

St. Thomas Aquinas

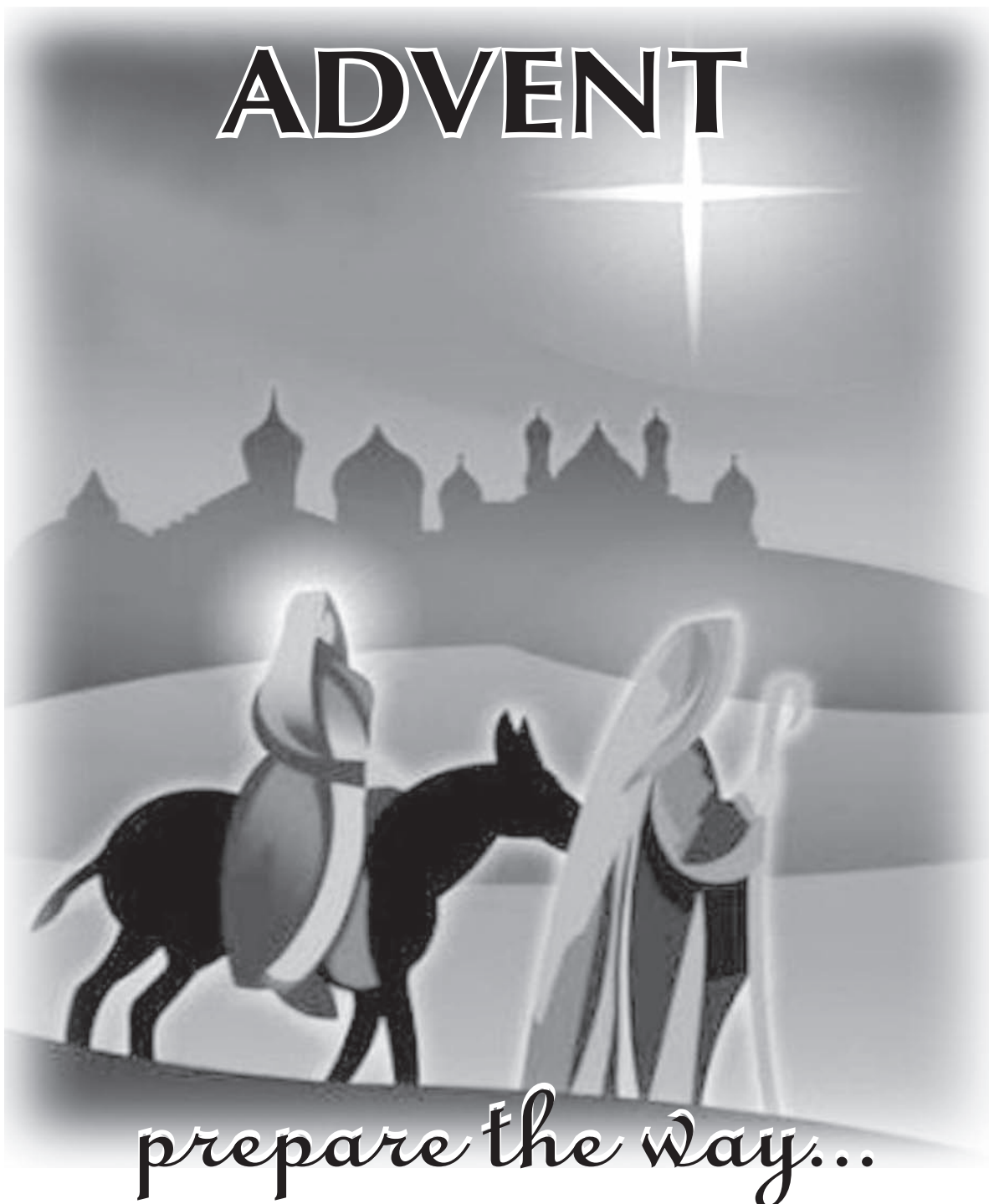
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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PASTOR Fr. Patrick Ezimora C.C.E.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR Fr. Peter Paul C.C.E.

ADVENT



prepare the way...

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
You might know the meaning of the name "Emmanuel", but did you know the meaning of "Joseph"? Do you remember any other biblical patriarch who goes by that name? This 4th Sunday of Advent puts St. Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on the *spotlight*. His enigma consists properly in the fact that it is not him, but God, who operates. He was always asked to cooperate, and he never said *no* to the messengers of the Lord (cf. Matthew 1.18-24). As we prepare for the renewed fulfillment of the promised Savior, may we, like St. Joseph, increase in our obedience of faith. During this week which precedes Christmas Sunday, say 'yes' to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May St. Joseph intercede for us.

