

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

NOVEMBER 6, 2016



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.

WEEKNIGHT MASS

This Thursday

November 10, 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

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 Seminarians

Fr. Dan Hennessey, the Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Boston, asks parishes to invite seminarians speak briefly at the end of Mass about their vocation or call to the priesthood. Our parish in particular continues to be fortunate to have seminarians assigned to our parish as part of their pastoral training. In addition to Deacon Will Sexton, we welcome Matthew Harrington, Rodrigo Martinez, David Joanis, and Fernando Ayala, students at Our Lady of Providence College Seminary, who will be speaking at the Masses this weekend.

Vatican guidelines for Cremation

You may have read recently that the Vatican released guidelines barring the scattering of ashes “in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way.” The Vatican decreed that the ashes of loved ones have no place in the home, and certainly not in jewelry. It urged that cremated remains be preserved in cemeteries or other approved sacred places. For that reason, the Vatican said that cremation urns should not be kept at home. The new guidelines, which Pope Francis approved this year, were released ahead of All Souls Day when we are called to remember and pray for those who have died.

The church banned cremation for centuries, but began to allow the practice in 1963, as long as it is not done for reasons at odds with Christian doctrine. In that spirit, the document explains, the church cannot “condone attitudes or permit rites that involve erroneous ideas about death, such as considering death as the definitive annihilation of the person, or the moment of fusion with Mother Nature or the universe, or as a stage in the cycle of regeneration, or as the definitive liberation from the ‘prison’ of the body.”

Beyond respect for the deceased, the document notes that burial in a cemetery “encourages family members and the whole Christian community to pray for and remember the dead.

Fr. Bill

All Souls

We will continue to remember and pray for our deceased family and friends during November. We especially remember those whose names have been given to us and are placed on the altar.

Pastoral Council Openings

Every parish in the Archdiocese of Boston is required to establish a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). The purpose of the PPC and its members is to “assist the pastor in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, reviewing and coordinating the evangelization, worship, religious education and service activities within the parish.” The PPC is an advisory body to the pastor and as such assists me in assessing parish needs, fostering unity, developing a sense of community and promoting programs and activities within the parish.

Over the past five years our PPC has been indispensable in advising and supporting me. They created our Parish Mission Statement published in the bulletin, been instrumental in identifying needs and more specifically initiated our successful Growth in Stewardship Initiative, encouraged the post Mass Coffee and Donuts at the church, coordinated ministries, established the Lenten Parish Mission and encouraged youth ministry programs.

Our PPC meets one evening a week every 2-3 months. There are approximately 10 members each who serves for a period of three years. There are four openings on the council at this time. The parish in general and I, in particular need your ideas, vision, feedback and support as we continue to reach out to bring others to Jesus Christ. Please consider becoming a member.

Nominations are open for anyone 18 yrs. or older and is an active participant in the parish. You have up until November 20th to nominate yourself or someone else. A member of the council, Barbara Henault will be receiving nominations at b1henault@gmail.com or call 508-697-6407.

Veterans Day Covers

We will be honoring our veterans, living and dead, during Masses on November 12th & 13th. It has been a tradition in our parish to have the veterans or active duty member's hats or covers at the foot of the altar during the masses. These covers are a visible way to remember our veterans.

We ask all veterans/active duty or any family members who have veteran's hats to drop them off at the parish office by November 11th (Veteran's Day). Please put your name/contact info in the hats so that they can be returned.

Annual Holiday Bazaar - Saturday, November 19, 2016

• DONATED ITEMS NEEDED

The bazaar committee is in need of volunteers who are willing to donate various items. **Wish List:** white elephant items, home made crafts, knitted or sewn items, toys (gently used or new), plants, jewelry, & jewelry boxes (empty), baked goods, fudge, candy, soda, coffee, tea, cocoa, meatballs, sub rolls, small bags of chips (2cases), hot dogs and rolls gift certificates (for kitchen use), and theme baskets.

If you are able to donate please call *Beccy* 508-697-4791. If you are in need of craft supplies please call *Nella* 508-697-8848

• THEME BASKETS

Donate a prearranged gift basket or create your own "themed" gift basket. Themes from previous years have included; scrapbooking, coffee and tea lovers, family movie night, puzzles and games, and sports. Gift cards and gift certificates are always a welcome addition to any basket. If you are able to donate a gift basket please call *Lisa Folloni* 508-697-5565 or *Pat Aiello* 508-944-7232

