

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

DECEMBER 4, 2016

second 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 | Suspended for the Summer

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

Advent Penance Services

While many are already celebrating Christmas the Church reminds us that Advent is a time of preparation. We not only recall the events leading up to the Incarnation but we also look forward to the Lord's Coming in Glory. While there are many ways to prepare for Christmas and the Lord's Second Coming, one important way is to receive the Lord's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance. Confession is a time to recall sins that have kept us from being free, that have kept us from loving the Lord and others, sins that don't go away by our wishful thinking. The emphasis in this sacrament is not your sins as much as it is on the Lord's love, forgiveness and mercy. Examination of Conscience sheets and how to go to confession guidelines will be available at the church/chapel. We encourage parishioners not to wait until the last week of Advent but to avail themselves of the following opportunities.

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 7 at St. Basil's Chapel

7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 15 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Holy Day: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, December 8th is the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception. As the Church enters into the Advent Season and prepares to celebrate the Incarnation of Christ, the Church honors the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in salvation history. This day recognizes Mary's sinless conception (free from Original Sin) nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on September 8. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is the patronal feast day of our country. As a Holy Day, Catholics are asked to attend Mass this day.

Holy Day Masses Schedule:

7 a.m. & 9 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church

7 p.m. at St. Basil's Chapel



Senior citizens enjoy a Thanksgiving Dinner at St Thomas Aquinas Parish Center gymnasium.

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.

Parish Pastoral Council – Monday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m.

The Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held this Monday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m. Those who have recently expressed an interest and willingness to serve on the council are asked to be at the Parish Center Classroom Annex at 7:15 p.m.

Parking Lot Flyers

Last weekend during Masses flyers were left on many vehicle windshields in the parking lot with the rules and observances regarding the cemetery. These flyers were not distributed by our staff or parish offices. We have worked very hard this year to clean, maintain and rejuvenate the cemetery grounds. We know and trust that everyone in our parish understands and follows our cemetery guidelines.

Our parish facilities to include our parking lots and cemeteries are private property. No one is allowed to place any flyers or signs on parish property without explicit permission.

Save the Date: 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 Prophett-Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Homes. Thank you Mark.

Prison Holiday Help Needed – collection bins December 4 & 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

Coffee & Donuts

at St Thomas Aquinas in lower church hall after the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass

Religious Ed Teachers Needed

Grades 4 & 5 - Tuesdays @ 3:45 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Parish Giving Tree's

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 509-697-9528

St. Basil Chapel

Ornaments designating gifts for needy families are available. 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 are available. These gifts will be given directly to Bridgewater families in need of our support.

**Gifts must be returned to the church and chapel
December 10th & 11th.**

Girl Scout Cookies

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

Cub Scout Wreaths

The Bridgewater Cub Scout will be selling Christmas Wreaths outside St. Thomas and St. Basils after all masses the weekend of **December 3rd and 4th** as well as **December 10th and 11th**. Please stop by and support our local boys with this fundraiser.

Annual Christmas Luncheon

St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club
Tuesday, December 6th

Meadow Brook Restaurant Rte. 27 Hanson, MA

Meet Bus 11:30 a.m. STA Parking Lot

Luncheon Followed with Christmas Tour

LaSalette Shrine, Attleboro

Get Your Reservation in by Dec. 1st by Calling:

Nancy Querzoli @ 508-697-6626

Marianne Giovanoni @ 508-942-0609

Pat Aiello @ 508-944-7232

(Optional \$10 Yankee Swap too!)

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.

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.

YOUTH GROUP

For Students in grades 6-12

OUR MISSION:

"To bring our youth to the joy of the Church through Catholic centered events, community outreach, and social gatherings."

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY

"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, 9:00am - 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, 9:00am – 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.

Please visit the Youth Group page of the parish website for registration. Transportation will be provided (minimal cost involved) and space is limited.

Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 17th, 5:30 p.m.

We're still looking for angels!

If your child would like to sing, please contact Marie at mmasaitis@stthomasaquinas.com.

Rehearsal dates are December 4th & 11th, 3:00 p.m.

WRAP Presents & BE PRESENT

BEST
Advent
EVER

We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. We shop for gifts, bake cookies, decorate our trees, and visit family and friends until we're ready to drop. This year, prepare for Christmas in a different way. Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Advent Ever: *Rediscover Christmas*. You'll receive daily emails with inspirational videos, practical tips, or free Christmas music that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most. You'll experience Christmas in a way you've never experienced it before. Are you ready for your best Advent ever?

To sign up, visit
BestAdventEver.com

 **Dynamic Catholic**
Be Bold. Be Catholic.

Everyday Stewardship

My youngest child is going through Confirmation preparation this year. It is always quite a challenge to get through to a teenager about the importance of the gifts and fruits of the Spirit. You can't see and touch these things, but they are more valuable than most tangible gifts we can receive.

Isaiah 11 features the list of the traditional gifts of the Spirit that we speak about in the context of the sacrament: wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. These gifts are freely given to us to assist us in our daily walk with God. Discipleship and stewardship are hard enough in this world without the help from God's Spirit.

During this Advent season, we think quite a bit about gifts and gift giving. What is the perfect gift for that special someone? What can you give that will have an impact and the person will remember for years to come? Over two thousand years ago, a gift was given to us in a manger that really made a lasting impact. That gift remains with us in a profound way through the sacraments. While we are busy trying to get gifts for others, let us be mindful of the gifts we have already received by the best gift giver the world has ever seen.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Live the Liturgy Inspiration for the Week

We are reminded today that the coming of the Messiah is intended to restore the innocence and trust originally experienced in the Garden of Eden. The Gospel message leads us to this vision. John the Baptist prepares us to receive the One who will preach this message only to suffer and die as a result of it. We are asked to repent and move away from where the world desires to lead us. We are called to the vision given us by our Savior. Hope allows us to persevere as we wait for what is to come.

The 2nd Collections

• **This week** - December 4

Capital Improvements

Thanks to the generosity of our parish family, we are continuing to make improvements and update different areas of the parish. Over the past month we have worked on the common area in the lower church, the living and dining rooms in the rectory and also added new tables and chairs to the parish center. Over the next month we will look to complete the lower church and rectory updates, and focus on our winter preparation. We cannot thank you enough for your support to our parish.

• **Next week** - December 11

No 2nd Collection

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Summary of Collections for: 11/21-11/27

	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
1st Collection (Parish)	\$5,500	\$912	\$6,412
2nd Collection (None)	-	-	-
Total	\$5,500	\$912	\$6,412
Online Giving			
WeShare	\$528	\$670	\$1,198
Parish Pay	\$25	-	\$25
Total	\$553	\$670	\$1,223
Grand Total	\$6,053	\$1,582	\$7,635

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

Saturday, December 3

9:00 a.m. Ashley Donahue

4:00 p.m. Mary Gallo & Mary Gallo Kirouac

Sunday, December 4

7:45 a.m. Richard, Patricia & Raymond Downing

10:00 a.m. Jose & Maria Almada

12:00 p.m. Manuel C. DaSilva

Friday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Robert Bois

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

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.

Baptism Preparation Class

Monday, January 2 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.

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, 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'Neill,
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