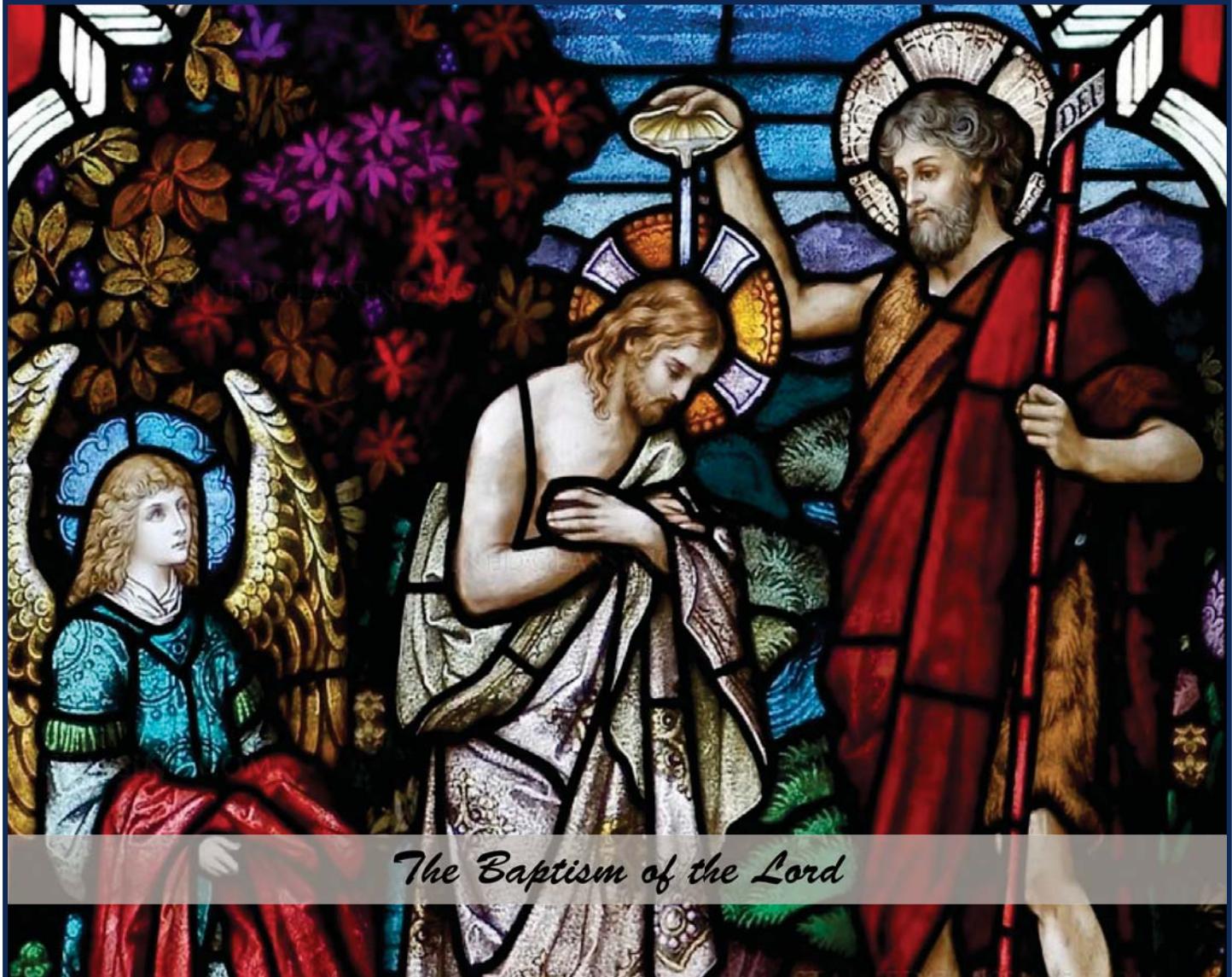


ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

JANUARY 11, 2026



The Baptism of the Lord

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
pvitaglano@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.

CONFESION

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

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN!

Because I'm not on Facebook, many express their concerns, support, advice and recommendations in email. I want to share with you an email that I received this week from a parishioner. I share it because it's very honest and positive. He, like many, are growing in the understanding of their faith and, as a result, their willingness to express it more openly and often. - Fr. Devine

I wanted to share something with you that I posted on Facebook last week. While I certainly do not need to be cited, I would have no problem being identified. That is exactly what I am talking about. No need to be anonymous...anymore. Go tell it on the mountain! I am Catholic and proud of it. I believe in God and don't care who knows it. I like to think that if I were in the time of Jesus and subject to stoning or worse, I would feel and act the same way. Thankfully we have it a lot easier than they did!

For so many of us, Mass and spirituality in general is a very private and sometimes solemn experience. Why?

