

The Chapel of Our Savior Brockton, Ma.

For almost fifty years, the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement have ministered to the faithful in an unlikely place: the shopping mall. Tucked behind Brockton's Westgate Mall is the Chapel of Our Savior where passersby can stop and pray in the chapel, attend Mass, go to confession, or browse through the gift shop and chat with one of the brothers working there like Bro. Savio McNeice, a friar born and raised in Pittsfield, MA, who has been bringing comfort and joy to customers for seven years and Bro. Thomas Banacki, S.A. who manages the gift shop and keeps it stocked with beautiful gifts and religious objects.. From bibles to rosaries, crosses to statues of saints, the Franciscans ministering in Brockton welcome all, Monday to Saturday.

In the chapel, decorated with stained glass windows from Florence, Italy, featuring Franciscan symbols, Fr. Jerry DiGiralamo, S.A., Fr. Daniel O'Shea, S.A., Fr. Henry Mair, SA, Fr. Malcolm Martin, SA, celebrate Mass and hear confessions twice a day, and offer spiritual counseling to visitors seeking guidance. "Mostly, we are a sacramental ministry. The chapel is friendly and familiar to people. We have many regulars and people who just drop in" said Fr. Henry. "Our beautiful chapel bells summon people and remind them that there is a special peace which only God can give. The Chapel is an oasis in the midst of a busy and hectic place, beckoning people to come to rest awhile. We are also developing a meditation garden behind the Chapel for those who just want to sit, relax and pray in the outdoors", said Fr. Jerry, the Chapel's director.

During the season of Advent we will be having a prayer experience, beginning on December 3 running for three Thursdays. We will of course be having our special Christmas Eve masses in our beautiful chapel. Besides our daily masses and confessions, we hope to offer the people who come here a place where they can experience the peace of Christ and the love of His Church. All are most welcome here.