

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

FEBRUARY 5, 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

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

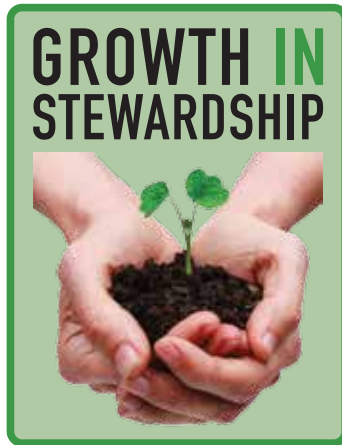
Marlene DeLeon, Campus Minister

Phone | 508 531 1412

marlene.deleon@bridgew.edu

Rita Garufi, Administrative Assistant

rita.garufi@bridgew.edu



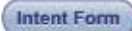
STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

From the Pastor

I'm very grateful for the parishioners who personally spoke about the Stewardship Renewal at the Masses last weekend. I appreciate their willingness to share their love for their family, the Lord, their faith, the Church and our parish.

Fr. Tom and I will be speaking at all the masses this weekend encouraging everyone to consider renewing their commitment to share the blessings of time, talent and treasure that God has given them.

We wish to thank those of you who have returned your Intent Forms so promptly. As of February 1st, we have already received 35 Intent Forms. Please pray about your decision and return your Intent Form as soon as you are ready. We ask that each family return their Intent Form to the parish by February 11th and 12th, which is Commitment Weekend at St. Thomas.

If you have not received an Intent Form in the mail, please contact the parish office at 508-697-9528 so we can verify your address and get a replacement in the mail to you right away. In addition, extra forms are available at the back of the church and chapel as well as online. A ".pdf" version can be viewed and, or printed from our website. Visit the stthomasaquinas.com homepage and "click" on the Growth In Stewardship icon (shown above left) and "click" on the  button.

If you wish to enroll in online giving, we encourage you to do so. It's fast, easy and convenient. Please visit our home page at stthomasaquinas.com and click here.



Fr. Bill

From The Business Manager

Increasing our offertory through the Growth in Stewardship Initiative allows us to forecast our income for the year ahead, instead of wondering week-to-week where we stand. The benefits of these insights are very important. They allow us to create budgets to more efficiently run the parish, fund our ministries, hire and maintain a strong parish staff and also plan ahead for necessary upgrades and improvements to keep the parish up-to-date. Increasing our Stewardship commitments will allow us to utilize the Grand Annual Appeal more effectively to make improvements and add to what the parish can offer our parishioners instead of being used to simply cover expenses. Our parish expenses average \$13,300 per week, and currently, our offertory averages \$9300. The gap between these has to be covered by dipping into the Grand Annual, or gifts and donations that can close that gap, but are not scheduled.

The Growth in Stewardship Initiative is an important and vital part of parish planning, and we hope that you can become more active in our parish, whether it is through your time, your talent or your treasure.

Thank you!

Peter Vitagliano

"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. Please save the date.

BLESSING OF THROATS

February 3rd was the Feast of St. Blaise, a bishop who lived in the early centuries of the church who is credited saving a man's life who was choking. It has been a tradition on Feast of St. Blaise's to ask the Lord to bless us and our throats in particular from any disease or injury. To accommodate those who would like to receive this blessing, the blessing of throats will take place after all the masses this weekend.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917 a Pilgrimage to Fatima will be held from August 10- 21st, 2017. Cost is \$1,949.00 per person. For information contact Becky at 978-505-0126 (World Apostolate of Fatima Chairperson) or register with Crystal Travel and Tours at 888-327-2862. Flyers are available at entrances of church and chapel.

CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION

There's been a great deal of publicity both nationally and globally about recent changes in our Immigration Policy. While there are many valid and often controversial positions regarding homeland security, immigration and justice it's important to view this not solely from a secular political perspective but from a genuinely human and theological perspective in keeping with the principles of Catholic social teaching. In 2003, the U.S. Catholic Bishops stated.....

