

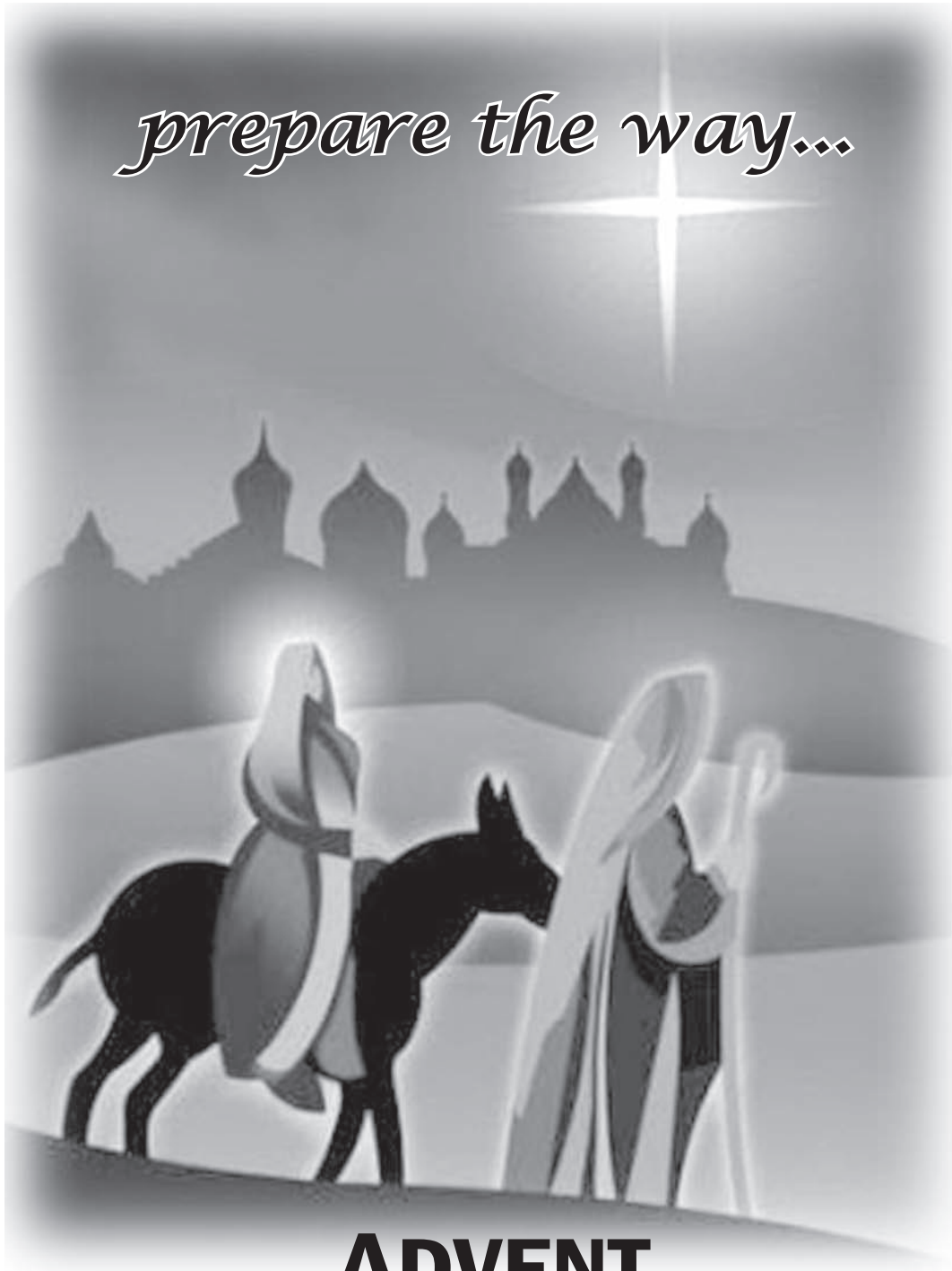
# *St. Thomas Aquinas*

**ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH**

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stthomasaquinasto@archtoronto.org • www.stthomasaquinas.archtoronto.org

