

St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



February 18th, 2024 | First Sunday of Lent

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.



© Word on Fire

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 & Saturdays at 12:00 pm

February 17th to 24th, 2024 MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, February 17th

9:00 am +Bosco Bermudez Castro +Ivan Esteban Bermudez/ +Paul Maingot

5:00 pm +Manuel Perdro de Sousa and all souls in purgatory

SUNDAY, February 18th

9:00 am +Frank Perri/ +Angela Vitro

10:30 am +Ercole Mizzone

12:00 pm For the good health of Beverly & Vivian Stephens/ +Emilia & +Pablo Sto. Domingo Sr.

2:00 pm +Gilberto Trovar/ +Rafael Cuellar Barriento/
Bendiciones en el cumpleaños de Julian, Sienna Rutigliano, & Rebeca Isabel Peña Monge/ Sanacion de Toty Calle, Dinora, Walter, & Jacob Lee

6:00 pm +Paul Maingot

MONDAY, February 19th

9:00 am +Giovambattiste e +Nicola Bellissimo and all souls in purgatory/ +Roberto Julian Aguilar/ +Marie Phien/ +Paul Maingot/ Birthday blessings upon Nelly Julissa Calix & Emmanuel Jose Perez

TUESDAY, February 20th

9:00 am +Peter Andersen & +Vincent Tuong/ +Ana Piech/
Birthday blessings upon Brian Miklas

WEDNESDAY, February 21st

9:00 am +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh/ +Heidi Park Lafford/ +Gerald Duncan

THURSDAY, February 22nd - Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

9:00 am +Erlinda Quiazon & +Fortunato Montana/
+Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh / +Egle Judith Cova/
Birthday blessings upon Ania Misko

FRIDAY, February 23rd

9:00 am +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh

SATURDAY, February 24th

9:00 am (available for intentions)

5:00 pm (available for intentions)



Follow the latest
parish updates: @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,

On this first Sunday of Lent, Mark the Evangelist shares that the very first words of Jesus were an invitation to conversion. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15). One may ask: "What time is fulfilled?" It is the time to return to God; it is the time to seek the face of God and make peace with one another. One of the best success stories of the Old Testament is that the prophet Jonah proclaimed a very short message of conversion (Jonah 3.4) and the Ninevites responded positively in mass, with fasting and prayer causing God to relent and hold back punishment. "Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love. Amen.

First Sunday of Lent

Support our vulnerable youth through ShareLife

In this time of Lent, we ask you to think of our brothers and sisters in need – especially our vulnerable youth who call the streets their home.

"Your gift ensures youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness have access to individualized support and variety of programs and services to meet their complex and diverse needs," says Mark Aston of Covenant House Toronto. "With your caring support, youth have a safe space to turn to and a supportive team to help them plan their own path."

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

STA Parish Income & Expenditures

January 2024

Withdrawals: -\$43,145.35

Deposits: +\$38,440.69

Pre-renovation Survey: \$5,115.00

Property Insurance: \$2,289.50.

Thank you for your generosity!

Offertory Collection—February 11, 2024
\$5,258.25

**The Parish Office will be closed on
Monday, February 19, 2024 for Family Day weekend.**

Youth Group: Friday Evenings

Youth Ministry for **Friday, February 23, 2024**

Topic: *Fun and Games!*

7pm to 8:30 pm in the parish hall; refreshments will be provided after. If you are interested, please register and pick up a flyer. We need sponsors for each youth night. Thank you in advance!



IMPORTANT UPDATE

2023 Tax Receipts

Dear parishioners of STA, you will find in the room next to the sacristy your tax receipts envelopes for the year 2023. Thank you so much for your generous support of our parish. May the Lord reward you abundantly!

100th Anniversary Renovation Work is Underway!

As we prepare to celebrate our centenary in 2026, our parish has already started some major renovations in the main hall, followed by our main entrance and ramp. Kindly please support us intentionally as best you can by using the "Maintenance of the Church" envelopes or by simply writing "Church Maintenance" on any envelope that you use. We appreciate your help. May God bless you!

Dancing Children of Mary

The month of May is the month crowning flowers to Mother Mary. We are inviting all boys and girls from ages 8-18 years old. The practice will start from March 2nd to April 27th every Saturday from 6pm to 9pm. We will perform every weekend of May. Please join with us. Thank you!

