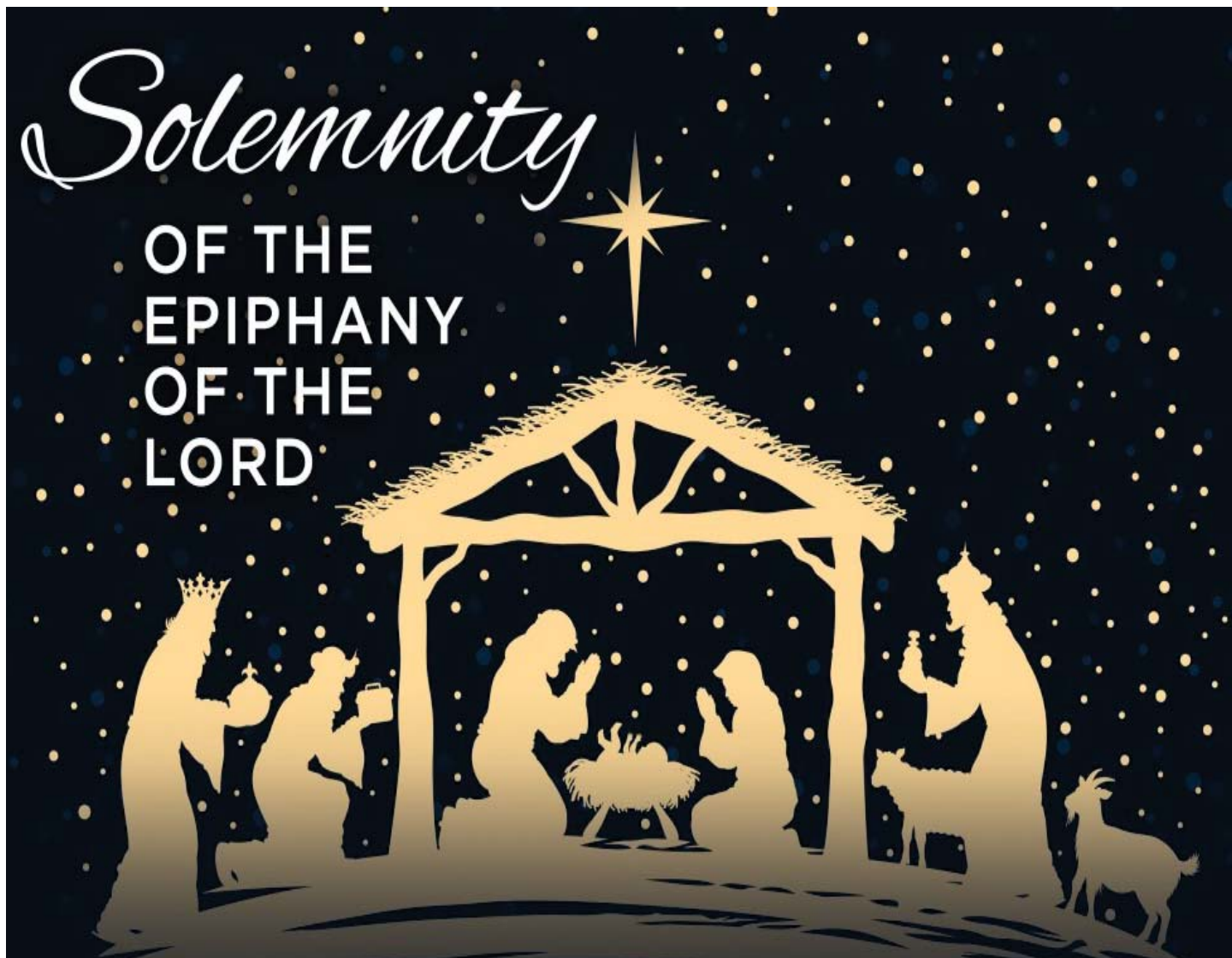


ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

JANUARY 4, 2026



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.

