



St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

6306 Kenwood Avenue Dallas, Texas 75214-3018
Phone 214-821-3360 Fax 214-821-5395

Rev. Stephen W. Bierschenk
Pastor
Msgr. John T. Gulczynski
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mr. Kenneth Reisor
Deacon

Parish Staff

Mr. Jim Parkerson
Business Manager

Mrs. Kathy Baker
Mrs. Dianne Dozier
Administrative Assistants

Mr. James Taylor
Receptionist/Facilities Coordinator

Mrs. Cindy Caviness
Bookkeeper

CCD Office

Mrs. Mary Xuereb
Director
214-827-2044

Music Office

Mr. Michael Lindner
Director of Music
214-821-3360 Ext 236
Mr. Travis Powell
Associate Director
214-821-3450

School Offices

3741 Abrams Road
Mrs. Marty Frauenheim
Principal
214-826-0566
Preschool
214-823-8493

Youth Ministry

Mrs. Angela Ausmus Gill
Director
214-821-3360 Ext. 251

Family Life Ministry

Rev. Mr. Ken Reisor
Director
214-515-0354
Mr. Tim Koscheski
Associate Director
214-821-3360 Ext 234

Mass Schedule

Weekends: Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon, 5:00 pm

Weekdays: 6:30 am Monday through Friday &
8:00 am Saturday (Latin)
8:00 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, &
Friday (English)

Communion Service Thursday 8:00 am

Confessions: Saturday 2:45 to 3:45 pm

Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday Noon, in writing

Church Office Hours

M - Th 9 am - 12 noon & 1 - 5 pm
Fri 9 am - 12 noon & 1 - 4 pm

Visit Our Website

www.stthomasaquinas.org

Religious Book & Gift Shop

Sunday 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

St. Jude Library

Sunday 8:30 am - 2 pm
Wednesday 7 - 9 pm
Thursday 9 am - 12 pm
Saturday 3 - 6 pm

Welcome to our Parish You are invited to register and become an active member of our parish family. Complete a Registration Form (*found in the vestibule*) and return it to the church office. You may register if you live outside parish boundaries. Please notify the church office of changes of address and telephone number.

Sick and Shut-ins Please contact the church office so that arrangements can be made for them to receive the Sacraments.

Baptisms Baptisms are on the first and third Sundays of each month at 2:00 p.m. If not previously done, parents and godparents are required to attend a Preparation Class, offered on the SECOND SATURDAY of each month, 10:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Room. Call the church office to make reservations for Baptisms and the Class. Most couples find it more convenient to attend the class before the birth of the child.

Weddings Either the bride or groom must be a registered parishioner. Both must be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Wedding dates are set at the first meeting with the priest or deacon, at least four months before the wedding.

Nursery Care Provided for children 3-months to 2 years old, in Preschool building during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. To register, call Sara Casner, 214-826-5975.

Counseling Professional and confidential counseling is offered by Souad Shrimme, M.S., L.P.C., N.C.C., Professional Counselor. For appointment call 214-821-3360, ext 242 or 214-502-8678.

Choirs Anyone interested in participating in any choir may contact Michael Lindner, at the church office, for more information.

Parish Organizations

Altar Society

Angela Rust
214-691-7247

Apostleship of Prayer

Salem McLean
214-692-5105

Book Club

Rose Elsom
214-739-8887

Grief Ministry

214-821-3360, x 241

Holy Name Society

Dennis Larkin
214-696-6567

Knights of Columbus

Sam Zurawel
214-827-3408

Legion of Mary

Mary Wilson
214-660-8268

Little Flower Mission Society

Mary Ann Lopresto
214-826-1076

Mothers' Association

Adrienne Menchu
214-324-0934

Parish Council

Terry O'Brien
214-341-3907

Pro-Life Organization

Kassie Marks
972-675-3896

St. Vincent de Paul

Message Center
214-823-4645

School Board

Jim Ryan
214-327-1880

School Parents' Association

Kelly Buechler
214-824-7962

Boy Scouts

Jim Krieger
214-827-1546

Cub Scouts

Maroy Merino
214-824-9993

Girl Scouts

Joan Kimber
214-828-1175

Scripture Study

Louis Freitas
214-340-5692

Senior Club

Lorraine Lastelick
214-823-6570

STA Booster Club

David Vandeven
214-378-9990

STACS (Singles)

