

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

JANUARY 29, 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)



## STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

### From the Pastor

Everyone should have received my letter explaining the purpose and goal of our annual Growth in Stewardship Renewal. Members of our parish will be speaking briefly at the end of Masses this weekend sharing their faith, their support of our parish and encouraging others to join them in making a commitment of time, talent and treasure.

I thank those who have already returned their Intent Forms so quickly. 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 our Parish Commitment Weekend.

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](http://stthomasaquinas.com) homepage and "click" on the Growth In Stewardship icon (shown above left) and "click" on the intent form 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](http://stthomasaquinas.com) and click here.*



**Fr. Bill**

### From The Business Manager

The Growth in Stewardship Initiative is under way, and we are always so thankful for the gifts of your time, talent and treasure. In my role as the business manager, my job is to be a strong and vigilant steward of parish finances, so my focus falls more on the treasure. The parish operates like many other businesses, and relies on income to drive and support it. Our offertory, combined with Growth in Stewardship, Grand Annual Appeal and donations and gifts are the financial lifeblood of the parish.

Increasing our offertory through the Growth in Stewardship Initiative allows us to see 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**

## 2017 CATHOLIC APPEAL

In addition to the parish's Growth in Stewardship Renewal Letter, many also may have received a letter from Cardinal Seán requesting your support of the 2017 Catholic Appeal. I apologize that these two very different requests are occurring at the same time. While the Stewardship Renewal invites you to make a commitment in support of our **parish**, the Catholic Appeal supports the work of the **Archdiocese**. Our parish directly benefits from the 50 ministries supported by the Appeal. If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider making an early pledge. You may mail your pledge or visit [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org) to give online.

Thank you!

## FEBRUARY GIFTS DONATION

The bread, wine and candles for the month of February were donated by **Lidia & Victor E. Smith Jr.**

## **FEAST OF OUR PATRON Sunday, January 29**

January 29 is the feast day of our parish patron, St. Thomas Aquinas. To celebrate, Masses today 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.

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

Our parish and the Archdiocese of Boston strongly supports any effort to recognize, publicize and address the opioid addiction that continues to affect many people in our town and country. Every day 129 people die from a drug overdose. This addiction affects and isolates families.

As was announced in previous bulletins, there will be an ecumenical healing service for the National Day of Remembrance this Sunday, January 29 at 5 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church on 91 Main St, Bridgewater. As a community, we will listen to parents share their stories and pray for healing for those affected by this disease. We encourage families and individuals from our parish to join in this service.

## **SAVE A LIFE UPDATE**

Now that Will Longo has purchased the AED's for the parish and we are ready to install them, he is now ready to move on to the next step of his Eagle Scout Project. Will has become a Red Cross Certified AED Certified instructor, and is ready to train as many members of the parish as possible to potentially save a life. The training for the AED's 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](mailto: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 two hour training.

Will has worked very hard on his project, and we want to thank him for his efforts and all of his time.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **PROJECT RACHEL POST-ABORTION HEALING RETREAT February 4, March 4 and May 20**

God's forgiveness knows no bounds – Pope Francis. The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Location is confidential. Limited to ten participants. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com).

## **AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH**

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, which offers the participants a vibrant experience of the Christian Life and a method for living as an active member of the Church. The English Cursillo Weekends for the Archdiocese are being held at the Campion Center, Weston, Massachusetts. The dates for the Cursillo Weekends are:

Women's Weekend **March 2-5, 2017** Men's Weekend **March 30 – April 2, 2017**

For information and registration please check the Archdiocesan Cursillo Website: [www.bostoncursillo.org](http://www.bostoncursillo.org) or call Mrs. Mary Ann McLaughlin, at the Office of Spiritual Life at 617-779-3640, or email us at: [spiritual\\_development@rcab.org](mailto:spiritual_development@rcab.org).

## **SAVE THE DATE Spring Rummage Sale Saturday April 29, 10:00 a.m.**

The Women's Club is now accepting items for their spring rummage sale. Donations should be clean and in working condition. NO TVs, computers or computer related items (monitors, mouses, keyboards etc.) Items can be dropped off at the parish center Monday-Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



## YOUTH GROUP

### UPCOMING 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

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

## FAITH FORMATION – Confirmation (I) Students

Confirmation-I meets this Sunday. Students should have completed one of the challenges listed below.

1. Pray for those who have died,
2. Go to Confession,
3. Forgive someone.

Students should also be deciding who their sponsor will be. Sponsors should meet the criteria listed below. Forms are available on the website.

1. Be a Catholic who has been baptized, received First Holy Communion, and been confirmed.
2. Be at least 16 years old.
3. Resolve to live a life of faith in keeping with the function of a sponsor, including weekly Mass attendance.
4. Be single or be married in the Catholic Church (or, if elsewhere, with the documented permission or dispensation of the Catholic Church).
5. Not be a parent of the student to be confirmed.

## First Holy Communion Class

I recently received the following note from a parent who has a child in our First Holy Communion Class.

