# SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH Divine Mercy Sunday

#### **PASTOR**

Rev. Bill Devine

#### PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Adrian Milik

#### SENIOR DEACON

Jerry Ryan

#### **BUSINESS MANAGER**

Gina Lewis

#### **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Regina Reale

Email: music.aquinas@yahoo.com

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

EMAIL: stthomasaquinas@comcast.net WEBSITE: www.stthomasaquinas.com

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Monday - Friday

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Fax: (508) 279-1859

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Office: (508) 697-3652 Coordinator Gr. 1-8: Karen Geraghty

Coordinator Gr. 9 &10: Debbie Hill

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nancy Nastari

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#### **CAMPUS MINISTER**

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#### **CAMPUS CHAPLAIN**

Rev. Adrian Milik

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ST. BASIL

Rita Garufi

EMAIL: rita.garufi@bridgew.edu

#### **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.







#### 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.

#### Easter Season

While many believe that Easter is over, the Catholic Church celebrates the joy and implications of the Lord's Resurrection for seven weeks! The prayers, songs, scripture reading and sanctuary decorations will help us continue to focus on Jesus' victory over sin and death, a victory he shares with all of us.

We can never do enough to show our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the beauty and sacredness of the Holy Week Services and Easter Masses at the church and chapel. Many parishioners commented on how inspiring and prayerful this year's services were for them and their families. I would like to thank the altar servers, Regina our Music Director and the combined music choirs, the lectors, cantors, ushers, and those who cleaned and decorated the church and chapel. In particular I'd to thank the staff for all the behind the scenes planning and coordination that enables many that make these services available and meaningful.

This year we began a new tradition with the Easter Egg Hunt held in the Parish Center after the 10 a.m. Mass. Over 70 children collected 1,600 eggs which contained candy, toys and religious items. I appreciate all the planning and effort that went into making this event so successful and I am looking forward to continuing the tradition for years to come.

Last but not least, I would like to thank those who contributed money to purchase the Easter flowers and decorations. Many of these donations were given in memory of loved ones whose names have been placed on the altar and will be prayed for during this Easter Season. I am touched by the generosity of our parishioners and all the love that these envelopes represent.

#### Catholic Appeal Success

You will note Gina's bulletin announcement that our parish has exceeded its goals for the Annual Catholic Appeal. The more we understand how funds from this Appeal support many diocesan ministries that truly help those most in need as well as supporting our own parish ministries the more we want to contribute. Thank you for recognizing the need and contributing so generously. I would also like to thank Ron Hill for all he did in helping us present the need and collect the pledges.

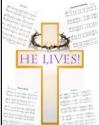
#### **Home Visits Continue**

I mentioned at the beginning of Lent that one of my Lenten resolutions was to visit at least two families each week. Many families kindly invited me to their homes and because of their generosity I was able to accomplish this goal. I thoroughly enjoyed spending some time, just thirty minutes to an hour, with individuals and families and I think they did too. These visits helped me to better appreciate and understandi those whom the Lord has called me to serve and lead.

These visits have been so successful and beneficial that I would like to continue to make visits throughout the Easter Season.

Fr. Bill

To all who assisted with the music ministry and helped to make our Triduum celebrations



truly inspiring, prayerful, and joyful, I offer my heartfelt thank you! A special note of appreciation goes out to the Adult Choir, the cantors of both parish worship sites, the Contemporary Ensemble, and of course our wonderful Children's Choir on

Easter Sunday! May the peace of our Risen Lord be with you and your families this Easter season! Regina

#### Parish Job Openings – Maintenance

Come join our team!

We are now accepting applications for three,10 to15 hour/week maintenance positions, and one 30-hour/week summer cemetery/landscape position.

M-F 8am-2pm. Seasonal help

M-F evening shift, Sept-May

M-T day shift

W-F day shift

Job Descriptions and Applications are available on our website at www.stthomasaquinas.com or at the Parish Office's at St. Thomas and St. Basil (see cover for hours)

#### **April 12, 2015**

**Today** is Divine Mercy Sunday, a day to celebrate God's infinite love and mercy for all of his children. As part of our parish commemoration of this beautiful feast we will be having a Divine Mercy Holy Hour in the **upper church at 3pm**. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and hear a reflection by Deacon Jerry Ryan, as well as having some time to adore the Lord in silence. Please consider joining us for this beautiful devotion.

In Christ, Fr. Adrian



# God Bless You! You Did It Again! The Catholic Appeal Update

For the second year in a row, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish has exceeded its Catholic Appeal Goal by Holy Week. Only 11 parishes in the diocese can claim such an accomplishment as of March 31, 2015! By April 7, our parish exceeded its participation goal as well.

As of April 7, our parish posted 111% of dollar goal with \$40,459 in pledges from 223 donors, which is 101% of our participation goal of 220. This qualifies the parish for the additional 5% rebate incentive given to parishes that attain this level of participation. As you may recall, over \$4,500 came back to the parish in the form of rebates from nearly \$42,000 pledged last year.

