SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH MARCH 15, 2015

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ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH 103 CENTER STREET, BRIDGEWATER, MA

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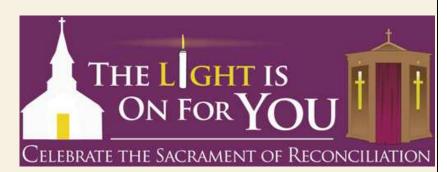
ST. BASIL CHAPEL, BSU 122 PARK AVE, BRIDGEWATER, MA WEBSITE: www.bridgew.edu/Depts/CathCntr

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SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH

Every Wednesday during Lent from 6:30-8:00pm.

SAINT BASIL CHAPEL

Wednesday, April 1st 6:30-8:00 p.m.

WELCOME

To visitors of our Parish, to those who have recently moved into the area and to those comfortable and nourished here–*Welcome to All.* Regardless of your status in the Church, your 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 at Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish.

MISSON

To be a community of believers who are continually growing in our faith and in our love of Jesus Christ through worship, education, evangelization, and service within our local and broader community.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

9:00 am St. Thomas Lower Church 4:00 pm St. Thomas Upper Church

SUNDAY

7:45 am St. Thomas Upper Church 10:00 am St. Thomas Upper Church 10:00 am St. Basil Chapel 12:00 pm St. Thomas Upper Church 5:00 pm St. Basil Chapel

WEEKDAYS

7:00 am	St. Thomas Lower Church
9:00 am	St. Thomas Lower Church

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 or by appointment.

St. Thomas Aquinas Lower Church

CELEBRATING TWO GREAT SAINT'S FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

St. Patrick (March 17)

Many will celebrate St. Patrick's Day this week whether it's attending the parade in South Boston, wearing green, eating corned beef and cabbage or possibly drinking a (green?) beer or two. If St. Patrick were around today I think he will smile and enjoy most of what's being done in his name although I think he would be somewhat embarrassed. St. Patrick grew up in a wealthy family in Britain during the fourth century. When he was sixteen years old he, as so many children today, was kidnapped, sent to Ireland and sold into slavery. He worked as a shepherd for six years and then escaped returning home to his family in Britain. He became a Catholic priest and wanted to be a missionary. Since St. Patrick knew the difficult Celtic language he returned to the very country where he had been enslaved. St. Patrick's strong faith in the Lord and his love for the Irish people led thousands of Irish to become Christians. St. Patrick is probably most famous for using a shamrock to explain the theological mystery of the Trinity. I think St. Patrick would hope that all the people wearing green this week and watching the parade would have the same faith in and love for the Lord that he brought to Ireland.

St. Joseph (March 19)

Not much is known about St. Joseph. He is mentioned only briefly in the Gospels. He is recognized by the Christian church as the husband or spouse of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. The Old Testament prophets stated when the messiah came he would come from the "line of David." The Gospels, citing a long genealogy, make it a point to demonstrate that Joseph comes from the line of David and as such Jesus fulfills that prophecy. St. Joseph is an example not only as a father who cares for Jesus and Mary but an example of faith for everyone to follow. After Mary conceived Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, St. Joseph's life and plans radically changed. Difficult as it must have been, Joseph accepted this change with faith and trust in God. Are we as accepting and trusting in God when our plans for the future don't work out or we don't fully understand what's happening?

One of the greatest ways we could honor these two saints would be to attend Mass on March 17th and March 19th. May the missionary zeal of St. Patrick and the faith of St. Joseph inspire us.

DONUTS

Last Sunday after the 10 a.m. Mass over 90 adults and children came to the first of our Church coffee and donuts in the parish center. I'd like to thank all those to prepared this great community building event. We will offer free coffee/donuts (donations accepted) the second and fourth Sundays of the month through June. We encourage everyone young and "older", new and long- time parishioner, single and families to join us each month. This great opportunity to meet those you see each week. Next coffee/donuts will be March 22nd after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Fr. Bill

Catholic Appeal

Thank you to all who participated in our first in-pew pledge for the Catholic Appeal last weekend. A total of 184 pledge envelopes were received on commitment weekend! Father received some very positive comments regarding the convenience of completing pledges during Mass while the message was fresh in everyone's mind. Additional pledge envelopes and pencils have been placed in the pews again this week, to accommodate anyone who may have been away last weekend or missed Mass due to the time change.

