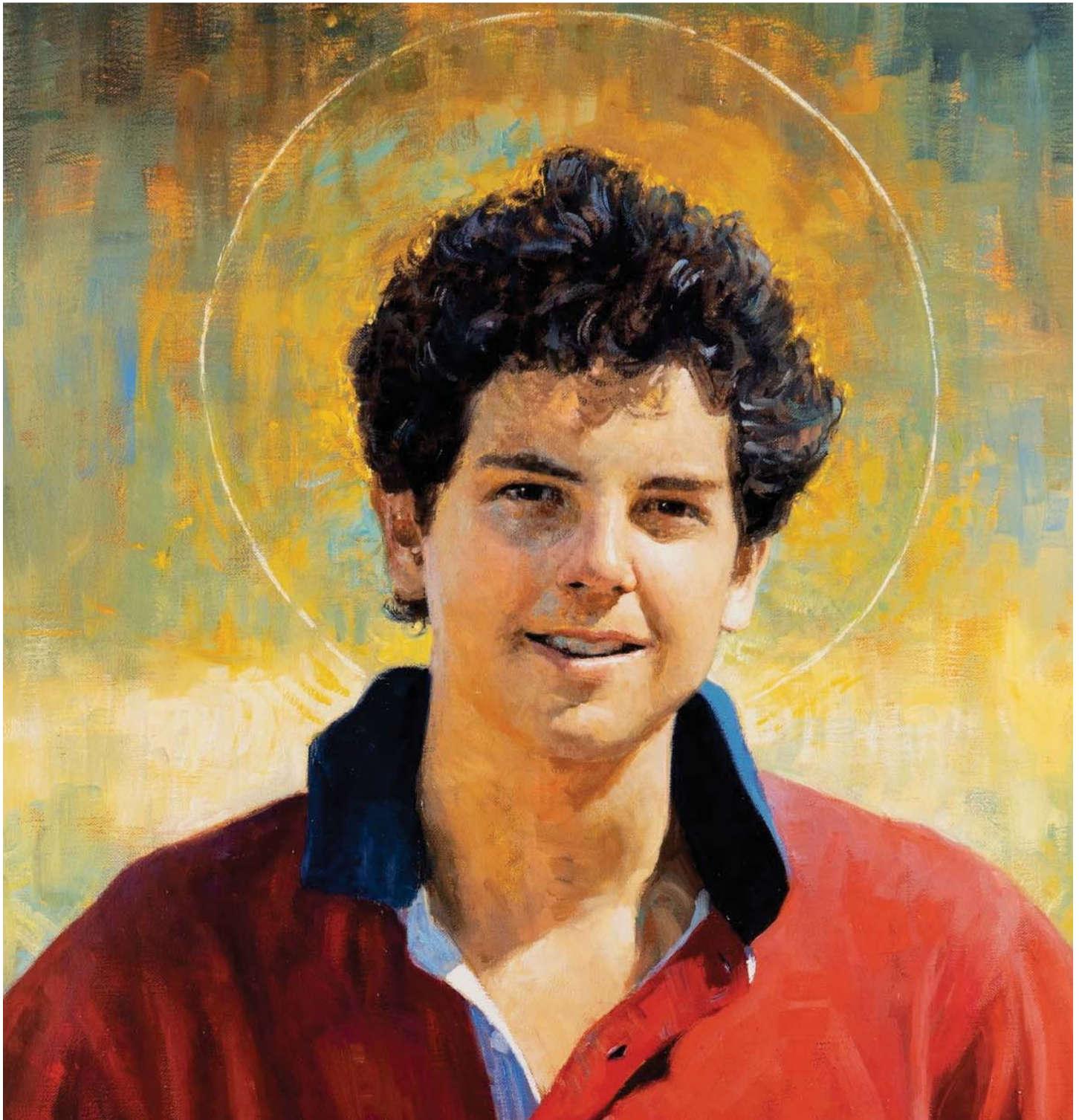


ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025



CARLO ACUTIS - THE FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor
frbilldevine@gmail.com

