

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

FEBRUARY 19, 2017



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Monday, February 20th - PRESIDENT'S DAY - Office Closed - No 7AM Mass

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 Mass

Sunday | 10:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

Weeknight Mass

Wednesday, February 22

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

GOSPEL MEDITATION - Encourage Deeper Understanding Of Scripture

"Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow." Today Jesus continues the powerful teaching of his Sermon on the Mount. Typical of this famous sermon, here he urges us to see things in a new way, specifically regarding situations and people who bother us. First, he tells us not to seek revenge. Instead, we are to demonstrate incredible generosity. Then, he instructs us to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

These instructions don't come naturally to most of us. We are much more inclined to want to get even with those who cause us to suffer, and to wish ill for those who have hurt us. But Jesus proposes another way.

In truth, what good does it do to seek revenge or foster hate? It only continues the cycle of evil. Jesus encourages behavior that will stop the cycle short. He gives us a model that--although it may not change the heart of our "enemies"--will nonetheless change OUR hearts for the better. When pressed into service for one mile, if we voluntarily go two, then WE are the ones whose attitude and experience is certain to change. Instead of spending the length of that one mile cursing and complaining, we spend the length of two enjoying a surprising kind of freedom: "I chose to do this," instead of "I am being forced to do this."

When we practice the generosity of giving more than we are asked, and the charity of praying for those who persecute us, we will find ourselves in a position to transcend the trouble. It sets us free to not be mastered by the evil around us. Thus, we are able to help end the cycle of evil and begin a new cycle of love and peace. ©Liturgical Publications Inc

LIVE THE LITURGY - Inspiration For The Week

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. It is one of the most challenging commands of the Gospel for believers. We should consider how well we fulfill this command of the Lord. ©Liturgical Publications Inc

*"You have heard that it was said,
You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be children of your heavenly Father." - Mt 5:43-45a*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

My pastor likes to say that his parents would always remind him to "leave a place you visited a little better than the way you found it." I have always tried to live by those words as well. The important word here is "tried" as I am sure that I have not always been successful.

The desire to always go a step further, to give even more than is required, is truly honorable. Jesus speaks to his disciples about this when he urges them to give more than what is asked and to travel two miles in service when all that was required of them is one. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to live the same way. It is fundamental to understanding a stewardship way of life.

True generosity has no limits. When we say that mature disciples are to answer the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost, we are inviting good stewards to embody this type of generosity. We can be the person who does not respond to the call, be the person who responds and gives what is required, or, finally, be the person who seeks to give above and beyond what is required. God doesn't just give us what we need, but he gives us more than we need. Made in his image, we are called to do the same. If we try to live in this manner every day, then we might just succeed in leaving this world a little better than the way we found it.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - Catholic traditions explained

Question: Is it true that Friday is still a day of abstinence? If so, why do we eat meat ?

Answer: Church law and practice is universal, but some things can be changed or modified by a conference of bishops with Rome's approval. Abstaining from meat is a good example. Canon 1251 says, "Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conference of bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless they are solemnities." The bishops in the USA obtained permission from Rome to do penitential and charitable works in place of abstinence on Fridays. Friday should still maintain its penitential character through our personal sacrifices and good works. Our personal practices are not limited or defined by church law. ©Liturgical Publications Inc

ADULT BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Betsy Pomfred has led a highly successful bible study course for adults at Holy Ghost Parish in Whitman. She is a 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 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.

COME TO THE WATERS OF HEALING - Saturday, March 4, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Come of the Waters of Healing is a one-day retreat designed to help women hurting from past abortions experience the personal love of Christ and find hope for healing. It will offer a loving and confidential environment to:

- hear stories of post-abortion healing
- share Scriptural stories of Christ's healing love
- spend quiet time in prayer before God
- receive Sacramental Reconciliation (Confession) and the great gift of Christ in the Eucharist

Sponsored by the Project Rachel Ministry - Archdiocese of Boston Location is confidential. Requested donation of \$10 to cover lunch cost. Pre-registration is required. Limited to 10 participants. For more information, contact Project Rachel at (508) 651-3100 or e-mail: help@projectrachelboston.com

OUR 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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Encourage the Holy Spirit to perfect your marriage by attending a World-wide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Mar 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI and Apr 22-23, 2017 in Brewster, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at www.WWME-MA.org.

SAVE THE DATE

- **Volunteer Social Saturday, February 25, 5:00 p.m.**
- **Ash Wednesday, March 1st**
- **Parish Mission, April 3rd, 4th & 5th**
- **Spring Rummage Sale Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m.-**

Daily Mass Winter Cancellation Policy

If due to inclement weather the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District cancels or delays classes, then the 7AM Mass on that morning will be cancelled. On those mornings, we will still have the 9AM Mass. However, parishioners are urged to exercise prudence. If travel conditions are unsafe, then please stay home! Information about weather-related Bridgewater-Raynham school closings/delays can be attained via television station WCVB Channel 5 or by visiting www.wcvb.com/weather/closings..