It is always important to know that our gifts are being used for worthy causes that we can feel good about supporting. The Catholic Appeal provides funding at the local level through ministry and administrative support. Our parish in particular by supporting BSU, Campus ministry, prison ministry, local outreach providing English as a second language and other guidance to immigrants, and the ASL interpreter at our Mass for the hearing impaired. These are but a few examples of the ministries reliant on the Central Ministries budget.

In addition, the Archdiocese provides expert advice to help us navigate the complexities of changes like Obamacare which has broad implications for religious organizations. With approximately 100 offices there to support us, our staff benefits from the guidance and resources of the Archdiocese on a regular basis.

Thank you again for all you do to support us in our mission as members of the Church of Boston.

Blessings, Gina

Financial Blessings

Thank you very much for your ongoing support. Hopefully the new format of combing your weekly contributions to St. Basil, St. Thomas and WeShare is providing a clearer picture of how our community gives so generously. We are deeply grateful for your stewardship which allows us to sustain current operations and grow in new ways.

March 8: Weekly Offertory \$8903 and Capital Improvement \$2983

There is no second collection today.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish . Bridgewater, MA

Going to Catholic High School in the Fall?

The 23rd Annual Monsignor Pitaro Scholarship Award of \$500.00 will be given to a graduating 8th grader who will be enrolling in a Catholic High School in September 2015.

Applicants must submit a letter of at least 300 words on "Why I should receive the Monsignor Pitaro Award." This letter must be typewritten. The letter should include accomplishments and involvements in your parish, school and family. This letter is due no later than April 17th. The recipient will be notified no later than June 9th.

Applicants should include their name, address, telephone number, and the name of the school they are presently attending.

Mail applications to: S.K. John Drane, Chairman Scholarship Committee 5 North Worcester Street Norton, MA 02766-2026

To celebrate **St. Basil Chapel's 50th Anniversary**, Betty Wilson is coordinating a 50-Square Quilt! For those of you who would like to participate by making a square to help commemorate St. Basils 50th Anniversary, there will be a **quilting workshop held at 7:15pm, Thursday, March 19th at the chapel**. During this time you will be provided with materials and guidance to assist you in making your square. Don't miss this great opportunity to be a part of a very special event in St. Basil's history.

Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner Saturday, March 21, 2015 Portuguese Holy Ghost Society (352 Broad Street, Bridgewater)

Doors will open at 6pm and dinner will be served at 7pm.

All food will be family style. The menu will include Portuguese soup, corned beef and cabbage with potatoes and carrots, chicken and rice. Chicken fingers will be available for children upon request. Pastries and coffee will follow dinner.

Cost: \$25 ages 14+ / \$12 ages 9 -13 / Free under 9

To purchase tickets or for more information, please call (508) 697-7393.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets at door.

Saint Thomas Aquinas Women's Group Afternoon of Prayer & Mass

The St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club invites and encourages all women of our parish to attend the Annual Afternoon of Prayer with Fr. Leo Polselli, csc, Chaplain

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2015 Time: 1 pm to 5 pm. Place: Fr. Peyton Center, So. Easton, MA

Cost: \$10 per person



Afternoon Schedule: 1:00 -1:40 pm: Rosary Prayer for Families 1:40 - 2:15 pm: Film-Family Dinner 2:15 - 2:45 pm: Film Discussion 2:45 - 3:00 pm: Break (book / gift store) 3:00 - 3:15 pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy in Song with Trish Short 3:15 - 4:00 pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, CD with music and Meditation by Irish tenor Mark Forest (Change My Heart). 4:00 - 4:15 pm: Quiet Time 4:15 - 5:00 pm: Mass

Car pooling will be available from the St. Thomas Aquinas Church Parking lot from 12:00-12:15 pm.

