

St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



December 3rd, 2023 | First Sunday of Advent

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

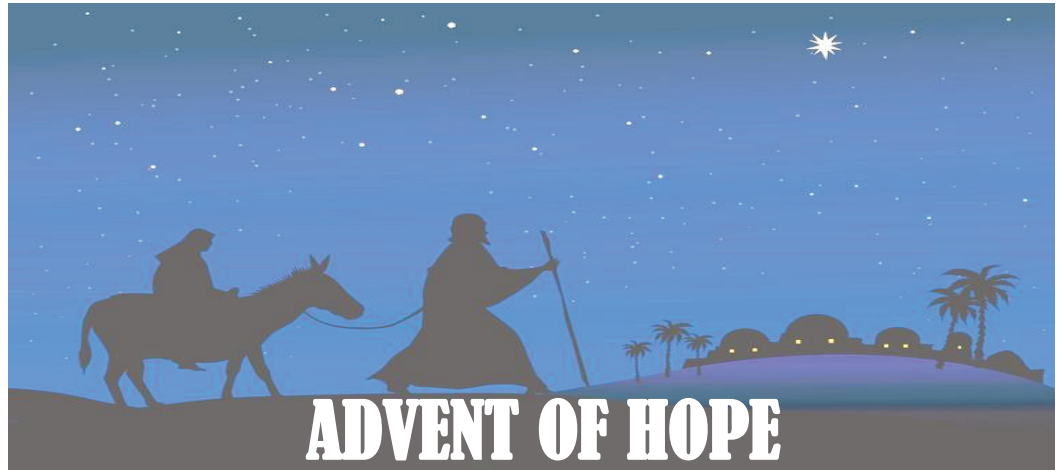
Please contact the office **one year** in advance.
Llamar a la oficina con **un año** de anticipación.

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.



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

Vescio Funeral Home |

416-656-3332

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

December 2nd to 9th, 2023 MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 2nd

9:00 am Circle of Prayers/ Birthday thanksgiving for Olga Monge Mora/+Legion of Mary Member/ +Marcial Ruiz Cruz

10:00 am Funeral Mass of Elisa Chiappetta

11:30 am Funeral Mass of Guerino Fratangeli

5:00 pm +Aida Alicia Torres/ +Benedicta

Geronimo Halley

SUNDAY, December 3rd — First Sunday of Advent

9:00 am +Peitro & +Nunzia Marchione/ Thanksgiving for Mrs. Erlinda J. Ong/ +Onofrio Suppra in remembrance of his first death anniversary

10:30 am +Antonio Perrella e famiglia/+Nicole Colozza e

Palma e famiglia/ +Benito Morandini/ Remembrance

Mass for Iacoucci & Mizzone families

12:00 pm +Julieta Avelar & +Alfred Sousa/

+Asterio Peralta Queñano

2:00 pm +Georgina Maria Munguin Flentes – First year

death anniversary/ Descanso del alma de +Francisco

Quijada/ +Merceditas Flamenco/ Bendiciones en el

cumpleaños de Fancisca Gonzalez

6:00 pm +Noriza Alas-As Tabilon/ Thanksgiving Mass for Justin Lima

MONDAY, December 4th — St. John Damascene

9:00 am +Francis Pinto/ +Janina, +Ana Piecha, +Carmen,

+Alvira & all souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, December 5th

9:00 am +First year death anniversary of Anna Delgrosso/ +Vito & Santa Mossa

WEDNESDAY, December 6th — St. Nicholas

9:00 am Birthday thanksgiving for Lucita G. Climacosa/

+Lucia Carlota de Ycaza/ +Marsha Liala Lowery/ +Marta

Lilian Sandoval/ all priests living and deceased

THURSDAY, December 7th — St. Ambrose

9:00 am +Jose Aguiar, Manuel & Maria Gaspar, +Luis

Clotildi-Adriando and all our deceased loved ones/ +George

Floyd, +Yvonne, +John & +Harold Way,

FRIDAY, December 8th — Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 am +Vittorio, +Angela & +Vito Ierullo / +George Floyd,

+Yvonne, +John & +Harold Way

4:00 pm Marriage Convalidation of Janelle & Marco

7:00 pm Trilingual Mass for the Immaculate Conception of

the Blessed Virgin Mary

SATURDAY, December 9th

9:00 am +Denzil Stephens / Death anniversary of +Rohena

Das / +Primito Rueda Salvador/ For the intention of

Assunta Perri and all her departed loved ones.

