ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

DECEMBER 7, 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, 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

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

ADVENT

Students are learning about the four weeks of Advent and how they are a reminder of how the Israelites prepared for and waited centuries for the promised Messiah. Like the Israelites, we can prepare for the Messiah by receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Reconciliation readies our hearts to receive Jesus, and the Eucharist strengthens us to live a faith filled life. Prayer is another way we prepare. It helps us hear God's voice. Remember to help/encourage your child to complete the activity on the purple bookmark and to work on their Advent wreaths. Be with us Lord as we ready our hearts and homes for you. Amen. - Debbie Hill, Director

SAVE THE DATES!

GRADES 1-7 Complete Session 12 this week.

Next in-person dates: December 15, 16, 17

CONFIRMATION Classes - Next in-person dates: December 7 AND 14



Grade 2 students in Mrs. Burns' class are preparing for Christmas with their Advent wreaths. Many thanks to the enthusiastic Confirmation students who helped in the classrooms!

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.



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.

ADVENT EVENTS AT THE FATHER PEYTON CENTER

518 Washington St., North Easton

THIS Monday, Dec. 8, 12PM - 2PM
The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
THIS Friday, Dec. 12, 12PM - 2PM
The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Each event will include Mass, followed by a reflection, activity for children, and a light reception. Free event but donations are welcome. Registration is not required but appreciated at **hcfm.info/ic-2025**. Any questions? Please contact mission@HCFM.org or 508-238-4095.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

THIS 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.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES...

Father Bill's / MainSpring House

We are thrilled to announce that we have expanded this ministry's service hours. We now are **serving lunch twice a month and adding 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. Volunteers age 16-18 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 has begun! 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. - Charlene F., Coordinator

December 7 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Hope is a prominent theme in the readings this weekend. Isaiah presents a hope-filled picture of the Kingdom that Christ came to establish, and St. Paul reminds us that the scriptures we hear give us a reason to be hopeful. "Whatever was previously written... was for our instruction... that by endurance and encouragement, we might have hope." As we draw near to the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope and prepare for Christ's coming, we may want to carve out a few minutes each day to re-read these readings, to be attentive to the encouragement and hope God is holding out to us. Is there someone in your life with whom you can extend that hope? Be sure to take time this Advent to prepare for God's in-breaking, in the here and now, as you await Christ's final coming.

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

THIS 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 OR scan this QR code. We hope you can join us!







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!



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 5:00 PM PARISH CENTER

All are welcome to attend!

REMINDER TO ALL CAST MEMBERS!

Rehearsals are on Thursday, December 11 and Friday, December 12 at 4:30 PM

HIGH SCHOOL
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Visit our website to sign up!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES

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



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

THIS 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.

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.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Masses
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH
4:00 PM

PARISH CENTER 4:00 PM

ST. BASIL CHAPEL 4:00 PM

DECEMBER 25

Midnight Mass
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH
12:00 AM

Christmas Day Masses
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH
9:00 AM
ST. BASIL CHAPEL
10:30 AM

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S BIRTH!

ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you to those who have donated to our Annual Appeal! We truly appreciate your generosity! If you have not yet 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, DEC. 1

STATISTICS AS OF MICHUAT, DEC. I		
Total registered families:	2772	
Total \$ received to date:	\$ 139,979	
# of families that have donated:	354	
% of families that have donated:	12.7 %	
# of families that have increased their donation over last year:	181	
# of New Donors this year:	30	
# of WeShare Donors:	62	
Average \$ Per Donor:	\$ 395	

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

NO SECOND COLLECTION DEC. 6 - 7
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT DEC. 13 - 14

Collections Summary 11/24 - 11/30	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 6,741	\$ 493	\$ 7,234
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 1,000	\$ O	\$ 1,000
Online (WeShare)	\$ 3,385	\$ 1,030	\$ 4,415
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 11,126	\$ 1,523	\$ 12,649

Collections Summary 11/17 - 11/23	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 5,954	\$ 453	\$ 6,407
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 1,130	\$ O	\$ 1,130
Online (WeShare)	\$ 2,293	\$ 501	\$ 2,794
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 9,377	\$ 954	\$ 10,331
RETIRED RELIGIOUS SISTERS	\$ 3,803	\$ 458	\$ 4,261

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

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



\$ 139,979

\$ 130,000

\$ 120,000

\$ 110,000

\$ 100,000

\$ 90,000 \$ 80,000

\$ 70,000 \$ 60,000 \$ 50,000 \$ 40,000 \$ 30,000 \$ 20,000 \$ 10,000

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WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

7AM / 9AM / 7PM Feast of the Immaculate Conception

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00 a.m. Robert Tauber

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00 a.m. Jose, Maria and Manuel Moura

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:00 a.m. Joseph Brown

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:00 a.m. Evan Madigan

4:00 p.m. Jose and Maria Almada

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m. Robert and Patricia Keaney

9:00 a.m. Eduardo and Natalia Pimentel

12:00 p.m. Manuel Figueiredo 5:00 p.m. Francis Freccero

St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Philip and Josephine Montalto

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. Donna Patton Adrian Morales 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 DeSerpa Elisabeth Mikush Marcus DiSalvo Kathy Monahan Stephanie DiSalvo James Moran Matteo Disalvo Maureen Mosher Dave Dorrer Chris O'Leary Kash Doughty Ellen O'Leary Peter O'Leary Claire Easter **Donald Fredenburg** Thomas O'Leary Joan Ward Fusco John Pelfre Brenda Gentili Maria Presti Patricia Giovanniello Joseph Sarro Tony Scalfaro Barbara Gothage 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 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
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AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

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



www.sjs.edu/events



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