

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

FEBRUARY 12, 2017



## 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](mailto:stthomasaquinas@comcast.net)

Phone | 508 697 9528

Fax | 508 279 1859

### Website

[www.stthomasaquinas.com](http://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](mailto:marlene.deleon@bridgew.edu)

Rita Garufi, Administrative Assistant

[rita.garufi@bridgew.edu](mailto: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

### COMMITMENT WEEKEND

Today is the day! For the past five weeks we have been asking parishioners to prayerfully consider making a commitment of their time, talent and treasure to support our different ministries and operational costs. In addition to the letter you should have received, Fr. Tom, parishioners, and I have spoken about the importance of making a commitment to support our parish and its ministries. It's important to remember that we give not out of obligation, but gratitude.

This weekend we will take a few moments after the sermon to complete and turn in the commitment cards that are in the benches.

With all parishioners involved in this renewal program, our parish will continue to grow. If you have not signed up for on line giving please visit our website [stthomasaquinas.com](http://stthomasaquinas.com).

### RETREAT

I'm joining 50 other Boston priests on a retreat from February 12-17th. I appreciate Fr. Pinto Paul, C.S.C. willingness to celebrate some of the parish masses this weekend. Fr. Pinto is assigned to the Holy Cross Family Ministry Center adjacent to Stonehill College. Many of the Stonehill Holy Cross priests have been very helpful in assisting area parishes with coverage.

**Fr. Bill**



### CARDINAL O'MALLEY

*My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:*

*In light of the present uncertainties and challenges that immigrants throughout the archdiocese are experiencing, I wish to address a few words of support and solidarity to the Catholics of our immigrant communities in parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. Having spent my entire priesthood working with people newly arrived from other countries, many of whom were undocumented workers fleeing the wars and violence of Central America, I have seen up close the pain and suffering visited upon families who are forced by circumstances to live in the shadows, always fearful of discovery, and economic ruin.*

*Although many Americans are frustrated by a broken immigration system and others are fearful of the threat of terrorism, I believe that most people in this country recognize that we are a nation of immigrants and that we have an established history of assimilating people of different languages, religions, ethnicities into the magnificent mosaic that is America. The ideals of our country are so well expressed in the beautiful poem of Emma Lazarus that is engraved on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, which is described as, "a mighty woman with a torch... Her name, Mother of Exiles. From her beacon hand glows worldwide welcome....and she proclaims: 'keep ancient lands, your storied pomp, give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free... I lift my lamp beside the golden door!'"*

*Just as we are a country of immigrants, so too we are a Church of immigrants. The Catholic Church in the United States has always stood with people who have come to this country from other lands and found in the Church a community and spiritual home. The arrival of so many from all over the globe has greatly enriched our country and our Church.*

*Here in Massachusetts, we have about 1 million immigrants living among and alongside of us, representing about 14 percent of the population of the state. Half of these people are now U.S. citizens. Studies have indicated that immigrants are large contributors to Social Security because they are largely of prime working age, and they pay into the system over a long period of time. This includes undocumented immigrants, the vast majority of whom are paying Social Security taxes but will never receive any benefits. Indeed, immigrants in Massachusetts pay \$1.36 billion in state income taxes and \$1.28 billion in local property taxes. Immigrants often do the hardest work for the least pay as they come to this country to work, to support their families and are law-abiding people.*

*The Bishops of the United States, the leadership of the Catholic Church, is committed to working for comprehensive immigration reform and for a welcoming policy towards those who are fleeing persecution and violence. It is our fervent prayer that people of goodwill from both political parties will be able to come together and forge a comprehensive immigration policy and laws that will reflect the idealism of this country.*

*I am anxious to assure all of you, especially families in the most precarious situations, that your Church stands with you and will work hard to promote solutions to the challenges that you face. Indeed, many of the programs of Catholic Charities are geared towards the immediate needs of immigrant families.*

*Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on his first journey as pope, went to the island of Lampedusa to express his support for the many refugees who arrived there and to warn the world against the globalization of indifference. We call on the whole community to heed his words. Know that you are constantly in our thoughts and prayers. You are not alone. You are an important part of our family and your Church will not cease to advocate on your behalf.*

*Calling on the powerful intercession of Mary the Mother of the Divine Shepherd for you and your loved ones, I remain*

*Faithfully yours in Christ,*

**Seán**

*Archbishop of Boston*

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AED'S Saturday, February 18, 1:00 p.m.**

Will Longo, a senior at BRRHS and parishioner, is completing his Eagle Scout Project. All of the AEDs have been installed at entrances of St. Thomas Church, the parish center and St. Basil's Chapel. He would like to thank everyone who donated money for their purchase.

