

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)

February 26, 2017

Dear Parishioners,

Before we begin the Holy Season of Lent, I want to fill you in on the latest parish news. As I mentioned in my last letter, our greatest challenge will be to keep our parish open. Our projected deficit for the current fiscal year is over \$130,000. If we continue on the road on which we now find ourselves, the outcome will not be a happy one. Therefore, I have turned to the Pastoral and Finance Councils for advice on moving us in a more favorable direction. These discussions resulted in the following **threefold plan of action**:

- We are looking to kick off an increased offertory campaign in the not too distant future. I have enlisted the services of Catholic Foundations of Greater Philadelphia for this important task. This organization will not only solicit money but will also challenge our inactive members to greater participation in the life of this parish. The primary source of income for any parish is the Sunday collection. **The future viability of this parish depends on your increased generosity.**
- Not wanting to put the entire burden on the 21% of people who practice their Catholic Faith, we are going to turn to fundraisers to supplement our income. We hope to launch a regular schedule of bingo this spring and a Lottery in the summer. Details will follow in the bulletin as these fundraisers take shape. **The success of these fundraisers will be contingent upon your participation in them and your active promotion of them among your friends and family.**
- Finally, we have hired NAIMertz to market our new school building. NAIMertz has generated various promotional materials both printed and digital and will give us regular updates on their progress.

As I have said before, the problem we face isn't primarily financial—it's spiritual. The long term solution to this problem is the return of the 79%. Over my twenty years of priesthood, I have heard various ideas about how to rectify this situation. First, build them a school and they will come. Today most students, who attend Catholic schools, don't participate in Sunday Mass. Second, build them a sports program and they will come. Sadly, sport is the god of choice worshipped by many Catholic families. Third, provide more activities for adults and they will come. St. Thomas has tried that long before I ever got to this parish. Some don't get involved in the activities, and others come only for the activities. Finally, and most recently, build them a social media network and they will come. It's worth a try.

There is some truth to all of the above proposals but all have one common flaw: they confuse the icing for the cake. The main obstacle to a vibrant Catholic Church in many parts of the western hemisphere is the culture in which we live: moral relativism (I'm ok, you're ok), materialism (money first), and the collapse of the traditional American family. **It is my own, personal opinion that the return of the lost will only come about through a traumatic personal, national, or international event.** I think the brief return of people to Church after 911 illustrates this. In the meantime, we need to be ready to welcome these people when they are ready to return.

On a very different topic, I encourage you to start making preparations for a good Lent. Consider what your parish has to offer:

- Daily Mass at 8:30 AM every weekday in the chapel
- Weekly, Saturday Confessions and extra evening Confessions during the last three weeks of Lent
- Adult Education on Mondays. This year we want to learn more about spreading the Good News
- Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament every Monday after Mass with Benediction at 3:30PM
- Stations of the Cross on Tuesday evenings and Sundays after the 11:00AM Mass
- Forty Hours Devotion/Parish Mission in the beginning of April. Details to follow
- Various opportunities to practice almsgiving especially by supporting our St. Vincent DePaul Society

Lent is about so much more than giving up chocolate, but don't forget to add extra prayer and fasting to your penitential routine.

God Bless,
Fr. David

Mass Intentions
for the Week

Monday February 27, 2017
8:30 AM Jack Keesler req by The Gallagher Family

Tuesday February 28, 2017
8:30 AM John P Walsh (L) req by Thomas Walsh

Wednesday March 1, 2017 (Ash Wednesday)
8:30 AM Anthony McCloskey req by M/M William Morrison
4:00 PM Prayer Service with Ashes
7:00 PM Gallagher Family req by Marge Smigiel

Thursday March 2, 2017
8:30 AM Frederick Bangert req by Schroeder & France Families

Friday March 3, 2017
8:30 AM Elizabeth Carmody req by Tom

Saturday March 4, 2017
4:30 PM Cynthia Bobst req by Madeline & Jerry

Sunday March 5, 2017
9:00 AM Lydia S Cruz req by Edel Callery
11:00 AM Mark Farrell req by O'Byrne & Schulz Families

