

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

MARCH 5, 2017



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## 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 Mass*

Sunday | 10:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

#### *Weeknight Mass*

Wednesday, March 8

6:00 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)

# Our Mission

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.

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

# Welcome

## CATHOLIC APPEAL 2017

The Archdiocesan Catholic Appeal which supports ministries and parishes within the Archdiocese of Boston will take place during the Masses next week, March 12/13. Each year at this time the Cardinal makes a personal (two minute audio) appeal to the people of the Archdiocese to assist him with resources that support every parish and many Archdiocesan programs. Proceeds from this collection support many important services including the Deaf Apostolate; Continuing Education for Priests; Care for the Homeless; Prison, Hospital and Campus Ministries; Pre-Marriage Classes; and assistance for individuals who are seeking a marriage annulment. While our parish benefits from many of these ministries it also benefits in another way. Like most parishes, we rely on the archdiocese to provide the technical expertise of professionals who guide myself and staff through many legal, financial, human resource, and staffing issues that arise as we work to provide effective ministry and be in compliance with mandated policies. Proceeds from this Appeal continues to assist Peter, our Business Manager, with financial oversight and employee benefits assistance, it provides religious education guidance to Marie and Debbie our Religious Education Coordinators, supports our new youth ministry coordinator, Megan Moriarty and funds Marlene De Leon, our Campus Minister. It also assists us in negotiating contracts, providing legal advice, cemetery oversight and is presently helping us in advertising, screening and hiring a music director. Quite honestly, a day does not go by that I or another staff member doesn't seek help from the Pastoral Center Staff who have always been very responsive.

Some parishioners have recently mentioned that it was not until we mentioned last year how much our parish benefits from this Appeal that they understood it's purpose and importance. Every parish is given an Appeal assessment based on a percentage of their annual offertory collection/Grand Annual Appeal. Our parish assessment this year is \$42, 679 and our parish goal is \$49, 966 with 164 people making a commitment. Because we exceeded our goal last year our parish received back \$11, 490!!!!!!

## NEW YOUTH MINISTER

On behalf of the parish I welcome Megan Moriarty as our new part-time youth minister. Megan, a parishioner and a graduate of Emmanuel College, will work with and develop our present youth ministry program which has focused on junior and senior high school students. I would like to thank a number of parents who over the past two years created a youth ministry program that incorporated the spiritual, service and social aspects of youth ministry. Hopefully they and Megan will continue to build a youth program that will help our young men and women to grow together in faith. Welcome Megan.

## PARISH VOLUNTEER SOCIAL

Last Saturday evening's parish Volunteer Social was a great success. Over 150 people, about half of our volunteers, attended. The Mardi Gras theme provided the backdrop for a night where volunteers were able to enjoy a meal, socialize and feel appreciated for their service to our community. Hopefully, next year more volunteers will be able to join us.

## BIBLE STUDY—GREAT RESPONSE

Fr. Tom, Betsy and I are very excited that over 70 people signed up to attend our 8 week Thursday evening Bible Study. We probably would all agree that we know so little about the Scriptures, have many questions, and that our faith could benefit from a better understanding of the them. This Bible Study integrates DVD's, workbooks and discussion.

## HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Over the past month a number of parishioners have volunteered to bring Holy Communion to those who are unable to come to Mass. If you know of anyone, neighbor or family member, who is not able to pray with us at Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office.

*Fr Bill*



## FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. Friday's of Lent are also days of abstinence.

- **FASTING** is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.
- **ABSTINENCE** is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

- **DAILY MASS** Attend Mass and receive God in the Eucharist.
- **ADORATION** Worship Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
- **DEVOTIONAL** Daily reflections with "The Little Black Book".
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Meditate on the Passion.
- **THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU** Experience Christ's healing love.
- **FAST ON FRIDAY'S** Abstain from meat with a Simple Supper.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
6:30 PM to 7:00 PM (begins 3/3)

SIMPLE SUPER (begins 3/10)  
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

FRIDAY  
EVENINGS

ST BASIL  
CHAPEL

## THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT

Jesus was like us in all things but sin. He was tempted, sorely tempted, over and over. This first Sunday in Lent might a good time to take account of the things in our lives that tempt us away from God and from the light of Christ. Like New Year's resolutions, Lent is a time to look at what needs improvement in our relationship with God. The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It's not about fasting to lose 10 pounds, it's fasting to build up strength to resist temptation. A common practice in Lent is to give up something we like – a latte, not Brussel sprouts – and putting that money in a mission box or your St. Vincent de Paul box. Make this Lent a good one. Also, pray, today, for the hundreds of catechumens and candidates in our archdiocese who are entering the next stage of preparation to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist or be received into the Catholic Church.