Bringing Forward Your Gifts

We encourage all individuals and families, both young and old, to take the opportunity to bring up the gifts for each of our Masses. The gifts being brought forward represent the prayers, hopes, and lives of the community gathered together to worship, so it is a beautiful sign to have all sorts of people come forward to participate in this part of the Mass. If this is something that you would be willing to help with, please see an usher before the start of Mass. Thank you for your willingness to represent the community in this way.

Gifts of Bread, Wine & Candles

We regularly receive requests from people who would like to make a donation that would cover the monthly cost of the alter candles and the Sanctuary Lamp that is lite near the Tabernacle to remind us of the Lord's presence. We also receive inquiries from parishioners who would like to cover the cost of the hosts and wine that we use each month. Some would like to make these donations anonymously and others in memory of someone who has died. The following are lists of the average monthly cost these items and the donation requested. Those who would like to make a donation are have to call the parish office.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Candles \$100
Wine / hosts \$225

St. Basil's Chapel
Candles \$100
Wine / hosts \$125

February Gifts

The bread, wine and candles for the month of February were donated by Lidia & Victor E. Smith Jr.

Knights of Columbus Bridgewater Council #488



MEAT RAFFLE

St. Ann's Church, West Bridgewater
Saturday, February 25 1:00 p.m. - 3:00p.m.

Light refreshments served. All are Welcome!

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

- **Minute to Win It – Saturday, March 4, 7- 9 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, 5-8 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. Tickets will be on sale after all masses next weekend 2/25-2/26, and 3/4-3/5. \$5 children 6-12, \$10 adults, family max \$30.
- **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)

Spring Rummage Sale - Saturday, April 23rd

The St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Clubs collecting donated items at the parish center. Items that are dropped off may only be left inside building. For more information please call the parish office.

ACCEPTED ITEMS

clothing, shoes, jewelry, books, small furniture, domestics, and miscellaneous items.

ALL ELECTRIC ITEMS

must be in working order.


NOT ACCEPTED ITEMS

televisions, computers, computer monitors, or computer related items.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

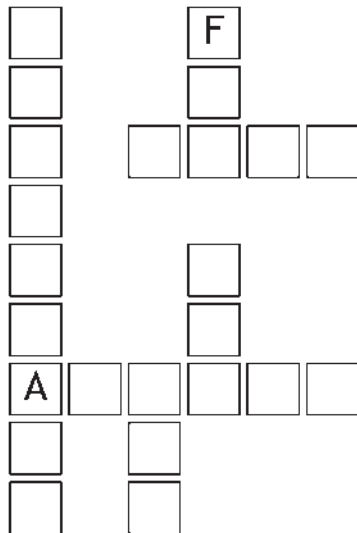
Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord

- **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

 **Puzzle**

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:


Pray for anyone who mistreats you.



Mission for the Week

Pick up your toys and help with the dishes, without waiting to be asked.

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BEST LENT EVER™

DON'T GIVE UP *chocolate* FOR LENT

We all know the things that make us happy, but we don't always do them. Lent is an opportunity to change that. This year we invite you to do something different.

Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Lent Ever, a free, video-based email program featuring internationally acclaimed speaker and *New York Times* bestselling author Matthew Kelly. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, Matthew will help you identify what stands between you and happiness . . . and what to do about it. Are you ready for your best Lent ever?

TO SIGN UP, VISIT **BestLentEver.com**



FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
Parish Weekly Operating Costs	\$9,931	\$948	\$10,879
Summary of Collections for: 1/30 - 2/6			
Weekly Collection			
Total	\$4,156	\$870	\$5,026
Online Giving			
WeShare	\$537	\$345	\$882
Parish Pay	\$25	-	\$25
Total	\$562	\$345	\$907
Grand Total	\$4,718	\$1,215	\$5,933
Special Collection this week:			
Capital Improvement	\$2,387	\$231	\$2,618

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

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

Monday, February 20

7:00 a.m. Daniel Soares & Family

9:00 a.m. Debbie Pincolini Baroni

Wednesday, February 22

9:00 a.m. Margaret E. Chiocca

Friday, February 24

9:00 a.m. Betty Gattiglio

Saturday, February 25

4:00 p.m. Mary & Billy Moore

Sunday, February 26

10:00 a.m. Elena Rea

10:00 a.m. at St Basil - Sandy O'Donnell

12:00 p.m. Mass for the People

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, March 6th 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