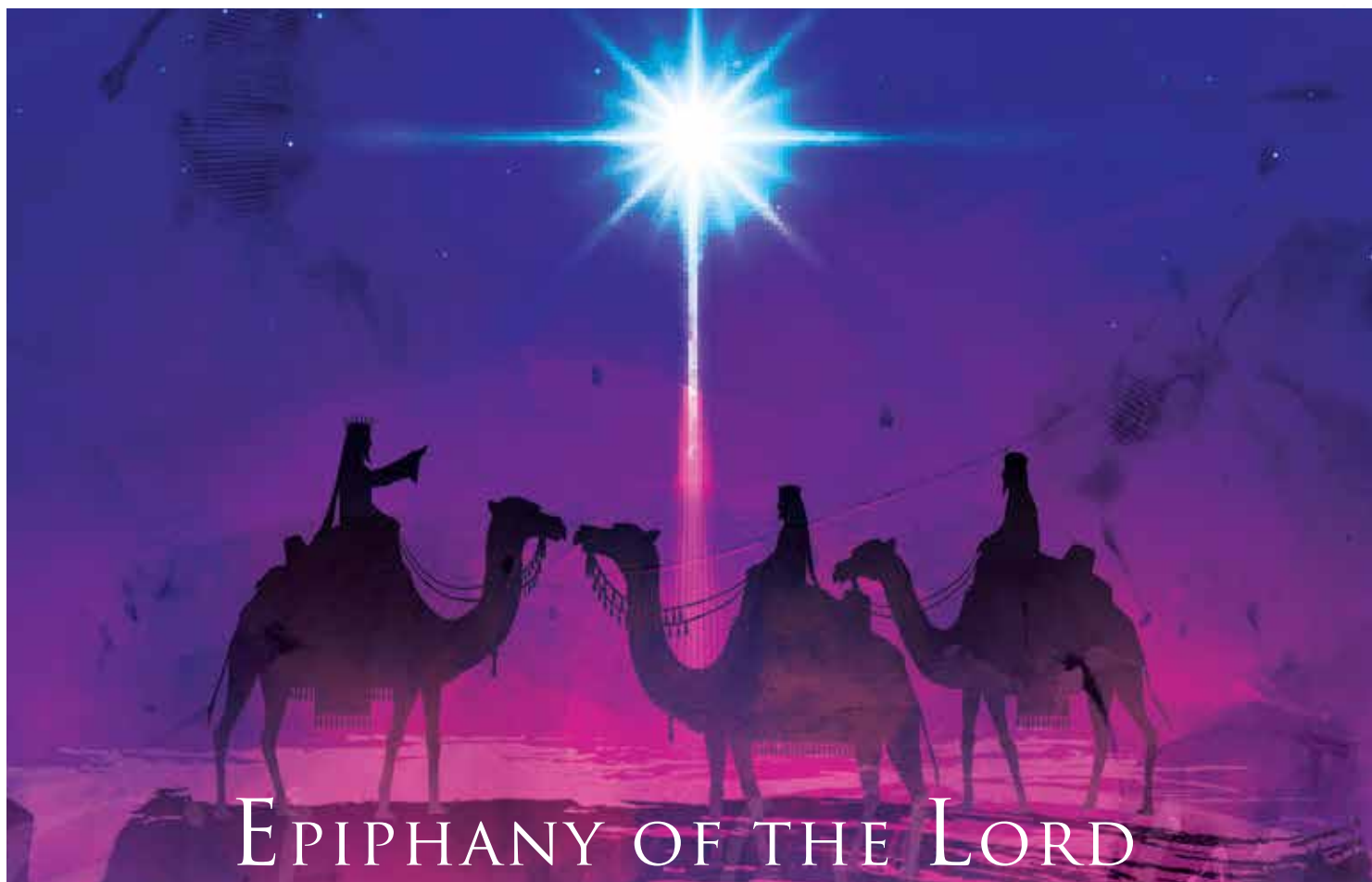


ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

JANUARY 8, 2017



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The phrase, “in the beginning,” which consists of the first 3 words of the Bible, denotes that from the beginning of all that exists God has desired all people to believe in Him and love Him. Accordingly, from the beginning, God has desired that all people be saved. All of history, then, is properly considered and called “salvation history.”

In order to prepare the whole wide world for the salvation that from its very beginning God has intended for it, God saw it fit to reveal Himself to His Chosen People first. From those people, God would eventually raise up priests, prophets, and kings, and among and for those people, God would eventually conjure up events that, forming the dramatic narrative that is contained throughout sacred Scripture, would eventually prepare the rest of the world’s peoples to also choose, for themselves, to become “chosen.” That becoming commenced at the birth of Jesus, and to this very day, that becoming continues.

