

St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



March 5th, 2023 | Second Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00pm English

Sunday 9:00am English
10:30am Italiano
12:00pm English
2:00pm Español
6:00pm English

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday to Saturday 9:00am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 4:00pm or by Appointment

BAPTISMS - BAUTIZOS

Three months in advance, please call the office.

Llamar a la oficina con **tres meses** de anticipación.

WEDDINGS - BODAS

Please contact the office **one year** in advance. Llamar a la oficina con **un año** de anticipación.

CATECHISM & RCIA

For the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion & Confirmation), please contact the office and press **ext. 0**

SICK CALLS

Please call the office for visits or Communion visitations to the sick.

DEVOTIONS / DEVOCIONES

- **Holy Rosary:** Wednesdays & Saturdays at 8:30am
- **Eucharistic Adoration:** Fridays from 9:30 am to 11am.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 4:00pm The office is closed from 12:00noon to 12:30pm.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St. Thomas Aquinas | 636 Glenholme Ave. Toronto | 416 393-5236

D'Arcy McGee | 20 Bansley Ave. Toronto | 416-393-5318

CATHOLIC FUNERAL HOMES

Bernardo Funeral Home | 416-789-7661

Vescio Funeral Home | 416-656-3332

PASTOR Fr. Patrick Ezimora C.C.E.

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

CHURCH HOURS

The church is open Mondays to Fridays from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, Saturdays from 8:00am to 6:00 pm and Sundays 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

640 Glenholme Avenue, Toronto, ON. M6E 3G9 | Tel: 416-782-8943 | Fax: 416-781-8444

stthomasaquinasto@archtoronto.org www.stthomasaquinas.archtoronto.org

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Gospel reading (Matthew 17.1-9) narrates the story of how Jesus was transfigured while in prayer on a high mountain, an extraordinary event witnessed by three of his disciples. May you too experience a vision of God's glory during this holy season of Lent. Amen.

2nd Sunday of Lent March 5, 2023

Live the Gospel by supporting ShareLife

ShareLife Sunday is March 26. Our parish goal for this year's campaign is **\$25, 700**.

More than 40 Catholic organizations and social service agencies are supported through your generosity. Without your contributions, more than 150,000 people would not receive the hope offered through the vital work of these agencies.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at share-life.org/donate.

2023 LENTEN SCHEDULE

- 1) Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession is available every Friday during Lent, from 6:30pm to 6:50pm.
- 2) Evening Mass will be celebrated every Friday during Lent at 7pm.
- 3) Stations of the Cross will take place on Fridays at 7:30pm.
- 4) **5-minutes** Lenten Reflection on the **5 Precepts of the Catholic Church** every Sunday after the Concluding Prayer.

Visit & Follow us on Facebook by searching:
[St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Toronto](#)
(or click on link)

Visit & Follow us on Instagram by searching:
[staparishto](#) (or click on link)

Youth Ministry for Friday, March 10th

Topic: Games and Trivia Night

8pm to 9pm in the parish hall; refreshments will be provided. If you are interested, please register and pick up a flyer. We need sponsors for each youth night. Thank you in advance!

Bible Study for Wednesday, March 8th, 2023

From 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM following the
Stations of the Cross

Topic: "The Chosen" Season 1, Episode 4: The Rock on Which it is Built

YouTube Video: Or download "The Chosen" App
Please bring along your Bibles, Catechism, and notebook.

Divine Mercy Sunday Pilgrimage

Stockbridge, Massachusetts, USA

April 14-17, 2023

\$395 per person - 4 persons in a room
Please contact Edith at 416-420-5185

St. Vincent de Paul's Bundle Up Collections

On the weekend of **March 11/12**, there will be a Bundle Up collection for St. Vincent de Paul's charity at St. Claire Parish - *1118 St. Clair Avenue West Toronto, ON, M6E 3M6*

The acceptable items include All Clothing, All footwear, Bedding, Drapery/Towel, Toys (new Toys only). **Time: From 8am to 1:30pm on both days.**

2023 Refugee Sponsorship Program for Family Members of Parishioners

The Archdiocese's Office for Refugees has launched its 2023 Refugee Sponsorship Program for Parishioners. This program assists parishioners who would like to sponsor family members who are in need of refugee resettlement. If you are a parishioner, and would like to sponsor a family member, please contact the parish office to schedule a meeting with the pastor. Interested parishioners are asked to provide the funds that will be required for sponsorship.

