

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

April 3, 2016

MASS SCHEDULE

St Thomas Aquinas

Daily Mass

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

Saturday | 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil | 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 INFORMATION

Website www.stthomasaquinas.com

St Thomas Aquinas Staff

Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor

Rev. Adrian Milik, Parochial Vicar

Sr. Deacon Jerry Ryan

Debbie Hill, Coordinator of Rel. Ed.

Karen Geraghty, Coordinator of Rel. Ed.

Rob Ruth, Administrative Assistant

Parish Office

103 Center St. Bridgewater, Ma 02324

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

Rob Ruth, Administrative Assistant

E-mail | stthomasaquinas@comcast.net

Phone | 508 697 9528

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Religious Education Office

Phone | 508 697 3652

Debbie Hill, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Karen Geraghty, Coordinator 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. 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



Divine Mercy Sunday

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 Mission is to be a welcoming community of believers continually growing in our faith and in our love of Jesus Christ through worship, education, evangelization and service within our local and broader community.

Our Mission

Easter Appreciation

In last week's bulletin I thanked all who helped to make our Holy Week Services and Easter Masses so beautiful and prayerful, I again want to express my appreciation. I've received many comments from both parishioners and visiting persons of how beautiful and faith filled the services were and how welcomed they felt, that is due to the hard work of many people. Thank you all. It was so good to see so many new persons, families and children. My hope is that their experience of the Lord's love, mercy and resurrection reflected in our faith community will inspire them to continue to join us each week. I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the Clergy Health Care and Retirement Collection that is held every Easter. Your generosity of over \$11,000 demonstrates your appreciation of the priests that have served you and your family over the years. Thank you.

Fr. Bill

Upcoming Ordinations

Will Sexton is finishing his Third Year of Theology at St. John's Seminary. He, along with Deacon Tom Sullivan, served in our parish for eight weeks last summer. During this academic year Will has been in the parish 4-5 hours during the week teaching religious education, providing pastoral counseling and observing different parish meetings. Will and his classmates will be ordained to the Diaconate at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross on **Saturday, April 30th**. Deacon Tom Sullivan will be ordained to the Priesthood on **Saturday, May 21st**. Congratulations to our deacon and deacon to be!!

Adult Education Class

Two months ago a number of parents expressed an interest in an adult education class for parents in order to help them better understand the sacraments, church teachings, the Bible and other Church related subjects. The first class was held last month and provided an overview of the Scriptures. There was great interest and a good discussion. These adult education classes are very basic and geared to help parents better understand their faith and ask questions in order to help their children understand their faith.

The next adult education class will be this **Tuesday, April 5 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center**. The subject: History of the Catholic Church: Pentecost to the Present.

Old Pills

Are there empty or partially filled prescription bottles in your medicine cabinet? Hate to throw them away because you're not sure if you're going to use them again? Most prescriptions have a limited use time. Is it time to do some Spring medicine cabinet cleaning? You can dispose of any/all prescriptions at the drop box at the Police Station. (Liquid medications must be completely wrapped in plastic to avoid any leakage into the receptacle.) The program is free of charge, and completely anonymous, and the boxes are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Easter Flowers

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.

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. These names will be placed next to the Tabernacles at the church and chapel and these individuals will be prayed for during the Easter Season.

May Baptisms

Because our parish will celebrate the Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 22 at 2 and 5 p.m. May baptisms will be held on May 8th and May 15th at the usual time.

Baptism Preparation Class 7:00 PM Wednesday, April 6 in the St Thomas Aquinas parish center



The Unchanging Face of Divine Mercy

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. My experience is that 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!

So if it has been a while since you've taken advantage of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I encourage you to use this day as a reminder to come to the Lord for this wonderful gift. Do not let fear, embarrassment, or complacency hold you back. Jesus loves you completely, he sees the damage that sin does to your ability to love, and he wants to set you free of it. Now is the perfect time to allow him to do that.

Fr. Adrian

Divine Mercy Sunday - Sunday April 3, 2016

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, a day to celebrate God's infinite love and mercy for all of his children. As part of our parish commemoration of this beautiful feast we will be having a Divine Mercy Holy Hour in the upper church at 3pm on that Sunday. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and reflect on God's mercy, as well as having some time to adore the Lord in silence. Please consider joining us for this beautiful devotion.



Easter Collection

The Easter collection for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust supported the health and well-being of our 614 active and senior diocesan priests. Thanks to your generosity, our parish raised in support of all our priests who faithfully serve our Catholic family in the Archdiocese of Boston. Our parish contribution will have a significant impact on the quality of life programs we are able to provide for our priests. If you were out of town this past weekend, or did not have the opportunity to participate, you are welcome to make a gift online at clergyfunds.org or simply text PRIEST to 56512 (msg. & data rates may apply). On behalf of all our priests, thank you for your generous support of the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust.