As part of his project he would now like to train volunteers on how to use the AED in case of an emergency. He is asking people from each of the masses to volunteer for this training. There is a change in the training date. The date of the training has changed to Saturday 2/18 at 1 o'clock. If you are interested in getting trained, email Will at [wlongo722@gmail.com](mailto:wlongo722@gmail.com).

## **"MARDI GRAS" VOLUNTEER SOCIAL Saturday, February 25, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

Our parish would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who support our many ministries by inviting them to a volunteer appreciation social on February 25th from 5-8 p.m. at the parish center. You should have received an invitation in the mail, or via e-mail. If you did not receive an invitation and wish to attend, please call the parish office and speak with Rob Ruth. We ask everyone to RSVP no later than Tuesday February 14.

## **RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS**

This Sunday, February 12th is World Marriage Day. Our parish is blessed to have a large number of couples who have been married for a long time as well as young couples beginning their married life. Your commitment to each other and to the Lord continues to be a source of strength to your family and our parish.

*We are inviting couples this weekend at the end of the Mass to renew their wedding vows.*

We also pray for those whose marriages have ended unexpectedly through divorce or death. We hope that our parish provides you with the support, faith and love that helps you through the difficult and often lonely times.

We also encourage couples who were married civilly but not sacramentally (in a Catholic Church) to have their marriage blessed. It's a simple but significant ceremony that unites the Lord to your marriage vows. We also encourage those who are divorced and are remarried to speak with one of the priests for information on annulments.



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Betsy Pomfred has led a highly successful bible study course for adults at Holy Ghost Parish in Whitman. She is parishioner of Holy Ghost Parish and also attends daily Mass here at St. Thomas Aquinas. Inspired by the faith-enriching effects that this course has had on Holy Ghost's parishioner-participants, Betsy has generously offered to lead it for us here.

Called "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible", this 8-week bible study course "provides the easiest way to understand the Bible" and "makes the complex simple." It helps participants to "uncover the story woven throughout Scripture" so that "they can get the 'big picture' of the Bible and understand what it's all about."

A Lenten undertaking, this Bible study course will begin here at St. Thomas Aquinas on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 7PM and will meet for 8 weeks each Thursday thereafter in a Parish Center classroom. Each meeting will last about 1 and ½ hours.

The per-person cost is \$30.00, but St. Thomas Aquinas Parish will subsidize for each parishioner 50% of this cost. Therefore, there is a suggested per-person donation of \$15.00 which covers the cost of the participants workbook and DVD's featuring internationally acclaimed Catholic convert and apologist Jeff Cavins.

A check payable to "St. Thomas Aquinas Parish" for \$15 can be sent or delivered to the attention our business manager, Peter Vitagliano. Please note on the check "bible study course." Because workbooks and other material needs will need to be ordered/procured in advance, we ask you contact Betsy to sign up before Monday, February 21. Betsy's email is esp5775@yahoo.com; her cell phone # is (617) 697-2191.

During the weekend of February 20, Betsy will be speaking at our Masses. She will be available to answer your questions after Mass and, also, sign up additional participants.

## YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

- **Tubing at Nashoba Valley - Friday, February 17, 4:00 - 9:30 p.m.**

\$50 per person includes transportation and 3 hours of tubing. Snack bar-additional cost. Open to all in grades 6-12.

