

# St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | Second 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.



© Our Sunday Visitor

**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 |  
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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 24<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, February 24<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am (available for intentions)  
2:30 pm Baptism of Felix Sabay  
5:00 pm +Rosario & +Paterno Taladucan Sr.

### SUNDAY, February 25<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am +Luz Macuto  
10:30 am +Mario Trevisan/ +Francesco Fiore  
12:00 pm +Sofia Bartolome Tumanon/ +Candelaria,  
+Roberto & +Bernardino Asuncion/ Thanksgiving, good  
health and well-being of David Stephens  
2:00 pm +Eliseo Murillo Rui/ +Rafael Marroquin/  
Sanacion de Bendiciones en el cumpleaños de  
Maximiliano Ayala Moron  
6:00 pm +Natividad Cabiguen

### MONDAY, February 26<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am +Maria Phien & all souls purgatory

### TUESDAY, February 27<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am +Peter Andersen & +Vincent Tuong/  
+Maria Rosa Dalsass & +Janina/ Birthday blessings upon  
Lucy Dalsass & Jerry Rusiecki

### WEDNESDAY, February 28<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am +Vincent Nguyen & Maria Dinh/ +Juana Ines  
Venegas, +Julia Tejada Choto/ Birthday blessings upon  
Jacqueline Marisol Gomez & Sofia Eunice Tejada

### THURSDAY, February 29<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am +Vincent Nguyen & + Maria Dinh/ +Andrea  
Chevez, +Tadeusz, +Gienek & +Krystyna/ +Rev. Fr. Miro

### FRIDAY, March 1<sup>st</sup>

9:00 am + Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh /Deceased  
members of Palladino family

### SATURDAY, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 am +Sebastiano Milando/ Birthday blessings upon  
Ariana Azucena Martinez & Mauro Dalsass

5:00 pm All souls in purgatory/ Thanksgiving for the  
blessings and graces received by Melcher Ray Porras, Jessie  
Asuncion & Edenia Dela Veña



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# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear parishioners of STA Parish,

There is that famous saying that "obedience is better than sacrifice". Very true! The first reading (Genesis 22) narrates the classical story of the test of Abraham. He is indeed our father in faith because he obeyed what was humanly "insane" and held the torch of hope under an apparently "hopeless" circumstance. Moreover, at the transfiguration on Mount Tabor (Mark 9.2-10), the Father's voice resounded ordering the disciples to "listen" to Jesus, the only begotten Son of God. The forty days of Lent is more a season of listening than of doing. But the real question is: "Whom are we listening to?" May the Lord open our hearts to hear his holy words and follow his perfect ways. Amen.

## Second Sunday of Lent Show your love through ShareLife

ShareLife Sunday is March 17. Our parish goal for this year's campaign is **\$32,000**. Through your kindness, over 40 Catholic organizations and social service agencies can help marginalized members of our community. No one is turned away due to inability to pay. This is all possible through your support. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

On the weekend of March 9/10th, Angela Carboni, the Executive Director of St. Bernadette's Family Resource Centre will be offering us a brief information on her ministry for less privileged kids and how your ShareLife donations profits them.

## Youth Group: Friday Evenings

### Youth Ministry for Friday, March 1, 2024

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!

**Thank you for your generosity!**  
Offertory Collection—February 18, 2024  
\$4, 504.00



## HANDICRAFT HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS



On the weekend of March 2-3, we will welcome our special guest Sebastien Cardinal representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every mass. Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. May God Bless you for your generosity, for you help and for your prayers.

