

# St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



December 8th, 2024 | Second 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  
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

## December 7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, December 7<sup>th</sup> — 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

### SUNDAY, December 8<sup>th</sup> — Second Sunday of Advent

**9:00 am** +Peitro & +Nunzia Marchione/ +Francia Gallego/ +Vittorio, +Vito, +Angela & +Nicola Ierullo/+Inesita Navarro +Leonora Peralta and +Gloria Banaticla/ Mia Tolibas  
**10:30 am** +Marchese Giovabattista  
**12:00 pm** +Mark Angelo Pena/ +Maria Clotilde Barros & +Adelino Mouta Reis Gomes/+Leoncia & +Roberto Lingbanan & +Honest Gallos/ Thanksgiving for God's blessing and protection of Vivien, Beverly & David Stephens  
**2:00 pm** +Concepcion Escobar Letona/ Bendiciones en el cumpleaños de Fernando Rio, Austin  
**6:00 pm** +Ceriaco & +Anacleta Tubog

### MONDAY, December 9<sup>th</sup> — The Immaculate Conception

**9:00 am** +Peter Andersen & +Vincent Tuong/ +Vincent Van & +Maria Lua/ +Catalina Melaya  
**7:00 pm** Parishioners of STA

### TUESDAY, December 10<sup>th</sup> — Our Lady of Loreto

**9:00 am** +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh/  
+Gioan Baotixita Dinh & +Maria Ngo

### WEDNESDAY, December 11<sup>th</sup> — St. Damasus I

**9:00 am** +Maria Madalena Ngu & +Maria Phien/ +Santaninho P.C. Menezes

### THURSDAY, December 12<sup>th</sup> — Our Lady of Guadalupe

**9:00 am** Jamie Leanne Pasion/ +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh

**7:00 pm** Parishioners of STA

### FRIDAY, December 13<sup>th</sup> — St. Lucy

**9:00 am** +Frank Perri/ +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh/  
Rosana Raymundo

### SATURDAY, December 14<sup>th</sup> — St. John of the Cross

**9:00 am** Turello family/ +Sandra & Tony Presot/  
+Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh  
**5:00 pm** (available for intentions)



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 parishioners of STA Parish,

The readings of this second Sunday of Advent help us to continue to prepare our hearts for Christmas as well as for the glorious second coming of our Lord. Here they are: Baruch 5.1-9 (First Reading); Psalm 126; Philippians 1.3-6, 8-11 (Second Reading) and Luke 3.1-6 (Gospel). Hopefully, you are praying along with your Missal or Bible. The first reading is luminous for it expresses great joy at what the Lord will do for his beloved people. In the second reading, St Paul, like a pregnant woman, overflows with joyful hope at the destiny of his Philippian converts. Finally, the Gospel reading admonishes us to prepare ourselves well for this Christmas through personal examination of conscience, sacramental confession, meditation on the word of God and works of charity. Enjoy your Sunday and have a wonderful week!

## Del Escritorio del Párroco

Queridos feligreses de la Parroquia STA

Las lecturas de este segundo domingo de Adviento nos ayudan a seguir preparando nuestros corazones para la Navidad, así como para la gloriosa segunda venida de nuestro Señor. Aquí están: Baruch 5.1-9 (Primera Lectura); Salmo 126; Filipenses 1.3-6, 8-11 (Segunda Lectura) y Lucas 3.1-6 (Evangelio). Esperemos que estés rezando junto con tu Misal o Biblia. La primera lectura es luminosa, pues expresa una gran alegría por lo que el Señor hará por su amado pueblo. En la segunda lectura, san Pablo, como una mujer encinta, rebosa de gozosa esperanza por el destino de sus conversos filipenses. Por último, la lectura evangélica nos exhorta a prepararnos bien para esta Navidad mediante el examen personal de conciencia, la confesión sacramental, la meditación de la Palabra de Dios y las obras de caridad. Buen domingo y buena semana.

**Thank you for your generosity! Gracias por su generosidad! Grazie per la vostra generosità!**

*Regular Collection—December 1, 2024*

**\$6227.00**



### 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!

### Congratulations Archbishop Francis Leo!

The faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto offer our prayers and best wishes for the newest members of the College of Cardinals, including our chief shepherd, the Archbishop of Toronto, Frank Cardinal Leo. This weekend, Cardinal Leo is in Rome as one of the 21 new cardinals from around the world gathered with Pope Francis. Please pray for our new cardinal as he begins this important role of service to the Church.

### ¡Enhorabuena Arzobispo Francis Leo!

Los fieles de la Arquidiócesis de Toronto ofrecen nuestras oraciones y mejores deseos para los nuevos miembros del Colegio Cardenalicio, incluyendo a nuestro pastor principal, el Arzobispo de Toronto, el Cardenal Frank Leo. Este fin de semana, el Cardenal Leo se encuentra en Roma como uno de los 21 nuevos cardenales de todo el mundo reunidos con el Papa Francisco. Por favor, oren por nuestro nuevo cardenal mientras comienza este importante papel de servicio a la Iglesia.

### PARISH HALL RENTAL

The newly renovated parish main hall is now available for rent during the week and on the weekends. Hurry and call the parish office for details! Thank you.

