

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

APRIL 23, 2017

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday OF EASTER

### 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.

##### *Weeknight Mass*

Thursday, April 27

5:00 p.m.

### PARISH INFORMATION

#### St Thomas Aquinas

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](mailto:stthomasaquinas@comcast.net)

Phone | 508 697 9528

Fax | 508 279 1859

#### Website

[www.stthomasaquinas.com](http://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](mailto:marlene.deleon@bridgew.edu)

Rita Garufi, Administrative Assistant

[rita.garufi@bridgew.edu](mailto:rita.garufi@bridgew.edu)

## THANK YOU

Many have shared that last week's Triduum and Easter Masses were celebrated prayerfully, reverently allowing the beauty of the liturgies express the faith of the people and the universal Church. I thank all the musicians, cantors, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters and ushers, servers for their assistance. I would like to thank Donna Kelly who decorated the church and the chapel. Most importantly I'd like to thank all who participated at the different services and Masses. Your presence, prayers and faith made all the difference.

I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust in last Sunday's collection which amounted to \$13,338. The Easter and Christmas collections every year are sent entirely to the Archdiocese in support of the health care and retirement needs of our sick and or older priests. As a pastor it's difficult to see the two largest collections of the year not remain in the parish, yet I believe we have a responsibility to help priests who have so faithfully served the church for years. I am humbled by many retired priests who despite age and weakness continue to help out in parishes. Some priests who are confined to nursing care facilities continue to pray for the church and priests who are still in active ministry. Many of these priests have served you and your family in this and other parishes. Thank you for continuing to care for them.

*Fr. Bill*



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

When St. Faustina Kowalska first received and started to spread the message of the Divine Mercy, it came at a very specific time. The 1930s marked a period when people needed to be reminded that God's love for them was so strong and gentle that they always could come to him for confession. A lot of people at the time saw God as very stern, and their sins as very serious, and so despaired of receiving forgiveness for their past errors. That made it impossible for God to forgive them because they never worked up the courage to accept his forgiveness. Seeing the face of the merciful Christ in the Divine Mercy Image, and hearing his promises of mercy and the account of all that Jesus did in order to win our victory over sin, gave them confidence that they would be forgiven if they would just turn back to their creator.

The culture has changed a lot since then. Few people worry about God being unforgiving toward them, which is a wonderful thing. However, the opposite problem seems to have emerged, it

looks like many people take God's mercy for granted. They figure that God will forgive them no matter what, so there is no need for them to repent, or change, or do anything for others or for the Lord. Ironically it leads to the same result, many people fail to receive God's forgiveness because they don't accept it, though now it is not because of fear but because of disinterest.

The solution to the problem remains the same, a proper understanding of divine mercy. Seeing the face of Christ in the Divine Mercy Image makes it clear that this is a loving Lord who wants our good. Seeing the wounds on his hands, and the beams coming from his pierced heart, makes it clear that this good was not won for us cheaply. Hearing about the sufferings of the Passion, the damage that sin does to each of our hearts, and Christ's willingness to set us free of that, should be the encouragement we need to turn back to our God, recognizing that sin is hurting us and we need mercy to set us free!

Please feel free to take one of the Divine Mercy pictures and prayers made available at the entrances of the church and chapel.



## CELEBRATION OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

All are invited to our parish celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on **April 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## FAITH FORMATION

### CONFIRMATION II

On Friday April 7th, 63 students participated in the spring retreat at the Father Peyton Center in North Easton. The retreat included Confession and Mass. We thank Fr. Tom for his guidance and presence at the retreat and many thanks to Fr. Bill for being available to hear confessions. We had five additional priests to help with the sacrament. When asked what their favorite part of the retreat was, the students replied Confession. Their next favorite part was viewing the clip from the movie, "The Passion of the Christ." Your continued prayers for our students are much appreciated!

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Dates & Times

The following dates and times have been designated for your child based on their assigned teacher listed below. **Please note:** that it is 100% mandatory that your child attend their assigned rehearsal.

**Rehearsal:** Thursday, April 27, 4:00 pm

**Mass:** Saturday, April 29, 10:30 am

- Mrs. Bustard & Mrs. Fitzsimmons/Nixon

**Rehearsal:** Thursday, April 27, 5:30 pm

**Mass:** Saturday, April 29, 1:00 pm

- Mrs. Rosher

**Rehearsal:** Thursday, May 4, 4:00 pm

**Mass:** Saturday, May 6, 10:30 am

- Mrs. Gorham

**Rehearsal:** Thursday, May 4, 5:30 pm

**First Communion:** Saturday, May 6, 1:00 pm

- Mrs. Lunsford & Mrs. Holland

### CONFIRMATION: Dates & Times

The following dates and times have been designated for your child based on their assigned teacher listed below. **Please note:** that it is 100% mandatory that your child attend their assigned rehearsal.

