

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

DECEMBER 11, 2016

Third Sunday of **ADVENT**



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 | 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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.

If you are new to the parish please introduce yourself to one of our priests and ask how you can become a registered parishioner

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



Thank you - for a A Very Special Christmas Party

Thank you Bob & Karen Sullivan and the Knights of Columbus for another wonderful Special Needs Christmas Party.

Advent Penance Service - Thursday, December 15 from 7-8:30 p.m. - St. Thomas Aquinas Church

The first of our two Penance Services was held this past Wednesday at St. Basil's Chapel. Those who took advantage of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance experienced the forgiveness, healing and love of Jesus Christ. Spiritually speaking there is probably no better way to prepare for Christmas and the Lord's Second Coming than heeding the advice of John the Baptist to repent.

There will be another opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance on this a Following a brief Penance Service three priests will be available for confession. Examination of Conscience sheets will be available to help reflect on our own failure to live up to the love that the Lord calls us to live.

Confessions will NOT be available on Saturday, December 24th.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Every registered parishioner should receive a Christmas postcard this week with the schedule of Christmas Masses. These cards and mailings have been made possible as a gift from the Pica & Russell Funeral Homes.

Sunday Children's Liturgy

There will be no Sunday Children's Liturgy at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on December 25th and January 1st.

Advent Wreath

We appreciate the different families who have been lighting the Advent Wreath at the Mass. There are still a number of Masses that are available if you/family/friends would like to light the wreath. You can sign up on the parish website home page, www.stthomasaquinas.com We ask those who sign up to please meet the priest at the back of the church/chapel before mass so that they can be part of the entrance procession.

Giving Trees

Thank you to all who have taken an ornament from our church and chapel Giving Trees in order to assist a needy person and/or family. There are still ornaments left on the church Giving Trees which we hope will be taken this weekend.

All gifts should be returned to the church no later than next Sunday, December 18th.

This Sunday, December 11th is the last day that we will be able to take requests to assist families needing assistance.

Prison Holiday Help Needed - collection bins December 10 & 11

Bridgewater State Hospital is a psychiatric prison hospital where 300 men with very serious mental illnesses live - some for a very short period of evaluation and some for a lifetime. Though it is a hospital, it is also very much a prison. It can be one of the saddest places on earth during the holiday season. You can help to change that.

Every year the Catholic community at the hospital is permitted to give the patients as well as the 50 inmate workers, (men who have transferred from other DOC facilities to work in the kitchen, to maintain the grounds, do the laundry, etc.) holiday packages with a few basic items. This year the items we are hoping you will be able to help with are:

- stick deodorant
- shampoo
- deodorant
- soap

Opioid/Drug Awareness - Thursday, December 29, at 6:30 p.m.

Rich Barnes, an alcohol and drug addict and survivor, will be a guest speaker on Thursday, December 29, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center. He will speak openly and candidly about choices he made that led him losing 28 years of his life at the hands of alcohol and drugs and his road to recovery. Rich is a popular and charismatic speaker who has spoken to high school and middle school students.

He will share his personal and difficult story in the hope that students will avoid the tragic road he followed from age of 10 to present time. Also speaking will be a father who lost his son to drugs. Alcohol and drug addiction has or will affect every family. We invite everyone, parents, grandparents, children to attend this presentation.

Lector Ministers - Sunday, December 18 at 1:30 p.m.

All Readers are reminded that they must have attended a Reader (re)training session. If you did not attend one of the previously-offered trainings, then a "makeup" training is scheduled for Sunday, December 18 at 1:30 PM at St. Thomas Aquinas in the upper church.

Thank you to those of you who participated in the recent Reader trainings!

If you have not yet received a 2017 Reader Workbook, then please stop by the sacristy after any Sunday Mass at either St. Thomas Aquinas or St. Basil to get your copy.

2017 Calendars

The Religious Calendars for 2017 are available at the entrances of the church/chapel. These beautiful calendars that highlight religious and civil events are donated every year to our parish by Mark Chapman of the Prohett-Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Homes. Thank you Mark.

YOUTH GROUP Students in grades 6-12

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY - Please visit the Youth Group page of the parish website for registration.

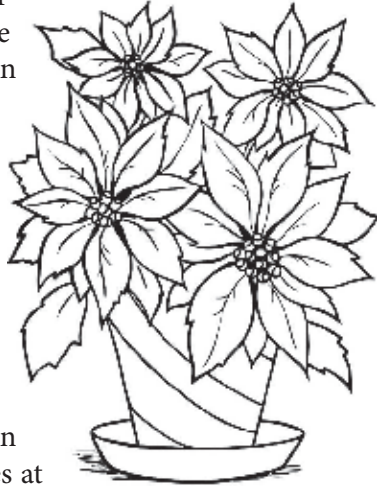
"Annual party that brings holiday magic to thousands of Boston-area kids and their families who are experiencing the uncertainty of homelessness and the stress of poverty." We invite our youth to participate in this extraordinary event - community service hours will be granted.

