

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

JANUARY 15, 2017



Monday, January 16th - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. 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 | 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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Mass will be celebrated at 9am in the upper church. ***The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 16th. There will be no 7:00 am Mass.***

A prayer by Martin Luther King

“Help us to realize that man was created to shine like stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace; help us to walk together until that day when all God’s children, Black, White, Red and Yellow, will rejoice in our common bond of humanity in the kingdom of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.”

Thank You!!

I would personally like to thank everyone who contributed to the Grand Annual Appeal which began in September. I am humbled and greatly appreciate that over 306 contributed \$119,000. This is the most this parish has ever received. Thank you.

As mentioned in previous announcements, proceeds from this collection are used to offset the deficit from our weekly collections in order to support the parish’s operating costs, programs and ministries. It is also used to assist with capital improvements costs that often go beyond what we receive in our monthly Capital Improvement Collection.

Growth in Stewardship Renewal

Three years ago with the encouragement of the Parish Pastoral and Financial Councils we established the Growth in Stewardship Initiative. At that time I asked parishioners to consider ways that the Lord had blessed them and be willing to share those blessings by giving their time, talent and treasure as an expression of their gratitude to God as well as their desire to help others. I was overwhelmed and humbled with the generosity of our parishioners. The amount of time that was donated, talents shared and offerings given in the weekly collection increased substantially. It has been demonstrated that unless we continue to renew our commitment each year, the growth that we experienced will decline. For this reason our parish will conduct our second Growth in Stewardship Renewal over the next two months. Each registered family will receive a letter asking you to reflect and pray on how you are or would like to share your blessings this year. If you did not already volunteer during our September volunteer weekends, you will have the opportunity to volunteer your time and talent. I also ask you to consider what financial commitment you can make to the parish over the next year, to be given in the weekly offertory collections. Many found last year’s commitment form very helpful in determining their annual financial commitment. More information will be provided over the upcoming weeks.

Fr. Bill

Save a Life Update

Will Longo, a BR High School senior, parishioner and Troop 88 scout is working towards his Eagle Scout Project. The following notice provides an update with regard to his project: *“Thanks to extremely generous donations from the people of Bridgewater, especially the parishioners here at St. Thomas and St. Basil’s, I was able to raise over \$4,000! Thank you to everyone who donated. The project would not be possible without you.*

With this \$4,000 I was able to purchase 3 AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators). AEDs will be installed in St. Thomas Aquinas Church, St. Basil’s Chapel and the parish center in the coming weeks.

Also, as part of my project, I have become a Red Cross Certified AED instructor in order to train members of the parish. I hope to train a few people who regularly attend each mass. The training will be held the weekend of February 20th. If you are interested in being trained email me at Wlongo722@gmail.com. Thank you for all the help along the way”.

Will Longo

Fr. Bill’s Comment: While we will immediately call 911 if someone is having a heart attack, having people trained on how to use an AEDs could save a life. Statistics have shown that the first 4-6 minutes are critical. We are hoping to get 4-5 people from each mass who are willing to receive the two hour training. If you attend a particular mass or involved in a ministry at a mass we encourage you to contact Will at his email address. Further information will be given in the upcoming weeks.

Ordinary Time

We have entered into the season of Ordinary Time, marked by green vestments. Ordinary Time is called that because it is the time between seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter. Those other seasons are calling us to remember specific things, to focus on some particular part of the faith and our journey. Ordinary Time is different. It's meant to give us time for general growth and to allow all the graces that we have received over the course of the other seasons to really take root in our hearts. I think that's why the green vestments we wear this season are so particularly fitting, they remind us this is a time of organic growth, a time to let God's voice guide us in the areas that are particularly appropriate to us.

We don't have a lot of Ordinary Time before Lent starts this year, Ash Wednesday is right around the corner. So it is good to enjoy this slightly more relaxed time, and let it be a period of good growth and peace for us, while we have it.

Holy Hour For Life Next Sunday

The Archdiocese of Boston Holy Hour For Life is held annually in parishes in conjunction with the national observance of a Day of Prayer and Penance marking the January 22 anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision which legalized in the United States abortion on demand.

The Holy Hour is prayed during the week surrounding the anniversary of Roe v Wade on January 22, 1973 at parishes. A Holy Hour consists of mental and vocal prayer with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. It draws inspiration from Christ's words to the Apostles in Gethsemane "Can you watch not one hour with me?"

