

St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

640 Glenholme Avenue, Toronto, ON. M6E 3G9 | Tel: 416-782-8943 | Fax: 416-781-8444
stthomasaquinasto@archtoronto.org • www.stthomasaquinas.archtoronto.org

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



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear parishioners of STA Parish,

The first reading (2 Samuel 7) of the fourth and last Sunday of Advent tells us a beautiful story about how King David wanted to build a house for the Lord who gave him so many victories; but the Lord, in gratitude for the initiative, told him not to worry, that He the Lord, will make a great name for David and for his descendants by building them not only a house, but a kingdom that will last forever. Moreover, the Lord promised that David's own descendant (Jesus Christ) shall be a son to Him and that He the Lord will to him a father (God the Father). This prophecy happened about a thousand years before the annunciation. You may now, under the background, re-read the Gospel reading of this Sunday (Luke 1.26-38). Pray with me: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be done to me according to your word". Amen. Have a blessed Advent week!

Del Escritorio del Párroco

Queridos feligreses de la Parroquia STA

La primera lectura (2 Samuel 7) del cuarto y último domingo de Adviento nos cuenta una hermosa historia sobre cómo el rey David quiso construir una casa para el Señor que tantas victorias le dio; pero el Señor, en agradecimiento por la iniciativa, le dijo que no se preocupara, que Él el Señor, hará un gran nombre para David y para sus descendientes construyéndoles no sólo una casa, sino un reino que durará para siempre. Además, el Señor prometió que el propio descendiente de David (Jesucristo) será un hijo para Él y que Él, el Señor, será para él un padre (Dios Padre). Esta profecía ocurrió unos mil años antes de la anunciación. Ahora puedes releer, como telón de fondo, la lectura del Evangelio de este domingo (Lc 1,26-38). Rezad conmigo: "Aquí estoy, sierva del Señor: hágase en mí según tu palabra". Amén. Que tengáis una feliz semana de Adviento.



Important Information



2024 Envelopes

2024 Envelopes are now available in the church foyer for pick-up. The envelopes are labelled and arranged in alphabetical 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, please fill out the first three envelopes of 2024. 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 alfabéticamente y verá su nombre bajo el 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, por favor llene los primeros tres sobres de 2024. Apreciamos su generosidad y apoyo. Muchas gracias.

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!

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.

OFFICE HOURS—CHRISTMAS 2023

Please note that the office will be closed from Monday, December 25th to Wednesday, December 27th and will resume regular services on Thursday, December 28th. Thank you for understanding! The Church will remain open from morning until evening on Christmas and New Year Day.

HORARIO DE OFICINA-NAVIDAD 2023

La oficina permanecerá cerrada del Lunes, 25 de diciembre a miércoles, 27 de diciembre y reanudará los servicios regulares el jueves, 28 de diciembre. Gracias por su comprensión. La Iglesia permanecerá abierta desde por la mañana hasta por la noche los días de Navidad y Año Nuevo.

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 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 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

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...

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. 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

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

9:00am – English
7:00pm – Trilingual



END OF YEAR EVENT

ROSARY, ADORATION, TE DEUM & HOT DRINKS

Sunday, December 31, 2023 from 10 PM to 2024!



ALL ABOUT FAITH

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord—December 25



Reflection: Christmas Day is among the most celebrated feasts in the world. Everything else in life stops while the Christian world, in particular, celebrates the birth of the Savior of the World that took place over 2,000 years ago in the small town of Bethlehem. The first Christmas was celebrated by Mary and Joseph, but a multitude of angels saw to it that poor shepherds from the nearby fields joined the celebration as representatives of the entire Christian world to come. Though the Incarnation took place nine months prior when the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive a Child, that Child exited her sacred womb and breathed His first breath of air on that holy night. It is amazing that God chose such a humble birth. The fact that the Savior of the World permitted Himself to become subject to the rulers of the pagan Roman Empire reveals His profound humility. The Son of God's perfection of humility is also revealed by the immediate circumstances of His birth. It took place not in a royal palace, not even in a nice home, but in a cave where animals dwelt.