Why private? I have been guilty of it myself. There were times that I have felt weird about sharing my experience, to the point of even telling someone once I was going shopping when I was going to Mass. Embarrassed isn't the right word. Did I feel they would think I wasn't cool? I don't know. Why did I care? But, certainly, not the case anymore. I am very happy to share my experience!

And why solemn? I guess it has a lot to do with the celebrant, but for me, and for most at St. Thomas, it is a celebration and should be!

So... on the actual day of Epiphany, I wanted to share with you a feeling I had. Epiphany? I don't know, but I like it. My recent feelings of joy from increased spirituality seem to have guided me to share it with others instead of hiding it. Not preach, but share. If they are not interested, I move on. But most are! Even sharing that they too feel the same way and have been "hiding" it. Others say, "Yeah, I gotta get back to Mass." If I can facilitate one of them to do so, I would be very happy.

So here is the Facebook post...

Anyone want to go to church? Many of you know that I go and I see some of you there!.... And please, I am well aware of the issues. It is easy to criticize and poke holes, it is hard to have faith. This is not a recruiting mission, or I'm more Holy than you or preaching. Just a suggestion. I'm not saying you "should" or even telling you which church to go to. Many of you say "yeah I gotta go back". All I am saying is if you are on the fence or just curious, check it out... I go Sundays to St. Thomas Aquinas at 9:00 AM. BTW, if you chose that Mass, feel free to sit with me but I sing - loudly and badly - lol!

- Mike C., parishioner

2026 CALENDARS

Our 2026 wall calendars are here! Thank you to Russell-Pica Funeral Home for sponsoring these calendars. They are available at the entrances of the church and chapel on a first-come, first-serve basis.



HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE

JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF ADORATION
AS WE COME TOGETHER WITH THE
ENTIRE NATION TO PRAY DURING THE
NATIONAL RESPECT FOR LIFE WEEK.

SAINT BASIL CHAPEL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
4:00PM

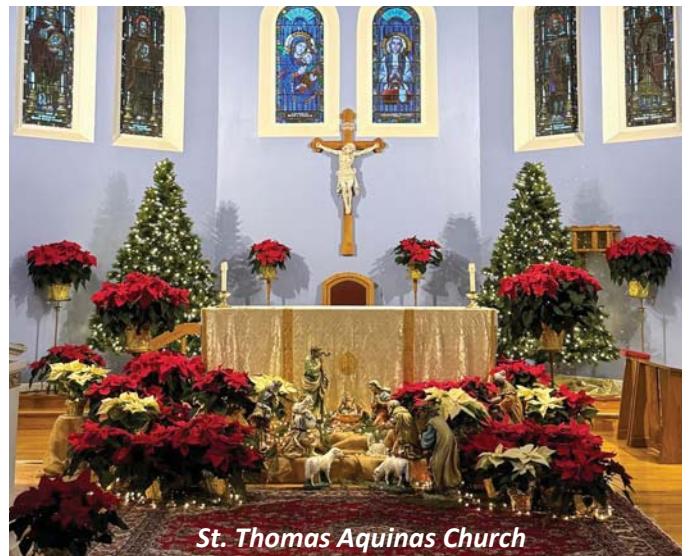


CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS AND PRAYERS



*Thank you to all who made a donation towards our Christmas decorations
in memory of living and deceased loved ones. During the month of January,
we will continue to remember and pray for our family and friends:*

Eddie, Kenny, & Pat Amaral, Manuel & Eleanor Amaral, June Angileri, Marjorie Antonelli, William & Dorothy Arrighi, Mr. & Mrs. Francis C. Buckley, Jasper & Mary Buono, Joseph & Thelma Cabral, Mildred & Jack Daniels, Joan & Jim Dolan, Ann Flannery, Salvatore & Jean Gaziano, Jeanne Gordon, Gino & Helen Guasconi, Heidi Gustafson, Alice Heath, Branden Heath, Donald Heath, Lenny Heath, Marylou Heath, Norrine Heath, James & Anne Hynes, George & Mildred Kelly, John & Rose Kelly, Jonathan Kelly, Mary C. Kelly, Peg & Jim Kelly, Edmond & Pat Kenneally, James Kenneally, John Kenneally, John & Liz Kenneally, Luanna Kenneally, Anna M. Lane, Clementine Lincoln, Edward & Delia McMahon, Etta & Francis Naves, John Naves, William O'Donnell, Anna & Jame Olean, Raymond Perry, Anita Pincolini, Debbie Pincolini, William Pincolini, Lawrence Presby, Philip Rainey, Maria Resendes, Harry Rich, Frank & Margaret Rinella, Eric Rodriguez, H. Schulze, Mary Signorella, George & Patricia Silva, Antonio Sousa, Loretta Steidinger, John Wojcechowski, Ed & Rose Woronicz, & Karen Woronicz, as well as the deceased members of the Akers, Alapide, Banks, Barry, Bergstrom, Berry, Bianchini, Burke, Carbone, Carroll, Cipitelli, Cloutier, Coscia, Demoura, Domingos, Downey, Dunne, Eddy, Harrigan, Hasson, Hathaway, Holland, Holmes, Keeley, Kemp, Larsen, Luiz, Lunsford, Madigan, Maffei, Matthews, McCarthy, Melagrano, Mickiewicz, Monti, Moynihan, Murray, O'Donnell, Ouellette, Perez, Peters, Presti, Resendes, Sarro, Scanlan, Scopa, Sgarbi, Sibor, Sotera, Sousa, Swarce, Sweeney, Terpeny, White, Wise, & Younie families.



FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

CONFIRMATION

Last Sunday's topic was the sacraments, and we were blessed to welcome Deacon Joe McGinley, a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Fall River. Deacon McGinley teaches theology at Bishop Feehan High School and serves as the parish deacon at St. Ann's in Raynham. He explained that the word sacrament comes from the Latin *sacrare*, meaning "to make holy," and that what was lost through Original Sin is restored through the sacraments. Through their words and actions, the sacraments convey grace. They were instituted by Christ Himself. During their small-group classroom sessions, students searched the Bible to find passages that refer to the institution of each sacrament. Deacon McGinley emphasized that the sacraments offer us an encounter with Christ and allow us to share in His divine life. While the sacraments have the power to transform us, this transformation depends on our openness to receive them. He used the familiar phrase, "You are what you eat." When we are truly receptive to the Eucharist, we become more Christ-like. Our goal is to receive Christ worthily in the Eucharist, to grow in His likeness, and transform the world around us.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT NIGHT

Last Tuesday night, Fr. Bill met with Grade 2 parents to help them prepare their children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **He began by asking why parents teach their children to say, "I'm sorry."** Parents shared that expressing sorrow helps develop social skills, accountability, and relationships, and helps prevent repeated mistakes. **Fr. Bill then asked why apologizing is difficult for children.** Parents noted it is hard to apologize because of fear of disappointing others, fear of reactions, difficulty admitting wrongdoing, and not knowing how to apologize. **He then asked parents the same question about themselves.** They identified common reasons adults need to say they are sorry to their children, including losing patience, being judgmental, breaking promises, not listening, overreacting, and harmful words. Parents emphasized that adult apologies are important to acknowledge mistakes, repair relationships, model humility, show care, and practice forgiveness. **Then, Fr. Bill asked parents to share things adults need to apologize to God for.** They responded with things such as not praying, missing Mass, receiving Communion unworthily, using God's name in vain, neglecting the needy, and placing other priorities before God, and that apologizing to God can be difficult due to embarrassment, denial, lack of readiness to change, ignorance, or presuming they are already forgiven. Fr. Bill reminded parents that Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a way to say, "I'm sorry." God wants to hear us say "I'm sorry," as sin separates us from who God created us to be. Above all, Reconciliation is about God's love and mercy.

- Debbie Hill, Coordinator

SAVE THE DATES!

GRADES 1-7: Session 14 this week. Next in-person dates: January 20, 21 (NO class on the 19th).

Parent Advisory Group Meeting: This Monday, January 12, 6:30 PM

CONFIRMATION Class: January 25 – Sponsor Form and Confirmation Name Form due

INSPIRE

MISSION TRIP YOUTH GROUP

PIZZA . FUN . SERVICE

JANUARY 14

YOUTH ROOM

SAVE
THE
DATES!

FEBRUARY 11

SERVICE

MARCH 11

GYM TIME

APRIL 8

GAGA BALL!

MAY 13

2026
CHWC
MISSION TRIP
NORTH HALEDON, NJ
JULY 18 - 25, 2026

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

PARISH CENTER

TO SIGN UP, VISIT WWW.STTHOMASAQUINAS.COM

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JEN ROSHER
JENROSHER@COMCAST.NET



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. Interested? Contact Peter at 508-697-9528.

LOVE YOUR MARRIAGE RETREAT

This one-day retreat for married couples, led by Family Life and Our Outpost, a Catholic ministry that helps couples develop vibrant marriages through communication, conflict resolution, and decision making, will be held on January 31st at the Pastoral Center, Braintree. The cost is \$40 per couple and includes meals, materials, Mass, and more. For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/loveyourmarriageretreat.

ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

\$ 204,384
\$ 200,000
\$ 190,000
\$ 180,000
\$ 170,000
\$ 160,000
\$ 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

As we begin the New Year, we are well into our 2025 Annual Appeal. Fr. Bill and I are amazed and humbled with the tremendous response to date.