One of the most gratifying things about this current success is that the reports indicate that we are not tapping the same givers over and over again, but have succeeded in engaging new support. This is very evident in a list of 117 prior year givers who have not responded to the appeal this year. This group has historically given an average of \$11,500 per year (3-yr average) to this appeal.

Next week, please look for updates on the appeals that directly support our parish at the local level.

Thank you to all for supporting the diocesan mission with your new and recurring gifts. You are truly an inspiring assembly of faithful parishioners. I pray that the Lord may reward your generosity.

Blessings, Gina

#### Weekly Stewardship

Palm Sunday, 29 March \$6,968

Parish's Snow /Heat, 29 March \$4,839

> Good Friday, 3 April Holy Land Collection \$422

Easter Sunday, 5 April Clergy Benefit Trust \$12,709

#### Scripture for the week of April 12, 2015

12 SUN Acts 4:32-35/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

13 Mon Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8

14 Tue Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15

15 Wed Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21

16 Thu Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36

18 Sat Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21

17 Fri

19 SUN Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15

Today's second collection is for the parish's Capital Improvement Fund.

The **second collection on April 19** will be to support our parish outreach ministry and Saint Vincent de Paul. As we rejoice in the resurrection of Christ and his willingness to give up his life out of love for us, please consider sharing some of your blessings with the less fortunate.

#### 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

#### 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.

Thank you to all who joined us for the First Annual Easter Egg Hunt at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center! It was wonderful to see so many parish members and their families on Easter Sunday and to share part of the holiday with you! The children were adorable and grateful and seemed to truly enjoy themselves. Luckily there were more than enough eggs to go around. Organizing the event was a great team effort and we have many people to thank, starting with the many volunteers whose effort and diligent planning made the whole thing possible, as well as Father Bill, Father Adrian, Jack Phaneuf and his art students, and the parish staff who helped to ensure our kids had a great time! We "hop" to see you next year!

Happy Easter Season.

## Coffee And Donuts at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center Sunday, April 12th and 26th

We encourage all parishioners to join us today in the parish center following the 10:00am Mass for free coffee and donuts. This is a great opportunity to spend some time getting to know your fellow parishioners. We look forward to seeing you there.



#### Cooks needed: spaghetti dinner for BSU students

The next spaghetti dinner for the students at BSU will be held at the Catholic Center, Thursday, April 16th at 6pm. This will be the last spaghetti supper until the fall. We are in need of volunteers who would be willing to make meatballs and sauce for this dinner. The food would need to be delivered to the chapel by 5pm on the 16th. If you are interested please contact Rita Garufi at 508-531-1346 or sign-up in the coffee area at the chapel. Thank you for your continued help providing food for students at this enjoyable event.



#### Seventeenth Annual St. Thomas Aguinas Charity Golf Tournament

Believe it or not, golf season is almost upon us. The Seventeenth Annual St. Thomas Aquinas Charity Golf Tournament

will be held May 8, 2015. Over the years, the total amount raised from the annual golf tournament is approximately \$244,000. Through your tremendous generosity, last year a check was presented to Fr. Bill in the sum of \$20,000 which was used to repair some of the stained glass windows

The entry fee for this year's tournament is \$125.00 per person or \$500.00 per team. To sponsor a hole, the contribution is \$125.00.

There will be a buffet, raffles and an auction immediately following the golf. If you wish to only attend the buffet, the cost is \$30.00 per person. Donations for new raffle or auction items are appreciated.

For more details, you may contact Tom (508-889-2933), Steve (508-944-4272) or Mike (508-326-6355) Arrighi. In the past, the tournament has filled quickly, so we look forward to hearing from you soon.

#### Have you experienced the loss of a loved one?

#### **Hope Floats Bereavement Programs**

Hope Floats Healing and Wellness Center in Kingston provides a number of free bereavement programs specific to various types of loss such as the loss of a parent, a child, a spouse, or a loved one to suicide. The program has been recommended to us by a parishioner who found it very helpful dealing with her own pain and loss. If you, or somebody you know, is grieving a loved one, please consider attending a group that might make the process easier. More information, the dates when the various groups are meeting, and registration, are available on their website: <a href="https://www.hopefloatswellness.org">www.hopefloatswellness.org</a>

#### **Divine Mercy Sunday**

#### **Faith Formation**

We have begun lining up **catechists for next year**. Please prayerfully consider teaching. Classes meet on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Team teaching is encouraged. Ask a friend to teach with you and watch your faith grow together!

As part of our year end ice cream celebration our Grade 1-8 students made finger rosaries and crosses. They were given the option to keep the craft or donate it to those who are not able to attend Mass. It's our hope that this activity will remind our students and their families to continue to pray for and support all who are homebound or bound to nursing homes and hospitals.

**Congratulations to our First Communicants** on receiving the Body of the Lord this weekend and next. It is always a joy and privilege to be part of the process of formation from 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through reception of the Sacrament. We are grateful for the teachers who have played an active role in catechizing the children. We are also thankful for the families who have made Mass a priority and hope that they will continue to pray with us at Mass throughout the year.

