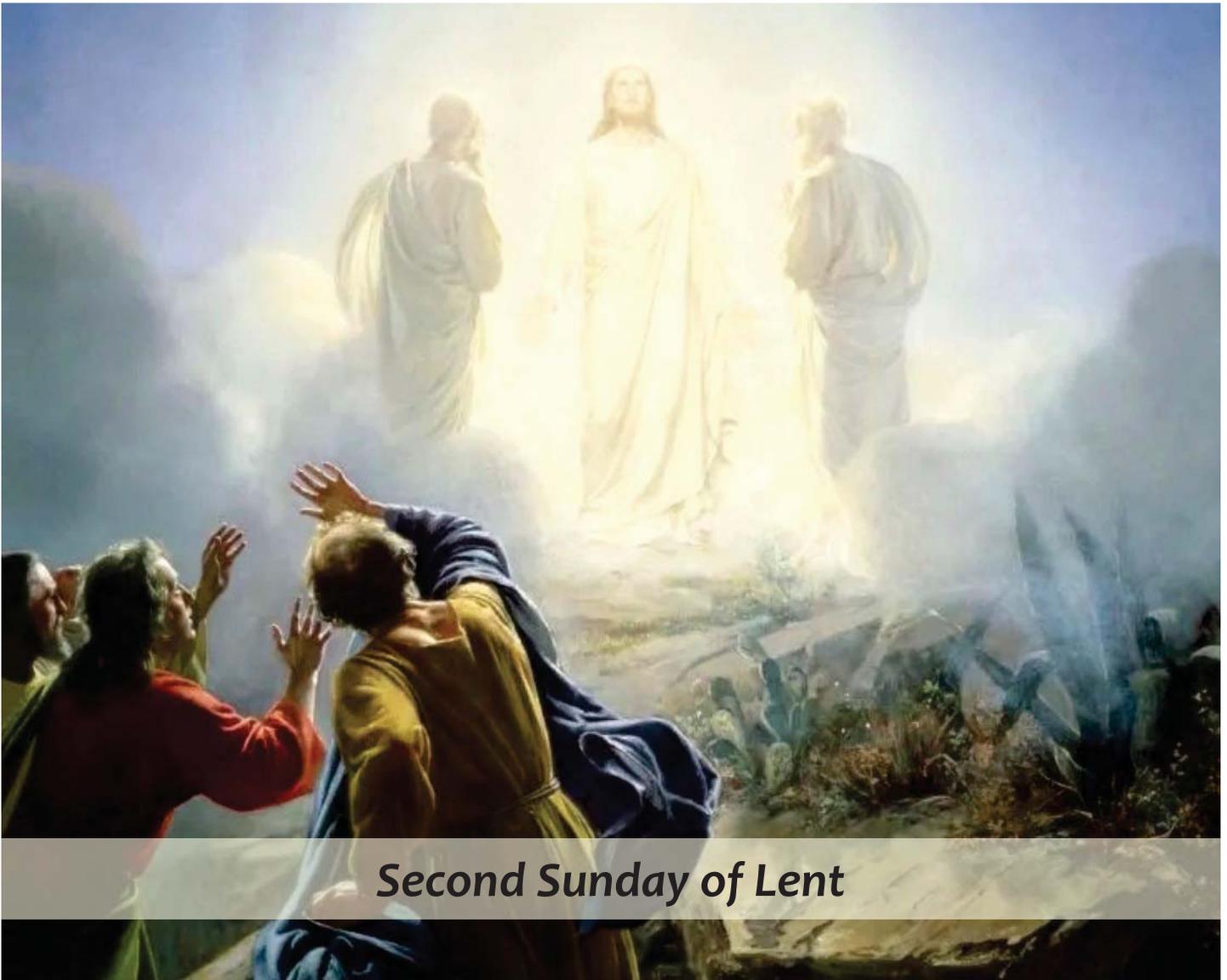


ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

MARCH 1, 2026



Second Sunday of Lent

WELCOME

To visitors of our Parish, those who have recently moved into the area, and 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
 tl Larson@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

Notes from Fr. Devine...

