

# St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | Third 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 |

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D'Arcy McGee |

20 Bansley Ave. Toronto | 416-393-5318

## CATHOLIC FUNERAL HOMES

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Vescio Funeral Home |

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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

## December 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, December 16<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** +Francisca Graciela Gutierrez, +Marina Carlota Moz/ Birthday blessings upon Scarleth Guadalupe Conde

**5:00 pm** Mass for the intention of the Line Dance, 12pm choir & MFC /+Giovanni Vincenzo & Giuseppina Tuzi/ +Tala Nicholson

### SUNDAY, December 17<sup>th</sup> —Third Sunday of Advent

**9:00 am** +Carmen, +Alvira, +Vivi & +Ram

**10:30 am** +Mario Trevisan/ +Pietro Gisini e famiglia/ Turello Family/ +Maria Alaimo / Compleanno di Mimmo Balzellino

**12:00 pm** (available for intentions)

**2:00 pm** +Gilberto Tovar/ Descanso del alma de +Maria Agustina Chevez de Maravilla, +Roberto Maravilla/ Bendiciones en el cumpleaños of Rev. Sacerdote Patrick Ezimora & Jacqueline Lopez de Gomez

**6:00 pm** Mass for the intentions of the 6pm Choir, Legion of Mary and Handmaids/Deceased members of the Tennessee Family/ +Clarence & +Janet Faulds

### MONDAY, December 18<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** +Clarence & +Janet Faulds

**7:00 pm** Mass for the intention of the Casaroca group

### TUESDAY, December 19<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** +Lourdes Trinidad/ +Clarence & +Janet Faulds

**7:00 pm** Mass for the intentions of the 5pm & 9am Choirs & Lydia Suman

### WEDNESDAY, December 20<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** +Gianni Romanyszyn, +Salvatore Adelina, +Carmene D'ambrosio, +Mario Guagiardi/ +Clarence & +Janet Faulds

**7:00 pm** Mass for the intentions of the Italian Community & Elim Prayer Group

### THURSDAY, December 21<sup>st</sup>

**9:00 am** +Giustina Bianchi/ +Clarence & +Janet Faulds/ +Rev. Fr. Daniel Chiu, CSB, +Rev. Fr. Juan Triviño/ Birthday blessings upon Omar Conde & Zofia

**7:00 pm** Mass for the intentions of the Spanish Community

### FRIDAY, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

**9:00 am** +Clarence & +Janet Faulds/ +Rev. Fr. Pier Giorgio Di Cicco, +Angelita Torres de Panameño/ Healing upon Irena, Ania & Otto Rivera

**7:00 pm** Mass for the intentions of the Altar Servers, Youth Group and 9am Choir

### SATURDAY, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

**9:00 am** +Helena, +Christopher, +Zofia and +Stanislaus Misko/ Healing upon Ania & Maria Arcadia de Meza

**7:00 pm** Mass for the intentions of the Circle of Prayer Group



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

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stthomasquinasto@archtoronto.org www.stthomasquinatas.archtoronto.org

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I love St. Paul's words of advice on this third Sunday of Advent: "Brothers and sisters, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you". So profound, so personal, and so challenging as well! But there is more: "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of Prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5.16-24). My dear, this is what it means to "bear witness to the light" (John 1.8). Pray with me: "My soul shall exult in my God" (Luke 1). Amen. Have a blessed Advent week!

## Del escritorio del Pastor

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Me encantan los consejos de San Pablo en este tercer domingo de Adviento: "Hermanos, alegraos siempre, orad sin cesar, dad gracias en toda circunstancia; porque esta es la voluntad de Dios para con vosotros en Cristo Jesús". Tan profundo, tan personal y también tan desafiante. Pero hay más: "No apaguéis el Espíritu. No despreciéis las palabras de los profetas, sino probadlo todo; retened lo bueno; abstenéos de toda forma de mal" (1 Tesalonicenses 5.16-24). Queridos míos, esto es lo que significa "dar testimonio de la luz" (Juan 1.8). Reza conmigo: "Mi alma exultará en mi Dios" (Lucas 1). Amén. Que tengáis una feliz semana de Adviento.

## Youth Group: Friday Evenings

Our Youth Group will be taking a Christmas break. We will see you in the New Year!