We would like thank the many high school students and their parents who helped with the preparations and celebration of the Holy Week Services. Confirmation students, as part of their community service, created **birthday bags** for families in our local area experiencing homelessness. Twenty-four bags containing paper goods and microwavable cake mixes have been handed out, I am sure the recipients appreciate our student's generosity.

This Sunday, our Confirmation students will be participating in a **retreat** led by the Capuchin Franciscans of New York. The theme is "discipleship." What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? Please join us in praying that this retreat will give the students a better understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and continue to prayerfully support these young people as they progress toward Confirmation on May 31.

We'd like to remind catechists to return their teaching materials (books & manuals) to the office.

Debbie & Karen

#### Children's Choir

The children's choir rehearses weekly immediately following the Sunday 10:00 am Mass in the lower church.

The choir sings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at the 10:00 am Mass.

All children grades 1 - 6 are invited.

#### Women's Retreat

Seeking Joy! A retreat day for Women with Real Life Radio Host, Allison Gingras. How can we find JOY in the midst of sorrow, stress or busyness? Discover true JOY through Saints, Sacraments and Scripture.

**Date:** Saturday, May 30 **Time:** 9 am to 3 pm

Place: St. Basil Chapel, BSU,

122 Park Ave, Bridgewater, MA

Fee: \$25 (includes lunch)

#### For more information or to register . . .

**Visit:** seekingjoystbasil.eventbrite.com **Call:** Allison Gingras <u>508-243-1133</u>.

Mail: name, contact info, lunch choice (tuna, turkey,

ham) and fee to Reconciled To You, PO Box

784, Raynham Ctr, MA 02768.



# Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish Center 103 Center Street, Bridgewater MA 9am to 4pm

Thank you to all our volunteers and donors



#### **Prayer Requests**

Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini Jesus Galindo **Christine Amaral** Jim Geraghty Jean Andrade Alanna Gillis John Gomes Baby Valerie Belcher, Olivia Bonfiglio Donald Guidoboni Jim & Jean Brennan **Beverly Guiffre** Kathleen Henderson Caitlin Burnett Kim (Sweetman) Byrnes Tim Johnson Sandra Cable Fred Laham **Christine Cabral** Gregg Laskoski Kevin Loonev Bill Carev Lucie Chabot Marjorie Mello Jacquie Cordaro Baby Chase Miceli **Matthew Costantino** Alice Moniz Michael Costantino **Bob Morris** Sophia Costantino **Bob Morse** Baby Mychal Joseph Anna Nakouzi Cotone Paul D'Olimpia Glenn O'Neil Joanna Crabtree Sandra Croall Ann Paulino Mark Denault Carolyn Perry Marty Dickerman Richard Piantoni John Feeney Maria Presti Mary Filippetti-Andrea Proffetty Markey **Betty Tarentino** Joseph Kellly Sarah Silvia, James LaFranchise James Tov, Jr., Robert McClav Don Weiner

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
CPL, Brandon Jamieson, USA

Mary (Sweetman) Zunino

Alexis Zutaut

**Rylee Fontes** 

Lee Fuller

# 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

#### **Weekly Mass Intentions**

Saturday, April 11 4:00 Samuel & Carmela Corrente

Sunday, April 12
7:45: Jose Moura
10:00: Susie & Eugene Chiocca
10:00 St. Basil: Noreen DiNardo (living)
12:00: Olivia, John & Emily O'Donnell

Wednesday, April 15 7:00 Manuel & Angelina Coelho

> Saturday, April 18 4:00 Guido Rea

Sunday, April 19
7:45: Rev. Frank O'Keefe
10:00: Richard, Patricia & Raymond Downing
10:00 St. Basil: Patricia Wilder
12:00: Danny Nastari (living)
5:00 St. Basil: Mass for the People

#### Can we pray for you?

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list please contact Nancy at the parish office. Individuals are prayed for by name every Saturday morning during Mass.

#### **SACRAMENTS**

#### Confessions:

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

**Baptisms:** Ordinarily celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 1:30pm. Please call the Rectory to speak with a priest prior to making any arrangements. Parents are welcome to attend classes during the pregnancy if it is more convenient.

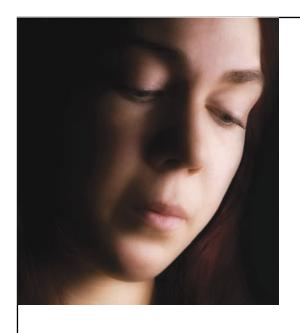
#### **Upcoming Baptism Preparation Classes:**

Parish Center: 7pm

♦ Tuesday, May 5, 2015

**Marriage:** Please call the Rectory at least eight months in advance. Attendance at the 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 Rectory.



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# Come to the Waters of Healing One Day Retreat for Hope & Healing After Abortion

♦ Saturday, April 25, 2015 9:00AM – 5:00 PM

This one-day retreat is designed to help women hurting from past abortions experience the personal love of Christ and find hope for healing in a loving and confidential environment.

Sponsored by the Project Rachel Ministry - Archdiocese of Boston
Pre-registration is required. Limited to 10 participants.

For more information, contact Project Rachel at (508) 651-3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com





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