5:00 pm Daru and Della Mora Families



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

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With every first Sunday of Advent, a new liturgical season begins. Advent comes from the Latin "Adventus" ("an arrival", or simply "arrival"), a time of hopeful expectation of the arrival of both Christmas (our Lord's First Coming in humility) and Parousia (our Lord's Second Coming in Majesty). The Gospel reading of this first Sunday of Advent (Mark 13.33-37) encourages us to always stay awake and alert because our Lord will come at the least expected moment. Pray with me: "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80). Amen. Have a blessed Advent week!

Del escritorio del Pastor

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Con cada primer domingo de Adviento comienza un nuevo tiempo litúrgico. Adviento viene del latín "Adventus" ("una llegada", o simplemente "llegada"), un tiempo de espera esperanzada de la llegada tanto de la Navidad (la Primera Venida de nuestro Señor en humildad) como de la Parusía (la Segunda Venida de nuestro Señor en Majestad). La lectura del Evangelio de este primer domingo de Adviento (Mc 13,33-37) nos anima a permanecer siempre despiertos y alerta porque nuestro Señor vendrá en el momento menos esperado. Rezad conmigo: "Restáuranos, oh Dios; haz resplandecer tu rostro, para que nos salvemos" (Salmo 80). Amén. Que tengáis una feliz semana de Adviento.

Youth Group: Friday Evenings

Youth Ministry for Friday, December 8, 2023

Topic: Children's Christmas Party

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!

Grupo de jóvenes: Viernes por la tarde

Pastoral Juvenil para el viernes 8 de diciembre de 2023

Tema: Misa y Noche de Adoración

De 7pm a 8:30pm en el templo; se ofrecerá un refrigerio después la liturgia. Si usted está interesado, por favor regístrese y recoja un volante. Necesitamos patrocinadores para cada noche juvenil. ¡Gracias de antemano!

2023-2024 Sunday Missals (Year B) are available at the parish office. Cost is \$10.

Misal 2024 Ciclo B esta disponible en la oficina parroquial. Cuesta \$10.

2024 Envelopes

2024 Envelopes will be available in the upcoming weeks. Stay tuned! We kindly ask that you please use these new envelopes next year. Thank you for your generosity!

Sobres 2024

Los sobres 2024 estarán disponibles en las próximas semanas. Estén atentos. Les rogamos que utilicen estos nuevos sobres el próximo año. Gracias por su generosidad.

SAVE THE DATE

Choir members commissioning will take place on December 9/10th weekend. Please save the date!

GUARDAR LA FECHA

La puesta en servicio de los miembros del coro tendrá lugar el fin de semana del 9/10 de diciembre. ¡Por favor, reserve la fecha!

Archdiocesan Consultation Underway – your assistance is requested!

Our archbishop, the Most Rev. Francis Leo, is inviting Catholics throughout the archdiocese to share their key priorities to help inform and guide an updated Pastoral Plan. To participate in the consultation, visit: www.archtoronto.org/consultation to complete a brief survey by December 15, 2023, where you can offer your suggestions and insights. The process should take a few minutes. We ask that you complete the short survey as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from Catholics throughout the archdiocese. Thank you in advance for sharing your insights, ideas and discernment.

Consulta arquidiocesana en curso - solicitamos su colaboración

Nuestro arzobispo, el Reverendísimo Francis Leo, está invitando a los católicos de toda la archidiócesis a compartir sus prioridades clave para ayudar a informar y guiar un Plan Pastoral actualizado. Para participar en la consulta, visite www.archtoronto.org/consultation para completar una breve encuesta antes del 15 de diciembre de 2023, donde puede ofrecer sus sugerencias y puntos de vista. El proceso le llevará unos minutos. Le pedimos que complete la breve encuesta lo antes posible. Esperamos tener noticias de los católicos de toda la archidiócesis. Gracias de antemano por compartir sus puntos de vista, ideas y discernimiento.

Thank you for your generosity! Gracias por su generosidad!

