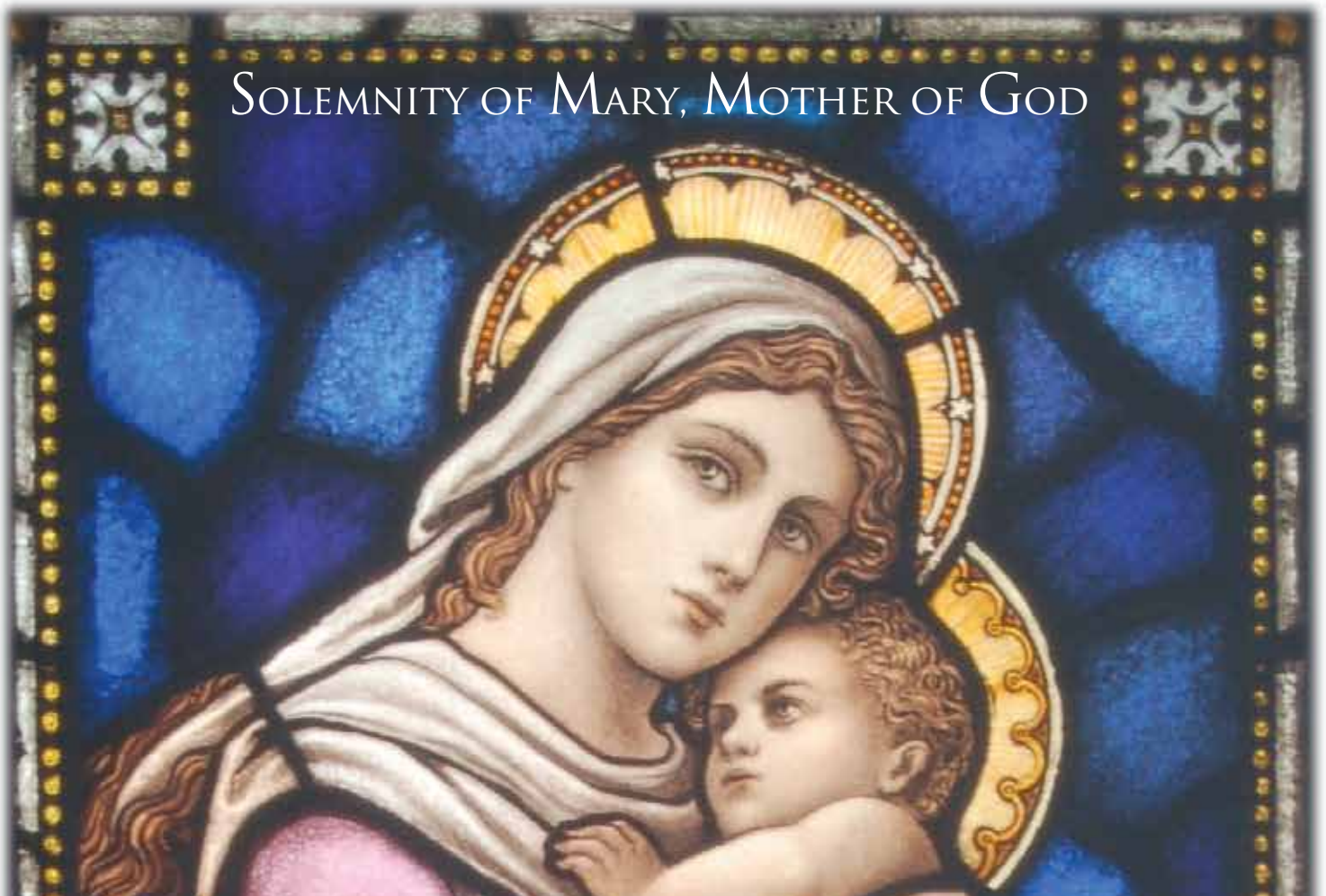


ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

JANUARY 1, 2017

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



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

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

Christmas Flowers in Memory of . . .

We are grateful to all those that made a donation towards the Christmas Flowers that decorate our church and chapel in memory of all of the deceased friends, families and love ones listed here.

