

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

January 31, 2016



*He said to them, "Today this
scripture passage is
fulfilled in your hearing."*

Luke 4:21 (NAB)

MASS SCHEDULE

St Thomas Aquinas

Monday - Friday | 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.

Saturday | 9:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m.

Sunday | 7:45, 10:00, a.m., 12:00 p.m.

St Basil

Sunday | 10:00, a.m., 5:00 p.m.

PARISH CONTACTS

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Office

Mailing Address

103 Center St. Bridgewater, Ma 02324

Hours | Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Main Office | 508 697 9528

Rel. Ed. Office | 508 697 3652

Fax | 508 279 1859

E-mail | stthomasaquinas@comcast.net

Website | www.stthomasaquinas.com

Parish Staff

Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor

Rev. Adrian Milik, Parochial Vicar

Sr. Deacon Jerry Ryan

Debbie Hill, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Karen Garaghty, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Rob Ruth, Administrative Assistant

St Basil, The Catholic Center

Office & Mailing Address

122 Park Ave. Bridgewater, Ma 02324

Hours | Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Phone | 508 531 1346

Fax | 508 531 6188

Chapel Staff

Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor

Rev. Adrian Milik, Campus Chaplain

Marlene DeLeon, Campus Minister

Phone | 508 531 1412

marlene.deleon@bridgew.edu

Rita Garufi, Administrative Assistant

rita.garufi@bridgew.edu



Fri, Jan 22nd, 2016 - PAINT NIGHT - St Thomas Aquinas Parish Center

Growth in Stewardship



We wish to thank those of you who have returned your **Intent Forms** so promptly. As of January 26, we have already received thirty three Intent Forms. Please return your Intent Form to the parish by February 13th and 14th, which is **Commitment Weekend** at St. Thomas.

If you have not already signed up for online giving, we encourage you to do so. It's fast, easy and convenient.

Please visit www.st-thomasaquinas.weshareonline.org to enroll.

On Love

Love is patient, love is kind.
It is not jealous, it is not pompous,
It is not inflated, it is not rude,
it does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered,
it does not brood over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
but rejoices with the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never fails.

Love continues even when those feelings of infatuation are nowhere to be found. It is possible, and in fact essential, to continue to love even in the midst of ordinary life. Furthermore, it is important to continue to love even when the one you love frustrates you with their stubbornness, is arguing with you despite the fact that you're clearly right, has done something stupid or hurtful, or is simply cranky and snot-covered because of the flu. Those are not the moments that anybody is thinking about on the day of the wedding, but those days are just as much a part of the vows as any other.

We can love on those more challenging days because of the nature of love. Love is a choice, the decision to want what is good for the one we love and to be willing to do what we can to make that good happen. St. Paul does a great job of explaining what that means in practice. It means being patient despite the person's imperfections, not focusing on the ways that they annoy or hurt us but rather rejoicing in the good parts of their personality, and seeking ways to help them improve their weaknesses rather than using those negative traits to beat them down. It means being kind, kinder than they deserve, being nice even when we're tempted to lash out in anger or hurt. Love means putting the other person first, trying to see what we can do for them rather than attempting to get something from them for ourselves. It means rejoicing in their successes, rather than competing against them. Lastly, love means continuing to choose to love the person despite the challenges of distance, of their failures, of our circumstances, or of our feelings.

Such love is difficult, but that is why we find it worth celebrating each February, and as difficult as it is that is what God calls each and every one of us to live out. The more we accept his grace and his help, the more we will be able to do it. After all, any spouse, parent, or sibling can tell you that true unconditional love is hard, but they can also tell you that there is nothing as beautiful or valuable in all the world. With God's grace, that amazing treasure can be ours. After all the Lord can do all things because he is love and love never fails.

In Christ,

Fr. Adrian

Welcome

To visitors of our Parish, and to those who have recently moved into the area, and to those comfortable and nourished here - Welcome.

Regardless of your status in the Church, marital state, your ethnicity, your prior religious experience, your personal history, background, or sexual orientation, we hope that you will continue to worship with us each week.

Our second reading this weekend is the well-known fragment of St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians in which the saint writes about the importance and beauty of love. It is nice to have this reading now, just two weeks before Valentine's Day, because it reminds us what we are really celebrating.

It is easy to start to think of love in Hollywood terms, as some powerful force crashing into somebody from the outside with irresistible force. Making them light on their feet, filling them with joy, and making them obsessed with the subject of their devotion. I think anybody who has ever fallen in love has had such an experience, but I also think that everybody who has loved also knows that this type of feeling is not the reality of every day in a loving relationship.