Regular Collection—November 27, 2023

\$4,552.75

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

2023-2024 Christmas/New Year Season & Mass Times



Saturday Vigil & Sunday Dec 24th 2023

4th Sunday of Advent
REGULAR **except**
NO 6PM MASS

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00pm- Trilingual Mass
of the Nativity of the Lord

Monday Jan 1, 2024 NEW YEAR DAY

(Solemn Mass of the
Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God. Holy
Day of Obligation –
Like **Regular** Sunday
Mass)
9:00am- English
10:30am- Italian
12:00pm- English
2:00pm- Spanish
6:00pm- English

Monday Dec. 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

(Holy Day of
Obligation – Like
Regular Sunday
Mass)
9:00am- English
10:30am- Italian
12:00pm- English
2:00pm- Spanish
6:00pm- English

Saturday Vigil & Sunday Jan. 7th 2024

(Solemn Mass of the
Epiphany of the Lord)
9:00am- English
10:30am- Italian
12:00pm- English
2:00pm- Spanish
6:00pm- English

Saturday Vigil & Sunday Dec. 31st (*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*)

9:00am- English
10:30am- Italian
12:00pm- English
2:00pm- Spanish
NO 6PM MASS

Monday Jan. 8th (*Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*)

9:00am – English
7:00pm – Trilingual

Sunday, Dec. 31st - NEW YEAR'S EVE

7:00pm- Trilingual
Solemn Mass of the
Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God

10:00pm- Rosary,
Adoration & New
Year toast...

2023 Parish End-of-Year Events

Parish Xmas Concert & Raffle Draw

Saturday, December 9, 2023 @ 6:30pm
in the Church & then in hall

Children's Xmas Party

Sunday, December 10 @ 3:30 in the hall

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 12 @ 7pm

Parish Advent Confession

- Wednesday, December 13, 2023
7pm to 8:30pm in the Church
- Wednesday, December 20, 2023
10am to 12pm in the Church

Soup Kitchen for All Parishioners of STA

Sunday, December 17, after each Mass
in the hall

Parish Xmas Party with Karaoke

Saturday, December 23 @ 8pm in the
hall

Rosary, Adoration, Te Deum & Hot Drinks

Sunday, 31 December from 10pm to
2024

Simbang Gabi / Christmas Novena Mass & Sharing in Parish Hall

Friday, Dec. 15th @ 7pm, sponsored by
Social Committee & Knights of Columbus

Saturday, Dec. 16th @ 5pm sponsored by
Line Dance, 12pm Choir & MFC

Sunday, Dec. 17th @ 6pm sponsored by
6pm Choir, Legion of Mary & Handmaids

Monday, Dec. 18th @ 7pm sponsored by
Casaroca Group

Tuesday, Dec. 19th @ 7pm sponsored by
5pm & 9am Choirs & Lydia's Suman

Wednesday, Dec. 20th @ 7pm sponsored by
Italian Community & Elim Prayer Group

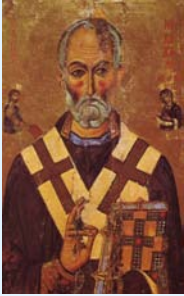
Thursday, Dec. 21st @ 7pm sponsored by
Spanish Community

Friday, Dec. 22nd @ 7pm sponsored by Altar
Servers, Youth Group & 9am Choir

Saturday, Dec. 23rd @ 5pm sponsored by
Circle of Prayer

ALL ABOUT FAITH

December 6: Saint Nicholas



Saint Nicholas of Myra, also known as Nicholas of Bari, Nicholas the Wonderworker, and Saint Nick, was a fourth-century bishop in Myra, Asia Minor, modern-day Demre, Turkey. His life is also the origin of the legend of Santa Claus. By the sixth century, his tomb had become widely venerated because of the numerous reported miracles worked through his intercession. In the eleventh century, his

body was transferred to Bari, Italy, where it remains today. To this day, his bodily remains excrete a liquid, at first thought to be an oil but now believed to be water, which is collected, mixed with holy water, and distributed to the faithful in bottles every May 9, the day his remains arrived in Bari. The liquid is commonly referred to as the "Manna of Saint Nicholas" and is believed to contain miraculous healing power. For this reason, along with the mythical character of Santa Claus, he remains a highly venerated saint within the Church.

As we honor this saintly bishop from 1,700 years ago, ponder the faith of the people of God throughout those centuries who have benefitted from the sacred art, pilgrimages to his tomb, and the miraculous Manna of Saint Nicholas. Allow the longtime devotion to him to inspire you, entrusting yourself more fully to his intercession, as well as the intercession of all the saints of Heaven.

