

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent



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, 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 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

Thank you...

We have so much to be thankful for in our parish.

I want to thank all those who over the past months and weeks came together to prepare for our Christmas Bazaar. Despite the weather, we had a great turnout. I'm amazed at the quality and number of created items: gift baskets, Christmas decorations, handmade items, and baked goods. I'm grateful for those who worked in the kitchen and sold raffle tickets. And, as always, I'm grateful for all those from our parish, town and neighboring towns who supported the bazaar.

I want thank all those who, in a matter of hours, broke down the bazaar and set up for the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner the next day. I thank all those who worked behind the scenes to prepare the meal. All our senior guests commented that the meal was delicious and were very impressed by our middle and high school student servers. Again, the students, in only 2 hours, broke down the dinner tables and set up the gym for the Sunday evening Adoration for the Confirmation students.

In addition to all these activities, we had 1,060 people attend Masses, we had training for altar servers and lectors, and we celebrated baptisms.

Two things were evident in all that we did and all that we do in our parish; Faith and Community. **Faith:** our belief in and love for the Lord and his Church is what strengthens and motivates us and builds up our community. **Community:** Young or old(er), we all work together as a team, helping and supporting each other.

The staff and I are now preparing for Advent, the Christmas Giving Tree and Christmas Season.

Fr. Rodrigo and I are blessed by your faith, your generosity, your support, and your encouragement. THANK YOU.

We wish you and your family a happy, safe, and blessed Thanksgiving.

- Fr. Devine

CONFESSION DURING ADVENT

Advent is a period of time when the Church reminds us that we are waiting not only to celebrate Christmas and the Lord's birth, but we are also waiting for the Lord's Second Coming. We are encouraged to prepare ourselves by going to confession. All of us have seen the power and effects of evil in our world. Most, if not all, of us have experienced the power of sin in our lives. Our experience is similar to what St. Paul describes the inner conflict between good and evil in his letter to the Romans... "I cannot understand my own actions. I do not do what I want to do but what I hate... Which indicates that sin resides in me. What happens is that I do not the good I will to do, but the evil I do not intend. Who will save me from this... Jesus Christ" (Romans 8:15- 19). **Confessions are heard in the lower church on Saturdays from 9:45 - 10:30 AM and 12:00 - 1:00 PM or by appointment.**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND SENIOR CITIZEN THANKSGIVING DINNER



"COULD YOU NOT WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?"
Mt. 20:26


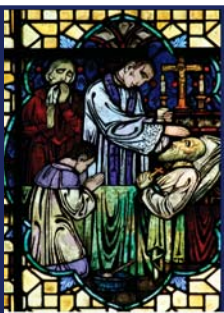
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**WILL TAKE PLACE THIS FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 5, IN THE LOWER CHURCH.**

**Adoration will be held
from 9:30 AM – 6:00 PM.**

**Take time
for prayer and silence.**

**Looking to book a regular time slot?
Email Marcia for more details at
marciajorcutt@gmail.com.**

**ANOINTING OF
THE SICK**

**NEXT SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 7 AT 1:30 PM**

**LOWER CHURCH
(NOTE LOCATION CHANGE)**

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, please consult Fr. Devine or Fr. Rodrigo.



**FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

*Holy Day
of Obligation*

**Monday,
December 8**

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

7:00 AM | 9:00 AM | 7:00 PM

Agnus Dei

During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we will chant the Latin Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) at Mass. We do so to mark the seasons both musically and Liturgically as a way to honor and connect with the rich traditions of the church and bring attention to the words of St. John the Baptist, whereupon seeing Jesus, he proclaims, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" It was first used in the Roman Rite Mass by Pope Sergius I (687–701). If you wish to follow the music notation, the chant can be found in your Breaking Bread missal, number 843. - *Paul Hoffman, Music Director*

The Latin text is:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

English Translation:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO AN ADVENT TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

Enter into the mysteries of the Incarnation



For nine months, what was Mary thinking?

**THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30
7:00 PM**

**ST. JOHN NEWMANN PARISH
157 MIDDLEBORO RD., E. FREETOWN**

November 30 ~ First Sunday of Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is the start of a new liturgical year. This holy season of Advent is a time to re-order our lives and our priorities. Notice how the readings invite us to orient ourselves: "Walk in the light of the Lord" and "conduct ourselves properly." We are also reminded that there is no room for jealousy or rivalry or indecent behavior in our interactions with others. We must be prepared for the coming of Christ. Take these words to heart; making a "fresh start" will have a positive effect on not only yourself, but also on those around you.

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

NEXT Sunday, December 7 at 2:30 PM

*Join us for a joyful 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. Questions? Please contact Anne Swarce at 508-697-7370.



THE GIVING TREES ARE UP!

