

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

Happy Mother's Day



Sunday, May 3rd, some of the children who received their First Holy Communion in April gathered together to thank the Lord for giving himself to them by crowning his Blessed Mother.

MISSION

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 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 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 by appointment
St. Thomas Aquinas Lower Church

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.

Candlelight Rosary Procession
All are welcome to join us in honoring our Lady of Fatima with a service including inspiring music and a candlelight procession. **Wednesday, May 13 at St. Thomas Aquinas Upper Church 7:30pm.** Handicap accessible.

Celebrating the Dignity of the Human Body on Ascension Thursday

This **Thursday, May 14, is Ascension Thursday**, the day where we celebrate Christ’s return to heaven through which he sanctified our bodies by bringing his own human body into heaven. The importance of this day makes it a **holy day of obligation** for our Archdiocese. We will have the usual **7am and 9am Masses at St. Thomas Aquinas Church**, and will be adding a special **7pm Mass over at St. Basil Chapel** for those who are not able to make the morning Masses because of work or school.

What we are celebrating on this day is that Jesus has made it possible for us to become like God, by becoming one of us. In taking his human body into heaven, Jesus has opened the gates of heaven for all of us. This means that it is possible for each of us to experience eternal joy as a complete person, not just a disembodied soul, but as a human person, body and soul. This is an amazing gift and an important reminder for us now since we are living in a world where many people seem to have forgotten the sacredness of the body. A lot of people treat the body like a shell for the soul and spirit, something to be changed and controlled and ultimately discarded while what is “really us” is the mind or spirit. That is very different than our Catholic conception of humanity. We are called to see ourselves as a complete whole. The body without the soul is dead, the soul without the body is incomplete. That is why we await the resurrection and why the Ascension is so important.

So as we come to this important solemnity on Thursday, please join us at one of the Masses and thank God for the gift of yourself. For the body that the Lord gave us so that we can experience the goodness of the material world, and for the great dignity that Jesus won for us by taking a human body, just like our own, and bringing it into the eternal happiness of heaven, where we hope to join him someday.

*In Christ,
Fr. Adrian*



In Appreciation of Mothers

It is nice that Mother’s Day happens to fall on the weekend after the first really nice week of the year. As all the flowers bloom, it is hopefully a reminder to everyone to get something for their mothers on this special day. I also think it is a good reminder of why we are celebrating mother’s day. Looking back on my own life, I can see how much my own mother shaped me. Her love, her faith, her firm belief in education, her willingness to sacrifice for my brothers and I, and the way she taught by word and example about the things that are important to her, all these things have had a huge influence on the man I am. She’d be the first to admit that she isn’t perfect, but she has taught me even in that, taught me to face my weaknesses and learn from my mistakes.

I think we have all been influenced by our mothers: their strengths and weaknesses making us who we are. So as we think of our mothers today, and see all of nature blooming at once, let us remember that all that our mothers did has contributed to the way that we have grown and bloomed. Remembering that, let us make sure that we express our gratitude and love to our mothers, and to God for the gift of our mothers as well as for the gift of life itself. May the Lord’s blessing pour out upon all the mothers here in the parish and upon all our mothers wherever they happen to be.

*In Christ,
Fr. Adrian*



I wish all a blessed Mother's Day, as we honor all those generous spirits who have nurtured us. Please join me in lifting in prayer all mothers with us and all who have gone before us. Blessings, Gina

Cemetery Update

Our newer cemetery is looking pretty good in spite of staffing issues, thanks to the efforts of volunteers and the seasoned experience of Bob Emord, our Maintenance Foreman. Thanks, Bob and helpers! We are aware that our older cemetery still needs some loving care, and anticipate completing a spring cleanup before Memorial Day.

The water has been turned on for all who are eager to do some spring planting! Please keep in mind that plantings should be confined to the front of your monument, and coping, mulch and stone is against policy for safety reasons. Thanks to all for the continued reports of conditions that need our attention.

Some follow up work was also completed in the double depth section over the past week to address typical settling issues, and we look forward to meeting the needs of our parishioners for years to come with this expansion. A Spring Sale will be announced soon!

If you know of anyone looking for summer work, the 30-hour per week position for cemetery help is still open. Applications for employment and job description may be found on our website.

