



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	10:00am	People of the Parish
	12:00noon	Ed & Rose Skrehot †
MONDAY	8:00am	Cordelia Crawford †
TUESDAY	8:00am	Rosalie Ventura †
WEDNESDAY	8:00am	Frances & Frank LaBarba, Sr. †
THURSDAY	8:00am	Communion Service
FRIDAY	8:00am	Jack McCoy †
SUNDAY	12:00pm	Ann M. Colombo †

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.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND

The second collection at all Masses this weekend, December 8/9, is for the United States Bishops' Retirement Fund for retired priests, brothers, and sisters who have served us so well.

BLESSING OF PROJECT GABRIEL SIGN

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

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for those who are ill: Lynette Hall, Mary Vullo, Luis Lima, Matilde Vera, Marianne Clemmensen, and Mike Halaszyn.

MAGI TREE

Please take a tag from the Magi Tree today if you would like to shop for a Christmas gift for a needy person. The **deadline for returning Magi gifts** is Friday, December 14. Gifts will be distributed this Saturday, December 15. Please consider coming on Saturday at 8:00 am (we will finish by noon) to help the St. Vincent de Paul and the Holy Name members sort and distribute the gifts. You will be glad you came to help with this very worthwhile project! Thank you for your help!

COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The annual collection for decoration in the church at Christmas will be taken up at all Masses next weekend, December 15/16.

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 Youth Choir

You are invited to hear the STA Youth Choir perform this Sunday, December 9, from 5-6 p.m. at *Candlelight in the Park* at Old City Park. The choir will be singing your favorite sacred and secular Christmas music in the "Country Church". After our performance you and your family can enjoy the other attractions. Tickets may be purchased at the gates.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, December 9, 2001 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00 am	Holy Name Sunday
8:45 am	CCD Classes grades 1-12 - School
9:00 am	Blessing of Project Gabriel Sign after 8 am Mass
10:00 am	Preschool CCD & Sunday Nursery - Preschool
11:00 am	STACS Faith Sharing - St. Maron Room
3:00 pm	Family Eucharistic Adoration - Church
4:00 pm	St. Cecilia Choir - St. Joseph Room
5:00 pm	Youth Choir - St. Joseph Room
6:00 pm	St. Jude Library Guild - St. Maron Room
6:00 pm	Booster Club Men's Basketball League - Gym
7:00 pm	Choir Concert - Church

Monday, December 10

6:30 pm	St. Vincent de Paul Society - St. Matthew Room
7:00 pm	First Confessions - Church
7:00 pm	Youth Group - Gym, St. Matthew Room
7:30 pm	St. Francis de Sales Choir - St. Joseph Room
7:30 pm	Home Schooling Mothers - St. Margaret Room

Tuesday, December 11

6:30 pm	St. Mary & St. Joseph Choir - St. Joseph Room
7:00 pm	Christmas Concert Grades 5-8 - Church
7:30 pm	Women of Grace Scripture Study - St. Maron Room
7:30 pm	E.S.L. Classes - St. Matthew Room

Wednesday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:30 am	School Prayer Service - Church
10:00 am	Grief Ministry - St. Matthew Room
12:00 pm	Advent Organ Concert - Church
7:00 pm	1st Grade Play - Rooms 1A & 1B - Drama Room
7:00 pm	Legion of Mary - St. Margaret Room
7:00 pm	St. Thomas Aquinas Choir - Church
7:00 pm	Ave Maria Circle Meeting - St. Joseph Room
7:30 pm	Book of the Month Club - St. Matthew Room

Thursday, December 13

6:45 am	Men's Prayer Group - St. Joseph Room
7:00 pm	Preschool Christmas Program - St. Anne Hall
7:30 pm	R.C.I.A. Class - Drama Room
7:30 pm	FOCCUS - St. Maron
7:30 pm	Sponsor Couples - St. Margaret Room

Friday, December 14

9:30 am	Mothers' Rosary - Church
6:15 pm	Parents' Night Out - Preschool

Saturday, December 15

8:00 am	Magi Gift distribution - St. Anne Hall
10:00 am	Mothers' Association Children's Christmas Party - Gym until noon

YOUNG MARRIEDS

The YMG will meet in front of the Church immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 16 to go view Christmas lights and have coffee. For more information contact the Kobecks (214.321.1585) or CMKobeck@hotmail.com.

