

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Established July 1, 2014
Joining The Parishes of
St. Thomas Aquinas (1922-2014)
& St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1976-2014)

ST. THOMAS

601 Bristol Pike
Croydon, PA 19021

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sundays: 9:00 AM (SETON)
and 11:00 AM (St. Thomas)

Monday-Friday: 8:30 AM
(Chapel at 126 Walnut Ave.)

Holydays: 8:30 AM, 12 noon
AND 7:00 PM
(St. Thomas)



SETON

1200 Park Ave.
Bensalem, PA 19020

PARISH OFFICE

121 Belmont Ave.
Croydon, PA 19021
215-788-2989
Fax: 215-788-7626
Email: sta712014@gmail.com
Website: www.staq.org

**CONFESSION
SCHEDULE**

Saturday: 3:30-4:00 PM
(St. Thomas)

Served By:

Rev. David A. Fernandes, Pastor

Rev. Michael J. Lonergan, Pastor Emeritus, (Former St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)

Deacon John J. Gallagher

MARRIAGES

By Diocesan policy, a six month advance notice is required to allow sufficient time for the necessary marriage paper work and preparation. Deacons are permitted to witness marriages which are not celebrated during Mass.

BAPTISMS

First and Third Sundays of the month after 11:00 AM Mass. Attendance at Pre-Jordan class, on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 7:30PM, in the Cares Meeting Room (enter by rear door) at 121 Belmont Avenue, is a requirement. You must pre-register by calling the Parish Office at (215)788-2989.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

In order to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Matrimony, and/or to receive a Letter of Eligibility to be a Godparent or Sponsor it is necessary for you to be registered in our parish and practice the Catholic Faith. Contact the Parish Office as soon as you move into our parish to schedule a registration meeting. Please call the Parish Office if you move, or change your address or phone number.

PARISH DEVOTIONS

Miraculous Medal Novena: Saturdays after 9:00 AM Mass (Chapel)
Rosary: Weekdays before 8:30 AM Mass (Chapel) and Sundays before each Mass
Christian Prayer: Monday-Saturday before 8:30 AM Mass
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays 9:00 AM -3:30PM with Benediction at 3:30 PM (Chapel)

December 25, 2016



Dear Parishioners,

As the old calendar year draws to a close and a new one begins, I want to update you on the latest parish news. Before I do that, a few words of thanks go to some of the people who are so generous with their time, talent, and treasure. I am most grateful to all those who organized and participated in our many parish events held since Labor Day: Pray and Play, the Blessing of the Animals, the Living Rosary, Stewardship Sunday, Soup and Conversation, the Octoberfest, the Parish Memorial Mass, the Giving Tree, the Christmas Community Dinner, the Scottish Ceilidh, and the Christmas Bazaar. Also, the church cleaners did a wonderful job making the pews shine. I wish to thank in advance all those involved in decorating STA and SEAS in preparation for Christmas—I write this letter on 12 December—and all involved in the Christmas liturgies—especially our choir under the direction of Mr. Michael Winstanley.

The New Year presents us with both opportunities and a challenge. First for the opportunities:

- The Valentine's Dinner Dance will be held next year on Saturday, February 11th beginning with the 4:30 PM Vigil Mass. All couples who are married in the Catholic Church are welcome to participate in the renewal of vows.
- On Sunday, March 12th Bishop Timothy Senior will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 11 AM Mass. This is not a warning for you to attend another Mass but an invitation to be present as fellow parishioners are fully initiated into the Catholic Church! Sometimes you have to think like a Baptist and not like a Catholic!
- Designer Bag Bingo is back on Saturday, April 1st. This is not an April Fool's joke!
- Fr. Chris Walsh will be here April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th to preach our 40 hours. Fr. Chris is an outstanding preacher and the pastor of St. Raymond of Penafort Parish, Philadelphia. I tried unsuccessfully for two years to bring him to our parish! Please make it a priority to participate as we honor Jesus' Presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
- St. Luke Productions presents: Maximilian, Saint of Auschwitz on Sunday, April 23rd—a moving one man play that tells the story of the Franciscan martyr, St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe who willingly died in place of another prisoner in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Plans for this event are still tentative.
- We will be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the dedication of the present parish church on Sunday, May 7th. The day will begin with a 10:30 AM Mass presided over by Bishop Joseph Martino and concelebrated by a number of priests who have served this community. A full meal— complete with hors d'oeuvres and open bar— will follow at the Pen Ryn Estate. Thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus adult tickets are only \$50. Please spread the word to alumni and former parishioners via Facebook, email, text, instant message, twitter, or even the traditional phone call!

December 25, 2016

Our greatest challenge in the coming year will be to keep our parish open. Here are a few facts to consider:

- Our October Count indicates that approximately 21% of registered parishioners attend weekly Mass.
- Our parish has run operating deficits for the past two years and the projected deficit for this year is expected to be over \$130,000
- The last two years of deficit spending were the result of an unsuccessful merger. The current deficit is even larger because of the loss of rental income from the expired Head Start lease of our school building.