Marge & Jack Murphy, John & Mary Saba, Elena, Victor & John Ferrari, Ashley Donahue, Paul & Elenaor Bumpus, George & Rosemary Kerrissey, Frank & Regina Sullivan, Tina Stoddard, John H. Oakes, Dorothy, Sandra, John Sr. & John Jr. Croal, Ann Diambro, Ginny Forgit, Dotty Wagner, Frank & Milly Duffy, Mary, Richard & Nancy Hellard, Marge Elias, Karen Driscoll, Mike & Sundena Sarro, Armand & Genevieve Lepine, Albert Lepine, Genevieve Norton, LuAnna & Edmond Kenneally, Alice, Norrine, Lenny & Donny Heath, Anne & James Hynes, Branden Heath, Ellen, Michael & Thomas Connolly, Rocco Damiano, Regina Colvin, Antonio & Libania Sousa, Manuel & Angelina Coelho, Delia & Edward McMahon, Francisco Maria Pimentel, Antonio Sousa & Maria Resendes & sons & daughters, Ernest Procaccini, James Procaccini, the Procaccini Family, the Leggett Family, the Hallisey & Colombo Families, Martin Conley, Manuel & Paulo Torres, Carroll, Ouelette, Luiz families, Wilfred & Dora Bois, Terri, Jean, & Wayne Parris, John Anderson, Alice Battista, Gloria & Leroy Cathcart, the Tranmer family, Wilfred & Dora Bois, Robert E. Bois, Inez & Joseph Souto, Maria & Tony Souto, Flo Hurley, Nina Borrs, Laura & Charlie Landers, Zuele Biardini, Ray, Joan & Kim Mead, Paul & Peg Rivers, the Demoura & Chaves families, Kenneth Nelson, Maria Figueiredo, Francisco Figueiredo, Shannon Crowley, Alexis Doucette, Don & Jean Unwin, Don & Barbara Unwin, Mary & John Gallagher, Michael Avtges, George & Dorothy Fagan, V. James DiNardo, William J. Bernoche, William A. & Hellen Benoche, Linwood & Margarite Bernoche, Charles Taylor, Catherine & Guy Mofera, the Ferrante, Malzone, Donahue, & Gallant families, José & Ana Carvalho, Ralph Scopa, William Richner, Darlene Wanous, the Cincota & Klaus families, the Berry family, The Barry family, Donna Cummings, Mary Bent, Charlie & Tracey Hathaway, Peggy Sotera, Manuel & Ruby Gallego, Jaclyn E. Moore, Thomas & Rita Couming, Marian Couming, J. Robert & Frances Symes, Ronald, Susan & Julianne Symes, Ralph & Marian Simonds, James & Phyllis Giovanoni, Paul Mahan, Edna Giovanoni, Edward Akers, Elizabeth O'Brien, Christopher McCarthy, Joseph Cabral, Ronald C. Hill, Beth Edwards, Lester & Helen Edwards, James & Lillian Hutchins, Manuel & Rose Santos, Debbie Pincolini Baroni, Frederick & Catherine Barry, Howard & Helen Bossa, Rev. Barry Bossa SAC, Patricia Helmouth, & Robert Bossa, the Amichetti & Marchionda families, Domenic & Rose Zonfrelli, Paul Victoria Zonfrelli, Winfield & Ursula Hayward, Donna Lanzikos, Clyde Hamilton, Family & Friends of the Dunne family, Paula Querzoli Smith, the Kemp, Cloutier, Sweeney, & Holmes families, the Perry & Giovannini families, the Carroll & Ouelette families, the Chiocca, Sherry, Rondelli, & Jandullo families, Dela & Joe Roque, William & Doris Roy, Vincent & Miriam Malewicz, Alfred & Irene Bousquet, Patrick Keeley, Sr., Patrick Keeley, Jr., Richard Sergi, Dante & Chiarina Folloni, Sante & Luigia Folloni, Antonio & Elisabetta Betta, Andelina Folloni Baldini, Olivano Baldini, Frances Fillipetti Morast, Albert & Louise Anderson, the Proffetty, Ticchi, Nicoli & Covezoli families, Anna M. Lane, June Angileri, Jeanne Gordon, Margaret Baczek, João and Rosa Pimentel, Eduardo Pimentel, Mariana C. DeMoura, José DeMoura, Edward & Laurent Dagesse, the Joyce & Fitzgibbon families, the Leger & Pope families, Lena, Joyce & Richard Chiappini, the Harrington & Furtado families, and, the Mainvielle family.