Women's Club Annual Banquet

The annual banquet of the St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club will be held on **Thursday, May 21st at 6:30pm** at the **Boston Tavern Restaurant** (the former Riverside Restaurant) on **Rt. 28** in **Middleboro**. The menu will be the original "Chicken, Steak & Chocolate Cake". The cost is \$25.00 and includes red or white wine on each table.

For tickets, please call Nancy Querzoli at (508) 697-6626 or Rosemary Symes at (508) 279-1757.

TROOP SUPPORT DRIVE FOR MEMORIAL DAY

May 16 - 24, the parish will take a collection for the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Brockton. Below is a list of requested items. All items (without exception) are required to be new/unused and in the original packing. We will be supporting two buildings: Building 8 which is the home of Spinal Cord Injury veterans; and Building 4 which houses Hospice, Rehab, and Long-Term resident veterans. Thank you for your donations which are so greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 508-697-7842 or email me at sallynator67@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Sally

PERSONAL NEEDS

- Diabetic & Regular Hard Candies
- Hair Brushes & Combs
- Battery Operated Clock Radios
- Underwear (boxer, brief & women's)
- Socks (tube, crew & women's)
- Large Print Crosswords
- Large Word Search Activity Work-books
- Denture Cleaner & Adhesive
- Q-Tips
- Cuticle Sticks
- Fingernail Files & Clippers

SPECIAL NEEDS

- Cup Holders/Back Packs for Wheel chairs
- Cribbage/Scrabble/ Chess/Checkers
- DVD Players
- Canteen Books
- Reading Glasses
- Large Print Playing Cards
- Disposable Razors
- T-Shirts (Med - 3XL)
- Hearing Aid Batteries
- Cosmetic Bags
- Female Hygiene Products
- Unbreakable Hand Mirrors
- AA & AAA Batteries
- Postage Stamps
- Men's & Women's Sneakers (all sizes)
- Sport Shirts

GIFT CERTIFICATES

- CVS
- Stop & Shop
- Shaws
- Mary Lou Coffee Shop
- D'Angelos



The St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Club is planning their slate of officers for the 2015-2016 season. There are presently two positions open on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining the Board, please call Lisa Folloni at (508) 697-5565.

Luke 6:38

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Financial Blessings**May 3, 2015****In pew: \$6,619****Online: \$1,055****Total: \$7,674****Capital Improvement: \$2,683**

**Today's Second Collection
Nepal Collection**

The tragic earthquake in Nepal has killed thousands of people and caused an immense amount of destruction. As the people of the region start to try to rebuild their lives, they need the help and support of the world, and as Catholics we cannot ignore such suffering happening in our world.

This weekend our parish will be participating in the archdiocesan special collection for the victims of the earthquake. There are no envelopes for this collection, but we invite you to be generous in reaching out to those who need help so very badly. **If you would like to contribute by check, please make it out to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, and put “Nepal earthquake” in the “for” line of the check.** The parish will send a single check for all donations to the archdiocese to pass on to Catholic Charities, as they respond to the needs on the ground.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity toward those in need.

Second Collection**May 17, 2015****Catholic Communications Campaign**

Next week's second collection supports the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). CCC develops media programming, projects and resources that promote Gospel values. Fifty percent (50%) supports the development and production of a wide range of national media programming. The other 50% will remain with our parish to support local communication efforts, such as website technology and bulletins.

Please visit: WWW.USCCB.org/ccc**Welcome Tony!**

We are pleased to announce Anthony Esposito as the newest member of our parish staff. Tony has a long been a valued volunteer, serving both St. Basil Chapel and St. Thomas Aquinas Church and is now a valuable addition to our maintenance team.

We look forward to benefiting from the tremendous dedication he has shown to our parish in this new way, and know that you will all join us in wishing him well and offering a warm welcome.

*Blessings, Gina***Have you experienced an Emmaus weekend yet?**

Emmaus is a retreat program for men and women (ages 20+) seeking to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, regardless of their present level of faith and practice. We welcome you to share in an **Emmaus weekend at Cathedral Camp in E. Freetown, MA June 12-14th**. It is a wonderful opportunity to get away for a few days, unplug, hear some wonderful witnesses, meet other Christians, and grow in your spiritual life.