Hope everyone got through the storm safely! Thank you for your patience as we cleared out all of our lots. I'd like to give a huge "thank you" to our maintenance staff, Andy Kovacs, Ed Dicenso and Frank Lienes, who worked tirelessly to make everything safe for all of you.

CATHOLIC APPEAL

This week's bulletin insert provides specific information on the importance of this year's Catholic Appeal. NEXT WEEKEND, following a very brief 2-minute video, Ron Hill, our parish's Catholic Appeal Coordinator, and Peter Vitagliano, our Finance and Operations Officer, will be speaking at all Masses encouraging your participation.

HALLOW

Although Lent has already begun, it is not too late to **join our parish page on the Hallow app** and participate in the Lenten Challenge! Almost 300 parishioners have already joined!

- Fr. Devine

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

March 23, 24 and 25

Msgr. Paul Garrity

**SAVE
 THE
 DATE!**

**Schedule
 coming
 soon!**



Monsignor Garrity grew up in Somerville, MA, and was ordained by Cardinal Medeiros in 1973. He has served as Parochial Vicar in parishes in Billerica and East Boston, as well as the Pastor for 18 years at St Mary's in Lynn, where he led the major transformation of a struggling school into a premier K-12 educational institution. He also served as Pastor at St. Catherine Parish and School in Norwood, and Pastor at St Bridget's & Sacred Heart in Lexington. Monsignor also served as Campus Minister at UMass Lowell. Early in his priesthood, he was elected President of the Priests Senate of the Archdiocese by his brother priests. During his 52 years as a priest, Monsignor Garrity served as a member of the State Board of Education and Trustee of Regis College in Weston. He currently celebrates Mass at St. Raphael Parish in Medford. He also writes a regular opinion column for the Lynn Item on the North Shore.

LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving

STATIONS OF THE CROSS / SIMPLE SUPPERS

Every **Friday** during Lent at **6:30 p.m.** - St. Thomas Aquinas Upper Church
FREE Lenten Simple Suppers are held in the lower church following Stations of the Cross.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions are held every Saturday in the Lower Church from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., or by appointment.

HALLOW

Hallow is a **Catholic app** with a huge variety of resources to engage you with your faith and share that engagement with our parish community if you so choose. **Hallow offers daily prayers, daily readings, Lenten challenges, audio-guided meditation, mental health content, sacred music, and more!** We invite you to download the **Hallow app** and **join our parish page**. Due to safe environment reasons put in place by the USCCB to protect minors, Hallow is only available for those 18 years old and older to download. Parents may participate in the Kid's Lenten Challenge with their children. **To download Hallow, follow these steps:**

1. Download or open the Hallow app on your phone and create a free account.
2. Join the parish page.
 - Tap "Community" on the bottom menu
 - Select "Join a Church."
 - Search for Saint Thomas Aquinas, Bridgewater.
 - Join the parish page.
3. **Participate in the 40-day Lenten Challenge as well as other premium content we have added for you!**

ABSTINENCE

Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. **ABSTINENCE** is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning abstinence, please consult Fr. Devine or Fr. Rodrigo.

A NOTE FROM THE CHOIR LOFT...

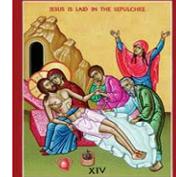
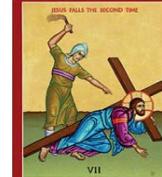
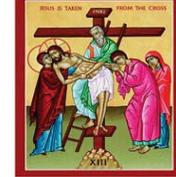
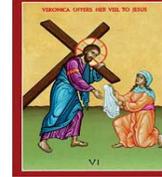
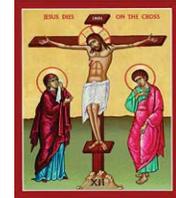
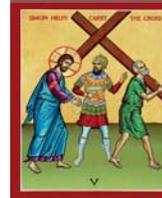
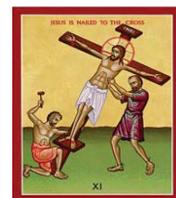
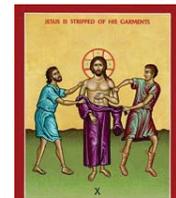
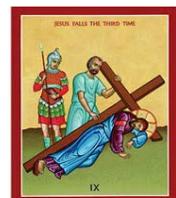
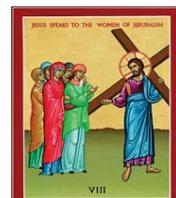
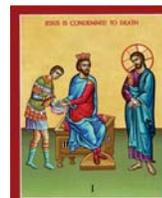
Sing in the choir this Triduum and Easter!

