

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

APRIL 16, 2017

Alleluia!

*Easter Sunday
of the
Resurrection
of the Lord*



EASTER MORE THAN A DAY

Today Christians throughout the world celebrate Jesus' Resurrection, THE event that demonstrates that Jesus is Lord and gives hope that the Risen Lord is with us now and forever. Following the crucifixion Jesus' disciples came to his tomb on the first day of the week and they saw that it was empty. Initially they were confused. Did someone steal his body? They would soon discover that Jesus had risen from the dead and had, in fact, appeared to some of his disciples. Their sadness was soon to be replaced with joy, their confusion was replaced with understanding, and faith now replaced any doubts they may have had about Jesus. Jesus is truly the Son of God and just as significantly we are his disciples!

Although many Christians focus on this one day, Easter Sunday, the church extends the Easter celebration for 50 days. Easter is too great an event to restrict to one day. For the next seven weeks through scripture readings read at mass will recall many of Jesus' post resurrection appearances. We will see how the early disciple's faith became strong and how determined they were to convince others that Jesus is Lord.

The faith that brings so many to church today has been passed on to us from those early disciples. We now are invited to be just as excited, committed, determined, and joyful as they were as we live our Christian faith every day. Now it's our turn to pass on, to witness, to evangelize and to live lives filled with the Holy Spirit.

Easter is much more than a day. It should give meaning to our life. No matter how many crosses we bear, deaths we die, or challenges we face, Jesus Christ is with us. The Risen Lord asks us to surrender to him with the understanding that he is with us and will give us whatever we need to turn from sin, to trust him and to receive the strength and guidance we need.

The word "alleluia" which is proclaimed throughout the year, especially during Easter, comes from the Hebrew word meaning "Praise God."

Look around the church at those who surround you. They remind us that we are not alone, we are a community of believers who by our presence at Mass strengthens our faith and the bond we have with each other. Yes, Easter is much more than a day! It's the reason we are Christian. We live Easter today and everyday throughout the year. Alleluia!!!!!!

EASTER THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who made this past Holy Week and Easter celebrations so meaningful. I would like to thank the staff that give so much of their time throughout the year but especially during this time of year. I would like to thank our musicians and cantors who, in the absence of a music director, worked together to provide music at all of our services and Masses. I would like to thank those who

cleaned and decorated the church and chapel as well as our lectors, ushers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. I would like thank you, our parishioners, for your presence, your faith, your encouragement and your generosity of time, talent and treasure today and throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank and welcome those who are not ordinarily at Sunday Mass but have joined us today. Your presence with us today strengthens and enhances our worship of the Lord.

Fr. Bill

DYNAMIC EASTER GIFT TO YOU

Is the Catholic Church relevant? It's a tough time to be Catholic because so many fellow Catholics who are our friends, family and neighbors have stopped going to church! Some see little relevance in the Catholic Church, some have been disappointed or offended by a priest's behavior, some see no need to go to church, some have just stopped believing and others put any/all activities before the practice of their faith. Everybody has their reasons "what's wrong with the church." We are also influenced by anti-Catholic media which leads us to believe that the church is irrelevant and its teachings antiquated. Sadly many Catholics hesitate to acknowledge that they are Catholic or that they do go to church.

If you can identify with any of these opinions then you will definitely want to listen to Matthew Kelly's CD "The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality". Matthew Kelly, a passionate, dynamic, humorous, entertaining speaker acknowledges that we need "to become the best possible version of ourselves" and the Church can help us.

We invite you to take and listen to this CD while at home, driving or during work break. If you are moved by the messages you hear after listening to this CD, we encourage you to pass it onto others. How many people outside of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish need to hear this message?

