

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

JANUARY 22, 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](mailto:stthomasaquinas@comcast.net)

Phone | 508 697 9528

Fax | 508 279 1859

### Website

[www.stthomasaquinas.com](http://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](mailto:marlene.deleon@bridgew.edu)

Rita Garufi, Administrative Assistant

[rita.garufi@bridgew.edu](mailto:rita.garufi@bridgew.edu)

## LETTER OF THANKS - from patients and inmates

Prior to Christmas many parishioners contributed requested items to be given as Christmas gifts to the inmates and patients at Bridgewater State Hospital. We received the following letter: *We at Bridgewater State Hospital pray that this letter reaches you with God's love and our appreciation for the gifts you have given us. Without your love and respect, some of us would not have the love that we need from the free world and we appreciate you all. Please continue to pray for us and we will do the same for all of you at St. Thomas Aquinas. Some of us here at Bridgewater have very little and when a stranger offers a hand, it means a lot to us.*

*Thank you. God Bless. You will always have a place in our hearts.*

From the Members of the Catholic Chapel Community at BSH

## GROWTH IN STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

This week, every family and individual in the parish will receive their Intent Form for our annual Growth in Stewardship Commitment Renewal program. The purpose of this Intent Form is to allow each parishioner to indicate the level of support they intend and are able to give to the parish for the coming year. Circumstances and situations change every year as does our ability to share our blessings. Last year, we received close to 300 commitment forms, and we hope to top that number this year. This process will assist the parish as we create a budget for the coming year.

I would ask you to please pray about your decision and where you think the Lord is leading you. Take your time and the Lord's Spirit will guide you. We ask that each family return their Intent Form to the parish by February 11th and 12th, which is Commitment Weekend at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.

As always, I'm very grateful for your consideration of this annual request. I am humbled by your generosity not only in terms of your giving of your treasure, but also your giving of your time, talent, and prayers!!!

*Fr. Bill*

## SAVE A LIFE UPDATE

Because of the generosity of our parishioners Will Longo was able to purchase three AED ( Automated External Defibrilators ) devices to be installed in the church, chapel and parish center. Will is asking for 4-6 people who regularly attend mass to volunteer to be trained to use the AED with the hope that at every mass will have trained volunteers. This two hour training will take place the weekend of February 20th. If you are interested he asks you to contact him at Wlongo722@gmail.com. Your willingness to be trained could possibly save a life.

## HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE SUNDAY - January 22, 3:00 p.m.

The Archdiocese of Boston's "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 that legalized abortion on-demand in the United States.

A Holy Hour consists of mental and vocal prayer with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. It draws its inspiration from Christ's words to the Apostles in Gethsemane, "Can you watch not one hour with me?"

This year's Holy Hour will be held this Sunday, January 22 at 3PM in the main church. It will be led by Josh Wilbur, a seminarian who has been working in our parish for the past semester. All those who believe in the inherent dignity of human life from conception to natural death are encouraged to participate.

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE - Sunday, January 29, 5:00 p.m

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 use disorder can be identified and diminished. A place 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 – Grade 2

First Penance is fast approaching! We hope parents are praying at bedtime and practicing the memory prayers with their children. Since this is a special occasion and a Sacrament, we ask that the children wear their Sunday best. Parents are also encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance. Please pray for our students and their families.

### Saturday, January 28

- 10:30 Mrs. Gorham, Tuesday 5:00 class
- 12:00 Mrs. Holland, Sunday class & Mrs. Lunsford, Tuesday 3:45 class

### Saturday, February 4

- 10:30 Mrs. Rosher, Monday 3:45 class
- 12:00 Mrs. Fitzsimmons, Monday 5:00 class & Mrs. Bustard, Wednesday class

## YOUTH GROUP

### UPCOMING EVENTS – *Back By Popular Demand*

- **Open Gym at Parish Center - Friday, January 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**  
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 - 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  
Sign-Ups available on Youth Group page of parish website.

## LOSS OF A CHILD – Saturday, January 28

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](http://www.emfgp.org) or contact Caroline Bertozzi at 508-747- 1928

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN CHILD'S LIFE – February 7

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](http://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!

## BAZAAR 2016 wrap-up meeting – Saturday, January 28, 10:30 a.m.

All table heads are asked to attend our wrap-up meeting on Sat. Jan. 28, 10:30am in the parish center. We will be discussing 2016 bazaar results and setting a date for our Holiday Bazaar 2017. This past year was a huge success with a profit of \$16,900.00. Let's keep up the great work!!

## FEAST OF OUR PATRON – Sunday, January 29

January 29 is the feast day of our parish patron, St. Thomas Aquinas. To celebrate, Masses next weekend will be in honor of St. Thomas. This celebration will give us a chance to acknowledge our patron saint and pray for his intercession.

St. Thomas was a great theologian, whose knowledge and deep contemplation helped shape our understanding of God's plan, our world, and ourselves. He teaches us the very timely lesson that faith and reason are not opposed, that there is only one truth that we need to search for through all the tools we were given by God, whether they are Scripture, prayer, science, or debate. He also was a man of great prayer, and some of the prayers he wrote continue to be prayed, both spoken and in song, throughout the world. I hope that as we celebrate St. Thomas you will take a moment to thank the Lord for the gift of this great teacher and patron, and that you will try to set aside a bit of time to try to experience that great gift of truth that allows us to know and therefore love our God.

## COME TO THE WATERS OF HEALING – A Retreat for Hope & Healing After Abortion

• Saturday, February 4, 2017 • Saturday, March 4, 2017 • Saturday, May 20, 2017 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

## 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 altar candles and the Sanctuary Lamp that is lit 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.

