

# St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

## SUNDAY MASSES

**ENGLISH:** Saturday—5:00 pm |  
Sunday—9:00am | 12:00 pm | 6:00 pm  
**ITALIAN:** Sunday—10:30 am  
**ESPAÑOL:** Sunday—2:00 pm

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday to Saturday 9:00am | First Fridays - 7:00 pm

## CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 4:00pm or by appt

## BAPTISMS—BAUTIZOS

Please call the office, **Three months** in advance, .  
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.



© Working Preacher

**PASTOR** Fr. Patrick Ezimora C.C.E.  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR** Fr. Peter Paul C.C.E.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday to Friday  
9:30 am - 12:00pm | 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm

## 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  
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## DEVOTIONS—DEVOCIONES

**Holy Rosary:** 8:30am on Wednesdays  
**Eucharistic Adoration:** 9:30am - 11am  
on Fridays and 7:30 pm on First Fridays

**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.  
**FOOD BANK:** Tuesdays at 12:00 pm

## November 2023 MASS INTENTIONS

*For the whole month of November, we have no specific Mass intentions. All the Masses will be offered for our faithful relatives and friends who died since the past year.*

*Parishioners are welcome to write down the names of their dearly beloved dead in the "All Souls" folder or envelopes by the altar. They may also make an offering in the "All Souls" box by the left corner of the sanctuary.*



Follow the latest  
parish updates: [@staparishto](https://www.instagram.com/staparishto)

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# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Traditionally, November is specially dedicated to prayer for the faithful departed. During this time of year, we remember all those who have died, especially our fellow Christians. You and I have a singular opportunity to offer Masses, visit cemeteries, do works of charity and devotion for our brothers and sisters who once journeyed through this earth. Yet, given the enormous number of the dead, most parishes across the Archdiocese of Toronto do not read out individual names during the November Masses. Instead, the Eucharist is offered for all those whose names are written down in the book of commemoration or on the All Souls envelope. ***"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace"***. Amen

## Youth Group: Friday Evenings

**Youth Ministry for Friday, November 10, 2023**

**Topic: Faith Formation Night**

7pm to 8:30pm 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!

## REQUIEM MASS

Our Parish will be celebrating a Requiem Mass for all the faithful departed who had their funeral Mass at our parish during the past 12 months. This Requiem Mass will take place on **Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM**. We cordially invite all the families of our parish, especially all those whose relatives passed away during the course of this year to join us for this special Mass.

## SAVE THE DATE

Our Parish will be having Christmas Concert on **Saturday, December 9th, 2023**. More information to follow! Please save the date and join our parish community in this wonderful celebration. We hope to see you there!

**Thank you for your generosity!**

October 29, 2023

**\$4,984**

## Parish Volunteers' Retreat Saturday, 11th November 2023:

In preparation for Christmas, all our volunteers are encouraged to join a retreat of spiritual renewal on **Saturday, 11th November 2023 at 6:30pm**. The topic will be "Confession". There will be an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation and followed by light refreshments in the hall. If you serve in our parish, please do your best to be there!

## Mass Intentions in November

Please note that for the whole month of November, we have no specific Mass intentions. All the Masses will be offered for our departed loved ones who died since the past year. All souls envelopes and folders are available on the tables in front of the Church. Please write the names of your deceased and insert your offerings in the All Souls donation box. Thank you!



## Community Potluck, Karaoke & Raffles!

On **Saturday, Nov. 18 at 6:30pm**, you are warmly invited to join us for a social night with good food, music and raffle sales. If you are interested in sharing a meal, please let us know in advance. Thank you!

## Shepherd's Trust Second Collection on Nov. 18/19 weekend!

There will be a second collection on **Nov. 18/19** weekend to help ensure that elderly and disabled priests are provided with sufficient financial resources to lead a dignified life after many years of ministry. Your generous gift will help our priests to maintain a modest but active and independent lifestyle in their retirement years. Thank you for your kind support.

## Simbang Gabi/Christmas Novena Sponsors' Meeting.

On **Friday, November 10th at 7pm**, there will be a meeting with all our Christmas Novena sponsors in the St. Anthony's room downstairs. If you have been assigned or are interested in sponsoring one of the evenings, please join us for the get-together. Thank you for your time!