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS

"You don't fast because you don't feast" a priest once told his congregation. He was speaking about feasting on the Word of God and it's correlation to fasting. Cardinal Seán reminds us that Lent is a "baptismal retreat," providing a great opportunity to deepen our friendship with Jesus and our understanding about what it means to live as His disciples. If we feast on His Word, we will encounter the merciful gaze of Jesus and be filled with the love of God; this fullness, will give us the desire to fast and detach from creature comforts. Join Fr. Matt Williams as he offers a daily reflection to inspire you to feast so that you may fast. For more information visit: [www.DisciplesinMission.com/FeasttoFast](http://www.DisciplesinMission.com/FeasttoFast)

*Rev. Matt Williams*

## BABY SHOWER FOR THE UNBORN

Our parish's BABY SHOWER FOR THE UNBORN will be held this year from March 4 - March 19, 2017. The baby items collected will be donated to FUND FOR THE UNBORN of the Archdiocese of Boston's Pro-Life Office. The baby shower is an effort to give pregnant women the help they need to choose life over abortion.

Unwrapped gifts may be placed in either of the cribs set up in the upper and lower church at St Thomas or at St Basil's. Any checks may be made payable to FUND FOR THE UNBORN.

Baby items needed: blanket sleepers (0-6mos., 6-12mos.) onesies (0-3 mos.), warm outfits (newborn, 0-3mos., 6-9mos.), disposable diapers (newborn and size 4), diaper bags, flannel receiving blankets, baby bottles (4 oz. and 8 oz.) (No equipment, furniture or food please.)

## ANNUAL COLLECTIONS

Over the past 6 months there have been a number of “special” or annual collections which seem to come one right after another. It can be confusing knowing how they are different from each other. The following outline may help to better understand these collections. In addition to the weekly parish collection and the monthly Capital Improvement Collections the following are the designated annual collections.

### ANNUAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE PARISH

- 1. Grand Annual Appeal** (October). This collection is a one-time donation to the parish. Proceeds from this collection are used to augment the weekly collection in order to cover operational costs (printed in bulletin each week), fund major and minor improvements, repairs.
- 2. Growth in Stewardship Renewal** (January). In addition to volunteering their time and talent, this annual renewal asks parishioners to determine their yearly financial commitment to the parish. It enables us to plan and budget our expenses for the year.

### ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN COLLECTIONS

- 1. Catholic Appeal** (March). Proceeds from this collection are given to Cardinal Sean to support the work of the Archdiocese in particular Archdiocesan agencies provide critical resources (legal, education, seminaries, youth, marriage, HR, financial, annulments, etc.) that our parish and others depends upon to provide pastoral services.
- 2. Priest's Health and Benefits Collection** (Easter, Christmas and Sept). These three collections is given to support priest's ongoing health, medical and retirement benefits.
- 3. Special Collections** (monthly). Recognizing our Christian responsibility and desire to help the needs of the universal church, we are asked to take up these collections throughout the year for special intentions (Foreign and Home Missions, Catholic Relief, Immigrants, Seminaries, Military Archdiocese, etc.)

As always, THANK YOU for being generous not only in supporting our own parish needs but for your willingness to assist other special needs.

## THE CATHOLIC APPEAL GIVING BACK TO OUR PARISH

The Catholic Appeal is an important annual event for the Archdiocese. It is the vehicle used to generate the funds necessary to support many important ministries that in turn, support so many people. It is a wonderful endeavor that has many benefits to all parishes. One of these benefits is the rebate we have earned from supporting the Catholic Appeal. Due to the wonderful generosity of our parishioners, we have earned \$11,490 in rebates, which we are being given back for achieving and surpassing our goals for 1) The Parish Amount Pledged over our goal, and 2) Our number of responses made in-pew during the Appeal Commitment weekend last year. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support to our parish and the Archdiocese, and hope and pray that you can continue to do so again this year.

*Business Manager - Peter Vitagliano*

## LETTER TO MEMBERS OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

The following letter was written to the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society who sponsor our food pantry. It reflects the dedication and generous attitude of those who collect, purchase, sort and distribute food every week. Although they do not want to be recognized, I appreciate all that they do to assist those in need. It's our privilege to help others.