CONGRATULATIONS

It is with Easter joy that our parish would like to congratulate Lauren Marie Boyden, Christopher James Eastman, Scott J. Hyman, Erica Lynn Mastriani, Thomas Joseph Robado, & Jamie Kelly Soderbom, & Tyler Aube who were Baptized and/or Confirmed into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. These six adults and one child have freely and consciously made the decision, after a year's discernment and preparation, to follow Jesus Christ in through the Catholic Church. In a day and age when our faith is being challenged or taken for granted, its inspiring to see these individuals step up and profess their faith and love for the Lord and His Church.

We would like to thank Fr. Tom Olson and his RCIA team of adults who met with and mentored these men and women over the past eight months.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

All are invited to our parish celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on **April 23rd at 2:30-3:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Parish, 225 Purchase Street, in Easton.** The service will include Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and praying the Chaplet (Rosary) of Divine Mercy. For those not familiar with the Chaplet, instructions will be given on how to pray it. Rosary beads will be provided for those who do not bring their own.

Divine Mercy Sunday is based upon the revelations made by the Lord to St. Faustina Kowalska, a young Polish nun who saw a vision of Jesus with rays of mercy streaming from his heart, with the invitation for people to pray, "Jesus, I trust in You!" Jesus' message was that his mercy is unlimited and available to all. Pope St. John Paul II instituted the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on the Second Sunday of Easter

PARISH REGISTRATION

Being registered in the parish helps us to have a better understanding of our demographics for planning purposes as well as increasing our ability to reach out with information to make you better aware of what we are doing and hope to do. Please...we ask you to register on line or pick up a form at the entrances of the church/chapel, complete it and return it to the parish office or collection next week.

VISITATION

If you know of anyone who is in a nearby medical care facility or confined to their home and would like to receive Holy Communion or the Anointing of the Sick we ask you to please contact the Parish Office so that arrangements can be made to visit and pray with them.

WOMEN'S CLUB EVENTS

• GUEST SPEAKER Wednesday, April 19th

The St Thomas Aquinas Women's Club will host their next event on Wednesday, April 19 at 6:30 PM in the lower church function hall. The guest speaker will be Rev. Tom Olson, our Parochial Vicar. Desserts and coffee will be served. All women of the Parish are invited.

• SPRING RUMMAGE SALE Saturday, April 23rd

The St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Clubs collecting donated items at the parish center. Items that are dropped off may only be left inside building. For more information please call the parish office.

ACCEPTED ITEMS

clothing, shoes, jewelry, books, small furniture, domestics, and miscellaneous items.

ALL ELECTRIC ITEMS

must be in working order.

NOT ACCEPTED ITEMS

televisions, computers, computer monitors, or computer related items.

FROM DEACON WILL SEXTON

Dear Friends,

As my time at St. Thomas comes to an end, I want to thank you all for the privilege of being able to minister to each of you. It is hard to believe that two years has already come and gone so quickly. As I look back at my time at St. Thomas Parish, the memories and experiences I have had these past two years, are ones that I will carry throughout my priesthood.

As you have shared in my years of preparation for the Sacred Priesthood by your prayers, support, and friendship, I would like to invite you all to attend my Ordination to the Priesthood on Saturday, May 20 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Lowell at 10 am, and my First Holy Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, May 21, at my home parish, St. Mary of the Assumption in Dedham at 5pm.

A church is just a building. It is the people that come to worship at that church which make it a parish. You have a wonderful parish and two wonderful priests; know how blessed you are!

It has been an honor and a blessing to have received my parish formation from you, the faithful of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Please continue to pray for me both now and in the years to come, and know of my prayers for you all and the special place St. Thomas Aquinas Parish will always hold in my heart.

In the Peace and Love of Christ our Lord,

Deacon Will Sexton

SAVE THE DATES

WILL SEXTON ORDINATION

10:00 am Saturday May 20th

Church of the Immaculate Conception
144 East Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01852

FIRST MASS OF THANKSGIVING

5:00 pm Sunday, May 21st

St. Mary of the Assumption Church
420 High Street, Dedham, MA 02026

FIRST MASS OF THANKSGIVING

12:00 pm Sunday, May 28th

StThomas Aquinas Church

SAVE THE DATES

POST ABORTION SUPPORT

Are you or someone you know carrying the grief and sorrow over past abortions? Project Rachel is the confidential post-abortion ministry of the Catholic Church to help those dealing with the pain of abortion. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508-651-3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com or visit their website at www.projectrachelboston.com. Trust in the tender mercy of God!

