ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

OCTOBER 12, 2025



Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, October 5, 2025





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 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 Aguinas 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

A Note from Fr. Devine..

Thank you for the positive comments to last's week's **Annual Appeal** homilies. If you did not receive a letter this past week asking for your support, please take a letter, pledge card, and envelope located at the church/chapel exits. Thank you for understanding the need and being willing to make a contribution.

As you can see from this bulletin, there's a lot going on in our parish and I encourage you to consider engaging in one or more of our activities or ministries.

All those who've volunteered for a ministry should hear from your ministry's leader by this Wednesday, Oct 15. Many of the ministries, i.e. ushers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and altar servers, will require specific training. We'll put the dates of these trainings in the bulletin in the upcoming weeks. Please arrange your schedule so you can attend your ministry's mandatory training.

We do have a need for additional Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EMHC) so that we can provide our parishioners the opportunity to receive the Lord's Precious Blood at additional Masses. In order to do this, we need 5 EMHC at every Mass.

Note: Hopefully, if many volunteer, you'll only be assigned to assist twice a month. While we'll try to assign you to your Mass of preference, we ask that you be flexible to occasionally assist at another Mass time. If you are willing to assist, please contact Tina in the parish office at 508-697-9528 or tlarson@sta-parish.org.

- Fr. Devine

PRO-LIFE INITIATIVE

Abortion kills an innocent human life and we, as Catholics are called by God to protect His precious gift of life. Did you know that your taxpayer dollars are being used to pay for abortions in Massachusetts? Fortunately, there is something each of us can do to stop this. Over the next 2 weekends (Oct. 18-19 and Oct. 25-26), volunteers from the Pro-life Ministry will be collecting signatures of registered voters after all the Masses. This petition is to amend our state constitution so that taxpayer subsidized abortions are no longer a constitutional entitlement in Massachusetts. Please stop and sign this petition to help save lives of unborn babies in our state. For more information, please visit www.stoptaxpayerabortion.org or email tom@stoptaxpayerabortion.org . - Kim Sousa, Coordinator

PROJECT RACHEL POST-ABORTION HEALING RETREATS

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

The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a **Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat on THIS Saturday, October 18.** Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com

ATTENTION! ST. BASIL'S PARKING NOTICE UPDATE

We recently became aware that the only Homecoming event on Oct. 19 is the Alumni Mass so parking for the 10:30 AM Mass should not be an issue.



to a special Mass commemorating our 60th anniversary!

NEXT Sunday, October 19th - 12:30 PM

Light reception to follow. Please confirm attendance by emailing Fr. Rodrigo at frrodrigo@sta-parish.org.

JOIN US IN SINGING!

Below are the lyrics to this week's **recessional hymn** at the **9:00 AM Mass.** Many children may remember this from Vacation Bible Camp.

- Paul Hoffman, Music Director

THANKS, GOD

Refrain

Thanks, God, For all the good things you do.
Thanks, God, You're my light and my truth.
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh
Thanks, God, For the good things you've made.
Thanks, God, For this heart that was saved.
Oh, oh, oh, oh, Thanks, God.

Verse

All the waves when they crash, when they roar So fun to ride one up to the shore.

Thanks, God.

All the wonders under the deep, Down to the bottom where I'll never reach. Thanks, God.

Oh, that you love me, I'm so amazed. Makes me want to say

Refrain

Bridge

I'm diving into your love. Watch me, here I, I come. I'm diving into your love. Watch me, here I, I come.



FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

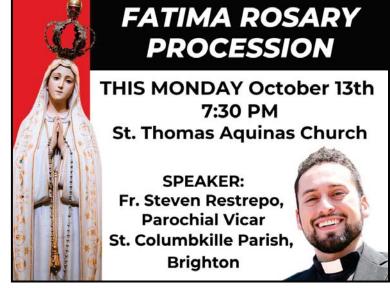
Grades 1-7 – Off to a strong start!

Our families and catechists have been working diligently to share the truths of our faith, both at home and in person. When not attending in-person classes, families complete lessons together and play an online review game, and email results to grade-level mentors. For students in sacramental preparation years, a QR code is used in our parish to emphasize the importance of Mass attendance. The Universal Church considers Mass so important that the Catholic Catechism states, "Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181)

Confirmation

Our first class was a time to connect and create a community of believers all working toward the same goal. We are reminded that:

- True happiness is found by knowing God, loving God, and serving God;
- We have been created by love, to love and be
- Love is willing the good of another.
- Debbie Hill, Director



WOMEN'S CLUB ANNUAL SOCKS & UNDERWEAR DRIVE

The Women's Club is conducting their annual NEW sock and underwear drive for the homeless (knit hats and gloves also accepted!). Collection bins will be available at the entrances of the Church and Chapel after all Masses during the weekends of October 18-19 and October 25-26. Thank you!



THIS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 6:30 PM - PARISH CENTER

Please join the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Women's Club as we begin our year on Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center with our annual covered dish supper. We welcome all current and new members. Annual dues of \$20 can be paid here. Bring your favorite dishes, appetizers, or desserts to share. Text or call Theresa Toppan at 508-245-0325 to let her know what you plan to bring. And, of course, bring your appetite!



Follow us on Facebook! Saint Thomas Aquinas, Bridgewater,



to our YouTube Channel! Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, YOU III C Bridgewater, Massachusetts



CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Cardinal Spellman High School Open House

Families are invited to Experience Cardinal Spellman High School at their Open House on Thursday, October 23 at 6:00 PM. Register at spellman.com/openhouse.

