

St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



December 1st, 2024 | First 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.



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PASTOR Fr. Patrick Ezimora C.C.E.
RESIDENT PRIEST 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
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20 Bansley Ave. Toronto | 416-393-5318

CATHOLIC FUNERAL HOMES

Bernardo 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 & Saturdays at 12:00 pm

November 30th to December 7th, 2024 MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, November 30th — St. Andrew the Apostle

9:00 am *All souls in purgatory*

5:00 pm *All souls in purgatory*

SUNDAY, December 1st

9:00 am *+Francia Gallego*

10:30 am *+Guerino Fratangeli/ Deceased members of Iacoucci & Mizzoni families*

12:00 pm For the parishioners of STA Parish

2:00 pm - No Spanish Mass

6:00 pm *+Felix, +Antonina & +Antonio Tubog/ +Antonio & +Joao & +Maria Bairos/ +Jose & Maria Leandres/ +Angelo & +Maria Sousa/ +Romeo & +Idalina Best*

MONDAY, December 2nd

9:00 am *+Charles Brooks/ + Georgina Maria Munguia/ +Francisco Javier Quijada/ +Peter Andersen & +Vincent Tuong/ +Dominico Uan & +Rev. Vincent Trinh*

TUESDAY, December 3rd — St. Francis Xavier

9:00 am *+Marchese Giovabattista/ +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh/+Giuse Vu & +Rev. Mario Chappa/ Francisca Gonzalez*

WEDNESDAY, December 4th — St. John Damascene,

9:00 am *+Delia Obispo, +Efrain Alas/ +Rev. Phero Tam & +Bro. John the Cross*

THURSDAY, December 5th

9:00 am *+Marchese Giovabattista/+Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh*

FRIDAY, December 6th — St. Nicholas

9:00 am *All souls in purgatory & +Loreto Marrocco/ +Maria Pia Pagliaroli/ +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh / +Marsha Liala Lowery/ +Concepcion Escobar Letona/ Thanksgiving for Lucita G. Climacosa*

SATURDAY, December 7th — St. Ambrose

9:00 am *+Benito Morandini/ +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh/ Thanksgiving for the Legion of Mary*
5:00 pm *Antonio, Rosa, & Benny Positano & all deceased members of their families/ All souls in purgatory/ Daru & Della Mora families/ +Vincenzo & +Giuseppina Tuzi/ +Tala Nicholson*



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

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy Liturgical Year C! Advent is an opportune time to prepare our hearts for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, get yourself a Sunday Missal and create time to reflect on the readings of each Sunday! And, as we light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love, let us remind ourselves of who we are: God's children, chosen from the world to live blameless and holy lives. However, since Christians are not exempt from temptation and pitfalls, our Lord exhorts us to "be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap." (Luke 21.34-35). Have a fruitful journey of Advent and enjoy your Sunday.

Del Escritorio del Párroco

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo

¡Feliz Año Litúrgico C! El Adviento es un tiempo oportuno para preparar nuestros corazones para la segunda venida de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Por eso, comprate un con un Misal dominical y dedica tiempo a reflexionar sobre las lecturas de cada domingo! Y, mientras encendemos las velas de la esperanza, la paz, la alegría y el amor, recordemos quiénes somos: Hijos de Dios, elegidos del mundo para vivir vidas intachables y santas. Sin embargo, como los cristianos no estamos exentos de tentaciones y trampas, el Señor nos exhorta a «estar en guardia para que vuestros corazones no estén cargados de disipación y embriaguez y de las preocupaciones de esta vida, y aquel día os sorprenda de improviso, como una trampa». (Lucas 21.34-35). Que tengáis un fructífero camino de Adviento y disfrutéis del domingo.

Thank you for your generosity! Gracias por su generosidad!

Regular Collection—November 24, 2024

\$4787.55



Paperless Sunday Giving!

Please support your parish by easy online donation which keeps track of everything for tax receipt purposes. Thank you for your generosity!

¡Domingo sin papel!

