

# *St. Thomas Aquinas*

**ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH**

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**PASTOR** Fr. Patrick Ezimora C.C.E.

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



## *Feast of the Holy Family*

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brother and sisters,

I hope you and your loved ones had an amazing Christmas fellowship. This last Sunday of the calendar year is special because we venerate the first Christian home ever, namely the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This cradle of Christianity certainly has a lot to teach us about God's plan for the human family and hence what a true Christian home should look like. I would very much encourage you to reflect on all the three readings of today (1 Samuel 1. 20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3.1-2, 21-24 and Luke 2.41-52). Pray with me: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed, it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God" (Psalm 84). Enjoy your day and do remember that we have our New Year Eve's Mass and adoration at 5pm this Tuesday, followed by dinner & dance in the main hall. I pray that you have a Spirit-filled start of 2025!

## Del Escritorio del Párroco

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Espero que tú y tus seres queridos hayáis pasado unas estupendas fiestas navideñas. Este último domingo del año civil es especial porque veneramos el primer hogar cristiano de la historia, a saber, la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José. Sin duda, esta cuna del cristianismo tiene mucho que enseñarnos sobre el plan de Dios para la familia humana y, por tanto, sobre cómo debe ser un verdadero hogar cristiano. Te animo a que reflexiones sobre las tres lecturas de hoy (1 Samuel 1. 20-22, 24-28; 1 Juan 3.1-2, 21-24 y Lucas 2.41-52). Reza conmigo: «¡Qué hermosa es tu morada, Señor de los ejércitos! Mi alma anhela los atrios del Señor; mi corazón y mi carne cantan de alegría al Dios vivo» (Salmo 84). Disfruten de su día y recuerden que tenemos nuestra Misa de Nochevieja y adoración a las 5pm este martes, seguida de cena y baile en el salón principal. Rezo para que tengáis un comienzo de 2025 lleno del Espíritu.

## 2025 Envelopes

2025 Envelopes are now available in the church foyer for pick-up. The envelopes are labelled and arranged in alphabetical order and you will see your name under the envelope number. Please note that you will be keeping your designated envelope number for 2024. We kindly ask that you use these envelopes for the new year. **Please do not use envelopes from previous years.** If you need to make changes with your personal information, please fill out the first three envelopes of 2025. We appreciate your generosity and support. Thank you very much!

## Sobres 2025

Los sobres 2025 ya están disponibles en el vestíbulo de la iglesia. Los sobres están etiquetados y ordenados alfabéticamente y verá su nombre bajo el número de sobre. Tenga en cuenta que conservará su número de sobre designado para 2024. Le rogamos que utilice estos sobres para el nuevo año. Por favor, no utilice sobres de años anteriores. Si necesita hacer cambios con su información personal, por favor llene los tres primeros sobres de 2025. Agradecemos su generosidad y apoyo. Muchas gracias.

## OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the office will be closed from Tuesday, December 31st to Thursday, January 2nd will resume regular services on Friday, January 3rd. Thank you for understanding!

## HORARIO DE OFICINA

Por favor, tenga en cuenta que la oficina permanecerá cerrada desde el martes, 31 de diciembre hasta el jueves, 2 de enero se reanudarán los servicios regulares el viernes, 3 de enero. Gracias por su comprensión.

## December 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 to January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 MASS INTENTIONS

### 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 +Maria Illiya

### SUNDAY, December 29<sup>th</sup> — Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9:00 am Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas

10:30 am +Elisa Domenico & +Giuseppina, +Caterina

12:00 pm (available for intentions)

2:00 pm +Sonia Mabel Gonzalez, +Rebeca Salcedo Florez,

+Luis David Garzon, Milena Alejandra Arevalo

6:00 pm (available for intentions)

### MONDAY, December 30<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am +Giuse Duc & all souls in purgatory/ +Cheryl Lyn Sta. Ana

### TUESDAY, December 31<sup>st</sup>

9:00 am +Vincent Nguyen & +Maria Dinh/ Eva Pagulayan/

Fredy Atilio Chacon, Ingrid del Camen Gonzalez,

5:00 pm New Year's Eve—Trilingual Mass

### WEDNESDAY, January 1<sup>st</sup> — Mary, Mother of God

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, January 2<sup>nd</sup> — St. Basil the Great

9:00 am +Rosanna Cresenzi & +Filomena Carinci

### FRIDAY, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 am Karen & Claudio Calix

7:00 pm—First Friday

### SATURDAY, January 4<sup>th</sup> — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

9:00 am Thanksgiving of Legion of Mary/ Birthday blessings for

Matthew/ Thanksgiving for Rev. Fr. Jibin/ +Lucio Rego, +Manuel

Viera & all souls in purgatory/ +Aida de Chacon

5:00 pm all souls in purgatory

# NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHEDULE 2025

## 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 EVENT

### ADORATION AND THEN FELLOWSHIP (DINNER DANCE)

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

## A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM FR. PATRICK



### Wednesday, 1 January 2025:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year 2025! Today is the Solemnity of Mary, the holy Mother of God and the World Day of Peace!