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

MASS ETIQUETTE

The Eucharist is where heaven comes down to touch earth. It is where time and eternity meet because the Lord of lords and the King of kings becomes present on the altar. Please review this list over with that in mind so that your celebration of the Mass will be reverent and respectful.

- **Fast before Mass:** Out of reverence for the Eucharist (the Body and Blood of Christ), Church law asks that everyone abstain from food or drink for at least one hour before receiving Holy Communion. The sick and elderly are exempt as are those who must eat sooner.
- **Dress modestly:** Dress in a way that reflects your respect for God and the liturgy. Dress up, not down.
- **Remove hats:** Men and boys should remove their hats before entering the church.
- **Remove gum:** Gum and the Body of Christ do not belong in your mouth at the same time.
- **Arrive on time:** Make an effort to arrive early for Mass so that you are on time.
- **Bless yourself with holy water found at the entrances of the church and chapel:** Thank God for the grace given to you at your baptism.
- **Genuflect:** Genuflect facing the tabernacle before entering and when leaving your pew. If you can't genuflect, you may bow instead.
- **Turn off phones:** before and during Mass. That's it!
- **Don't socialize:** Use time before and during Mass to pray.
- **Avoid walking around:** Please use the restroom **BEFORE** Mass.
- **Join in:** Pray and sing, using your heart and mind to praise God.
- **Receive Communion with reverence:** Bow or kneel before receiving Holy Communion. You may receive on your tongue or in your hands. If by hand, hold your hands outstretched, chest high with your right hand under your left. Respond "Amen" so the priest can hear you. Consume the Host immediately before turning away from the altar. Communion should never be plucked or grabbed from the priest. If it is present, reverence the chalice of Precious Blood as you walk by with a slight bow.
- **Exit after the recessional:** Stay until the final hymn is finished. Do not leave before the priest's recessional.

*Following these guidelines should help you and your family
to better enter into prayer and worship.*

OFFERING OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD AT MASSES

We would like to continue to offer the Precious Blood at Masses as we have been. That may be revisited if the flu season becomes severe. We encourage you to receive it, however, if you have a concern that you may have a cold or the flu, we ask that you refrain for the safety of our other parishioners. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this.

GIVING TREE - THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to the generosity of you, our parishioners, we were able to help 26 families, 12 high school students and 34 senior citizens who were in need of assistance this Christmas. **Over 500 gifts were donated!** Also, a big thank you to the volunteers who helped us on sort night, wrapping and sorting all the gifts for each recipient, and on distribution day, from coordinating pickup times for each family to being there when they arrived. We could not do this without all of you! - Tina Larson, Administrative Assistant



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4
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.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AT FR. BILL'S/ MAINSRING HOUSE - NEW DATES ADDED!

We have added new winter volunteer dates for Fr. Bill's/Mainspring House in Brockton. Please consider helping serve food to those in need.



TO REGISTER:
Visit our website
or contact Charlene at
charlenern123@comcast.net

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

GRADES 1-7 – CRAFTS & CHRISTMAS

Students in Grades 1-4 made ornaments from Christmas card fronts that they brought home. Students in Grades 5-7 made nativity scene ornaments. Tina Guzman, Homebound Coordinator, brought them to our homebound parishioners who receive Holy Communion. Kim Sousa brought them to West Bridgewater Life Care residents. This small act shows that even though they cannot be with us in person, they are with us in spirit and prayer.

CONFIRMATION VOLUNTEERS

The vibrancy of our program is made possible by our volunteers. This bulletin highlights our Confirmation youth ministers who mentor our students twice a month on Sunday evenings to share their love of God and His Church. Their dedication contributes to the students learning more about their faith, as well as the salvation of souls. It also ensures that evenings run smoothly. Their enthusiasm is contagious and students themselves are enthusiastic about the program. Sunday nights are fun and faith-filled! In addition to the ministers, on December 14th additional parishioners came for 1.5 hours to guide students one-on-one through an Examination of Conscience. Their presence was a witness to this parish's love and support for them and their families. Thank you to everyone who answers the call to share the Good News through our Faith Formation program!

