

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH  
*The Nativity of Our Lord*



# 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

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.

*Merry Christmas*

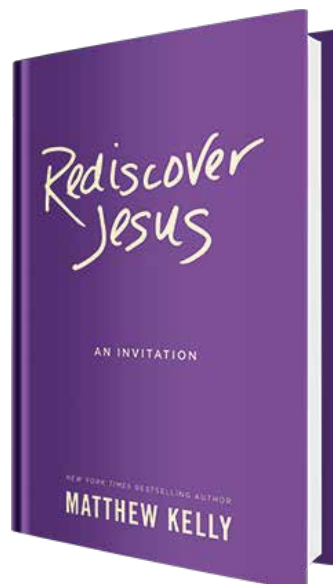


## CHRISTMAS GIFT

As you leave Mass this Christmas Eve/Day you will be given the book, *Rediscover Jesus* by Matthew Kelly. This book, as the name implies, recognizes that many of us have lost a sense of who Jesus is, why we believe in Him and how does that belief affect our daily living. It's a great book for those who may be struggling with their faith or for those who need a greater understanding of their faith and the Lord.

This book is an "easy read." These books have been donated and are being given to you by a family in our parish with the hope that you will not only read it yourself but give it to a friend whose not here this Christmas.

It's our prayer that this book will help you better understand or "rediscover Jesus" and God's love for you.



## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*from Fr. Bill & Fr. Giombetti*

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas!

This joyful time of year offers us the chance to reflect on the many gifts and blessings God has given us throughout our lives. As your priests, we are so very grateful for your presence with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Today, we join with our over one-billion brothers and sisters in Christ in celebrating the birth of Love Itself into the world. God loved us so much, He became one of us; the Creator became a creature, and in so doing showed us how much He loves us.

The great story of the Incarnation has been told time and again; on every continent, in every age from the dawn of the Christian era to today. Perhaps



one of the most simple accounts is the best:

*One Solitary Life*

*He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village and worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.*

*He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...*

*While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away from Him. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.*

*Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, yet all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.*

The author of the account is debated, yet the sentiment it expresses has rung true in the hearts of Christians for generations.

This Christmas, as we reflect on the impact the one solitary life of the child born in the stable at Bethlehem has had on the entire world, we thought this seems like the perfect time of year, as we thank God for His many blessings, to invite you to become more involved with our active and vibrant parish family. Recently, grateful for the support of so many people, we've moved the focus of our parish "from maintenance to mission". Over the past year, we've gained over 100 new volunteers, bringing the total number of volunteers in our parish ministries to well over

300 people. From our Faith Formation program that has nearly 900 students enrolled, to our bereavement ministry for those who've lost a love one... Our various opportunities for community prayer, including 6 Sunday Mass options, to our newly formed Parish Social Com-



mittee...in our summer Vacation Bible School for children, to our new "Cocktails and Catholic Teachings" for adults...from our ministry at Bridgewater State University to our mission trips for teenagers in which they experience first hand the vale of serving those less fortunate than themselves, it's our goal to provide

everyone an opportunity to draw closer to the Lord by drawing closer to their parish family. We hope you'll take a look at the various ministries listed in the bulletin and consider joining us.

As you're reading this, you might be thinking, "I know I should go to Church, but I can't always find the time". It's true, time is a very precious commodity and there never seems to be enough of it these days. Please know that,

even if you only have one hour per week to worship with us at Mass, that's OK. Any time you give to making God a solid part of your family life, we promise, will be time well spent. Any effort you make to draw close to Our Lord will bring a sense of peace to your

life that can only faith can provide. Having Our Lord, who loves us enough that He became one of us, involved in our lives is more important than we could ever describe.

Whether you're a daily Mass goer or only come frequently, we want to get to know you more, and to learn how we can best serve you and your family. It is our great honor to help bring Our Lord into your lives as your priests. Please, don't ever hesitate to let us know what we can do for you. If you've been away from the Church, we invite you back! Along with the entire St. Thomas parish family, we want you to know you have a home here; because this parish doesn't belong to us...it belongs to Jesus. The same Jesus who came to earth, showing us how much He loves us.