By God, the Incarnation was meant for the whole wide world because, for the whole wide world, the salvation that the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus affords is also by God meant. Said another way, God willed Himself to be in the person of Jesus expiation for the sins of not only his fellow Jews, but his fellow men. Irrespective of culture or ethnicity, religion or belief, personal situation or historical circumstance, all men, women, and children are by God now chosen. Salvation is now possible for all peoples, and so the salvation that only God though Jesus Christ makes possible is also now the hope of all peoples. On Epiphany Sunday, the universality and oneness of this chosenness, salvation, and hope are what the “universal,” that is, “Catholic” Church recalls and celebrates.

The three wise men – Balthasar of Arabia, Melchior of Persia, and Casper of India – represent, together, all of the world’s peoples. By having prostrated themselves before the crib in which lay a Hebrew infant who was God Himself, the three wise men attested and gave witness to the fact that God desires Jew and Gentile alike to believe in Him and love Him. Before the whole wide world – all of which God desires to save – God in and through Jesus has appeared.

This “appearance,” which in Greek is a word that is roughly equivalent to “epiphany,” we also recall and celebrate today.

Fr. Tom

Growth in Stewardship Renewal

Each year, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish sends to each parishioner an Intent Form asking each family to indicate the level of volunteer and financial support they intend to give to the parish for the coming year. This process enables the parish to create ministry plans and budgets that reflect the commitments made by parishioners.

The mailing will go out next week. Please pray about your decision and make your commitment as soon as you are ready. Our **Commitment Weekend will be on February 11th & 12th**. We ask that each family return the Intent Form to the parish offices or in the offertory collection by that date.

If you have not already signed up for online giving, we encourage you to do so. It’s fast, easy and convenient. Please visit stthomasaquinas.com to enroll.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. On this day we celebrate the moment when Jesus opened for us the possibility of being united with him through the Sacraments. By accepting John's Baptism of Re-pentance, even though he himself did not need to repent of anything, Jesus transformed water so that it isn't only able to wash the body, but also the soul. Now through the Baptism of the Spirit we can gain new life, to be washed clean of sin, and become one with Jesus forever. It is only through this sacrament that we are able to fully participate in the worship of God, and be made one with Jesus in the Eucharist.

As with all the gifts we receive from God, it is good to make sure we are conscious of them so that we can be grateful for them. Every Baptized person is permanently changed by that sacrament. In that moment, we became sons and daughters of God and so able to participate in the action of Christ. Each time a Baptized person participates in Mass, bringing forward his or her hopes, dreams, fears, worries, and petitions, they are uniting those prayers with those of Jesus. In a very real way, it is Jesus himself who is asking for those things of his heavenly Father. It is the reason why we can be certain that God will hear and answer our prayers.

So as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord this weekend, let us make sure that we thank the Lord for the great gift of Baptism that brought us so many graces. Let us also make sure we thank those who have supported us through our whole journey of faith, both before and after our Baptism, and that we pray for them. After all, the best way to thank somebody for the gift of faith is by taking advantage of the closeness to God we received in Baptism to ask God to give them all the graces they themselves require.

Fr Adrian 1/2015

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." In our day and age, the star of Christmas has become a kind of decorative symbol that adorns manger scenes and Christmas trees. It suggests something good and bright and holy, a visual indicator that the "Light of the world" has appeared. But today, on the feast of the Epiphany, we recall that originally, this star was not just a pretty symbolic ornament. This star was a sign from God that intervened in the operations of the physical universe. The Magi understood that this star was sent from God to indicate where his Son would be born.

Of course it should not surprise us in this season of all seasons that God should choose to order the universe according to his purposes. Jesus has just been born of a virgin! God has just taken on human flesh. These events in themselves are extraordinary divine interventions--miracles that defy the standard operation of things. Why shouldn't God choose to send a luminous star where he wants it, when he wants it? Why shouldn't he reveal his plan through the things that he created in the first place?

The beauty of today's feast is found, in part, in the fact that the Magi were able to recognize this sign from God. They waited for it, they saw it, and they rejoiced in it: "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." We too should be overjoyed in this season of God's special revelation to us. We may need the eyes to recognize it, but truly we have waited for a Savior, we have seen his appearance at Christmas, and now it is time to celebrate! God is at work in our physical world. He has come here, now to save us. This is cause for rejoicing!

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. Catholics are also often asked faith or church related questions which they have a difficult time answering. This Forum is intended to provide a better understanding of our faith. No one should think that they should know the answer and therefore embarrassed to ask the question.