"As Catholics we are called to take concrete measures to overcome the misunderstanding, ignorance, competition, and fear that stand in the way of genuinely welcoming the stranger in our midst and enjoying the communion that is our destiny as Children of God. Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity".

This past week, Bishop Jose Vasquez, Chairman of the National Catholic Conference of Bishop's Committee on Migration stated.....

"We strongly disagree with the Executive Order's halting refugee admissions. We believe that now more than ever, welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope. We will continue to engage the new administration, as we have all administrations for the duration of the current refugee program, now almost forty years. We will work vigorously to ensure that refugees are humanely welcomed in collaboration with Catholic Charities without sacrificing our security or our core values as Americans, and to ensure that families may be reunified with their loved ones."

Regarding the Executive Order's ban on Syrian refugees, the prioritization of religious minorities suffering from religious persecution, Bishop Vásquez added:

"The United States has long provided leadership in resettling refugees. We believe in assisting all those who are vulnerable and fleeing persecution, regardless of their religion. This includes Christians, as well as Yazidis and Shia Muslims from Syria, Rohingyas from Burma, and other religious minorities. However, we need to protect all our brothers and sisters of all faiths, including Muslims, who have lost family, home, and country. They are children of God and are entitled to be treated with human dignity. We believe that by helping to resettle the most vulnerable, we are living out our Christian faith as Jesus has challenged us to do."

There may be some who disagree with these statements and others who strongly support them. It is important to identify the issues, become more informed, listen to opposing views and pray and work for a resolution that respects our national security as well as the Lord's challenge to "love our neighbor."

Fr. Bill

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.

SAVE A LIFE VOLUNTEERS Sunday, February 19, 1:00 p.m.

The AEDs for the parish have been installed in the church, chapel and parish center. Will Longo is now ready to move on to the next step of his Eagle Scout Project. Having become a Red Cross Certified AED Certified instructor, Will is ready to train as many members of the parish as possible. This training will potentially help you save a life. The training for the AEDs will be held on Sunday, February 19th, at 1:00pm in the Lower Church. Anyone interested in receiving the training can contact Will at Wlongo722@gmail.com. As Father Bill has mentioned previously, we are looking for 4-5 people from each Mass who are willing to receive the 2 - hour training.

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

The annual Scout Sunday Mass will take place at Saint Basil's Chapel during the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday February 12th. All present and past Scouts are invited to attend. Present Scouts should be in uniform. Scouts will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level of the chapel. We encourage Girl Scouts (Daisies through Ambassadors) to also participate. If you are a Girl Scout/Brownie/Daisy parent/leader please contact Kate Anderson at cnjanderson@comcast.net or at (508-353-9780). Please park behind the Kelly Gymnasium in the BSU parking lot. The Religious Emblems program is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #488. Units are encouraged to bring their Pack/Troop flag & stand.

SAVE THE DATE

- **Renewal of Marriage Vows (weekend Masses) February 11 & 12**

All married couples will be invited to renew their marriage vows at each of the Masses next weekend - February 11 & 12th. We encourage families and spouses to attend Mass together so that our parish can celebrate and be strengthened by the presence of our married couples and the renewal of their marriage vows. Fully aware that some marriages have ended because of death, separation or divorce, we will also pray for those who have experienced the loss of a spouse and for those who seek healing and hope.

- **Volunteer Social Saturday, February 25, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

- **Spring Rummage Sale Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m.**

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 information contact Beth Peterson (beth0109@comcast.net or 508-331-0187)

Sign-Ups available on Youth Group page of parish website.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - Catholic traditions explained

Question: What is holy water and how do I explain the reason that it is placed at the entrances of churches to my non-Catholic friends?