“My walk to Emmaus was one of the best spiritually renewal experiences which altered my life forever. It deepened my discipleship, and rekindled my gift as a Christian leader in my church and other communities. It is a life changing weekend that provides new friendships and a greater love for God.” (Joe Tremblay)

For more information or an application, please visit: www.EmmausRetreats.com or call: Karen McAuley (508) 269-0946.

Women's Retreat at St. Basil Chapel

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.

Saturday, May 30th**9am - 3pm****122 Park Ave, Bridgewater****\$25 (includes lunch)****For more information or to register:****Visit:** seekingjoystbasil.eventbrite.com**Call:** Allison Gingras (508) 243-1133.**Mail:** name, contact info, fee & lunch choice (tuna, turkey, ham) to:

Reconciled To You,

PO Box 784,

Raynham Ctr, MA 02768.

Faith Formation

May is the month to honor our Blessed Mother. Last weekend 18 of our First Communicants participated in the procession to and crowning of the statue of Mary. We thank all First Communicants, their parents and parishioners who participated in this beautiful tradition honoring our Blessed Mother.

Last Sunday our Confirmation candidates were given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for the Sacrament they will receive on May 31st. We were fortunate to have five other priests join Fr. Adrian and Fr. Bill to hear confessions.

Reminder: There is no Confirmation II class this weekend (Mother's Day). The next class is May 17th. **Candidates are asked to turn in their Mass cards at this class.**

Thank you to everyone who took a Confirmation candidate's name to pray for. **Please remember to return your letters (palanca) by May 17th.** They can be dropped in the mail slot at the rectory any day or time.

Each year we try to improve our religious education program and this year we are concentrating on Confirmation I & II (Grades 9,10). On Monday, May 11th Fr. Adrian, and our religious education coordinators...Karen & Debbie will be attending a Confirmation workshop at the Pastoral Center to review two programs that have been very successful in parishes in the Archdiocese. We welcome anyone who has been involved in the Confirmation program (currently or in the past) to be part of a review team to critique these curriculums. Please contact us (508-697-3652, dhill@stthomasaquinas.com) if you are interested.



Debbie & Karen

Adult Choir

Young adults and adults who worship at St. Thomas and St. Basil are invited to sing with our choir for the celebration of **Confirmation on Sunday, May 31**. Rehearsals are **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm** in the choir loft at St. Thomas. For more information please contact Regina at music.aquinas@yahoo.com.



SAVE THE DATE!
Vacation Bible School
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center
July 20 - 24, 2015

50 Squares for 50 Years

Fifteen of the Fifty Squares for the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Quilt for St. Basil and The Catholic Center have arrived! If you are one of the 35 "missing" squares, we welcome your artful contribution as soon as possible. The April 30th **deadline** is extended to **May 18th, Monday**. If a quilting bee, a quilting workshop, some expert quilting advice, art materials, patterns, stencils, felt, or other fabric could help you out, just let us know and we will provide what you seek. **Drop your square off at the side foyer of The Catholic Center, 9am - 2pm any day EXCEPT Saturday.** Many thanks!

*Marlene DeLeon,
 Campus Minister*

Scripture for the week of May 10, 2015

- 10 SUN Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17
- 11 Mon Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26-16:4a
- 12 Tue Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11
- 13 Wed Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15
- 14 Thu Acts 1:1-11/ Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
- 15 Fri Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23
- 16 Sat Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28
- 17 SUN Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19



PRAY FOR HEALING

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini | Jim Geraghty |
| Christine Amaral | Alanna Gillis |
| Jean Andrade | Donald Guidoboni |
| Baby Valerie Belcher, | Beverly Guiffre |
| Olivia Bonfiglio | Tim Johnson |
| Jim & Jean Brennan | Fred Laham |
| Caitlin Burnett | Gregg Laskoski |
| Kim (Sweetman) Byrnes | Kevin Looney |
| Sandra Cable | Marjorie Mello |
| Christine Cabral | Baby Chase Miceli |
| Bill Carey | Alice Moniz |
| Jacquie Cordaro | Bob Morris |
| Matthew Costantino | Bob Morse |
| Michael Costantino | Anna Nakouzi |
| Baby Mychal Joseph | Antonio & Lucilia Nunes |
| Cotone | Paul D'Olimpia |
| Joanna Crabtree | Glenn O'Neil |
| Sandra Croall | Ann Paulino |
| Mark Denault | Carolyn Perry |
| Marty Dickerman | Richard Piantoni |
| John Feeney | Maria Presti |
| Mary Filippetti- | Andrea Proffetty |
| Markey | Betty Tarentino |
| Joseph Kelly | Paul Segreve |
| James LaFranchise | Sarah Silvia, |
| Robert McClay | James Toy, Jr., |
| Rylee Fontes | Don Weiner |
| Lee Fuller | Mary (Sweetman) Zunino |
| Jesus Galindo | Alexis Zutaut |

