

Spirit

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
Parish Newsletter

December 2007—January 2008

Confession Schedule for Advent & Christmas



Wednesday	December 19	6-9:00 PM
Thursday	December 20	7-9:00 PM
Friday	December 21	6-9:00 PM
Saturday	December 22	2:45-3:45 PM, and 6-9 PM

Mass Schedule for Christmas Eve & Christmas

Monday, December 24	4:00 PM	Mass, St. Andrew's Boys Choir and St. Cecilia's Girls Choir and Festival Brass Ensemble
	6:30 PM	Mass, St. Francis de Sales Choir, and Festival Brass Ensemble
	12:00 Midnight	Midnight Mass and Concert (beginning at 11:00 PM) The Saint Thomas Aquinas Choir, the Schola Cantorum Gregorii, and the Festival Brass Ensemble
Tuesday, December 25	7:30 AM	Mass, Organ Music with Harpist Cynthia Shockley
	9:00 AM	Mass, Organ Music with Harpist Cynthia Shockley
	11:00 AM	Mass, Organ Music

Epiphany Lessons and Carols January 6, 2008—6:30 PM



Epiphany Lessons and Carols featuring the Saint Thomas Aquinas Choir, Saint Francis de Sales Choir, the Schola Cantorum Gregorii, and soloists will be presented on Sunday, January 6, at 6:30 PM in the Church. Everyone is invited.

—Michael Lindner





**We need your help
to celebrate the
50th Anniversary
of the Dedication of
our church...**

Did you or your family help in some small or large way to build our church 50 years ago? Did you donate a pew, a window, a statue or station? Do you know someone who has? We would like to honor our founding members at the 50th Anniversary Celebration on January 13th, 2008.

We hope to gather and display photos from the early years of the church. Do you have any copies of your photos or memorabilia to share? Please contact Nicole Johnson with your name and address.

Phone: 214.686.6637

E-mail: nicolejmailbox-nmj@yahoo.com

—Laura Jekot
Parish Advisory Council

**St. Thomas Aquinas' School
Cheer Squads Spread Good Cheer**

Approximately ninety cheerleaders and dancers from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and School staged an end of season performance exhibition for friends and family members on November 16 at the school gymnasium. The first annual "Spreading Good Cheer" event was held to showcase the cheer and dance teams' talents and accomplishments, as well as to provide support to the Family Outreach Center of East Dallas. Each attendee and participant was asked to bring an unwrapped toy or clothing item for the children served by the Family Outreach Center.

The Family Outreach Center of East Dallas educates and strengthens families by providing tools such as parenting classes and mentoring to break the intergenerational cycle of child abuse and neglect. Several members of the STA Varsity cheer squad volunteer regularly through the Family Outreach Center's teen volunteer program. FOCED President Toni Horak and Executive Director Michele Focht attended the "Spreading Good Cheer" event, and were happy to gather many donated gifts for the families they serve.

Participating were The Dazzling Diamonds, 4th grade dance team; members of the 5th grade JV cheer squad; the 6th grade JV cheer squad and the 7th and 8th grade Varsity cheer squad. St. Thomas Aquinas plans to make "Spreading Good Cheer" an annual community outreach event with hopes of increased participation from other area schools.

—Joyce Limber
Development Director

**Purchase Your
Commemorative
Bricks**

**The 60th Anniversary
of the School,
the 55th Anniversary of
the Parish, and the
50th Anniversary of the
Dedication of the Church**

Honor your children and family with the purchase of a commemorative brick! The bricks will be used to create attractive walkways at the Upper and Lower School slated for a June 2008 installation. Leave an enduring legacy honoring students, families, graduates, First Communicants, Kindergarteners, departed loved ones, alumni, teachers, Scout troops, etc. It is the perfect time to order as we celebrate our school 60th and parish's 50th and 55th Anniversaries. There are two sizes available, 12x12 (\$250) and 4x8 (\$75). Funds raised from brick sales will benefit St. Thomas Aquinas School. Order forms may be obtained from the STA School website, staschool.org, under the development tab or from the rectory, back of the church and school offices.

—Joyce Limber
Development Director,
St. Thomas Aquinas School

**STA School Announces
Auction 2008
Bourbon Street Ball
Saturday, February 23, 2008
The Belo Mansion - Downtown Arts District
Live and Silent Auction
Dinner and Dancing
6 pm-12:30 am**



Plans are underway for the St Thomas Aquinas School Auction for 2008. This year's New Orleans-themed event, the "Bourbon Street Ball" will be held Saturday, February 23, 2008, from 6:00 PM to 12:30 AM at The Belo Mansion in the Downtown Arts District. The evening will include dinner, dancing, a live and silent auction—a true French Quarter-style party in a jazz parlor setting. Hosted by the St. Thomas Aquinas Parents' Association, the event will be co-chaired by Karen Higgins and Liesl Kuby.

Last year's St. Thomas Aquinas School Auction raised over \$200,000 for STA school. These funds have translated into a number of improvements, including funding for Science and Art lab enhancements, Smart Boards for classrooms, faculty appreciation events, student scholarships and much more. The STA Auction 2008 committee is hard at work to ensure another successful event for our school and our children.

If you would like to learn more about the "Bourbon Street Ball," please contact Liesl Kuby at lieslkuby@sbcglobal.net. The continued support of the parish community is greatly appreciated and plays a large role in the success of our STA Parents' Association fundraising efforts. If you or your business would like to donate to the silent or live auction, please contact Susan Lacina at susan_lacina@yahoo.com, or Jessica Burrow at jessica.burrow@sbcglobal.net. Underwriting is crucial to the success of the STA Auction. If you would like to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Arlene Kirkland at 214.477.7820 or Kirkland@sbcglobal.net.

