

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

NOVEMBER 23, 2025



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

**THE PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSING AT NOON
 THIS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, AND
 WILL BE CLOSED THIS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,
 NOVEMBER 27-28 IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING.
 HAVE A SAFE AND BLESSED HOLIDAY!**

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

THIS THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 27

9:00 AM

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH

**ALTAR SERVER
 TRAINING**

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY, NOV. 23

3:00 PM

Contact Fr.Rodrigo at frrodrigo@sta-parish.org

**SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS
 FESTIVAL CHORUS IS RETURNING
 TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS!**

Sunday, December 7 at 2:30 PM

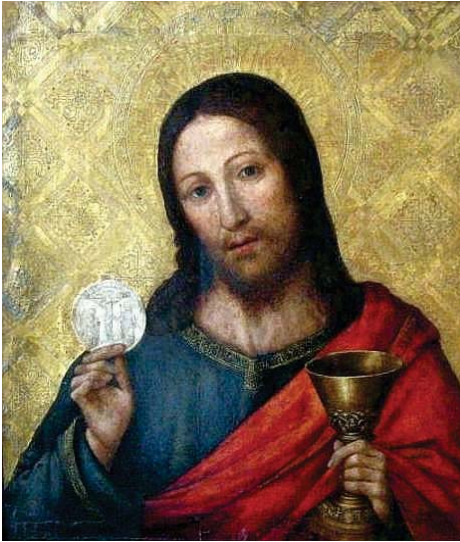
Join us for an afternoon filled with beautiful Christmas songs at our parish fundraiser. Tickets are \$20/adult and \$10/child.

To purchase tickets, visit our website, scan this QR code, or stop in the parish office. **Tickets will also be sold after all Masses THIS WEEKEND Nov. 22-23.**

Any questions? Contact Anne Swarce at 508-697-7370.



The Signs of the Times...



There are many signs in the Church, beginning with the sign that we make at the beginning and end of Mass: The Sign of the Cross — the instrument through which Our Lord saved us. Signs often speak more than words, for they bring about an invisible, unspoken reality. Whenever we make the Sign of the Cross, we are visibly reminding ourselves that we belong to Christ.

The sacraments, too, can be spoken of as signs — *visible realities that bring about an invisible reality*. **And what is that reality?** It is the fact that God, in Jesus and the Holy Spirit, continues to redeem us, sanctify us, and setting us free from our ailments in Baptism, Confirmation, Confession, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Holy Orders, and the most precious sacrament of all, the reason why the Church exists: the Eucharist, for in it, He assure of is presence until the end of the age.

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of our faith; all other sacraments are ordered toward it” (CCC 1324), that is, the whole order of grace in the sacraments finds its source and its fulfillment in the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is also the sacrament of friendship and unity in Christ, and so with the desire to make the sign of the sacrament more visible at all of our six Masses, **we are extending the distribution of the Precious Blood to the 12:00 p.m. Mass beginning the First Sunday of Advent.** Last year, we began Communion under both kinds at the 4:00 p.m. and the 10:30 a.m. Masses, and we hope to extend it to all the Masses in the future.

It is important to note that when we line up to receive the Eucharist — in either or both kinds — we must be prayerfully disposed so that we know Who it is we are receiving: the God of the universe, the God who made you, the God who redeemed you. It is not a piece of bread, a cracker, or a cookie, but truly the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord.

And so, please receive, treat, and consume the Eucharist with the knowledge that it is Jesus’ Body and Blood, He who became our “Pasch” (CCC 1324) — our salvation, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.



Guidelines:

As you approach the Eucharistic Minister, you may receive the Eucharist on the tongue or in the hand. If receiving on the tongue, please extend your tongue so the minister can safely place the Eucharist without touching your tongue. If receiving in the hand, please extend your hands to the minister so the Eucharist can be safely placed there. **Do not grab it — receive it.** Please consume the Eucharist immediately.

If, for any reason, you cannot receive the Eucharist, cross your arms over your chest. This will be a visible sign for the minister to give you a blessing instead of the Eucharist.

Parents: If your child has not received First Communion, please have him or her cross their arms over their chest as they approach the minister. If your child has received First Communion and desires to receive the Precious Blood, we leave that to your discretion. - Fr. Rodrigo

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.

ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE IN NEED...