Fr. Rodrigo Martinez, Parochial Vicar
frrodrigo@sta-parish.org

Senior Deacon Leo Donoghue
donoghue.leo@gmail.com

Parish Office

103 Center St., Bridgewater
Monday - Friday | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
508.697.9528

www.stthomasaquinas.com

Peter Vitagliano, Finance/Operations
pvitagliano@sta-parish.org

Tina Larson, Administrative Assistant
tlarson@sta-parish.org

Music Director

Paul Hoffman, Music Director
phoffman@sta-parish.org

Faith Formation Office Staff

508.697.3652

Debbie Hill, Director
dhill@sta-parish.org

Maryann Ofstein, Secretary
faithformation@sta-parish.org

St. Basil, The Catholic Center

122 Park Ave., Bridgewater
Fr. Rodrigo Martinez, Campus Chaplain
frrodrigo@sta-parish.org

Saint Vincent DePaul Food Pantry / Financial Assistance

508-697-9528, then choose option 5

SUNDAY MASS

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
103 Center St., Bridgewater
Saturday Vigil | 4:00 p.m.

Sunday | 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
12:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

St. Basil Chapel
122 Park Ave., Bridgewater
Sunday | 10:30 a.m.

DAILY MASS

St. Thomas Aquinas Lower Church
Monday - Saturday | 9:00 a.m.

CONFESSION

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday: 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Lower
Church or by appointment

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.

WELCOME

Welcome to visitors of our Parish, and to those who have recently moved into the area, and to those who are 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.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

1:30 PM



Every first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick here at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Anointing of the Sick is not only a sacrament for those who are dying, but also for those who are facing a serious surgery, serious illness, or suffer from any other physical or emotional illnesses. If you have any questions about anointing, please consult Fr. Devine or Fr. Rodrigo.



HAS A LOVED ONE DIED RECENTLY?

The Saint Thomas Aquinas Bereavement Ministry is pleased to announce that our next series of Bereavement Support meetings will begin on:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH
AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE PARISH CENTER

This session runs for 9 weeks. All those grieving the loss of a loved one are encouraged to join. **ADVANCE REGISTRATION requested.** To register, please call Roberta at (508) 697-4184 or Ginny at (508) 697-7649.

CARLO ACUTIS - THE FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT

Born in London to Italian parents in 1991, Carlo later moved to Italy, where he became known for his deep faith and devotion. In recent years, he has gained significant attention, particularly among young people, for several reasons. For many, the canonization of someone from - or near - their own generation is deeply inspiring. As the first millennial to be declared a saint (millennials are generally considered those born between the early 1980s and mid-1990s), Carlo's canonization makes the pursuit of holiness feel more accessible.

Blessed Carlo referred to the Eucharist as "my highway to heaven," and his devotion helped rekindle the faith of his own parents. He is known to have said, "People who place themselves before the sun get a tan; people who place themselves before the Eucharist become saints." Carlo also cautioned his peers about the dangers and pitfalls of the online world, reminding them of the importance of mastering their will with God's grace. In October 2006, Blessed Carlo died of an aggressive form of leukemia at the age of 15. Inspired by the words of Apple founder Steve Jobs, who said, "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living the life of someone else," Blessed Carlo took this to heart and used his brief time on earth to live and share his faith and serve as a model of holiness at a young age.

In November 2021, Blessed Carlo Acutis was named by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as one of the patrons and intercessors of the National Eucharistic Revival. In a time of cynicism and religious apathy, Carlo was drawn to research one of the most unusual of all phenomena, Eucharistic miracles. He was 15 years old when he died in 2006, and his last few days saw him comforting his parents about his imminent death. He was known for his devotion to the Eucharist.

In May 2023, Pope Francis recognized a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Carlo Acutis. It occurred in 2022, when a Costa Rican woman named Valeria had fallen off her bike and suffered a brain hemorrhage, with doctors giving her a low chance of survival. Valeria's mother, Lilliana, prayed for the intercession of Acutis and visited his tomb. The same day, Valeria began to breathe independently again and was able to walk the next day with all evidence of the hemorrhage having disappeared. In July 2024, Pope Francis presided at an ordinary consistory of cardinals, which approved the canonization of 15 people, including Blessed Carlo Acutis. It was announced that Acutis would be canonized April 27, 2025, during the Jubilee of Teenagers. However, following Pope Francis' death on Easter Monday, the Vatican announced that the ceremony would have to be postponed. **In June, Pope Leo XIV announced that Acutis would officially be canonized on Sunday, Sept. 7.**

HOPE FOR LIFE Conference

October 4, 2025
The Track at New Balance

91 Guest St. Boston, MA 02135
hopeforlifeboston.com



Jonathan Roumie



Vigil Project Band



Mass Celebrated by Archbishop Richard Henning



Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart

Special guest speakers Jonathan Roumie & Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart

Music provided by The Vigil Project and special moderated panel discussions on the sanctity and the dignity of life

Adults \$50 | College Students \$25 | Lunch provided on-site

for high school and CCD groups, contact: hopeforlifeboston@gmail.com



PROJECT RACHEL POST-ABORTION HEALING RETREATS

Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion?