COLLECTION FOR *Flowers*

Christmas 2015

In Memory and Honor of

The O'Hare Family, Antonio and Libania Sousa, Manuel and Angelina Coelho, Laura and Charlie Landers, Zeole Bicardini and Family, Gladys M. Freeman and L. David Freeman, Debbie Pincolini Baroni, Paula Balboni, Arthur Ramalho, Francis J. Dowling, George and Kathleen Noonan, Branden Heath, John Wojcechowski, Alice, Norrine, Lenny and Donald Heath, Anne and James Hynes, Brother Kenneally, LuAnna Kenneally, Ellen, Michael and Thomas Connolly, William J. Bernache, Victor A. O'Leary, The Couming and Symes Families, Amichetti and Marchionda Families, Ernest Procaccini, James Procaccini, Procaccini Family, Leggett Family, Hallisey and Colombo Families, The Wilson Family, Dunne Family, Mary and Joseph Galvani, Aleksandra Anderson, George A. Cassen, George H. Cassen, Chiappini Family, Martin E. Connelly, Anna Fabin, Bernice Travers Donnelly, George Travers, Sr., George Travers, Jr., Ethel and Francis R. Kelley, Sarro and Lepine Families, Martin Conley, George Baboican, Demoura and Chaves Families, Amaral and Kelly Families, Bea Acconcin, Zonfrelli, Hayward and Walsh Families, Joyce and Fitzgibbon Families, The Constantin and Phillip Families, The Melagrano Family, The Carbone Family, The Maffei Family, Margaret Crawford, The Proffetty and Ticchi Families, Donna Lanzikos, Jaclyn E. Moore, The Croall Family, Luiz, Carroll and Ouellette Families, Richard Sergi, Patrick Keeley, Sr., Patrick Keeley, Jr., Alfred and Irene Bousquet, Sgarbi and O'Donnell Families, Loau and Rosa Pimentel, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Soares, Maria Soares, Agostinho de Freitas, L. David Freeman, John and Mary Saba, Elena Ferrari, Ashley Donahue, The Lemieux and Grondin Families, Wilfred and Dora Bois, Terri and Wayne Parris, John Anderson, Paula Querzoli Smith, Edwards, Hutchins and Santos Families, Beth Edwards, Querzoli Family, Antonio and Lucilia Nunes, Marzeane and James Comita

Scout Sunday Mass

Sunday February 7th. The annual Scout Sunday Mass will take place at **St. Basil's Chapel** during the **10 a.m. Mass**. All present and past Scouts are invited to attend, present Scouts should be in uniform. Scouts will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level of the chapel. We encourage Girl Scouts (Daisies through Ambassadors) to participate directly this year. Please park behind the Kelly Gymnasium in the BSU parking lot. The Religious Emblems program is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #488. Units are encouraged to bring their Pack/Troop flag & stand.

If you are a Girl Scout/Brownie/Daisy parent/leader please contact Kate Anderson at cnjanderson@comcast.net, or at (508-353-9780).

Financial Blessings

Offertory: In-pew Giving for last week

Weekly Collection: Parish Operating Expenditures
\$4,430

2nd Collection: Catholic Elementary Education
\$1,464

Thank you for your generosity.



Ash Wednesday February 10th

Incredible as it may seem, Lent is right around the corner. In just over a week, on February 10th, we begin this important season with Ash Wednesday, a day when we remind ourselves that all the things of this world are only temporary, and that we must focus on the things that last forever. The outward sign of this is the tradition of having ashes placed upon our foreheads, an external sign that reflects our interior decision to embrace penance and sacrifice over the forty days of Lent. To help us remember what we are starting, Ash Wednesday is also a day when we are called to avoid all meat and to fast, limit the amount of food that we eat to just one normal meal and two smaller meals.

Ashes will be given out at the following Masses for all those who would like to receive them for the beginning of Lent:

St. Thomas Aquinas Church – 7 AM, 9 AM, 7 PM

St. Basil Chapel – 7 PM

In Christ,

Fr. Adrian



Faith Formation

Grades 1-8

February 9

First Communion parent meeting

7:00 PM, Parish Center gym.

This is a mandatory meeting for all parents of 2nd Grade students. See below for dates/times.

February 28

3rd Grade Level Liturgy

If your child would like to participate as a reader, greeter, or gift bearer please let us know.

