ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025







VOLUNTEER WEEKEND







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.

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

Music Director

tlarson@sta-parish.org

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



FAITH FORMATION TODAY, FAITH FOR A LIFETIME!

We are excited to start Faith Formation classes for Grades 1 - 9!

As a parish family, we look forward to walking with our children and youth as they grow in their relationship with Christ, deepen their understanding of our Catholic faith, and prepare for the sacraments.

This year promises to be full of learning, spiritual growth, community, and joy. Whether students are just beginning their journey or continuing to build on what they've learned, each class is a step toward living as true disciples of Jesus.

Parents are asked to attend **PARENT NIGHTS**. If you have more than one child in the program, you need only attend one night. Parent Nights are held in the parish center gym. We will be handing out books and materials and reviewing the upcoming year. **Parent nights will be held on:**

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

FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES

- Grades 1 7 September 22, 23, 24
- Grades 8 & 9 Sunday, October 5, 6:15 7:45 PM

We look forward to a joyful and faith-filled year ahead for our students, families, and catechists!

CATECHIST NEEDED!

Be the Light for our 4th Graders on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM! Join this meaningful experience of walking with our fourth graders as they discover how God sent His Son, Jesus, for our salvation and how Jesus gave us the Church and the sacraments to guide us to heaven. Join us in sharing the faith, forming young hearts, and growing together in Christ! Please call Debbie Hill for more information at 508-697-3652.

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN!

Classes are filling up! To register, please visit our website, www.stthomasaquinas.com or scan this QR Code.



Questions? Contact the Faith Formation office at 508-697-3652.

NEED A HELPING HAND?

Columbus Day Weekend (Oct. 10-12)

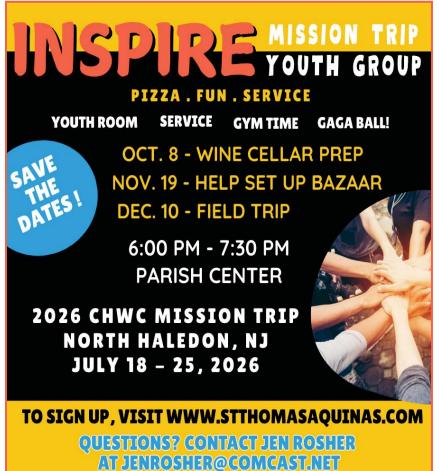
Our Inspire Mission Trip Group would love to serve locally. If you or someone you know could use help with a small project, like yard clean-up, garage organization, or light household tasks, let us know! Teams of 2 adults and 4-5 teens will be assigned. **Note: no painting, construction, or trash removal. Bags are provided; you provide removal.** Applications are available at the church/chapel, parish office, or our website. **Contact Jen Rosher at jenrosher@comcast.net or 617-828-9147.**

WANT TO HELP? - Teens & Adults

Join us for a local Catholic Heart-style mission weekend!

- October 10th starting at 8:00PM October 12th ending at Noon-ish
- Friday: Parish sleepover with games, service, and fun
- Saturday: Mini-Service projects in Bridgewater, dinner, outdoor adoration
- Sunday: Hike & Mass at the top of Blue Hills
- Open to 8th grade adult. Cost: \$50 (covers food, t-shirt, supplies). Adults must complete VIRTUS & CORI.
- Sign up at www.stthomasaquinas.com to participate.

HELP US! BECOME A SPONSOR - Businesses, In memory of a loved one, or as a family: Support Inspire Bridgewater by sponsoring our weekend. Sponsors' names or logos will appear on event t-shirts. Minimum \$50; all donations go toward food, shirts, and supplies for families we'll serve. Thank you for helping us make a difference in our community! Email jenrosher@comcast.net or call 617-828-9147.



Some more testimonials from our Youth Mission Trip...

I'm so grateful to have been a part of another mission trip with the kindest, most welcoming, understanding, and hardworking group of teens and adult chaperones. Their sacrifice in Niagara was immeasurable. The work we did in gave the residents of the Niagara community hope and a restored faith in humanity. Happy to be a part of a truly wonderful experience.

- Ariana Scolaro

I had the great opportunity to spend a week with St. Thomas's youth group. It was a beautiful and faith-filled mission. To see these young people pour out their love to help others was simply incredible. These kids are courageous, kind, loving, funny, and most of all, their faith and love for God is absolutely beautiful. I am so grateful and blessed to know all of them. I will remember this mission trip forever.

- Deacon Dave Roderick



ARE YOU REGISTERED?

NEED TO UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION?

GREAT BENEFITS TO REGISTERING:



Connection with those who share your faith

Enjoy a deeper sense of belonging and community within the parish



Access to the sacraments

Benefit from the sacramental instruction the parish provides and obtain the grace that can only come through the sacraments



Information updates

Receive notifications about our Faith Formation program, upcoming events, and ministry opportunities



VISIT OUR PARISH REGISTRATION TENT AT VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS!

A Note from Fr. Devine...

You've probably noticed that volunteers are what, in great part, makes our parish so dynamic, engaged and strong. We could not do all that we do without the number of volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents. Every September, we ask not only our returning volunteers to recertify their ministries, but are hoping and praying that there will be new volunteers. Volunteering is centered on what can I do to be of greater service to others. God has given each of us talents and abilities. The more we use them, the more they will grow. Often some may think, "I'm too old, too busy, too scared, too nervous, too whatever." Don't be misled. All of us can find or make time if we want. Please look at the large spectrum of ministries and find one or two that you are willing to step out and try. As you read and reflect on these ministries, be open and let the Lord's Holy Spirit bring one or two ministries to your mind and heart. There are a number of volunteers after Mass who are willing to answer your questions and to guide you in your selection.

