

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

DECEMBER 3, 2017

## *First Sunday of Advent*



**Immaculate Conception • Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> • Holy Day of Obligation**  
7:00 am & 9:00 am at the church. 7:00 pm at the chapel

### 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)

# 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.

### HOLY DAY MASSES

Next Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We celebrate that from the moment of her conception, Mary was called by God to be the mother of his Son and as such is without sin. The Church invites us to come together on this day to honor the woman from whom His Son would take flesh.

### THE HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Thomas Aquinas Church 7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.  
St. Basil Chapel 7:00 p.m.

### GRAND ANNUAL APPEAL

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by so many to our Annual Appeal. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your gift card, please do so as soon as possible. Every gift is welcomed and sincerely appreciated.

If you did not receive a letter, you can find letters, and pledge cards at the entrances of the church. Thank you.

### ANNUAL SENIOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thank You to all the seniors who attended the Annual Senior Thanksgiving Dinner, your presents meant a great deal to this community.

Also, Thank You to all of the staff volunteers who helped get this dinner off the ground and for making it a great success: the people who organized the event, the runners, the kitchen staff, the Food Pantry who donated a majority of the food, the staff at BSC kitchen, the servers and the student volunteers. You were a great team of people who worked so well together both old and new to make this dinner a true success. Thank you to all the supermarkets and restaurants who donated gifts certificates and/or food as well.

*Jean Monti*

### THANK YOU

Peg Newman, Catholic Chaplain at Bridgewater State Hospital and I, would like to thank all who donated requested Christmas gifts for the patients at the Hospital. Fr. Giombetti and I celebrate Mass for these patients every month. As many know the Hospital, after a series of unfortunate instances, has made significant changes in the staff and accommodations. When I celebrated Mass there last week, the patients were wearing the civilian clothes that so many from our parish donated earlier this year. They were and are so appreciative that they have not been forgotten or marginalized. The donations of personal hygiene items and snacks that we collected these past three weeks will be wrapped and given as Christmas gifts. Thank you!

*Fr. Bill*

### CONFESSION DURING ADVENT

Advent is a period of time when the Church reminds us that we are waiting not only to celebrate Christmas and the Lord's birth but we are also waiting for the Lord's Second Coming. In either case, we are encouraged to prepare ourselves for either by going to confession.

All of us have seen the power and effects of evil in our world. Most, if not all of us, have experience the power of sin in our lives. Our experience is similar to what St. Paul describes the inner conflict between good and evil in his letter to the Romans ".....I cannot even understand my own actions. I do not do what I want to do but what I hate....which indicates that sin resides in me. What happens is that I do not the good I will to do, but the evil I do not intend. Who will save me from this...Jesus Christ" (Romans 8:15-19).

In order to provide more opportunities for confession we have expanded confession hours to include Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon.

Confessions will be heard on Saturday's during December from 9:30-10:30 a.m. (during Adoration) and 3:00-3:45 p.m. in the lower church.

### CHRISTMAS TROOP SUPPORT

Many thanks to all who supported this project in any way. There were 12 knitted and crocheted stockings and 66 boxes prepared for our troops. Boxes will go to 8 service people in Afghanistan (including a Chaplain) and 1 in Turkey - representing a total of 474 men and women. We also prepared 115 small Christmas bags for all of the patients in the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Building #8 as well as for the Rehab, Hospice, Long-Term Care, and Cancer unit in Building 4. We also wrapped clothing and items which will go into the general pool for the SCI Building. Please take a copy of the detailed report/Newsletter at the entrances of church and the chapel. N.B. It doesn't matter how much or how little we do, we are giving from our hearts - and the troops and veterans know that. God bless you and happy holidays!

*Sally Stewart, Coordinator*



## LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH AT MASS

We invite families and ministry groups to sign up to light the Advent Wreath during Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas or St. Basil. You may either sign up online or by phone.

### ONLINE

visit our home page at [www.stthomasaquinas.com](http://www.stthomasaquinas.com) Look for the photo (shown above) and click on it. This will link you to a page where you can enter your information.

