

## MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY, August 29, 2011**  
NOON Eileen Cully  
**TUESDAY, August 30, 2011**  
NOON Jeanne Marie Tedesco  
**WEDNESDAY, August 31, 2011**  
NOON Mary Caputo  
**THURSDAY, September 1, 2011**  
NOON Ramiro Proano  
**FRIDAY, September 2, 2011**  
NOON Nicholas Gryak  
**SATURDAY, September 3, 2011**  
5:30pm Purgatorial Society  
**SUNDAY, September 4, 2011**  
8:00am People of the Parish  
11:30am Antonio Yanez  
5:30pm Dolores Dopico



## 2011 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have reached our assigned goal; can we continue to increase our donors and the amount pledged!

As of August 22nd **209 donors** have pledged **\$56,342.50** with **\$48,270.62** already received. This represents **104.95%** of our assigned goal of **\$53,685.00** with **27.46%** of our parish participating.

If you haven't made a pledge/gift to this important fundraiser for the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Parish of Saint Thomas Aquinas there is still time; materials are available throughout the Church.

All monies over our assigned goal are returned back to the parish; this will be used to continue replacing the sidewalks around the parish property and repairing the entrances into the Church and Convent.

Thank you for your continues prayerful and financial support to the Parish.



## REMEMBER IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**The Sick:** Guy Fury, Theresa Stokes, Rita Tammaro, Noreen Charles, Thomas Toal, Christine Walker, Stacy Lapenna, Carlos Salcedo, Faye O'Malley, Hyacinth Khaleel, John Collins, Gladys Santiago, Ellen M. Lehane, Lisa Allard-Howe, William Slater, Arthur Leclair, Eileen Kiley, Margaret Healey, Kathy Fine

**A Time to Die—** Angela Montevago, Fernando Joseph Liautaud

*Help us keep our sick list current; all names will remain on our list for three weeks unless notified otherwise. Please notify the Parish Office (1-718-253-4404) when changes occur. We enjoy hearing the good news of recovery.*

**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  
**Rev. Gary Rogers**  
donated by Catherine Cully

**Altar Candles**— In memory of  
**Rev. Gary Rogers**  
donated by Catherine Cully

**Sanctuary Lamp**— In memory of  
**Rev. Gary Rogers**  
donated by Catherine Cully

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Do you know of anyone who would like to become a Catholic or would like to reclaim their faith?

Every year Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish welcomes adults into the Christian life and the Catholic Community through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). RCIA is a learning and loving process in which conversion of heart, inspired by the Holy Spirit, brings adults to Jesus Christ.

The RCIA program is for any adult who has not been baptized, or has been baptized in another Christian tradition and desires to become a Catholic, or has been baptized as a Catholic but has not been raised in the faith.

If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about the RCIA program please call the Parish Office and leave your name and telephone number.

## STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK

In today's second reading, Saint Paul exhorts the Romans to total stewardship. Brothers and sisters, he urges "...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners:

The following from the Pope Benedict XVI's homily at the closing Mass of Youth Day 2011, is certainly something for the whole Church, not just its youth, to ponder:

***Dear young friends, as the Successor of Peter, let me urge you to strengthen this faith which has been handed down to us from the time of the Apostles. Make Christ, the Son of God, the center of your life. But let me also remind you that following Jesus in faith means walking at his side in the communion of the Church. We cannot follow Jesus on our own. Anyone who would be tempted to do so "on his own", or to approach the life of faith with kind of individualism so prevalent today, will risk never truly encountering Jesus, or will end up following a counterfeit Jesus.***

***Having faith means drawing support from the faith of your brothers and sisters, even as your own faith serves as a support for the faith of others. I ask you, dear friends, to love the Church which brought you to birth in the faith, which helped you to grow in the knowledge of Christ which led you to discover the beauty of his love. Growing in friendship with Christ necessarily means recognizing the importance of joyful participation in the life of your parishes, communities and movements, as well as the celebration of Sunday Mass, frequent reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, and the cultivation of personal prayer and meditation on God's word.***

***Friendship with Jesus will also lead you to bear witness to the faith wherever you are, even when it meets with rejection or indifference. We cannot encounter Christ and now not want to make him known to others. So do not keep Christ to yourselves! Share with others the joy of your faith. The world needs the witness of your faith. It surely needs God. I think that the presence here of so many young people, coming from all over the world, is a wonderful proof of the fruitfulness of Christ's command to the Church: "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to whole creation" (Mt. 16:15). You too have been given the extraordinary task of being disciples and missionaries of Christ in others lands and countries filled with young people who are looking for something greater and, because their heart tells them that more authentic values do exist, they do not let themselves be seduced by the empty promises of a lifestyle which has no room for God.***

We welcome our seven parish pilgrims home and can't wait for them to share their experience with all of us.

Much peace!

**Rev. Fr. Thomas V. Doyle**

## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

The weekend of September 3rd/4th a second collection will be taken up at the request of the Bishops of the United States for the Catholic University of America.

The Catholic University of America is the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, located in Washington, DC. It provides an academically rigorous education guided by Catholic intellectual tradition to nearly 7,000 students every year. Every donated dollar directly supports financial aid for students from diocese across the country including the Diocese of Brooklyn. Please be generous as your means permits.