I hope the appeal against the merger will be resolved in 2017 and the property at SEAS will be sold to repay our debt and lessen our deficit. I am working with the Pastoral and Finance Councils to increase our income. Some of the ideas under consideration include: a carnival, bingo, a jackpot drawing, a SCRIP program, and an increased giving campaign. We also continue to search for a new lessee for the school building. Ultimately, the problem we face isn't primarily financial; rather, it is spiritual. For too many people, Mass attendance has become merely a ritual to commemorate special occasions. **IF YOU ARE ONLY A PART-TIME MEMBER OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH, I INVITE YOU AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO UPGRADE TO FULL MEMBERSHIP STATUS. YOUR ABSENCE IS TRULY MISSED AT EVERY SUNDAY EUCHARIST AND BY EVERY PARISH ORGANIZATION. THIS PARISH HAS A LOT TO OFFER YOU IN RETURN. PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT A MORE SERIOUS PRACTICE OF YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH.**

On behalf of Deacon John Gallagher and the parish staff, I wish all of you a Blessed Christmas Day and Christmas Season and a happy, healthy New Year!

God Bless,
Fr. David



December 25, 2016

You are cordially invited to

St Thomas Aquinas Church

601 Bristol Pike

Croydon, PA 19021

as we celebrate the

60th Anniversary of Her Dedication

Sunday, May 7, 2017

The Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

10:30 AM

The Most Reverend Joseph F. Martino, D.D.,H.E.D.

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2017

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1601 State Road

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\$50.00 per Adult \$25.00 per Child (Ages 5 – 12)

Includes Dinner and Open Bar

Questions: Contact the Parish Office at (215) 788-2989

*Mass Intentions
for the Week*

Monday December 26, 2016
8:30 AM Joseph Morrin req by Gen Morrin

Tuesday December 27, 2016
8:30 AM Joseph Wunsch III req by Betty

Wednesday December 28, 2016
8:30 AM Mark Alminde req by Gallagher Family

Thursday December 29, 2016
8:30 AM Virginia Curley req by Gallagher Family

Friday December 30, 2016
8:30 AM Virginia Curley req by Linda Shull

Saturday December 31, 2016 (New Year's Eve)
4:30 PM Antonio Jabla req by Jet Jabla

Sunday January 1, 2017 (New Year's Day)
9:00 AM Antonio Jabla req by Jet Jabla
11:00 AM Richard Brown req by Parish Office Staff

Weekend Offerings

12/10	4:30 PM	\$1,829.00
12/11	9:00 AM	\$2,038.00
12/11	11:00 AM	\$2,018.00
Mail Ins		\$ 594.00
Debt Reduction		\$ 319.00
Winter Maintenance		\$1,328.00
Other Collections (Parish)		\$2,475.00
Other Collections (Archdiocese)		\$ 258.00
Candles		\$ 60.00
Poor Box		\$ 41.00
TOTAL for Parish for December 11, 2016		\$10,702.00
TOTAL for Other Collections (Archdiocesan)		\$258.00

*Thank you for your generosity.
May the Lord bless you.*

Lectors

December 31, 2016
4:30 PM S Colvin & R Fallon

January 1, 2017
9:00 AM C Del Puerto & E Callery
11:00 AM A Scheck & W Scenna

Extraordinary Ministers

December 31, 2016
4:30 PM J Wrightson & B Balot

January 1, 2017
9:00 AM B Gutherman & T Berna
11:00 AM M Kelly & R Kelly

Altar Servers

December 31, 2016
4:30 PM Caleigh Brogan, Meghan Brogan,
Bailey McCormick

January 1, 2017
11:00 AM Mason McMahon, Effie McMahon,
Nicholas Freer

Sunday Scriptures January 1, 2017

Reading I: Numbers 6:22-27 (18ABC)
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Reading II: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

Remember In Your Prayers



Our men and women in the military:

Many of our parishioners have family members serving in dangerous assignments around the world. **Please keep them in your prayers.**

Our Sick: Helen Amato, Ynes Bruno, Stephanie Burris, Bill Campanelli, Joe Cochran, Florence Colantuono, Dolores DeBeaumont, Linda DeLuccia, George Doran Jr., Dolores Doran, Richard Fieramosca, Marcella Ghost, John Gilbert, Barbara Golden, Ray Haag, Joseph Hailstone, Jean Hennessey, Gail Kotlarek, Ruth Lang, Duncan Lewis, David Lovett, Noden Masisak, Margaret McGrory, Dawn Marie Rogers, Jimmy Simon, Nicholas Simon, Sarah Simpson, Amanda Tees, John Tobar, Andres Torres, Jermaine Williams, Denise Wilson, Elaine Wilson, Eleanor Winstanley, Erin Wright, Robert Wyatt, Cynthia Zeller and all their relatives and friends.

Our Deceased: All the deceased members of our parish and their relatives and friends.



**There will be no Adoration
in the Chapel on
Monday, January 2, 2017**

2016 Christmas Schedule

New Year's Eve

4:30 PM (St Thomas)

New Year's Day

9:00 AM (SETON)

11:00 AM (St Thomas)

Memorial Fund.....

We would like to thank M/M Francis Sellitto
for their donation

In Memory of Margaret Flannery

We would like to thank
Cranmer's Kitchens By Design
for their donation

In Memory of Richard Brown

Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)

This Christmas Day give a gift to Jesus. What He desires most is to spend time with you. Check out the CD's/books/booklets in our Resource Display and choose one to get started. Listening to a talk on CD or reading a little each day is easy to do and will draw you closer to Our Lord. The resources are free to all. For those able to make a donation, we thank you for your generosity that helps to support the Mission of Stewardship: A Mission of Faith and Lighthouse Catholic Media to "feed hungry hearts".

A Message from the St Vincent de Paul Society

Today we celebrate the feast of Christmas and hear how the shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger. Then they left glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Your gifts to the Society of St Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that "God is with us."



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