Third Sunday of Advent

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASS

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday Vigil | 4:00 p.m.
Sunday | 7:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

St. Basil Chapel
Sunday | 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

DAILY MASS

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

CONFESSION

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Saturday | 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Saturday | 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
or by appointment

PARISH INFORMATION

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Rev. Bill Devine, Administrator
bdevine@stthomasaquinas.com
Rev. Jason Giombetti, Parochial Vicar
fathergiombetti@gmail.com
Deacon Leo Donoghue
deaconleo@comcast.net

Parish Office
103 Center St, Bridgewater MA 02324
Hours | Monday - Friday | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Phone | 508.697.9528 - Fax | 508.279.1859
Website | www.stthomasaquinas.com

Pastoral Associate
Aaron Durocher, Pastoral Associate
508.531.1346
adurocher@sta-parish.org

Faith Formation Office Staff
Marie Masaitis, Faith Formation Director, Grades 1-6
mmasaitis@sta-parish.org
Caitlin Mack, Faith Formation/Confirmation Director, Grades 7-10
cmack@sta-parish.org

Kristine Smith, Administrative Assistant
faithformation@sta-parish.org

St. Basil, The Catholic Center
122 Park Ave., Bridgewater MA 02324
Rev. Jason Giombetti, Campus Chaplain
fathergiombetti@gmail.com
We are very grateful to those who have contributed to our grand annual appeal thus far. We know that finances can be tight, especially around this time of year. We truly appreciate your contributions. If you haven't given and would like to, donation cards may be found at the entrances to the church and chapel, or you may visit our website at www.stthomasaquinas.com and donate via WeShare. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
4:00 p.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Church
4:00 p.m. St. Thomas Parish Center
4:00 p.m. St. Basil Chapel

MIDNIGHT MASS
12:00 a.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Church

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
10:00 a.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Church
10:00 a.m. St. Basil Chapel
12:00 p.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Church

DAILY MASS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER
We will continue the policy this year that if Bridgewater Schools are closed there will be no 9:00 a.m. weekday Mass. In order to provide safe environment around our facilities, our maintenance crew needs time to plow and shovel. For your own safety, we encourage you to stay off the roads until they are totally cleared. Any intended Masses for that day will be rescheduled. Mass cancellations will be posted on our Facebook page and at www.stthomasaquinas.com by 8:00 a.m. You may also watch any of the local news channels and look at the school cancellations. If the Bridgewater-Raynham School District is listed as cancelled (not delayed), there is no daily Mass.

Welcome
To visitors of our Parish, and to those who have recently moved into the area, and to those 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.

Today’s second reading from the letter of Saint James is four verses that are packed with meaning and encouragement. The words “patient” or “patience” appear four times. The world will tell us that time is running out, so BUY NOW! The Church is telling us that Jesus will come whether the shopping is done or not, so patience! This week try to build in five minutes of quiet time each day to remember a loved one in prayer. That’s a gift we can all use, and it is priceless!

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMARY 12/3 - 12/9</th>
<th>ST. THOMAS</th>
<th>ST. BASIL</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Collection</td>
<td>$ 3,041</td>
<td>$ 948</td>
<td>$ 3,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Giving (WeShare)</td>
<td>$ 2,549</td>
<td>$ 535</td>
<td>$ 3,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$ 5,590</td>
<td>$ 1,483</td>
<td>$ 7,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE 2ND COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THIS WEEK</th>
<th>NO SECOND COLLECTION</th>
<th>DEC. 14 &amp; 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Next Week</td>
<td>NO SECOND COLLECTION</td>
<td>DEC. 21 &amp; 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At all our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