The Archdiocese of Boston's Project Rachel ministry is extending a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a *Come to the Waters of Healing* one-day retreat.

Fall dates are **Saturday, Sept. 27** and **Saturday, Oct. 18**. Locations are confidential. **For more information on their retreats or services, please contact Project Rachel at help@projectrachelboston.com or call 508.651.3100.**



INSPIRE MONTHLY MISSION TRIP GATHERINGS



SAVE THE DATES!

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 -12

YOUTH ROOM

SERVICE

GYM TIME

GAGA BALL!

THIS THURSDAY! SEPTEMBER 11
(NOTE DATE CHANGE)

BRING YOUR MISSION TRIP APPLICATIONS!

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
PARISH CENTER

2026 CHWC
MISSION TRIP
NORTH HALEDON, NJ
JULY 18 – 25, 2026

APPLICATIONS ARE ON
OUR WEBSITE
AND ARE DUE 9/17

TO SIGN UP, VISIT WWW.STTHOMASAQUINAS.COM

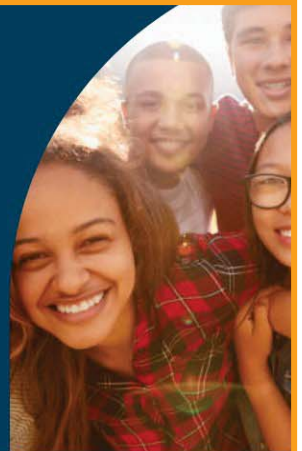
QUESTIONS? CONTACT JEN ROSHER AT JENROSER@COMCAST.NET

St. Thomas Aquinas Youth Group Open Gym

THIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:00 - 8:30 PM | GRADES 6-8

PARISH CENTER GYM



SEPTEMBER 12TH – A TASTE OF FALL

APPLE CIDER DONUTS, CIDER, AND A FALL-THEMED CRAFT!

BASKETBALL • VOLLEYBALL • 9-SQUARE • VIDEO GAMES



To register,
visit www.stthomasaquinas.com
or scan this QR Code!



Block Party 2025

Last Saturday, we held our annual block party. The weather was perfect and we had an amazing turnout! Over 150 people attended and took part in our activities, which included horse and pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, bubbles, rock painting and soaking Fr. Bill and Fr. Rodrigo in our splash bucket chair, just to name a few! THANK YOU to our Social Committee, led by Joanne Hamer, and those who volunteered to make this day such a success! We can't wait until next year! - Tina Larson



VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP WEEKENDS

September 13 - 14 and September 20 - 21

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP PROCESS

1. Tables will be set up after each Mass at the church and chapel.
2. **All volunteers, new and returning, need to stop at the check-in table and will be given a sign-up sheet.**
3. **Check off the ministries you would like to volunteer for.** Take your completed sheet to the designated area at the church/chapel and **check in with a staff member** to complete required paperwork.
4. **Ministry heads will be available** to talk with you and answer any questions you have.
5. **Everyone needs to complete a CORI form.** This is an **ANNUAL** Archdiocesan requirement. **Please have your license with you for this. Please do not leave without completing your paperwork.**
6. **You will be asked to sign up for VIRTUS training** (see dates on next page) if you have not completed it. All volunteers must attend a VIRTUS training one time only prior to volunteering.