While all the ministries need volunteers, I'd like to highlight one ministry that is in need of more volunteers. I would like to offer the chalice containing the Lord's Precious Blood at more than the two Masses which we presently do. However, in order to do so, we need more Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC). If you feel you're unworthy, you're the right person to assist in this ministry for we all are unworthy. It's a great honor to be able to provide others the opportunity to receive the Body and the Blood of Christ.

NEW! In addition to Volunteer Sign up this year, we are also asking those who have be coming to Mass here and want to make our parish their parish to please register. In addition, we ask those who are registered to please update any information that may have changed since they first registered. - Fr. Devine

VOLUNTEER

SIGN-UP WEEKENDS

September 13 - 14 September 20 - 21

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

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





SIGN-UP STEPS

STEP ONE

All volunteers, new and returning, need to stop at the check-in table and will be given a sign-up sheet by a staff member.

STEP TWO

Talk to ministry heads if you have questions. Fill out contact information and check off which ministries you want to volunteer for on your form.

STEP THREE

Return volunteer form to check-in table. You will be given a CORI form (all volunteers need to complete a CORI annually).

STEP FOUR

Complete CORI form at designated tables.

STEP FIVE

Return CORI form to check-in table. Sign up for VIRTUS training if you have not completed it.

STEP SIX

Visit our parish registration tent to register with our parish or update your information if necessary.

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.
- **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 (NOVEMBER) Assist in the collection and distribution of items sent to military troops and delivered to Brockton VA patients.



Volunteers packing items to send to troops

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 8) with weekly and seasonal opportunities.
- **EUCHARISTIC 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.







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 are happy to answer any questions you have.



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, September 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.





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.

September 14 ~ Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today's feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated in Catholic and Orthodox Churches alike, with the cross being the universal image of our Christian belief. It is not the cruelty of the Cross that is exalted, but the Love that God manifested for all people by accepting death on the Cross. Our Gospel reminds us that God wants to enter a relationship of love with us, a love that is offered in His Son Jesus, lifted up on the Cross. As we gaze upon the cross today, may it be an invitation to accept the love that is given and remain in His love. We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, here, and in all your churches throughout the whole world, and we bless you, for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Saint Francis of Assisi)

PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED!

We are currently looking for a PT Housecleaner for the Rectory and Parish Offices. This positon has a flexible schedule, with approximately 3 - 5 hours per week. Please contact Peter Vitagliano at 508-697-9528 if you are interested.

RUMMAGE SALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you usually help set up for the Rummage Sale on the Friday before the sale, Sept. 26 OR do you want to volunteer on the day of the Rummage Sale, Sept. 27? If so, please call Marianne at 508-942-0609 and let her know when and if you can help. The rummage sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9AM - 3PM.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS **SECOND COLLECTIONS:**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT **CLERGY BENEFIT TRUST**

SEPTEMBER 13 - 14 SEPTEMBER 20 - 21

Collections Summary 9/1 - 9/8	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 5,545	\$ 846	\$ 6,391
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 195	\$ O	\$ 195
Online (WeShare)	\$ 3,283	\$ 851	\$ 4,134
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 9,023	\$ 1,697	\$ 10,720

AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES FOR AUGUST = \$ 16,291



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DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS POSITION

We are still in the process of searching for a Director of Ministries and Programs. If you or someone you know may be interested, visit www.stthomasaguinas.com to review the job description and apply if you believe you could be a fit for this position. Thank you!

HAS A LOVED ONE **DIED RECENTLY?**

The Saint Thomas Bereavement Ministry is pleased to announce that our next series of meetings begin on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24THAT 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 is requested. To register, please call Roberta at (508) 697-4184 or Ginny at (508) 697-7649.

ANNUAL WEDDING **ANNIVERSARY MASS**

All couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, or 50th wedding anniversaries or another special milestone are invited to a celebratory Mass on Sunday, Oct. 26th at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. Couples will renew their marriage commitment and receive a special blessing. To register, visit https://bit.ly/ WeddingAnniversaryMass2025. For more information, please email Emily Elliott at marriageprep@rcab.org or call 617-746-5756.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT **WEEKEND: CLERGY BENEFIT TRUST**

Next week's second collection for the Clergy Trust supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of all priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

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. Dennis DiGiusto
12:00 p.m. Manuel Araujo Torres

5:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m. Manuel Coelho and Angelina Andrade

St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Manuel C MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:00 a.m. Alfred and Irene Bosquet

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 a.m. Maria Nazareth Borges and Manuel Medeiros

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:00 a.m. Barbara Peddie (living)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 a.m. Cindy Burns

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:00 a.m. Manuel Coelho and Angelina Andrade

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:00 a.m.

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Federico and Roger Devilles
12:00 p.m. James Connolly - 5th Anniversary

5:00 p.m. Elena Rea

St. Basil 10:30 a.m.

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 Julie Landry Kevin Balf Lucie Lovell Kathy Bennett Juliet Magargal Pamela Bumpus Mary Sandra Cable Riley McHardy The Caldarola Family Charles Micalizzi Thomas Chiappini JoAnn Micalizzi George Cowan Kathy Monahan Anthony DeSerpa Maureen Mosher Dave Dorrer Chris O'Leary Kash Doughty Ellen O'Leary Claire Easter Peter O'Leary Joan Ward Fusco Thomas O'Leary Brenda Gentili Maria Presti Patricia Giovanniello Joseph Sarro Barbara Gothage Tony Scalfaro James Schneider Joanne Hamer Caroline Haves Steven Peter Hayes Sarah Silvia Tom Joyce Deana Spingel Jeanne Keane **Emily Stone** Regina Keane Claire Sullivan Carol Kelley James "Leo" Tuite, Jr. Judy Knight Jason Zutaut Stephen Knight 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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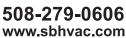


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