

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

The Nativity of the Lord

DECEMBER 25, 2025



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On this holy night/day, we look again to the manger of Bethlehem. We come with familiar carols, but also with heavy and hopeful hearts. Our nation and our world are marked by conflict, uncertainty, division, and fear. Yet, it is precisely into such a world that God chose to come.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” (*Isaiah 9:1*) Christmas proclaims that God does not remain distant from human suffering. He enters it. The Child laid in a manger is Emmanuel - God with us. Not God above the struggle, not God removed from history, but a loving God born into poverty, vulnerability, and danger.

Mary and Joseph knew fear and displacement. They fled violence and injustice. The shepherds, like so many today, lived on the margins. From the very beginning, the story of Christmas speaks directly to our own time. When we look at war, political tension, economic anxiety, racial profiling, and the erosion of trust among neighbors and nations, Christmas reminds us that God’s answer is not despair, but PRESENCE.

The birth of Christ reveals that hope is not naïve optimism. Christian hope is stronger. It trusts that God is at work even when things seem so dark. The light shining from the manger does not eliminate darkness all at once, but is overcoming it - quietly, faithfully, and definitively.

Christmas calls us back to what truly builds a society: reverence for human life, care for the poor and forgotten, honesty and integrity in leadership, and a commitment to peace. The Prince of Peace is born not with power or force, but with humility and love. Jesus’ way challenges every form of violence, hatred, and indifference - beginning in our own hearts.

For our world, Christmas invites us to believe that reconciliation is possible. The angels’ song still echoes: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Peace begins when we believe in and follow Jesus Christ - when we choose mercy over judgment, charity over self-interest, and courage over fear.

As we celebrate this Christmas, look to the manger and entrust to Jesus all that troubles us; our families, our nation, our leaders, and all who suffer across the world. May we be ready to carry the light of Christ into places of darkness through our acts of faith, hope, and love.

On behalf of Fr. Rodrigo, the parish staff, and myself, may this Christmas Season and New Year help us to better understand and appreciate God’s love for us revealed in Jesus Christ.

- Fr. Devine



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.

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.

PARISH INFORMATION

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor

frbilldevine@gmail.com

Rev. Rodrigo Martinez, Parochial Vicar

frrodrigo@sta-parish.org

Senior Deacon Leo Donoghue

deaconleo@comcast.net

Parish Office

103 Center St., Bridgewater, MA 02324

Hours | Monday - Friday | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone 508.697.9528 | Fax 508.279.1859

Website | www.stthomasaquinas.com

Parish Office Staff

Peter Vitagliano, Finance and Operations Officer

pvitagliano@sta-parish.org

Tina Larson, Administrative Assistant

tlarson@sta-parish.org

Music Director - Paul Hoffman

508.697.9528 | phoffman@sta-parish.org

Faith Formation Office Staff

Phone: 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 MA 02324

Rev. Rodrigo Martinez, Campus Chaplain

frrodrigo@sta-parish.org

SUNDAY MASS

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Saturday Vigil | 4:00 p.m.

Sunday | 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.,
5:00 p.m. (September - May)

St. Basil Chapel - Sunday | 10:30 a.m.

DAILY MASS

St. Thomas Lower Church - Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m.

CONFESSION

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Saturday | 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
in the lower church 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 at 10:30 a.m., Lower Church

CLERGY TRUST COLLECTION AT CHRISTMAS MASSES

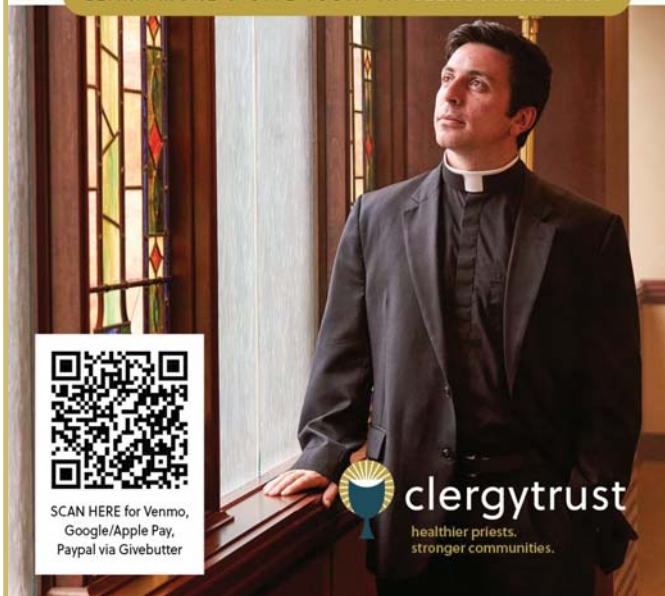
At all our Christmas Masses, **the only collection taken will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston.** On behalf of all of our priests, thank you for your generosity. For more information, visit www.clergytrust.org. Clergy Trust is an independently managed trust that provides care and support for the health, well-being, and retirement needs of all active and senior diocesan priests in good standing across the Archdiocese of Boston.