# ESTA SEMANA EN ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## Del escritorio del Pastor

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Tradicionalmente, el mes de noviembre se dedica especialmente a la oración por los fieles difuntos. Durante este tiempo del año, recordamos a todos los que han muerto, especialmente a nuestros hermanos cristianos. Vosotros y yo tenemos una ocasión singular para ofrecer misas, visitar cementerios, hacer obras de caridad y devoción por nuestros hermanos y hermanas que un día pasaron por esta tierra. Sin embargo, dado el enorme número de difuntos, la mayoría de las parroquias de la archidiócesis de Toronto no leen los nombres individuales durante las misas de noviembre. En su lugar, se ofrece la Eucaristía por todos aquellos cuyos nombres están escritos en el libro de conmemoraciones o en el sobre de Todos los Difuntos. **"Concédeles, Señor, el descanso eterno y haz que brille para ellos tu luz perpetua. Que descansen en paz"**. Amén

## Grupo de jóvenes: Viernes por la tarde

Pastoral Juvenil para el viernes 3 de noviembre de 2023

Tema: Noche de formación en la fe

De 7pm a 8:30pm en el salón parroquial; se ofrecerán refrescos. Si usted está interesado, por favor regístrese y recoja un volante. Necesitamos patrocinadores para cada noche juvenil. ¡Gracias de antemano!

## MISA DE REQUIEM

Nuestra Parroquia celebrará una Misa de Réquiem por todos los fieles difuntos que tuvieron su misa funeral en nuestra parroquia durante los últimos 12 meses. Esta Misa de Réquiem tendrá lugar **el miércoles 22 de noviembre de 2023 a las 19:00 horas**. Invitamos cordialmente a todas las familias de nuestra parroquia, especialmente a todas aquellas cuyos familiares fallecieron en el transcurso de este año, a que nos acompañen en esta Misa especial.

## GUARDAR LA FECHA

Nuestra Parroquia tendrá Concierto de Navidad el sábado **9 de diciembre de 2023**. Más información en breve. Por favor, reserve la fecha y únase a nuestra comunidad parroquial en esta maravillosa celebración. ¡Esperamos verlos allí!

**Gracias por su generosidad!**

29 de octubre de 2023

**\$4,984**

## Retiro de Voluntarios Parroquiales

**Sábado, 11 de noviembre de 2023:**

Como preparación para la Navidad, animamos a todos nuestros voluntarios a participar en un retiro de renovación espiritual el sábado **11 de noviembre de 2023 a las 18.30 horas**. El tema será "La Confesión". Habrá una exposición del Santísimo Sacramento, la Reconciliación y seguido de un refrigerio ligero en el salón. Si sirves en nuestra parroquia, ¡haz todo lo posible por estar allí!

## Intenciones de Misa en noviembre

Les informamos que para todo el mes de noviembre, no tenemos intenciones específicas de Misa. Todas las Misas serán ofrecidas por nuestros seres queridos difuntos que fallecieron desde el año pasado. Los sobres y carpetas para las almas están disponibles en las mesas frente a la Iglesia. Por favor escriba los nombres de sus difuntos e introduzca sus ofrendas en la caja de donaciones de Todas las Almas. Muchas gracias.



## ¡Potluck Comunitario, Karaoke y Rifas!

El **sábado 18 de noviembre a las 6:30pm**, está cordialmente invitado a unirse a nosotros para una noche social con buena comida, música y venta de rifas. Si usted está interesado en compartir una comida, por favor háganoslo saber con antelación. Muchas gracias.

## Segunda colecta de Shepherd's Trust el fin de semana del 18/19 de noviembre

Habrá una segunda colecta el fin de semana del **18/19 de noviembre** para ayudar a garantizar que los sacerdotes ancianos y discapacitados dispongan de recursos económicos suficientes para llevar una vida digna después de muchos años de ministerio. Su generoso donativo ayudará a nuestros sacerdotes a mantener un estilo de vida modesto pero activo e independiente en sus años de jubilación. Gracias por su amable apoyo.

## Simbang Gabi/Novena de Navidad Reunión de padrinos

**El viernes, 10 de noviembre a las 7pm**, habrá una reunión con todos nuestros patrocinadores de la Novena de Navidad en la sala de San Antonio abajo. Si usted ha sido asignado o está interesado en patrocinar una de las novenas, por favor únase a nosotros para la reunión. ¡Gracias por su tiempo!



# ALL ABOUT FAITH

## November 9: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica—Feast



In the city of Rome, there are four major basilicas. The first three are Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, and the Basilica of Saint Mary Major. The fourth is the Archbasilica Cathedral of the Most Holy Savior and of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran,

also called Saint John Lateran, or the Lateran Basilica for short. Of the four major basilicas, the oldest and most important is Saint John Lateran, the dedication of which is remembered today. Though the pope now lives next to Saint Peter's Basilica, Saint John Lateran is the official cathedral of Rome. That means Saint John Lateran is not only the mother church of the Archdiocese of Rome but also the mother church of the entire world. As we honor the mother church of the whole world, ponder the importance of a church building. A church is sacred because it is exclusively dedicated to the worship of God. Saint John Lateran is an exclusive-purpose church. It is the pope's cathedral from which the entire Church is governed and the central place of worship for the world. As we honor the dedication of that church in 324, pray for the Church today. Pray for your local parish, religious institutions, religious orders, dioceses, national conferences, and the Universal Church headed in Rome. Our churches and sacred places exist to be places where we come to encounter God. Pray for the pope in a particular way today, that Saint John Lateran will always be a place where he, and every pope after him, will encounter God in a profound way.