In Honor of . . .

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

More than New Year's Day

While most people focus on celebrating New Year's Day this weekend our Church reminds us that we also celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, the Octave (eight days following Christmas) of the Nativity of the Lord and World Day of Peace.

With the inauguration of our President Elect and increasing tensions in many countries our new year will undoubtedly bring many changes and challenges. Peace doesn't "just happen." We need to pray for peace and discern what the Lord is calling us to do in our own lives, families and neighborhoods that will be a small step in reaching out to others with charity and forgiveness. While some will be undoubtedly make New Year resolutions it's best to bring those resolutions to prayer asking God's help if we want to keep them.

Although most people have begun to take down their Christmas trees and decorations, the Catholic Church reminds us that Christmas is not over. Christmas is too significant an event to limit to a day. Christmas is a season that lasts until the Epiphany of the Lord on January 8th.

Today the Church honors our Blessed Mother Mary as the Holy Mother of God. We honor, not worship, Mary for many reasons. We honor her primarily because God chose Mary and from her Jesus, God's Son, took on flesh and entered into our world. Mary's faith and trust in God continues to challenge us to follow her example. Listen in particular to today's prayers and scripture readings as they help us understand and celebrate this Solemnity.

Christmas Thank you

I would like to thank everyone who over the past few weeks have given so much in order that our Advent and Christmas Masses and celebrations could be prayerful and meaningful.

I thank

- the coordinators and those who bought gifts from our Giving Trees in order to assist over 200 needy individuals/families
- the parents and Confirmation students who wrapped and sorted the gifts to be distributed and those who gave over 75 food gift certificates which have been and will be distributed as needed
- the junior and senior high school students and parent youth leaders who set-up and participated in Boston's Christmas in the City for under privileged youth and families
- Donna Kelly and her helpers for beautifully decorating the church and chapel and for those who made donations for the flowers
- Marie Maisatis and the motivated parents for directing the children's Nativity Pageant
- the cantors and musicians for leading us in song and for singing songs that celebrate our faith, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for setting up the gym for Christmas Eve Mass, and the ushers & greeters.
- the anonymous parishioner who donated and distributed the book **Rediscovering Catholicism** to every family after Christmas Masses with the hope that it will bring people closer to God and back to church
- the Boy Scouts for decorating and setting up the crèche
- you for your Christmas Mass donations which will be given to fund the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust
- our dedicated parish staff for supporting all of the above and more. You're great and often under appreciated

Finally and most importantly, I would like to thank all who support our parish with their time, talents and treasure every week. You truly are the heartbeat of our parish and ministries. Thank you!

Fr. Bill

Open Faith Forum - Tuesday, January 10th.

As announced in the Christmas bulletin, there will be an **Open Faith Forum** on January 10th at 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the parish center classrooms. Many Catholics and non-Catholics have questions about the Catholic Church, traditions, policies and practices. Because many of these areas are often misunderstood a lot of misinformation is passed. We are often asked faith or church related questions which are difficult to answer. This Forum is intended to provide a better understanding of our faith. No one should be embarrassed to ask the question.

The Open Faith Forum will be led by Fr. Bill. Questions at this Faith Forum, because of time, are limited to Church, traditions, policies and practices. What's something that you would like to have better explained or clarified? Do you have a question?

Everyday Stewardship

Listen. Think. Act. That is a mantra or slogan for many different groups. Some seek to battle prejudice and bias. Other groups hope to eliminate poverty or reduce crime. I have even found some companies use it as a way of increasing engagement among their employees. In a nutshell, it is about taking in what you have heard and then reflecting on it before you act. The most fruitful actions are those that take place after careful reflection.