A Holy Hour for Life will be held in our parish next Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. in the church and will be led by Josh Wilbur, a seminarian who has been working in our parish for the past semester. All those faithful to the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death are encouraged to participate.

Day of Remembrance

Each day 129 people die from a drug overdose - leaving behind devastated families. Opioid-related deaths in our state were more than four times higher in 2015 than in 2000. Initiated by the Addiction Policy Forum Families Committee, the National Day of Remembrance is a time for communities to honor those lost to addiction, and offer support to their families.

We know that this disease isolates the families and individuals affected. We also need to identify safe places in our community where the stigma of substance abuse can be identified and diminished and where the families of those affected can be embraced and supported."

There will be an ecumenical healing service for this National Day of Remembrance - January 29, 2017, 5:00 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 91 Main Street, Bridgewater.

FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation II

On the last class before Christmas break, Confirmation II had a special session that included a presentation by parishioner Brett St. Gelais. The topic was "Epic Love". God loves us and will meet us wherever we are! After the presentation in the lower church, the students moved to the upper church for Adoration. During Adoration they were offered the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Bill, Fr. Tom, and two visiting priests were available to hear confessions. At first the students were hesitant. By the end of the night, one third of the class had received the Sacrament. Over half of those students waited 30 minutes after the end of class because they wanted to meet Jesus in the Sacrament. It was a great Christmas gift for everyone present!

THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION CLASS TONIGHT. Confirmation II meets January 22nd and Mass Attendance cards are due. During break, students should have chosen one of the activities below. These make great New Year's resolutions for anyone!

1. Start a prayer journal. For each entry, note the date and what you prayed for. Look back and see what prayers were answered. Be sure to thank God, even if you didn't get the answer you wanted.
2. Try Lection Divina at home. Choose a passage from Scripture, and read it in a quiet place. If you don't have a Bible, download the Laudate app.
3. Choose a relationship in your life that needs attention. Does someone need a kind word, a little of your time, an apology, or forgiveness?

YOUTH GROUP

On Dec. 17 and 18, a total of 40 students and 8 chaperones enjoyed an amazing weekend at Christmas in the City, where they were the “magic behind the magic,” helping to bring Christmas joy to hundreds of homeless families. On Saturday they worked tirelessly to help set dining tables for more than 5,000 guests, set up decorations and unload thousands of donated toys. On Sunday, our enthusiastic teens returned to help serve 5,000 guests a meal, deliver gifts to more than 3,400 children and play with the children at the indoor Winter Wonderland carnival while their parents enjoyed a much needed break. We are very proud of all of our youth for their dedication and donation of time during this very busy season. One mother said, “I absolutely love that my son came home today and didn’t stop talking for about an hour about his experience. He literally said that he thinks everyone at some point in their life should spend a day like he did. It was so rewarding and opened his eyes to many things. He loved the kids and couldn’t get over how grateful they were.”

Thank you all, God Bless you and your families, and Happy New Year!!

UPCOMING EVENTS – Back By Popular Demand

- **Open Gym at Parish Center** - Fri. Jan 20th 7-9pm - come enjoy a night of basketball, kan jam, spike ball, ping pong, and various board games. Open to all in grades 6-8. \$3 donation.
- **Tubing at Nashoba Valley** - Fri. Feb 10th 4pm-9:30pm -- \$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** – Sat. March 4th 7-9pm – 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

Sign-Ups available on Youth Group page of parish website

SPAGHETTI SUPPER - Saturday March 11, 5-8pm

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.

Home Eucharistic Ministers Training

There will be mandatory training for all those who have been or would like to bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are not able to go to church. This training will take place on **Tuesday, January 17th at 6:00 p.m.** in the lower church hall. Please contact Pat at pattyann56@comcast.net.



FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

BASKETBALL FREE THROW COMPETITION

Saturday, January 21

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center Gymnasium
Registration at 5 p.m. Competition begins at 6:00 p.m.

All boys and girls, ages 9-14 are eligible to compete. There is no charge and light refreshments will be available for free to ALL who attend. Proof of age is required and parent or guardian signature.