**PASTOR** Fr. Patrick Ezimora C.C.E.  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR** Fr. Peter Paul C.C.E.

*prepare the way...*



**ADVENT**

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear parishioners of STA Parish,

The three readings of this fourth and last Sunday of Advent open our eyes to what divine love can do. God sent his own beloved Son, born of a woman to lead his people to peace and security (see Micah 5.2-5a). Moreover, the same Jesus Christ, Son of Mary, out of love for us offered his own life as expiatory sacrifice for our sins (see Hebrews 10.5-10). The Mother of God, the New Eve and our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, displayed the same love by her fiat ("Let it be done") to God's loving plan for human beings (see Luke 1.39-45). Three days away from Christmas, let us say a decisive "yes" to God's amazing will for our lives. Enjoy your Sunday and don't forget, Christmas is about Christ, God's Greatest Gift to us! May your heart overflow with hope, peace, joy and love during this Christmas season! Amen.

## Del Escritorio del Párroco

Queridos feligreses de la Parroquia STA

Las tres lecturas de este cuarto y último domingo de Adviento nos abren los ojos a lo que puede hacer el amor divino. Dios envió a su propio Hijo amado, nacido de una mujer, para conducir a su pueblo a la paz y la seguridad (ver Miqueas 5.2-5a). Además, el mismo Jesucristo, Hijo de María, por amor a nosotros ofreció su propia vida como sacrificio expiatorio por nuestros pecados (cfr. Hb 10,5-10). La Madre de Dios, la Nueva Eva y Madre nuestra, la Santísima Virgen María, manifestó el mismo amor con su fiat («Hágase») al plan amoroso de Dios para el ser humano (cfr. Lc 1,39-45). A tres días de la Navidad, digamos un «sí» decidido a la sorprendente voluntad de Dios para nuestras vidas. Disfruta de tu domingo y no olvides que la Navidad trata de Cristo, ¡el mayor regalo de Dios para nosotros! Que tu corazón rebose de esperanza, paz, alegría y amor durante este tiempo de Navidad. Amén.

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

*Regular Collection—December 22, 2024*

**\$4, 812.05**

## STA parish warmly welcomes Fr. Ben, the Associate Pastor!



My name is Rev. Fr. Nwamuo Benedict Chibunna CCE. I was ordained priest on the 7th of November 2020 at Ohuru, Abia State in Nigeria. I have had pastoral experiences at Maria Assumpta umuode, St. Peter Claver Parish Umueleghele and St. Paul's parish Abaukwu. All in Aba diocese Nigeria. I am happy to come to Canada to share in the joyous Christian faith with the parishioners of St Thomas Aquinas Parish Toronto. My hobbies are reading and playing soccer while my favorite food is rice and stew.

## ¡STA parroquia da una calurosa bienvenida al P. Ben, el Pastor Asociado!

Mi nombre es Rev. P. Nwamuo Benedict Chibunna CCE. Fui ordenado sacerdote el 7 de noviembre de 2020 en Ohuru, Estado de Abia en Nigeria. He tenido experiencias pastorales en Maria Assumpta umuode, St. Peter Claver Parish Umueleghele y St. Paul's parish Abaukwu. Todas ellas en la diócesis de Aba, Nigeria. Estoy feliz de venir a Canadá para compartir la alegre fe cristiana con los feligreses de la parroquia de Santo Tomás de Aquino de Toronto. Mis aficiones son leer y jugar al fútbol, mientras que mi comida favorita es el arroz y el estofado.