VISIT THE GIFT SHOP

For Nativity Sets, Advent Wreaths and Candles, Childrens Books and Beautiful Gifts. The Gift Shop is open on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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!

NEWEST CATHOLICS

We welcome into the Church the infants who were baptized on December 2, 2001:

Tyler Austin Christopher Lloyd	son of Christopher and Sabrina
Gabrielle Vasquez	daughter of Robert and Sophia

SENIOR CLUB

On Wednesday, 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 Marello. 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).

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.

MOTHERS' ASSOCIATION

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).

CHRISTMAS IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

When doing your Christmas shopping this season, please consider donating a book to the St. Thomas Aquinas school library in honor of someone special. Your child and the entire STA student body can benefit now and for years to come from the gift of a book to the library. To donate, simply purchase a HARDCOVER book, fill out the donation form (available at the school office), and bring both to the STA library. If you would like to donate a book but are too busy to shop, you may choose one from the the Library Christmas tree. These books have already been purchased and are in our library under the Christmas tree just waiting for you to donate. Call Mrs. Qaddoumi (214-823-6137) to select a book, then send a check along with the donation form. Each donated book will have an inscription plate in the front acknowledging the donor and the one being honored. Presentation cards are available in the library. Thank you for considering this program and God bless you all this holiday season!

CHRIST CHILD MASS DEC. 18

The annual Christ Child Mass, sponsored by Our Lady's Altar Society will be held on Tuesday, December 18, at 7:00 pm in the Church. All parishioners are invited to come and bring an unwrapped baby gift, which will be taken up to the altar at the Offertory, and then donated to charity. A reception will follow.

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.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Statements for 2001 church contributions will be mailed in January upon written request to the parish business office.

CONTRIBUTING PARISHIONER TUITION STATUS

The tuition rate for the 2002-2003 school year at St. Thomas Aquinas School will be determined by Sunday church contributions from January to December 2001. To receive contributing parishioner status, a family must have a record of contributing at least once each month or have a contribution total of \$600 or more. Only a few weeks remain to meet these criteria to assure parishioner tuition status.

SUNDAY 10:00 AM NURSERY

December 9		December 16	
Baby Nursery:	2-year-olds:	Baby Nursery:	2-year-olds:
Valerie Eckardt	Kelly George	Deb Peterson	Rhonda Hanks
Nina Humrichouse	Barbara McCumber	Lou Ann Stefanek	Kenny Hanks
Annamarie Lark	Tina Theodore	Scott Watson	Margaret Weighter
Kelly Reed		Brittain Watson	

TODAY'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
Saturday, December 8:		
4:00 pm Maria Wiemann Mary Elizabeth Parra	Frank Campise Lucy Rose Campise Cindy Haynes	Elizabeth Peacock Kenneth Peacock Juliana Rodriguez
Sunday, December 9:		
8:00 am Dianna Drury Karen Purvis	Ann Gunst Jim Parkerson Dick Gunst	Kate Bost Rose Davis Hannah Davis
10:00 am Barbara McCumber Emily Toates	Mary Pat Riggins Bill Tate Marie Tate	Sarah Gatens Whitney McCumber Kirby Kimber
12:00 pm Jeff Patterson Amy Zielke	Frank Geis David Uzee Kim Campise	Courtney Huntress Kate Bost Aaron Packard
5:00 pm Michaela Conway Joanne Smith	Jeff Kuntz Tom Summers Dennis Larkin	Andrew Collins Samantha Gifford Lauren Gifford

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.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING AT ST. THOMAS

Did you know that modern Natural Family Planning is 99% effective? NFP classes for couples start Sunday, January 6th at 3:30 pm in the St. Joseph Room. For more information or to register, contact Colleen Hammond (940.612.1999 or chammond@starband.net).

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY APPEAL

Please make your CCA pledge this week so that we may reach our goal. Our parish is being required by Bishop Grahmann to reach our parish goal of \$120,000. To date we have received pledges totalling \$87,142. Extra pledge cards are available in the vestibule. Thank you for your help.

