



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
	12:00 noon	Ann M. Colombo †
MONDAY	8:00am	Wanda Pugliese †
TUESDAY	8:00am	Thomas J. Breslin, Sr. †
WEDNESDAY	8:00am	Frank Salvato †
THURSDAY	8:00am	Communion Service
FRIDAY	8:00am	Chance M. Ventura † and Marie M. Ventura (Int.)
SUNDAY	12:00pm	Margherita Leopoldi †

REST IN PEACE

In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Diane Hobaugh, Michael Halaszyn, and Phillip Sonnier.

COLLECTION TODAY FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

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

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.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for those who are ill: Mary Vullo, Luis Lima, Matilde Vera, Marianne Clemmensen, and Phillip Schirico.



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.

Schola Cantorum Gregorii

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

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 this weekend, and next weekend. The cost is \$20.00. For information please call Sandy Stansbury (214.824.1998), Gina Hansen (214.987.4591) or Stephanie Todora (214.691.8350).

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

At the request of Bishops Grahmann and Galante, a special collection to be given to Catholic Charities of Dallas will be taken up the weekend of December 22/23. Your gift will be used to help families affected by layoffs and other economic factors.

CHRIST CHILD MASS DECEMBER 18

The annual Christ Child Mass, sponsored by Our Lady's Altar Society will be held this week, on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm. Please bring a new unwrapped baby gift, which will be taken up to the altar at the offertory, and then given to an agency for needy mothers. Induction of new members and presentation of new perpetual members will be held during this Mass. A reception will follow in St. Anne's Hall. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.



THE WEEK AHEAD



Sunday, December 16, 2001 Third Sunday in Advent

- 8:45 am CCD Classes grades 1-12 - School
- 10:00 am Preschool CCD & Sunday Nursery - Preschool
- 11:00 am Music Program presented by the Preschool CCD in St. Anne Hall
- 11:00 am Parish Social - Cafeteria
- 11:00 am STACS Faith Sharing - St. Maron Room
- 3:00 pm Family Eucharistic Adoration - Church
- 5:00 pm Youth Choir - St. Anne Hall
- 6:00 pm Booster Club Men's Basketball League - Gym
- 7:00 pm Solemn Vespers - Church

Monday, December 17

- 12:00 pm Deadline for January Bulletin Board/Calendar notices
- 6:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Society - St. Maron Room
- 7:00 pm Youth Group - Church, Gym, St. Margaret Room
- 7:00 pm 1st Grade play Classes 1C & 1D - Drama Room
- 7:30 pm St. Francis de Sales Choir - Church

Tuesday, December 18

- 7:00 pm Christ Child Mass - Church, followed by Reception - St. Anne Hall
- 7:30 pm ESL Class - St. Maron Room

Wednesday, December 19

- 12:00 pm Advent Organ Concert - Church
- 12:30 pm St. Thomas Aquinas School dismissed for Christmas break - classes resume January 3, 2002 (no extended day - no lunch)
- 7:00 pm Legion of Mary - St. Margaret Room
- 7:00 pm St. Thomas Aquinas Choir - Church
- 7:30 pm Book of the Month Club - St. Matthew Room
- 7:30 pm Natural Family Planning Class - St. Joseph Room

Thursday, December 20

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Group - St. Joseph Room
- 4:00 pm Pages of the Blessed Sacrament Youth Group - St. Joseph Room
- 7:00 pm Parish Pro-Life Group Meeting - St. Matthew Room
- 7:30 pm R.C.I.A. Class Tour of the Church

Friday, December 21

- 9:30 am Mothers' Rosary - Church

Saturday, December 22

DEADLINE FOR JAN. BULLETIN BOARD/CALENDAR

The deadline for notices for the January Bulletin Board/Calendar is this week, on Monday, December 17 at noon. The Bulletin Board is a free service for parishioners who wish to publicize special events, services, or needs (such as childcare). Please turn in notices in writing to the parish office; they may be dropped in the rectory mail slot, faxed or emailed to kbaker@airmail.net.

THE ANNUAL STA AUCTION 2002

An American in Paris - February 9, 2002 at the Infomart. Make plans now to attend. Call Annetee DiCarlo (214.821.8608) for information.

OFFICE CLOSINGS

The parish office will be closed on Friday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 25 for the Christmas Holiday.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
Preceded by Preschool Pageant; Children's Choirs

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass
St. Francis de Sales & St. Thomas Aquinas Youth Choirs

12:00 Midnight Mass
Preceded by Lessons and Carols at 11:00 pm
St. Thomas Aquinas Choir, Schola Cantorum Gregorii,
Festival Brass Ensemble

Christmas Day Masses 9:00 am, and 11:00 am.
Each preceded by a 30 minute organ and harp concert.