### PHONE

Call **508-697-3652** and Debbie will sign you up.

## 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.



## 2018 CALENDARS

Free religious Calendars for 2018 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 Prophett-Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Homes. Thank you Mark.

## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS WOMEN'S CLUB

For the December meeting, we will be going to the Plymouth Philharmonic Holiday Pops! Concert on Sunday, December 10th. Bus transportation will be provided by the Women's Club. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:00 pm. There are four tickets left. To purchase a ticket, contact Rosemary: 508-279-1757.

## PARISH GIVING TREE'S

### St. Basil Chapel

Ornaments designating gifts for needy families will be available on November 26<sup>th</sup>. These gifts will be given to Our Brother's Keeper, Easton to be distributed to needy families in the area.

### St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Ornaments designating gifts for needy Bridgewater families will be available on November 26<sup>th</sup>. These gifts will be given directly to Bridgewater families in need of our support.

Giving Tree tags are now up on the trees at the back of the upper church. Thank you for helping local families and other parishioners! If you take a tag please return by next weekend. We will be taking requests for assistance through 12/6. If you or anyone you know of needs assistance please stop by the rectory.

### Identifying families

If you or any family you know are in need of support during this Christmas Season we ask them to contact the parish office at **508-697-9528**



## ST. BASIL FOOD DRIVE

Thank you all who helped this past Saturday to unload the truck and restock the storage closet! The food came from the New England Food Foundation annual food drive. This food, along with the monthly donations from St. Basil's, will help provide food for BSU students needing assistance. The beneficiaries are grateful for your continued generosity.

*Stephen Black*

## FAITH FORMATION

### GRADES 1-8

#### • Christmas Pageant

The Christmas pageant will take place on Saturday, December 16th. Students in Grades 1-6 were given slips of paper. If your child is interested in participating, return the slip to the office. Everyone is given a part!

#### • Snow Cancellations

If Bridgewater schools cancel class, then we do not hold class. If class is cancelled on a Sunday, the announcement will appear first on our Facebook page. It will also be sent via email and posted on channel WBZ.

### CONFIRMATION I

The next class is this Sunday, 12/3. Students should complete one of the following and be prepared to write it in their books:

1. Get your family thinking. The next time your family is together, ask, "Who do you think Jesus was?" Share with them the three possibilities: liar, lunatic, or Lord.
2. What do you think Jesus looked like? Draw a picture, create an image, or describe in words.
3. What's your favorite song about Jesus?

### CONFIRMATION II

The next class for Confirmation II is December 10<sup>th</sup>. Students should have turned in their Confirmation Name and Sponsor forms. Both are available on our website:

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

## WITNESS TO LIFE PILGRIMAGE January 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>

The Archdiocese of Boston Witness to Life pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. begins with a Witness to Life Rally on Thursday, Jan. 18, 7pm at St. Stephen parish in Framingham. The Rally is open to all—even if you're not going on to the March for Life in D.C. Pilgrims will board the bus after the Rally and travel overnight to D.C. The \$180.00 pp/(quad occupancy) package includes transportation, hotel, meals, tours, and WTL apparel. Join Cardinal Seán O'Malley, and hundreds of others from RCAB Catholic schools and parishes as we march with thousands in our nation's capital to stand up for life. For those in need of financial aid, applications are open through Nov. 22. For more information, visit [bostoncatholic.org/witnesstolife](http://bostoncatholic.org/witnesstolife); or contact [witnesstolife@rcab.org](mailto:witnesstolife@rcab.org)

## FORMING DISCIPLES IN MISSION

Upcoming Workshops – Forming Disciples in Mission is a one-day or two-evening session to provide every Catholic with a common language and tools for the work of New Evangelization. Our next workshop date is January 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Malachy parish in Burlington. You can register for this or other upcoming workshops at [disciplesinmission.com/formingdisciples](http://disciplesinmission.com/formingdisciples)

## YOUTH GROUP (grades 6 – 12)

### Tour of Christmas Lights

Come join the Youth Group on Friday night December 8, for a Tour of the Christmas Lights at the LaSalette Shrine in Attleboro, Ma. Advanced sign-ups are required for youth & adult volunteers online at <https://stthomasaquinas.com/81>

Transportation will be provided. We will meet at 6 pm in the St. Thomas parking lot, departing shortly thereafter. Hot coca and cookies will be provided. We will return by 9:30 pm.