Answer: Holy water is a sacramental; a reminder of the life of the church expressed and celebrated through the sacraments. By blessing ourselves with holy water as we enter the church, we are reminded of our own baptism and our call to conversion. Much as we are baptized and then journey through life, we bless ourselves and move through the church, symbolizing again the guiding presence of the Lord, which comes to us through baptism. We especially use holy water during Easter when the priest sprinkles the people. It serves to remind us that we are indeed on a journey of faith that makes us one with Christ. So blessing ourselves not only reminds us that we are baptized into a community of faith, but also helps us renew our own baptismal promises to reject sin and to believe in God. It is the heart of Christian belief to turn from sin and toward God. Holy water and baptism make it a visible sign for all of us to follow.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"You are the light of the world." Speaking to his followers, Jesus tells them of the influence they are meant to have. Like the seasoning that gives food its flavor, they are to be "the salt of the earth" and like a lamp on a lampstand that "gives light to all in the house." Clearly, their influence on the people around them is meant to be positive and substantial. But what is the source of this irreplaceable influence?

Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus declares that HE is "the light of the world" (cf. Jn 8:12). So when he tells his disciples that "your light must shine before others," he is speaking about the light that comes from following him, from believing in him, from living their lives for him and with him. The light of Christ brightens the world, showing us the truth and meaning of our existence. And to the extent that we have that light in our hearts, it naturally spreads out to impact those around us.

So, today we must ask ourselves whether or not we are shining the way we are meant to as Christians. Do we brighten up our families, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our parishes? Are people encouraged, inspired, edified, and supported by our presence? Do we bring the kind of flavor that enriches life with a taste of the authentic truth, beauty, and goodness that comes from God alone? Or have we become a bit bland, like salt that "loses its taste" or light that is hidden "under a bushel basket"? It's important to be on guard against any tendency to let our faith be reduced to a mere routine or ritual. Rather, when we nurture our faith to be a living force that defines us and our actions, it will be a source of joy and renewal not only for us, but for the whole world.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

I recently watched the film adaptation of "Godspell" with my teenage daughter. I had such fond memories of watching it when I was young, back in the day. I listened to the soundtrack so many times and learned to play many of the songs on my guitar. The exclamation from the show, "You are the light of the world!" has always been firmly planted in my mind.

After about ten minutes, my daughter looked at me with that look only a teenage girl can display. "What is this?" she asked with a certain level of condescension. Yes, the film did not hold up so well in the eyes of the twenty-first-century critic. So we laughed most of the way through it.

What attracted me to the film and the soundtrack in the first place wasn't Jesus in a Superman shirt or the idea of the apostles wondering around the urban jungle. I was attracted to the message. I was attracted to that assertion in the song, "You are the light of the world."

There will always be people who see the Gospel of Jesus Christ as dated, irrelevant, and even hokey. You and I are called to be the light of the world? Good stewards must never shy away from living lives that truly bear witness to the reality of the Gospel. The parables of Jesus have as much meaning for us today as ever. Look around. The world we live in needs a little light for sure.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

LIVE THE LITURGY - Inspiration For The Week

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls for us to be a sign of God's revelation to the world. We come together today to be enflamed with love for God, that all we encounter might see our light and come to the Father.

WOMEN'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

The St Thomas Aquinas Women's Club will be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships for qualifying High School seniors. Applications can be obtained at the Rectory, CCD Office and various local High Schools. The application deadline is 4/14/2017. Any questions please call Helen Cleary 508-697-9175.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
Parish Weekly Operating Costs	\$9,250	\$675	\$9,925
Summary of Collections for: 1/23 - 1/30			
Weekly Collection			
Total	\$4,951	\$863	\$5,814
Online Giving			
WeShare	\$532	\$345	\$877
Parish Pay	\$25	-	\$25
Total	\$557	\$345	\$902
Grand Total	\$5,508	\$1,208	\$6,716

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

Saturday, February 4

4:00 p.m. Alex Dasilva

Sunday, February 5

7:45 a.m. Manuel Moura, Antonio & Maria Sousa

10:00 a.m. Francis Couet

12:00 p.m. Yvonne M. Blauss

Wednesday, February 8

7:00 a.m. Antonio & Libania Sousa

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

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 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