

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

First Sunday of **ADVENT**



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 | Suspended for the Summer

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



The Holiday Bazaar Committee would like to thank all who participated in last weekends Holiday bazaar. So many of you shared you Time, Talent and Treasure with us to make this beautiful day a success. We are all thankful for our wonderful Parish Family and very supportive town.

Thank you

I would like to thank Beccy Mugherini and her huge staff of supporters (see picture) for the great Holiday (Christmas) Bazaar last Saturday. A LOT of work goes into preparing this event. I thank any and all those who contributed items or worked at the tables or sold items throughout the classrooms for their generosity of time and talent! I also want to thank 17 students from our Confirmation Classes who helped set up the bazaar and worked many hours taking down and packing the left over items. I also want to thank 36 students who baked food to be sold during the bazaar.

Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner

I would also like to express my appreciation to Jean Monti for coordinating a large group of volunteers for a very successful senior citizens Thanksgiving Dinner last Sunday. The gym was filled with senior and not so senior citizens. Most of the food was donated, prepared in homes and brought to the Parish Center. Those who attended said the food was great.

I also want to thank over 30 Confirmation students dressed white white shirts/black pants who escorted our guests to their tables, served the dinner, cleaned the tables and helped run the raffle and cleaned up the gym following the dinner.

Advent Reflection

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is already behind us and we are beginning the Season of Advent. I suspect that many have already put up and decorated their Christmas tree and begun decorating their homes. Retail stores and on line sites are already competing for our business. The multitude of TV and internet advertisements have replaced the political advertisements that we thought would never end. We may feel the same about the Christmas advertisements in four weeks.

While society and retailers rush us into celebrating Christmas the Church reminds and asks us to celebrate the season of Advent. The word “advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” In this context the Church liturgy (scripture readings, music, Advent Wreath, prayers) for the next four weeks all focus on the events leading up to the birth of Christ. We will not be singing Christmas songs or decorating the chapel or church with Christmas decorations until Advent comes to an end and we celebrate Christmas. So often we want to fast forward to Christmas yet Christmas can and will mean so much more if we allow ourselves to recall all that led up to the coming of Christ.

Lighting an Advent Wreath at home and before every mass will keep us focused on the coming of Christ. We invite families or individuals to sign up to light the Advent Wreath at a particular mass. The sign up list is found in the entrances of the church and chapel. Those who have scheduled to light the wreath are asked to meet the priest at the front of the church/chapel before mass and be part of the entrance procession.

Suggestion: We live in an age where we are asked to be politically correct and sensitive to the religious practices of others. I believe this is important. Because we don't want to offend anyone we often greet others during this time of year by saying “Happy Holidays” or “Seasons Greetings.” I think it's very appropriate however when you greet another Christian that you know to say “Merry Christmas.” It reminds them that we, as Christians, haven't forgotten and are glad to celebrate the “Reason of the season.” Your greeting may surprise them.

Fr. Bill

SAVE THE DATE: An important way to prepare for Christmas is to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. We will have two Advent Penance Services with additional priests at each to hear confessions.

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 7 at St. Basil's Chapel

7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 15 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Advent Wreath

This Sunday we begin every Mass with the Lighting of the Advent Wreath. We invite and encourage families or individuals to light the wreath at Mass. If you or your family would like to light the wreath there are sign up sheets at the entrances of the church or chapel. Select church or chapel, date and mass you would like to light the wreath. Those who volunteer are asked to introduce themselves to the priest in the back of the church/chapel prior to the beginning of the mass.

We encourage families to make an Advent Wreath from the greens around your home and place three purple candles and one rose candle in the middle. The wreath is lit and prayer is said each night at dinner. The internet has a number of websites with information about making a wreath and the prayers that are said each day. What a great way to bring your family together or to start a new prayer tradition in your home. Guarantee the children....and adults will love it.

Photo Voice Exhibit Sunday, November 27

This Sunday Nov. 27th following the 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Masses at St. Basil's you are encouraged to view a “Photo Voice” exhibit created by Bridgewater-Raynham High School students in response to what they learned about drug and alcohol addiction and abuse. These students voluntarily participated in an after school program to learn about this epidemic. They were then each given a camera and asked to photograph images that reminded them of something they had learned in class. These photos were then given a “voice.” These photos will be on display next weekend. We intend to display these “Photo Voice” pictures at St Thomas Aquinas Church at a later date.