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PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Adrian Milik

SENIOR DEACON

Jerry Ryan

BUSINESS MANAGER

Gina Lewis

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Regina Reale

Email: music.aquinas@yahoo.com

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

EMAIL: stthomasaquinas@comcast.net

WEBSITE: www.stthomasaquinas.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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Office: (508) 697-3652

Coordinator Gr. 1-8: Karen Geraghty

Coordinator Gr. 9 &10: Debbie Hill

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nancy Nastari

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10am to 2pm

Office: (508) 531-1346

Fax: (508) 531-6188

CAMPUS MINISTER

Marlene DeLeon

Office: (508) 531-1412

Email: marlene.deleon@bridgew.edu

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN

Rev. Adrian Milik

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ST. BASIL

Rita Garufi

EMAIL: rita.garufi@bridgew.edu

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 9

4:00 The Harrigan Family

Sunday, May 10

10:00 Dante & Chiarina Folloni

10:00 *St. Basil:* Arthur Lessard

12:00 Antionette LeClair & Adeline "Dedee" T. Rawlings

5:00 *St. Basil:* Mass for the People

Monday, May 11

7:00 Richard, Patricia & Raymond Downing

Wednesday, May 13

7:00 John & Angelina Braga and Joao Coelho

Saturday, May 16

4:00 Palmira Lopes

Sunday, May 17

10:00: Robert E. LeBlanc

10:00 *St. Basil:* Jose Curvelo, Sr.

12:00: Frances Morast



Priest, Deacons & Youth Ministers Familiarization Trip

If you enjoy traveling and want to see how you can immerse your church community in helping children in need while transforming their own lives through service, visit a Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters") home with us. Your life may never be the same!

Visit the *Pequeños* at NPH Guatemala August 24th-28th, 2015

Come experience first-hand how NPH transforms the lives of the children it supports. We invite you to visit Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters") Guatemala with us. You will meet the amazing children, staff and volunteers of NPH and learn the ins and outs of their daily lives. If you are new to NPH, visiting a home is the best way to see what we do in action. If you are a longtime supporter or sponsor, come catch up with old friends and see how your godchildren are growing and flourishing. Join us – your life may never be the same!

About NPH Guatemala

Opened in 1996, NPH Guatemala is home to 335 children. It is located in San Andres, 16 miles from Antigua and an hour northwest of Guatemala City, the capital. It has approximately 25 acres of land, kinder through junior high school, a computer lab, vocational workshops, a clinic, gardens and a solar water heating system.

Trip Highlights

- Discover first-hand the effects that love, caring, and acceptance have on children who once struggled to survive
- Experience life as the children of NPH do each day with chores, school, sports, and sharing meals
- Develop meaningful relationships where language and culture have no boundaries
- Meet the leadership, staff and volunteers of NPH Guatemala
- See how your church can make a difference by introducing them to NPH whether it be with a future service trip, sponsorship drive, hosting a pequeño tour, or an NPH speaker!



Cost: \$250.00*

Includes:

- Accommodations at NPH Guatemala
- Local transportation
- Meals while at NPH
- NPH USA interpreter and guide
- Travel insurance and background check
- Airfare to and from Guatemala City

Not included:

- Outside meals
- Airport fees

Reservation Schedule

- Reserve a spot with a \$250 non-refundable deposit due June 10, 2015

*We would love to cover the cost of your airfare (approximately \$700.00 value) for the opportunity to be welcomed into your church this year!

*One representative per church.

Register online at www.nphusa.org/maneguatemala2015

For more information, please contact **Monica Henry: mhenry@nphusa.org or 617.206.4943**



NPH USA Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Region | 265 Willard Street | 3rd Floor | Quincy, MA 02169-1565
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"Jesus Wept."
John 11:35

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1 John 4:8

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