### ALQUILER DEL SALÓN PARROQUIAL

El recién renovado salón principal de la parroquia ya está disponible para alquilar durante la semana y los fines de semana. Date prisa y llama a la oficina parroquial para más detalles. Gracias a todos.

### FUNDRAISING DINNER & DANCE

Our Parish will have New Year's Eve Dinner Dance on December 31st, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Please call the parish office to reserve your tickets. See you there!

### CENA Y BAILE PARA RECAUDAR FONDOS

Nuestra Parroquia tendrá Cena Baile de Fin de Año el 31 de Diciembre de 2024 a las 7:00 PM en el Salón Parroquial. Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para reservar sus boletos. ¡Nos vemos allí!



# St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## Christmas/New Year Schedule 2024-2025



### Mass Times

#### Tuesday Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

9:00am Mass

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00pm- Trilingual Mass

#### Wednesday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>

#### 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. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm, sponsored by  
Social Committee & Knights

Monday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm sponsored by  
Line Dance Group

Tuesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm sponsored  
by the Hispanic Community

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

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

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

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

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

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



# ALL ABOUT FAITH

## December 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Solemnity



**Reflection:** In 1854, Pope Pius IX issued an apostolic constitution called *Ineffabilis Deus* by which he declared the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be a dogma of faith. This definition was a response to the longstanding devotion and theological consensus that had built up over the centuries. By declaring a dogma of faith, the Holy Father used his highest papal teaching authority, binding every Catholic to accept this teaching. *Ineffabilis Deus* begins by stating that the creation of the Blessed Virgin Mary was in the mind of God from all eternity. She is the Father's "singular delight," and "under God, one cannot even imagine anything greater, and which, outside of God, no mind can succeed in comprehending fully." This statement should leave us with a profound faith in the Immaculate Conception and an acknowledgment of the great and incomprehensible mystery we celebrate. Only in Heaven, as we behold the Beatific Vision, will our minds also behold the beauty and profound mystery of God's greatest act of creation in the person of the Mother of God.

**Prayer:** *Most holy Mother, you are the Immaculate Conception, God's most precious treasure and His singular delight. To your intercession and mediation I entrust my life. Take me to your Son and pour forth His grace upon me and upon the whole world. I entrust to you every care, concern, confusion, struggle, and cross. I turn to you for every grace of faith, hope, and love from Heaven, so that I can become more fully conformed to the image of your Son Who alone is the Savior of the World. Mother Mary, the Immaculate Conception, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*  
— *My Catholic Life*

Saturday, December 14, 2024 07:00 PM - Saturday, December 14, 2024 09:30 PM



St. Michael's Choir School presents: A magical blend of secular and sacred choral repertoire to usher in this Christmas season. A Toronto holiday tradition, this is the Choir School's 59th annual Christmas concert, packed with exceptional works including Vivaldi's Gloria, Carol of the Bells and The Star Carol. With close to 300 voices, 5 choirs consisting of students and alumni taking the stage, this year's programme is sure to be one of the best yet!

[Find Out More](#)

## Pope at Angelus: Be vigilant and turn your gaze to Heaven



Pope Francis led the customary Angelus prayer on this first Sunday of Advent and reflected on the Gospel reading in which Jesus speaks to us about cosmic upheavals and the anxieties and fears humanity faces.

Look to Lord with trust

Persecutions, wars and natural disasters made up the catastrophic events of many of Jesus' contemporaries, the Pope pointed out, and anxieties for the future and the end of the world abounded. The Lord knows their hearts are burdened with fear, the Pope observed, and He helps the disciples be free of worldly anxieties and false convictions of security, by showing them how to be vigilant with their minds and hearts, remembering God's plan for salvation even amidst the most dramatic events of history. He explained that by turning our gaze to heaven, we can better put into context the challenges in our lives as we journey to the Lord.

[Read More](#)



## 3 Minute Retreat The Work of the Church

*Acts of the Apostles 2:38*

*Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit."*

[English](#)

[Español](#)



# LIVING YOUR FAITH

He is Coming!



Animated Story

[Children's Video](#)

This Advent, prepare for the birth of Jesus as Mary did



Mary's preparation would have included getting ready for a big trip and lots of traveling. She most likely spent a good amount of time packing and arranging things for traveling with Joseph for the census. On top of that she was in her third trimester of pregnancy. She didn't have a nice, restful do-nothing last bit of pregnancy, nesting cozily at home among people she knew and loved. If your Advent is full of hustle and bustle and travel, or if you are struggling physically while trying to somehow prepare your heart and home for Christmas, you're in good company.

[Read More](#)

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](#)

Fr. Mike Schmitz and Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT Explain Healing in the Gaze of Jesus



In this 3-part series filmed backstage at the 2024 Good News Conference, Fr. Mike sits down with 3 special guests to discuss prayer, the sacraments, and how to prepare to meet Jesus "face to face" this coming Advent. Fr. Mike and Sr. Miriam examine our needs for healing from sin, trauma, and a broken past, and uncover the luminous power of God's loving gaze on our hearts, minds, and souls.

[Watch Video](#)

*"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern."*

*— Mother Teresa*

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