

# *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.



## *Feast of the Holy Family*

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters,

I hope you and your loved ones had an amazing Christmas get-together. This last Sunday of the calendar year is kind of special because we venerate the first Christian home every, namely the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This cradle of Christianity certainly has a lot to teach us about God's plan for the human family and hence what a true Christian home should look like. I would very much encourage you to reflect on all the three readings of today (Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3.12-21 and Luke 2.22-40). Even for "non-believers", they are such an inestimable treasure! Pray with me: "Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways" (Psalm 128). Amen. Enjoy the last day of the year and do remember that we have a two-hour praise and worship, from 10pm to 12pm, followed by a new year toast! Join us if you will. I pray that you have a Spirit-filled start of 2024!

## Del Escritorio del Párroco

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Espero que vosotros y vuestros seres queridos hayáis pasado unas estupendas fiestas navideñas. Este último domingo del año es especial porque veneramos el primer hogar cristiano, la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José. Esta cuna del cristianismo tiene mucho que enseñarnos sobre el plan de Dios para la familia humana y, por tanto, sobre cómo debe ser un verdadero hogar cristiano. Les animo a reflexionar sobre las tres lecturas de hoy (Eclesiástico 3.2-6, 12-14; Colosenses 3.12-21 y Lucas 2.22-40). Incluso para los "no creyentes", son un tesoro inestimable. Reza conmigo: "Bienaventurado todo el que teme al Señor, el que sigue sus caminos" (Salmo 128). Amén. Disfruten del último día del año y recuerden que tenemos una alabanza y adoración de dos horas, de 10 a 12 de la noche, seguida de un brindis de año nuevo. Únete a nosotros si quieres. Rezo para que tengáis un comienzo de 2024 lleno del Espíritu.



## END OF YEAR EVENT

### **ROSARY, ADORATION, TE DEUM & HOT DRINKS**

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

**We hope to see you and celebrate with you!**



## NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHEDULE 2024

### **Monday, January 1, 2024**

**NEW YEAR DAY - Solemn Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Holy Day of Obligation—Like Regular Sunday Mass**

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

### **OTHER SOLEMNITIES:**

**Saturday Vigil & Sunday Masses**

**January 6th & 7th, 2024**

**Solemn Mass of the Epiphany of Our Lord**

5:00 pm - English (Saturday Vigil)  
9:00 am - English  
10:30 am - Italian  
12:00 pm- English  
2:00 pm- Spanish  
6:00 pm- English

### **Monday, January 8th, 2024**

**Feast of the Baptism of our Lord**

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

### **OFFICE HOURS/HORARIO DE OFICINA**

Please note that the office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 and will resume regular services on **Tuesday, January 2, 2024.** Thank you for understanding! The Church will remain open from morning until evening on New Year's Day.

Por favor, tenga en cuenta que la oficina permanecerá cerrada el lunes 2 de enero de 2024 y reanudará sus servicios regulares **el martes 2 de enero de 2024.** Gracias por su comprensión. La Iglesia permanecerá abierta desde la mañana hasta la noche del día de Año Nuevo.

### **Food Bank Break/ Descanso del Banco de Alimentos**

Our parish Food Bank will be closed on **Tuesday, January 2, 2024.** Thank you for your understanding!

El Banco de Alimentos de nuestra parroquia permanecerá cerrado **el martes 2 de enero de 2024.** ¡Gracias por su comprensión!

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Gracias por su generosidad!**

Regular Collection—December 17, 2023:  
**\$5,285.20**



## A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM FR. PATRICK FOR 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year 2024! You surely remember the last time you purchased something of great value. You probably set some rules around its use and/or rent. Or, perhaps, you recall more vividly the moment you got engaged or just married. You probably made up some regulations that helped you go far in your relationship. Totally normal! We could all use some new year resolutions or commitments, don't you think? I mean, if we really want this new year to turn out a better, more prosperous, and superb year, then we got to do something from the very starting point.

Obviously, I am not referring to decisions such less junk food, more veggies, less alcohol, more fitness, etc. No gain-saying those are great as well for our physical and mental well-being. However, I think at this point of our spiritual fitness. While both can complement each other, the latter seem to support the former even more. If that is the case, would it not be beneficial this new year to draft a spiritual growth plan? For instance, one could decide to read a chapter of the Bible every blessed day. Would it not be a fruitful exercise to meditate more, pray the Holy Rosary every day, listen to uplifting news/programs, attend Mass earlier with a specific intention, be more actively involved in your parish and local community, volunteer more hours during each

month, confess more regularly, seek out new ways to share your life with others. A long list of to-do's, isn't it? Indeed! Nonetheless, we do not have to do it all at once. No. We only need to begin small and determined, and then increase stronger and stronger over time. How amazing!