## Grupo de jóvenes: Viernes por la tarde

Nuestro Grupo de Jóvenes se tomará un descanso navideño. ¡Nos vemos en el Año Nuevo!

**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.**

## Food Bank Break

Our parish Food Bank will take a Christmas break on two Tuesdays, 26th December & 2nd January. Thank you for your understanding!

## Descanso del Banco de Alimentos

El Banco de Alimentos de nuestra parroquia hará una pausa navideña durante dos martes, el 26 de diciembre y el 2 de enero. Gracias por vuestra comprensión.

**Simbang Gabi/Christmas Novena** will continue until Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm in the Church, followed by lots of food in the parish hall. We extend a special appreciation to all our sponsors. May God bless you!

**Simbang Gabi / Novena de Navidad** continuará hasta el sábado, 23 de diciembre, a las 7 pm en la Iglesia, seguido de mucha comida en el salón parroquial. Extendemos un agradecimiento especial a todos nuestros patrocinadores. ¡Que Dios les bendiga!



## Important Information



## 2024 Envelopes

2024 Envelopes are now available in the church foyer for pick-up. The envelopes are labelled and arranged in numerical order and you will see your name under the envelope number. Please note that you will be keeping your designated envelope number for 2023. We kindly ask that you use these envelopes for the new year. Please do not use envelopes from previous years. If you need to make changes with your personal information, you may contact the Parish office. We appreciate your generosity and support. Thank you very much!

## Sobres 2024

Los sobres 2024 ya están disponibles en el vestíbulo de la iglesia para su recogida. Los sobres están etiquetados y ordenados numéricamente y verá su nombre debajo del número de sobre. Tenga en cuenta que conservará su número de sobre designado para 2023. Le rogamos que utilice estos sobres para el nuevo año. Por favor, no utilice sobres de años anteriores. Si necesita hacer cambios con su información personal, puede comunicarse con la oficina de la Parroquia. Apreciamos su generosidad y apoyo. ¡Muchas Gracias!

## November 2023 Parish Income/Expenditures Noviembre 2023 Ingresos/Gastos Parroquiales

**Withdrawals/ Retiradas:** \$49,040.01  
**Deposits/Depósitos:** + \$72,083.57 (includes grant for STA food bank/ incluye la subvención para el banco de alimentos STA)

**Thank you for your generosity!  
Gracias por su generosidad!**  
Regular Collection—December 10, 2023  
**\$5,141.25**

# St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## 2023-2024 Christmas/New Year Season & Mass Times



### Saturday Vigil & Sunday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
REGULAR **except**  
**NO 6PM MASS**

### CHRISTMAS EVE

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

### Monday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> *(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**

### Sunday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - NEW YEAR'S EVE

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

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

### 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

### Saturday Vigil & Sunday Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> 2024

*(Solemn Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord)*

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

### Monday Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>

*(Feast of the Baptism of the Lord)*

9:00am – English  
7:00pm – Trilingual

## 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 @ 6pm 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. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm, sponsored by  
Social Committee & Knights of Columbus

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

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

Monday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm sponsored by  
Casaroca Group

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm sponsored by  
Spanish Community

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

Saturday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 5pm sponsored by  
Circle of Prayer

# ALL ABOUT FAITH

## December 17-23: O Antiphons of Advent

The “O Antiphons” are prayed for 7 days in preparation for Christmas: December 17–23. For those familiar with the Liturgy of the Hours, these are the antiphons used with the Magnificat each day. They are based on Isaiah’s prophecies and reveal the different titles given to the Messiah. Since each antiphon is short, it is helpful to spend time reading it each day, pondering it and praying it meditatively throughout the day as a way to make immediate spiritual preparation for Christmas.