**Rehearsal:** Friday, May 5, 6:00 pm

**Mass:** Sunday, May 7, 2:00 pm

- Mrs. Hammond & Mrs. Papasodoro
- Mrs. Nunes & Mrs. Bresciani
- Mrs. Thomas
- Mr. Boyle

**Rehearsal:** Friday, May 5, 7:10 pm

**Mass:** Sunday, May 7, 5:00 pm

- Mrs. Boyd & Ms. Kelliher
- Mrs. Ferrini
- Mrs. Putnam
- Mr. Craffey & Mr. Kennedy
- Mr. Siedlinski

## YOUTH GROUP

### CHRIS STEFANICK: REBOOT LIVE!

**Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 – 9:30 pm**, at East Bridgewater Junior/Senior High School. A great event for members of the youth group and their friends and families! From the website... "Reboot! Live! is the fun, inspiring and practical experience for all (ages 12 and up) of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life, from prayer and spirituality, to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health, and more! It's time to start living the Life you were made for."

Tickets are \$20/person and can be reserved at <http://reallifecatholic.com/reboot-live-participants/>. Get them before they sell out! Contact Megan at YouthMinistry@stthomasaquinas.com with questions.

### OPEN GYM

**Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**, Parish Center gym  
Open to all in grades 6-8, so come play with us – and bring a friend! Basketball, kan jam, spike ball, board games, music, snacks, and more! We ask for a \$3 donation to support Youth Group activities. Thank you!

## SAVE THE DATES

### WILL SEXTON ORDINATION

**Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**

**Church of the Immaculate Conception**

144 East Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01852

### BUS TRANSPORTATION

Our parish will be providing transportation to anyone who would like to attend Deacon Will's Ordination at Immaculate Conception Church on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> in Lowell. Although the ordination is at 10 a.m. the bus will leave the church parking lot at 7:30 a.m. because of the distance and in order to get good seating in the church. The bus will accommodate 50 persons so seating is limited and registration is required. You can reserve seats on the bus by calling the parish office at 508-697-9526. The bus should return at approximately 2 p.m.

### FIRST MASS OF THANKSGIVING

**Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm**

**St. Mary of the Assumption Church**

420 High Street, Dedham, MA 02026

### FIRST MASS OF THANKSGIVING

**Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm**

**StThomas Aquinas Church**

## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

**Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Donated items may be dropped off inside the parish center lobby. 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.

## 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!

## GOSPEL MEDITATION -

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" This greeting from the resurrected Christ must have been a profound one for the disciples. They were living behind locked doors "for fear of the Jews," which really meant for fear of their own lives. They had seen what happened to Jesus and didn't want to face the same fate. Imagine the paralysis of this fear, keeping them locked inside a prison of their own making.

But even the walls and the locks could not keep Jesus out! He came "although the doors were locked" and brought them a message of peace. And then their fear turned to gladness for they "rejoiced when they saw the Lord."

This transformation from sadness to joy, from fear to peace was not just a gift for these first disciples. It is a gift for all of the followers of the Lord, ourselves included! When we are afraid of what might happen in our lives, where we are trapped or paralyzed by the burdens of our own habitual sins, Jesus wants to step in and offer us peace. This is what we celebrate today on this feast of the mercy of Christ. His love and peace--the gift of his mercy--is meant for all of us, weak, sinful, and scared though we may be.

And we who receive this great gift of mercy from the Lord are also called to be merciful to others. We are called to be peacemakers and to forgive others as we have been forgiven. Our celebration of Divine Mercy need not stop at the doors of our own hearts. We can seek ways to be ministers of God's mercy to others, reaching out with the love of God, bringing comfort and consolation to those who need it most.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? - Catholic Traditions Explained