On behalf of Fr. Peter and the entire STA parish staff, I wish you a blessed and smashing new year 2024. May the Mother of God, Queen of Peace, accompany you all the way through this new year. Say Amen!"

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

¡Feliz Año Nuevo 2024!

Seguro que recuerdas la última vez que compraste algo de gran valor. Probablemente estableciste algunas reglas en torno a su uso y/o alquiler. O, tal vez, recuerdes más vívidamente el momento en que te comprometiste o acabas de casarte. Seguramente inventaste algunas normas que te ayudaron a llegar lejos en tu relación. Totalmente normal. A todos nos vendrían bien algunos propósitos o compromisos de año nuevo, ¿no crees? Si de verdad queremos que este nuevo año sea mejor, más próspero y estupendo, tenemos que hacer algo desde el principio.

Obviamente, no me estoy refiriendo a decisiones como menos comida basura, más verduras, menos alcohol, más ejercicio, etc. No estoy negando que esas cosas también son estupendas para nuestro bienestar físico y mental. Sin embargo, en este punto pienso en nuestra aptitud espiritual. Aunque ambas pueden complementarse, la segunda parece apoyar aún más a la primera. Si ese es el caso, ¿no sería beneficioso este nuevo año elaborar un plan de crecimiento espiritual? Por ejemplo, uno podría decidirse a leer un capítulo de la Biblia cada bendito día. ¿No sería un ejercicio fructífero meditar más, rezar el Santo Rosario todos los días, escuchar noticias y programas edificantes, asistir a Misa más temprano con una intención específica, participar más activamente en la parroquia y en la comunidad local, ofrecerse como voluntario más horas durante cada mes, confesarse con más regularidad, buscar la ayuda de Dios, etc.?

mes, confesarte con más regularidad, buscar nuevas formas de compartir tu vida con los demás. Una larga lista de cosas por hacer, ¿verdad? Pues sí. Sin embargo, no tenemos que hacerlo todo a la vez. No. Sólo tenemos que empezar poco a poco y con determinación, y luego ir creciendo más y más con el tiempo. ¡Qué maravilla!

En nombre del P. Peter y de todo el personal de la parroquia STA, os deseo un bendecido y estupendo año nuevo 2024. Que la Madre de Dios, Reina de la Paz, os acompañe a lo largo de este nuevo año. ¡Decid Amén!"

# ALL ABOUT FAITH

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—January 1



As Mary heard those words, she pondered them, reflected upon them, and kept them in her heart. This was but the first time we are told of Mary's pondering heart after the birth of her Son, but we can be certain that she pondered Him over and over, entering ever more deeply into the mystery of her motherhood of the Son of God. As the Mother of God, Mary's prayerful pondering was beyond our comprehension.

The bond she shared with her divine Son far surpassed a mere human bond. Jesus was not only her Son, He was also her Savior. Therefore, she adored Him as a mother loves her child, but also as a servant worships her God. The relationship between this unique mother and Son is infinitely awe-inspiring.

Our Blessed Mother is given the unique title of "Mother of God" first and foremost to express our faith in the divinity of Jesus. Jesus was both human and divine, but in Him these two natures were perfectly united. Therefore, one cannot say that Mary was only the mother of the humanity of Jesus, she was the mother of the Person. And that one Person was, at the same time, God and man.

*Most holy Mother of God, you were blessed beyond all people, graced beyond what I will ever comprehend. Thank you for your "Yes" to God in all things. Thank you for your pure and holy love for your Son, for your motherly heart, your motherly pondering, and your motherly care for all your children. Pray for me that I may become more like your Son so as to merit you as my mother and queen. Mother of God, pray for us. 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](#)

## How to ring in the New Year with the Holy Spirit

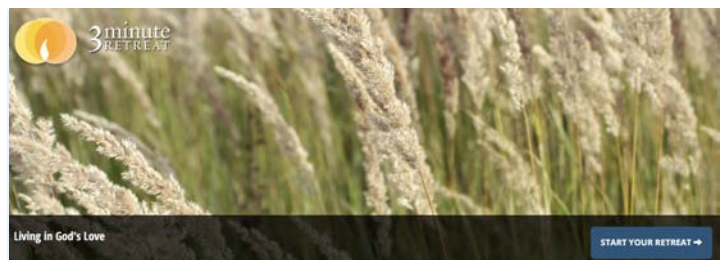


Ask the Holy Spirit to direct all of your thoughts and actions in the New Year. While January 1 is dedicated to the Mother of God, it is also a most appropriate day to invoke the Holy Spirit. The Vatican's Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy suggests turning to the Holy Spirit for inspiration in the New Year.