2024 Lenten Schedule

FRIDAYS

9:00 am: Holy Mass

9:30 am: Adoration

10:30 am: Stations of the Cross (English & Italian)

7:00—7:30 pm: Rosary & Confessions

7:30—8:00 pm: Lenten Reflection

8:00— 8:30 pm. Stations of the Cross (English & Spanish)

LENTE REFLECTION

Every Sunday during homilies

Fridays @ 7:30pm (except Good Friday)

PARISH RECONCILIATION

Every Fridays during Lent (except Good Friday) 7:00pm to 7:30pm

Wednesday, 27 March, 10:00am to 11:30am; 7:00pm to 8:30pm

ESTA SEMANA EN ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Del escritorio del Pastor

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

En este primer domingo de Cuaresma, el evangelista Marcos comparte que las primeras palabras de Jesús fueron una invitación a la conversión. "El tiempo se ha cumplido y el Reino de Dios se ha acercado; convertíos y creed en la Buena Noticia" (Mc 1,15). Cabe preguntarse: "¿Qué tiempo se ha cumplido?". Es el tiempo de volver a Dios; es el tiempo de buscar el rostro de Dios y hacer las paces unos con otros. Una de las mejores historias de éxito del Antiguo Testamento es que el profeta Jonás proclamó un brevísimo mensaje de conversión (Jonás 3.4) y los ninivitas respondieron positivamente en masa, con ayunos y oraciones que hicieron que Dios cediera y retuviera el castigo. "Acuérdate de tu misericordia, Señor, y de tu amor inquebrantable. Amén.

Apoye a jóvenes vulnerables a través de ShareLife

En este tiempo de Cuaresma, les pedimos que piensen en nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados, especialmente en los jóvenes vulnerables que consideran a las calles como su hogar.

"Su donación garantiza que los jóvenes que se encuentran sin hogar o en riesgo de quedarse sin hogar tengan acceso a un apoyo individualizado y a una variedad de programas y servicios para satisfacer sus necesidades complejas y diversas", dice Mark Aston de Covenant House Toronto. "Con su apoyo afectuoso, los jóvenes tienen un espacio seguro al que recurrir y un equipo de apoyo que les ayudará a planificar su propio camino".

Por favor, done en su parroquia usando un sobre de ShareLife; en línea a través de nuestro sitio web parroquial, o en sharelife.org/donate.

STA Ingresos y Gastos Parroquiales Enero 2024

Retiradas: -\$43,145.35

Depósitos: +\$38,440.69

Encuesta previa a la renovación: \$5,115.00

Seguro de propiedad: \$2,289.50

¡Gracias por su generosidad!

Colecta del Ofertorio- 11 de febrero de 2024
\$5,258.25

La Oficina Parroquial permanecerá cerrada el lunes 19 de febrero de 2024 por el fin de semana del Día de la Familia.

Grupo de jóvenes: Viernes por la tarde Pastoral Juvenil para el viernes 16 de febrero de 2024

Tema: *Diversión y juegos*

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



ACTUALIZACIÓN IMPORTANTE

Recibos de Impuestos 2023

Estimados feligreses de STA, encontrarán en la sala junto a la sacristía sus sobres de recibos de impuestos para el año 2023. Muchas gracias por su generoso apoyo a nuestra parroquia. ¡Que el Señor les recompense abundantemente!

Las obras de renovación del centenario están en marcha!

Mientras nos preparamos para celebrar nuestro centenario en 2026, nuestra parroquia ya ha comenzado algunas renovaciones importantes en el salón principal, seguido de nuestra entrada principal y rampa. Por favor, ayúdenos intencionalmente lo mejor que pueda utilizando los sobres de "Mantenimiento de la Iglesia" o simplemente escribiendo "Mantenimiento de la Iglesia" en cualquier sobre que utilice. Agradecemos su ayuda.

¡Que Dios les bendiga!

Niños danzantes de María

El mes de mayo es el mes de la coronación de flores a la Madre María. Invitamos a todos los niños y niñas de 8 a 18 años. Las prácticas comenzarán del 2 de marzo al 27 de abril todos los sábados de 18:00 a 21:00 horas. Actuaremos todos los fines de semana de mayo. Por favor, únete a nosotros. Gracias.

Calendario de Cuaresma 2024

VIERNES

9:00: Santa Misa

9:30: Adoración

10:30: Vía Crucis (inglés e italiano)

19:00-19:30 Rosario y confesiones

7:30-8:00 pm: Reflexión cuaresmal

8:00- 8:30 pm. Vía Crucis (inglés y español)

REFLEXIÓN DE CUARESMA

Todos los domingos durante las homilias
Viernes @ 7:30pm (excepto Viernes Santo)

RECONCILIACIÓN PARROQUIAL

Todos los viernes de Cuaresma (excepto Viernes Santo)
de 7:00pm a 7:30pm
Miércoles 27 de marzo, de 10:00 a 11:30; de 19:00 a 20:30