For priests, bringing the presence of Christ to others is a daily calling that extends far beyond the walls of the Church, and impacts the lives of people of all faiths and backgrounds throughout the community. Our priests are so committed to serving others that it can be very easy for them to forget that they must take care of themselves, too. That is why Clergy Trust is dedicated to the mission of ensuring our priests receive the care and support they need to stay healthy. By supporting Clergy Trust, you are supporting our dedicated priests who do so much for us and our communities.



SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

LEARN MORE & GIVE TODAY AT CLERGYTRUST.ORG



SCAN HERE for Venmo,
Google/Apple Pay,
Paypal via Givebutter



clergytrust
healthier priests.
stronger communities.

As we reflect back on this past year, the following photos depict its highlights. We hope that you and your family will join us as we celebrate our faith and our community! For additional photos of our dynamic, faith-filled parish, please visit our website at www.stthomasaquinas.com and our Facebook page, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.



St. Valentine's Dinner Dance



Volunteer Appreciation Social



Newly Baptized and Confirmed - Easter Vigil



Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession



Volunteer team for our annual Rummage Sale



Easter Egg Hunt



Knights of Columbus Very Special Christmas Party



Vacation Bible Camp campers and volunteers



Our High School students and adult chaperones participating in a Catholic Heart Workcamp Mission Trip to Niagara, NY



Our First Inspire Bridgewater Local Mission Service Day



Annual Block Party

Volunteer Sign-up Weekend



Annual Trunk or Treat



Our First Annual Public Safety Mass



Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner - attendees and volunteers



Annual Christmas Bazaar Volunteer team and handmade items



Annual Christmas Pageant



Confirmation Class 2025



One of our 4 First Communion classes



Baccalaureate Mass



Our amazing adult and youth choirs



Thank you to Fr. Rodrigo and the BSU college students for decorating our beautiful rectory Christmas tree !



Our Giving Tree Ministry volunteers

ARE YOU REGISTERED WITH OUR PARISH? 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 that the parish provides and obtain the grace which can only come through the sacraments



Information updates

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

**To register:
Scan this QR code
or call the
parish office.**



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD JANUARY 1 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

NEW MASS TIME!!!!

To enable parents with small children to attend the evening Mass on Holy Days of Obligation, we have revised our Mass times.

**Our new Holy Day Mass schedule
at St. Thomas Aquinas is:**

7:00 AM | 9:00 AM | 6:00 PM

**THERE IS NO LONGER A 7:00 PM MASS
ON HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION.**

"COULD YOU NOT WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?"

Mt. 20:26

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
WILL TAKE PLACE FRIDAY, JANUARY 2,
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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 AT 1:30 PM

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.

PRAYER LIST

As we do every year, we will be removing all names from the prayer list after Christmas. If you would like to have a name remain on the prayer list beginning in January, contact Tina in the parish office at 508-697-9528 or tlarson@sta-parish.org.

COFFEE AND DONUTS

There will be NO COFFEE AND DONUTS this Sunday, December 28. It will resume on Sunday, January 4.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Every Christmas, our altars are beautifully decorated with flowers for all to enjoy. **Envelopes are located at the church/chapel entrances for those interested in making a donation towards them in memory of a loved one.**

AN ANNUAL APPEAL MESSAGE

We still need your help and it's not too late ...

To all those who have donated 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 before the end of the year.

There are several ways to contribute:

1. Via WeShare, at www.stthomasaquinas.com,
2. Send or bring your donation to the parish office,

3. Scan this QR Code

OR

4. Venmo:
@stthomasaquinas-bridgewater.

Again, thank you to those who will donate or have donated to the Annual Appeal. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- Peter Vitagliano, Finance/Operations Manager

STATISTICS AS OF DECEMBER 18, 2025

Total registered families:	2772
Total \$ received to date:	\$ 153,839
# of families that have donated:	384
% of families that have donated:	13.8%
# of families that have increased their donation over last year:	194
# of New Donors this year:	36
# of WeShare Donors:	71
Average \$ Per Donor:	\$ 401

PARISH OFFICES HOLIDAY HOURS

The parish offices will be closed Dec. 24 - Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas. The offices will reopen on Monday, Dec. 29.

In observance of New Year's Day, the parish offices will be closing at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 31 and will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1. We wish you a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year!