Fr. Bill Devine

On behalf of all of us here at Saint Thomas, we wish you all of God's many blessings during this joyous season and throughout the coming New Year.

Merry Christmas,

**Fr. Bill & Fr. Giombetti**



Fr. Jason Giombetti

## PARISH MINISTRIES

Altar Guild  
 Altar Servers  
 Baptism Ministry  
 Bereavement Ministry  
 Candlelight Rosary Procession  
 Children's Liturgy  
 Christmas Pageant  
 Coffee & Donuts  
 Easter Egg Hunt  
 Environmental Committee  
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion  
 Father Bill's Mainspring Ministry  
 Giving Tree  
 Greeters & Ushers  
 Holiday Bazaar  
 Lectors  
 Offertory Counters  
 Outreach Ministry  
 Pregnancy Help  
 Protecting God's Children  
 RCIA for adults & children  
 Religious Education  
 Rummage Sale  
 Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry  
 Social Committee  
 Spaghetti Dinner Ministry  
 St Basil Food Pantry  
 Senior Citizen's Thanksgiving Dinner  
 Troops & Veterans Support  
 Vacation Bible School  
 VIRTUS Training  
 Women's Club  
 Youth Group

## HOLY FAMILY ICON

The word "icon" comes from the Greek word meaning "picture" or "image". Icons are very familiar in Eastern or Orthodox Churches. Images or icons of sacred persons are often venerated themselves. Many Christians see them as "windows" into the mystery of the person or story they illustrate.

An icon of the Holy Family by Giovanni Balestra which has been blessed by Pope Francis will be brought into the church and placed in the sanctuary next Saturday, December 30th on the Feast of the Holy Family and will remain with us until Saturday, January 6th.

The Holy Family Icon visit to our parish is made possible by our local Knights of Columbus.

## PART TIME MAINTENANCE WANTED

Maintenance is a vital part of parish operations and truly the backbone of many facilities. There are many things behind the scenes that are unseen and unheard, all of which are done by the maintenance staff to keep things running smoothly. From lighting, HVAC, cleaning, plowing & shoveling, cemetery ops, or even just the physical moving and constant setting up and taking down for events, maintenance does it all.

The parish is currently looking for a Part Time Maintenance worker. This is a 15-20 hour per week position that involves regular maintenance of all parish properties including the church, rectory, chapel and cemeteries. This position is a regular part time position. During the spring and summer months, this job will have expanded hours ranging from 30-35 hours per week. Prior experience is preferred. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Peter V. in the parish office.

## YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

### • OPEN GYM NIGHT

**Friday, January 5, 7:00-10:00 pm.**

Bring a basketball, your favorite board game and a friend! Get out of the cold, come enjoy some light refreshments and some fun with your friends!

### • MINUTE TO WIN IT!

**Saturday, January 27, 6:00-9:00 pm**

What Can You Do In One Minute? For Middle Schoolers (Grades 6-8) - Enjoy a night of friendly competition, refreshments and fun. You will work as a team of four to complete crazy tasks like Elephant March and Cookie Face in a minute or less. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place teams. Drinks and light refreshments will be provided! Best of all, it's FREE!

See the Youth Ministry page of parish website to sign up. We are also looking for high school volunteers to help with the games. Community Service hours will be granted.

### • SERVICE TRIP SAVE THE DATE

**June 24 - June 30, 2018**

Week long service trip to Farmington, Michigan through Catholic Heart Work Camp, a well-known, nationwide service organization. Open to all students entering 8th grade in September 2018 and older.