Saint Nicholas, through your intercession, God has touched many lives. The legends of your life have inspired faith throughout the centuries, just as your priestly and episcopal ministry impacted the people of your day. Please pray for me, that I will become a true saint and fulfill the mission God has given to me. Saint Nicholas of Myra, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. — My Catholic Life

Coping with Grief at Christmastime Wednesday, December 6, 2023 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM Online



For many among us who bear the weight of silent struggles, Christmastime can be a difficult period marked by quiet grief, lingering sadness and a profound sense of loneliness. We want you to know that you are not alone.

Join us on Wednesday, December 6 at 7 p.m. for our ShareLife Speaker Series event "Coping with Grief during Christmastime" with Amanda Wendelgass of CFS Counseling + Wellbeing. most.

[Find Out More](#)

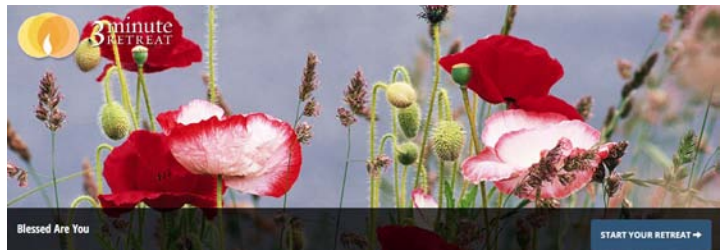
Have you ever tried making an Advent resolution?



The season of Advent is similar to Lent, a penitential time when we can make resolutions to live closer to Christ. Advent is a beautiful time of the year and is similar to Lent in many ways. We can practice similar spiritual practices, such as making a Lenten resolution, including various sacrifices and commitments to increase spiritual activity. Such spiritual resolutions might include giving up chocolate for Lent, or engaging in almsgiving during the penitential season.

Advent is also meant to be a season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. While Catholics are not often encouraged to make resolutions during Advent, the liturgical season is meant to be a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. As an example, beginning in the 8th century Eastern Christians doubled down on their preparations for Christmas. They firmly believed in the ancient maxim, "fast before you feast," and followed Christ's example of fasting for 40 days in the desert before he began his public ministry. To properly prepare for the glorious celebration of Christmas on December 25, they fasted for 40 days, beginning November 15 and ending on Christmas Eve.

[Read More](#)



3 Minute Retreat

Blessed Are You

Luke 1:45

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

[English](#)

[Español](#)

LIVING YOUR FAITH

Catholic Kids Media - Watching for Jesus! 1st Sunday in Advent (Cycle B)



Animated Story

[**Children's Video**](#)

Advent Fasting Retreat



Saturday, December 09, 2023 09:00 AM - Sunday, December 10, 2023 06:00 PM
Divine Retreat Centre Toronto, 69 William St.

The Advent Fasting Retreat will be led by Fr. Sam, Fr. Louis and the Divine team on December 9th and 10th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Retreat will consist of Holy Mass, Praise and Worship, Confession, Spiritual talks and Eucharistic Adoration. If you require lunch for any reasoning, you are most welcome to bring your own lunch and use our dining facilities during the break.

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

WEB: <https://divineretreatcentretoronto.org/>

[**Register Here**](#)

Pope: Art reflects communion between God and humanity



The Pope went on to recall that the Holy See adopted a law in 2001 to safeguard its own cultural assets. He said the regulation would soon be updated to “correspond effectively to changed historical and social conditions, as well as to the evolution of both internal legislation and that of international organizations.” Citing Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis said the Church has “always supported and promoted the world of art, considering its language a privileged vehicle for human and spiritual progress.”

Art, he added, is a tangible sign of the “transitus Domini” in the world, that is, “a visible expression of the life of the Church in its liturgical action and in the proclamation of the faith, in various spiritual manifestations, and in the exercise of charity.”

[**Read More**](#)

From Uncertainty to Trust— First Week of Advent



Fr. Mark Toups shows us how Mary and Joseph had to rely on God. They couldn't do anything by themselves, and neither can we.

We all have uncertainty about the future sometimes, but God wants to transform this uncertainty into trust in Him.

[**Watch Video**](#)

“Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ’s return.”

- Pope Francis

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