*“It would have been just as easy to buy a card with the usual flowers and sweet sentiment printed neatly inside, but I needed a bit more space to say a few things beyond thank you. So, I thought I would just take pen to paper and make my own thank you letter.*

*My mother \*\*\*\*\*did pass away on Friday, January 20th.....I thought I would acknowledge some of the special kindnesses that were shown to her. The help she received with food from the Food Pantry was certainly one of those. But when I took over when she could no longer go for herself, I was thankful for something perhaps even more than food. Thursday after Thursday I had the opportunity to watch God's people together doing His work. I didn't know many of you by name but I had the chance to watch as you fine people uncomplainingly gave your time in service to God by serving others. It was a joy to watch. I will miss that.*

*So pantry food will be no more, but the Christian testimony of the pantry workers will stay strong in my memory. On behalf of my other and myself, thank you”.*



## YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

### Spaghetti Supper - Saturday March 11, 5-8 p.m.

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 group committed to this trip! Please plan to come out and support their efforts. Tickets will be on sale after all masses next weekend 2/25-2/26, and 3/4-3/5. \$5 children 6-12, \$10 adults, family max \$30.

## YOUR COUNCILS

While we have many different ministries in our parish I would like to acknowledge three councils that have been and continue to be invaluable in providing me with guidance, feedback, support and planning for our parish. The members of these councils have either volunteered or been invited to join these councils.

*If you know or see any of these council members be sure to thank them for sharing their time & talent.*

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Members:	Kathy Fava (Vice Chair)
Leo Cote	Dan Moriarty
Ron Daniels	Ginniy Timmerman
Tony Demarol	Tony Fernandes
Kathy Flaherty	Erick Lynch
Barbara Henault	Sarah Puliafico

### PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Members:	Mike Dunford (Chair)
Susie Rindini	Marc Papasodora
Mary Creales	Bill Suneson
Jim Gale	

### PARISH MAINTENANCE COUNCIL

Members:	Peter Proffetty
Bill Cannon	Don Bergstrom
Paul Donahue (Chair)	Tony Fernandes
Lenny Baczek	Norm Lemieux

## The 2nd Collection (Parish) • Next week - March 12 Capital Improvement

## FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
Parish Weekly Operating Costs for: 2/21 - 2/27	\$8,254	\$674	<b>\$8,928</b>
Summary of Collections for: 2/12 - 2/20			
<b>Weekly Collection</b>			
Total	\$5,284	\$1,133	\$6,417
<b>Online Giving</b>			
WeShare	\$1,167	\$475	\$1,642
Parish Pay	\$25	-	\$25
Total	\$1,192	\$475	\$1,667
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$6,476</b>	<b>\$1,608</b>	<b>\$8,084</b>

## SAVE THE DATES

- Parish Mission, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Rummage Sale Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m.

## WOMEN'S CLUB EVENTS

### • SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The St Thomas Aquinas Women's Club will be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships for qualifying High School seniors. Applications can be obtained at the Rectory, CCD Office and various local High Schools. The application deadline is 4/14/2017. Any questions please call Helen Cleary 508-697-9175.

### • MEETING

On Thursday, March 16th, 7:00 Lieutenant Tom Schlutz will speak at the Women's Club meeting on the topic of avoiding phone and internet scams. All women in the parish are invited to attend. The meeting will be held in the lower church.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT?

**Question:** Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

**Answer:** The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the "Via Dolorosa" ("The Way of Suffering") or the "Via Crucis" ("The Way of the Cross"), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "The Way of the Cross" were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus.

This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us.

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, March 4

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

### Sunday, March 5

7:45 a.m. Francis Couet

10:00 a.m. Beth Edwards

12:00 p.m. Jose Chaves & Family

### Thursday, March 9

9:00 a.m. Jack Daniels

### Saturday, March 11

4:00 p.m. James Keane

### Sunday, March 12

7:45 a.m. Wayne Parris

10:00 a.m. Michael F. Lyons

10:00 a.m. at *St Basil* - Jane Keough & Nancy Bodwicz

12:00 p.m. Lorraine Paul

## 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 HEART OF MARY**

1st Saturday of the month 10:00 a.m.

*St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church*

- **DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR**

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 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

Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 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..."

Kennedy Paige Piacente, Mason Paul Bailey

### "A time to die..."

Phyllis A. Claudio, Margaret C. Davis, Frederick J. Pantano

### "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, Teresa Capachione, John Conley, Jacquie Cordaro, Matthew Costantino, Michael Costantino, Mychal Joseph Cotone, Joanna Crabtree, Michael Crowley, Jannine Dawicki, Maria I. DeAndrade, Mary DeLeon, Marty Dickerman, Andrea Fitzgerald, Lee Fuller, Joanna Gale, Jesus Galindo, Florence Galligan, Dr. Francis 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, 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, Susan VonMagnus, Anna Vrana, Don Weiner, Peggy Yanuskiewicz, 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