December 15th ~ Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday

Today’s second reading from the letter of Saint James is four verses that are packed with meaning and encouragement. The words “patient” or “patience” appear four times. The world will tell us that time is running out, so BUY NOW! The Church is telling us that Jesus will come whether the shopping is done or not, so patience! This week try to build in five minutes of quiet time each day to remember a loved one in prayer. That’s a gift we can all use, and it is priceless!
YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUP SERVICE PROJECT
St. Thomas Aquinas continues to show their support for the homeless in our community. We are looking for volunteers to prepare 100 bagged lunches for Mainspring House in Brockton. Our service project is open to St. Thomas Youth Group and Confirmation students. All food and beverages will be provided for you to assemble the lunch bag. **We are asking for a small contribution of $5 for the cost of supplies. Visit the Youth Ministry page at www.stthomasaquinas.com to sign up.**

Date: Sunday, December 15, 2019
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Location: St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center

SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED!
There are several elderly parishioners that are in need of snow shoveling services throughout the winter.

If you are interested, please contact Aaron Durocher at adurocher@sta-parish.org or 508-531-1346. Please note that if you are under 18 years of age, you must be accompanied by a parent or an adult who has completed a 2019-2020 CORI.

HELPING MY BROTHER’S KEEPER
My Brother’s Keeper is a Christian ministry located in Easton and Dartmouth which reaches out to needy families and individuals throughout the year. They are offering the opportunity for individuals and families to wrap and/or deliver thousands of Christmas gifts within the next few weeks. If you are interested in helping them, call 774-305-4577 or visit their website www.MyBrothersKeeper.org to schedule a day and time that is good for you and your family.

HOLIDAY HANG OUT
AT ST. THOMAS PARISH CENTER
Come by the St. Thomas Parish Center for an afternoon of fun and games! Ping pong, foosball, basketball and lots of board games! And how about some holiday fun?! Gingerbread houses and cookie decorating....enjoy some hang out time with your friends before the holiday break. **Open to Grades 6 - 8 only.** Small snack and water will be available.

DATE: December 20, 2019
TIME: 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Parish Center/Youth Group Room
COST TO ATTEND: $5 - Please bring an item to help us replenish the food pantry.

Questions? Contact Sheila Whitaker at 508-245-5931.

INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE?
If so, visit www.stthomasaquinas.com and click on the Volunteer Opportunities button on the home page. This page will be updated often with different volunteer opportunities. **For certain opportunities, if you are under 18 years old, you must be accompanied by a parent or a CORI-checked VIRTUS trained chaperone.** This is a great way for students to earn required community service hours or for a family to volunteer together.

CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR PARISH VOLUNTEER / COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES!

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FOR SALE THIS WEEKEND!
December 14th-15th
Girl Scout troop 75117 will be selling all your favorite Girl Scout cookies after all Masses THIS WEEKEND, December 14th and 15th, at St. Thomas and St. Basil’s. They are earning money to buy ingredients for making sandwiches for the homeless, take a sewing class, and go rock wall climbing. Thank you for your support!
Another successful holiday party! There were 54 participants, 36 of which had special needs. Pictured is a small sampling of attendants. We even had several special needs adults this year!! Thank you to St. Thomas, Father Bill and the Knights for making this possible! - Bob and Karin Sullivan, Coordinators

The following is an email that Bob and Karin received: “I just wanted to say thank you so much for putting together such a beautiful event for kids with special needs. My daughter had such a good time. She got an Autism diagnosis earlier this year, so we have never been to an event like this.

I recently explained to her that she has autism and we watched some YouTube videos so she could understand. I told her nothing is wrong with her but her brain works just a little bit different and that’s why sometimes she has a harder time than other kids her age. I caught her a few times looking at other kids today that their special needs are more visible than her own in an empathetic way and it warmed my heart because I knew in that moment she realized that it’s ok to be different. She did not struggle as much as she typically does going to events because once she stopped and looked around the room she felt a sense of community in being just a little bit different. As a mom that usually sits out most events because most people don’t get our meltdowns, or understand sensory overload/ seeking this event truly meant a lot to me. I often feel alone in our journey through life with autism for once I felt like we fit in. Thank you for getting it. Thank you for giving us that sense of community today! I hope that you have a very Merry Christmas.”