Prepare for Easter through sacred song! Youth and Adult Choir opportunities for Holy Week and Easter. New members welcome! Contact Paul Hoffman for more information at phoffman@sta-parish.org.

Kyrie Eleison

During the season of Lent, we will sing the Penitential Rite rather than speaking it. We will be using the traditional Greek text: Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison, instead of, Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. The Kyrie is a very ancient cry for divine mercy in our liturgy. By singing these words we retain a connection to the early Christian church and the roots of our faith.

Stations of the Cross





EVANGELIZATION

We have probably all heard the parable from Matthew chapter 18:12-13 “... If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander away!” These days it seems that ninety-nine of the sheep have wandered away and we need to bring them back to Jesus. We have our work cut out for us!

We want everyone in our lives to know God and to have eternal life. We want all of the people in our lives to be saved. But it is important we understand our role. We are called to share the message and allow the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

What does this mean for us? We need to bring the Gospel to those who have never stepped into a church or maybe have not for many years. People cannot respond to the Gospel if they have not heard it - or have heard it but do not understand it. How do we share the Gospel? We pray for others, love them, and genuinely care about their lives and their situation. Showing real interest in who they are will open the doors to share the Gospel. Share the story of your personal experience with Jesus and how it has made a difference in your life. If you don't know what to say, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. He can give you the words to say in the right moment.

And if you are still not sure what to do or say, a good beginning is to invite them to one of our many parish events. The feeling of a welcoming community is comforting! - Michele Giovannini, Evangelization Ministry Member

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Confirmation

Monet Souza was our guest speaker for Sponsor Night. Her presentation started with the question, “Why are you Catholic?” Our answers should reflect a faith that is our own, not that of our parents or grandparents. We are Catholic because of our relationship with Christ and His Church. She encouraged sponsors to be part of their confirmand's faith journey. Sponsors have been entrusted with the great responsibility of getting their confirmand to heaven. She encouraged everyone to use their free will to make decisions that will lead toward God. Keep reaching for Jesus through Mass, adoration, and the sacraments. Please don't forget to evangelize! Trust the promptings of the Holy Spirit to answer God's call in your life. It was a great rallying cry for Lent and for everyday life.

- Debbie Hill, Director

Save these Dates!

Grades 1-7

Gr 1-7 – Session 21

March in-person dates:

9,10,11 & 23,24,25

Confirmation

Saturday, March 7 – All day retreat

March in-person dates:

March 1, 15, 29



VACATION BIBLE CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

AUGUST 10 - 14 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

REGISTERED PARISHIONERS WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY ENROLLMENT THROUGH APRIL 1.

VBC is for children starting at age 3 (must be potty-trained) - Grade 5.

Volunteer roles are available for students in Grade 6 and up. All adult volunteers (ages 18 and over) must have a current CORI on file and have completed VIRTUS training. There are 5 junior volunteer roles (ages 10-12) also available on a first-come, first-serve basis. We look forward to a wonderful week!

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

- Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Moyer



**PLEASE JOIN THE WOMEN'S CLUB
AND THE PRO-LIFE MINISTRY TO SUPPORT
THE ABUNDANT HOPE BABY BOTTLE DRIVE**

Please support Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center by joining the Women's Club and the Pro-Life Ministry in our upcoming Baby Bottle Drive. Abundant Hope helps financially struggling families who have one or more children under the age of 2 on a monthly basis with free diapers, wipes, baby formula, baby clothes and baby food.