For tickets or more information please contact Carol Kelley at (508) 279-0140 or Rosemary Symes at (508) 279-1757.



St. Thomas Aquinas Spring Rummage Sale Saturday, April 18, 2015 9am - 4pm

The St. Thomas Aquinas Rummage Sale Committee is gratefully accepting the following items for our Spring sale. Your efforts to assure that donations are in working order, clean and in good salable condition is greatly appreciated and helps us tremendously in our efforts to prepare.

Clean Clothes . Bric-a-Brac . Domestics . Jewelry . Books . Houseware items . Small Furniture Items . Electronics

We are unable to accept TVs and Computers.

Donations can be dropped off at our parish center, Tuesday – Friday, 11am– 3pm

The proceeds from this sale benefit the work of The Catholic Women's Club. Thank you for remembering our parish with your donations.



St. Thomas Aquinas Parish . Bridgewater, MA

March 15, 2015

Monthly Prayer Requests for Priests (MPRP) is an international apostolate founded to encourage people to support Catholic priests by prayer and sacrifice. Free calendars for April/ May will be available at the church entrances which list a "priest of the day" from the Archdiocese of Boston. Unite your prayers with 3,000 others each day to pray for our priests.

EASTER COLLECTION

At Easter, we honor and celebrate our priests. The Clergy Health and Retirement Trust helps care for the health and well-being of our 628 priests, ensuring an appropriate level of care and quality of life for the men who have dedicated their lives in service to our Archdiocese of Boston.

Remember the priests who were there for you and your loved ones in times of need, and consider honoring them with a generous gift. At Easter and throughout the year, we ask you to keep Fr. Edward Serena, Fr. James McGowan, Fr. John Connolly, Fr. Leo Cormier, Fr. Michael Regan and Fr. Rocco Guarino in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you in advance for helping to ensure the continuing care for all our priests.

If you wish to give online please do so at www.clergyfunds.org

Companions of the Imprisoned Christ

"I was in prison and you visited me." Mt. 25:36

Christ's call to recognize him in the faces of people in all the difficult situations of life is one of the most challenging parts of the Gospel. Regardless of who somebody is, what their life has been like, or what they have done, we are called to love them with the love of Christ. An important part of that responsibility is to let them know that they are never forgotten or alone. For most people, family and friends keep them aware of the fact that they have worth. There are some, however, who do not have anybody to visit them.

To help some of these men, Peg Newman, chaplain at the Bridgewater State Hospital, has gotten permission to arrange for six volunteers to come in and visit six of the patients held at the State Hospital who have asked for visits because they do not get visitors. The men to be visited are in treatment, and so are not dangerous, but any visitors would need to have the maturity to handle conversation with the patients, whose behavior might be affected by their mental illness. They will also need to follow all the rules and procedures of a secure institution. This ministry would not be very time intensive and does not require any past experience. For details, you can contact me or talk to Peg when she comes to speak at the Masses on March 22.

Having worked as a volunteer with the men at BSH, I can tell you how rewarding it is to be able to see God and repentance working in their lives despite the illness they suffer and their past actions. I encourage you to consider taking up this opportunity to share God's love with these forgotten men who are really least in the eyes of the world. Please be aware that, due to the restrictions placed by the Department of Corrections, anyone who is a volunteer at any Massachusetts correctional complex is unable to also be a visitor.

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Mt. 25:40

In Chríst, Fr. Adrían

Stations of the Cross

This brief devotion using the wall pictures in the chapel centers on the Lord's final hours leading up to and including his death on the Cross. The Stations of the Cross will be prayed at St. Basil's Chapel every Friday at 6:30pm.

Lenten Simple Supper

Following the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent, St. Basil's Chapel will offer a Lenten simple supper, coordinated and provided by volunteers. If you would like to plan a supper, please contact Rita Garufi at 508-531-1346. If you would like to contribute to one of the planned meals below, please contact the coordinator. All are welcome whether you are bringing food or not.

