

# *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.

## Epiphany of the Lord



*We have come to Homage Him.*

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas! Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord. "Epiphaneia" is Greek word for "manifestation". It is not the star but the Baby King and Savior who was manifested, that is He revealed himself to the rest of the world. By the guidance of an abnormally bright star, the three wise men came from the East, outside Jewish land, to pay their homage to the new King. Once baptized, Christians have the enviable calling to be the light of this world (Cfr. Matthew 5:14). Whenever we live in humility, truth, love, faith, hope, self-control, chastity, gentleness, patience, faithfulness and peace, we are truly the light of the world. To be light is not a wave of emotion, but a firm decision that one must make. May 2025 be a year for us to rise to our Christian dignity and mission. May the good Lord bless you!

## *Del escritorio del Pastor*

Del escritorio del Pastor

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo

¡Feliz Navidad! Hoy celebramos la Fiesta de la Epifanía de nuestro Señor. «Epifanía» es la palabra griega para "manifestación". No se trata de la estrella, sino del Niño Rey y Salvador que se manifestó, es decir, se reveló al resto del mundo. Guiados por una estrella anormalmente brillante, los tres Reyes Magos llegaron de Oriente, fuera de la tierra judía, para rendir homenaje al nuevo Rey. Una vez bautizados, los cristianos tenemos la envidiable vocación de ser la luz de este mundo (Cfr. Mateo 5, 14). Siempre que vivamos en la humildad, la verdad, el amor, la fe, la esperanza, el autocontrol, la castidad, la mansedumbre, la paciencia, la fidelidad y la paz, seremos verdaderamente la luz del mundo. Ser luz no es una ola de emoción, sino una decisión firme que hay que tomar. Que 2025 sea un año para estar a la altura de nuestra dignidad y misión cristianas. ¡Que el buen Dios os bendiga!

*Thank You*

*Gracias!*

### **Thank you, Gracias, Grazie & Salamat po!**

Dear parishioners, Fr. Ben and I would like to say a Big "Thank you" to you for your Christmas gifts, prayers and best wishes to us. Our Christmas tree was covered and surrounded with so many presents that we had to start giving some away. May God bless you and replenish you abundantly during this new year. Amen.

### **Thank you, ¡Gracias, Grazie & Salamat po!**

Queridos feligreses, el P. Ben y yo queremos daros las gracias por vuestros regalos de Navidad, vuestras oraciones y vuestros mejores deseos. Nuestro árbol de Navidad estaba cubierto y rodeado de tantos regalos que tuvimos que empezar a regalar algunos. Que Dios os bendiga y os colme en abundancia durante este nuevo año. Amén.

### **A special appreciation to our volunteers!**

We are grateful to our choir, ushers, lectors, EMHC, altar servers, decorators and all those who quietly or openly helped to make the Christmas season a special one. May God bless you richly during this year. Amen.

### **¡Un agradecimiento especial a nuestros voluntarios!**

Estamos agradecidos a nuestro coro, ujieres, lectores, EMHC, monaguillos, decoradores y todos aquellos que en silencio o abiertamente ayudó a hacer la temporada de Navidad una especial. Que Dios los bendiga ricamente durante este año. Amén.

**2024-2025 Sunday Missals (Year C) are available at the parish office. Cost is \$10.**

**Misal 2025 Ciclo C esta disponible en la oficina parroquial. Cuesta \$10.**

### **Thank you for your generosity!**

Regular Collection—December 22, 2024

**\$5,327.28**

Christmas Collection—December 25, 2024

**\$ 7,554.00**

Regular Collection—December 29, 2024

**\$6529.40**

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

January 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 MASS INTENTIONS

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

**9:00 am** Thanksgiving of Legion of Mary/ In honour of the Blessed Trinity, Holy Family, all saints and birthday blessings for Matthew/In honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary/ Thanksgiving for the anniversary of ordination Rev. Fr. Jibin/ *+Aida de Chacon, +Lucio Rego, +Manuel Viera & all souls in purgatory*

**5:00 pm** *+Jericho Antonio Lauron*

## SUNDAY, January 5<sup>th</sup> — Epiphany of our Lord

**9:00 am** Birthday blessings for Maria and Matthew/ *+Eugene Stephens*

**10:30 am** *+Rocco Nicastro*

**12:00 pm** Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas

**2:00 pm** *+Hernan Moron Araujo/ + German Rios/ Sanacion de Angelica Baron*

**6:00 pm** *+Chito Mayo/ Rev. Fr. Jojo*

## MONDAY, January 6<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** *+ Norma Calix & +Enriqueta Moto de Rodas/ Allison Lopez/ Birthday blessings for Maria*

## TUESDAY, January 7<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** *+Alberto Espinoza/ Rev. Fr. Jomon George/ Cindy Milena Chacon & Claudio Alberto Calix*

## WEDNESDAY, January 8<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** *+Juan Salvador Martinez/ +Jose Antonio Rodas, +Graciela Castaño de Quevedo/ Juan Carlos Fuentes*

## THURSDAY, January 9<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** *+Denzil Stephens/ Tatiana Elizabeth Mejia, Gina & Dennis Pinargote*