OUR MINISTRIES

CAMPUS MINISTRY

- **FEED THE BEARS (ONCE EVERY 5 - 6 WEEKS: SEPTEMBER - APRIL)** Community members are needed to make food for BSU students on Thursday nights.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

- **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR (NOVEMBER)** Help to organize and execute the Christmas bazaar.
- **COFFEE & DONUTS – ST. THOMAS AND ST. BASIL'S (ONCE EVERY 5-6 WEEKS: SUNDAY A.M.)** Make coffee, pick up prepaid donuts and clean up after the gathering following the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses.
- **GIVING TREE (DECEMBER)** Help with the organization and running of the Annual Giving Tree to provide families in need with Christmas gifts.
- **GIVING TREE - SENIOR CITIZENS (DECEMBER)** Help with the organization and running of the Annual Giving Tree to provide seniors in need with Christmas gifts.
- **GOLF TOURNAMENT (ANNUALLY)** Help organize and execute our annual golf tournament.
- **LENTEN SIMPLE SUPPERS (FRIDAYS OF LENT)** Prepare a meatless meal after Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas.
- **RUMMAGE SALE (SPRING/FALL)** Assist with sorting items for the Annual Parish Rummage Sale.
- **SOCIAL COMMITTEE (QUARTERLY)** Plan, organize, and conduct social events for the Parish.
- **THANKSGIVING DINNER (NOVEMBER)** Prepare and serve a Thanksgiving Dinner for Senior Citizens.
- **WOMEN'S CLUB (MONTHLY)** Participate in social events and fundraising to support the Parish.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

- **BAPTISM (MONTHLY)** Provide welcome and gift bags to families of recently baptized children.
- **FR. BILL'S / MAINSPRING HOUSE BROCKTON (MONTHLY)** Serve a meal at the homeless shelter. Volunteer slots are available twice a month on Mondays from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM.
- **HOMEBOUND SUPPORT (AS NEEDED)** Visit our homebound parishioners and provide assistance as needed.
- **MY BROTHER'S KEEPER, EASTON (SEASONALLY)** Sort and deliver food or furniture to the needy.
- **PRISON MINISTRY** On Wednesdays, help lead a Men's Group at Old Colony Correctional Center using a pre-planned program. On Thursdays, take part in a Bible sharing and discussion led by inmates.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

- **PRO-LIFE (QUARTERLY)** Create a greater awareness of the sanctity of all human life. Publicize and participate in scheduled events. Assist in collecting funds and articles to support pregnant women.
- **TROOPS AND VETERAN'S SUPPORT (ANNUALLY - NOVEMBER)** Assist in the collection and distribution of items sent to military troops and delivered to Brockton VA patients.

PARISH SERVICE MINISTRIES

- **ALTAR LINEN CLEANERS (MONTHLY)** Help clean the altar cloths and linens at the Church and Chapel. Training provided.
- **ALTAR GUILD (FRIDAY A.M.)** Clean the upper and lower Church and the Chapel.
- **CHURCH/CHAPEL DECORATING COMMITTEE (QUARTERLY)** Assist with seasonal altar decorations.
- **OFFERTORY COUNTERS (MONDAY A.M. 1X PER MONTH)** Assist with the counting of Sunday collections.
- **LIVESTREAMERS - ST. BASIL'S CHAPEL** Assist us in livestreaming the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass at the chapel. Training provided.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

- **ALTAR SERVERS (WEEKLY AND MONTHLY)** Serve Mass. Training provided. Grades 6 - 12.
- **CHOIR - ADULT (WEEKLY)** Join us to sing in the choir! Weekly and/or seasonal opportunities.
- **CHOIR - YOUTH** Youth choir program (grades 2 - 9) with weekly and seasonal opportunities.
- **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** Help organize and participate in our monthly First Friday Adoration sessions.
- **EVANGELIZATION (QUARTERLY)** Encourage and support others in the understanding and practice of their Catholic faith.
- **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (3X PER MONTH)** Assist in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Training provided.
- **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION / HOMEBOUND (AS REQUESTED)** Bring Holy Communion to the Homebound. Training provided.
- **FATIMA CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION (MONTHLY)** Assist with the coordination of the procession which is held on the 13th of each month from May to October.
- **GREETERS & USHERS (WEEKLY)** Welcome parishioners, guide parishioners to seating, and take up the collection. You may select the Mass of your choice.
- **LECTORS (2X PER MONTH)** Proclaim the Scripture readings and prayer intentions during Mass. Training provided.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

- **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (DECEMBER)** Help to organize and run the Annual Parish Christmas Pageant.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT (SPRING)** Help to organize and execute the Parish Easter Egg Hunt for children.
- **FAITH FORMATION (SEPT. - MAY)** Assist our Faith Formation Program as a teacher or general helper.
- **VACATION BIBLE CAMP (SUMMER)** Help organize and support our one-week summer Bible Camp program. Volunteer opportunities available for teens and adults.
- **YOUTH GROUP JUNIOR (MONTHLY)** Adults needed to help co-host the monthly open gym nights in the parish center and assist with service opportunities.
- **YOUTH MISSION TRIP GROUP (MONTHLY)** Attend monthly meetings with Fr. Rodrigo and Jen Rosher, and help coordinate the group service activities and events locally and nationally.