## Everyday Stewardship

So the NFL season is almost over. Only the Super Bowl remains. For some fans, the season is already over since their team is now sitting at home. It is amazing the allegiance some people have to their teams. Some people bleed Green Bay green and yellow or believe the only team is supposedly America's team, the Dallas Cowboys. Of course, if you are reading this outside the States, perhaps you live and breathe a team like the New Zealand All Blacks or the Calgary Flames.

In the early church, people took their allegiance to certain leaders to an extreme. Paul chastised them for thinking that the baptism of one community or the teachings of a certain leader were superior to the anything else in this new movement of Jesus followers. He reminded them that there is to be no division in Christ and that all things flow from Christ, not from the leaders in the community. Those who follow Jesus are one body of Christ: a place where there is no room for competition or condescension.

Sometime our stewardship efforts in a parish become all about the parish. We seek to get people to do more stuff and give more money and we lose sight of why we live a stewardship way of life in the first place: Jesus. It is wonderful to watch our parishes grow into more vibrant communities that lead people to Jesus. We should rejoice to be in such a parish family. But one day there will be no parishes and those who have received his gifts freely and have followed him will live with Christ as one forever. In your stewardship, always keep Jesus as the main thing.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

Knights of Columbus Bridgewater Council #488



## MEAT RAFFLE

St. Ann's Church, West Bridgewater

Saturday, January 28 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Light refreshments served. All are Welcome!

## Girl Scout Cookies

Bridgewater Girl Scouts will be selling cookies after all masses at both St Thomas and St Basil  
**January 21st & 22nd.**



## GOSPEL MEDITATION – Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him." Peter, Andrew, James, and John's lives would never be the same. They were going about their usual business--fishing on the Sea of Galilee--when Jesus approached them and said, "Come after me." And that's just what they did. "At once they left their nets and followed him." Such a quick response to such a radical request!

What compelled these men to leave their livelihood to follow the Lord? His promise to them was that he would make them "fishers of men." Perhaps they thought that promise sounded fabulous. But it seems more likely that it was Christ himself who drew the men. There must have been something utterly attractive about him, and completely trustworthy. Otherwise, it seems unbelievable that these men would have been so quick to respond to his call.

This compelling man is the same Christ who calls us. We hear his voice in a different way, of course, through the Church and through the Bible, through his Spirit in our hearts, but it is nonetheless the same Jesus of Nazareth who asks us to follow him. Have we allowed ourselves to be drawn by his voice? Are we open to a real encounter with the Lord who changes lives?

If our relationship with Jesus does not transform us, if it does not change us into different, better people moment by moment and day by day, then chances are that we are not truly encountering him. He is too powerful to be inconsequential. It might take some courage and commitment to come into authentic contact with the Lord, but when we do, our lives will never be the same.

### Why do we do that? – Catholic traditions explained

**Question:** January 25 is the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. What does one have to do with the other?

**Answer:** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity consists of eight days beginning January 18 (the previous date for the feast of the Chair of St. Peter) and ending on January 25, the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. The celebration was begun by Paul James Wattson, a former Episcopalian priest who eventually became a Catholic priest. Suggestions for prayer and education for the week are distributed each year at [geii.org](http://geii.org), emphasizing a jointly chosen theme. The 1964 Vatican II document on ecumenism, "Unitatis Redintegratio," gave a great boost to the octave, so that today many Christians worldwide promote and participate in the octave time of prayer. The emphasis on both Peter and Paul aptly fits into the rationale of the octave. Peter is seen as the source of unity within the Christian tradition; Paul is highlighted due to his vision of bringing all to Christ. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an ideal opportunity to pray for and promote respect, understanding, and, hopefully, eventual unity among Christians.

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY

### The 2nd Collection (Diocesan)

#### • *This week - January 22* Church in Latin American

This week's second collection supports various pastoral projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The Collection for the Church in Latin America funds the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. Please visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm) for more information.

## FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

### Summary of Collections for: 1/9 - 1/16

|                              | St Thomas      | St Basil       | Total          |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Weekly Collection</b>     |                |                |                |
| Total                        | \$5,389        | \$1,272        | \$6,661        |
| <b>Online Giving</b>         |                |                |                |
| WeShare                      | \$1,918        | \$520          | \$2,438        |
| Parish Pay                   | \$25           | -              | \$25           |
| Total                        | \$1,943        | \$520          | \$2,463        |
| <b>Grand Total</b>           | <b>\$7,332</b> | <b>\$1,792</b> | <b>\$9,124</b> |
| <b>Special Collection</b>    |                |                |                |
| Assistance to Urban Parishes | \$1,892        | \$322          | \$2,214        |

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

### 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

### Wednesday, January 25

9:00 a.m. Ralph Foscaldi

### Thursday, January 26

9:00 a.m. Anthony Giordano

### Saturday, January 28

4:00 p.m. Debbie Pincolini Baroni

### Sunday, January 29

7:45 a.m. Jose Coelho

10:00 a.m. Mary E. O'Donnell

12:00 p.m. Pauline Tuholski

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord

- **ADORATION**

Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.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, 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..."

Anita L. Fulginiti, William E. Cox, Francis S. Moore, Dorothy Celia,  
Gregory R. Sullivan, Eva M. Kovacs, Agnes Grosso, Pauline A. Dumas,  
Margaret Chiocca, Richard J. Bradley, Winifred A. Fitzgerald,  
Margaret Silverio, Mary Ellen T. Stevens

### "A time to heal..."

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. 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,  
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,  
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