

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

NOVEMBER 29, 2015

ST THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH

103 Center St, Bridgewater, MA 02324 ♦ Office hours M - F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ♦ P (508) 697-9528 F (508) 279-1859

MASS TIMES

Saturday 9:00 a.m. / 4:00 p.m. ♦ Sunday 7:45 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:00 p.m. ♦ Weekdays 7:00 a.m. / 9:00 a.m.

ST BASIL CHAPEL

122 Park St, Bridgewater, MA 02324 ♦ Office hours M - F 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ♦ P (508) 531-1346 F (508) 531-6188

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10:00 a.m. / 5:00 p.m.

Holiday Bazaar



The Story on Advent

“How about we pick another one?” That might be the one sentence I have repeated the most often to my little niece in her three short years. She loves to have stories read to her, and I love reading them to her. But a man can take only so much Curious George, or Berenstain Bears, or, God help us, Dr. Seuss. So as soon as the story ends, and she says, “Again,” I say, “How about we pick another one?” And knowing that I have no hope of winning an argument with a three-year-old, I punctuate my question my lifting her off of my lap and plopping her down on the floor in front of her library under the coffee table. It works; she picks a new one and climbs back up.

In my experience, we’re all essentially three-year-olds! Our whole entertainment industry is built on us wanting the same thing over and over again. We have reruns, and DVDs, and Blu-rays, and online streaming video, and remakes, and reboots. Christmas will be here before we know it, and you know what that means: It’s a Wonderful Life on NBC... or for my generation, 24-hours of A Christmas Story on TNT, back to back to back to back.

Truth be told, the Church’s liturgical year satisfies this human need for repetition, too. We space it out a little better than the secular media, but every three years we cycle through the now familiar Gospel readings on Sunday. And probably the most beloved story, the Birth of Christ, gets repeated every year. Who doesn’t love to hear about the humble Jewish girl and her noble husband, the baby who will grow up to save the world, the villainous Herod who sought to ruin the happy ending, and the supporting cast of shepherds, and angels, and Wise Men... it’s a crowd pleaser. Whether listening at Mass or reading at home, Sacred Scripture can do wonders for the soul. We can go back as often as we want for inspiration, encouragement, consolation, and guidance. However - and here’s the warning - we mustn’t confuse the Bible with a kind of religious story time! The last words of John’s Gospel are not “And they lived happily ever after.” The Book of Revelation doesn’t wrap up with a tidy “The End.”

This is a trap we Christians can fall into with great ease. It’s the trap of thinking the story is finished, and subsequently treating the Word of God like it’s an ancient artifact for study, or a self-help book to be referred to when life throws you a curve, or a source of comfort offering hope in heaven. Certainly, we do well to study Scripture. Without doubt, the Word of God can offer guidance through troublesome times. Yes, the Gospels give us hope for eternal happiness. But it is so much more than that. It’s a story that has not ended; it’s a story that you and I don’t merely observe, but a story in which we are actors! These first days of Advent remind us that Christ is not finished with our world; his ascension wasn’t his final exit from the earthly scene. We’ve all professed it hundreds of times in the Creed: “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.” He will come again in glory. We say it; do we believe it? Do we live like it’s true? If he rent the sky and appeared in glory right now, would you be prepared to see him?

We all know Christ will return in glory at the end of time, but while we wait, what does our waiting look like? Is it a passive waiting? Like sitting at a bus stop? That’s not the

waiting the prayers of the Mass encourage today. Remember the collect prayer from the start of Mass: “Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming...” Run forth to meet your Christ: that is the whole of the Christian life – refocused and intensified in the season of Advent. We need to be heat-seeking missiles, locked onto our target with an unbreakable tenacity. Christ has revealed himself to us, otherwise we wouldn’t be here. So now that we know him, it’s time to pursue him, it’s time to follow him. And that collect tells us how: “with righteous deeds.” Your coming to Mass, that’s a righteous deed. Keep it up. Going to confession is a righteous deed. If it’s been a while, Advent is a fine time to get in the habit. Taking time to read your Bible is a righteous deed. Educating your children in the faith and instructing them in virtue are righteous deeds. Volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul’s food pantry, giving a few bucks to the homeless guy on the street corner, visiting the lonely widow a few houses up: these are all righteous deeds. In short, loving our neighbor as ourselves for the love of Christ – that’s how we run forth to meet Christ at his coming.

The story is not over. He is coming. Be ready to make a good ending.

Tommy Sullivan - Seminarian

The Reason for the Season

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is already behind us and we are beginning the Season of Advent, and so are only a handful of weeks away from Christmas. In fact, if we were to judge by the advertisements and decorations popping up everywhere, you might be excused for thinking that Christmas has already arrived.