Cash, debit, credit cards and cheque will be accepted. You can visit and support us at [www.HolylandChristians.ca](http://www.HolylandChristians.ca)

## 2024 Lenten Schedule

### FRIDAYS

9:00 am: Holy Mass

9:30 am: Adoration

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

3:00 pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet

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)

### LENTEN 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

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH YEAR END REPORT 2023

## REVENUE

Offertory	\$ 256,160
*Other Parish Collections	14,455
Easter & Christmas Collections	15,908
Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals	9,967
Mass Intentions	29,310
*Other Donations	8,388
Hall Revenue	6,920
Interest Revenue (Bank & Chancery)	12,250
Catechism (First Communion/Confirmation)	5,265
Sundry Receipts	14,316
Bibles, Missals & Catechisms	2,360
Votive Candles	34,980
*Grants Receipts	37,500
*Fundraising for Maintenance Project	72,865
*Building, Maint., Heating & Restoration	19,215
ShareLife	23,476
Diocesan Collections	18,998

### Investments Redeemed

Chancery Investments Redeemed	60,000
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### Total Revenue

\$ 582,333
\$ 60,000
<b>\$ 642,333</b>

## EXPENSES

Salaries, Clergy & Staff Including Benefits	\$ 229,331
Office Supplies & Services	13,539
Insurance & Utilities for Church	17,399
Liturgy and Mass Expense	14,779
Repairs and Grounds Maintenance	18,131
Rectory Expenses	17,960
Diocesan Assess/Clergy Health & Pension	42,176
Grant - Food Bank Payments	384
Grant - Anti-Hate	518
*Pilgrimages Expenses	28,108
Volunteer & Faith Formation payments	4,841
Catechism (First Communion/Confirm./RCIA)	1,234
*Sundry Payments	28,465
Professional Fees Before Renovation Project	36,283
ShareLife	23,431
Diocesan Collections	18,998
*Property Additions & Restorations	5,124
*Furnishing & Equipment	3,289

### Other Expenditures & Investments

Chancery & Family of Faith Purchased	\$ 62,174
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### Total Expenses

\$ 503,991
\$ 62,174
<b>\$ 566,165</b>

## PROFIT

<b>\$ 76,168</b>
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### Additional Notes:

\*Other Parish Coll. Include: All Souls, Ash Wednesday, Conf. & First Communion Mass don., Feasts & Devotions, Holy Thursday, Solemnity of Mary & Novena.

\*Other Donations Include: Flower, Youth Ministry, Certificate & Poor Box donations.

\*Sundry Receipts: Cath. Cemeteries, Initial Offering, HST Rebates, Health Benefits Refund.

\*Grants Receipts: Government - Anti-Hate \$7,500 & ShareLife - Food Bank \$30,000.

\*Fundraising Revenue: Christmas Draw \$10,306, BBQ Fundraiser \$8,507, Seder Meal \$2,300 & Pilgrimages \$51,752.

\*Building Fund, Maintenance, Heating & Restoration: Since April 01/19 the Parish has been collecting donations for a Special Building Project, Roof and Ramp (roof was not completed). We have collected \$208,086 from Apr. 01/19 to Dec 31/22 & In year 2023 from Fundraising and Maintenance Coll. \$92,080.

\*Fundraising Expenses: Christmas Draw \$1,975, BBQ Fundraiser \$1,518 & Pilgrimages \$24,615.

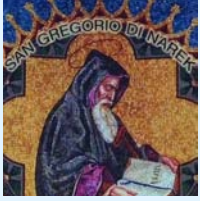
\*Sundry Expenses Include: Missals, HST Expense, Social (Parish BBQ), staff training & Priest Retreats.

\*Property Additions and Restorations: New A/C Unit

\*Furnishing and Equipment: Wi-Fi routers/amplifiers & Laptop for Liturgy

# ALL ABOUT FAITH

## Memorial: St Gregory of Narek - February 27



Gregory's father had taught him to remain in a state of continuous dialogue with God, ever attentive to His divine presence. The Book of Narek seems to flow from Gregory's ongoing dialogue. The book is a compilation of ninety-five prayers. Each prayer begins with the phrase, "Speaking with God from the Depths of the Heart." The prayers then go on to express the deepest love of God by a soul that seems troubled, and even tormented at times. The torment, however, is not despair, but an interior expression of hope from a soul who is in touch with his fallen humanity and sin, while at the same time keenly aware of God's mercy. Saint Gregory states that these prayers were written "by the finger of God" (Prayer 34) and that Gregory saw God, as he says, "with my own eyes" (Prayer 27f).