Saturday, Dec 17, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (approx. time) Party Area Set-Up (all students in grades 6-12) Students will help to set up for the party to take place on Sunday.

Sunday, Dec. 18, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (approx. time) Shelter Volunteers (students must be 16) Please note, this is a full day commitment. Students will participate in the actual party, assisting with serving a meal, passing out gifts and helping to spread the Christmas magic.

Christmas Flower Offering

Every Christmas the altar 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.



Cub Scout Wreaths

The Bridgewater Cub Scout will be selling Christmas Wreaths outside St. Thomas and St. Basils after all masses this weekend of **December 10th and 11th**. Please stop by and support our local boys with this fundraiser.



Girl Scout Cookies

The Bridgewater Junior Girl Scout's will be selling cookies after all masses at both St Thomas and St Basil this weekend of **December 10th and 11th**. Please stop by and support our local girls with this fundraiser.



Christmas Gala Concert

Sunday, December 18th, 7:00 p.m.

For an evening Christmas Gala Concert featuring Handel's Messiah and traditional Christmas carols, join the chorus of BSU faculty, alumni, and town residents under the direction of Professors Steve Young and Jacob Liberles at St. Basil Chapel, Sunday, December 18th, 7 p.m. The admission price of \$5 plus two cans of food will be donated to the BSU Food Bank and the Catholic Center Food Pantry.

Christmas Card Addresses

As the holidays approach and we start sending out our Christmas cards, you might want to remember some of our wonderful Shepherds that are no longer assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.

Fr. Adrian Milik: Our Lady Help of Christians Church
573 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02458 -1494

Fr. Joseph Raeke: St. Edith Stein Church
71 East Main Street, Brockton, MA 02301

Fr. Mark Murphy: St. Paul's Church
29 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

Fr. Tom Sullivan: St. Catherine of Siena Church
547 Washington Street, Norwood, MA 02062

Fr. Jwon Yoon: St. Margaret's Church
111 Winn Street, Burlington, MA 01803

Deacon Jerry Ryan
48 High Street, Hanson, MA 02341

Deacon Will Sexton: St. John's Seminary
127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135

Seminarian Bill Robinson: St. John's Seminary
127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135

Fr. Edward Serena
46-6 South Meadow Village, Carver MA 02330

Fr. Michael Regan
600 O'Connell Way, Regina Cleri, Boston, MA 02114



Christmas Pageant - Saturday, December 17th 5:30 p.m.

Over the past few weeks 20-50 children including 20 "angels" under the direction of Marie Masaitis and 12 parents have been preparing for the Christmas Pageant. The pageant will be held next Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5:30 in the Parish Center and is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit as seen through the innocence, faith and smiles of young children. The pageant is free and open to everyone.

Everyday Stewardship
Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

John the Baptist is truly an intriguing figure of history. He was a cousin of Jesus and literally prepared all those who would listen for this new way of life ushered in by a Messiah. Besides the key role he plays in the Gospel story, his depiction in Scripture, and then in literature, movies, and other media, gives us an image of a pretty unique person. How about locusts and wild honey for dinner? Can you imagine camel's hair as a staple in your wardrobe? He lived differently, and he stood out among the status quo. Of course, his look and cuisine didn't stand out nearly as much as his message.

How do you stand out? What separates you from the crowd? God has created each of us completely unique and with a combination of gifts like no one else. How can you uncover and understand your unique gifts? First, reflect on what makes you happiest in life. We are happiest when we are using the talents God gave us. Next, think about what comes naturally to you, whether it is a skill, task, or emotion. Recurring patterns in our behavior and experiences provide clues to our giftedness. Finally, what do other people see in you? The communities we live in, whether it is our family, parish, school, or workplace are filled with people who can provide clues to us by their observations. After these steps, can you say what makes you special? Now, let's start to grow that, lean on it, and stand out in a way that brings glory to God.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Bereavement Ministry

The St. Thomas Aquinas/St. Basil Bereavement Ministers are pleased to announce our next series of Bereavement meetings to begin on **Wednesday, January 11th at 3 P.M.**

They are expected to run for approximately 9 to 10 weeks.

The meetings will be at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center, 103 Center St., Bridgewater, MA 02324. With St. Thomas Aquinas/St., this ministry is co-sponsored by Prophett, Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Home.