## 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!

## December 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, December 21<sup>st</sup>

**9:00 am** +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh/ +Ermina Mattachione, +Saverio e +Filomena/ +Guadalupe & +Manuel Conde/ Zofia, Omar Conde / Morandini Family  
**5:00 pm** +Charlie Tuzi & +Severino Drusian/ Altar Servers, Youth & 12pm choir

### SUNDAY, December 22<sup>nd</sup> — Fourth Sunday of Advent

**9:00 am** +Giustina Bianchi/ In honour of the blessed trinity, Holy Family, all saints, holy angels and blessed and for all souls  
**10:30 am** +Pietro Moriconi  
**12:00 pm** Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas  
**2:00 pm** Sanacion de Yaneth Cardona/ +Elsa Lucila Santo/ +Salvador Gomez Lopez  
**6:00 pm** 6pm choir, Handmaids of the Lord & Bisaya Group

### MONDAY, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

**9:00 am** +Peter Andersen & +Vincent Tuong/ +Luis Hernan Ortiz/ +Benard Sheldia – 15th anniversary/ In honour the holy family, blessed trinity and all saints  
**7:00 pm** Circle of Prayer, Lectors & Ushers/ Denis & Norma Lewis in celebration of their wedding anniversary

### TUESDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup> — Christmas Eve

**9:00 am** +Lourdes Trinidad/ +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh/ +Zofia & +Stanislaus Misko, +Rev. Fr. Pier Giorgio Di Cicco  
**7:00 pm**—Christmas Eve Mass

### WEDNESDAY, December 25<sup>th</sup> — Nativity of Our Lord

**9:00 am** Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas  
**10:30 am** Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas  
**12:00 pm** Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas  
**2:00 pm** Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas  
**6:00 pm** Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas

### THURSDAY, December 26<sup>th</sup> — St. Stephen

**9:00 am** Birthday blessings upon Mauricio Rodas, Alvaro Diaz & Vanessa Monge

### FRIDAY, December 27<sup>th</sup> — St. John the Beloved

**9:00 am** +Cecilia Espinoza/ Ivan Ayala & Isis Gonzalez

### SATURDAY, December 28<sup>th</sup> — The Holy Innocents

**9:00 am** +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh/ +Osvaldo Enrique & +Rogelia Rocero/ Aladin Wahba  
**5:00 pm** +Vincenzino Tuzi

# 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

### END OF YEAR EVENTS

#### Parish Christmas Party with Karaoke

Monday, December 23, 2024 at 8pm in the hall

#### ADORATION FOLLOWED BY DINNER DANCE & FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, December 31, 2024 from 6:15 PM to 2025!

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR!**





# ALL ABOUT FAITH

## Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord—December 25



**Reflection:** Christmas Day is among the most celebrated feasts in the world. Everything else in life stops while the Christian world, in particular, celebrates the birth of the Savior of the World that took place over 2,000 years ago in the small town of Bethlehem.

The first Christmas was celebrated by Mary and Joseph, but a multitude of angels saw to it that poor shepherds from the nearby fields joined the celebration as representatives of the entire Christian world to come. Though the Incarnation took place nine months prior when the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive a Child, that Child exited her sacred womb and breathed His first breath of air on that holy night. It is amazing that God chose such a humble birth. The fact that the Savior of the World permitted Himself to become subject to the rulers of the pagan Roman Empire reveals His profound humility. The Son of God's perfection of humility is also revealed by the immediate circumstances of His birth. It took place not in a royal palace, not even in a nice home, but in a cave where animals dwelt.

*Most Holy Savior of the World, You are the Light that scattered the darkness. You chose to be born in the most humble conditions, elevating humility as a means of great holiness. As we celebrate Your birth, I pray that You will also be born in my life, and through me, into the world. May this Christmas be a time in which I come to know You more fully and intimately, joining the shepherds in their adoration of You, so that I can share in the abundant new life You came to bestow. Holy Savior, have mercy on me. Jesus, I trust in You. — My Catholic Life*