Planned Menus

March 20: Pasta : coordinated by Kate Anderson (508) 353-9780: <u>cnjanderson@comcast.net</u> March 27: Seafood casserole & fish (enough for everyone): coordinated by Francine Littlejohn: (508) 345-1617: <u>france3761@hotmail.com</u>. Side dishes are requested for this supper.

Communal Penitential Prayer Service

To prepare our hearts for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, St. Basil Chapel will offer a Communal Penitential Prayer Service on Thursday, March 26th, 6:30PM. Individual confessions will follow at 7PM.

Faith Formation

We'd like to welcome our **First Grade families** to the 10:00 liturgy. The prayers that they've learned during the year should be practiced at home.

It has been wonderful to watch all who have been emptying their **mite boxes** in the collection jar in the parish center. "Found money is mission money.", so keep an eye out for the money on the ground, laundry change, Dunks change, sofa cushion change. \$1.00 will provide a meal for four children. For each sink in your house, put a dime in the mite box, remembering that the children in Uganda don't have running water.

Students in Grades 6-8 will be participating in **Stations of the Cross** led by Roberta Harvey in the lower church. As a reminder, Stations of the Cross are also offered every Friday night during Lent, 6:30 at St. Basil Chapel.

Last Sunday we held a very successful community service project in our parish center. 49 Confirmation students made approximately 150 lunches. The night began with our seminarian Tommy Sullivan who gave a talk on Catholic teaching and social justice. He reminded us that we are all called to live our faith not only by performing charitable works, but by working to fix those systems that are broken and cause homelessness. Pauline Lysko and Olivia McCall shared their experience about working for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. They explained that students, as a young adult Catholic, will need to step out of their comfort zone to work for justice. Olivia educated us all to the fact that there are many homeless families living in motels right in our backyard. The Confirmation students answered the call to help these families by providing lunches. Olivia will be delivering these lunches to the families living in these hotels.



We hope this experience taught our students to put their faith in action and gave them a starting point for a lifetime of charitable work. Thank you to Tommy, Pauline, Olivia, CCD teachers and the students for making this a rewarding experience for all!

Debbie & Karen

Change of Seasons Bereavement Program Tuesday, March 31st at 12:30pm Conant Center - 5 Wally Krueger Way - Bridgewater MA

This seminar sponsored by Prophett-Chapman Cole and Gleason Funeral Home will be facilitated by Steph Bronner and Deb Bellevue from the Well (Bridgewater). This seminar has been planned to assist individuals in understanding the emotional aspects of living with grief and to provide ideas to enhance healthy living and grieving. There is no cost for this seminar and all are welcome however, pre-registration is required as seating is limited. Please call (508) 697-4332 or e-mail bridgewater@ccgfuneralhome.com to reserve your seat.

St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is an international organization of Catholic lay people. The Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political views. Here at St. Thomas Aquinas we have approximately 25 members and volunteers who provide services and help to the needy in the Bridgewater community. We accomplish this mainly in two ways. First, we provide emergency assistance and referrals. The second way which is more visible, is the food bank that is run out of the parish center. Every Thursday morning from 8am to 10am we convert the center into a food pantry.



The food pantry items that fill our shelves come to us through food drives in our parish and community. We also go to the Greater Boston Food Bank to obtain groceries such as milk, eggs, produce, meats and non perishables.

We assisted over 100 families this past Thanksgiving by providing complete turkey dinners. At Christmas either a turkey or roast dinner was given. Easter is around the corner and we plan on providing another nutritious meal for our clients.

During Lent we pray, fast and give. If you would like to fulfill your Lenten resolution by donating to St. Vincent de Paul, envelopes are available at the entrances of the church and chapel. Checks can be made payable to St. Vincent de Paul and mailed to the rectory or placed in the collection basket at offertory. Monetary donations may also be left in the boxes at the entrances of St. Thomas Aquinas. Non perishables may be left in the food boxes located in the upper and lower churches. The boxes are just inside the entrance and to the left of the doors. Donations may also be dropped off at the parish center on Wednesday mornings, 8-9:30. The members of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank those of you who have generously supported us. Our ministry would not be possible without your continued support.