For more information you can check out the website

<http://heartworkcamp.com/>

or contact **Jen Rosher @ jenrosher@comcast.net**

*Merry Christmas from the staff at St Thomas Aquinas Parish*



**Peter Vitagliano**  
Business Manager



**Debbie Hill**  
Coord. of Religious Ed.



**Marie Masaitis**  
Coord. of Religious Ed.



**Kevin Mossman**  
Pastoral Associate



**Rob Ruth**  
Administrative Assistant



**Brian Delmonte**  
Maintenance Manager

**CLERGY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT TRUST COLLECTION**

The 590 diocesan priests in our Archdiocese are always there for us, sharing Christ's good news, performing good works, and building strong communities of faith. They stand with you during your times of joy and sorrow. They have devoted their lives to serving Christ and his family. Remember priests such as Reverend David P. White, Reverend Edward T. Serena, Reverend James J. McGowan, Reverend Leo G. Cormier, Reverend Michael J. Regan, Reverend Rocco M. Guarino who have made a meaningful difference in your life, and consider honoring him/them with a generous gift in today's collection. You may also make your gift online at [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org) or you can donate \$25 through your cell phone by texting the word **PRIEST25** to **20222** (msg. & data rates may apply). Thank you for your prayers and generous support for our priests.

<b>FINANCIAL BLESSINGS</b>	12/12 - 12/18	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
<b>SUMMARY OF COLLECTIONS</b>				
In-Pew Giving				
• Weekly Collection		\$6,125	\$1,389	\$7,514
Online Giving				
• WeShare		\$1,899	\$410	\$2,309
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$8,024</b>	<b>\$1,799</b>	<b>\$9,823</b>

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**St Thomas Aquinas Church**

**Sunday Mass**

Saturday Vigil | 4:00 pm

Sunday | 7:45 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

**Daily Mass**

Monday 7:00 am

Tuesday 9:00 am

Wednesday 7:00 am

Thursday 9:00 am

Friday 7:00 am

Saturday 9:00 am

**St Basil Chapel**

**Sunday Mass**

Sunday | 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

**PARISH INFORMATION**

**St Thomas Aquinas**

Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor

Rev. Jason Giombetti, Parochial Vicar

[fathergiombetti@gmail.com](mailto:fathergiombetti@gmail.com)

Sr. Deacon Jerry Ryan

**Parish Office Staff**

Peter Vitagliano, Business Manager

Rob Ruth, Administrative Assistant

**Parish Office**

103 Center St, Bridgewater MA 02324

Hours | Monday - Friday | 9 am - 5 pm

Phone | 508. 697. 9528

Fax | 508. 279. 1859

E-mail | [stthomasaquinas@comcast.net](mailto:stthomasaquinas@comcast.net)

Website | [www.stthomasaquinas.com](http://www.stthomasaquinas.com)

**Religious Education Office Staff**

Phone | 508. 697. 3652

Debbie Hill, Coord. of Religious Ed.

Marie Masaitis, Coord. of Religious Ed.

**St Basil, The Catholic Center**

122 Park Ave. Bridgewater, MA 02324

Hours | Mon - Fri 9 am - 9 pm

Hours | Sun 9 am - 6 pm

Phone | 508. 531. 1346

Fax | 508. 531. 6188

**Chapel Staff**

Phone | 508. 531. 1346

Rev. Jason Giombetti, Campus Chaplain

Kevin Mossman, Pastoral Associate

[kmossman@stthomasaquinas.com](mailto:kmossman@stthomasaquinas.com)

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

4:00 p.m. Bonita Torra

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 a.m. Lucilia Nunes

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00 a.m. Antonio & Libania Sousa

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00 a.m. Alfred & Rita Matta

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:00 p.m. Frank Mendosa

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:45 a.m. Albert Querzoli

10:00 a.m. Claude Dubord, Jr.