We recognize that, for many people, times are challenging right now, with rising food, utility, and general living costs. Our parish is privileged to offer assistance in different ways to assist members of our community. This is possible only because of the generosity of so many of our parishioners.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and Financial Assistance In light of the recent shutdown, St. Vincent de Paul increased their distribution to local families in need. The next upcoming distribution days for our food pantry are December 4 and December 18. In addition to the food pantry, St. Vincent de Paul also offers assistance for Bridgewater residents who have certain specific needs. If you are in need of assistance or would like more information, please call 508-697-9528 and select option 5 to leave a message for our SVDP representative.

Christmas Giving Tree We have also been taking requests from families in our community in need of assistance this Christmas season. We will continue to do so until Wednesday, Dec. 3. Those requests will be placed on tags on our Christmas trees and will be available for parishioners to take beginning NEXT WEEKEND, Nov. 29-30. Please take a tag (or tags) if you are able to help a family in need. Thank you for your generosity.

TROOP SUPPORT MINISTRY

We're running a little late this season as the website we've used to find troops in need no longer exists. However, we recently identified a Marine unit currently deployed in the Philippines that we would like to support with Christmas gifts.

Due to the fact that we obtained this information so late, we are unable to take the time to collect donated items. We will use the leftover money in our account to purchase the items in order get them shipped so they are received by Christmas.

We will also be providing coupon books for local Veterans on the spinal cord unit at the VA in Brockton for them to use in their commissary.

We would be grateful for any cash donations to assist with replenishing our account as well as to assist with shipping costs. Checks can be made payable to "Catholic Troop Support Ministry," and can be placed into the designated boxes at the entrances of the church and chapel or at the parish office. Thank you in advance for your assistance. May God Bless you this Christmas season. - Beth Peterson, Coordinator

IMMIGRATION STATEMENT

In light of Fr. Rodrigo and Fr. Devine's homilies this past weekend regarding immigration and the importance of respecting the human dignity of all people, we have published a very strong and powerful video statement made by the Catholic bishops of our country. **Please visit our website or Facebook page to view it.**

OCIA RITE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE AND WELCOMING

Next Saturday, Nov. 29, the Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate and the Rite of Welcoming will take place during the 4pm Mass. **The Rite of Entrance** is for 2 inquirers in the OCIA process who are preparing for Baptism. They are now ready to publicly declare their intention to continue their journey towards being Catholic. **The Rite of Welcoming** is for 6 inquirers who have been previously baptized and are ready to publicly declare their intention to continue their journey toward full communion with the Catholic Church.

GIVING TREE REQUESTS

WE ARE NOW TAKING REQUESTS FOR PEOPLE IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON. SPREAD THE WORD TO THOSE IN OUR PARISH AND IN THE BRIDGEWATER COMMUNITY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

PLEASE HAVE THEM STOP BY THE PARISH OFFICE TO SIGN UP MONDAY - FRIDAY, 9 AM - 5 PM. ANY QUESTIONS? CALL TINA AT 508-697-9528.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN-UP

We will be hosting our Annual Christmas pageant on **Saturday, December 13th following the 4PM Mass**. The pageant has roles available for children between the ages of preschool (must be potty trained) - grade 6 for speaking parts, non-speaking parts, and our angel choir. Please sign up your child for which would be the best option for them. Casting will take place once the sign-up is closed, which is Dec. 1 or until sign-up is full, whichever comes first. **Child must be able to attend rehearsals on 12/11 and 12/12 from 4:30 - 6:00 PM. Child must be at the parish center for dress rehearsal on 12/13 from 1:30 PM - end of show.**

For questions, please email Mrs. Burns at saintthomasvbc@gmail.com. Scan this QR Code or visit www.stthomasaquinas.com to sign up.



ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

STATISTICS AS OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

| | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| | Total registered families: | 2772 |
| \$ 120,945 | Total \$ received to date: | \$120,945 |
| \$ 120,000 | # of families that have donated: | 316 |
| \$ 110,000 | % of families that have donated: | 11.3% |
| \$ 100,000 | # of families that have increased their donation over last year: | 167 |
| \$ 90,000 | # of New Donors this year: | 62 |
| \$ 80,000 | # of WeShare Donors: | 52 |
| \$ 70,000 | Average \$ Per Donor: | \$384 |
| \$ 60,000 | | |
| \$ 50,000 | | |
| \$ 40,000 | | |
| \$ 30,000 | | |
| \$ 20,000 | | |
| \$ 10,000 | | |

As we approach Advent, Fr. Bill and I are extremely grateful and humbled with the tremendous response and generosity of our parish family thus far. As we have mentioned previously, the proceeds from the Annual Appeal help us offset the gap between our weekly operational expenses and our weekly collections. Because of your generosity, we have been able to expand and offer more ministries as well as make improvements, much-needed repairs, and upgrades. None of these things could have been accomplished without the generosity of those who have contributed to the Annual Appeal.