God bless you.

Tom Feríolí, Presídent

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish . Bridgewater, MA

"To everything there is a season . . .

A time to be born . . .

Parker Alexander Bourque John Michael Calef Emmett Matthew Kupiec Anthony Paul Porazzo, Jr.

A time to die . . .

Jeffrey Allen Andrew Anacki, Jr. Richard Bellew Thomas Benyue Sarah Brown Grace Coleman James Comita Anita DePaolis Eileen Doyle

A time to heal . . .

Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini Christine Amaral Jean Andrade Baby Valerie Belcher, Olivia Bonfiglio Jim & Jean Brennan **Caitlin Burnett** Kim (Sweetman) Byrnes Sandra Cable Christine Cabral **Bill Carey** Lucie Chabot Jacquie Cordaro Matthew Costantino Michael Costantino Sophia Costantino Baby Mychal Joseph Cotone Joanna Crabtree Sandra Croall Mark Denault Marty Dickerman John Feeney Mary Filippetti-Markey Joseph Kellly James LaFranchise Robert McClav **R**vlee Fontes Lee Fuller

Kali Mary Riley Liam James Scully Hailey Jeane Wheeler

Deryl Hadlock John Kiley John Meadows Elizabeth Palleschi Charles W. Pincolini Adeline Rawlins Carolyn Traynor Alexander Ward

Jesus Galindo Jim Geraghty Erin Geraghty Alanna Gillis John Gomes Donald Guidoboni **Beverly Guiffre** Kathleen Henderson Tim Johnson Fred Laham Gregg Laskoski Kevin Looney Marjorie Mello Alice Moniz **Bob Morris Bob Morse** Paul D'Olimpia Glenn O'Neil Ann Paulino Carolyn Perry **Richard Piantoni** Maria Presti Andrea Proffetty Betty Tarentino Sarah Silvia, James Toy, Jr., Don Weiner Jane Zimmer Mary (Sweetman) Zunino Alexis Zutaut

A time for peace . . .

General Joseph F. Dunford, USMC CW4 Thomas Ahl, USA Captain Vincent Chiappini, USA 2nd LT. Karen Chouinard Holliday, USMC Captain John Costantino & USA PFC, William Vey, USA

... And a time for every purpose under heaven"

Individuals are prayed for by name every Saturday morning during Mass.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish . Bridgewater, MA



March 15, 2015

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 14

4:00 Richard, Patricia & Raymond Downing

Sunday, March 15

7:45 Mass for the People 10:00 Lorraine Paul 10:00 St. Basil: Ruth & Elmer Cloutier 12:00 Jose Chaves & Family

Saturday, March 21

4:00 David William Driscoll

Sunday, March 22

7:45 Francisco Luis, Maria Lordes Botelho, Manuel Botelho & All Souls in Purgatory 10:00 Tracy Hathaway 10:00 St. Basil: Julie Mack 12:00 Nathan Childs

Weekly Devotions

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS LOWER CHURCH

ADORATION

Saturdays 9:30 am to 1:00 pm We encourage all parishioners to spend some quiet time with the Lord.

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

Thursdays 3:00 pm

Easter Flower Donations

Offering envelopes for Easter flowers have been placed at the entrances of the church and the chapel for anyone who would like to make a donation toward the Easter flowers in memory of a loved one and assist with the cost of the flowers.

All envelopes with the names of your loved ones will be placed near the tabernacle as a reminder for us to remember them in prayer.

Scripture for the week of March 15, 2015

- 15 SUN 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21
- 16 Mon Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
- 17 Tue Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
- 18 Wed Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-3020
- 19 Thu 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- 20 Fri Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- 21 Sat Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
- 22 SUN Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33



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