

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

FEBRUARY 26, 2017



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Wednesday, March 1st - ASH WEDNESDAY - Mass Schedule inside

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

Thursday, March 2

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.

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

YOUR COUNCILS

While we have many different ministries in our parish I would like to acknowledge three councils that have been and continue to be invaluable in providing me with guidance, feedback, support and planning for our parish. The members of these councils have either volunteered or been invited to join these councils.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL This council addresses pastoral concerns, assesses ongoing programs, as well as what new ministries are needed in order to reach out to others and evangelize. Their focus is to find how we can better fulfill the Mission Statement printed above. They also look forward to where we, as a parish, would like to be in 3-5 years and discuss ways how to get there. Guidelines for this council are provided by the Archdiocese. Members meet every two months and serve for a period of 3 years.

Members:	Kathy Fava (Vice Chair)	Kathy Flaherty
Leo Cote	Dan Moriarty	Barbara Henault
Ron Daniels	Ginniy Timmerman	Erick Lynch
Tony Demarol	Tony Fernandes	Sarah Puliafico

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL This council reviews, critiques, analyzes and advises me on the financial status of the parish. They assist me in creating a budget and strategizing how to be good stewards with the financial resources that have been entrusted to us. They carefully review all expenditures and make recommendations on available funds for staffing and projects. They assist in creating the parish's annual financial report. Working with our Business Manager, Peter Vitagilano, they review and create financial statements required by the Archdiocese. Similar to the Parish Pastoral Council, they review trends and help to plan for the future. Members of this council are appointed and meet quarterly.

Members:	Mike Dunford (Chair)
Susie Rindini	Marc Papasodora
Mary Crealesse	Bill Suneson
Jim Gale	

PARISH MAINTENANCE COUNCIL This council reviews and advises me on maintenance of our buildings and care for our cemeteries and grounds. They identify and prioritize capital improvement projects, repairs and upgrades to our facilities. Their technical knowledge and experience have been invaluable in reviewing and comparing contracts, providing scope of work and often on site supervision. These council members are volunteers and meet every two months.

Members:	Peter Proffetty
Bill Cannon	Don Bergstrom
Paul Donahue (Chair)	Tony Fernandes
Lenny Baczek	Norm Lemieux

If you know or see any of these council members be sure to thank them for sharing their time & talent.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Over the past month a number of parishioners have volunteered to bring Holy Communion to those who are unable to come to Mass. If you know of anyone, neighbor or family member, who is not able to pray with us at Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office.

Fr Bill

March 1st ASH WEDNESDAY




ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Thomas Aquinas Church 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 7:00 PM

St. Basil Chapel 12:00 PM - NOON

(BHA) Senior Housing, Heritage Circle 1:30 PM

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. Friday's of Lent are also days of abstinence.

FASTING is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

ABSTINENCE is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

THE CROSS OF ASHES

This Wednesday, as we celebrate Ash Wednesday, we will probably see a number of people walking around with crosses of ash on their foreheads (or in many cases random blobby shapes vaguely approximating crosses, depending on how talented the person giving them ashes happens to be). This is a wonderful symbol, and a great way to begin the Lenten Season, because it reminds us what we are doing.

Putting on ashes is an ancient sign of sorrow and repentance. The use of ash reminds us that all of us are sinners, that we sometimes choose to do what is easy rather than right, that we sometimes end up being selfish rather than generous, that we need to recognize our imperfections and bring them to the Lord for healing. So for the rest of the day on Ash Wednesday, every time we look in the mirror we should be reminded that these next forty days are a graced time to work on our weaknesses, and every time we see somebody else with their ashes it should remind us that we need to be patient with their imperfections, as we hope they will be with ours.

If it was just about ashes, it would probably be a pretty depressing message, but the fact that the ashes are in the shape of a cross has a profound meaning as well. The use of the cross reminds us that our imperfections can be overcome by the power of Christ's love. That gives us hope. Yes we're sinners, yes we have a lot of things to work on, but Jesus loves us enough despite our sins that he was willing to die for us. That means that he will not hold back any of the grace we need to succeed in improving ourselves over the course of this Lent.

So let us wear our ashes with pride this Wednesday. They are a symbol of our confidence that the Love of Christ will make sure that we can reach Easter ready to celebrate the Resurrection by spending forty days being cleansed and strengthened by God's grace.

CONFESSIONS, THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

Every Lent we offer the opportunity for people to go to confession on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the lower church chapel. Lent is the time not only to fast, pray and be more charitable, but to experience the Lord's mercy, love, and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. Aids to confession or Examination of Conscience will be available.

If you drive by the church on Wednesday evening, you will see "The Light Is On For You."

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

It's hard to believe that Ash Wednesday and Lent begin this week. This week's bulletin has a number of Lenten messages, reflections, expectations and schedules. We encourage everyone reading this to make this Lent a time of renewal to attend Mass during the week, Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings, and the Parish Mission to be held on April 3rd, 4th & 5th.