As we have mentioned previously, the proceeds from the Annual Appeal help us make up for the short fall when our weekly operational expenses are greater than the weekly income or offertory collection. All of these expenses are critical to meet the needs of our constantly growing parish. None of these things could have been accomplished without the generosity of those who contributed to this year's Appeal.

It's not too late to give to the Annual Appeal!

For 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 in the upcoming weeks.

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.



Each year it is our hope to eclipse last year's total. We have been blessed most years achieving this, and this year is no different. Our expenses increase every year as we grow, so we pray and appeal to you, our parish family, to help us keep pace. Again, thank you to all you have donated or will donate to the Annual Appeal. May the Lord bless and guide our parish now and in the years to come. - Peter Vitagliano, Finance/Operations Officer

STATISTICS AS OF JANUARY 5, 2026

Total registered families:	2772
Total \$ received to date:	\$ 204,384
# of families that have donated:	414
% of families that have donated:	14.9%
# of families that have increased their donation over last year:	209
# of New Donors this year:	37
# of WeShare Donors:	83
Average \$ Per Donor:	\$494

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

NO SECOND COLLECTION	JAN. 10 - 11
NO SECOND COLLECTION	JAN. 17 - 18

Collections Summary 12/29 - 1/4	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 6,306	\$ 953	\$ 7,259
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 540	\$ 0	\$ 540
Online (WeShare)	\$ 3,011	\$ 1,037	\$ 4,048
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 9,857	\$ 1,990	\$ 11,847
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$ 3,880	\$ 2,338	\$ 6,218

Collections Summary 12/22- 12/28	St. Thomas	St. Basil	Total
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 6,252	\$ 428	\$ 6,680
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 1,005	\$ 0	\$ 1,005
Online (WeShare)	\$ 2,475	\$ 581	\$ 3,056
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 9,732	\$ 1,009	\$ 10,741
CLERGY TRUST - CHRISTMAS	\$ 11,256	\$ 1,609	\$ 12,865

AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES FOR DEC. = \$ 24,839



GREAT NEWS!

WE ACCEPT VENMO!

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

Look for us at : [@stthomasaquinas-bridgewater, or scan the QR Code. Thank you!](https://www.venmo.com/@stthomasaquinas-bridgewater) - Peter Vitagliano, Finance/Operations Officer



SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube Channel!

Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, Bridgewater, Massachusetts





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

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

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.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

9:00 a.m. Della and Patrick Keeley

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00 a.m. Paul Keeley and Patrick Keeley, Jr.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

9:00 a.m. Manuel Coelho and Angelina Andrade

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

9:00 a.m. Evangelina and Jose deSousa

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

9:00 a.m. Joaquin and Gloria Alves

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

9:00 a.m. Antonio Rebelo
4:00 p.m. Jaime Braga and Maria da Luz

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

St. Thomas

7:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m. Donna Patton
12:00 p.m. Rodalfo and Betina Famularo
5:00 p.m.

St. Basil

10:30 a.m. Antonio Almada

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 subject to change.) Baptisms are only scheduled following a meeting with one of our priests. 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.

CONFESIONS - LOWER CHURCH

Saturdays 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. or by appointment.

RUMMAGE SALE DONATIONS

The Women's Club is now accepting donations on Thursdays from 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM at the Parish Center for the next Rummage Sale. They accept 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**. Please do not leave anything outside of the doors. Thank you!

PRAYER LIST

As we do every year, we removed 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.

A Time to Die...

Barbara Gothage
John Gomes

Domenica Munafo
Maria Presti

A Time to Heal...

Anthony DeSerpa	Chris O'Leary
Lourdes DeSerpa	Ellen O'Leary
Marcus DiSalvo	Peter O'Leary
Stephanie DiSalvo	Sean O'Leary
Matteo Disalvo	Thomas O'Leary
Antonio Fernandes	Joanne Robicheau
Joan Ward Fusco	Ruth Sandler
Joseph Inacio	James Schneider
Rosa Inacio	Jamison Spigel

A Time for Peace...

SFC Kelly Berrier, USA
Warrant Officer 1 James Berrier, USA
A1C Timothy O'Leary, USAF
2nd LT Jimmy Peterson, USA

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

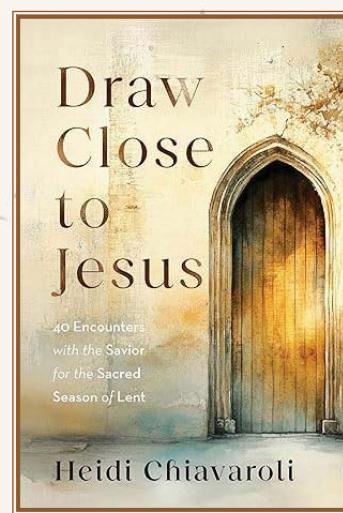
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