You surely remember the last time you purchased something of great value. You probably set some rules around its use and/or rent. Or, perhaps, you recall more vividly the moment you got engaged or just married. You probably made up some regulations that helped you go far in your relationship. Totally normal! We could all use some new year resolutions or commitments, don't you think? I mean, if we really want this new year to turn out a better, more prosperous, and superb year, then we got to do something from the very starting point.

Obviously, I am not referring to decisions such less junk food, more veggies, less alcohol, more fitness, etc. No gainsaying those are great as well for our physical and mental well-being. However, I think at this point of our spiritual fitness. While both can complement each other, the latter seem to support the former even more. If that is the case, would it not be beneficial this new year to draft a spiritual growth plan? For instance, one could decide to read a chapter of the Bible every blessed day. Would it not be a fruitful exercise to meditate more, pray the Holy Rosary every day, listen to uplifting news/programs, attend Mass earlier with a specific intention, be more actively involved in your parish and local community, volunteer more hours during each month, confess more regularly, seek out new ways to share your life with others. A long list of to-do's, isn't it? Indeed! Nonetheless, we do not have to do it all at once. No. We only need to begin small and determined, and then increase stronger and stronger over time. How amazing!

On behalf of Fr. Benedict, the STA parish staff and the Emmanuelite priests in Canada, I wish you a blessed and smashing new year 2025. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the holy Mother of God, Queen of Peace, accompany you all the way through this new year. Say "Amen"



# ALL ABOUT FAITH

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—January 1



As Mary heard those words, she pondered them, reflected upon them, and kept them in her heart. This was but the first time we are told of Mary's pondering heart after the birth of her Son, but we can be certain that she pondered Him over and over, entering ever more deeply into the mystery of her motherhood of the Son of God. As the Mother of God, Mary's prayerful pondering was beyond our comprehension. The bond she shared with her divine Son far surpassed a mere human bond. Jesus was not only her Son, He was also her Savior. Therefore, she adored Him as a mother loves her child, but also as a servant worships her God. The relationship between this unique mother and Son is infinitely awe-inspiring.

Our Blessed Mother is given the unique title of "Mother of God" first and foremost to express our faith in the divinity of Jesus. Jesus was both human and divine, but in Him these two natures were perfectly united. Therefore, one cannot say that Mary was only the mother of the humanity of Jesus, she was the mother of the Person. And that one Person was, at the same time, God and man.

*Most holy Mother of God, you were blessed beyond all people, graced beyond what I will ever comprehend. Thank you for your "Yes" to God in all things. Thank you for your pure and holy love for your Son, for your motherly heart, your motherly pondering, and your motherly care for all your children. Pray for me that I may become more like your Son so as to merit you as my mother and queen. Mother of God, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You. — My Catholic Life*

## How to ring in the New Year with the Holy Spirit

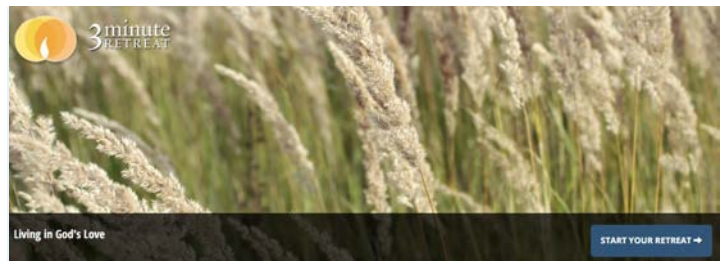


Ask the Holy Spirit to direct all of your thoughts and actions in the New Year. While January 1 is dedicated to the Mother of God, it is also a most appropriate day to invoke the Holy Spirit. The Vatican's Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy suggests turning to the Holy Spirit for inspiration in the New Year.

[The faithful] should try to lend a Christian understanding to this custom making of these greetings an expression of popular piety. The faithful, naturally, realize that the "new year" is placed under the patronage of the Lord, and in exchanging new year greetings they implicitly and explicitly place the New Year under the Lord's dominion, since to him belongs all time.

A connection between this consciousness and the popular custom of singing the *Veni Creator Spiritus* can easily be made so that on January 1 the faithful can pray that the Spirit may direct their thoughts and actions, and those of the community during the course of the year.

[Read More](#)



## Living in God's Love

*You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him.*  
— Exodus 20:15-17

## 3 Minute Retreat

[English](#)

[Español](#)

# LIVING YOUR FAITH

## Why We Should Love the Virgin Mary: Pope Francis Minute



### Animated Bible Story

[Children's Video](#)

Friday, January 17, 2025 - Sunday, January 19, 2025

Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre  
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## Mary: Perfect...But Still Human?



Are you ever intimidated by Mary? Because of her sinlessness, imitating Mary seems like an impossibility. However, Dr. Edward Sri explains that she reveals what we are called to. Although she was free from Original Sin, Mary still experienced many of life's trials that we face as well. To help us understand her better, Dr. Sri shares examples of some of Mary's very human experiences.

Snippet from the Show

Although Mary was conceived without sin, she still had to walk by faith and not by sight.

[Listen Here](#)

## Hope in the New Year



With each new year come new hopes, new plans, and new opportunities. Fr. Mike points out that this optimism and this "spirit" of New Year's is a great inspiration for the interior life of the Christian.

[Short Video](#)

*"Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence."*

— Saint Francis de Sales

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