## FRIDAY, January 10<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** *+Philip Wong*

## SATURDAY, January 11<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** *(available for intentions)*

**5:00 pm** Robert Myers/ *+Vincenzino Tuzi*

### 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.

## WELCOME DEACON DANIEL & CARMEN!



My name is Deacon Daniel Gana. I have been married to Carmen Gana since 1972. We have two daughters, Carolina and Isabel, and one son, Daniel Jr. We have three granddaughters. I was ordained as a Deacon on June 22, 2002, at St. Michael's Cathedral. Presently, Carmen and I are mentors of the Deacons' Formation team at the St. Augustine Seminary. Also, we are helping Fr. Patrick at St Thomas Aquinas Parish. For the past 22 years, I was assigned by the Cardinal Ambrosic and Cardinal Collin as Deacon as well as working at Holy Rosary Church with the Basilian Congregation. I was a Chaplain at nursing homes. In addition, my profession is a Social Worker and Counselor. We are blessed to be welcomed by our Pastor Fr. Patrick Ezimora C.C.E. to serve at St. Thomas Aquinas community.

Me llamo Diácono Daniel Gana. Estoy casado con Carmen Gana desde 1972. Tenemos dos hijas, Carolina e Isabel, y un hijo, Daniel Jr. Tenemos tres nietas. Fui ordenado Diácono el 22 de junio de 2002 en la Catedral de San Miguel. Actualmente Carmen y yo somos mentores del equipo de Formación de Diáconos en el Seminario de San Agustín. También ayudamos al Padre Patrick en la Parroquia de Santo Tomás de Aquino. Durante los últimos 22 años, fui asignado por el Cardenal Ambrosic y el Cardenal Collin como Diácono, además de trabajar en la Iglesia del Santo Rosario con la Congregación Basiliana. Fui Capellán en asilos de ancianos. Además, mi profesión como Trabajador Social y Consejero. Tenemos la bendición de ser recibidos por nuestro Pastor P. Patrick Ezimora C.C.E. para servir en la comunidad de Santo Tomás de Aquino.

# ALL ABOUT FAITH

## Epiphany of the Lord



**Reflection:** All of God's creation gives Him glory and praises Him by its very existence. Psalm 143 states, "Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all shining stars. Praise him, highest heavens, you waters above the heavens. Let them all praise the LORD's name; for he commanded and they were created..." Though creation gives praise to God simply by existing and thus, revealing its Creator, today's solemnity commemorates the one moment in time when God used a star to manifest His eternal glory. At the time of Jesus' birth, it was commonly believed that a new star would appear whenever a new ruler was born. The Father in Heaven used this belief to honor His Son Who was born as the new King. The three Magi from the East were astrologers. When they saw this "new star," they chose to follow it to discover the new King. Creation itself, in the form of a star, pointed the way, thus giving glory to the newborn King, manifesting Him to the whole world as symbolized by the Magi. The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation." Therefore, as we honor this moment in time when the Christ Child was made manifest to the world, we need to look into our own hearts. There, we discover Christ's ongoing manifestation to us so that we can worship Him Who has also chosen to be born within our hearts. We must diligently seek out that manifestation of God within us and respond to it in the same ways that the Magi responded.

*Prayer: Most glorious Christ Child, the Father in Heaven honored Your birth by placing a star over the place where you lay. Through that new star, Your divine presence was made manifest to the world in the Magi who responded with faith and worship. Please manifest Yourself to me within my own soul where You wish to be born, and give me the love and zeal I need to follow the example of the Magi, offering You my own gifts in adoration and trust. Jesus, I trust in You. —My Catholic Life*

## Did the Magi follow a star or an angel to the Child Jesus?



One of the most interesting observations of St. John Chrysostom is how the star physically moved and marked out the exact location of the Child Jesus, something a star in the sky could never do. For it did not, remaining on high, point out the place; it not being possible for them so to ascertain it, but it came down and performed this office. For you know that a spot of so small dimensions, being only as much as a shed would occupy, or rather as much as the body of a little infant would take up, could not possibly be marked out by a star...How then, tell me, did the star point out a spot so confined, just the space of a manger and shed, unless it left that height and came down, and stood over the very head of the young child? And at this the evangelist was hinting when he said, Lo, the star went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. Therefore after He has brought them, leading them by the hand, and has set them by the manger; it is no longer by a star, but by an angel that He now discourses unto them.

[Read More](#)



## 3 Minute Retreat

### Our Deepest Hungers

John 6:35

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."*

[English](#)

[Español](#)

## LIVING YOUR FAITH

### Catholic Kids Media - Magi! Epiphany



#### Animated Story

[Children's Video](#)

### How Mary pondered everything in her heart



Pope Benedict XVI pointed out the original Greek word used in the Gospel of Luke that helps explain Mary's pondering. The Blessed Virgin Mary does not say many words in the Gospel, but she more frequently "ponders" everything in her heart. This pondering happens first when the shepherds approach Jesus and Mary on Christmas night.

*"And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." - Luke 2:17-19*

She ponders again when she finds Jesus in the Temple, "And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:51).

[Read More](#)

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

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### What This Jubilee Year 2025 Means for You



2025 is a Jubilee Year of Hope for the entire Catholic Church, and Fr. Mark-Mary has all of the answers to your questions about what a jubilee year is and what it means. In fact, a jubilee year has certain gifts and responsibilities for the faithful, and so Father also has everything you need to know about how to live this year differently.

[Watch Video](#)

*"Always we begin again."  
— Saint Benedict*

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