- **Minute to Win It - Saturday, March 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Come enjoy the Youth Group rendition of the popular game show - complete various, often hysterical, challenges within 1 minute to help your team earn points and win! Open to all in grades 6-8. \$3 donation

- **Spaghetti Supper - Saturday March 11, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

Open to all!! Join us after the 4pm mass for a traditional spaghetti supper and dessert, while being served by the youth of our parish. This event will act as a fundraiser for the Youth Group, with the majority of the proceeds going towards funding the Catholic Heart Work Camp mission trip to Richmond, VA in June. We already have 5 of our youth committed to this trip! Please plan to come out and support their efforts. Details to follow.

- **Catholic Heart Work Camp, Richmond, Virginia - June 24 - July 2, 2017**

ONLY 4 SPOTS LEFT!! We are looking for 1 more adult chaperone. Service trip with St. John's in East Bridgewater. Open to students entering 9th-12th grades in Fall 2017. Approximate cost \$750 (before fundraising) includes transportation, lodging and food. \$90 non-refundable deposit due upon registration.

*For more info contact Beth Peterson (beth0109@comcast.net or 508-331-0187) Sign-Up on Youth Group page of the website.*

## OUR LAND-FILL RUNNETH OVER!

With our improvements to the cemetery and our addition of the new Double Depth section, we have generated a lot of extra fill that has been stored in the rear corner of the parish lot. This fill has accumulated over time, and we want to start the process of removing it. We want to offer it to our parishioners first who may want it or need it for their own homes or landscaping projects. If you are interested in taking some of this fill for free, please contact the parish Business Manager, Peter Vitagliano.

## SCOUT SUNDAY MASS Sunday February 12, 10:00 a.m.

The annual Scout Sunday Mass takes place at Saint Basil's Chapel during the 10 a.m. Mass this Sunday February 12th. All present and past Scouts are invited to attend. Please park behind the Kelly Gymnasium in the BSU parking lot.

## SAVE THE DATE

- **Volunteer Social Saturday, February 25, 5:00 p.m.**
- **Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **Parish Mission, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**
- **Spring Rummage Sale Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m.**

## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration For The Week

This week and next Jesus presents challenges to Christians to go beyond the strictures of the law and to engage in a deeper understanding of what it can mean to follow Christ. Are we ready to do that with our whole heart?

### WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic traditions explained

**Question:** I read in the catechism that marriage is indissoluble. Why then does the church issue an annulment?

**Answer:** The description of marriage as indissoluble is found in several places in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church." Described as required by spousal love (#1644) and as foundational to the union of marriage (#1646), this quality of marriage draws its meaning from the fidelity of Jesus to his church (#1647). Spouses give themselves once and forever to each other, forming a sacramental bond that binds them as one. Indissolubility presumes and depends upon the sacramental bond between spouses. An annulment does not destroy the bond. Instead, it shows that a sacramental bond never took place because, at the time of the vows, something was either present or absent that made the consent invalid. The ceremony itself does not bring about a sacrament, but rather the full, free, and able consent of a man and woman, one to the other. The husband and wife are the ministers of the sacrament to each other because they give the gift of themselves to one another. The priest is the official witness. Therefore, if the gift of self is not given, or is held back for any reason, no sacrament takes place.

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

I saw a slogan once for an Internet start-up: "There is one rule; there are no rules." In fact, when I searched for this slogan again online, I was surprised at all of the variations on the "no rules" sentiment. Apparently, even Justin Bieber has a documented quote: "I want my world to be fun. No parents, no rules, no nothing. Like, no one can stop me. No one can stop me." Wow. My own kids seldom read my reflections. If they are reading this one, don't get any ideas!

Of course, a society without laws or rules will not exist for very long. The laws of a society are there to protect us from perhaps our greatest enemy: ourselves. We can't just do whatever we feel like. We will eventually hurt others or ourselves. The laws of God and his Church have the same effect. Sinful and imperfect people need parameters. Christians who choose sin or their own will over God's commandments not only break the relationship they have with their God, but they hurt others and diminish the body of Christ.