*Prepare the earth for the day of light and let the soil bloom and bring forth fruit, heavenly cup of life-giving blood, ever sacrificed, never running dry all for the salvation and life of the souls in eternal rest. And though my body die in sin, with Your grace and compassion, may I be strengthened in You, cleansed of sin through You, and renewed by You with life everlasting, and at the resurrection of the righteous be deemed worthy of Your Father's blessing. To Him together with You, all glory, and with the Holy Spirit, praise and resounding thanks, now, always and forever,  
Amen.*

—My Catholic Life

## Second Sunday of Lent: Contrast



The Gospel for today's Mass presents us with the Transfiguration of our Lord, which took place on a mountain where Jesus offered a small glimpse of His glory to three of His apostles: Peter, James, and John. This story begins with similarities to Jesus' forty days in the desert. Jesus took these three apostles away by themselves for a time of solitude. They didn't journey into the desert, but they did climb a mountain, which was undoubtedly laborious.

What these apostles would encounter on that mountain was far from a desert experience of hunger, thirst, heat, and temptation. Instead, in what must have seemed a surreal and instantaneous flash of grace, Moses and Elijah appeared and were speaking to Jesus. Jesus Himself became radiant with light, His clothing dazzling white. Then the Voice of the Father thundered from Heaven. Not only were the eyes of these apostles dazzled, but their spirits were also stirred, for they knew they were seeing something they could have never imagined seeing. They were receiving the consoling gift of a glimpse of Jesus' glory.

[Read More](#)

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

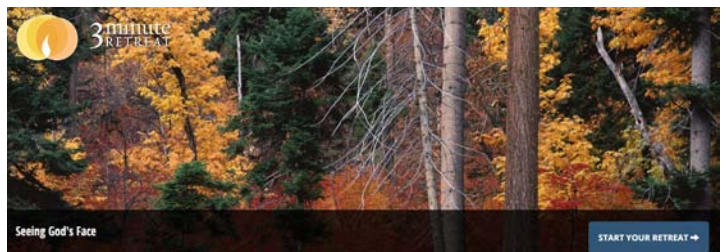
**LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY**  
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ADULT RALLY	YOUTH RALLY
\$30	\$15

[Check Out Event](#)



## 3 Minute Retreat Seeing God's Face

Exodus 3:6

*"I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

[English](#)

[Español](#)

# LIVING YOUR FAITH

Catholic Kids Media- Love, Have Faith, and Obey!



**Animated Story**

[Children's Video](#)

**7 Principles for Making Marriage Work  
Weekend Couples Retreat**



Friday, March 22, 2024 04:00 PM -  
Sunday, March 24, 2024 02:00 PM

Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga

- You will learn about re-building your friendship, managing conflict and creating shared meaning
- There will be presentations, class exercises, couple exercises and homework activities
- All meals and accommodations are include

[Register Here](#)

**Did the Demons Know Jesus was God?**



Demons do not know everything. While they are extremely intelligent beings—far smarter than even the highest IQ human beings—still they are not aware of all that takes place in the material world. This raises the thorny question of whether the demons knew that Jesus was God. Interestingly, the Church Father Origen observed that God allowed Mary's marriage to Joseph to conceal from the devil the miraculous conception of Jesus. In this way, the protective presence of Joseph helped mislead the demons into thinking Jesus had been born of flesh and blood just like any other human being. Nevertheless, we can be sure that over time the demons' fascination with Jesus would have grown. Exorcists point out that the demons are especially attentive to the life and deeds of holy people, and appeared to have never committed any sin.

[Read More](#)

**Journey through Lent – Second Sunday of Lent**



“Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”” – Mark 9:7 The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops presents Journey through Lent with the Most Rev. Stephen Hero, Bishop of Prince Albert, and the Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, Bishop of Saskatoon. Join us as we reflect on the Scriptures for the Sundays of Lent 2024. On this Second Sunday of Lent, Bishop Hero provides a reflection on the Transfiguration.

[Watch Video](#)

*“Humility is the foundation of all the other virtues hence, in the soul in which this virtue does not exist there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance.” - St. Augustine*

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