• RAFFLE TICKETS - *Get Scratching!*

Raffle tickets for the Holiday Bazaar will remain at the entrances of the church till Nov 13. If you are interested please take some for yourself, or to sell. Ticket stubs & money must be returned by mail, offertory collection, or at the parish office/rectory by November 19th. 114 Mass State Lottery scratch tickets have been purchased for \$500.00. The following games will be available: 2 @ \$30.00 ea., 5 @ \$20.00 ea., 12 @ \$10.00 ea., 20 @ \$5.00 ea., 45 @ \$2.00 ea., 30 @ \$1.00 ea. Only one winner will be drawn for all 114 scratch tickets. For more information please call Joe Souto 508-697-6797

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 - *Informational meeting Sunday, Nov. 6th at 8 p. m. in the parish center.*

We are thrilled to announce that we are joining St. John's Parish in East Bridgewater for a service trip (June 24 - July 2) to Richmond, VA through Catholic Heart Work Camp - a well-known, nationwide service organization. St. Thomas Youth Group has reserved 10 spots - 2 chaperones, 8 students - in addition to spots that St. John's has reserved. Open to students entering 9th-12th grades in the fall of 2017. Approximate cost \$650 - includes transportation, lodging and food - fundraising opportunities will be available.

Roller Skating - *for grades 6-8; Thursday November 10, 8 p.m.-10 p.m.*

See Youth Group page under ministries on parish website for more details and to sign up.

Christmas Drive For Troops & Veteran's - *Last week for donations*

This is our second, and final week for collecting Christmas boxes for the troops in conflict areas and for the Brockton-VA. Listed requested items and collection bins for our troops and for the Brockton VA are available inside the entrances of the church and chapel. The bins in the church will not be available after today, however they will be available at St Basil year round.

In addition to the collection of items, we again will be sending hand-knitted and/or crocheted Christmas stockings. There are patterns available at the Rectory and at St. Basil's and we ask that each stocking contain the colors red, white and blue - in whatever pattern you want. I would be happy to email a pattern, if that would be more convenient for you at sallynator67@yahoo.com.

VOTE NO ON QUESTION 4

Question 4, if passed into law by the voters of Massachusetts, will legalize the recreational use of marijuana for individuals over the age of twenty-one. Hopefully, those who are voting on November 8th have studied the pro's and con's of this petition so as to make what they believe the best choice.

This past week on **60 Minutes**, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper urged caution to the five states voting on legalizing recreational marijuana. He stated there is still not enough reliable research on how the drug impacts the social and psychological development of the brain in young adults that use pot.

The Roman Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts, Governor Baker and many other elected officials along with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Pediatricians (ACP) are opposing the legalization of marijuana and are urging citizens of Massachusetts to vote NO on Question 4 on November 8, 2016. Their reasoning can be found on line and is available on the blue cards available at the entrances of the church and chapel.

Here are some of the reasons to vote NO!

- Gateway drug to opioid abuse
- Negatively effects brain development
- Targets poor communities
- Targets minority communities
- Targets under-aged teens
- Allows marijuana to be grown at home
- Will be sold as "edibles" i.e.; candy, brownies, cookies and soda
- Increased traffic deaths in Colorado
- Increased hospitalizations in Colorado
- Increased drop-out rates in Colorado
- Colorado has 1 marijuana dispensary for every 94 residents
- Colorado has more marijuana dispensaries than Starbucks, McDonalds and 7-11 Stores combined!
- No limit in Massachusetts on the number of marijuana dispensaries if Question 4 passes

VOTE NO ON NOVEMBER 8th

Lector Training – Final Training date Sunday, November 13 at St Basil Chapel

All volunteers (new or old) are asked to attend.

NEW VOLUNTEERS 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

RETURNING VOLUNTEERS 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Grand Annual Appeal

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by so many to our Annual Appeal. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your gift card, please do so as soon as possible. Every gift is welcomed and sincerely appreciated.

If you did not receive a letter, you can find letters, and pledge cards at the entrances of the church. Thank you.

Apparel For The Needy

November 19-20 & 26-27

Chapter 278 Catholic Financial Life will be collecting new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks for men, women, and children. Collection bins 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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made;" Celebrate the love of God for us and for each other by strengthening, renewing and rekindling our marriages by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME **Weekends are Dec 2-4, 2016 in Duxbury, MA and Jan 20-22, 2017 in Duxbury, MA.** For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at www.WWMEMA.org.

Maintenance Position Available

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is looking for a Part Time Maintenance worker. This is a 15-20 hour per week position with a flexible schedule. Responsibilities include assisting with the regular maintenance of all parish buildings and grounds, helping with the set-up and take-down of all events in the parish center and other areas, and landscaping. If you are interested, please inquire at the parish office.