—Stephanie Stollenwerck
Parents Association Public Relations

**Mothers' Association Children's Christmas Party
Sat. Dec. 15—10 a.m.-12:00 Noon—Lower School Gym**

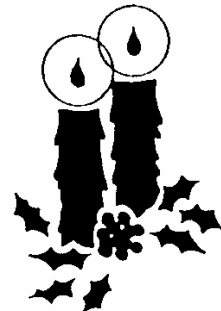


Admission for the entire family is a new unwrapped toy.

Photos with Santa \$1.00

We are collecting toiletries for the Brady Center. Our children will decorate gift bags and fill them with the toiletries during the party. Please drop off your donation at the Lower School or at the White Rose box by the gym.

To volunteer contact Piper Kent kdpkent@yahoo.com



St. Thomas Aquinas Seniors

As I sit here thinking about the coming of the Christ Child, the Christ Child Mass and the preparations of Christmas, it is difficult to take your mind back to what has happened in the past. The most important thing the St. Thomas Aquinas Senior Club did was hosting the Diocese Seniors Luncheon. Msgr. Leon Duesman celebrated Mass followed by a short meeting then, what everyone enjoys the most, our potluck lunch. Deacon Ken followed with a new approach to his trip to the Holy Land presented with the times of the Bible and the Mysteries of the Rosary. Everyone went home with a book on the History of the Dallas Diocese.

Several trips were enjoyed with the Diocese Seniors including the trip to Austin-Salado, Oklahoma and Branson. Watch our Church Bulletin for trips planned for 2008 including a trip to the Painted Churches.

Our meetings during the fall were enjoyed playing Bingo and having a pleasant lunch at a favorite restaurant. We will meet again on February 6 for Bingo.

—Angela Rust, President
St. Thomas Aquinas Senior Club

Contributing Parishioner Tuition Status

A Parish School is one of the principal, most important and best of the apostolic works of a parish community. This is especially true here at St. Thomas Aquinas. The School is therefore primarily intended for the children of registered and participating member families of St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners. The school also should be supported by the prayers, service and resources of all the contributing members. Eligibility for the parishioner tuition rate for the 2008-2009 school year at St. Thomas Aquinas School will be determined by the parish business office based upon two important factors which indicate active membership and participation in this parish and are required for school families.

1) **PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS:** Each family must show a record of consistent giving on the Sunday collection to CHURCH SUPPORT or DEBT REDUCTION. Giving should be MONTHLY and, except in cases of need cleared by the parish office, should total, as a MINIMUM, \$600 PER YEAR, recorded from January to December 2007. Second collections, which are commended for additional charitable giving, are not considered in this total as they do not pertain to CHURCH SUPPORT or DEBT REDUCTION.

2) **VOLUNTEER HOURS:** Every family with students currently enrolled in the school must have a record of contributing adult volunteer service to the School or to the Parish. These service hours must total at least 20 hours per household for the 2007 calendar year and MUST BE LOGGED ON THE RENWEB SITE PROVIDED.

Knights Offer Spiritual Support for Our Soldiers

Today there is a need to equip our soldiers spiritually as they serve our country overseas and the Knights of Columbus would like to offer a copy of Archbishop Fulton Sheen's 1943 *Wartime Prayer Book* free of charge to any parishioner's family member. Call Dave Rosen, Knights of Columbus, 214-886-0907.

—Dave Rossen



Beyond Cana
A Marriage Enrichment

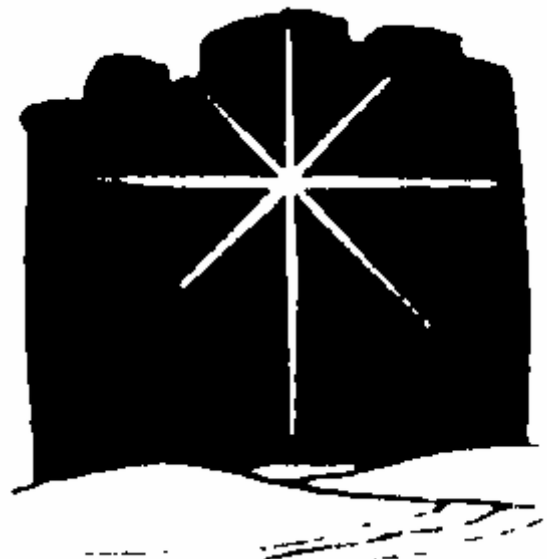
Beyond Cana Marriage Retreat Friday, February 15 – Sunday, February 17

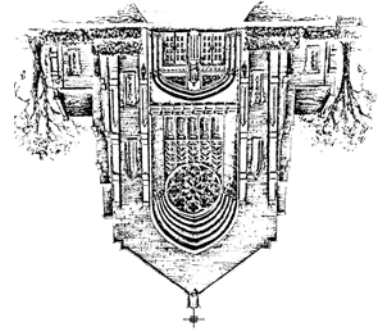
A blend of spiritual and practical talks, reflection, and prayer are combined with useful tools designed to improve communication and your relationship with your spouse — even if it's good now. All this is done from a Catholic perspective, with an understanding of marriage as a sacrament. For more information or to sign up go to the STA website, www.stthomasaquinas.org. If you have questions please contact Katy and KP McNeill at 214-707-8828.

—Katy McNeill



**Deadline for
articles and
photos for the
February/March
2008
issue of *The Spirit*
Is January 23
at 5 PM**





Change Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
6306 Kenwood Avenue
Dallas, TX 75214-3018

*The Clergy and Staff of
St. Thomas Aquinas
Parish and School
wish you the blessings of the
Word Incarnate,
this Christmas and
throughout
the New Year*