Ana Devora
214-341-6649

Ushers

David Dozier
214-324-3562

Funeral Ushers

Mike Piacquadio
972-495-5490

Young Marrieds

Michael & Colette Murray
214-887-4919



Mass Intentions



SUNDAY	10:00 am	People of the Parish
	12:00 pm	Lloyd B. Rust †
MONDAY	8:00 am	Rosa Piccola †
TUESDAY	8:00 am	Anthony Marino †
WEDNESDAY	8:00 am	Melissa Schutze †
THURSDAY	8:00 am	Communion Service
FRIDAY	8:00 am	Thomas LaRussa †
SUNDAY	12:00 pm	Ed & Rose Skrehot †

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Saturday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day. Anticipated Mass will be at 6:00 pm Friday. The Mass for the Holy Day will be the Latin Mass at 8:00 am.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for those who are ill: Sabas Flores, Lynette Hall, Mary Vullo, and Luis Lima.

PRO-LIFE GROUP CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

The St. Thomas Aquinas Pro-Life Group will have Christmas cards for sale in the vestibule after all the Masses this weekend.

CHRISTMAS SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet cards are available in the vestibule to have your relatives and friends, living or deceased, remembered in all Masses offered in St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Christmas. These may be included in your Christmas gifts or greetings. Please turn in your names to the Rectory by December 24.

THE STA COOKBOOK IS ON SALE TODAY

The beautiful, brand new cookbook, *Savory Samplings of STA*, featuring almost 1,000 recipes will be on sale in the vestibule after all Masses today, and for the next several weekends. The cost is \$20.00. For information please call Stephanie Todora (214-691-8350).

MAGI TREE

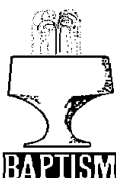
The Holy Name Society and the St. Vincent de Paul Society are sponsoring a Magi Tree for Christmas. The tree is in the vestibule of the church this weekend. On the tree are tags with information about an individual (age, gender) and a requested gift. Please select one or more tags, shop for the gift and bring the gifts (gift-wrapped, with the tag **securely** attached) when you come to Mass and place them under the tree. Gifts will be distributed on December 15.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND

There will be a second collection at all Masses next weekend, December 8/9, for the United States Bishops' Retirement Fund for retired priests, brothers, and sisters who have served us so well.

WHITE ROCK MARATHON IS NEXT SUNDAY, DEC. 9

The White Rock Marathon is next Sunday, December 9. The marathon has changed its course this year, and will be running down Ellsworth, only one block from the church. The marathon begins at 8:00 am, so it will make it difficult to come or leave the church after the 8:00 o'clock Mass and for the 10:00 o'clock Mass. Good luck to all the parishioners who are running The Rock this year!



NEWEST CATHOLICS

Welcome into the Church the following infants who were baptized last weekend:

- Christopher Walter England son of Robert and Linda
- Emma Catherine Hartmann daughter of William and Michelle
- Margaret Elizabeth McKenna daughter of Peter and Jill

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, December 2, 2001 First Sunday of Advent
 8:45 am CCD Classes grades 1-12 - School
 10:00 am Preschool CCD & Sunday Nursery - Preschool
 11:00 am Parish Social - Cafeteria
 11:00 am STACS Planning Meeting - St. Joseph Room
 3:00 pm Family Eucharistic Adoration - Church
 4:00 pm St. Cecilia Choir - St. Therese Room
 5:00 pm Youth Choir - St. Therese Room
 6:00 pm Booster Club Men's Basketball League - Gym
 7:30 pm Orpheus Chamber Music Concert - Church

Monday, December 3

6:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Society - St. Matthew Room
 7:00 pm Youth Group - Church, Gym, St. Margaret Room
 7:30 pm St. Francis de Sales Choir - Church
 7:30 pm Parish Council - St. Maron Room
 8:00 pm Finance Council - St. Matthew Room

Tuesday, December 4

9:00 am Queen of Peace Circle Meeting - St. Maron Room
 9:00 am St. Catherine of Sienna Circle - St. Matthew Room
 2:00 pm St. Joseph Retirement Village Presentation - St. Maron Room
 6:30 pm St. Mary & St. Joseph Choir - St. Therese Room
 7:00 pm Mothers' Night Rosary - Church
 7:30 pm E.S.L. Classes - St. Matthew Room

Wednesday, December 5

10:30 am Senior Club - St. Matthew Room
 12:00 pm Advent Organ Concert - Church
 7:00 pm Legion of Mary - St. Margaret Room
 7:00 pm St. Thomas Aquinas Choir - Church
 7:00 pm 8th Grade Play - Drama Room
 7:30 pm Book of the Month Club - St. Matthew Room