English and Spanish Copies of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** are available for sale in the Parish Office. The cost is \$15.



MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

March 4th to March 11th 2023

SATURDAY, March 4th

9:00am Circle of Prayers/ Thanksgiving for Legion of Mary

5:00pm (available for intentions)

SUNDAY, March 5th

9:00am Birthday blessings for Warren Strachan

10:30am + Maria Montemurro / + Antonio Chioran / + Bruno Chioran / For the repose of the souls of + Vincenzo, Tomaso & Rosetta Carbone & + Francesco Carpino & + Giovanina Sacco /

+ Giovanni & Marta, Angela & Marta Lobbuono

12:00pm For the deceased family members of Stephens, Thompson & Hines families

2:00pm Descanso del alma de + Florencio, + Ernest, + Lawrence Perez, + Flor de Gonzalez / Por todas las almas del purgatorio / Sanacion de Diego Hernan Castaño, Toty Calle

6:00pm (available for intentions)

MONDAY, March 6th

9:00am + Nicola Saponara's 30th death anniversary / + Maria Madalena Ngu & all souls in purgatory / Birthday blessings upon Colette Vanderlien

TUESDAY, March 7th

9:00am + Peter Andersen & + Vincent Tuong / + Lucie and Ernest Vanderlien & + Maria Teresa Valderrama

WEDNESDAY, March 8th

9:00am + Maria Vu & + Vincent Long

THURSDAY, March 9th

9:00am + Denzil Stephens / + Vincent Nguyen and + Maria Dinh / Thanksgiving for the Baptism of Colette Vanderlien/ Birthday blessings upon Rev. Jomon George & Marco Gomez

FRIDAY, March 10th

9:00am + Vincent Nguyen and + Maria Dinh / Healing of Mary Wahba & Ruth Parra, + Florencia Cayas

7:00pm Repose of the souls of + Alberto Rivero, + Joe Carreiro, + Dolores Rivero & + Gina Galazka

SATURDAY, March 11th

9:00am Healing of Otto Rivera & Maria Arcadia de Meza

5:00pm (available for intentions)

We are accepting Mass Intentions through the office during the week

Around STA and the Community

PARISH FUNDRAISING MEAL

Jewish Seder vis-a-viz Christian Eucharist

When: **Saturday, 25th March – 6:30pm.**

Tickets will be available on March 11/12 weekend. Cost is \$30.

Note: Our main hall can only take a limited number!

LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, March 18, 2023

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre

1617 Blythe Road

Cost: \$45.00 includes Lunch

Facilitated by the Centre's Team

Contact: Jean at 905-278-5229 or

office@qoa.ca



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS
ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

Come & See Discernment

Weekend Retreat

March 17, 2023 – March 19, 2023

at St. Augustine's Seminary

The Office of Vocations will be hosting a Come & See Weekend Discernment Retreat for men 18 years and older, at St. Augustine's Seminary on **Friday, March 17 (6:30 p.m.) until Sunday, March 19 (2:30 p.m.)**. This Retreat offers a way for men to discern a possible call to priesthood at our seminary. Thank you in advance for your assistance as we work together to build a culture of vocations.

Registration must be done online at

www.vocationstoronto.ca/comeandsee

ALL ABOUT FAITH

Saints Perpetua and Felicity—March 7



The first records of martyrdom in North Africa took place in 180 A.D. when twelve Christians were tried and put to death for their faith. Vibia Perpetua was a twenty-two-year-old married noblewoman at the time of her arrest. She was also a mother, having recently given birth to a son whom she was still nursing. Felicity, a slave, was also a young woman and pregnant at the time of her arrest.