Por favor, apoye a su parroquia por donación en línea fácil que mantiene un registro de todo para fines de recibo de impuestos. ¡Gracias por su generosidad!

Sunday Missals 2024-2025!

As we begin the new liturgical year C, there are missals available behind the Church or in the office for those who wish to buy one for themselves. But we shall also leave some in the pews for Church use only. Great to read & pray along!

Misales dominicales 2024-2025

Al comenzar el nuevo año litúrgico C, hay misales disponibles detrás de la Iglesia o en la oficina para aquellos que deseen comprar uno para sí mismos. Pero también dejaremos algunos en los bancos para uso exclusivo de la Iglesia. Son ideales para leer y rezar.

First Sunday of Advent – December 1, 2024

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life." Are worldly cares dragging you down? Be a follower of the Master. If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. Email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

Primer domingo de Adviento - 1 de diciembre de 2024

«Velad para que vuestros corazones no se vean agobiados por la disipación, la embriaguez y las preocupaciones de esta vida». ¿Te agobian las preocupaciones mundanas? Sé un seguidor del Maestro. Si Dios te llama a ser sacerdote, religioso o diácono, ponte en contacto con el P. Matt McCarthy, Director de Vocations, Archidiócesis de Toronto, en el 416-968-0997. Correo electrónico vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

Christmas/New Year Schedule 2024-2025



Mass Times

Tuesday Dec 24th

9:00am Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00pm- Trilingual Mass

Wednesday Dec. 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am- English

10:30am- Italian

12:00pm- English

2:00pm- Spanish

6:00pm- English

Tuesday Dec. 31

9:00am Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00pm- Trilingual

6:15pm- Adoration &

Te Deum

Wednesday Jan 1,

2025

NEW YEAR DAY

9:00am- English

10:30am- Italian

12:00pm- English

2:00pm- Spanish

6:00pm- English

2024 Parish End-of-Year Events

Parish Xmas Concert

Saturday, December 7, 2024 @ 6:30pm
in the Church

Immaculate Conception trilingual Mass

Monday, December 9 @ 7:00pm

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe & Reception

Thursday, December 12 @ 7pm

Parish Advent Confession

- Friday, December 13, 2024
6:00pm to 8:30pm in the Church

Soup Kitchen for All Parishioners

Sunday, December 22
After 9am, 10:30am & 12pm Masses
in the hall

Parish Xmas Party with Karaoke

Monday, December 23 @ 8pm in the hall

Adoration followed by Dinner Dance & Fellowship In the Main Hall

Tuesday, 31 December from 6:15pm to
2025

Christmas Novena Mass & Fellowship

Sunday, Dec. 15th @ 6pm, sponsored by
Social Committee & Knights

Monday, Dec. 16th @ 7pm sponsored by
Line Dance Group

Tuesday, Dec. 17th @ 7pm sponsored
by

Wednesday, Dec. 18th @ 7pm
sponsored by Calbayog (Casaroca)
Association

Thursday, Dec. 19th @ 7pm sponsored
by Legion of M, ELIM & Italian Comm.

Friday, Dec. 20th @ 7pm sponsored by
5pm, 9am choirs and Lydia's Suman

Saturday, Dec. 21st @ 5pm sponsored
by Altar Servers, Youth & 12pm choir

Sunday, Dec. 22nd @ 6pm sponsored by
6pm choir, HOLD & Bisaya Group

Monday, Dec. 23rd @ 7pm sponsored by
Circle of Prayer, Lectors & Ushers



ALL ABOUT FAITH

December 3—St. Francis Xavier, Memorial



Reflection: Francisco de Jasso y Azpilicueta (Francis) was born into a noble family at the Castle of Xavier in the Kingdom of Navarre, the youngest of several children. His father was seneschal (administrator) to the royal court of the King of Navarre, giving