Bridging Lives - the Bridgewater segment of the Brockton Area Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative is working in this town and Raynham to try to teach children, students and adults about the dangers and results of alcohol and drug addiction. Please take a few minutes to stop by and learn.

Evelyn DeLutis, a member of the Bridging Lives committee, will be there to answer questions and provide you with take home information.

Apparel For The Needy - collection bins November 20 & 27

Chapter 278 Catholic Financial Life will be collecting new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks for men, women, and children. Collection bins for will be available inside the entrances of the church and chapel during the last two weeks of November. These will be donated to "Our Brother's Keeper". If anyone would like to make a monetary donation send a check to Chapter 278 Catholic Financial Life 102 Mt. Prospect St, Bridgewater MA 02324

Prison Holiday Help Needed - collection bins December 4 & 11

Bridgewater State Hospital is a psychiatric prison hospital where 300 men with very serious mental illnesses live - some for a very short period of evaluation and some for a lifetime. Though it is a hospital, it is also very much a prison. It can be one of the saddest places on earth during the holiday season. You can help to change that.

Every year the Catholic community at the hospital is permitted to give the patients as well as the 50 inmate workers, (men who have transferred from other DOC facilities to work in the kitchen, to maintain the grounds, do the laundry, etc.) holiday packages with a few basic items. This year the items we are hoping you will be able to help with are:

- stick deodorant
- shampoo
- deodorant
- soap

Parish Giving Tree's

Identifying families

If you or any family you know are in need of support during this Christmas Season we ask them to contact the parish office at 509-697-9528

St. Basil Chapel

Ornaments designating gifts for needy families will be available on November 27. These gifts will be given to Our Brother's Keeper, Easton to be distributed to needy families in the area.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Ornaments designating gifts for needy Bridgewater families will be available on November 27. These gifts will be given directly to Bridgewater families in need of our support

St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 6th

Meadow Brook Restaurant Rte. 27 Hanson, MA

Meet Bus 11:30 AM STA Parking Lot

Luncheon Followed with Christmas Tour

LaSalette Shrine, Attleboro

Get Your Reservation in by Dec. 1st by Calling:

Nancy Querzoli @ 508-697-6626

Marianne Giovanoni @ 508-942-0609

Pat Aiello @ 508-944-7232

(Optional \$10 Yankee Swap too!)

Coffee & Donuts - at St Thomas Aquinas

in lower church hall after the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass

Religious Ed Teachers Needed

Grades 4 & 5 - Tuesdays @ 3:45 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

YOUTH GROUP

For Students in grades 6-12

OUR MISSION:

"To bring our youth to the joy of the Church through Catholic centered events, community outreach, and social gatherings."

Week Long Service Trip - June 24 - July 1, 2017

Catholic Heart Work Camp Richmond, VA

- Open to students entering grades 9-12 (as of fall 2017)
- \$750 (approx.) includes transportation, lodging & food
- Fundraising opportunities will be available
- For more information contact Beth Peterson at beth0109@comcast.net or 508-331-0187

LaSalette Shrine - Sun. December 4th 5-8:30pm

(NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Christmas Festival of Lights

Transportation will be provided. Open to students in grades 6-12. To sign up, please visit the Youth Group page of the St. Thomas website under ministries.



WRAP Presents & BE PRESENT



We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. We shop for gifts, bake cookies, decorate our trees, and visit family and friends until we're ready to drop. This year, prepare for Christmas in a different way. Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Advent Ever: *Rediscover Christmas*. You'll receive daily emails with inspirational videos, practical tips, or free Christmas music that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most. You'll experience Christmas in a way you've never experienced it before. Are you ready for your best Advent ever?