**Question:** On our pulpit there is an eagle, a lion, an angel, and a bull. What do they represent?

**Answer:** Each symbol represents a Gospel. These symbols helped people to differentiate the Gospels at a time when most people could not read. The image of a man or angel represents the Gospel of Matthew and signifies Christ's human nature. The lion, a symbol of royalty and power, represents the Gospel of Mark and denotes Christ the King. The ox or calf, the sacrificial victim, represents the Gospel of St. Luke and highlights the priestly character of Christ's mission. The eagle stands for the Gospel of St. John because his theology is much more developed than the three synoptic Gospels. Just as an eagle soars above the earth, so John's theology soars above the other Gospels. The symbols for the Synoptics probably come from how each one begins. One of the initial lines of the Gospel of Mark begins: "A voice of one crying out in the desert." In the wilderness you can hear the roar of the lion for miles around. Matthew's Gospel opens with the genealogy of Jesus, and represents Jesus' human roots. The Gospel of Luke opens with the story of Zechariah the high priest who offered a sacrifice of a bull on behalf of the nation.

## EASTER FLOWER OFFERING

Offering envelopes for Easter flowers have been placed

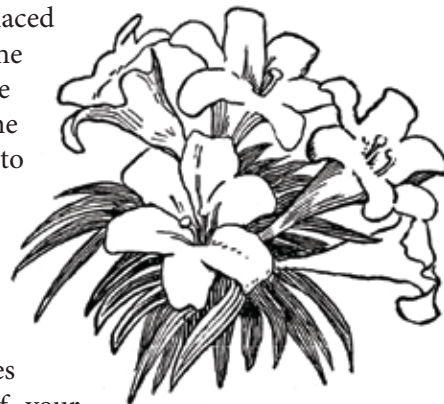
at the entrances of the church and the chapel for anyone who would like to make a donation in

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.



We'd like to thank all those who have already contributed to the cost of the Easter flowers/decorations. ***This is the last week that envelopes will be received.***

**5:00 PM LAST MASS AT ST BASIL Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**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.**

## STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The national statue of The Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima will be touring the Archdiocese of Boston from **May 1st to May 22nd, 2017**. You and your family are invited to observe and pray by the statue. The statue will be in neighboring churches in our south area of the Archdiocese from 1-7 May. It will be in other areas during the rest of May. Pamphlets with the location and schedule of visitation dates are in the entrances of the church and chapel.



## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The Novena to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament begins on **May 5th to May 13th**. We believe that Our Lady answers the prayers of her children, so please join us in making this Novena by taking a Novena Booklet in the entrances of the church and chapel.

## FATIMA PILGRIMAGE August 10 - 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.

## 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!

## CLERGY HEALTH & RETIREMENT TRUST

Thanks to all who contributed to the Easter collection for our priests. If you did not have the opportunity to give but you'd like to make a gift, please visit clergytrust.org or pick up an envelope in the back of the Church. To learn more about the Trust and stay up to date on what's going on with our priests, follow the Trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust." Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

## The 2nd Collection (Archdiocese) *This week - April 23*

### Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and Black & Native American

This week's second collection supports three important national Catholic missions. The Military Archdiocese collection provides for Catholic chaplains throughout the world for American servicemen and servicewomen. The Home Missions collection subsidizes the evangelization and formation activities of mission dioceses. The Black and Native American collection strengthens evangelization and outreach programs that serve the Native American, Alaska Native, and Black Catholic communities in the United States. For more information, please visit www.milarch.org, www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-home-missions-appeal/index.cfm, and blackandindianmission.org/.

## FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
Parish Weekly Operating Costs for: 4/11 - 4/17	\$10,744	\$365	<b>\$11,109</b>
Summary of Collections for: 4/11 - 4/17			
<b>Clergy Health &amp; Retirement Trust</b>			
Total	\$12,126	\$1,212	\$13,338
<b>Online Giving</b>			
WeShare	\$2,207	\$585	\$2,792
Parish Pay	\$25	-	\$25
Total	\$2,232	\$585	\$2,817
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$14,358</b>	<b>\$1,797</b>	<b>\$16,155</b>
<b>Special Collection</b>			
Holy Lands/Good Friday	\$1,470	\$0	\$1,470

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

### 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 & Benny Scalise

12:00 p.m. Rene T. Cabrer

### Wednesday, April 26

9:00 a.m. Lucilia Nunes

### Saturday, April 29

4:00 p.m. James F. Sullivan, Alice T. Sullivan, &  
Caroline R. Healy

### Sunday, April 30

7:45 a.m. Mass for the People

10:00 a.m. Patricia A. Silva

**10:00 a.m. at St Basil** Jason Hardiman

12:00 p.m. Robert Menkello

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



## 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