ARE YOU VIRTUS TRAINED?

VIRTUS training (Protecting God's Children) is required by the Archdiocese of all volunteers once in their lifetime before they can volunteer. Please visit our website or call the parish office to sign up for one of these dates:

THIS THURSDAY
Sept. 11 6:00 - 9:00 PM

NEXT WEDNESDAY
Sept. 17 6:00 - 9:00 PM

SATURDAY Oct. 4
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

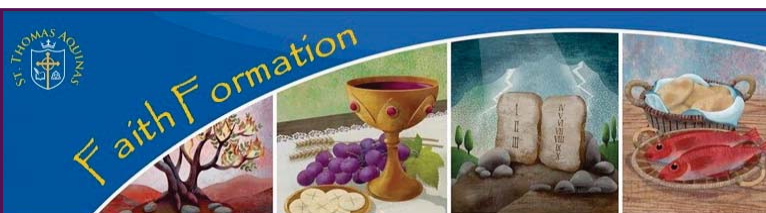


OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

As the calendar turns toward fall, St. Thomas Aquinas' OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) program is gearing up for another year of helping those who are seeking the fullness of their faith to be welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church. Is this program for you?

- Are you someone who was baptized Catholic, but never received any other sacraments and wish to do so now?
- Are you someone who was raised in another faith tradition, Christian or otherwise, and are seeking conversion to the Catholic faith?
- Have you recently been asked to be a Godparent and need to be Confirmed? This program will help you be the best Godparent you can be!

We encourage you to explore St. Thomas Aquinas' OCIA program. Speak to Fr. Devine or Fr. Rodrigo after Mass or contact Kevin Geraghty at (908) 954-8017 or Karen Geraghty at (508) 930-8280. We would be happy to answer any questions you have.



FAITH FORMATION – SAVE THE DATES!

FAITH FORMATION PARENT NIGHTS are an important part of our program. We meet in the parish center and hand out the materials you will need for a rewarding year of faith formation. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

- Grades 1 & 2 – Monday, Sept. 15, 6:30 PM
- Grades 3-7 – Tuesday, Sept. 16, 6:30 PM
- Grades 8 & 9 (Confirmation) – Sunday, Sept. 28, 6:15 PM

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

- Grades 1 - 7 – September 22, 23, 24
- Grades 8 & 9 – Sunday, October 5

BE THE REASON A CHILD KNOWS JESUS – VOLUNTEER TO TEACH OUR YOUNGEST PARISHIONERS! WE NEED TEACHERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Tuesday, Grade 7
- Wednesday, Grade 4

Contact Debbie in the Faith Formation office to discuss details at 508-697-3652 or dhill@sta-parish.org. Join us on this beautiful journey of faith!

**REGISTER NOW FOR
FAITH FORMATION!**

Visit www.stthomasaquinas.com
or scan this QR Code!



ADULT CONFIRMATION

This program is for those who were baptized Catholic, received First Holy Communion and would like to receive Confirmation. The preparation sessions will take place at **Holy Family Parish Center, Duxbury** from **6:15 PM – 7:30 PM** on 5 consecutive Sundays: **Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 & Nov. 2.**

Interested?

Contact Deacon David Cosgrove at dcosgrove@holyfamilyduxbury.org.

The Fall Adult Confirmation ceremony will take place on Monday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 PM at St. Michael Church, Avon.