- Debbie Hill, Director

SAVE THE DATES!

GRADES 1-7 Session 13. January in person dates 5, 6, 7 & 20, 21 (NO class on the 19th)

Grade 2 First Reconciliation Parent Night – this Tuesday, January 6, 6:30 PM, in the parish center

CONFIRMATION Classes – January 4, 2026



Our Confirmation Program volunteers



Our grade 1-7 students and the crafts they made for our homebound parishioners

ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

The Annual Appeal is still ongoing, even after the New Year. We are amazed by the generosity of our parish family. So far, we have received almost \$160,000 in our Appeal, and we cannot thank you enough! These funds are crucial to helping the parish to fill the gap between our offertory and operational costs, as well as helping the parish to make some vital improvements to our property and other areas to make our parish safe, welcoming and also able to offer a wide variety of programs to everyone.

To all who have given, THANK YOU! But.... **We still need your help!** Each year, we hope to eclipse last year's total, so we have a way to go. Please consider giving to the Annual Appeal. It's fast, easy, and every dollar supports OUR parish.

There are several ways to contribute:

1. Via WeShare, at www.stthomasaquinas.com,
2. Send or bring your donation to the parish office (pledge cards are at the church/chapel entrances)
3. Scan this QR Code - OR -
4. Venmo: @stthomasaquinas-bridgewater.

Our parish is as strong as our faith...so I know we can achieve anything! Thank you again and have a blessed Holiday Season! - Peter Vitagliano, Finance and Operations Officer

\$ 159,989

\$ 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

Total registered families:

2772

Total \$ received to date:

\$ 159,989

of families that have donated:

391

% of families that have donated:

14.1%

of families that have increased their donation over last year:

198

of New Donors this year:

36

of WeShare Donors:

76

Average \$ Per Donor:

\$409

**SCAN HERE
TO DONATE TO THE
ANNUAL APPEAL**



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



FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
NO SECOND COLLECTION

JAN 3 - 4
JAN. 10 - 11

Collections Summary 12/15 - 12/21	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 7,101	\$ 744	\$ 7,845
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 4,839	\$ 0	\$ 4,839
Online (WeShare)	\$ 3,154	\$ 576	\$ 3,730
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 15,094	\$ 1,320	\$ 16,414

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

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Saint Thomas Aquinas Church,
Bridgewater, Massachusetts



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

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

9:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. Judith Moylan

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m. Federico and Lucita Devilles

9:00 a.m. Joseph Sprunk

12:00 p.m. Janice DelTufo

5:00 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

9:00 a.m. Jose Coelho

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00 a.m. Sandra McKay

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

9:00 a.m. Jay Leach

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

9:00 a.m. Jean Gaziano

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

9:00 a.m. Ronald Wagman

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

9:00 a.m. Juliana Nakouzi (living)

4:00 p.m. Joan Murray

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

St. Thomas 7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Manuel Fernandes - 17th Anniversary

12:00 p.m. Filippo, Anna and Salvatore Presti

5:00 p.m. Elaine Phaneuf - 6th Anniversary

St. Basil 10:30 a.m.

PRAYER LIST

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

RUMMAGE SALE DONATIONS

The Women's Club will begin accepting donations THIS Thursday, January 8 at the Parish Center for the next Rummage Sale. We will take your clean clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, jewelry, glassware, dishes and any other household goods in good condition. No VCR or DVDs; only small electrics and **no furniture**. If you have any questions, please come in and inquire with one of the workers. Please do not leave anything outside of the doors.

SACRAMENTS

To receive information about the Sacraments or to schedule an appointment with a priest, please 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 are 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, please 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



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- Guidance in **contemplative prayer**
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