NEWEST CATHOLICS



We welcome into the Church the infants and children who were baptized on December 9, 2001:

Daniel Decklin Day Reed	son of Kelly and Shanna
Henry Aidan Reed	son of Kelly and Shanna
Sean Patrick Reed	son of Kelly and Shanna

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.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SINGLES (STACS)

Come join STACS for fellowship with great people and fun events: Learn about faith sharing this Sunday after 10:00 am Mass in the St. Maron Room. In the evening, join us at Trinity Hall Pub for appetizers at 6:00 pm, then on to a movie at the Angelika Theater: contact Meg (214-392-1505). On Christmas Eve attend Mass with STACS; call Teresa for details (972-732.6209). To learn more about current events or for detailed information on STACS membership call Elizabeth Silva (214-826-1022).

THANKS TO PARISHIONERS AND STUDENTS

The St. Thomas Aquinas Pro-Life Group wishes to thank all parishioners who contributed to the special collection that was taken up in October during **Respect Life Month** and to the students and parents of STA School who filled their **Baby Banks** during October and November. The special collection totaled \$2,016 and the Baby Banks contributed \$1,104 for a total of \$3,120. Half of this money will be used by the STA Pro-Life Group for its projects and half will be sent to the Catholic Pro-Life Committee for use in the Diocese of Dallas for their many projects. Mrs. Kathy Hanifen's Classroom 2B contributed \$138.26 in their Baby Banks and so they are the winners of a Pizza party for the entire class. Also, all students who filled their Baby Banks with \$25 or more will have their names entered in a drawing that the Catholic Pro-Life Committee will hold that will award tickets to the Galleria Ice Skating Rink, the Dallas Zoo and Six Flags.

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!



SUNDAY 10:00 AM NURSERY

December 16

December 23

Baby Nursery: 2-year-olds:

Deb Peterson	Rhonda Hanks
Lou Ann Stefanek	Kenny Hanks
Scott Watson	Margaret Weighter
Brittan Watson	

No Nursery



TODAY'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
Saturday, December 15:			
4:00 pm	Joe Chairez Richard McCoy	Mary Beth Harrington Dennis Sullivan Jerry McCoy	Katy Harrington Kristian Knutson Vincent DeLara
Sunday, December 16:			
8:00 am	Karen Purvis Cecina Koeijmans	Jim Parkerson Kathi Child Paul Wright	Philip Tarpley Maggie Schwab Julia Little
10:00 am	Angie Bolling Jay Wimmer	Dottie Lucas T. V. Mangelsdorf Julia Murad	Olivia Daniel Ryan Mura Alex Wentz
12:00 pm	Rose Dodson Marie Labac	Maude Aragon Jennifer Massoud Grace Davidson	Star Fraga Loren Hayes Zachary Garcia
5:00 pm	Stuart Mut Jim Krieger	Joe Mehan Steve Sellers Marc Lippas	Natalie Flores Tyler Harrah Matthew Hansen

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

Natural Family Planning is 100% natural, low cost, safe and immediately reversible with no damage to your fertility. NFP classes for married 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).

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!**

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

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

HAVE YOUR BOOKS GIFT WRAPPED AND HELP STUDENTS

University of Dallas Alternative Spring Breakers will be wrapping books at Barnes & Noble on the following dates to help raise money for their mission trips to Ecuador and Camden, New Jersey. If you are in the area shopping please stop by to see us at Lincoln Park - Sat. Dec. 15 from 6-10 pm; Mon., Dec. 17, 6-9 pm; and Wed., Dec. 19, 6-9 pm.

BEREAVEMENT LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM

The Visiting Nurse Association of Texas Hospice invites you to attend a monthly bereavement luncheon (at no charge) open to anyone in the community grieving the death of a loved one. The luncheon is held the last Thursday of each month (this month Dec. 27) at Church of the Incarnation, 3966 McKinney, from 12 noon to 1 pm. Any person that has lost a loved one in the last year is invited to attend as well as any professional that works with grieving people. The goal of the luncheon is to provide bereaved individuals an enjoyable outing with friendly and understanding people. A short program about an aspect of grief is presented and helpful literature and community resources are made available. A catered lunch will be provided without cost, underwritten by Grove Hill Funeral Home Cemetery Florist. If you would like to attend or would like more information please call 214.869.0633 by Wednesday, Dec. 26.

MASS ATTENDANCE last Sunday: **3,065**

St. John the Baptist, with our Lady, is
the great figure of Advent.



His voice cries through the wilderness
of secular festivity: Repent!
The Lord is coming! Face
up to reality!

It's no use saying,
"I'm OK, I'm baptized!"

The Lord does not
judge by appearances or
hearsay. He judges by the
reality of a Christian life, the fruits of the
harvest.

Wheat is kept. Chaff is burned. But
both come from the same stem.

We look forward to Christmas,
sincerely seeking to recapture the simplicity
and goodness of children. But in this cyni-
cal day and age even children learn to cal-
culate Christmas by the gifts it yields.

Somehow, in this
wilderness, we must build a
solid, straight freeway to
Christ who is bringing His
Spirit of *real* peace . . . Not
the tinsel wishes of
commercial carols and cards.

We Look Forward To Christmas

Peace and prosperity will come when
the whole country is filled with the
knowledge of God, as waters swell the sea.

—Anne O'Neill