[The faithful] should try to lend a Christian understanding to this custom making of these greetings an expression of popular piety. The faithful, naturally, realize that the "new year" is placed under the patronage of the Lord, and in exchanging new year greetings they implicitly and explicitly place the New Year under the Lord's dominion, since to him belongs all time.

A connection between this consciousness and the popular custom of singing the Veni Creator Spiritus can easily be made so that on January 1 the faithful can pray that the Spirit may direct their thoughts and actions, and those of the community during the course of the year.

[Read More](#)



## Living in God's Love

*You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him.*

— Exodus 20:15-17

## 3 Minute Retreat

[English](#)

[Español](#)

# LIVING YOUR FAITH

Why do we celebrate Christmas?



Animated Bible Story

[Children's Video](#)



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](#)

Mary: Perfect...But Still Human?



Are you ever intimidated by Mary? Because of her sinlessness, imitating Mary seems like an impossibility. However, Dr. Edward Sri explains that she reveals what we are called to. Although she was free from Original Sin, Mary still experienced many of life's trials that we face as well. To help us understand her better, Dr. Sri shares examples of some of Mary's very human experiences.

Snippet from the Show

Although Mary was conceived without sin, she still had to walk by faith and not by sight.

[Listen Here](#)

Hope in the New Year



With each new year come new hopes, new plans, and new opportunities. Fr. Mike points out that this optimism and this "spirit" of New Year's is a great inspiration for the interior life of the Christian.

[Short Video](#)

*"Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence."*

— Saint Francis de Sales

**D** **DUFFERIN IRON & RAILINGS**  
 Custom Wrought Iron Works  
 Viktor Okhnovsky  
 416-535-1686  
[www.dufferiniron.com](http://www.dufferiniron.com)

**Zito's**  
*marketplace*  
 210 Marlee Ave.  
 416.789.4755  
[www.zitosmarketplace.ca](http://www.zitosmarketplace.ca)

**Lady York**  
 Foods

**FRESH FRUIT,  
 VEGETABLES & MEAT**  
 2939 Dufferin St. 416-781-8585  
[ladyyorkfoods.com](http://ladyyorkfoods.com)

**My Little BUTCHER SHOP**  
 EST. 99  
 416-783-1437 1948 Eglinton Ave W

**NEW OWNER.  
 SAME GREAT  
 STORE.**

@ginosnofrillstoronto

**NOFRILLS**  
 1951 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto



**CASTLE**  
 AUTO COLLISION & MECHANICAL SERVICE  
*Over 50 years serving our community*  
 Lifetime warranty on repairs  
 Experienced Technicians  
 Competitive Pricing  
 Our Quality promise  
 416-789-4179 [castleautocollision.com](http://castleautocollision.com)



**DOCE MINHO**  
 PASTRY & BAKERY

Tony & Dina Araujo  
 2189 Dufferin Street  
 416.652.8666



**A Great Place  
 To Learn**

Our licensed child care provides stimulating, high quality care to enhance a child's learning and development.

**18 months  
 to 12 years**

Daycare  
 18 months - 5 years

Before/After Care  
 6-12 years

Summer Camp  
 4-12 years

20 Bansley Avenue (D'Arcy McGee School)  
 (416) 397-6300 | [stbernadettesfrc.org](http://stbernadettesfrc.org)  
 Transportation available from St. Thomas Aquinas School to D'Arcy McGee School

**THE PERFECT  
 SPOT  
 TO  
 ADVERTISE**  
 TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE  
 PLEASE CALL 905-624-4422

**Darosa**  
 Café - Restaurant  
 Churrasqueira  
 2853 Dufferin at Glencairn  
 416-256-4544  
[www.DarosaRestaurant.com](http://www.DarosaRestaurant.com)



**ST. MICHAEL'S  
 COLLEGE SCHOOL**  
 Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

Grades 7 to 12  
 University preparatory

[APPLYSMCS.COM](http://APPLYSMCS.COM)

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
 WANTED**

Liturgical Publications, your weekly bulletin printer has an opening for a **full time Sales Representative.**  
*Base Salary • Commission • Car Allowance • Travel Expenses*  
 If you have a drive to succeed and are self-motivated, email your resume to [salesrep@parishbulletins.com](mailto:salesrep@parishbulletins.com)



**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**  
 FUNERAL SERVICES

In keeping with your Catholic faith  
[www.catholic-cemeteries.com](http://www.catholic-cemeteries.com)

Queen of Heaven Cemetery 905-851-5822  
 Holy Cross Cemetery & Funeral Home 905-889-7467