Given how quickly the weeks have been flying by, it is all the more important that we take a moment to slow down and remember what it is that we’re doing this Advent Season. After all, Advent is just four short weeks, and busy weeks at that since we’re spending them preparing for Christmas. Preparing for Christmas is obviously important, but if we come to the end of December with our houses cleaned and decorated but our hearts still cluttered and unwelcoming to Christ, then we did not get to what was really important.

Advent is meant to be a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ into our lives and our hearts. Let us make sure we make time for prayer, for reflection, and for the Sacrament of Confession (we have two penance services, Wednesday, December 9, at St. Basil Chapel and Thursday, December 17, at St. Thomas Church, both at 7pm, to help you do that). It is also an opportunity to think of the many people for whom the wait for our savior is particularly pressing; the poor, the sick, the desperate, and the immigrant. If we can make their wait for the coming of Jesus a little bit easier or more pleasant, then we’re really using these speeding weeks before Christmas to good use.

In Christ,

Fr. Adrian

Faith Formation

Grades 1-8

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. In one week on December 8th the Year of Mercy, declared by Pope Francis, will begin. Our students have been getting a jump on learning what it means to be merciful. Last Monday, a 5th and an 8th Grade class worked together to learn about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. After a learning session, they broke off into groups to make posters. They brainstormed to come up with ideas on how to put the Works of Mercy into action. Some of their examples included donate blood (comfort the sick), put flowers on graves and send cards (bury the dead), make cards for inmates (visit the imprisoned), clean out your closet (clothe the naked), and help Habitat for Humanity (shelter the homeless). Let this be a challenge for all us to put these Works of Mercy into action.



Confirmation II

Challenge of the Week for **Confirmation II** due next class – **December 13th**

1. Ask your parents or another adult to tell you a story about the time they experienced the presence of God in their lives.
2. The Catholic Church is so organized that it is unmatched worldwide in reaching out to the poor, the sick, and those in need of disaster relief. Express your Catholic pride by posting a link on social media to a Catholic charity that interests you.
3. We are all members of the body of Christ, each made for a purpose and all of equal dignity. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you as you read 1 Corinthians 12. Which part of the “body of Christ” do you think you represent, and why?

Advent wreath

This week begins the Christian liturgical season of Advent. The word “Advent” means coming. The church reminds us through the Scriptures, songs and prayers that we are not only waiting to celebrate the Lord’s first coming at Christmas, but we are also waiting for his second coming when as St. Paul states, “every knee shall bend and every tongue shall proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord”. The Advent Wreath that is in the front of the church will be lit at each mass during Advent. This green wreath with four candles (three purple, one pink) symbolizes waiting for the Lord. In Christian symbolism the wheel or wreath stands for eternity. The purple/pink candle symbolize repentance and joy. The wreath is especially fitting during Advent with the anticipation of the coming of our Lord. You can share this ceremony with your family at home. You can make an Advent wreath and light it each day during dinner.

Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent and continuing each night, the head of the household says the following prayer which various members of his/her family light the candles. The first time the wreath is used, a parent asks God to bless the wreath in the following words. . . .

O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord amen.

Then follows the prayer which is said before the evening meal each night of the first week in Advent. The first week prayer is

O lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come that by thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Each night the first purple candle is lit by the youngest child of the household, and is left burning during the meal.

Note: We will print each week advent prayer in the bulletin.

Advent Wreath Lighting

Would you like to help us mark the weeks of Advent by having your family light the Advent candle at Mass? No matter what size your family is, or what ages your families members are, we’d love to have you participate.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

7:45 a.m. Masses are available

Call or stop by the office to sign up. 508-697-9528

St. Basil's Chapel

Sunday Masses: 10am & 5pm

email or call: rita.garufi@bridgew.edu or 508-531-1346

In Need of Christmas Assistance?

Are you or someone you know in need of support this Christmas season? Our loving community wants to help. Our assistance is available to individuals, couples, or families - regardless of age. Please call the Parish Office 509-697-9528

Youth Group

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 488

A Very Special Christmas Party

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish center

December 5, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

The knights would like to invite special needs children to our annual children's Christmas party. Held at the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish center our festivities prove a supportive environment so their children can enjoy things like visiting Santa and Mrs. Claus at their own pace, engaging in crafts with necessary assistance, and generally enjoying time with the Knights and special needs families. The party is free to all special needs families, and siblings are welcome.

Activities include: DJ with holiday music, games, crafts, gift from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and pictures with Santa for those who would enjoy them.

Space is limited and registration is required.

Please RSVP by 12/1/2015 with:

- 1) full name of all children attending
- 2) sex of each child
- 3) age of each child
- 4) any gift considerations such as developmental age of child.