There will be no bulletin this weekend, Dec. 27 - 28. Bulletins will resume January 3 - 4.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

CLERGY TRUST	DEC. 24 - 25
NO SECOND COLLECTION	DEC. 27 - 28

Collections Summary 12/8 - 12/14	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 5,388	\$ 302	\$ 5,690
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 490	\$ 0	\$ 490
Online (WeShare)	\$ 1,835	\$ 543	\$ 2,378
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 7,713	\$ 845	\$ 8,558
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$ 2,942	\$ 191	\$ 3,133

AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES FOR NOV. = \$ 16,944



GREAT NEWS! WE ACCEPT VENMO!

Venmo may be used for the ANNUAL APPEAL, WEEKLY OFFERTORY, and OTHER DONATIONS! If using Venmo, please indicate on your donation what it is for so we may allocate it properly.

Just look for us: @stthomasaquinas-bridgewater, or scan the QR Code.

If you have questions or need help, please reach out to the parish office. Thank you!

- Peter Vitagliano, Finance and Operations Manager



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



SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube Channel!

**Saint Thomas Aquinas Church,
Bridgewater, Massachusetts**



\$ 153,839

\$ 150,000

\$ 140,000

\$ 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

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:00 a.m. Geraldine Resmini

4:00 p.m. *St. Thomas, St. Basil's and Parish Center*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

St. Thomas 12:00 a.m. *Midnight Mass at St. Thomas*

9:00 a.m.

St. Basil 10:30 a.m. **CHRIST OUR SAVIOR IS BORN!**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 a.m. Dean Marcotullio

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00 a.m. Anthony and Lourdes DeSerpa
(living - 50th Wedding Anniversary)

4:00 p.m. Joao, Rosa and Michael Pimentel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m. Tommie O'Leary - 4th Anniversary

9:00 a.m. Eric Rodriguez - 4th Anniversary

12:00 p.m. Claude Dubord, Jr.

5:00 p.m.

St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Carolyn M. Lucy

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:00 a.m. Antonio and Libania Sousa

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 a.m. Fr. Robert Milling

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:00 a.m. Janet Madigan

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation

7:00 a.m. | 9:00 a.m. | 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00 a.m. Sadie Frizado

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

9:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. Judith Moylan

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Joseph Sprunk

12:00 p.m. Janice DelTufo

5:00 p.m.

St. Basil 10:30 a.m. Adrian Morales

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.

PRAYER LIST

A Time to be Born...

Emma Louro

Ezekial Prisco

A Time to Die...

Thomas Belloli

Paul Novak

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

Claire Easter

Peter O'Leary

Donald Fredenburg

Thomas O'Leary

Joan Ward Fusco

John Pelfre

Brenda Gentili

Maria Presti

Patricia Giovannello

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

**It's not just
a generator.
It's a power
move.™**

Receive a free 5-year warranty
with qualifying purchase*
- valued at \$535.

Call 617-841-4985
to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

Be prepared before the next power outage.



Draw Close to Jesus

40 Encounters
with the Savior
for the Sacred
Season of Lent

Heidi Chiavaroli

Draw Close to Jesus

Award-winning novelist Heidi Chiavaroli invites you to draw closer to Jesus this Lent. Through imaginative retellings, Heidi brings to vivid life the stories of forty people who encountered the Savior in the pages of Scripture.

Now Available for Preorder!



www.heidichiavaroli.com

Amana RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL - INSTALLATION & REPAIRS **Daikin**

NORTHERN COMFORT
Heating & Air Conditioning
"Comfort is Our Business"
Call Eric!

**OVER 50
YEARS IN
BUSINESS!**

508-697-7583

scosta@northerncomfort-hvac.com

Established 1988

Free Estimates



781-608-2636

38 Comfort Street • Bridgewater, MA 02324

Contractor Reg. #157948 • Insured • Member Better Business Bureau

**AD SPACE
AVAILABLE**
617-779-3771

*Memorial Ads
Available*

617-779-3771



A Gift of Hope for Hurting Marriages

This Christmas, give your marriage the gift of healing and connection.

For over 35 years, Retrouvaille of New England has helped couples rediscover love, rebuild trust, and renew their commitment through a powerful, faith-based weekend experience.



Take the first step today.

MarriageHelpNewEngland.org



**rediscovery
retrouvaille**
building stronger marriages

Call us at
508-271-7155



THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE of SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY

Graduate Degree Programs for
Laity, Deacons, and Professed Religious



LEARN MORE

**SPRING COURSES
REGISTRATION OPEN**

Theological Anthropology

Ecclesiology

Liturgy and Sacraments

www.sjs.edu/theological-institute | 617-779-4104



**SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS
THIS CHRISTMAS**

Your gift helps care for the
health and well-being of
priests in good standing.