March 5 & 12

First Penance is right around the corner. Parents are reminded to practice prayers with their children. The breakdown of dates and classes:

Saturday, March 5

10:30 AM Mrs. Lynch & Mrs. Rose

12:00 PM Mrs. Cleary/Mrs. Nunes & Mrs. Lambert/Mrs. Lunetta

Saturday, March 12

10:30 AM - Mrs. Lunsford & Mrs. Mikelus

12:00 PM - Mrs. Thornhill/Mrs. McAuliffe, Mrs. Sotera

Confirmation I & II

February 6 & 7, January 31 - February 10

Souper Bowl of Caring events - Since 1990, the Souper Bowl of Caring has been using the Super Bowl as a springboard to inspire youth to fight hunger and poverty. 18 Confirmation students met last Sunday to plan how they will tackle hunger. On the weekend of February 6 & 7, they will be holding pots after Mass to collect monetary donations. 100% of these donations will be divided between our parish's St. Vincent de Paul food pantry and Fr. Bill's & MainSpring, an organization dedicated to ending homelessness. A food drive will be held in the parish center during the weeks of January 31-February 10. Students are invited to contribute items listed below. These are items that are not often provided by the Greater Boston Food Bank. Thank you for supporting these students who are practicing their Works of Mercy!

Grade 1— Canned Fruit or Baked Beans

Grade 2—Hot Cocoa

Grade 3—Dish Soap

Grade 4—Canned Soup

Grade 5—Toothbrushes or Toothpaste

Grade 6—Tissues or Paper Towels

Grade 7—Salad Dressing or Mayonnaise

Grade 8—Bar Soap or Body Wash

Grade 9—Ketchup or Mustard

Grade 10—Deodorant

Parents and parishioners are invited practice the Corporal Works of Feeding the Hungry and Sheltering the Homeless by initiating their own Souper Bowl of Caring event at work. For ideas and guidelines visit: www.souperbowl.org. Let us know how you do.

January 31

Confirmation I meets.

Students should have completed the Challenge of the Week for Lesson 7. Check your email for the list.

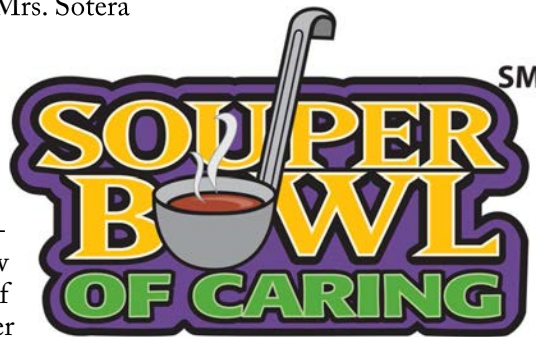
February 7

Confirmation II meets

10:00 – 11:30 NOTE TIME CHANGE.

Students are working on the Challenge of the Week listed below.

1. Do an online search for "Catholic teen saints," and read up on some of our youngest heroes. Come prepared to talk about this saint at the next class.
2. Memorize this "Holy Spirit Prayer – Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth."
3. Prepare a meal for someone you love, while meditating on the Holy Spirit's power to sustain each human life.



SM

Super Bowl Sunday is a day where our nation turns its attention to a football game. Millions are spent on advertising. Publicity is huge. Fans gather to tailgate and hold parties. **After our Masses on February 7th, our Confirmation students will be holding soup pots to collect**

money for the hungry. This money will go to support Fr. Bill's and Mainspring House in Brockton. Students interested in participating should contact the Religious Education office at **(508) 697-3652**. Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of people in our wider community!

The Souper Bowl of Caring Mission Statement: To use the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need.

Youth Group

Providence Bruins Game

Friday, February 12, 7:05 vs Hershey, \$20 per ticket.

Contact Vicki Scopa by January 29th to reserve your tickets: vscopa@flexconind.com or call 781-607-2611. Transportation not provided.

For more information and to sign up, visit Youth Group page under ministries on stthomasquinas.com

More fun is coming!

More information will be available as these events get closer...

- Open gym Tues. Feb. 16 - during February vacation
- High school ski/tubing trip - Nashoba Valley, MA - Fri. March 4, Cardboard City - Spring, 2016

Prophet to the Nations

By Dr. Scott Hahn

Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19

Psalm 71: 1-6,15-17

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Luke 4:21-30

God's words in today's First Reading point us beyond Jeremiah to Jesus. Like Jeremiah, Jesus was consecrated in the womb and sent as a "prophet to the nations" (see Luke 1:31-33).

Like the prophets before Him, Jesus too faces hostility. In today's Gospel, the crowd in His hometown synagogue quickly turns on Him, apparently demanding a sign, some proof of divine origins - that He's more than just "the son of Joseph."

The sign He gives them is that of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. From their colorful careers Jesus draws two stories. In each, the prophets bypass "many...in Israel" to bestow God's blessings on non-Israelites who had faith that the prophets were men of God (see 1 Kings 17:1-16; 2 Kings 5:1-14). "None...not one" in Israel was found deserving, Jesus emphasizes.

His point isn't lost on His audience. They know He's likening them to the "many...in Israel" in the days of the prophets. That's why they try to shove Him off the cliff. As He promised to protect Jeremiah, the Lord delivers Jesus from those who would crush Him.