Please RSVP by December 1
to Karen Sullivan @ MrsGumby56comcast.net
or call (508) 697-1527

Rollerskating

Tues. Nov. 10



LaSalette

Friday Dec. 4th (grade 6-12)

Please visit our Youth Group page on the St Thomas website (under Ministries) for more details, and to sign up <http://stthomasaquinas.com/81>

Christmas in the City

Sat. and Sun. Dec. 19 and 20

Community service opportunity for grades 6-12. Stay tuned for more details.

"NOT MY KID"

Bridgewater Raynham High School is sponsoring an evening for parents or any interested adults to learn more about the drug and opiod crisis that affects both children and adults. On December 1 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. there will be a interactive mock display of a teenager's bedroom for parents to explore the potential risky behavior. They will share tips for connecting with your teen, what's hidden in plain sight, differences in parenting, what to look for and where to go if you suspect your child is using drugs.

At 5 p.m. a BR parent will share her personal experience about her BR kid and his addiction to marijuana and opioids.

Parish Giving Trees

The trees are up at both St Thomas and St Basil. All trees are decorated with ornaments designating with special requests for those in need.

St. Basil Chapel

These gifts will be given to Our Brother's Keeper, Easton to be distributed to needy families in the area. Each ornament will describe a child or adult who would not have a Christmas present without our help. My Brother's Keeper tries to supply each child with three presents and each adult with one. If you choose a tag with a child's name, you may buy one or more presents.

Please return the gift on or before

Sun. Dec. 6th, 10 a.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

These gifts will be given directly to Bridgewater families in need of our support.

Please return the gift (unwrapped) to the trees on or before

Sat. Dec. 12th, 10 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE

The St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club
Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Meadowbrook Restaurant, Hanson

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Most of our ministries have received the number of volunteers needed however there is a need for additional volunteers in the following ministries.

Eucharistic Ministers

Help is needed at every Mass. Volunteers ordinarily serve 1-2 times per month.

Ushers/Greeters

Help is particularly needed at the following Masses. Saturday 4 p.m. and Sunday at 10, 12 (noon) and 5 p.m.

Altar Guild

Help is needed to assist cleaning the Church on Friday mornings

Music Ministry

Cantors are especially needed (different masses)

St. Matthew Ministry

Help is needed counting the weekend collections on Monday morning (once a month)

Altar Servers

We always appreciate more volunteers to help serve the Sunday Masses

Music Director

We are still in the process of searching for a Music Director. The job posting is on BostonCatholic.org and Catholic-Jobs.com. I am indebted to the members of our parish search committee for their willingness and their patience in reviewing and interviewing prospective candidates. It's a slow process but one that is critical in order to identify the right person for this position. Please pray for us.

Job Openings – Maintenance

We are still accepting applications for two 10 - 15 hour/wk maintenance positions.

Monday -Tuesday Day shift

Wednesday - Friday Day shift

Job Descriptions and applications are available on our website at www.stthomasaquinas.com or at the Parish Office during regular office hours.

Virtus Training

Protecting God's Children Training will take place Sunday, Dec. 6 at 12:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish (Middleborough) 508-947-0444 This 3hr training is required for both staff and volunteers who have not previously attended.

Following the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass

December 6th

Coffee & Donuts

returning next week

at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center

Financial Blessings

You are generous gifts to the offertory last weekend came to.

In Pew	\$5817
Online	\$2340
TOTAL	\$8157

In addition, your gifts to the Health and Retirement of Religious Women Collection came to \$3220.

May the Lord of all Goodness bless you Abundantly!

Bereavement support group

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in the Prohett Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral home in Bridgewater will offer a bereavement support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one. It will start in 2016 after the holidays. The purpose of the group is to provide a caring compassionate, safe, and confidential environment where people experiencing a loss can share their experiences and be nurtured in a loving and supportive community.

For more information and or to register, please contact Mark Chapman at 508-697 - 4332 or at markchapman@ccgfuneralhome.com

Celebrating the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

On this day we celebrate the fact that God, foreseeing Mary's role in the salvation of the world, gave her the grace of being born untouched by original sin so that she would be able to worthily bear the Lord Jesus and bring about the salvation of the world. The importance of her role in God's providential plan, and the fact that the Immaculate Virgin Mary is the patroness of the United States, makes December 8 a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated that day at 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Church, and at 7:00 p.m. at St Basil Chapel.

Please plan your week so that you will be able to join us for Mass on that very important day.