Lenten Daily devotional, "The Little Black Book" will be available at the entrances of the church and Chapel after the Ash Wednesday Masses. These very popular devotionals provide a simple daily Lenten reflection, story and prayer. In addition to providing the daily Mass readings there are articles on spirituality and Lenten practices. Please take one and put it next to your keyboard, cell phone, water bottle, or nightstand so that it can be used every day.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday night, 6:30 - 7:00 p.m., at St. Basil's Chapel.

GROWTH IN STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Our Growth in Stewardship Initiative was put in place to gain more involvement from our parishioners whether it be your time, talent or treasure. So far the response from our parish family has been encouraging. We have received over 300 Commitment Cards back so far this year, a 9% increase over last year. We cannot thank you enough for your willingness to give to our parish. Your generosity in all of its forms sustains the parish and its many endeavors.

Last week's snow & ice storm may have prevented some from making it to the Masses during Commitment weekend, so we want to remind you that you can pick up commitment cards at the entrances of the church/chapel and mail them to the parish or drop them in the rectory mailbox directly. Thank you again for all of your support!

BABY SHOWER FOR THE UNBORN

Our parish's BABY SHOWER FOR THE UNBORN will be held this year from March 4-March 19, 2017. The baby items collected will be donated to FUND FOR THE UNBORN of the Archdiocese of Boston's Pro-Life Office. The baby shower is an effort to give pregnant women the help they need to choose life over abortion.

Unwrapped gifts may be placed in either of the cribs set up in the upper and lower church at St Thomas or at St Basil's. Any checks may be made payable to FUND FOR THE UNBORN.

Baby items needed: blanket sleepers (0-6mos., 6-12mos.) onesies (0-3 mos.), warm outfits (newborn, 0-3mos., 6-9mos.), disposable diapers (newborn and size 4), diaper bags, flannel receiving blankets, baby bottles (4 oz. and 8 oz.) (No equipment, furniture or food please.)

We will be collecting baby shower items next weekend, March 4-5. Thanks in advance for your loving generosity.

Catholic Appeal

2017 Catholic Appeal: Please be sure to take home next week's bulletin to learn how the ministries supported by the Catholic Appeal directly benefit our parish. Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to this important work.

6 EASY LENTEN TIPS

Here are 6 easy tips to help you make the most out of your Lent:

- 1.) Make your sacrifice something meaningful that's really a sacrifice. It will help you to grow closer to Christ.
 - Sure, it's easy to take the easy route and say, "I'm going to give up junk food," but choosing something that's easy doesn't really allow Lent to become a spiritual experience.
- 2.) Choose something that is easy to stick with.
 - On the other hand, sometimes we can often go to extremes and choose something that becomes too difficult to maintain for all 40 days, like giving up all meat, and we "give up" on giving up around day 10.
- 3.) Don't compare yourself to your family or friends.
 - Everyone is at a different place in their relationship with Christ. Choose something that is right for you.
- 4.) Go to Confession!
 - The Church asks that Catholics go at least once a year—Lent is a great season to cleanse yourself from sin through the Sacrament of Confession.
- 5.) Try adding a spiritual practice on top of what you're giving up.
 - Try praying a Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet once a day or reading from the Scriptures for 10 minutes daily.
- 6.) Most importantly, if you mess up, that's okay. Start over right there and then!

RESTROOM USE

Unfortunately the rest rooms in the church and chapel require those using them to walk through the church and chapel in order to access them. Walking through the church/chapel can and often is a distraction to those who are praying. While the rest rooms are there to be used when needed, a number of times it appears that some use it to take a break or just to leave Mass. We encourage parents to have their children use the rest room before or after mass...if possible. If using them, please teach the children not to run down the aisle when returning to the Mass.

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S RECOLLECTION

We encourage men in our parish to do themselves...and their families a favor and set aside next Saturday to participate in a morning of recollection. Holy Family Parish in Rockland is hosting a Morning of Recollection for Men on Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. The morning will consist of Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Benediction as well as a presentation by Fr. Frank Daly. Refreshments will be provided. For further information please contact Ed Hubbard 781-351-9805 or holyfamilymen@yahoo.com.

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.

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. *Highschool volunteers needed to help run games. Community Service hours will be provided.*

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.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
Parish Weekly Operating Costs for: 2/12 - 2/20	\$9,135	\$630	\$9,765
Summary of Collections for: 2/12 - 2/20			
Weekly Collection			
Total	\$5,365	\$1,047	\$6,412
Online Giving			
WeShare	\$2,577	\$630	\$3,207
Parish Pay	\$180	-	\$180
Total	\$2,757	\$630	\$3,387
Grand Total	\$8,122	\$1,677	\$9,799

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 altar 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.

SAVE THE DATES

- Parish Mission, April 3rd, 4th & 5th
- Spring Rummage Sale Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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

Thursday, March 9

9:00 a.m. Jack Daniels

Saturday, March 4

4:00 p.m. Joseph, Josephine and Joseph B. Leandres

Sunday, March 5

7:45 a.m. Francis Couet

10:00 a.m. Beth Edwards

12:00 p.m. Jose Chaves & Family

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

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, Maria I. DeAndrade
Mary DeLeon, Marty Dickerman, 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, 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,
Anna Vrana, Don Weiner, Peggy Yanuskiewicz,
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