Participants in the present Bereavement Ministry session are willing to speak with anyone who would like more information. All who are grieving the loss of a loved one are invited to join this Christian based Bereavement Support Group. Please contact

Roberta Gesner at

508 697 4184 ggesner@aol.com

Carol Martin

508 697 2281 caroljimmartin@verizon.net.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord

• **ADORATION**

Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church

• **DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR**

Wednesdays 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church

The 2nd Collections

• ***This week - December 11 No 2nd Collection*** • ***Next week - December 18 No 2nd Collection***

Christmas Collection

This Christmas, the collection will once again benefit the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which cares for the needs of our priests. Our priests are always there for us; they share Christ's good news, perform good works, and build communities of good faith. All are welcome to learn more and make a gift online at clergytrust.org. And don't forget to find the Trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust ." Thank you in advance for your prayers and support.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Summary of Collections for: 12/29-12/5

| | St Thomas | St Basil | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Weekly Collection | | | |
| 1st Collection | \$4,967 | \$957 | \$5,924 |
| Online Giving | | | |
| WeShare | \$2,115 | \$1,350 | \$3,465 |
| Parish Pay | \$670 | - | \$670 |
| Total | \$2,785 | \$1,350 | \$4,135 |
| Grand Total | \$7,752 | \$2,307 | \$10,059 |

Special Collection

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------|----------------|
| 2nd Collection (Capital Improvements) | \$2,846 | \$603 | \$3,449 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------|----------------|

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

Saturday, December 10

4:00 p.m. Lanzikos & Poirier Families

Sunday, December 11

7:45 a.m. Jack Voyer

10:00 a.m. Therese, Freddie & Paul Shepard

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

12:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Littlejohn, Berlandi
& Ramponi Families

Monday, December 12

7:00 a.m. Scott Christopher McCampbell

Wednesday, December 14

9:00 a.m. Timothy Kelly

Saturday, December 17

4:00 p.m. Joseph, Josephine & Joseph B. LeAndres

Sunday, December 18

7:45 a.m. Jose Coelho

10:00 a.m. Gilbert Luiz & Adele Gene Matevia

10:00 a.m. *St Basil* - Margaret Perkins & Marjorie Mendez

12:00 p.m. Ralph Scopa

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.



"A time to be born..."

Cora Diane Derby, Ryan Katherine Ayers,
Autumn Paisley Smith, Lincoln Wayne Ellis,
Nora Kathleen Scully, Bradley George Childs

"A time to die..."

Karen Snow, Arlene Morin, Frances Couet,
Dianne Kent, Walter H. Welch, Thelma Doucette,
Allen Arruda, Kathleen Vacher

"A time to heal..."

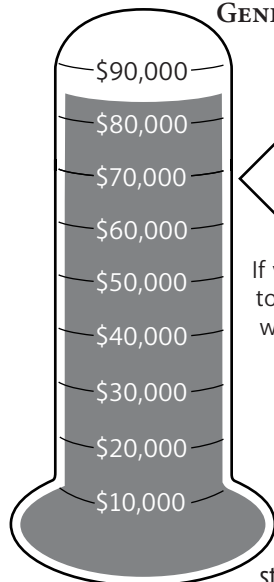
Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini, Edward Albert, Jean Andrade,
Christopher Barbosa, Jeffrey Bean, Jim & Jean Brennan,
Kim (Sweetman) Carnello, Sandra Cable,
Teresa Capachione, John Conley, Jacquie Cordaro,
Matthew Costantino, Michael Costantino,
Baby Mychal Joseph Cotone, Joanna Crabtree,
Michael Crowley, Jannine Dawicki, Joseph DeAndrade,
Mary DeLeon, Marty Dickerman, Paul D'Olimpia,
Andrea Fitzgerald, Lee Fuller, Joanna Gale, Jesus Galindo,
Florence Galligan, Beverly Giuffre, Tim Johnson,
Daniel John, Ava King, Jessica Kamaniski, Jessica King,
Debbie Kulick, Fred Laham, James LaFranchise,
Howard Larsen, Kevin Looney, Bob Mackey,
Beverly Mitchell, Mary McClay, Taylor McLean,
Kaleena McHardy, Marjorie Mello, Chase Miceli,
Charles Monestere, Arlene Morin, Anna Nakouzi,
Lloyd Nelson, Antonio Nunes, Tom O'Donnell,
Bob O'Hare, Glenn O'Neil, Kevin O'Neil,
Ann Paulino, Carolyn Perry, Elaine Phaneuf,
Josephine Trocchi Picone, Richard Piantoni,
Dorothy Pope, 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,
James Toy Jr., Patrice Tuffo, Peggy Yanuskiewicz,
Don Weiner, Mary (Sweetman) Zunino,
Alexis, Jason & Nicole Zutaut

"A time for peace..."

General Joseph F. Dunford, USMC
Captain Vincent Chiappini, USA
1st LT. Karen Chouinard Holliday, USMC
2nd LT. Jeffrey Boyle, USMC
Captain 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

Grand Annual Collection

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY!



As of Friday,
December 2,
265 of our 2,932
families (9%)
have pledged

\$84,406

If you have not made a contribution to our Grand Annual Collection and would like to, you may give online.



st-thomasaquinas.weshareonline.org

Baptism Preparation Class

Monday, January 2 at 7:00 p.m.
in the St Thomas Aquinas Parish Center