In Christ,

Fr Adrian

Christmas flower offering

Every Christmas the alto Guild group decorate the altar with flowers in celebration of the holiday, for all to enjoy. In the past we have offered envelopes for those who are interested in making a donation towards these flowers in memory of a loved one. It was well received, and once again we have placed envelopes at the entrances of the church and the Chapel for those of you that are interested.

“A time to be born...”

Aubry Elizabeth Enos, Dylan Creedon, Adeline Kimble,
James Soderbom, Corinne Desjardins,
Nicholas Sordillo, Declan Roberts

“A time to love...”

Carlos Ulloa and Jocelyn White
Ryan Boursiquot and Ryanne Spann
Mark Dondero and Jennifer White

“A time to die...”

Thomas Balboni, Michael LeClair, Vincent J. Stratoti,
William Wilder, Janusz Sliz, Diane L. Messaline,
Frances L. Bukin, Edith Shepard, Richard B Moore,
Joanne Mantia, Janet Marie Rey Rowbottom,
Jeffrey A. Rys

“A time to heal...”

Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini, Edward Albert, Jean Andrade, Jeffrey Bean, Baby Valerie Belcher, Olivia Bonfiglio, Jim & Jean Brennan, Caitlin Burnett, Kim (Sweetman) Carnello, Sandra Cable, Christine Cabral, Kelli Callahan, Bill Carey, Jacquie Cordaro, Matthew Costantino, Michael Costantino, Baby Mychal Joseph Cotone, Joanna Crabtree, Sandra Croall, Jannine Dawicki, Mary DeLeon, Mark Denault, Marty Dickerman, John Freeney, Joseph Kelly, James LaFranchise, Rylee Fontes, Lee Fuller, Jesus Galindo, Ben Gallo, Jim Geraghty, Alanna Gillis, Beverly Guiffre, Jack Hennessy, Fred Laham, Daniel John, Gregg Laskoski, Kevin Looney, Alanna Gillis, Beverley Guiffre, Tim Johnson, Beverly Jufree, Bob Mackey, Taylor McLean, Kaleena McHardy, Stephen McNally, Marjorie Mello, Baby Chase Miceli, Charles Monestere, Alice Moniz, Arlene Morin, Bob Morris, Bob Morse, Anna Nakouzi, Antonio & Lucilia Nunes, Paul D'Olimpia, Glenn O'Neil, Ann Paulino, Carolyn Perry, Richard Piantoni, Dorothy Pope, Maria Presti, Andrea Proffetty, Rich Quigley, Matthew Ryan, Dan Sante, Paul Segreve, Sarah Silvia, Deana Spingel, Kim Sullivan, John Swan, Betty Tarentino, James Toy Jr., Anna Vrana, Don Weiner, Margaret Yanuskiewicz, Mary (Sweetman) Zunino, Alexis Zutaut

“A time for peace...”

General Joseph F. Dunford, USMC
CW4 Thomas Ahl, USA
Captain Vincent Chiappini, USA
1st LT. Karen Chouinard Holliday, USMC
Captain John Costantino & USA
PFC, William Vey, USA
CPL Brandon Jamieson, USA
Army PV2 Harry Terpeny
PFC, Christopher Ahl, USA
CPL Kelly O'Leary

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 28

4:00 p.m. Luigi & Luisa Resmini

Sunday, November 29

7:45 a.m. Gilbert Luiz & Adele & Gene Matevia

10:00 a.m. Mass for the People

St Basil -10:00 a.m June Keough

12:00 p.m. Bobby Bynarowicz, Jr.

Wednesday, December 2

7:00 a.m. Bobby Bynarowicz

Thursday, December 3

9:00 a.m. Ashley Donahue

Saturday, December 5

4:00 p.m. Germaine Lanzikos

Sunday, December 6

7:45 a.m. Jack W. Voyer

10:00 a.m. Ashley Donahue

St Basil -10:00 a.m Francisco and John Vicente

12:00 p.m. Gerald Manning & Joseph Manning

St Basil -5:00 p.m. Alvin Arsenault

Sacraments

Confessions: Every Saturday 3:00 p.m.- 3:45p.m. in the lower church or by appointment.

Baptisms: Ordinarily celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm. Please call the Rectory to speak with a priest prior to making any arrangements. Parents are welcome to attend classes during the pregnancy if it is more convenient.

Marriage: Please call the Rectory at least eight months in advance. Attendance at the Marriage Preparation Course is required.

Anointing of the Sick: If you wish to receive the sacraments at home or in the hospital due to illness, handicap or age, please contact the Rectory.

Weekly Devotions

We encourage all parishioners to spend some quiet time with the Lord

ADORATION

Saturdays 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

Thursdays 3:00 pm

St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church

Baptism Preparation Class

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Center
7:00 PM MONDAY, DECEMBER 7