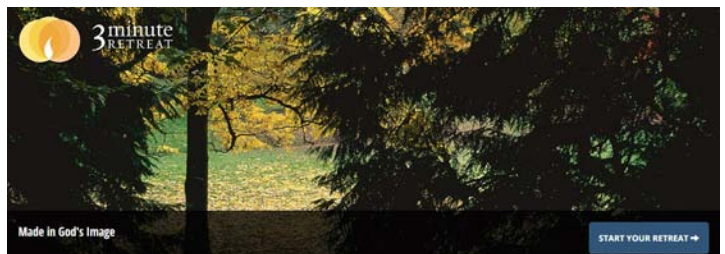
## The Feast of the Holy Family



**Reflection:** It is amazing that God chose to enter our fallen human condition by becoming Incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was born of her, raised by her and Saint Joseph, acquired human knowledge through their teaching, worked with His hands, experienced the fullness of human society, and did so within the context of an earthly family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph made up a sacred family, the Holy Family. Today's feast continues our Christmas Day celebration. This feast falls within the octave of Christmas that culminates January 1 with the Solemnity of the Mother of God.

As we honor the Holy Family, one of the best ways to do so is to prayerfully ponder the daily life that the Holy Family shared. Because Scripture does not record many of their family interactions in Nazareth, much is left to our prayerful imagination. What we do know is that human familial virtue within the Holy Family, especially between mother and Son, was at a level of perfection. The kindness, respect, obedience, unity, charity, and every other Christian virtue that they lived must become the model for Christian living and for family life.

[Read More](#)



### 3 Minute Retreat Made in God's Image

*"Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery."*

Exodus 20:12-14

[English](#)

[Español](#)

# LIVING YOUR FAITH

## The Nativity Story



### Animated Story

[Children's Video](#)

## A Messy Advent Can Be a Holy One



At Christmas Christ comes to us like a little child, small and helpless, so much in need of all that love can give. Are we ready to receive Him? Before the birth of Jesus His parents asked for a simple dwelling place, but there was none. If Mary and Joseph were looking for a home for Jesus, would they choose your house and all it holds? Today there is so much trouble in the world, and I think that much of it begins at home. The world is suffering because there is no peace in the family. We have so many thousands of broken homes. We must make our homes centers of compassion and forgiveness, and so bring peace. Make your house, your family, another Nazareth, where love, peace, joy, and unity reign, for love begins at home. You must start there and make your home a center of love.

[Read More](#)

## Healthy Communication, Intimacy, Relationship



Friday, January 17, 2025 - Sunday, January 19, 2025  
Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, 1617 Blythe Rd.,  
Mississauga

### HEALTHY COMMUNICATION, INTIMACY, RELATIONSHIP

Build a joyful marriage by learning the tools of healthy communication. Retrouvaille, a Catholic-origin program, welcomes all couples to help get their relationships back on track. Registration fee \$600

CONTACT: Toronto Retrouvaille  
PHONE: 437-234-5610  
EMAIL: [info@torontoretrouvaille.com](mailto:info@torontoretrouvaille.com)

[Register Here](#)

## How to Celebrate Christmas When Life Is Hard



Have you ever heard the song "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"? Have you listened to the lyrics carefully? It's not exactly the blissful naiveté of "Deck the Halls". It's much more real and raw than that. Fr. Mike is here to remind us that although "hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good-will to men," the truth is that "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good-will to men."

[Watch Video](#)

***And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. — John 1:14***

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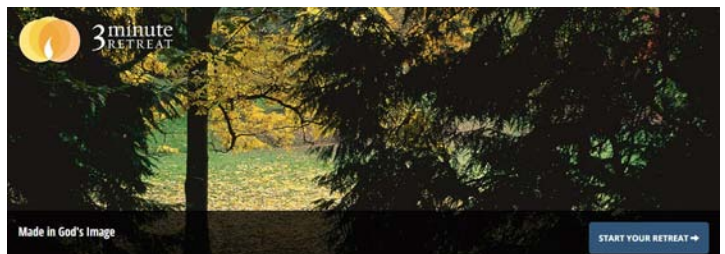
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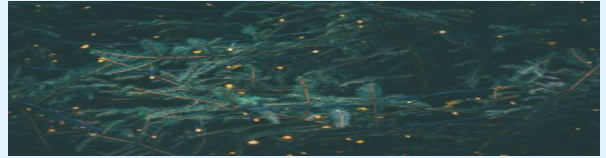
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