Easter Egg Hunt

The St. Thomas Aquinas 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt was a wonderful success! It was great to see everyone there decked out in their Easter Sunday best! All the kiddos were excited to collect eggs and of course see the Easter Bunny! A hundred kids went through the egg hunt while parents and families had a chance to say hello to fellow parishioners and catch up over a cup of coffee and a munchkin (or two or three)! It was a great time for all and let us continue in joy after a wonderful church service. It made for a perfect way to spend Easter morning! Thanks to all who attended and we hope to see you again next year! An event like this takes time and dedication and lucky for our parish we have some fantastic people committed to making this event happen...Thank You so much to Jen Rosher, Linda & Tom Howard, Julie & Eric Lynch, Gloria Kayser, Kristine Smith, Michelle Williams and Julie Hayward! Lastly, thank you to all of the St. Thomas Aquinas staff and Father Bill and Father Adrian...I'm pretty sure we needed something from everyone throughout this process and it was a pleasure working with you!

Baby Shower for the Unborn

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Baby Shower for the Unborn a great success. Generous monetary donations were received from St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Women's Club, Knights of Columbus and many anonymous parishioners, totaling \$1,016. These funds and all the baby gifts generously donated by you have been delivered to the Archdiocese's Pro-Life Office. Kudos to Rob Ruth, Debbie Hill, Karen Geraghty for their help in promoting the baby shower, Wessin Minyard and Rita Garufi for their help with setting up, storing gifts and packing up gifts. Again, thanks for all you do to support God's gift of life.

Eighteenth Annual St. Thomas Aquinas Charity Golf Tournament - Friday May 6, 2016

Believe it or not, golf season is almost upon us. The Eighteenth Annual St. Thomas Aquinas Charity Golf Tournament will be held May 6, 2016. Over the years, the total amount raised from the annual golf tournament is more than \$250,000. Through your tremendous generosity, last year a check was presented to Fr. Bill in the sum of \$17,000 which was used to repair some of the stained glass windows. 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.



Women's H.E.A.R.T. Guild - Thursday April 7, 2016

On Thursday April 7th the Women's H.E.A.R.T. Guild is excited to invite women in our Parish and Community to hear Sarah Divello, author of, *Where in the OM am I?*, talk about her journey from Executive to Writer and Yogi. The event begins at 7:00 please feel free to bring a snack or adult beverage to share. Please RSVP to papasodoro@comcast.net or call Andrea 508-697-6741. H.E.A.R.T. stands for holistic, enrichment and renewal together. The idea of this is to gather women in our Parish and Community to socialize a little and nourish ourselves. So spread the word, grab a friend or come make new ones! Please note it is fine to come last minute. A small donation is optional to help fund our speakers.

Financial Blessings

Summary of Collections Mar 22 - Mar 28	IN-PEW	ON-LINE	GRAND TOTAL
Clergy Trust Fund Easter Collection	\$10,763	\$944	\$11,707
Weekly Offertory	-	-	-
Monthly Offertory	-	-	-
Capital Improvement	\$30	-	\$30
TOTAL	\$10,763	\$944	11,737

Additionally, \$3,132 was collected in support of our Parish Mission Retreat held during March 14 to March 16, 2016. Your generosity in supporting our Parish Ministry is always greatly appreciated."

St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club

Nominations are open for the Executive Board of the St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club. Any member who may be interested, please see Lisa Folloni.

SAVE THE DATE

The St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club will host speaker **Father Mark Murphy** **Thursday April 14, 2016.**
More details to follow.

New Annulment Workshop

In this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has created new norms for the processing of annulments. If you, or someone close to you, longs to be reconciled with this issue, a workshop presented by the Metropolitan Tribunal explaining this process and answering your questions, will be held at **7:00 p.m, Wednesday, April 13, 2016** at St. Jerome Parish, Weymouth, and on **Wednesday, April 27, 2016** at Holy Family Parish, Duxbury

REGISTERED ???

Many of those who worship with us each week are not from Bridgewater or have never registered. We welcome everyone to our parish and want to know you, support you and encourage your participation in our activities. If you have not registered please complete a form found at the entrances of the church/chapel or register on line.

Faith Formation

FIRST COMMUNION Updates for Children and Adults

Our students are getting ready to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. They are coloring their family pew markers and practicing their song. To help you practice the Eucharist Song with your child, it is available online. Search for “The Eucharist Song YouTube” or by following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEqnKMN1zE> Your help with this is vitally important. The more prepared a child is, the less nervous they will be, and the more special the day will be. Thank you in advance for making your family’s faith life a priority.

Everyone who receives Holy Communion is reminded:

- Process toward the altar with hands folded (prayer hands).
- Bow before the Body of Christ as a sign of reverence as you approach the Minister of Communion.
- Place one hand flat on top of the other so that the open palm is facing upward.
- Hold your hands out in front of you in a “throne” with the hand you use most on bottom.
- Respond clearly with “Amen” after the Minister says, “Body of Christ”.
- Take the host with your bottom hand and place it in your mouth, then step to the side and bless yourself.
- Approach the Minister of the Cup, and bow as a sign of reverence.
- Respond clearly with “Amen” after the Minister says, “Blood of Christ”.
- Take the cup in your own hands
- Take a small sip of the Precious Blood and then slowly and carefully return the cup to the Minister.
- Once in the pew, kneel down, pray and quietly contemplate on having Jesus within you, please don’t disturb other people’s prayer by talking in the pew.