For more information contact
Amie Vacher (508) 697-7002

This event is being sponsored by
Bridgewater council #488 of The Knights of Columbus



Girl Scout Cookies

Due to the snow last weekend, the Bridgewater Girl Scouts will be selling cookies after all masses at both St. Thomas and St. Basil again the weekend of **January 21st & 22nd.**



SAVE THE DATES

- **Saturday & Sunday, January 28 & 29**
Masses in honor of our parish patron St. Thomas Aquinas
- **Sunday, February 12**
Boy Scouts Recognition at St Basil -10 a.m. Mass

Coffee & Donuts

at **St Thomas Aquinas** in lower church hall after the
10 a.m. Sunday Mass

Flu Season

The Office of Worship, in consultation with local health authorities, continues to encourage the clergy and faithful to observe necessary standard precautions to protect the health of others during this flu season. The best way to prevent the spread of contagious diseases is to practice good hygiene. In addition, the Cardinal directs the following for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy and for flu prevention:

While the faithful retain the option of receiving Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand, all ministers of Holy Communion are advised to distribute the consecrated hosts with care, being cautious not to touch the tongue or the hand of the communicant.

Parishioners should be reminded that if they are ill or suspect they are ill with a contagious illness, they are not bound by the Sunday Mass obligation. They should remain at home and return to church when they are well.

If you suspect that you have or may be coming down with a cold, please refrain from receiving the Precious Blood in the chalice.

Loss of a Child - Saturday, January 28th

For parents who have lost a child, of any age, by any means, the pain of an empty chair and empty space in your heart can be immense. 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

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

The 2nd Collection (Diocesan)

- ***This week - January 15* Assistance to Urban Parishes**

The Archdiocese of Boston currently provides financial assistance to urban parishes in particular geographic areas that historically have had a strong Catholic presence. Many of these urban parishes have a high population of newcomers to our country, are in areas of higher socio-economical risk and are deemed critical to the mission of the Church. This collection will help continue this support to urban parishes to provide resources for mission and ministry in these parishes and for the people in the communities they serve. Assistance is needed for such parishes experiencing financial hardship and who struggle to sustain their mission and meet their financial obligations.

Your support is needed to maintain a Catholic presence in areas where the economic realities of the parishioner base cannot fully support the expenses of a parish. This collection will help bridge the funding gap. We all share responsibility to proclaim God's Good News of Jesus Christ with all the people of the Archdiocese of Boston regardless of the parish's ability to pay.

We thank you for your generosity in supporting the work of the Archdiocese to support those parishes that need our assistance.

- ***Next week - January 22* Church in Latin American**

Next week's second collection supports the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in financially poorer dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. CLA funds catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. CLA is making it possible for the Catholic faithful in the Western hemisphere to help each other. Please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm for more information.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Summary of Collections for: 1/3 - 1/9	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
Weekly Collection			
Total	\$2,677	\$851	\$3,528
Online Giving			
WeShare	\$3,045	\$620	\$3,665
Parish Pay	\$700	-	\$700
Total	\$3,745	\$620	\$4,365
Grand Total	\$6,422	\$1,471	\$7,893

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

Saturday, January 14

4:00 p.m. Franklin Branquinho

Sunday, January 15

7:45 a.m. Jose & Maria Amada

10:00 a.m. Lucilia Nunes

12:00 p.m. Jeremiah Collins

Wednesday, January 18

9:00 a.m. Robert Proffetty & Andrew Ticchi

Saturday, January 21

4:00 p.m. John Carbone

Sunday, January 22

7:45 a.m. Jamie Braga & Maria Da Luz

10:00 a.m. Kathleen Vacher

12:00 p.m. Paulo Torres

Make a Difference in Child's Life

Do you have 2 hours each week to play with young homeless children in one of Horizons for Homeless Children's shelter-based Playspaces in Middleboro & Brockton? Help a homeless child learn, play and thrive. Upcoming volunteer training is **February 7th** in Brockton. For more information or other training dates visit www.horizonschildren.org. or 508-510-3250. Begin the New Year by giving a child the love and attention the child desperately needs and deserves!

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, February 2 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..."

Cora Diane Derby, Ryan Katherine Ayers,
Autumn Paisley Smith, Nora Kathleen Scully,
Bradley George Childs

"A time to die..."

Karen Snow, Arlene Morin, Frances Couet,
Dianne Kent, Walter H. Welch, Thelma Doucette,
Allen Arruda, Kathleen Vacher

"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, Dr. Frank 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, 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
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