Thursday, December 6

6:45 am Men's Prayer Group - St. Joseph Room
 1:00 pm Notre Dame Circle Meeting - St. Maron Room
 4:00 pm Pages of the Blessed Sacrament Youth Group - St. Joseph Room
 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus - St. Maron Room
 7:00 pm Christmas Concert Grades K-4 - Church
 7:30 pm R.C.I.A. Class - Drama Room
 7:30 pm E.S.L. Classes - St. Matthew Room

Friday, December 7

9:30 am Mothers' Rosary - Church
 2:00 pm Apostleship of Prayer - St. Matthew Room
 7:00 pm Parents' Night Out - Preschool

Saturday, December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9:30 am *Childcare While you Shop* by the STACS - Preschool - until 3:30 pm
 10:00 am Baptism Class - St. Joseph Room
 5:30 pm Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #1719 Annual Dinner - St. Anne Hall
 9:00 pm Youth Group Lock-in for Life begins - Gym, Church, St. Anne Hall

BLESSING OF PROJECT GABRIEL SIGN

There will be a blessing of the new Project Gabriel Sign after the 8:00 am Mass on December 9. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

Members of the Apostleship of Prayer will meet this Friday, December 7, at 2:00 pm in the St. Matthew Room. Members of the Apostleship of Prayer will pray for the special intentions of parishioners. These prayers are intended for a sick relative or friend, someone who will undergo an operation, someone with a special need, etc. Please call Salem or Lu McLean (214.692.5105) and leave the name of the person to be prayed for or the special intention requested.

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN FOR LIFE

This weekend, after all Masses the Youth Group will sell T-shirts for the Lock-in for Life. The t-shirt is your ticket into the event. This cost includes the cost of the t-shirt and your food for the Lock-in. The Lock-in For Life starts December 8 at 9:00 pm in the Gym and ends after we go to 8:00 am Mass on December 9, at 9:00 am. Don't miss out on all the fun! There will be a concert by Remnant, a local Catholic Band, food, games, prizes, sports tournaments, and more! For more information, please call the Youth Hotline (214.794.4110).

HOLIDAY CHOIR AND MUSIC EVENTS

Wednesday Noon Advent Concerts

The parish family and their guests are invited to a series of free Advent Organ Concerts by Michael Lindner at noon on the Wednesdays of Advent.

Choir Concert

On Sunday, December 9, at 7:00 pm, the Choirs of the parish will perform a program of music honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Schola Cantorum Gregorii

On Sunday evening, December 16, at 7:00 pm, the Schola Cantorum Gregorii will sing Solemn Vespers in celebration of Gaudete Sunday

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SINGLES (STACS)

Join STACS this Sunday, December 2 for our planning meeting in the St. Joseph Room after 10:00 am Mass. On December 7, join us for the Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass; contact Lucy for details (214.826.6522). Join us for Faith Sharing on Sunday, December 9th after 10:00 am Mass in the St. Maron Room. To learn more about current events or for detailed information on STACS membership contact Elizabeth Silva (214.826.1022).

MOTHERS' ASSOCIATION

The Mothers' Association annual **Christmas Sharing** is this **Tues. Dec. 4th at 7:00 pm at 4535 Cathedral Drive** (in-laws of Karen Walter). Please share your favorite holiday fare (bring food ready to serve with serving utensils; label everything) according to your last name: **A-H (main dish); I-Q (side dish); R-Z (desserts)**. Please RSVP to Tish Yoxall (214.823.4124). If you would like to participate in the ornament exchange, bring a small (\$5 or less) ornament for the Mothers' tree. — Bring your little ones for **A Merry Christmas with the Mothers' Association - A Birthday Party for Jesus! Saturday, December 15 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm in the STA gym**. Admission is an unwrapped gift for a child. For information call Kelly Barton (214.823.2659) or Joyce Mazero (214.821.0377).

SENIOR CLUB

The Senior Club Christmas Luncheon will be held at the home of Angela Rust, 6135 Danbury Lane, on Wednesday, December 5, at 11:30 am. All seniors welcome. Turkey and dressing will be served. Please coordinate covered dishes to complement. Make reservations with Angela (214.691.7247). 2002 dues are due and payable at this meeting; dues are \$5.00. On December 12, the Senior Club will meet at 8:30 am to carpool to Mt. Carmel for an Advent Day of reflection with Father Sam Anthony Mareello. The day will begin with Mass at 9:30 am. Bring a sack lunch; drinks will be furnished. Please call Lorraine Lastelick for reservations and to arrange car pooling (214.823.6570).