To sign up, visit
BestAdventEver.com



2017 Calendars

The Religious Calendars for 2017 are available at the entrances of the church/chapel. These beautiful calendars that highlight religious and civil events are donated every year to our parish by Mark Chapman of the Prohett-Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Homes. Thank you Mark.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Council 488

Cordially invites you to a

A Very Special Christmas Party

St. Thomas Aquinas parish center

December 3, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

The knights would like to invite special needs children to our annual children's Christmas party. Held at the St. Thomas Aquinas parish center our festivities prove a supportive environment so their children can enjoy things like visiting Santa and Mrs. Claus at their own pace, engaging in crafts with necessary assistance, and generally enjoying time with the Knights and special needs families. The party is free to all special needs families, and siblings are welcome. Activities include: DJ with holiday music, games, crafts, gift from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and pictures with Santa for those who would enjoy them.

Space is limited and registration is required.

Please RSVP by December 1st with:

- 1) full name of all children attending
- 2) sex of each child
- 3) age of each child
- 4) any gift considerations such as developmental age of child.

Please RSVP

to Karen Sullivan at MrsGumby56@comcast.net
or call (508) 697-1527

The 2nd Collections

- **This week** - November 27 **No 2nd Collection**
- **Next week** - December 4 **Capital Improvements**

Thanks to the generosity of our parish family, we are continuing to make improvements and update different areas of the parish. Over the past month we have worked on the common area in the lower church, the living and dining rooms in the rectory and also added new tables and chairs to the parish center. Over the next month we will look to complete the lower church and rectory updates, and focus on our winter preparation. We cannot thank you enough for your support to our parish.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Summary of Collections for: 11/14-11/20	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
1st Collection (Parish)	\$4,640	\$1,118	\$5,758
2nd Collection (Retired Sisters)	\$3,101	\$620	\$3,721
Total	\$7,741	\$1,738	\$9,479
Online Giving			
WeShare	\$2,592	\$675	\$3,267
Parish Pay	\$220	-	\$220
Total	\$2,812	\$675	\$3,487
Grand Total	\$10,553	\$2,413	\$12,966

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 21

7:00 a.m. All the Holy Souls in purgatory

9:00 a.m. Betty Gattiglio

Tuesday, November 22

9:00 a.m. Paula Balboni

Saturday, November 26

4:00 p.m. Catherine McGeough

Sunday, November 27

7:45 a.m. Lena & Napolian Carroll

10:00 a.m. Mass for the People

12:00 p.m. "Bruno" Berlandi

5:00 p.m. (*St Basil*) Billy Gabriel – Prayers for New Seminarian

Saturday, December 3

9:00 a.m. Ashley Donahue

4:00 p.m. Mary Gallo & Mary Gallo Kirouac

Sunday, December 4

7:45 a.m. Richard, Patricia & Raymond Downing

10:00 a.m. Jose & Maria Almada

12:00 p.m. Manuel C. DaSilva

Christmas Flower Offering

Every Christmas the Altar Guild group decorates the altar with flowers in celebration of the holiday, for all to enjoy. In the past we have offered envelopes for those who are interested in making a donation towards these flowers in memory of a loved one. It was well received, and once again we have placed envelopes at the entrances of the church and the chapel for those of you that are interested.

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 Prohett, Chapman, Cole and Gleason Funeral Home.

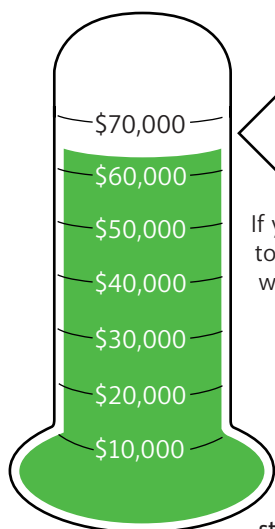
Participants in the present Bereavement Ministry session are willing to speak with anyone who would like more information. Please contact Roberta Gesner at 508 697 4184 ggesner@aol.com or Carol Martin 508 697 2281 caroljimmartin@verizon.net. All who are grieving the loss of a loved one are invited to join this christian based Bereavement Support Group.

Prayer List

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, Joseph DeAndrade, Mary DeLeon, Marty Dickerman, Paul D'Olimpia, Andrea Fitzgerald, Lee Fuller, Jesus Galindo, Florence Galligan, Beverly Giuffre, Tim Johnson, Daniel John, Ava King, Jessica Kamaniski, 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'Neil, 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

Grand Annual Collection

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY!



As of Thursday,
November 17th
213 of our 2,972
families (7.2%)
have pledged

\$66,713

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, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.
in the St Thomas Aquinas Lower Church