Have a grace-filled Christmas Novena week!

Parish Office Christmas Schedule 2022-2023

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, Dec 26th, Tuesday, Dec 27th, 2022 and Monday, Jan 2nd, 2023

Our Parish Office E-mail Has Changed!

Please use stthomasaquinasto@archtoronto.org for any inquiries or to reach out to the Parish Office.

Adult Confirmations

Adults who have been Baptized, received First Reconciliation and Communion, and have yet to do their Confirmation are invited to take part in an adult-only Confirmation course. It will be 4 classes, once a month during the months of January, February, March, & April, 2023. Attendees will celebrate their Confirmation in April with the rest of the Confirmation candidates.

Flower Donation for Christmas and New Year

We need some beautiful poinsettias flowers with which to adorn our parish sanctuary and Nativity scene during this holy season.

Thank you for your generous assistance!

Our **2022/2023 Sunday Missals** are available behind the Church following each Mass. **The simple cover English Missal costs \$5.00**, while the **hard cover illustrated Spanish Missal costs \$10.00**.

2023 Donation Envelopes

Please start collecting your 2023 donation envelopes. They can be picked up from the Sacristy, behind the altar. Boxes **will not** have your name; rather, on the first three envelopes you use, **print your full name, mailing address and phone number clearly** and you will be assigned the number on the box.

Please only use them starting January 1st, 2023

Blessed Sacrament's Candle and Flowers

By the kind generosity of an anonymous donor. Thank you and God bless you.
Grazie. Gracias. Salamat po. Asante.



MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Dec 17th to Dec 24th 2022

SATURDAY, Dec 17th

- 9:00am** Birthday Blessings upon Rev. Priest Patrick Ezimora C.C.E., all Priests living & deceased
All Souls of Purgatory
- 5:00pm** (Available for Mass Intention)

SUNDAY, Dec 18th

- 9:00am** Domenico D'Urzo + Onofrio Suppa +
- 10:30am** Antonio Pitaro + Diodorina Constantini + Pietro Gisini & famiglia + Dino Bernardi + Pasqualotto Carlo +
- 12:00pm** Antonio Bairos + John & Maria Bairos + Joe & Maria Leandres +
- 2:00pm** (Available for Mass Intention)
- 6:00pm** (Available for Mass Intention)

MONDAY, Dec 19th

- 9:00am** Miguel Gutierrez + Peter Anderson + Vincent Tuong + Rodolfo Lourdes +

TUESDAY, Dec 20th

- 9:00am** Salvatore, Adelina, Carmine D'Ambrosio
Gianni Ronanyszn + Mario Guagiardi + Vincent Nguyen + Maria Dinh +

WEDNESDAY, Dec 21st

- 9:00am** Vincent Nguyen + Maria Dinh +

THURSDAY, Dec 22nd

- 9:00am** Vincent Nguyen + Maria Dinh +

FRIDAY, Dec 23rd

- 9:00am** Victor Ramiro Medalle + Vincent Nguyen + Maria Dinh +

SATURDAY, Dec 24th

- 9:00am** (Available for Mass Intention)
- 5:00pm** Matichione Arminia Vincenzo & Erminia Sontina

We are accepting Mass Intentions through the office during the week

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

Christmas/New Year Schedule 2022-2023



Mass Times

Saturday Dec 24th

9:00am- English

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00pm- English
8:30pm- Trilingual

Sunday Dec 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am- English
10:30am- Italian
12:00pm- English
2:00pm- Spanish
6:00pm- English

Saturday Dec 31st

9:00am- English

NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00pm- English
8:30pm- Trilingual
10:00pm- Adoration
till Midnight

Sunday Jan 1st

2023

NEW YEAR DAY

9:00am- English
10:30am- Italian
12:00pm- English
2:00pm- Spanish
6:00pm- English