*Christ our Savior, through the intercessions of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, I pray for the Church today. I pray for your abundant mercy upon every sinner whom you are calling into your Church for reconciliation. I pray for my local parish, diocese, country, and the Universal Church headed in Rome. I especially pray for the Holy Father, the pastor of the Lateran Basilica and shepherd of the whole Church. Draw him close to You, make him holy, and use him to draw many people to Yourself. Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, pray for us. Jesus I trust in You. — My Catholic Life*

## Fundraising Dinner Gala: A Celestial Night



**November 17, 2023 at 6:00 PM—V enu Event Space (Riviera)2800 Hwy 7, Vaughan ON**

Radio Maria Canada invites you to a Fundraising Dinner with the newly installed head of the Archdiocese of Toronto His Grace Archbishop Francis Leo as our Guest of Honor.

Thank you in advance for participating in the upcoming "Celestial Night"

[Find Out More](#)

## A saint to help you get souls from Purgatory to Heaven



In this month of November, which is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory, we are reminded of the Church's call for us to pray for the Holy Souls. One of the saints of November, St. Gertrude the Great, is famous for her shining example in assisting the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Much of what we learn through St. Gertrude the Great can help us to have refreshed zeal for November's liturgical theme.

It is said that Jesus promised St. Gertrude that every time the prayer is prayed devoutly, He would release 1,000 souls from Purgatory. That very thought should give us a good idea of what a plethora of souls are in Purgatory! And yet, as a holy priest I recently heard reminded in a homily, we too seldom hear about our duty to our departed loved ones: to pray them home!

We must remember that the Church teaches (even if its pastors don't always remind) that those in Purgatory are dependent on our aid. They are eager to pray for those who pray for them. Each soul you free from Purgatory with your prayers is one more friend and advocate waiting for you in heaven!

[Read More](#)



## 3 Minute Retreat

**A New Vision**  
*Matthew 5:12*

*"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."*

[English](#)

[Español](#)

# LIVING YOUR FAITH

## Living Like Saints! The Solemnity of All Saints



[Animated Story](#)

[Children's Video](#)

## Family Healing Retreat



**Saturday, November 11, 2023 09:00 AM - Sunday, November 12, 2023 06:00 PM**  
Divine Retreat Centre Toronto (69 William St)

The Family Healing Retreat will be led by Fr. Sam, Fr. Louis and the Divine team on November 11th and 12th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Retreat will consist of Holy Mass, Praise and Worship, Confession, Spiritual talks and Eucharistic Adoration. Lunch will be provided and attendance on both days is mandatory.

Prior registration is required with a fee of \$20 (plus service fees) and registration can be done through our website [divineretreatcentretoronto.org](http://divineretreatcentretoronto.org).

[Register Here](#)

## Putting God First



I thought about the day ahead—the dishes that lingered in the sink from last night's dinner, the groceries that needed to be purchased, the appointments that needed to be made. I thought about the playdates and the lesson plans and the looming deadlines. And while my hands busied themselves in the frantic rush to go and to do and to be, I began to feel the weight of the responsibilities rise within my chest. And there it stayed, a tight knot of urgency pounding up against me all day until the sweet victory of sleep came again at night to relieve my tired soul.

A life spent loving Christ requires our attention. It requires us to be intentional, to keep Him as our first priority. There is a grace that flows from a life lived in proper order, and He is inviting us into it.

[Read More](#)

## What is Purgatory?



We all want to be saints, but the struggle against sin and selfishness can feel overwhelming. There may be days where we might feel satisfied simply making it to purgatory rather than entering the pearly gates. But is this lukewarm path the only way to make it to heaven? Fr. Mike delves into the reality that in this life, we are given every opportunity to prepare our souls for God's presence. Embracing the sufferings of this moment purifies us the way the refining fire of purgatory would. In this way, we can prepare ourselves in this temporary world to live alongside our Lord in the everlasting world.

[Watch Video](#)

*"If, during life, we have been kind to the suffering souls in purgatory, God will see that help be not denied us after death."  
- St. Paul of the Cross*

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