To all who have given to the Annual Appeal...**THANK YOU!** If you have not yet made a contribution and would like to help support our parish and ministries, we ask you to consider making a donation. Another benefit that can increase your giving is company matching through your place of work. Many businesses offer company matching gift programs, which can make your donation go twice as far.

If you would like to make a contribution, letters and pledge cards are available at the entrances of the church/chapel. You may also visit www.stthomasaquinas.com, scan this QR code, or use Venmo. Thank you!

- Peter Vitagliano, Finance and Operations Manager



FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

RETIRED RELIGIOUS SISTERS
NO SECOND COLLECTION

NOV. 22 - 23
NOV. 29 - 30

| Collections Summary 11/3 - 11/9 | St. Thomas | St. Basil | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Weekly Collection (In-Pew) | \$ 7,036 | \$ 410 | \$ 7,446 |
| Mail-in / Drop-Off | \$ 690 | \$ 0 | \$ 690 |
| Online (WeShare) | \$ 2,248 | \$ 550 | \$ 2,798 |
| OFFERTORY TOTAL | \$ 9,974 | \$ 960 | \$ 10,934 |
| HURRICANE RELIEF | \$ 4,235 | \$ 480 | \$ 4,715 |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES FOR OCT. = \$19,182 | | | |

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND RETIRED RELIGIOUS SISTERS

This weekend's second collection is used to assist religious communities in providing for the retirement and health care needs of Sisters who have served in the Archdiocese. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to the Sisters who have served the Church of Boston so generously for so many years. Your contribution does make a difference.

For more information, please contact the Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Due to early bulletin deadlines, last week's offertory will be in our next bulletin.



Follow us on Facebook! Saint Thomas Aquinas, Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Great news! Our weekly bulletins are available on our website on Fridays!



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



VENMO @stthomasaquinas-bridgewater
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE!

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

9:00 a.m. Blanche, Louis, and Willard Mondeau
4:00 p.m. Joao C. Vieira

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m. Reginald and Patricia Osuji
9:00 a.m. Floriano and Lourdes Rebelo
12:00 p.m. Ana and Joao Constantino Torres
5:00 p.m. Paul Martin - 3rd Anniversary
St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Alvin Arsenault - 16th Anniversary

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:00 a.m. Dave McCormack

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

9:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Reis family

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

9:00 a.m. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

9:00 a.m. John Dzialo

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:00 a.m. Marcia Orcutt (living)
4:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Rea family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m. Tony Almada
9:00 a.m. Jack Voyer - 23rd Anniversary
12:00 p.m. Christine Beck - 2nd Anniversary
5:00 p.m. Roger Robillard
St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Joao Vicente Francisco & Laurentina Vicente

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 - 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...

Anna Eastman Sierra Brugliera

A Time to Die...

Albert Fava, Jr. Florence Murphy
Jodi Merianos Kimberly Sullivan

A Time to Heal...

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Carolyn Allen | Stephen Knight |
| Kevin Balf | Julie Landry |
| Kathy Bennett | Marissa Lopez |
| Carole Brunke | Lucie Lovell |
| Pamela Bumpus | Juliet Magargal |
| Sandra Cable | Mary |
| The Caldarola Family | Riley McHardy |
| Thomas Chiappini | Charles Micalizzi |
| George Cowan | JoAnn Micalizzi |
| Anthony DeSera | Elisabeth Mikush |
| Marcus DiSalvo | Kathy Monahan |
| Stephanie DiSalvo | James Moran |
| Matteo Disalvo | Maureen Mosher |
| Dave Dorrer | Chris O'Leary |
| Kash Doughty | Ellen O'Leary |
| Claire Easter | Peter O'Leary |
| Donald Fredenburg | Thomas O'Leary |
| Joan Ward Fusco | John Pelfre |
| Brenda Gentili | Maria Presti |
| Patricia Giovanniello | Joseph Sarro |
| Barbara Gothage | Tony Scalfaro |
| Joanne Hamer | James Schneider |
| Caroline Hayes | 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 |
| | 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
A1C Timothy O'Leary, USAF
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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Saturday, December 6, 7:00PM

Sunday, December 7, 3:00PM

www.sjs.edu/events



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