

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

MARCH 8, 2026



*Third 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

## BSU SPRING RETREAT

Last weekend, our BSU students had the privilege to take some time away on retreat. The title of our retreat was **"Given up for you."** On our three days together, the students had the opportunity to reflect on the unfailing love of God, as He was given by the Father to be our savior. The three talks during the retreat, given by our FOCUS missionaries, revolved around the great Paschal mystery; that *"God so loved the world that He sent his only begotten Son"* (Jn, 3:16), to take upon himself the weight of Sin, conquering it by suffering, dying, and resurrecting in loving obedience to the Father. Students were also able to reflect on how God is calling them to unite all that they are, in their modern challenges and sufferings, to Christ's redeeming action on the cross. Three of our students also shared their own faith journey as they actively pursue to do God's will in their life. As you can see in the pictures, we were able to do a little bit of everything: Stations of the Cross, Adoration & Confessions, and daily Mass. We also had lots of fun! I would like to thank all of you for your support and your prayers, and a very special thank you to our **"Feed the Bears"** ministry for their donations. I tell you none of our students starved! Know of my prayers for you and your family and keep me and our students in your prayers.  
 - Fr. Rodrigo



# 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 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. - 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.

## PARISH LENTEN MISSION

### *Drawing Closer to Jesus Christ*

March 23, 24 and 25

6:30 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church



**SPEAKER:**  
**Msgr. Paul Garrity**

**MONDAY**

***Understanding***

**TUESDAY**

***Transformation  
 followed by Confessions***

**WEDNESDAY**

***Celebration  
 Eucharist followed by reception***

*Together we are*  
**one**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON | CATHOLIC APPEAL

## CATHOLIC APPEAL ANNOUNCEMENT WEEKEND

Last week's bulletin insert provided information on the importance of this year's Catholic Appeal. Following a very brief 2-minute video this weekend, 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. To contribute to the Catholic Appeal, use the envelopes provided in the pews, visit [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org), or scan this QR Code. Thank you in advance!




## ATTENTION WOMEN OF THE PARISH!

Please join the Catholic Women's Club in welcoming the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy.

Please join the Women's Club Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center to welcome the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy for a presentation on the Message of Divine Mercy. The sisters speak in schools, in parishes and at conferences, explaining the different forms of devotion and prayers to the Divine Mercy and, more importantly, what true devotion to the Divine Mercy consists in: *having childlike trust in God and being merciful to our neighbor*. Light refreshments will be available.

## FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

### Confirmation

Prayer was the focus of last Sunday's class. Parishioner David Sena reminded us that to make our everyday prayers truly meaningful, we must lift our hearts to God. Prayer is how we enter into a loving relationship with Him and express our love in return. When we develop a consistent habit of prayer, we begin to recognize God's voice more clearly in our lives. God's love is both deeply personal and infinite. Prayer itself is initiated by Him, drawing us into closer communion. At the heart of our prayer life should be a sincere desire to love God more fully and to grow nearer to Him. As part of their Lenten disciplines, Confirmation students are encouraged to use the prayer booklets that were distributed and to sign up for *The 180* on the Hallow app. - *Debbie Hill, Director*

### Save these Dates

#### Grades 1-7

Gr 1-7 – Session 22

March in-person dates: 9,10,11 & 23,24,25

#### Confirmation

March in-person dates: 15, 29



**St. Thomas Aquinas Youth Group Open Gym**  
THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 13  
7:00 - 8:30 PM | GRADES 6-8  
PARISH CENTER GYM

**SPRING FEST THEME!**  
MAKE & TAKE TRAIL MIX AND CRAFT!  
BASKETBALL • VOLLEYBALL  
9-SQUARE • VIDEO GAMES

Visit [www.stthomasaquinas.com](http://www.stthomasaquinas.com)  
or scan this QR Code to register!