On the day of their martyrdom, Perpetua and Felicity walked to the arena with heads high and joyful spirits. Perpetua and Felicity were both new young mothers at the time of their martyrdom. They loved their newborn babies with tender love. But they also loved their God Whom they had both recently come to know. They were forced to choose. Either reject Christ and be there to raise their babies or remain Christian and leave their babies. With heroic courage and faith, they remained true to both. They remained faithful to Christ, dying as martyrs, and they fulfilled their greatest motherly duty by giving heroic witnesses of faith to their babies. We can only hope that as their children grew and were told the stories of their mothers' love of God, those children were inspired and sought to imitate their mothers' Christian faith.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity, you loved your infants and you loved your God. By embracing martyrdom for your faith, you gave the greatest witness possible to your children. Please pray for me, that I will never shy away from living my faith openly in a hostile world and that I will be a holy witness of God's most pure love to all. Saints Perpetua and Felicity, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

- My Catholic Life

Ignatian Spirituality for Living and Loving: A Feminine Face for a New Day

Friday, March 10, 2023 07:00 PM - Sunday,
March 12, 2023 01:00 PM

A silent Ignatian weekend retreat for women. Ignatian Spirituality gifts us with lively faith and deep promise in a world that is both beautiful and struggling. It nourishes us in the practice of the presence of God in all reality and in the sacred mystery of the "ordinary". For many women, however, past presentations and interpretations of Ignatian Spirituality have created obstacles to their appreciation, acceptance and living of it. In this time of retreat, we will explore the Ignatian tradition anew and its practice in light of women's experiences in contemporary living. We will seek together the feminine face of Ignatian Spirituality; a face that brings freedom of expression and a fullness to the dynamic of the Ignatian tradition for a new time and in novel ways for a world hungry for hope. Facilitated by Sr. Mary Rowell, CSJ. A suggested offering of \$245 per person. Includes 2 nights accommodation, meals, program and spiritual direction.

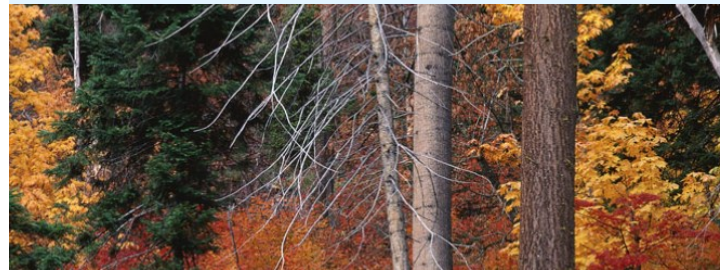
[Register Here](#)

How almsgiving can bring us closer to God



Lent invites us to "train ourselves" spiritually, also through the practice of almsgiving, in order to grow in charity and recognize in the poor Christ Himself. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that the Apostle Peter said to the cripple who was begging alms at the Temple gate: "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk" (Acts 3,6). In giving alms, we offer something material, a sign of the greater gift that we can impart to others through the announcement and witness of Christ, in whose name is found true life.

[Read More](#)



Seeing God's Face

"I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

— Exodus 3:6

3 Minute Retreat

[English](#)

[Español](#)

LIVING YOUR FAITH

Stations of the Cross with Brother Francis



First Station

[Children's Video](#)

Meditations for Lent



The sixteen meditations and exercises in this section are based on "Week Three" of The Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. The goal of this period of sixteen reflections will be to reflect upon the events of Holy Week. Specifically, this period invites you to accompany our Lord in His passion and death so as to share more fully in His resurrection. This section of meditations is best started the week of Ash Wednesday and concluded on Holy Saturday.

This section begins with the meditation "Life Decisions and Resolution," which is normally used at the completion of "Week Two" of The Spiritual Exercises. However, it is inserted here since Lent is perhaps the most ideal time of year to make such resolutions.

[Read Meditations Here](#)

Renewing Our Lives This Lent



Lent will be a wonderful season of grace for us if we give ourselves to it. And we will give ourselves to it if we want it badly enough. We need to prepare our hearts. We can do so by realizing how much we want to grow in freedom, how much we need to lighten our spirits and experience real joy, and how much some parts of our lives really need changing.

Preparing our hearts is a process of preparing our desires. This means practicing a sense of anticipation. If I imagine Lent as an "ordeal" or a time I dread in some way, then I've already predisposed myself to not get very much out of it. Lent is a time to anticipate something wonderful that is about to happen.

[Read More](#)

Give Up Control for Lent



The meaning of the word sacrifice is to "make holy." This Lent we are offered the opportunity to let go of our control and accept the difficulties and sufferings that come to us with grace. Fr Mark-Mary invites us to let go and allow this Lent to fuel our growth in interior freedom and sacrificing control.

[Short Video](#)

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven."

- St. Rose of Lima

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