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

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The story of the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus, the newborn King, is a great one, isn't it? They had a great big star in the sky to lead the way. I am no Boy Scout, so I am not sure how well I would do following a star like that. But the important point here is that God led them to the manger. The manger was a place that unless God specifically showed you this was where the Christ Child was born you wouldn't have believed it. You would have passed on by.

In our lives, there are no big stars in the sky leading us where we need to go. It isn't so easy sometimes discerning where God is leading us. We may seek to use our gifts wisely, but in what manner and to what end is not always clear.

This is where prayer can make a huge difference. If we seek to cultivate a prayer life where we are mindful of the presence of God throughout our day, then the call is easier to discern. We can help the process by intentionally offering to God in the morning the entirety of the day to come: all our actions, all our time, and all our decisions. In the evening, we can examine the past hours of the day and reflect on when we responded well to Christ's call and when we fell short. Then we resolve to begin again tomorrow, inviting Christ to be with us every step of the way. God may not offer a star in the sky to lead us, but if we invite us on our journey each day, the path will be much clearer.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Mass at Senior Citizens Residents

Every 2nd Monday of the month mass is celebrated for residents living on Hemlock Drive and Heritage Circle. The Mass is held at 10 Heritage Circle at 1:30 p.m. Mass will be held this Monday, January 9th.

SAVE THE DATES

• Sunday, January 22

Holy Hour for Life at 3 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas

• Saturday & Sunday, January 28 & 29

Masses in honor of our parish patron St. Thomas Aquinas

• Sunday, February 5

Boy Scouts Recognition at St Basil -10 a.m. Mass



FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

The annual Knights of Columbus

BASKETBALL FREE THROW COMPETITION

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**



Saturday, January 21

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

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

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!

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 6:30 p.m.** in the lower church hall. Please contact Pat at pattyann56@comcast.net.

Girl Scout Cookies

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



Coffee & Donuts

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

HEALING & BEREAVEMENT

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. Basil, this ministry is co-sponsored by Prophett, 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** 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

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

The 2nd Collections

- *This week - January 8* **No 2nd Collection**
- *Next week - January 15* **Special Collection**

Special collection

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.

Christmas Collection

The Christmas collection went to benefit the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which helps care for the health and well-being of our priests. Our parish contribution of \$14,343 [in honor of Fr Bill Devine & Fr Tom Olson] will have a significant impact on the quality of life programs provided for our priests. Please visit clergytrust.org to learn more or to make a gift. Don't forget to also find the Trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust." Thank you.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Summary of Collections for: 12/27-1/2	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
Weekly Collection			
Total	\$4,321	\$639	\$4,960
Online Giving			
WeShare	\$1,108	\$1,000	\$2,108
Parish Pay	\$25	-	\$25
Total	\$1,133	\$1,000	\$2,133
Grand Total	\$5,454	\$1,639	\$7,093
Special Collection			
2nd Collection (Capital Improvements)	\$2,660	\$464	\$3,124

WEEKLY MASS INTENTION

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

Tuesday, January 10

9:00 a.m. Terri-Jean Parris

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

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...”

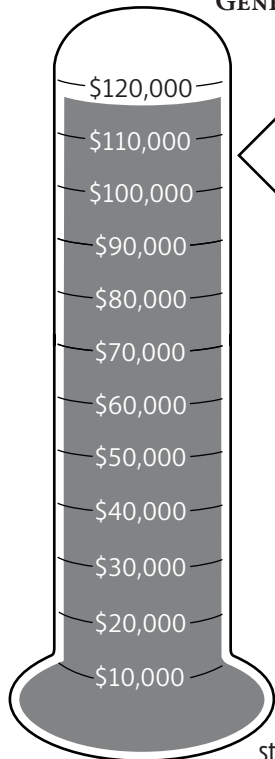
Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini, Edward Albert, Jean Andrade,
Christopher Barbosa, Jeffrey Bean, Jim & Jean Brennan,
Kim (Sweetman) Carnello, Sandra Cable,
Teresa Capachione, John Conley, Jacquie Cordaro,
Matthew Costantino, Michael Costantino,
Baby Mychal Joseph Cotone, Joanna Crabtree,
Michael Crowley, 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, 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 Monday,
January 2,
306 of our 2,932
families (11.0%)
have pledged
\$117,087

If you have not
made a contribution
to our Grand Annual
Collection and
would like to, you
may give online.



st-thomasaquinas.weshareonline.org

Baptism Preparation Class

Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m.
in the St Thomas Aquinas Parish Center