December 17

*O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!*

+++

December 18

*O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!*

+++

December 19

*O Root of Jesse’s stem,  
sign of God’s love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!*

+++

December 20

*O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!*

+++

December 21

*O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the  
shadow of death.*

+++

December 22

*O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!*

+++

December 23

*O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!*

—My Catholic Life

## I remember Jesus as a baby



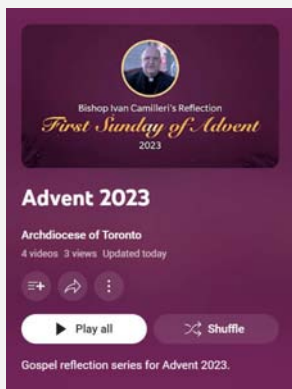
I remember the Baby Jesus. I remember the frustration of finding the inn full. I remember the smell of the hay, and Joseph handing him over to Mary because he needed to nurse. I remember how surprised everyone was when the shepherds arrived — but no one more than them. I remember it all because I was there.

The Church tells us that each Mass enters into the fullness of time when Jesus came. “*The Church, especially during Advent and Lent and above all at the Easter Vigil, re-reads and re-lives the great events of salvation history in the ‘today’ of her liturgy,*” says the Catechism. We celebrate Christmas each year as if it were the first time Christ came, because it is. God is outside of time, and so is Mass, giving us access to Jesus’ salvific events in God’s eternal now.

Fulton Sheen said this is especially true of the baby Jesus: To each and everyone he comes as if he had never come before; in his own sweet way he is the Child who is born, he, Jesus the Savior, he Emmanuel, he Christ at Christ’s Mass on Christmas.

[Read More](#)

## ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES 2023



Join the Catholic family of the Archdiocese of Toronto throughout the advent with our daily reflections.

[Watch Here](#)

## 3 Minute Retreat

### Let Your Light Shine

*Matthew 5:14*

*You are the light of the world.*

[English](#)

[Español](#)

# LIVING YOUR FAITH

## Gabriel's Message: Advent Hymn-Sing Along



### Advent Song

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

## Give ear to my words, O LORD; give heed to my sighing



Friday, January 12, 2024 07:00 PM -  
Sunday, January 14, 2024 01:30 PM

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre Pickering

Men Ignatian Silent Retreat - facilitated by Fr. Jim Kelly, SJ. – "Give ear to my words, O LORD; give heed to my sighing." Praying with the Psalms. In the quiet of this retreat the words of the Psalms emerge in a way that helps us to pray. This wondrous book of hymns expresses in language, in poetry, in images, those emotions that dwell deep within us. Refreshed and stirred by the Psalms we discover in ourselves a renewed capacity and desire to present our own selves before God. - This silent weekend retreat begins on Friday evening and runs to Sunday with lunch. The suggested offering is \$250 per person which includes 2 night's accommodation with meals, spiritual direction and retreat program.

### [Register Here](#)

## Coffee and the Promises of the Incarnation



God invites us to believe in His promises to us over and over again.

So while I stood over my stove, waiting for my coffee, I began contemplating the art of waiting on God's fidelity. The kind of waiting that involves hope and surrender. Oh, how this virtue pushes and stretches us, doesn't it? My mind drifted to the birth of Jesus. Having recently heard the genealogy of Jesus during Mass, I thought about the long line of generations that preceded His birth. I recalled how much waiting was involved in the Old Testament. How many thousands of faithful Israelites died before they saw the fulfillment of God's promise of a Savior? Yet, as we hear in the First Reading, no one who believes in Him has ever been put to shame (see Romans 10:11). As we approach this liturgical season of waiting, God invites us to believe in His promises to us over and over again. The first sentence of Saint Andrew's Christmas Novena provides an eloquent reminder of this:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

Sister, do not be afraid to bring your heart full of hope to the edge of the wooden manger. Gaze upon the miracle that took thousands of years for God to reveal. Let the blessed moment of your Savior's birth constantly remind you of God's fidelity made flesh.

### [Read More](#)

## Preparing For Christmas



What is the best way to prepare for the season of Advent? You're free to do what you know will help you prepare for Christmas the best. If decorating and so forth does not help you prepare for the coming of Christ, you can be the judge of whether it's worth doing. Fr. Mike also wants to remind us that Advent is not just about preparing for Christmas. It's also about preparing for Christ's Second Coming. One day we will meet Christ face to face. Advent is the stark reminder that we need to get ready for eternity. With that in mind, what if you prepared as if December 25 will be the day you die? Have a merry Advent.

### [Watch Video](#)

*"Advent is thus a favourable time to pray with greater intensity, to reserve to the spiritual life the important place it deserves." — Pope Francis*

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