Please take a bottle THIS WEEKEND, February 28 - March 1 or March 7 - 8. Then, please return it during the weekend of March 14 - 15 with change, cash or a check (please make checks payable to Abundant Hope) to help women and families in our community.

For more information about Abundant Hope, please contact Kim Sousa at 508-944-0642.



Volunteer Appreciation Social

**Saturday, March 21
5:00 - 9:00 PM
Parish Center**

**CATERED DINNER!
TRIVIA!
IRISH STEP DANCERS!**

INVITATIONS WERE E-MAILED TO VOLUNTEERS LAST WEEK! IF YOU HAVE VOLUNTEERED IN THE PAST YEAR AND DID NOT RECEIVE ONE, PLEASE CALL TINA IN THE OFFICE.



NEXT SUNDAY MARCH 8

Time to *SPRING* Forward



Don't forget to move your clocks forward 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night

DAILY MASS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER - REMINDER!

Just a reminder that if the B-R School District cancels school due to inclement weather, there will be no 9:00 AM Daily Mass. We follow this guideline to keep our parishioners safe, and in regard to a snow event, to allow for safe and efficient snow removal efforts. Reminders of this will always be posted on our website and Facebook page.

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

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

WE ACCEPT VENMO!
Find us at: @stthomasaquinas-bridgewater or scan this QR Code.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

NO SECOND COLLECTION FEB. 28 - MARCH 1
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MARCH 7 - 8

Collections Summary 2/16 - 2/22	St. Thomas / St. Basil
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 7,183
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 255
Online (WeShare)	\$ 2,582
OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 10,020
CATHOLIC CHARITIES (ASH WEDNESDAY)	\$ 4,908
SUPPORT OF CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD	\$ 3,034

AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES FOR JAN. = \$ 21,144

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:00 a.m. Martin Foley
4:00 p.m. Patrick and John Keane

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

St. Thomas

7:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m. Walter Fisher
12:00 p.m. Mary and Billy Moore
5:00 p.m.

St. Basil

10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 2

9:00 a.m. Maria Batista

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

9:00 a.m. Nina Carbone

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

9:00 a.m. Peter Jordan

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

9:00 a.m. Joseph Drozek

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

9:00 a.m. Charles Wheeler

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

9:00 a.m. Phil Boyle
4:00 p.m. Gail Bowman

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

St. Thomas

7:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m. Phyllis Sylvester
12:00 p.m. Maria Presti
5:00 p.m. Richard Matthews

St. Basil

10:30 a.m. Jane Keough and Nancy Bodwicz

SACRAMENTS

To receive information about the Sacraments or to schedule an meeting 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

To be married in our parish, call the office at least 8 months in advance. **Marriage Preparation instruction 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...

Nora Wallace

A Time to Die...

Joseph Mazza Fr. Willy Raymond, C.S.C.

A Time to Heal...

Carolyn Allen	Riley McHardy
Kathy Bennett	Charles Micalizzi
Jean-Marie Boustani	JoAnn Micalizzi
Carole Brunke	Elisabeth Mikush
Mimi Conklin	Kathy Monahan
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	Jack Phaneuf
Evan Frye	Lane Poche
Joan Ward Fusco	Jerry Putney
Brenda Gentili	Joanne Robicheau
Patricia Giovannello	Baby Carson Rosen
Thomas Groh	Diane Russell
Joseph Inacio	Ruth Sandler
Rosa Inacio	James Schneider
Tom Joyce	Deana Spingel
Carol Kelley	Jamison Spingel
Julie Landry	Emily Stone
Lucie Lovell	Erika White

A Time for Peace...

SFC Kelly Berrier, USA
Warrant Officer 1 James Berrier, USA
SGT Joseph Cannistraro, USA
SRAMN Thomas J. Guzman, USAF
CAPT Jimmy Lysko, USMC
LTJG Theresa Lysko, USN
A1C Timothy O'Leary, USAF
2nd LT Jimmy Peterson, USA
2nd LT Brian Roshier Jr., USA
GEN Eric Smith, USMC

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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