FATIMA ROSARY PROCESSION

**NEXT SATURDAY
September 13th
7:30 PM**

**St. Thomas
Aquinas Church**




**SPEAKER
Fr. Hien Vu, Parochial Vicar
Saint Ambrose Church
Dorchester, MA**

BSU CAMPUS MINISTRY

We welcomed the Class of 2029 to Bridgewater State with a week full of BBQs, movie nights, and time to connect. Dinosaurs even took over campus and became the hit of the week! Our four FOCUS missionaries joyfully greeted everyone and shared in the fun. Take a look at some moments from our outreach! - Fr. Rodrigo



FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

NO SECOND COLLECTION
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

SEPTEMBER 6 - 7
SEPTEMBER 13 - 14

Collections Summary 8/25 - 8/31	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 5,584	\$ 361	\$ 5,945
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 330	\$ 0	\$ 330
Online (WeShare)	\$ 3,368	\$ 784	\$ 4,152
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 9,282	\$ 1,145	\$ 10,427
GAZA COLLECTION	\$ 3,535	\$ 328	\$ 3,863

AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES FOR JULY = \$ 13,164



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Aquinas, Bridgewater, Massachusetts



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Saint Thomas Aquinas Church,
Bridgewater, Massachusetts



RUMMAGE Sale

Saturday, September 27
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Donations no longer being accepted. Thank you!

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. Gerry Gesner - 2nd Anniversary

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

Louis Alberghini

12:00 p.m.

Living and Deceased Members of the Catholic Women's Club

5:00 p.m.

St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Joseph and Catherine Connolly

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:00 a.m. Heather Porazzo

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

9:00 a.m. Carlos Alberto Baganha

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:00 a.m. Henrietta DeMello

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

9:00 a.m. Krys Parnell

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

9:00 a.m. Mother Anna Grace Neenan, O.P. and Sr. Mary Angelica Neenan, O.P. (living)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:00 a.m. Emily Orcutt (living) and Sarah Orcutt

4:00 p.m. Leo LeClair

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m. Manuel Araujo Torres

5:00 p.m.

St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Manuel Coelho and Angelina Andrade

SACRAMENTS

To receive information about the Sacraments, or to schedule an appointment with a priest, call the office at 508-697-9528.

BAPTISM

If you wish to have your child or yourself baptized, call the office. Baptisms are ordinarily celebrated monthly on the 2nd & 4th Sunday at 1:30 p.m., or during Mass. Dates subject to change.

MARRIAGE

If you wish to be married in our parish, call the parish office at least 8 months in advance. **Marriage Preparation instruction is required.**

ANointing OF THE SICK

If you or anyone you know would like to be anointed because of serious illness or surgery, anointings are held on the first Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m., or you may contact the office to schedule a time.

CONFESSIONS - LOWER CHURCH

Saturdays: 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., or by appointment.

DEVOTIONS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Saturdays 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Lower Church

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Lower Church

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

1st Friday of the month: 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Lower Church

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

1st Saturday of the month: 10:30 a.m., Lower Church

PRAYER LIST

A Time to be Born...

Killian Rowan

A Time to Die...

Grace Baker

Barbara Henault

A Time to Heal...

Carolyn Allen
Kevin Balf
Kathy Bennett
Pamela Bumpus
Sandra Cable
The Caldarola Family
Thomas Chiappini
George Cowan
Anthony DeSerpa
Dennis DiGiusto
Dave Dorrer
Kash Doughty
Claire Easter
Joan Ward Fusco
Brenda Gentili
Patricia Giovannello
Barbara Gothage
Joanne Hamer
Caroline Hayes
Peter Hayes
Tom Joyce
Jeanne Keane
Regina Keane
Carol Kelley
Judy Knight
Stephen Knight

Julie Landry
Lucie Lovell
Juliet Magargal
Mary
Riley McHardy
Charles Micalizzi
JoAnn Micalizzi
Kathy Monahan
Maureen Mosher
Chris O'Leary
Ellen O'Leary
Peter O'Leary
Thomas O'Leary
Maria Presti
Joseph Sarro
Tony Scalfaro
James Schneider
Steven
Sarah Silvia
Deana Spingel
Emily Stone
Claire Sullivan
James "Leo" Tuite, Jr.
Jason Zutaut
Nicole Zutaut

A Time for Peace...

SFC Kelly Berrier, USA
Warrant Officer 1 James Berrier, USA
CPL Connor Bresciani, USMC
LT David Campo, CHC, USN
SGT Joseph Cannistraro, USA
SRAMN Thomas J. Guzman, USAF
1st LT Jimmy Lysko, USMC
CAPT Jarod Mockus, USA
2nd LT Jimmy Peterson, USA
2Lt Brian Rosher, USA
GEN Eric M. Smith, USMC
PFC Harry Terpeny, USANG
STAFF SGT Nicholas Walsh, USA

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"Jesus Wept." *John 11:35*

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SEPTEMBER 19 & 20

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