## IN A DARK HOUR

By Dr. Scott Hahn

Readings:

*Isaiah 2:1-5*

*Psalms 122:1-9*

*Romans 13:11-14*

*Matthew 24:37-44*

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. He occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26).

His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him - spiritually and morally - when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us - like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night.

Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord - that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-7). It is time we start living like it - throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace.

The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.

As we sing in today's Psalm, let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord. Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

*A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology [www.SalvationHistory.com](http://www.SalvationHistory.com)*

**CUB SCOUT WREATHS**

The Bridgewater Cub Scouts will be selling Christmas Wreaths outside St. Thomas and St. Basils after all masses this weekend, **December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**. 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 next weekend, **December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please stop by and support our local girls with this fundraiser.



**IN WORD AND DEED**

by Jim Gaffney

Have you noticed that many of the recent (and best selling!) books are all about personal growth and success? They take various approaches to achieving your dreams, becoming wealthy or more content. One common theme, however, is that of expectation. Set your goals, identify your desires, and look for what you want with a positive and hopeful attitude. If you expect great things, they will come.

Israel had been expecting great things from God for centuries. God's promises to them were always fulfilled and they could count on His love and support. Their enemies would fail, and Israel would enjoy the bounty of the Lord's Providence. God was faithful to them, and they in turn would be faithful to Him. "Wait for the Lord!" was their cry of encouragement as they waited, expecting the Messiah.

Advent is our time of expectation. We look and wait and ponder and hope for the coming of the Lord. We want Him to come so our doubts are answered, our sins forgiven, our fears relieved and our hopes fulfilled. Live in great expectation and God will not disappoint you.

*~James Gaffney, © 2007 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing jim@stgeorgepublishing.com*

'TIS *(almost)*  
**THE SEASON**

**BEST  
Advent  
EVER**

We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. Join our parish for Best Advent Ever, a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a unique way. Each day you'll receive an email with...

- Short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly & Dr. Allen Hunt
- Practical tips for your everyday life
- Real-life stories of hope

**TO SIGN UP, VISIT [BestAdventEver.com/BeautifulHope](http://BestAdventEver.com/BeautifulHope)**

**Dynamic Catholic**

**PART TIME MAINTENANCE WANTED**

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. Interested applicants can contact Peter V. in the parish office for more information.

**THE 2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION**

**This week • CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT - December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

<b>FINANCIAL BLESSINGS</b>	11/20 - 11/27	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
<b>SUMMARY OF COLLECTIONS</b>				
In-Pew Giving				
• Weekly Collection		\$5,236	\$1,226	\$6,462
Online Giving				
• WeShare		\$1,404	\$485	\$1,889
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$6,640</b>	<b>\$1,711</b>	<b>\$8,351</b>

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:45 a.m. Jose Coelho

10:00 a.m. Ashley Donahue

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

12:00 p.m. Manuel & Franklin Branquinho

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:00 a.m. Robert Bois

4:00 p.m. The Lanzikos & Poirier Families

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:45 a.m. Jack Voyer

10:00 a.m. Ralph Scopa

**10:00 a.m. St Basil** John Vicente

12:00 p.m. Gerald Manning & Joseph Manning

**5:00 p.m. St Basil** Pauline Roberge

## 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

**Monday, December 4 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

Landon Michael Perpetua

Kara Maxine DiCastro

Nicholas Christopher Bevis

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

Helen A. Dorosz, Mitchell C. Wolski,

Maria F. Moura, Joanne M. Vella,

Joseph P. Cruza, Paul F. Doherty,

Rita B. Martin, Thomas F. Garrity,

William f. Pincolini, Norene R. DiNardo

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

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