YOUNG MARRIEDS

The YMG will meet on Wednesday, December 5 at 7:30 pm at the home of Michael and Christine Kobeck (10339 Lake Gardens Drive, 75218) for Part 2 of our discussion of "What Catholics Really Believe" by Karl Keating. We will also meet in front of the Church immediately following the 5:00 pm Mass on Sunday, December 16 to go view Christmas lights and have coffee. For more information on either event contact the Kobecks (214.321.1585) or CMKobeck@hotmail.com.

SUNDAY 10:00 AM NURSERY

December 2		December 9	
Baby Nursery:	2-year-olds:	Baby Nursery:	2-year-olds:
Cathy Bain	Suzy McKinney	Valerie Eckardt	Kelly George
Ashley Black	Mauri Spears	Nina Humrichhouse	Barbara McCumber
Lou Ann Stefanek	Jamie Stevenson	Annamarie Lark	Tina Theodore
Carmen Webb		Kelly Reed	



TODAY'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
Saturday, December 1:			
4:00 pm	Robert Contreras Martha Sease	Jane Baldwin Tom Summers Mary Frances Archer	Collette Cochran Josh Castro Mary Gangel
Sunday, December 2:			
8:00 am	Kerry Fitzgerald Cindy M. Garner	Jim Parkerson Lisa Meath Skip McGuire	Aaron Fuller Alexa Fuller Briar Carter
10:00 am	Katherine Elrich Julis Kroll	Robert Elrich Maureen Sorrells Sheila Dohm	Katie Curtis Mary Buechler Millerann Jockel
12:00 noon	Tom Finch Brenda Munoz	Therese McDaniel Raymond McDaniel Julie Bozarth	Katherine Gresback Maggie Watson Joseph Phillpott
5:00 pm	Lynn Evertowski Greg Hultgren	Rose Hulgren Jerry McCoy Richard McCoy	Brennan Patton Lauren Patton Tessa Jacobs

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

General Intention: Escape from cultural conditioning that binds us to the rights of others. *Mission Intention:* Illumination of the cultures of Asia by Christian humanism with its Gospel values.

LITTLE FLOWER MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Little Flower Missionary Society Meeting will be held Thursday, December 13, 10:30 am in St. Anne Hall. There will be a covered dish luncheon. No Bingo. Christmas entertainment. Visitors are welcome.

ATTENTION MEN OF ST. THOMAS

All men of our parish are invited to join Deacon Ken each Thursday morning at 6:45 am in the St. Joseph Room. We will talk about "guy things" as they relate to our spiritual journey. There is no registration, no dues, and no book (except your Bible.) So, if you miss a week, or two, or three...you won't be lost when you come back the next time.

THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Loved ones wishing to remember a child who has passed away can do so by ordering a memorial brick to be placed in the STA Children's Garden. Cost for the brick is \$75.00. Order forms may be obtained from the school office, church vestibule and rectory. For questions, please call Debbie Carrizales (214.503.6181) or Connie Wentz (214.319.8910). Deadline for placing the order is December 19, 2001.

SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

Please participate in the St. Thomas Aquinas School Annual Fund Drive. Brochures with pledge cards may be picked up from the church vestibule, the parish office, and the school office. Parishioners MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Did you know that the Divorce rate of couples practicing modern Natural Family Planning is less than five percent? NFP classes for married couples start Sunday, January 6 at 3:30 pm in the St. Joseph Room. For information or to register, contact Colleen Hammond (940.612.1999 or chammond@starband.net).

ST. JOSEPH VILLAGE UPDATE

The members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish are invited to one of five informational meetings to learn about the development of a Catholic Continuing Care Retirement Community. This session will be held on Tuesday, December 4, in the St. Maron Room. For more information, call Lisa Roden, Marketing Director (972.304.0300).

MASS ATTENDANCE last Sunday: **3,046**



A

D

V

E

N

T



Advent begins the Church's new year of grace.

Advent invites us to begin anew our new journey in the grace of Christ. For that reason, spiritual writers tell us that the spiritual life is a series of new beginnings.

Advent invites us to a period of meditation, of examination.

It is our time of preparing for the coming of Christ.

But Christ comes in many ways. He will come, to be sure, on Christmas morn.

But he will also come whenever the grace of God is stirred up in our hearts. For this reason, Advent should be a time of more frequent and fervent meditation and examination. Through such means we will be more concerned with spiritual than temporal matters. In such a way the grace of God will be able to work more effectively in our souls.

Advent is our time of spiritual rebirth.

By opening the eyes of our soul through prayer and meditation, we will be better able to see the Birth of Christ on Christmas morn!

—Father Vincent A. Yzermans