*Dear Father Bill Devine,*

*I just wanted to say thank you. Thank you for your sermons. They are very entertaining and engaging. Though I'm not Catholic, my wife and two children, age 12 and age 7 are. As you mentioned several weeks ago what got us back in the church was my daughter's yellow card requirement. I'm glad that is the case. That allowed me the opportunity to hear you speak. Having a religious presence in my life has been a struggle probably since about the age of twelve when I lost my father. I never really understood why God would want to hurt me by taking my father. Over the past six months I've had to deal with some adversity and I believe that with my family and I closer to God things have not just worked out but worked out for the better.*

*Respectfully,*

This note reinforces my belief that by expecting children/students in our First Holy Communion and Confirmation Classes to participate at Mass each week they and their families will not only have a better understanding of the Mass and its importance but they will become more engaged in their faith and experience God's grace in their life. My experience talking with children in our Religious Education Program is that they WANT to go to Mass, learn about the Lord and His love for them while seeing their friends/families praying with them. Parent's participation, encouragement and support is critical. I thank all the parents who are making the effort to come to mass every week....even if the attendance card provided the initial motivation.

*Fr. Bill*

## GOSPEL MEDITATION – Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." Here, in a nutshell, is the Christian belief about the afterlife. We trust that heaven is open to believers who accept the gift of salvation and follow the way of the Lord, even (or especially) when that way is difficult!

The beatitudes in today's Gospel give us a program for following the path to heaven. These famous words offer a kind of twofold image. There are, on the one hand, the beatitudes about what we should do and be: poor in spirit, meek, merciful, clean of heart, and peacemakers. Such qualities are reflections of the nature of God in whose image we are meant to live. When we embrace and reflect this image to the world, there is no doubt we are walking on the path of God's will.

Then, there are also the beatitudes about what we are called to endure: mourning, hunger for righteousness, persecutions and

insults due to our belief in Jesus. These are the trials that often beset the life of a faithful Christian--admittedly more so in some ages and areas than in others. But Jesus makes it clear that even these trials and struggles are a sign that a Christian is on the right path, not that God has abandoned him or her, but that the reward of heaven lies around the corner.

One of the greatest consolations of our faith is that even when life does not unfold according to our own perfect designs, even when there is suffering to deal with, even when we do not have great success in the eyes of the world, we can maintain hope and peace as we await the "reward" of the just. The eternal happiness of heaven will be worth every ounce of temporary trial here on earth.

### **WHY DO WE DO THAT? - Catholic traditions explained**

**Question:** A special blessing of throats occurs on the feast of St. Blaise, February 3. What is the origin of this?

**Answer:** St. Blaise was a bishop of Sebaste, Armenia, in modern Turkey, who was martyred for witnessing to the faith. He was tortured and beheaded for his beliefs by the local Roman governor around AD 316. This is all that is known about him, the rest being legend. We know much more about devotion to and the popularity of St. Blaise than historical facts.

The special blessing of throats associated with St. Blaise is due to a miracle attributed to him. While in prison, he miraculously saved a boy choking on a fish bone. Early in the sixth century, evidence exists in the Eastern Church that Blaise was prayed to for ailments of the throat. To this day, his feast is a holy day in the Eastern Church. In the ninth century, veneration of St. Blaise came to the Western Church and became very popular. Blessing of the throats with crossed candles began in the 1500s, the height of devotion to St. Blaise, and that blessing is still part of the devotion of the Catholic Church.

### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP**

Sometimes I wonder what this world will look like when my children get to be my age. Everything seems to be changing so rapidly and much of that change doesn't seem to be for the good. I do think in some ways the Church is experiencing resurgence and a strengthening, but it will have to in the face of an increasing culture of atheism and selfishness.

Of course, I bet my parents wondered the same thing when I was a child. As much as things change, they remain the same. When Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount, I would guess some parents there were having the same kind of worries. But Jesus proposed a way of life in the beatitudes that was countercultural then and is countercultural now.

In his book, "Life of Christ," Fulton Sheen said this: "The Sermon on the Mount is so much at variance with all that our world holds dear that the world will crucify anyone who tries to live up to its values." Living a stewardship way of life means bringing the beatitudes into our daily lives in a profound way. However, it also means living in a way that others may not understand or they may even turn away from us because of it. But with the reward in the end being the kingdom of heaven, the choice is really a matter of life and death, eternally speaking.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

### **LIVE THE LITURGY**

In today's competitive world, many people do not see justice and humility as virtues to acquire. Yet Jesus makes a big point of giving us the beatitudes as the blueprint to follow for our lives. Being poor in spirit, meek, thirsting and hungering for righteousness, being merciful, clean of heart, and peacemakers are all hallmarks of the true disciple and a child of God. After doing all these things, however, the true disciple must be prepared for persecution. Are you really ready to become a true disciple?

### **FINANCIAL BLESSINGS**

Summary of Collections for: 1/16 - 1/23	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
<b>Weekly Collection</b>			
Total	\$5,254	\$447	\$5,701
<b>Online Giving</b>			
WeShare	\$1,088	\$475	\$1,563
Parish Pay	\$220	-	\$220
Total	\$1,308	\$475	\$1,783
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$6,562</b>	<b>\$922</b>	<b>\$7,484</b>
<b>Special Collection</b>			
The Church of Latin America	\$1,961	\$988	<b>\$2,949</b>
<b>Parish Weekly Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,250</b>	<b>\$675</b>	<b>\$9,925</b>

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

### 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

### 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

## 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 HERAT 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, 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..."

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. 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