This is an important thing to remember for those trying to live a stewardship way of life. If we are honest with ourselves, too often most of us jump to conclusions too quickly or act in ways that cause friction because we didn't really think about the consequences of our actions. We are moving too fast in a world that seems to be moving ever faster.

When the shepherds came to visit Jesus, the newborn King, they told Mary everything that the angels had told them. Luke tells us that after hearing all this, she "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." No response. No panic. No action. Her reflection was the appropriate response.

In this New Year, you and I would do well to remember this Gospel account of Mary, the Mother of God. Let us resolve to listen more, reflect often, and then act accordingly. We are called to use our gifts wisely, sowing them in good soil. If we just throw them out, allowing them to simply fall wherever they may, have we really used them for God's glory? We need to listen. Think. Then act.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Supernatural communication was nothing new for Mary. The angel Gabriel had already appeared and spoken to her when she agreed to bear God's Son. Her husband Joseph also had a kind of divine intervention in the dream where the angel told him to go ahead and marry her. When she was first pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth had been led by the Holy Spirit to know the secret that Mary was "the mother of my Lord" (Lk 1:43). Now, Jesus has just been born and a crew of earthy shepherds appears at her door with a message from heaven: that the Savior has been born. And Mary believed them. She did not doubt their sincerity or the authenticity of their message. She took the words to heart, and meditated upon the meaning of it all.

What might strike us as peculiar in all of this is that God chose to speak to Mary in a variety of ways. This holy and immaculate woman, this Mother of God, did not always receive direct communication from on high. Sometimes, God chose to speak to her through other people. Sometimes, he revealed himself to them in order to reveal himself to her. And God does the same with us.

It's easy to daydream about having our own personal revelation from God, to hear his voice loud and clear, directing, encouraging, and supporting us in our times of need and confusion. But this isn't the standard pattern of God's operation. Mary was tuned in enough to hear God's voice all around her instead of expecting it to always sound the same. We can imitate this same kind of openness by seeking to discover how God may be speaking to us through the voices of others.

Why do we do that?

Catholic traditions explained

Question: January 1 has a number of liturgical names celebrating a variety of events. Could you sort some of this out?

Answer: January 1, New Year's Day, celebrates newness. Exactly eight days after Christmas, traditionally it celebrates Mary as the Mother of God. The Greek word for Mary's motherhood is "Theotokos," meaning "God-bearer." Becoming official church teaching at the Council of Ephesus in 381, this is one of the most ancient and important titles given to Mary.

Eight days after the birth of a Jewish male, circumcision was demanded by Jewish law. So January 1 also commemorates the circumcision of Jesus. The Gospel reading for the day from Luke recounts the shepherds' visit, the completion of the eight days leading to circumcision, and naming the baby Jesus, according to the angel's direction previous to his conception.

Beginning in 1967, Pope Paul VI requested that this day also be set aside as a day of prayer for world peace. Each year, the pope issues a message encouraging prayer and action toward the establishment of world peace. So on January 1, as we continue to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, let us also turn to the intercession of Mary, the Queen of Peace. Happy New Year!

Girl Scout Cookies

The Bridgewater Girl Scout Troop #65169 will be selling cookies after all masses at both St Thomas and St Basil the weekend of **January 7th & 8th**. Please stop by and support our local girls with this fundraiser.



Growth In Stewardship

Thank you to all who participated in last year's Growth in Stewardship renewal program. 275 parishioners responded to our annual renewal program with a commitment to give of their time, talent and treasure in support of our parish's mission. We are accomplishing a great deal with the tremendous support, and your commitments made it possible to plan for a productive year.

Our annual renewal of commitments to the parish's Growth in Stewardship program will take place in February. Intent Forms will be mailed to all parishioners in January. Please be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.

Christmas Troop Support – 2016

Many thanks to all who supported this project in any way. There were 12 knitted and crocheted stockings and 66 boxes prepared for our troops. Boxes have gone to 8 members of the military (including a Chaplain) serving in Afghanistan, and 1 in Turkey – representing a total of 474 men and women.