Our giving trees are set up in the church and chapel, filled with ornaments of gift requests from families in need. If you are willing and able to take a tag, please do so in order to provide a gift for someone who, without our help, may not be able to receive one. We are so grateful for you, our generous parishioners, who, every year, donate what you can to help those in need. **Gifts should be returned to the trees after Mass or to the parish office no later than Tuesday, December 16th.** No gifts can be accepted after that date as we will be sorting gifts on Thursday, Dec. 18th. Thank you!



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.



GIVING TREE REQUESTS

WE ARE STILL 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.



Join the Women's Club to see the Mansfield Mass Arts Center's Merry Holly, Very Jolly, Holiday Extravaganza!

Thursday, December 11 - 7:30 PM

Don't miss this joyous, genre-blending holiday event that promises to leave audiences laughing, singing, and full of holiday spirit! Tickets are \$33 each. 14 tickets remain, including 2 handicapped accessible tickets. Please call Marianne at 508-942-0609 if you would like to attend. We will meet at the church parking lot at 6:00 PM and carpool to the Center on South Main St. in Mansfield.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**Knights of Columbus
Council 488
Cordially Invites You to a**

A Very Special Christmas Party!

Saturday, December 6, 2025

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center

The Knights would like to invite special needs children to our annual Children's Christmas Party. Held at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish Center, our festivities provide a supportive environment so that children can enjoy things like visiting Santa and Mrs. Claus at their own pace, engaging in crafts with necessary assistance, and generally enjoying a supportive environment with the Knights and other special needs families. The party is free to special needs families, and siblings are welcome!

Our activities include holiday music, games, crafts, small gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and pictures with Santa for those who would enjoy time with them.

Space is limited and registration is required.

Please RSVP by 11/30 with:

- 1. Full Name of all Children Attending**
- 2. Sex of Child**
- 3. Age**
- 4. Any gifts considerations such as developmental age of child.**

***R.S.V.P. to Karin Sullivan at MrsGumby56@comcast.net
or (508) 415-4070.***

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES...



Father Bill's / MainSpring House

We are thrilled to announce that we will be expanding this ministry. In collaboration with MainSpring House, we can expand the ministry's service hours. **Beginning the week of Dec 1, 2025, we will serve lunch twice a month and add two nights, bringing us to four dinners per month.** If you wish to volunteer, please visit the Father Bill's / MainSpring House section under the "Events" tab on our website. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. If a volunteer is age 16-18, they must have an adult with them. Volunteers over 18 years old do not need to have an adult present.



My Brother's Keeper

Gift wrapping at My Brother's Keeper at the Easton location starts THIS WEDNESDAY, December 3. This is an excellent seasonal opportunity for families to volunteer together. **The process has changed this year; signing up will occur directly with My Brother's Keeper.** The sessions are 2 hours in duration. Please call 508-238-7512. There is no online sign-up process.

Blessings! - Charlene F., Coordinator

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Grades 1-7 – Advent is here!

Students will be bringing home Advent wreaths created in class. Families are encouraged to help them finish decorating by adding flames for the upcoming weeks. Watch for purple and pink bookmarks coming home! These have suggestions to help you observe Advent. This beautiful season can be overshadowed by Christmas preparations. Make an effort to prepare for Jesus' coming: set up a Nativity scene, explore the Jesse Tree and the genealogy of Jesus, or visit the Advent pages in the Liturgical Year section of the Finding God books. Make an investment in Jesus. It's an investment with eternal rewards!

Confirmation

Last Sunday, our students gathered for Eucharistic Adoration. For many, this was their first time. The time was enhanced with music and song provided by Maria Schellinger who is a music minister at St. Mary's, Waltham. This was an opportunity to step away from the noise of daily life and spend a few quiet moments with Jesus. Simply being present with God is in itself a powerful prayer. Our parish holds Adoration Saturday mornings after morning Mass and on First Fridays. 24 hour Adoration is held at Holy Ghost, Whitman. Experience the peace, calm, and closeness to God that Adoration offers!

- Debbie Hill, Director



FAITH FORMATION SAVE THE DATES!

GRADES 1 - 7: Complete Session 11 this week. December in-person dates: Dec. 1, 2, 3 & 15, 16, 17

CONFIRMATION: Classes – December 7 AND 14

ADVENT EVENTS AT THE FATHER PEYTON CENTER

Family Advent Celebration - Saturday, Dec. 6, from 11 AM – 2 PM, at The Father Peyton Center, 518 Washington St., N. Easton. Visit from St. Nicholas, activity for children, cookie decorating, pizza lunch, hot cocoa, and a Christmas carol family sing-along! Free event: donations welcome. Fun for the entire family! Guests can come for whatever part of the day fits their schedule. Registration not required but appreciated at: hcfm.info/family-advent. Questions? Contact mission@HCFM.org or 508-238-4095.