If so, please call Tina in the parish office at 508-697-9528 to describe what you are missing. A telescope was found in the St. Thomas parking lot after the 4:00 p.m. Mass two weeks ago. We would like to reunite it with its owner!

Coffee and Donuts is held on a weekly basis following the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to host this weekly gathering in the lower church.

We are still in need of volunteers for future dates who are willing to pick up the donuts in the morning at Dunkin’ Donuts, make the coffee and set up the Lower Church prior to the 10:00 Mass, host and welcome those who attend, and clean up when the gathering is over. Visit www.stthomasaquinas.com and click on the Coffee and Donuts button. Thank you!

We received a delivery of beautiful 2020 calendars from Prophett - Chapman, Cole and Gleason Funeral Homes. They are available on a first-come, first-serve basis at the entrances of the church and chapel. We offer our sincere thanks to them for thinking of us and providing these calendars for our parish!
GIVING TREE MINISTRY

St. Basil’s Giving Tree - THANK YOU!!

I would like to thank all of the parishioners who took an ornament from the St. Basil’s Giving Tree to support families in need through My Brother’s Keeper. Michael St. John Rogers, age 6, and Matthew St. John Rogers, age 4, pictured below, were both a big help in organizing the gifts so that they will be delivered to the appropriate families. **We helped 50 children and 10 adults.** I am always amazed at the generosity of our parish.

- Barbara Black, Coordinator

GIFT SORT AND WRAP NIGHT

**TUESDAY, DEC. 17th, 6:30 p.m.**

We will begin at 6:30 in the parish center gym and stay until all the gifts are sorted and wrapped! The more volunteers the better! We can’t accomplish this without your help. Please visit the Volunteer Opportunities page on our web site or contact Aaron at 508-531-1346 or adurocher@sta-parish.org to volunteer for this! **If you are attending and can bring scissors and tape to use, that would be appreciated!**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIGHT OUR ADVENT WREATH?

Families, individuals, and ministry groups are invited to sign up to light the Advent Wreath at St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Basil’s Chapel. If you would like to participate, please call Tina in the parish office at 508-697-9528 or sign up after Mass on the clipboards at the entrances to the church and chapel.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

Every Christmas, the Altar Guild group decorates the altar with flowers in celebration of the holiday for all to enjoy. In the past, we have offered envelopes for those who are interested in making a donation towards these flowers in memory of a loved one. Once again, beginning this weekend, we have placed envelopes at the entrances of the church and the chapel for those of you that are interested in making a donation. Envelopes may be placed in the collection baskets.
WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Daily Mass is held Monday-Saturday at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise indicated.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14
4:00 p.m.  Joseph, Josephine and Joseph B. Leandres

SUNDAY, DEC. 15
7:45 a.m.  Jose Coelho
10:00 a.m. Manuel DaSilva
St. Basil Chapel  10:00 a.m.  John and Laurentina Vicente
12:00 p.m.  Ralph Scopa

TUESDAY, DEC. 17
9:00 a.m.  Bob Gill

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18
9:00 a.m.  Timothy Kelly

FRIDAY, DEC. 20
9:00 a.m.  Gilbert Luiz - 20th Anniversary

SATURDAY, DEC. 21
4:00 p.m.  Patricia, Richard and Raymond Downing

SUNDAY, DEC. 22
7:45 a.m.  Jose Almada Sr. and Maria Almada
10:00 a.m. Lucilia Nunes
St. Basil Chapel  10:00 a.m.  Lorraine Farrar
12:00 p.m.  Sally Greene

If you would like to bring up the Offertory Gifts of Bread and Wine, please speak to the ushers prior to Mass.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., lower church

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
1st Saturday of the month 10:00 a.m., lower church