ALL ABOUT FAITH

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter



Reflection: In Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, visitors are immediately struck by the large alabaster window on the back wall of the apse that depicts the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. Below the window is an ancient

wooden chair, believed to have been used by Saint Peter. In the seventeenth century, that ancient chair was encased in bronze by the famous artist Bernini and then placed above the altar in the apse. Surrounding the chair are statues of four early Doctors of the Church. Two of them represent the Eastern Church: Saint John Chrysostom and St. Athanasius. Two of them represent the Western Church: Saint Ambrose and Saint Augustine. These great saints represent the universality of the Church, both East and West, as well as the unity of their theological teaching with the authority of the Bishop of Rome. Above the chair are two angels jointly holding the triple crown tiara used by the Bishop of Rome, symbolizing that he is the father of kings, governor of the world, and Vicar of Christ. In their other hands, each angel holds a key, symbolizing the authority of the Bishop of Rome in matters of faith and morals.

Saint Peter, you were a weak and sinful man, but God entrusted you with great responsibility, despite your unworthiness. Please pray for me, that despite my unworthiness, I may be open to all that God entrusts to me and that I may use those gifts for His glory and the salvation of souls. Saint Peter and all your successors in Heaven, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. —My Catholic Life

Priest offers excellent reason why we should go to Confession



Fr. David Michael Moses often uses social media to share his insight into the Catholic faith. And he regularly explains things in a simple way — such as using a bag of chips to explain why we should use our time meaningfully — that can make you think about your religion, and how everyday life can strengthen it.

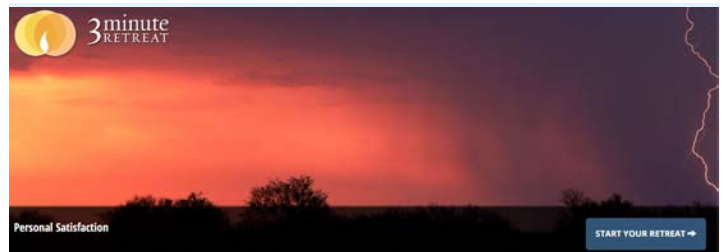
This can be particularly useful when you may question various aspects of Catholicism and how it affects you personally. In fact, he recently posted a reel about Confession — a sacrament that some find difficult to embrace. And it's understandable; it's hard to admit your sins and weaknesses to someone representing God, but who is nonetheless, a human being capable of offering God's forgiveness.

[Read More](#)

The Lift Jesus Higher Rally 2024 Saturday, March 2nd, 2024

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ADULT RALLY \$30
YOUTH RALLY \$15

[Check Out Event](#)



3 Minute Retreat Personal Satisfaction

Genesis 1:31

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed-the sixth day.

[English](#)

[Español](#)

LIVING YOUR FAITH

What is Lent?



Animated Story

[Children's Video](#)

The Holy of Holies:

Discovering the Richness of the Mass

Saturday, February 24, 2024 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM

St. Augustine's Seminary, 2661 Kingston Road



We invite you to join us on February 24th at 9:00 a.m. for this Lent Retreat with speaker Fr. Eric Rodrigues. The prayers and rituals of the Catholic Mass have a history that goes back centuries. We often take them for granted, and might go through them every week without knowing what we are saying or doing. During this retreat, we will enter into the meaning and fascinating history of these familiar prayers and rituals. By doing so, we will enrich our Lenten spirituality by discovering why there is no better place than the Mass to immerse ourselves in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord.

[Register Here](#)

Stations of the Cross: A Lenten Tradition of Love



Each station in this ancient pilgrimage practice remembers significant moments on Jesus' walk from the Praetorium, where he was sentenced to death, to Golgatha (Calvary) outside of the city walls, to the tomb in a nearby garden. The fourteen stations not only help us understand what this difficult journey was like, but they also allow us to enter into this way of sorrow and be present to Jesus. Through prayer, we can be the consoling face in the crowd that Jesus finds as he slowly makes his way through the streets. We can see how much he struggled to bear the weight of the Cross, falling three times under its weight, and offer to Jesus at that moment all of our struggles that are weighing us down. Jesus' suffering and death is the atonement of our sins. Remembering his suffering and walking with him on his sorrowful journey is not meant to invoke guilt, shame, or condemnation. Rather, this pilgrimage is meant to show us Jesus' tremendous love for us in saving us from our sins.

[Read More](#)

First Sunday of Lent 2024 – Journey through Lent



The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops presents Journey through Lent with the Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, Bishop of Saskatoon, and the Most Rev. Stephen Hero, Bishop of Prince Albert. Join us as we reflect on the Scriptures for the Sundays of Lent 2024. On this First Sunday, Bishop Hero provides a reflection on God's promise to Noah and Jesus' invitation to enter into a new covenant.

[Watch Video](#)

“No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great.” — St. John Chrysostom

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