## A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's gospel reading, Jesus brings up the topic of the cross to his followers. They would not realize the cross was part of God's plan and was to be their legacy until after the Resurrection. Today's followers of Christ recognize they are stewards of his entire legacy, including his cross; that through their mutual sacrifices God's glory is revealed. They don't live their life in Christ only when it is convenient for them. They make a decision to take up their cross and carry it, no matter what the cost. What crosses do we bear in order to reveal God's glory?

## IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins; to "serve, not be served." In today's gospel, the Lord invites his followers to do the same; to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him so that they can save their own souls and work for the salvation of others. Isn't that what priesthood and religious life is all about? For more information, contact the Vocation Office of the Diocese of Brooklyn at 718-827-2454 or write: [vocations@diobrook.org](mailto:vocations@diobrook.org).

## MUSIC MINISTERS NEEDED CHOIRS BEGIN SOON

Your parish needs you in the music ministry program. We're planning an exciting year, but we need your help. Singers, young and old, are needed in all groups. For more information on the Adult and Children's choir, as well as the Hand bells please contact Mrs. Lisa Allongo and the Parish Office (1-718-253-4404) and for the Folk Group please see them following Mass.

## WE ARE GRATEFUL

The Administration, faculty and students of Midwood Catholic Academy would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to you for your continued support of our school. Your financial support and prayers has made a tremendous impact on the Catholic Education of the young people in our school. Because of your support the students had the opportunity to be exposed to an academic program grounded in a deep respect for our Gospel values.

Midwood Catholic Academy has taught its students and graduates with an emphasis on love, service, and formation of the Catholic Faith. For this, we are eternally grateful.

Mrs. Elena Heimbach  
Principal

## ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT MIDWOOD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Openings for the **2011-2012** are still available. Are you looking for:

- A quality Catholic Education?
- A safe learning environment?
- Affordable tuition?

Please consider Midwood Catholic Academy for your child. There is space available in all grades. Call 1-718-377-1800 for more information and to arrange a tour of the school.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

In order to properly plan for the Religious Education Program needs for the 2011-2012 year, we are now accepting registrations for new and returning students in grades 1 through 7. For new registrations, please call Mr. Kevin McCutchan at 1-718-253-4404, extension 31 to set up an appointment. For returning students, registration forms were mailed out. Please either mail the registrations back or drop them off to the Parish Office (2000 Flatbush Avenue).

Decisions need to be made within the next week in regard to planning, so please respond as quickly as possible to the above request. Based on low enrollment in a few of the classes and a need for additional teachers; children registered for either Wednesday or Sunday classes may need to attend class on a day they did not register for.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

At Saint Thomas Aquinas we offer a comprehensive Religious Education Program from Grades 1 to 7 (beginning in the school year 2012-2013, we will go to Grade 8). The children in the parish who attend Public School should be enrolled in the Parish Religious Education Program from first grade through grade seven. For a child to receive First Communion that child needs to have two years of Religious Education. Once a child has received First Communion it is expected that the child remain in the Program until the child receives the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Many parents have the perception that if a child has received First Communion that child should not come back until its time for the two year preparation for Confirmation. This is an incorrect perception. Our children today need to have a comprehensive knowledge of our faith not just a sacramental preparation. During the time from grade 3 to 7, our young people learn many of our important doctrines of faith which will allow them to grow not only in knowledge, but as a Catholic Christian in today's world.

### LABOR DAY 2011

In observance of the civil holiday of Labor Day, the Parish Office of Saint Thomas Aquinas will be closed on Monday, September 5th. The Office will reopen on Tuesday, September 6th at 9:00am. Enjoy the upcoming holiday weekend.

***Please remember that there will be only a 9:00am mass on Labor Day.***

### RECTORY OFFICE TO BE CLOSED

Due to vacation schedules, there will be no evening hours at the Rectory Office from Monday, August 29th through Monday, September 5th. You are asked to take care of all parish business during the office hours of 9am-12pm and 1pm- 5pm at the Aquinas Center (2000 Flatbush Avenue). Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## MASS SCHEDULE TO RESUME

Beginning on **Tuesday, September 6th** we will resume the following Mass Schedule:

**Monday** at Noon

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday** at 6:30am and Noon

**Friday** at Noon

**Saturday** at 8:30am and 5:30pm (Vigil)

**Sunday** at 8:00am; 11:30am and 5:30pm

## DIOCESAN MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

On **Sunday, September 11th**, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio will celebrate a Diocesan Mass of Remembrance at 10:30am at Saint James Cathedral Basilica (Jay Street and Tillary Street, Brooklyn). This September 11th will provide a unique occasion for the entire Church to pray for the repose of all those who died, both on that terrible day and in the ensuing years through illness contracted from exposure to Ground Zero. We must redouble our prayers for a just and lasting peace throughout the world.

The Bishop is extending an invitation to those families who have lost loved ones on September 11, 2001. Following Mass, there will be refreshments in the Cathedral Pavilion. Also the Bishop asks for two parish representatives to attend. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in attending.

## ROSARY SOCIETY ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

The Rosary Society is sponsoring a trip to Bally's Hotel in Atlantic City on **September 1, 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 **September 20, 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.