BISHOP LYNCH CHOIR CONCERT

The Bishop Lynch High School choirs present *Merry Christmas—Season of Hope*, an evening of Christmas carols, Sunday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 pm, at Eastfield College Performance Hall. Admission is free with donations accepted at the door to defray the expenses of traveling to Spring Competitions. Call 214.324.3607, x 131 for information.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BENEFITING SOCIETY OF SVDP

The St. Pius X Singing Quartet invites all area churches to attend *Making Spirits Bright: An Evening of Christmas Music* Sunday, Decemeber 16, 6:30 pm. The concert will also feature harps, a brass quintet, the Holiday Jazz Trio and more guest singers and musicians. Admission is a new, unwrapped toy for children ages 5-15 to benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Grand Salon of Cathedral Santuario de Guadalupe, 2215 Ross Ave. For information call 214.939.3636, ext. 146.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

LAST CHANCE!!! Call TODAY to attend Catholic Charities' 4th Annual New Year's Eve Gala at the Westin Hotel! Only \$135 per person includes an evening with Mass, cocktails, dinner, dancing and casino games. Prize drawings and fun all night long! Call Amber Gruen (214.520.6590, ext, 121). All net proceeds from this event benefit the working poor and underserved of the Dallas Diocese through Catholic Charities programs.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IMMIGRATION COUNSELING

Catholic Charities Immigration Counseling Services, 5415 Maple Ave., Dallas, 75235, is pleased to announce FREE English Classes. Class instruction and materials are FREE, thanks to funding from the Texas Department of Human Services. Come or call NOW to see if you qualify for this important opportunity. 214.634.7182, ext. 247.

MASS ATTENDANCE last Sunday: **3,403**

When you look at the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, what do you see? After the apparition in 1531 to Juan Diego, the image she left on his tilma led to the conversion of almost the entire Aztec nation to Christianity. In ten years almost 9 million people converted.

The conversion of the Aztecs came largely because of what they saw in the form of symbols in the image. That started the conversion process and then the rest was spiritual. Here is what they saw:

- ◆ The **eyes** are looking down, a position of humility, because as great as she is, she is not God. Aztec gods never looked down, they looked straight ahead.
- ◆ The **face**, a woman's face, shows great compassion. To the Aztecs, the face was the window into the inner person, and a good woman was one whose femininity showed in her face. The woman in the image shares the dark skin and hair of the Aztecs.
- ◆ Her **hands** are poised, not in prayer, but in the Aztec manner of offering, indicating that something is being offered, that something is to come from her.
- ◆ The **maternity band** around the woman's waist is the sign of a mother about to give birth, a sign to the viewer that someone is yet to come.
- ◆ The **stars** on the mantle point to the Aztec tradition that the end and the beginning of the different eras was always accompanied by a comet, or a body of stars. Aztec prophets had already been predicting before the coming of Spanish conqueror Herman Cortes that the end of their civilization was approaching.
- ◆ The **rays of the sun** in the image recalled for the Aztecs the important role they believed the sun played in their civilization. But, the woman in the image is greater than the sun, hiding it, but not extinguishing it.
- ◆ The predominant **color** in the image's mantle is turquoise, the color reserved for the mother/father god Omechihuatl, who was considered the supreme God of the Aztecs, the source of unity for everything that exists in their mythology.
- ◆ The woman is **standing on the moon**, indicating she is greater than the moon god, the god of night.
- ◆ The "**angel**" at the bottom was seen by the Aztecs as an intermediary god, carrying in the new era, the beginning of a new civilization.



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12

Ponder the image. Turn off the television, turn off the radio, and if possible, go to a secluded spot, away from the din of the world. Then start to listen to what your soul has been whispering so long, yet you haven't heard.

Mary's incredible announcement to Juan Diego continues to have incredible meaning for these times, when the forces of darkness and deceit seem to be gaining momentum everywhere in the world. "I am your loving mother," the Lady of Guadalupe assured Juan Diego — and all who live in the Americas. Pope Pius XII proclaimed her "Empress of All the Americas".

Her role brings courage to all Christians, soon to embrace the feast of the birth of our Savior. She encourages us to invoke her powerful aid in all matters of defense, principle and human life.

—from *Catholic Quote*