FAMILY FIELD TRIP Saturday, April 22nd

As part of the Prophett-Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Home's "Bringing the Community Together Series", the funeral home will sponsor a trip to the Natick Museum of WWII on April 22. This museum is a research and educational institution devoted to preserving and exhibiting the reality of WWII. It's the most comprehensive collection of documents and artifacts on display anywhere in the world, with over 7000 artifacts on display; more than 500,000 documents and photographs are in the research archives. Through the display, the Museum uniquely shows the human story that was interwoven with the military and political events. The bus will leave St. Thomas Parking lot at 8:30 and return by 2pm. All are welcome. Children under 16 must be with an adult. Transportation and museum admission will be paid by Prophett-Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Home. Seating is limited so pre-registering is mandatory. Please email markchapman@ccgfuneral-home.com or call 508-697-4332 by April 15th if you would like to join our parish family.

RESTROOM USE

Unfortunately the rest rooms in the church and chapel require those using them to walk through the church and chapel in order to access them. Walking through the church/chapel can and often is a distraction to those who are praying. While the rest rooms are there to be used when needed, a number of times it appears that some use it to take a break or just to leave Mass. We encourage parents to have their children use the rest room before or after mass....if possible. If using them, please teach the children not to run down the aisle when returning to the Mass

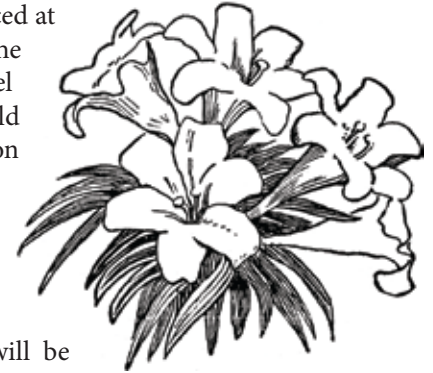
OUR CEMETERY SPRING CLEANING

Spring has arrived, and we are preparing our clean-up of the cemeteries from a harsh winter. Over the next few weeks we will be gearing up our spring cleaning in the cemeteries. This will include removing dead or dislodged plants and planters, broken and old decorations (Christmas, Valentine's, etc), and also removing any broken stones, bricks or other damaged markers that need to be removed.

We want to remind everyone that we will start mowing the cemeteries as growth determines, so we ask that you please follow our cemetery guidelines for plants, flowers and decorations, which are posted at all cemetery entrances, as well as on our website, stthomasquinas.com, under the cemeteries button right at the top. We need to be able to move quickly around the cemeteries to keep them clean, and excessive decorations and plantings slow the process dramatically, and also can be damaged when we are weed whacking or mowing, even though we try our best to avoid them. Keeping within our cemetery guidelines makes it easier for us to maintain a beautiful cemetery, and we want to thank you for your help!

Easter Flower Offering

Offering envelopes for Easter flowers have been placed at the entrances of the church and the chapel for anyone who would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one and assist with the cost of Easter flowers. All envelopes with the names of your loved ones will be placed near the tabernacle as a reminder to all of us to remember them in prayer.

**PRAYER LIST****"A time to be born..."**

Brayden Robert LaCombe, Cody Adam Mateus, Rory Sharon Benner, Lucilla Rose DeStefano, Harper Pearl Szeto, Joshua Mason Parmenter, Benjamin Andrew Redfearn, Savanna Marissa Nelson

"A time to die..."

Eleanor Sullivan, Minnie Fernandes, Sally Hunt, Ann Coakley

"A time to heal..."