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - lower church

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ROSARY TO END ABORTION
1st Friday of every month - 6:30 p.m. - lower church

PRAYER LIST

“A time to die…”
Robert Arrighi
Eleanor Gaskill
Edward Geppner
Kenneth Mattson
Catherine Ryan
August Silverio
Bridget Vallen

“A time to be born…”
Austin Jason Flannery
Kaylee Grace Krappe
Natalie Ayer Stewart

“A time to heal…”
Edward Albert
Carolyn Allen
Jean Andrade
Jeffery Bean
Jean-Marie Boustani
Danny Buckley
Ritesh Chandra
Kathy Connelly
Eric Costa
Michael Crowley
Paul Currie
Maria (Affuncao)
DeMoura
Sue Dickow
Baby Everleigh
Ellen Farrell
Peter Farrell
Lisa Folloni
Anita Fuller
Lee Fuller
Hunter Garis
Joseph Giombetti
Bruce Gordon
Dr. Francis Gendreau
Gerry Gesner
James Holt
Jonathan Huckvale
Deidre Keane
Thomas Keane
Carol Kelley
Jim Lema
Nicholas Lovell
Kaleena McHardy
Sean McHardy
Steve McLaren
Mary McClay
Ray Mouradian
Bob O’Hare
Chris Perry
Edward F. Petras
Baby Peyton
Elaine Phaneuf
Andrea Proffetty
Mildred Ramalho
Camden Rivers
Olivia Rivers
Sandy Rosa
Martha Rooney
Dan Sante
Mary Shea
Sarah Silvia
Betty Tarentino
Jennifer Tosches
Anabela Vieira
Anna Vrana
Jacqueline Wuerterfeld
Herbert Wolfer
Bob Zoino
Alexis Zutaut
Jason and Nicole Zutaut

“A time for peace…”
PFC Christopher Ahl, USA
1st LT. Jeffrey Boyle, USMC
2nd LT StephenCampo, USMC
CPT John Costantino, USA
CAPT Karen Chouinard Holliday, USMC
PFC Christopher O’Leary, USA
Staff SGT Kelly O’Leary, USA
SPC Peter O’Leary, USA
MGEN Eric M. Smith USMC

SACRAMENTS

If you are seeking more information about the Sacraments, or wish to schedule an appointment, please call the parish to speak with a priest at 508-697-9528.

BAPTISM

If you wish to have your child Baptized, or to receive the Sacrament yourself, please call the parish office to request an appointment with a priest or deacon. Baptisms are ordinarily celebrated each month on the 2nd & 4th Sunday at 1:30 p.m. or during Sunday Mass. Dates are subject to change.

Baptism Preparation Class is required.

NEXT BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS
Monday, January 6, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center - Adults Only.

MARRIAGE

If you wish to be married in our parish, please call the parish office to request an appointment with a priest at least eight months in advance. Marriage Preparation course is required.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you wish to receive the sacraments at home or in the hospital due to illness, handicap or age, please contact the parish office at 508-697-9528.
Healthier Priests.
Stronger Communities.
The strength of our communities depends on the well-being of our priests who tirelessly serve others.

Please support our priests at clergytrust.org
Clergy Health and Retirement Trust is an independently managed trust for the care of active and senior priests in good standing.

Tired of Going to the Dump?
Tired of Buying Special Bags?

Noonan Waste is committed to you.
We are locally owned and operated. We live and work in the local community and are committed to being your residential waste removal service.
Call us today for pickup options and our special offer.*

Noonan Waste 508.583.9500
415 West St. West Bridgewater, MA
www.noonanwaste.com

Giant 95 Gallon Rolling Barrels Provided!

We offer Single Stream Recycling

Save The Environment
No sorting required
Save Time
Save Energy
Save Space

Special Offer! for New Customers
Call TODAY!
Some restrictions apply

For Advertising call 617-779-3771
Pilot Bulletins
Saint Thomas Aquinas, Bridgewater, MA