A stewardship way of life asks of us to live in a certain manner. We sometimes think that our cultivation of gifts and giving them back with increase to God is for God's sake. God's commands do not benefit God, for God is complete and perfect without need for increase. But this way of life is for the benefit of his creation. There is no power struggle here between a God of rules and his children. The cross bears witness to that. Instead, God's "rules" prevent us from destroying ourselves, and give us a path so we may flourish. Whether you are an ordinary Joe or an ordinary Bieber, following God's commands will lead to the real satisfaction in this gift of life.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

### THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

This week there will be a second collection for parish Capital Improvements. These collections are vital to the upkeep and maintenance of the parish and property. Father Bill has mentioned his wish list including air conditioning for the church, and this type of undertaking is funded by Capital Improvements. Your generosity has allowed us to build our meeting space in the lower church, repair the brickwork on the church, make repairs to the church stained glass and many other large scale improvements to make out parish a more welcoming place to worship. We are always thankful for your giving, and cannot thank you enough!

### FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
Parish Weekly Operating Costs	\$10,231	\$674	<b>\$10,905</b>
Summary of Collections for: 1/23 - 1/30			
<b>Weekly Collection</b>			
Total	\$5,632	\$1,149	\$6,781
<b>Online Giving</b>			
WeShare	\$2,694	\$1,205	\$3,899
Parish Pay	\$670	-	\$670
Total	\$3,364	\$1,205	\$4,569
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,996</b>	<b>\$2,354</b>	<b>\$11,350</b>

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

### Saturday, February 11

4:00 p.m. Mass For The People

### Sunday, February 12

7:45 a.m. Thomasina Aiello

10:00 a.m. Nancy (Rice) Ryan

10:00 a.m. at St Basil - Scout Sunday

12:00 p.m. Manuel Fernandes

### Monday, February 13

9:00 a.m. Rosa Franchi

### Tuesday, February 14

7:00 a.m. Margarida Garcia

### Thursday, February 16

9:00 a.m. Jonathan Kelly

### Saturday, February 18

4:00 p.m. Raffaella & Jovanna Melgrano

### Sunday, February 19

7:45 a.m. Manuel Melo & Maria DosAnjos

10:00 a.m. Charles Hathaway

10:00 a.m. at St Basil - Julie Ann Mack

12:00 p.m. Mass For The People

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord

### • ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

*St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church*

### • IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

1st Saturday of the month 10:00 a.m.

*St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church*

### • DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

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

*St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church*

## 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

Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## PRAYER LIST

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...”

Mila Antonia Sullivan, Robert Aleksander Pena,  
Brooke Elizabeth Richmond, Bradley George Childs

### “A time to die...”

Margaret Chiocca, Margaret Silverio, Mary Ellen T. Stevens,  
Richard J. Bradley, Winifred A. Fitzgerald, Mark D. Prescott,  
William L. McAvoy, William F. Chiocca, Marie J. Cincotta

### “A time to heal...”

Barbara Ahl, Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini, Edward Albert,  
Jean Andrade, Christopher Barbosa, Jeffrey Bean,  
Jim & Jean Brennan, Michael Botelho, Kim Sweetman Carnello,  
Sandra Cable, Marie Cincotta, Teresa Capachione,  
John Conley, Jacquie Cordaro, Matthew Costantino,  
Michael Costantino, Mychal Joseph Cotone, Joanna Crabtree,  
Michael Crowley, Jannine Dawicki, Mary DeLeon,  
Marty Dickerman, Paul D'Olimpia, Andrea Fitzgerald,  
Lee Fuller, Joanna Gale, Jesus Galindo, Florence Galligan,  
Dr. Francis Gendreau, Beverly Giuffre, Jessica Kamaniski,  
Tim Johnson, Daniel John, Ava King, 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,  
Jerry Muller, Anna Nakouzi, Lloyd Nelson, Antonio Nunes,  
Tom O'Donnell, Bob O'Hare, Glenn O'Neil, Kevin O'Neill, Ann Paulino,  
Carolyn Perry, Josephine Trocchi Picone, Elaine Phaneuf,  
Paul Phaneuf, 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,  
Susan VonMagnus, Peggy Yanuskiewicz, Don Weiner,  
Mary (Sweetman) Zunino, Alexis, Jason & Nicole Zutaut

### “A time for peace...”

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