2022 Parish End-of-Year Events

Feast of The Immaculate Conception

Thursday, Dec 8 @ 7pm

Parish Xmas Concert

Saturday, Dec 10 @ 6:30pm in the Church

Children's Xmas Party

Sunday, Dec 11 @ 3:30pm in the hall

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Monday, Dec 12 @ 7pm

Parish Advent Confession

Tuesday, Dec 13, 6 to 8pm in the Church

CHRISTMAS 4 OUR NEEDY FRIENDS

Saturday, Dec 17, 10am to 12noon
at the parish parking lot

Soup Kitchen for All Parishioners of STA

Sunday, Dec 18, after each Mass
in the hall

Parish Xmas Party with Karaoke

Friday, Dec 23 @ 8pm in the hall

Adoration, Te Deum & Hot Drinks

Saturday, Dec 31 from 10pm to 2023

Simbang Gabi / Christmas Novena Mass & Sharing

Sunday, Dec 04, is the last day for submitting your
Simbang Gabi / Christmas Novena Sponsor forms

Thursday, Dec. 15 @ 7pm, sponsored by
Social Committee & Italian Community

Friday, Dec. 16 @ 7pm sponsored by Altar
Servers

Saturday, Dec. 17 @ 5pm sponsored by
5pm & 9am choir, & Legion of Mary

Sunday, Dec. 18 @ 6pm sponsored by 6pm
Choir, Choir Ushers, Handmaids, etc.

Monday, Dec. 19 @ 7pm sponsored by
Calbayog Association

Tuesday, Dec. 20 @ 7pm sponsored by
Some of the Spanish Community & CWL

Wednesday, Dec. 21 @ 7pm sponsored by
12pm Choir & MFC

Thursday, Dec. 22 @ 7pm sponsored by
some of the Zestful Line Dance Members,
some Lectors, etc.

Friday, Dec. 23rd @ 7pm sponsored by
Circle of Prayer & 12noon Ushers



ALL ABOUT FAITH



St. John of Kanty, Priest (Dec 23)

John of Kanty (or John Cantius) was impressively unimpressed with all that the world had to offer. Saint John's prodigious intellectual gifts could have garnished his life with a fair share of the world's riches, if he had desired them. But the only glory Saint John sought was knowledge of God, the hard floor he slept on every night, and the hunger that seasoned what little food he ate. Saint John was a gifted student at Poland's University of Krakow, who after priestly ordination became a professor of philosophy, theology, and Scripture there. Apart from a few year's interlude serving in a parish, he spent all of his adult life as a professor. John gave to the poor until he deprived himself of life's necessities. When he walked on pilgrimage to Rome, he carried his meager sack on his own back. His cassock was threadbare, he did not eat meat, and his personal sweetness and patience made his impressive theological knowledge even more impactful. He dismissed the concerns of friends that his punishing austerities would damage his health by invoking the example of Egypt's long-lived desert fathers, whose gaunt frames were draped in skin as cracked and dry as the desert itself. John's virtuous life proves the mutually reinforcing character of poverty and celibacy. Once a priest abandons his vow of poverty or simplicity and begins leading a bourgeoisie life of comfort, he risks abandoning his vow of celibacy too. He starts to imperceptibly drift downriver from where he first entered the stream of his vocation, until it's too late, and he is swept over the falls into the sea of mere bachelorhood. After his death, John's holiness and academic excellence were so highly esteemed that his doctoral gown was long placed on the shoulders of the University of Krakow's doctoral graduates to ceremoniously vest them.

-My Catholic Life

Pope Francis: "Women Move Mountains!"



Marking International Mountain Day, Pope Francis invited all men and women of goodwill to protect and care for mountains and commented on the theme for this year's observance: "Women move mountains".

[Read More](#)



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did?

If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

E-mail: vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca



The Joy of Heaven

"I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance".

-Luke 15:7

3 Minute Retreat

[English](#)

[Español](#)

LIVING YOUR FAITH

The Angel Gabriel Appears to Mary



The angel appears to Mary. Bible Story for kids

[Children's Video](#)

What Makes Joseph the Ideal Man



Bobby Angel dives deep into what you did and didn't know about St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father to the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Today, Bobby highlights three areas of virtue in his life: justice, obedience, and vocation.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Where You Stumble, Dig for Treasure Bishop Baron's Sermon



The spiritual lesson is this: where you stumble, dig for treasure. We all have some leprosy—some ailment or struggle or weakness that embarrasses us or makes us suffer. Precisely because it leads us on the path of humility, this leprosy, this debility, leads us to God.

[Watch Video](#)

7 Scriptures on Forgiveness



God's word is living and active. As we sit with Scripture, the Holy Spirit speaks, convicts, and comforts with words of wisdom and calls us to action.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Prayer is an act of love; words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love

St. Teresa of Avila

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