Give today at
clergytrust.org

SCAN HERE for
Venmo, Google/
Apple Pay, PayPal
via Givebuttr.



FUNERALS & CREMATIONS
CHAPMAN
(508) 697-4332
CHAPMANFUNERAL.COM

 
The Bridgewater Seamstress
Sewing & Alterations
General sewing • Contract sewing
Alterations • Garment construction
and more!
thebridgewaterseamstress@gmail.com
508-807-5138

 **PHYSICAL THERAPY U**
LEARN REHAB RECOVER
Physical Therapy • Sports Rehab • Massage
Now offering **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**
and personal training!
Call, email or find us on social!
@ptuclinic • 508-697-2000
FrontDesk@ptuclinic.com

JOHN E. McCLUSKEY, ESQ.
 **ATTORNEYS AT LAW**
ESTATE PLANNING, WILLS, TRUSTS,
ASSET PROTECTION, ELDER LAW
1325 Belmont St., Brockton, MA
www.mccluskeylaw.com
TEL: 508-583-2221

DRIVEWAYS BY HEAP
Call for Estimates - 781.447.4336
www.drivewaysbyheap.com


Claude Dubord & Sons, Inc.
The oldest pumping company
in S.E. Massachusetts
(508) 697-2621
"Proud Supporter of St. Thomas Aquinas"

 **KITCHEN REDUX LLC**
BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO OLD KITCHENS
• Cabinet Refacing
• Redooring
• Restoring
• Repainting
• Replacement
(774) 773-8387
www.kitchen-redux.com

AD SPACE AVAILABLE
617-779-3771

"OVER 12,000 Satisfied Customers"
 **NICCOLI OIL & ENERGY**
24 Hour Burner Service • Oil/Gas Boilers & Heating Systems
Oil Tank Replacement • Self Help Customers Welcome
NiccoliEnergy.com
568 Montello St. • Brockton • 508-588-0979
SAME DAY DELIVERY  We Service Brockton & Surrounding Towns Since 1946
Master Plumber's License 15519

AD SPACE AVAILABLE
617-779-3771

Free Estimates  Abington, MA
GIANNINI
ROOFING AND SIDING
GUTTERS • ROOFING • SIDING
781-351-1785 gianniniroofing@gmail.com

Lori Paul
Caregiver • Homemaker • Companion
"Kindness, Compassion & Care"
Light housekeeping • Errands
Medication Reminders • Medical Appointments
Meal Prep • Transportation
774-503-1825
lorilpaul03@gmail.com

AD SPACE AVAILABLE
617-779-3771

 **Bridgewater FARM SUPPLY CO., INC.**
FARM • LANDSCAPE & PET PRODUCTS
• Hay • Straw • Shavings & Sawdust
• Bulk Grain & Freight Hauling Specialists
• Bark Mulch • Wood Chips • Colored Stone
1000 Plymouth St., Rte. 104
Bridgewater, MA
508-697-1995 • www.bridgewaterfarm.com

AD SPACE AVAILABLE
617-779-3771

 **Free Help for Families in Probate**
Andy Mahoney I work with Buyers, Sellers, Investors!
617-538-0206 **Let's chat after Mass!**
50 Center Street, Middleboro, MA 02346 • amahoney@mahoneyhometeam.com 

 **Faith inspired gifts of self-care.**
• Mani Makeover
• Perfect Pedi
• Hair It Is
A confidence boost wrapped in purpose for girls ages 7-17
Please visit our website **www.faithbygirlglam.com** 

Where should you go for local understanding of your insurance needs?
 **MORSE OF COURSE!**
morseins.com • 508-238-0056 

S&B Mechanical

508-279-0606
www.sbhvac.com
Over 50 Years of Experience
Your Neighborhood Heating & Cooling Experts
Serving Bridgewater, MA & the Surrounding Areas

 **LUXURY**  **THE CHARNEY GROUP**
Chris Morrison, GRI
For all things Real Estate you can
"Call Chris" 508-662-7355 

Jim Dorsey & Son Inc.
Plumbing • Heating • Air Conditioning
82 Ingell Street | PO Box 1198
Taunton, MA 02780
p: 508.822.6728 | f: 508.822.2751
jimdorseyandson.com 

 **ADAM HELLIGE**
774-406-0987
adamhellige@comcast.net
With **PAVING SERVICES**
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
LICENSED & INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES
ROOFING DECKS SITE WORK FRAMING ADDITIONS GENERAL CONTRACTING
REMODELING CUSTOM FINISH NEW CONSTRUCTION DRIVEWAYS PAVING & SEAL COATING