Carolyn J. Allen, Barbara Ahl, Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini, Edward Albert, Jean Andrade, Christopher Barbosa, Jeffrey Bean, Loretta Beaulieu, Jim & Jean Brennan, Michael Botelho, Kim Sweetman Carnello, Sandra Cable, Teresa Capachione, Mychal Joseph Cotone, Jacquie Cordaro, Matthew Costantino, Michael Costantino, John Conley, Joanna Crabtree, Michael Crowley, Jannine Dawicki, Maria I. DeAndrade, Mary DeLeon, Marty Dickerman, Andrea Fitzgerald, Lee Fuller, Jesus Galindo, Beverly Giuffre, Dr. Francis Gendreau, Jessica Kamaniski, Carol Kelley, Tim Johnson, Daniel John, Ava King, Jessica King, Debbie Kulick, Fred Laham, James LaFranchise, Howard Larsen, Kevin Looney, Bob Mackey, Beverly Mitchell, Mary McClay, Taylor McLean, Chase Miceli, Kaleena McHardy, Marjorie Mello, Charles Monestere, Jerry Muller, Anna Nakouzi, Lloyd Nelson, Antonio Nunes, Tom O'Donnell, Bob O'Hare, Mary Edwards O'Keefe, Glenn O'Neil, Kevin O'Neill, Ann Paulino, Carolyn Perry, Dorothy Pope, Josephine Trocchi Picone, Elaine Phaneuf, Paul Phaneuf, Maria Presti, Andrea Proffetty, Rich Quigley, Camden Rivers, Ginny Rothwell, Matthew Ryan, Dan Sante, Paul Segreve, Sarah Silvia, Deana Spingel, Linda Sullivan, Kim Sullivan, Donna Sullivan, Betty Tarentino, Jennifer Tosches, Patrice Tuffo, James Toy Jr., Susan VonMagnus, Anna Vrana, Don Weiner, Peggy Yanuskiewicz, Mary (Sweetman) Zunino, Alexis, Jason & Nicole Zutaut

"A time for peace..."

General Joseph F. Dunford, USMC
1st LT. Karen Chouinard Holliday, USMC
2nd LT. Jeffrey Boyle, USMC
CPT Vincent Chiappini, USA
CPT, John Costantino, USA
SGT, Brandon Jamieson, USA
PFC, Christopher Ahl, USA
CPL, Kelly O'Leary, USA
PFC, Peter O'Leary, USA
PVT, D.J. Jamieson, USA

19TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT Friday, May 5th

Believe it or not, golf season is almost upon us. The Nineteenth Annual St. Thomas Aquinas Charity Golf Tournament will be held May 5, 2017. Over the years, the total amount raised from the annual golf tournament is approximately \$270,000. With your continuing generosity and participation, we look forward to another successful tournament this year.

The entry fee for this year's tournament is \$125.00 per person or \$500.00 per team. To sponsor a hole, the contribution is \$125.00. There will be a buffet, raffles and an auction immediately following the golf. If you wish to only attend the buffet, the cost is \$30.00 per person. Donations for new raffle or auction items are appreciated.

For more details, you may contact Tom (508-889-2933), Steve (508-944-4272) or Mike (508-326-6355) Arrighi. In the past, the tournament has filled quickly, so we look forward to hearing from you.

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER Thursday, April 20th**

Looking for meatball/sauce makers. There is one spaghetti supper left for the remainder of the school year which will take place at the Catholic Center, Thursday, April 20. For more information, call Rita at 508-531-1346.

5:00 PM LAST MASS AT ST BASIL Sunday, April 30th

April 30th will be the last 5:00 p.m. Mass before the BSU Summer Break. 5:00 p.m. Mass will resume in the Fall.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE August 10 - 21st, 2017

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917 a Pilgrimage to Fatima will be held from August 10- 21st, 2017. Cost is \$1,949.00 per person. For information contact Becky at 978-505-0126 (World Apostolate of Fatima Chairperson) or register with Crystal Travel and Tours at 888-327-2862. Flyers are available at entrances of church and chapel.

GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS

If you or anyone you know has Celiac Disease and would like to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of the priests or contact the rectory. We are in the process of obtaining 99.99% gluten-free hosts. We suggest you check with your physician for prior approval before consumption. Upon request, we can list the specific ingredients. We will also explain to you a special procedure for receiving the gluten-free host during Holy Communion.

CLERGY HEALTH & RETIREMENT TRUST

The 601 diocesan priests in our Archdiocese are always there for us, sharing Christ's good news, performing good works, and building strong communities of good faith. Remember priests such as Fr. Bill Devine & Fr. Tom Olson who have made a meaningful difference in your life, and consider honoring him/them with a generous gift to today's/tonight's collection. If you'd rather, you can use your mobile phone to give at any time by texting the word PRIEST to 56512 (data and msg. rates may apply). Also, remember to find and follow the Trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust." Thank you for your prayers and generous support of our priests.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
Parish Weekly Operating Costs for: 4/3 - 4/10	\$12,238	\$328	\$12,566
Summary of Collections for: 4/3 - 4/10			
Weekly Collection			
Total	\$6,426	\$1,350	\$7,776
Online Giving			
WeShare	\$2,054	\$0	\$2,054
Parish Pay	\$675	-	\$675
Total	\$2,729	\$660	\$3,389
Grand Total	\$2,899	\$615	\$3,514
Special Collection			
Capital Improvement	\$2,899	\$615	\$3,514

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS**Saturday, April 15**

4:00 p.m. Samuel & Carmela Corrente

Sunday, April 167:45 a.m. Ernesto Pacheco & Ines Carreiro
& the Holy Souls in purgatory

10:00 a.m. Mass for the People

12:00 p.m. Angelina Pimentel

Saturday, April 22

4:00 p.m. Guido Rea

Sunday, April 23

7:45 a.m. Mass for the People

10:00 a.m. Dante & Chiarina Folloni

10:00 a.m. *St Basil* Elsie and Benny Scalise

12:00 p.m. Rene T. Cabrer

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord

• **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Every Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church• **IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

1st Saturday of the month 10:00 a.m.

St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church• **DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR**

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

SACRAMENTS• **CONFESSION**Saturday 3:00 p.m. - 3:45p.m. & Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00 p.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.

Baptism Preparation Class**Monday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m.**

in the St Thomas Aquinas parish center

• **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 or in the hospital due to illness, handicap or age, please contact the parish office.

PARISH INFORMATION**CLERGY**

Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor

Rev. Tom Olson, Parochial Vicar

Sr. Deacon Jerry Ryan

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

103 Center St. Bridgewater, MA 02324

Hours | Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Peter Vitagliano, Business Manager

Rob Ruth, Administrative Assistant

E-mail | stthomasaquinas@comcast.net

Phone | 508 697 9528

Fax | 508 279 1859

WEBSITE

www.stthomasaquinas.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE STAFF

Phone | 508 697 3652

Debbie Hill, Cord. of Religious Ed.

Marie Masaitis, Cord. of Religious Ed.

ST BASIL, THE CATHOLIC CENTER

122 Park Ave. Bridgewater, MA 02324

Hours | Mon.– Fri. 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Phone | 508 531 1346

Fax | 508 531 6188

CHAPEL STAFF

Rev. Tom Olson, Campus Chaplain

Marlene DeLeon, Campus Minister

Phone | 508 531 1412

marlene.deleon@bridgew.edu

Rita Garufi, Administrative Assistant

rita.garufi@bridgew.edu

MASS SCHEDULE**St Thomas Aquinas Church**

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil | 4:00 p.m.

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

DAILY MASS

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

Saturday | 9:00 a.m.

St Basil Chapel

SUNDAY MASS

Sunday | 10:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.