The Father Peyton Center will host a special weekday event on **Monday, Dec. 8** for The Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception**, from 12 PM – 2 PM. It will include Mass, followed by a reflection, activity for children, and a light reception. Free event: donations welcome. The Father Peyton Center is at 518 Washington St. in North Easton. Registration is not required but very appreciated at: <https://hcfm.info/ic-2025>. Questions? Please contact mission@HCFM.org or 508-238-4095.



The Father Peyton Center will host a special weekday event on **Friday, Dec. 12** for The Feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, from 12 PM – 2 PM. It will include Mass, followed by a reflection, activity for children, and a light reception. Free event: donations welcome. The Father Peyton Center is at 518 Washington St. in N. Easton. Registration is not required but are appreciated at: <https://hcfm.info/olg-2025>. Questions? Please contact mission@HCFM.org or 508-238-4095.



St. Thomas Aquinas Youth Group Open Gym

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12
7:00 - 8:30 PM | GRADES 6-8
PARISH CENTER GYM



DECEMBER 12TH – CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS CHEER AND PARTICIPATE IN A MINI SERVICE PROJECT!

9-SQUARE • VIDEO GAMES
DUE TO PAGEANT SET UP, THERE WILL BE NO INDOOR BASKETBALL/VOLLEYBALL

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



Dear St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Family,

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank you for your incredible support of the Inspire Mission Trip Youth Group through our annual wine raffle. Your generosity means the world to us and is helping us take a big step toward covering the \$10,000 cost of the bus for this summer's mission trip to Haledon, NJ.

Congratulations to our winners!

- **First prize - 30 bottles:** Joanna Cruz (sold by Aleeah Reynolds)
- **Second prize - 20 bottles:** Richard DiMillio (sold by Natalee Scolaro)
- **Third prize - 10 bottles:** Joanna Cruz (sold by Aleeah Reynolds)

This July, our teens will travel to Haledon, NJ to serve families and communities in need. This trip is more than just a journey, it's a chance to live out our faith through service, compassion, and love. Your generosity makes it possible for us to answer this call to serve. Some give by going, others by giving, and all by praying. However you've supported us, please know that your kindness is a true example of faith in action. We are so blessed to be part of such a caring and faith-filled parish community. Thank you for helping us bring hope and light to those in need.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Jennifer Rosher, Coordinator



Youth Group Open Gym, November 14, 2025

ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you to those who have donated to our Annual Appeal! We truly appreciate your generosity! **If you haven't donated, we ask you to prayerfully consider doing so.** We cannot do what we do without these funds. **There are many ways to give:**

- Pledge cards at church/chapel entrances;
- Online via WeShare at our website;
- Venmo [@stthomasaquinas-bridgewater](#); OR
- Scan this QR code.



Also, remember to inquire about a gift-matching program at your place of work. Thank you!

STATISTICS AS OF MONDAY, NOV. 24

Total registered families:	2772
Total \$ received to date:	\$134,004
# of families that have donated:	340
% of families that have donated:	12.2 %
# of families that have increased their donation over last year:	178
# of New Donors this year:	30
# of WeShare Donors:	59
Average \$ Per Donor:	\$ 394

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



The Women's Club would like to thank all who donated to their recent sock and underwear drive. They delivered the donated items to the Main Spring House in Brockton and the recipients were so grateful for your generosity! Our parish donated, for men, women and children, 441 pairs of socks, 179 pairs of underwear and 71 pairs of hats/gloves, along with many other items that will be needed through the winter.

PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED!

We are currently looking for a part-time Housecleaner for the Rectory and Parish Offices. This position has a flexible schedule, 3 - 5 hours per week. If you are interested, contact Peter Vitagliano at 508-697-9528.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Christmas flower offering envelopes are at the entrances of the church and chapel for those who would like to make a donation towards altar flowers in memory of a loved one. Thank you!



FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

NO SECOND COLLECTION
NO SECOND COLLECTION

NOV. 29 - 30
DEC. 6 - 7

Collections Summary 11/10 - 11/16	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 6,275	\$ 430	\$ 6,705
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 430	\$ 0	\$ 430
Online (WeShare)	\$ 2,750	\$ 476	\$ 3,226
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 9,455	\$ 906	\$ 10,361

AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES FOR OCT. = \$19,182

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

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



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



VENMO
@stthomasaquinas-bridgewater
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE!

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:00 a.m. Jose Alberto Ferreira

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:00 a.m. Isabel and Daniel Bentley & Paul Taylor

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 a.m. Evangelina and Jose de Sousa

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:00 a.m. Kevin St. Jean
4:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Suket and West families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m. William Keady
9:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. Robert E. Bois - 25th Anniversary
5:00 p.m. John and Joan Fabroski
St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Margie McCoy

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...

Milana Camara

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
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SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Saturday, December 6, 7:00PM
Sunday, December 7, 3:00PM

www.sjs.edu/events



RSVP

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