And as were Elijah and Elisha, Jesus is sent to proclaim God's gift of salvation - not exclusively to one nation or people, but to all who realize in faith that from the womb God alone is their hope, their rescuer, their "rock of refuge," as we sing in today's Psalm.

Prophecies, Paul tells us in today's Epistle, are partial and pass away "when the perfect comes." In Jesus, the word of the prophets has been brought to perfection, fulfilled in those who have ears to hear, as He declares in today's Gospel.

Greater than the gifts of faith and hope, Jesus shows us how to love as He loved, to love God as our Father, as One Who formed us in the womb and destined us to hear His saving Word.

This is the salvation, the "mighty works of the Lord," that we, as the Psalmist, are thankful to proclaim daily in the Eucharist.

A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
www.SalvationHistory.com

Forum "Islam & Syrian Refugees"

Sunday, February 7, 11:30 AM

First Parish UU Church, 50 School Street

Was rescheduled due to last weekend's snow storm

Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels is a program that delivers hot meals to home-bound residents in Bridgewater. This program is in need of volunteer drivers who would be willing to deliver meals to those who need them but are unable to shop or leave their homes. The hours are flexible and adjusted according to your availability. If you would like to offer a few hours a week or month please contact **Stephani Godfrey, Bridgewater Senior Center at 508-697-0929.**

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Fr. Joe Raeke and Deacon Jim Greer, **April 3-12, 2016** \$2095 per person includes: Transatlantic flight from Boston ;all taxes, fees and surcharges included. Transfers to and from Medjugorje by modern coach accompanied by guide; 8 Nights accommodation at the beautiful Wojtyla Hotel (next to St. James church) Breakfast and dinner daily, wine served with dinner; Marian Pilgrimages spiritual program for the week; English speaking Catholic guide; Visit with visionaries if available. For more information, please call Mary Henry at Marian Pilgrimages 781-331-2444, mary@marianusa.com www.marianusa.com Blessings, Kathy Kelley 508-587-5512

Project Rachel

During the Year of Mercy, Project Rachel extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of abortion to experience God's Mercy at a one-day retreat for hope and healing. Retreats will held at confidential locations on Saturday February 20, March 19 and June 4. Referrals for sacramental reconciliation to specially trained priests are also available throughout the year. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

Jesus In Boston Young Adult Event

All Young Adults and College Students are invited to join us on **Friday, February 5th @ 7:30pm** for our monthly "Jesus in Boston" event. This month, we will be at St. Leonard's in the North End. It's a great way to meet new people and strengthen your interior life through the sacraments and fellowship with other Catholic young adults. For more information please email Mike Drahos at MDrahos@rcab.org.

Baptism Preparation Class

Will be held

7:00 PM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 30

4:00 p.m. Sister Margaret Marconcini

Sunday, January 31

7:45 a.m. Josie and Maria Almada

10:00 a.m. Joseph and Laura Mondeau and Family

Monday, February 1

7:00 a.m. Sandra Croall

Sunday, February 7

7:45 a.m. Manuel and Maria Dos Anjos Melo

12:00 p.m. Margaret Bozzard

Sacraments

Confession

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

Baptism

Ordinarily celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm. Please call the parish office 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 parish office 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

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

Wednesdays 7:00 pm

St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church

"A time to be born..."

Lucas John Sullivan, Vincent Robert Mikelus,
Peter Leo Flynn, Norah Jean Hill,
Giavanna Lydon

"A time to love..."

Mark Dondero and Jennifer White
Richard Hinds Jr. and Ashley Ruskiewicz
Cory Brien and Courtney Brennan

"A time to die..."

Gail Poirier, Margaret Carpenter, Paul Sellstone,
Eleanor Taylor, Frank J. Hilferty, James Toy, Anne A.
Norkawski, David Flynn, Anastasios Natsis, Mary C.
Clark, Henry J. Gingras, Robert A Kelleher

"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, Teresa Capachione, Bill Carey, Jacque
Cordaro, Matthew Costantino, Michael Costantino,
Baby Mychal Joseph Cotone, Joanna Crabtree, Jannine
Dawicki, Mary DeLeon, Roger Denault, Marty
Dickerman, Bob Emord, Joseph Kelly, James LaFran-
chise, Rylee Fontes, Lee Fuller, Jesus Galindo, Ben
Gallo, Jim Geraghty, Alanna Gillis, Beverly Guiffre,
Jack Hennessy, Fred Laham, Daniel John, Kevin
Looney, Alanna Gillis, Beverley Guiffre, Tim Johnson,
Beverly Jufree, Bob Mackey, Taylor McLean, Kaleena
McHardy, Stephen McNally, Marjorie Mello, Baby
Chase Miceli, Lauren Minchella, 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,
Elaine Phaneuf, 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
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