**INSPIRE MISSION TRIP  
YOUTH GROUP**  
MARCH 11 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM | PARISH CENTER  
TO SIGN UP, VISIT [WWW.STTHOMASAQUINAS.COM](http://WWW.STTHOMASAQUINAS.COM)  
QUESTIONS? CONTACT JEN ROSHER AT [JENROSHER@COMCAST.NET](mailto:JENROSHER@COMCAST.NET)

## OCIA RITE OF ELECTION

On Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrated the Rite of Election with Archbishop Henning, formally asking the Church of Boston to accept our catechumen as a member of the Elect, those chosen by God for Baptism. **Diamond Doval** signed the **Book of Elect** to indicate her intention to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to pray for our Elect and our candidates who will be receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist as they now enter the final period of formation in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults process. - *David Sena, OCIA Team*



# Volunteer Appreciation Social

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

**PLEASE RSVP BY THIS THURSDAY, MARCH 12!**

**IF YOU HAVE VOLUNTEERED IN THE PAST YEAR AND DID NOT RECEIVE AN INVITATION IN YOUR EMAIL, PLEASE CALL TINA IN THE OFFICE.**

## 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 +) must have a current CORI on file and completed VIRTUS training. There are 5 junior volunteer roles (ages 10-12) also available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To register, visit [www.stthomasaquinas.com](http://www.stthomasaquinas.com) or scan this QR code.



- Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Moyer



## Easter EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 5  
10:00 AM in the parish center

## 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 2 on a monthly basis with free diapers, wipes, baby formula, baby clothes and baby food. **Bottles are still available for you to take this weekend, March 7 - 8. Please return bottles NEXT weekend, 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.**

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 488 MOVIE NIGHT AND DINNER

Saturday, March 28th  
5:15 pm | Parish Center

The film **Cabrini** is the epic story of Saint Francesca Cabrini, a Catholic nun and Italian immigrant who was sent by the Pope to New York city in 1889 to work with immigrant families and impoverished children. Mother Cabrini sets off on a daring mission to secure housing and healthcare for society's most vulnerable. With broken English and poor health, Mother Cabrini builds an empire of hope unlike anything the world had ever seen. She eventually established 67 hospitals, schools and orphanages across the Americas and Europe. Visit [www.stthomasaquinas.com](http://www.stthomasaquinas.com) to register to attend. Cost is \$20 plus a canned good for the food bank per person and will be collected at the door.

## FINANCIAL BLESSINGS SECOND COLLECTIONS:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	MARCH 7 - 8
NO SECOND COLLECTION	MARCH 14 - 15

Collections Summary 2/23 - 3/2	St. Thomas / St. Basil
Weekly Collection (In-Pew)	\$ 7,259
Mail-in / Drop-Off	\$ 697
Online (WeShare)	\$ 4,233
<b>OFFERTORY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 12,189</b>

**AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES FOR FEB. = \$ 17,408**



**WE ACCEPT VENMO!**

Find us at: [@stthomasaquinas-bridgewater](https://www.venmo.com/@stthomasaquinas-bridgewater) or scan this QR Code.



## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

### 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

### MONDAY, MARCH 9

9:00 a.m. Michelle Landry

### TUESDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 a.m. Maria Presti

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 a.m. Anna Madigan (living)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 12

9:00 a.m. NO MASS

### FRIDAY, MARCH 13

9:00 a.m. Samuel and Carmela Corrente

### SATURDAY, MARCH 14

9:00 a.m. Antonio Sousa and Maria Resendes  
4:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Maffeo family

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

#### St. Thomas

7:30 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. Antonio Almada  
12:00 p.m. Carmella Scolaro  
5:00 p.m.

#### St. Basil

10:30 a.m.

## SACRAMENTS

To receive information about the Sacraments or to schedule a 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
Mike Benya	JoAnn Micalizzi
Jean-Marie Boustani	Elisabeth Mikush
Carole Brunke	Kathy Monahan
Mimi Conklin	Chris O'Leary
Anthony DeSerpa	Ellen O'Leary
Lourdes DeSerpa	Peter O'Leary
Marcus DiSalvo	Sean O'Leary
Stephanie DiSalvo	Thomas O'Leary
Matteo Disalvo	Jack Phaneuf
Antonio Fernandes	Lane Poche
Evan Frye	Jerry Putney
Joan Ward Fusco	Joanne Robicheau
Brenda Gentili	Baby Carson Rosen
Patricia Giovanniello	Diane Russell
Thomas Groh	Ruth Sandler
Joseph Inacio	James Schneider
Rosa Inacio	Deana Spingel
Tom Joyce	Jamison Spingel
Carol Kelley	Emily Stone
Julie Landry	Erika White
Lucie Lovell	

### 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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