Bishop Feehan High School Open House

Discover all that Bishop Feehan High School has to offer. Join them for their Open House on Sunday, October 19 at 1:00 p.m. Tour their campus, meet the incredible community, and explore academics, clubs, athletics and more. QUESTIONS? Contact their Admissions Office at admissions@bishopfeehan.com

Bishop Stang High School Open House

Bishop Stang, a Catholic, college preparatory high school in Dartmouth, MA, welcomes parents and students of all middle school grades to attend an Open House Event on Sunday, October 19, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Pre-register at bishopstang.org.

Sacred Heart Open House

Come discover the wonderful things Sacred Heart has to offer students age 2 through eighth grade at their Open House on November 2 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sacred Heart School, sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence since 1947, is a vital and flourishing school community on the South Shore.



The class for adults who want to be baptized, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church begins this week. Don't delay! If you have any questions or would like to register, 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.

2025 Christmas Bazaar

Important Dates & Meetings (all meetings at the Parish Center)

Oct. 23, 6:00-8:00 PM - WREATH MAKING NIGHT

Nov. 8, 10:00 AM - PRE-EVENT CHECK-IN: Final preparations and last-minute coordination.

Nov. 22 - CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: All hands on deck!

QUESTIONS OR CAN'T MAKE A MEETING?

Contact Lisa Statkiewicz at ljstatk@gmail.com or call 508-345-1197.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS SECOND COLLECTIONS:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT OCT. 11 - 12 WORLD MISSION SUNDAY OCT. 18 - 19

Collections Summary 9/22 - 9/29	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 7,161 \$ 759		\$ 7,920
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 720	\$ O	\$ 720
Online (WeShare)	\$ 3,212	\$ 900	\$ 4,112
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 11,093	\$ 1,659	\$ 12,752
HOLY FATHER APOSTOLIC WORKS	\$ 3,085	\$ 296	\$ 3,381

AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES FOR AUGUST = \$ 16,291

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION supports Catholic World Missions. See the posters at the entrances of the church/chapel. By Baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelization programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a Pontifical Mission Society. For more information, visit www.propfaithboston.org for more information.

HELP THE ANNUAL APPEAL GO FURTHER!

Our Annual Appeal is underway and we need your help! Our parish continues to grow through evangelization and our engaging ministries. To keep that momentum rolling, we hope that you will support the Annual Appeal. One way to make your gift go further is with a matching gift program. Many businesses offer a matching gift program that doubles your donation! Reach out to your business office to see if your workplace offers a matching gift program. This turns one donation into two! Thank you for your support of the parish! Scan this QR Code or visit our website to give. Thank you!

- Peter Vitagliano, Finance/Operations Officer

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USHER TRAINING DATES!

All ushers/greeters are required to attend a training session, whether you are a new or returning usher. Trainings will be held the weekend of October 25-26 after each Mass with either Fr. Bill or Fr. Rodrigo.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNINON AND HOMEBOUND MINISTERS!

Whether you are new to the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) ministries or returning, you NEED to attend a training before you can serve. Please find the training dates below.

• EMHCs and Homebound Ministers, both new or returning, can attend either date.

EMHC TRAININGS (Fr. Rodrigo)				
	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
EMHC - NEW	Oct. 29	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	St. Thomas	
EMHC - RETURNING	Oct. 29	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	St. Thomas	
HOMEBOUND	Oct. 29	7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	St. Thomas	
EMHC - NEW	Nov. 2	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	St. Thomas	
EMHC - RETURNING	Nov. 2	12:00 PM- 1:00 PM	St. Thomas	
HOMEBOUND	Nov. 2	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	St. Thomas	

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

9:00 a.m. Denny White

4:00 p.m. Patrice Genchauskas

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m. Ann Flannery - 4th Anniversary

9:00 a.m. Manuel Fernandes 12:00 p.m. Antonio and Tony Lima

5:00 p.m.

St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Deceased members of the Vicente family

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

9:00 a.m. Dorothy Keane

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

9:00 a.m. Don Swarce

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:00 a.m. Patrick Neenan and family (living)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:00 a.m. James Brown

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:00 a.m. Ryan Hill (living)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:00 a.m. Joseph Brown

4:00 p.m. Etta, Francis, and John Naves

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Tom Gavigan 12:00 p.m. John C. Carbone

5:00 p.m.

St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Etelvina and Jose Curvelo

SACRAMENTS

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

BAPTISM

Baptisms are ordinarily celebrated monthly on the 2nd & 4th Sunday at 1:30 p.m., or during Mass. (Dates subject to change.) Baptisms are only scheduled following a meeting with one of our priests. Please call the office at 508-697-9528 **ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE.**

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...

Genevieve Cyr Emerson Silva

A Time to Die...

Robert Benvissuto Louise Palandro
Barbara Henault John J. "Mickey" Pina
Marietta Lopes Maureen Romero

A Time to Heal...

Carolyn Allen Julie Landry Kevin Balf Lucie Lovell Kathy Bennett Juliet Magargal Carole Brunke Mary Pamela Bumpus Riley McHardy Sandra Cable Charles Micalizzi The Caldarola Family JoAnn Micalizzi Thomas Chiappini Elisabeth Mikush George Cowan Kathy Monahan Anthony DeSerpa Maureen Mosher Dave Dorrer Chris O'Leary Kash Doughty Ellen O'Leary Peter O'Leary Claire Easter Joan Ward Fusco Thomas O'Leary Brenda Gentili Maria Presti Patricia Giovanniello Joseph Sarro Barbara Gothage Tony Scalfaro James Schneider Joanne Hamer Caroline Hayes Steven Peter Hayes Sarah Silvia Tom Joyce Deana Spingel Jeanne Keane **Emily Stone** Regina Keane Claire Sullivan James "Leo" Tuite, Jr. Carol Kelley 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
CAPT 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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- 66 "loved the talks, loved the healing services, loved it all!"

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35



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