Weekend Offerings

02/11	4:30 PM	\$2,101.00
02/12	9:00 AM	\$1,823.00
02/12	11:00 AM	\$1,766.00
Mail Ins		\$ 853.00
Debt Reduction		\$ 422.00
Winter Maintenance		\$1,282.00
Other Collections (Parish)		\$ 25.00
Other Collections (Archdiocese)		\$ 50.00
Candles		\$ 28.00
Poor Box		\$ 20.00

TOTAL for Parish for February 12, 2017 \$8,320.00
TOTAL for Other Collections (Archdiocesan) \$50.00

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

Lectors

March 1, 2017 (Ash Wednesday)
8:30 AM A Ditzler & E Callery
7:00 PM K Shafer & J Brogan

March 4, 2017
4:30 PM R Fallon & P DeMichele

March 5, 2017
9:00 AM R Gutherman & T Berna
11:00 AM W Scenna & R Dalessandro

Extraordinary Ministers

March 1, 2017 (Ash Wednesday)
8:30 AM M Bosco & R Powers
7:00 PM J Wallover & D Shafer

March 4, 2017
4:30 PM D Shafer & K Shafer

March 5, 2017
9:00 AM E Ryan & R Daubert
11:00 AM E Marra & D DiTommaso

Altar Servers

March 1, 2017 (Ash Wednesday)
7:00 PM Caleigh Brogan, Meghan Brogan,
MaryRose Okwara

March 4, 2017
4:30 PM Mason McMahon, Effie McMahon,
Nicholas Freer

March 5, 2017
11:00 AM Erin Moyer, Kelly Moyer,
Bailey McCormick

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, Lou Balot, Ynes Bruno, Stephanie Burris, Bill Campanelli, Caylonna, Francis Clark, Joe Cochran, Dot Cochran, Amy Crandall, Dolores DeBeaumont, Linda DeLuccia, George Doran Jr., Dolores Doran, Richard Fieramosca, Marcella Ghost, John Gilbert, Barbara Golden, Ray Haag, Joseph Hailstone, Jean Hennessey, Luisa Jabla, Janet Jackson, Gail Kotlarek, Ruth Lang, Duncan Lewis, David Lovett, Noden Masisak, Margaret McGrory, Richard Powers, Dawn Marie Rogers, Jimmy Simon, Nicholas Simon, Sarah Simpson, Amanda Tees, John Tobar, Jermaine Williams, Denise Wilson, Elaine Wilson, Erin Wright, Robert Wyatt and all their relatives and friends.

Our Deceased: Joseph Amodei Sr and all the deceased members of our parish and their relatives and friends.

The reception of the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for our PREP Students will be on **Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 11:00 AM Mass** with the Most Reverend Timothy Senior

Congratulations to...

Thomas Beaudet
for achieving First Honors and ranking #2 in the class for the First Semester Report from Father Judge High School

Sunday Scriptures March 5, 2017

Reading I: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 (22A)
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17
Reading II: Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19
Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

LENTEN SCHEDULE 2017

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Mondays: 7:00 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Tuesdays: 7:00 PM in the Chapel

CONFESSIONS IN CHURCH

Wednesdays: 7:00 PM
(March 29, April 5, 12)

Saturdays: 3:30 PM—4:00 PM

Weekend Offerings
(CORRECTED)

02/04	4:30 PM	\$2,001.00
02/05	9:00 AM	\$2,167.00
02/05	11:00 AM	\$2,296.00
Mail Ins		\$ 706.00
Debt Reduction		\$1,411.00
Winter Maintenance		\$ 125.00
Other Collections (Parish)		\$ 0.00
Other Collections (Archdiocese)		\$ 34.00
Candles		\$ 27.00
Poor Box		\$ 11.00

TOTAL for Parish for February 5, 2017 \$8,744.00
TOTAL for Other Collections (Archdiocesan) \$34.00

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

**Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2017
Our Mass Schedule will be as follows:**

8:30 AM—St Thomas Aquinas Church

4:00 PM—Prayer Service with Ashes

7:00 PM—St Thomas Aquinas Church

**Fast and Abstinence and
Other Acts of Penance for Lent 2017:**

- * Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
- * Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- * On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
- * All the faithful are encouraged to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily.
- * To celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance.
- * To undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten educational programs.
- * Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

Parish Calendar of Events

Attention Military Families

Your Knights of Columbus, Council 4765, is interested in providing care packages to the family members of our parishioners who are serving in the military. Please send contact information to KoC4765@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office at (215) 788-2989, if you would like to add your military family members to our database or if you would like to help with this project.