MITE BOXES can be left at the parish center during CCD hours.

LAST DAY OF CLASS for Grades 1-8. April 10, 11, 12, 13 – Save your empty toilet paper rolls for a project we will be doing the last week of class. Collection boxes are in the parish center and both churches.

CONFIRMATION I & II PALANCA Letters for Confirmation II Students

Last year our parishioners were invited to write a letter to a Confirmation student. This was a beautiful way for parishioners to connect to our students. “Palanca” is a Spanish word that means lever. In this case, palanca helps lift someone’s spirit. It is a letter of encouragement given to someone on their spiritual journey. If you would like to show your prayerful support to our students being confirmed May 22nd, by writing a letter for one of them, take a yellow card from the red baskets at the back of the church. Each card contains a student’s name as well as instructions for writing and returning your palanca letter. Be sure to sign the clipboard letting us know who has taken a card. **It must be returned on or before May 8th.** If you take a card with a student’s name, it is vitally important that you submit a letter. We don’t want anyone to be left out! Sponsors are welcomed to write a letter as well. The letter can be dropped off in the CCD office or in the red basket in the church/chapel. Your continued prayer for these students is much appreciated. If you have any questions, please call us.

Youth Group

OPEN GYM

Back by popular demand! April Vacation Open Gym night for grades 6-8. **Wednesday April 20, 6:30-9:30pm** at St. Thomas Parish Center. For a \$3 donation, come have a night of fun with your friends. Snacks and drinks will be served.

CARDBOARD CITY

We invite our youth, grades 8-12 to participate in Cardboard City on **April 30th-May 1st, 2016**. Homelessness is a challenge facing thousands within Massachusetts alone! This event, being held in the parking lot of St. Thomas, will be a great opportunity to live for one night as many homeless do, and experience an evening living in solidarity with our homeless brothers and sisters. In addition, you will be raising money which will be donated to Father Bills & Mainspring House - a homeless shelter in Brockton. You will bond with friends, create memories, gain service hours (for confirmation students), and most importantly, grow as a person, from a rewarding experience.

Check out the youth group page on our website for details, or contact Kerry Fuqua at kerryjfuqua@gmail.com, or 508-577-5915, Pauline Lysko @ lyskos@comcast.net, or Beth Peterson @ beth0109@comcast.net. We look forward to many of our students participating, and hope for the support and prayers of the parish!

Weekly Mass Intentions**Saturday, April 2**

4:00 p.m. Maffeo Family

Sunday, April 3

7:45 a.m. Jose Moura

10:00 a.m. Jack Hennessy & Marie Hennessy

St Basil 10:00 a.m. Noreen Dinardo,

101st Birthday Celebration

12:00 p.m. Louis Alberghini

Monday, April 4

7:00 a.m. Antonio Curvelo

Tuesday, April 5

7:00 a.m. Fernando Rebelo

Saturday, April 9

4:00 p.m. Melagrano Family

Sunday, April 10

7:45 a.m. Susie & Eugene Chiocca

10:00 a.m. Jose Evangelina & Margarida Sousa

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

12:00 p.m. Manuel C. DaSilva

Birthday memorial

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord

Adoration Saturdays 9:30 am to 1:00 pm*St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church***Divine Mercy Holy Hour** Wednesdays 7 pm - 8 pm*St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church***Can we pray for you?**

If you would like to add someone to our *prayer list* please contact Rob at the parish office. Individuals are prayed for by name every Saturday morning during Mass.

**Help us keep our prayer list up to date**

If you notice a name of someone who no longer needs to be on our list due to a healing or death, please contact Rob at the parish office.

"A time to die..."

Gale Poirier, Rosemarie Clive, John Ferreira, Thomas Snelders, Jessica Morgan, Paulo Torres, Kathleen T. Allen, Robert D. Slater, Kevin Welch Charles A McGaughey, Helen M Elliott, Victor Auglis, Athena Mullen, John Para, Edward Shaughnessy, Daniel Soares, Eugene Fortier, Jonathan Kelly

"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, Teresa Capachione, Jacquie Cordaro, Matthew Costantino, Michael Costantino, Baby Mychal Joseph Cotone, Joanna Crabtree, Jannine Dawicki, Mary DeLeon, Roger Denault, Marty Dickerman, Bob Emord, James LaFranchise, Rylee Fontes, Lee Fuller, Jesus Galindo, Ben Gallo, Alanna Gillis, Beverly Guiffre, Fred Laham, Daniel John, Kevin Looney, Alanna Gillis, Tim Johnson, Jessica King, Dorothy Keane, Bob Mackey, Beverly Mitchell, Taylor McLean, Kaleena McHardy, Marjorie Mello, Baby Chase Miceli, Lauren Minchella, Charles Monestere, Alice Moniz, Arlene Morin, 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, Linda Sullivan, Kim Sullivan, Donna Sullivan, Betty Tarentino, James Toy Jr., 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
 CPL Brandon Jamieson, USA
 Army PV2 Harry Terpeny
 PFC, Christopher Ahl, USA
 CPL Kelly O'Leary