VA Hospital, Brockton - We prepared 115 small Christmas bags for all of the patients in the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Building #8 as well as for the Rehab, Hospice, Long-Term Care, and Cancer unit in Building 4. We also wrapped clothing and items which will go into the general pool for the SCI Building. Please take a copy of the detailed report/Newsletter at the entrances of St. Thomas and the Chapel. N.B. It doesn't matter how much or how little we do, we are giving from our hearts – and the troops and veterans know that. God bless you and happy holidays!

Coordinator, *Sally Stewart*

Sanctuary Lamps

The January Sanctuary Lamps by the tabernacle that are lite as a reminder of our Lord's presence were donated in memory of Lucilia Nunes

The 2nd Collections

• *This week* - January 1 **Capital Improvement**

Christmas Collection

Thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas collection for our priests. If you did not have the opportunity to give but you'd like to make a gift, please visit clergytrust.org or pick up an envelope in the back of the Church. To learn more about the Trust and stay up to date on what's going on with our priests, find the Trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust." Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

Due to the holiday schedule and the deadline with our bulletin printing company, the figures for the Christmas collection for the Clergy Trust will be published in next week's bulletin.

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 Prohett, 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.

Loss of a Child - Saturday, January 28th

For parents who have lost a child, of any age, by any means, we know the holidays hold the hidden pain of an empty chair and empty space in your heart. Join us for a Parental Grief Retreat on January 28th, 2017 at St. Peter's Parish in Plymouth. For more information see www.emfgp.org or contact Caroline Bertozzi at 508-747- 1928

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Sometimes we need to reflect how to let God live with us in our marriages. Explore how by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Jan 20-22, 2017 in Duxbury, MA and Mar 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at www.WWEMA.org.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

Saturday, December 31

4:00 p.m. Albert Querzoli

Sunday, January 1

7:45 a.m. Manuel & Maria Dos Anjos Melo

10:00 a.m. Claude Debord Jr.

12:00 p.m. Christopher McCarthy

Monday, January 2

9:00 a.m. Alfred & Rita Matta

Saturday, January 7

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

Sunday, January 8

7:45 a.m. Margarida Sousa, Evangelina & Jose Sousa
& all the souls in purgatory

10:00 a.m. Dante & Chiarina Folloni

12:00 p.m. Robert Bynarowicz

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...”

Anita L. Fulginiti, William Cox, Francis M. Moore,
Dorothy M. Celia, Pauline Dumas, Eva Kovacs,
Agnes Grosso

“A time to heal...”

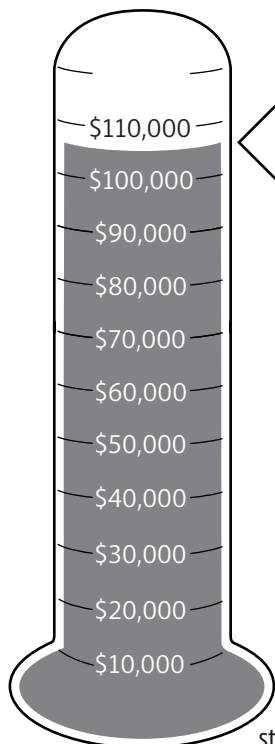
Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini, Edward Albert, Jean Andrade,
Christopher Barbosa, Jeffrey Bean, Jim & Jean Brennan,
Kim (Sweetman) Carnello, Sandra Cable,
Teresa Capachione, John Conley, Jacquie Cordaro,
Matthew Costantino, Michael Costantino,
Baby Mychal Joseph Cotone, Joanna Crabtree,
Michael Crowley, Jannine Dawicki,
Mary DeLeon, Marty Dickerman, Paul D'Olimpia,
Andrea Fitzgerald, Lee Fuller, Joanna Gale, 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

Grand Annual Collection

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



As of Friday,
December 15,
296 of our 2,932
families (10.1%)
have pledged
\$105,951

If you have not made
a contribution to our
Grand Annual Collection
& would like to, you may
give online, or use the
envelopes found at the
entrances of the
church & chapel.



st-thomasaquinas.weshareonline.org

Baptism Preparation

Please call to arrange a parent meeting with one of our priests and to register for the Baptism Preparation Class.
The next schedule class is Monday, January 2 @ 7:00 p.m. at the St Thomas Aquinas Parish Center