10:00 a.m. *St Basil* Mass for the People

12:00 p.m. Theresa Poulin

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Held at St Thomas Aquinas in the lower church

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

### IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 10:00 a.m.

### DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

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

## SACRAMENTS

*If you are seeking more information about the Sacraments, or wish to schedule an appointment, please call the parish office to speak with a priest at 508-697-9528.*

### BAPTISM

If you wish to have your child Baptized, or to receive the Sacrament yourself, please call **508-697-9528** to request an appointment with a priest. Baptisms are celebrated each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Attendance at the Baptism Preparation Class is required.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

**Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m.**

St Thomas Aquinas parish center. Adults Only.

### CONFESSION

Available Saturdays in the lower church, or by scheduling an appointment with a priest by calling **508-697-9528**.

**9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (during December)**  
**3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. (all year)**

### MARRIAGE

If you wish to be married in our parish, please call **508-697-9528** to request an appointment with a priest 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 at **508-697-9528**.

## PRAYER LIST

### "A TIME TO BE BORN..."

Zachary Richard Frizzell	Avery Madison Silva
Zachary Daniel Carlstrom	Ryan Logan Kelleher
Theodore Michael Fitopoulos	Kiley Elizabeth Corndell
Luke Robert McGee	Mackenzie Grace Cleary
Amy Loretta Arrighi	Brynn Marie Cayer

### "A TIME TO DIE..."

Cherie A. DeSousa, Joseph P. Dumas,  
Marie Kullen, Maria N. Pimentel

### "A TIME TO HEAL..."

Carolyn J. Allen	Beverly Giuffre	Glenn O'Neil
Barbara Ahl	Dr. Francis Gendreau	Kevin O'Neill
Olga Cassiani Alberghini	Jessica Kamaniski	Ann Paulino
Ruthaleis Amaro	Carol Kelley	Carolyn Perry
Edward Albert	Tim Johnson	Dorothy Pope
Christopher Barbosa	Daniel John	Elaine Phaneuf
Jeffrey Bean	Ava King	Paul Phaneuf
Don Bergstrom	Jessica King	Maria Presti
Loretta Beaulieu	Debbie Kulick	Andrea Proffetty
Jim & Jean Brennan	Fred Laham	Rich Quigley
Michael Botelho	James LaFranchise	Camden Rivers
Kim Sweetman Carnello	Kevin Looney	Ginny Rothwell
Sandra Cable	Bob Mackey	Matthew Ryan
Teresa Capachione	Terri Mackey	Dan Sante
Jacque Cordaro	Aiden Mitchell	Jayne Sarro
Matthew Costantino	Beverly Mitchell	Linda Scopa
Michael Costantino	Sean McCall	Paul Segreve
John Conley	Mary McClay	Sarah Silvia
Joanna Crabtree	Taylor McLean	Deana Spingel
Thomas Croall	Kaleena McHardy	Al Sullivan
Michael Crowley	Marjorie Mello	Linda Sullivan
Jannine Dawicki	Charles Monestere	Kim Sullivan
Mary DeLeon	Walter Morin	Donna Sullivan
Keith Derbyshire	Jerry Muller	Betty Tarentino
Marty Dickerman	Anna Nakouzi	Jennifer Tosches
Susan Dickow	Lloyd Nelson	Patrice Tuffo
Peter J. Farrell	Antonio Nunes	James Toy Jr.
Lee Fuller	Tom O'Donnell	Anna Vrana
Andrea Fitzgerald	Bob O'Hare	Don Weiner
Jesus Galindo	Mary Edwards O'Keefe	Alexis, Jason & Nicole Zutaut

### "A TIME FOR PEACE..."

Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, USMC  
MGen Eric M. Smith USMC  
CPT. Karen Chouinard Holliday, USMC  
2ndLt. Jeffrey Boyle, USMC  
CPT, John Costantino, USA  
MAJ, Robert "Dusty" Dossman USAF  
SGT, Brandon Jamieson, USA  
PFC, Christopher Ahl, USA  
PFC, Peter O'Leary, USA  
CPL, Kelly O'Leary, USA  
PVT, Christopher O'Leary, USA  
PVT, D.J. Jamieson, USA