Please plan on joining us for our **Church Social on Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 12 Noon** in the Church Hall.

St Thomas Aquinas Youth Group Pray, Play and Serve Night on Sunday, February 26, 2017, 5:00 — 8:00 PM. Students in grades 6th—9th will attend Mass at 5:00 PM in the Chapel. For this session the youth will be making snack packs for the homeless. Students are asked to bring 1 to 3 boxes of crackers, granola bars, fruit snacks, etc. to help with the homeless care packages. For information, please email Rebecca Gutherman at rgutherman@msjacad.org.

The **Ladies of the Knights of Columbus** will hold their next meeting on **Monday, February 27, 2017 at 7:00 PM** in Father Crehan Hall. For information, contact Marie Kelly at (215) 788-3331.

Passion of Jesus Christ. The Via Dolorosa Ministry will, once again, perform Christ's Passion on Good Friday evening. Our next rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, March 1, 2017 after the 7:00 PM Mass in the Church.** All costumes are provided for you. If you have any questions, please call Maureen Fenton at (215) 458-8289. Thank you.

40 Cans for Lent. The Knights of Columbus will once again be collecting canned goods for the local food banks during Lent, **beginning Sunday, March 5th.** There will be baskets by each doorway for you to drop off any canned goods you can spare. Thank you and God Bless!

*Beginning Sunday, March 5th, come join the Knights of the Columbus for the **Stations of the Cross.** As we have done in the past, every Sunday during Lent, we host the Stations of the Cross in the **Chapel after the 11:00 AM Mass.***

On **Sunday, March 5th,** St Thomas Aquinas parishioners are invited to help the *St Vincent de Paul Society* provide for those in need by taking a **Lenten Container** and filling it with cash donations and/or Shop Rite gift cards. The Containers will be available in the back of Church and may be returned on Palm Sunday.

St Thomas Aquinas **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is a combination of prayers and knitting for the ministry of others. We strive to bring God's love to folks in need, through the comfort and warmth of our handmade shawls. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:30 PM** in the Parish Meeting Room. If you cannot attend but would like to make shawls for our ministry, please contact Eileen Brown at (215) 785-6132.

The **Knights of Columbus #4765** will hold their General Membership Meeting on **Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7:30 PM** in Father Crehan Hall. For information, contact Russ Andrews at (215) 205-9577.

The **STA Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society** will hold their next meeting on **Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 7:00 PM** in Father Crehan Hall. For more information, please call (267) 554-7109.

Please plan on joining us for our **Church Breakfast** on **Sunday, March 12, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM** in Father Crehan Hall. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Designer Bag Bingo

presented by

The Ladies of the Knights of Columbus
on **Saturday, March 25, 2017**

St Thomas Aquinas

Father Crehan Hall

121 Belmont Avenue

Croydon, PA 19021

Doors open at 5:30 and Game starts at 7:00 PM

Tickets are \$25.00/pp

15 Games, Specials, Raffles, 50/50

Light Refreshments

Food will be available for sale

BYOB-BYOS (Must be 18 to attend)

Tickets will be available for sale in the

Parish Office during normal business hours

For information, contact the Parish Office at

(215) 788-2989 or Marie Kelly at (215) 788-3331



9th Annual Archdiocesan Men's Spirituality Conference.

Registration is now open for **Man Up Philly 2017.** On Saturday, **March 4, 2017** at St Joseph University Hagan Arena, the men of your parish are invited to join Catholic Men from throughout the Archdiocese for the 9th Annual Archdiocesan Men's Spirituality Conference. Speakers include Dr Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Kevin Reilly, Damon Clarke Owens. Acclaimed Irish tenor, Mark Forrest, will provide inspirational accompaniment during a special directed Eucharistic Adoration. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered, and the Conference will conclude with Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend John McIntyre. Register now at manupphilly.com. Lunch is included.

Bishop Egan High School Class of '61 invites you to join us for a Mass at St Michael the Archangel in Levittown, PA on Saturday, **March 4th** at 8:00 AM. This will be a Remembrance Mass for our deceased classmates.

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