehicle donated. If you, a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that you would like to dispose of, please call the Society of Saint Vincent DePaul at 1-718-491-2525.