**Coffee and Donuts – St Thomas Aquinas
lower church hall after the 10 a.m. Mass**

Religious Ed teachers Needed

Grades 5 & 6 - Tuesdays @ 3:45 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

RCIA – NEXT CLASS: Sunday, November 13th

3:45 - 4:45 p.m. at St Basil Chapel

Prison Ministry Volunteer's Meeting

All those who are interested in or have already volunteered for prison ministry at Bridgewater State Hospital are asked to attend one of two informational meetings. Peg Newman, Catholic Chaplain at BSH, will give a presentation of the hospital/prison, the need, the ministry and process and answer any questions.

Meeting dates:

Sunday, November 13th at **6:30 p.m.** Tuesday, November 15th at **6:30 p.m.** (lower church hall)

Patriotic Rosary – Tuesday, November 10th at 1:00 PM at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Norwood

Come pray the beautiful Patriotic Rosary on Tuesday, November 10th at 1:00 PM at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 547 Washington St., Norwood, MA. Please join us as we pray for our Veterans and our Country. It is a rare opportunity to foster love of God and Country as we sing all of our patriotic songs.

For information, call Rita Russo, 781-762-4391 or email rita.a.russo@gmail.com

Mass Attendance

Attendance has been taken at each of the Masses during October. The total number of parishioners at each Mass was divided by five to determine the AVERAGE attendance at each Mass. The breakdown of attendance is below. The average number of parishioners that worship in our parish each week is 1,144. Last year's (2015) average attendance was 1,088.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church			
4:00 p.m. (213)	7:45 a.m. (161)	10:00 a.m. (332)	12:00 p.m. (173)
St. Basil Chapel			
10:00 a.m. (168)		5:00 p.m. (97)	

The 2nd Collections

• *This week - November 6* Capital Improvement

Our work continues on maintaining and improving all of the parish facilities and making them more functional and accessible for everyone. From maintaining the brick and stone work on the exterior of the church, to constructing a new common area in the lower church, to renovating floors, walls, and ceilings in the rectory, and upgrading the kitchen at St Basil. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and absolutely vital in making these projects possible, and we cannot thank you all enough for your continued support.

• *Next week - November 13* Campaign for Human Development

Next week's second collection is for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), which works to uphold the dignity of human life by breaking the cycle of poverty across the United States through grants to local community-based groups who create jobs, improve education, and strengthen neighborhoods. Twenty-five percent of the CCHD collection stays in the Archdiocese of Boston to fund local anti-poverty projects; seventy-five percent supports national grant and education programs. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/cchd.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Summary of Collections for: 10/25-10/31	St Thomas	St Basil	Total
1st Collection (Parish)	\$5,267	\$957	\$6,224
2nd Collection (World Mission Sunday)	\$2,043	\$271	\$2,314
Total	\$7,310	\$1,228	\$8,538
Online Giving			
WeShare	\$528	\$420	\$948
Parish Pay	\$25	-	\$25
Total	\$528	\$420	\$973
Grand Total	\$7,863	\$1,648	\$9,511

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 5

4:00 p.m. The Rea Family

Sunday, November 6

7:45 a.m. Ester and Valentino Mortarelli

10:00 a.m. John Wagner

St Basil - 10:00 a.m. Lessard & Charron Morin

12:00 p.m. Victor O'Leary

Tuesday, November 8

9:00 a.m. Carole Benya

Saturday, November 12

4:00 p.m. Edward & Mary McNeil, & Amelia Karam

Sunday, November 13

7:45 a.m. Jose Moura

10:00 a.m. Maria J. Puim & Margarida Araujo
& all the Souls in Purgatory

St Basil - 10:00 a.m. Mass for the People

12:00 p.m. Paulo Torres & Manuel Torres

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, November 7 at 7:00 p.m.
at 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.

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

Can we pray for you?

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..."

Peter Wyatt Chandler, Olivia Leigh Wasik,
Grayson Robert Losche, James Michael Wyman,
Aubreigh Lynn Dolbeare, Alexandra Rae Hargrove

"A time to die..."

Janet Mattson, Dorothy Keane, Rena Pomeroy,
Irene Paglierani, Helen Munise, Florence Martelli

"A time to heal..."

Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini, Edward Albert, Jean Andrade,
Christopher Barbosa, Jeffrey Bean, Jim & Jean Brennan,
Caitlin Burnett, 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, 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,
Kevin Looney, Bob Mackey, Beverly Mitchell, Mary McClay,
Taylor McLean, Kaleena McHardy, Marjorie Mello,
Baby Chase Miceli, Lauren Minchella, Charles Monestere,
Arlene Morin, Anna Nakouzi, Lloyd Nelson,
Antonio & Lucilia Nunes, Tom O'Donnell, Paul D'Olimpia,
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
CPL Brandon Jamieson, USA
PFC, Christopher Ahl, USA
CPL Kelly O'Leary, USA
PFC Peter O'Leary, USA
PVT D.J. Jamieson, USA