him important administrative, financial, and judicial authority. In 1512, when Francis was six, the King of Aragon and regent of Castile attacked the Kingdom of Navarre, with devastating consequences for Francis' family's wealth and power. Three years later, Francis' father died. At the age of nineteen, Francis moved to Paris to study philosophy and the arts. As was common at that time, he went by the name Francis Xavier, identifying himself with his place of origin, the Castle of Xavier. Saint Francis Xavier was truly another Saint Paul to the Asian peoples. His constant traveling and founding of mission churches planted the seeds of faith deep in the soil he traversed. Though persecution stifled Catholicism's later growth in Japan, that stifling ultimately deepened the resolve and faith of those persecuted. As we honor this great apostle of Christ, ponder all that he accomplished in ten short years. As you do, consider the next ten years of your own life, and rededicate yourself to the mission Christ has for you.

Prayer: *Saint Francis Xavier, the Gospel was planted deep in your heart through the Spiritual Exercises given to you by Saint Ignatius, your founder. Those exercises transformed your life, and through you, many other lives were touched. Please pray for me, that I will be open to the transformation that God wants for me, so that I can then go forth to share His love with others. Saint Francis Xavier, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. — My Catholic Life*

Tuesday, December 03, 2024 06:30 PM—08:00 PM
St. Patrick's Parish, 137 McCaul St.



Join other young adults from across the city at St. Patrick's Church for an evening meditation and reflection on the mysteries of this Holy Season of Advent, praying before the Blessed Sacrament, being steeped in the words

of the prophet Isaiah and anticipating the Birth of Christ once again through song, symbol and silence. Light festive refreshments to follow outdoors.

[Find Out More](#)

Priest explains why Catholics need to pray to saints



Praying to saints is a topic that can make believers and non-believers a little confused. After all, when people put their hands together in prayer, the general belief is that these prayers are directed to God Himself. Therefore, if you're questioning the relevance of praying to the saints, or you need to explain the practice to others, then you might wish to listen to Fr. David Michael Moses.

As he points out, the simple meaning of the word pray is: "to make a request in a humble manner." It is a word that is often used in old English in a polite form. For example, in the works of Shakespeare -- who incidentally many believe was a Catholic -- the expression "I pray thee..." contracted to "prithee" appears a number of times. In this form it basically means "please."

[Read More](#)



3 Minute Retreat Letting Go of Fear

Luke 1:28

And coming to her [Mary], he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

[English](#)

[Español](#)

LIVING YOUR FAITH

Jesus is Coming!



Animated Story

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

Advent Retreat - "Here I am, Lord - Living the Unconditional Yes of Mary and Joseph"



The Institute of Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary presents this retreat as part of its Spirit & Life Series for the 2024–2025 Academic Year.

In this Advent day of retreat, we will follow Mary and Joseph through their moments of saying “yes” to Our Lord’s will for them. As we follow the moments of the Annunciation, the birth of Jesus, Joseph’s dreams and the flight into Egypt, we realize how many times the Lord seemed to ask of them what was unexpected and uncertain, even uncomfortable and life changing. As we enter the Advent season, this retreat will allow us to strengthen our own many “yeses” to God, with the model and help of Mary and Joseph.

[**Register Here**](#)

How Advent can help cure our boredom with life

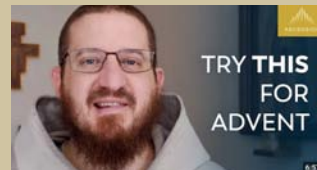


Advent is a time when we can remember that life is charged with meaning and purpose, journeying towards a future of hope. It's relatively easy in today's world to feel bored, not only with the current moment, but with life in general.

When we aren't being entertained by the latest viral post on social media, we might lapse into a gnawing boredom that reaches to the core of our soul. He explained in an Advent homily in 2009 how waiting can become "unbearable" when we do not live with meaning.

[**Read More**](#)

What Makes Advent Different from Lent



Father jumps into the differences between Advent and Lent, and how to take advantage of any season the Church has to offer. The main difference is the focus: while Lent is a time for following Jesus in his Passion, Advent is a time of waiting with Mary, expecting.

[**Watch Video**](#)

“It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.” — Pope Benedict XVI

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