Most Holy Savior of the World, You are the Light that scattered the darkness. You chose to be born in the most humble conditions, elevating humility as a means of great holiness. As we celebrate Your birth, I pray that You will also be born in my life, and through me, into the world. May this Christmas be a time in which I come to know You more fully and intimately, joining the shepherds in their adoration of You, so that I can share in the abundant new life You came to bestow. Holy Savior, have mercy on me. Jesus, I trust in You. — My Catholic Life

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.

[Find Out More Here](#)

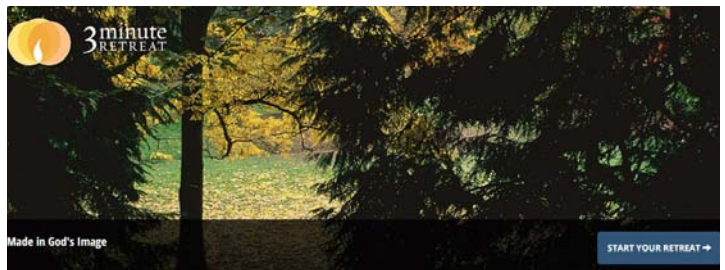
The Feast of the Holy Family



Reflection: It is amazing that God chose to enter our fallen human condition by becoming Incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was born of her, raised by her and Saint Joseph, acquired human knowledge through their teaching, worked with His hands, experienced the fullness of human society, and did so within the context of an earthly family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph made up a sacred family, the Holy Family. Today's feast continues our Christmas Day celebration. This feast falls within the octave of Christmas that culminates January 1 with the Solemnity of the Mother of God.

As we honor the Holy Family, one of the best ways to do so is to prayerfully ponder the daily life that the Holy Family shared. Because Scripture does not record many of their family interactions in Nazareth, much is left to our prayerful imagination. What we do know is that human familial virtue within the Holy Family, especially between mother and Son, was at a level of perfection. The kindness, respect, obedience, unity, charity, and every other Christian virtue that they lived must become the model for Christian living and for family life.

[Read More](#)



Made in God's Image

"Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery."

Exodus 20:12-14

3 Minute Retreat

[English](#)

[Español](#)

LIVING YOUR FAITH

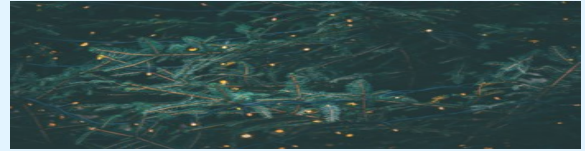
The Nativity Story



Animated Bible Story

[Children's Video](#)

Christmas Message From Mother Teresa of Calcutta



At Christmas Christ comes to us like a little child, small and helpless, so much in need of all that love can give. Are we ready to receive Him? Before the birth of Jesus His parents asked for a simple dwelling place, but there was none. If Mary and Joseph were looking for a home for Jesus, would they choose your house and all it holds? Today there is so much trouble in the world, and I think that much of it begins at home. The world is suffering because there is no peace in the family. We have so many thousands of broken homes. We must make our homes centers of compassion and forgiveness, and so bring peace. Make your house, your family, another Nazareth, where love, peace, joy, and unity reign, for love begins at home. You must start there and make your home a center of love. You must be the hope of eternal happiness to your wife, your husband, your child, to your grandfather, your grandmother, to whoever is connected to you.

[Read More](#)



The Source Holy Hour

Thursday, January 25, 2024

07:00 PM to 09:00 PM

840 Bathurst Street, Toronto

You are invited to The Source Holy Hour with music by the Sisters of Life at St. Peter's Church in Toronto (Bathurst and Bloor).

[Find Out More Here](#)

Finish Advent Strong: Celebrate Christmas Well



Can you believe it, Christmas is almost here? Was your Advent as spiritually fruitful as you had hoped? Regardless of how faithful you were these past four weeks, Bobby shares how even in these final days of the Advent season we are invited to begin again, "Nunc Coepi" to recommit to our spiritual practices and finish strong.

[Short Video](#)

Let us pray that we shall be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas—not in the cold manger of our heart but in a heart full of love and humanity, a heart warm with love for one another.

— St. Teresa of Calcutta

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