

# St. Thomas Aquinas

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | First Sunday of Lent

## 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

Mon. - Sat. 9:00am | First Fri. 7:00 pm

## CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 4:00pm or by Appt

## BAPTISMS—BAUTIZOS

Please call the office, **Three months** in advance, Lllamar a la oficina con **tres meses** de anticipación.

## WEDDINGS—BODAS

Please contact the office **one year** in advance. Lllamar 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.



*Welcome to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, where unity embraces diversity in the one and same Catholic faith. Together, we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Come, worship with us today!*

**PASTOR** Fr. Patrick Ezimora C.C.E.  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR** Fr. Benedict Nwamuo C.C.E.  
**RESIDENT PRIEST:** Fr. Peter Paul CCE

## 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:** Tue & Sat at 12:00 pm

## March 9<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, March 8<sup>st</sup> — St. John of God

9:00 am +Leticia, Miguel & Adalberto Gomez / Birthday blessings to Giselle Marla Monge & Marco Gomez/  
5:00 pm +

### SUNDAY, March 9<sup>rd</sup>— First Sunday in Lent

9:00 am +Julieta Nacion Nuyda/ +Porferia Tokong  
10:30 am +Giuseppe & Anna Calabró/  
12:00 pm + Maurizio Marcon/  
2:00 pm +Fausto Mauricio Plaza/ +Ana Orsini, +Claudio, +Rina & Luigi La Rosa & All Souls in Purgatory/ +Julia Sarmiento, Paulo Eslava & Onerio Sarmiento/ Healing of Sandra Mejia & Juli Buenahora/ Thanksgiving for the Baptism of Colette Vanderlinden/  
6:00 pm Parishioners of STA

### MONDAY, March 10<sup>rd</sup> — Monday of the First Week of Lent

9:00 am +Flor de Gonzalez/ +Lucy Debayle/ +Gustek Misko

### TUESDAY, March 11<sup>h</sup> — Tuesday of the First Week of Lent

9:00 am +Dolores & Alberto Rivero/ +Joe carreiro/ Birthday Blessings to Floresita Gonzalez/  
WEDNESDAY, March 12<sup>th</sup> — St Seraphina

9:00 am

### THURSDAY, March 13<sup>th</sup> — Thursday of the First Week of Lent

9:00 am +Corazon Mercado Salvador/ +Carmela Gomez/ +Ada & Alfonso Mendicino/ +Dolores & Alberto Rivero/ +Joe Carreiro/ Birthday Blessings to Floresita Gonzalez/  
FRIDAY, March 14<sup>th</sup> — Friday of the First Week of Lent

9:00 am +Rev. Luciano Felloni/ +Roberto Ramirez/ +Salvador Gomez Lopez/ +Lolita Elvira Cordova/ Birthday blessings upon Lucas Mowat Monge

### SATURDAY, March 15<sup>st</sup> — Saturday of the First Week of Lent

9:00 am +Rodrigo Corpuz/  
5:00 pm



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

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# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear parishioners of STA Parish,

The readings of this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent are *Deuteronomy 26. 4-10* (1<sup>st</sup> R), *Psalms 91, Romans 10.8-13* (2<sup>nd</sup> R) and *Luke 4.1-13* (Gospel). Make sure to read and pray along! The Gospel reading narrates the temptation of Jesus. As true human being, our Lord was tested with material things, power and vainglory. Guess what? He passed the test. But how? By the remembering and fighting back with the word of God (the Bible). Every temptation is an assault from the prince of darkness, and we keep being assaulted daily. But the question is: Are we fighting back with the appropriate arms or not? I wish you a victorious week!

## Del escritorio del Pastor

Queridos feligreses de la Parroquia STA

Las lecturas de este 1er Domingo de Cuaresma son *Deuteronomio 26. 4-10* (1<sup>a</sup> R), *Salmo 91, Romanos 10.8-13* (2<sup>a</sup> R) y *Lucas 4.1-13* (Evangelio). No dejes de leer y rezar. La lectura del Evangelio narra la tentación de Jesús. Como verdadero ser humano, nuestro Señor fue puesto a prueba con cosas materiales, poder y vanagloria. ¿Adivina qué? Pasó la prueba. ¿Pero cómo? Recordando y contraatacando con la palabra de Dios (la Biblia). Cada tentación es un asalto del príncipe de las tinieblas, y seguimos siendo asaltados diariamente. Pero la pregunta es: ¿Estamos contraatacando con las armas apropiadas o no? ¡Les deseo una semana victoriosa!

## 2025 Lent Schedule

### FRIDAYS

**9:00am:** Holy Mass  
**9:30am:** Adoration & Reconciliation  
**6:00pm-6:30pm:** Confession  
**6:45pm-7:10pm:** Holy Rosary  
**7:15pm:** Station of the Cross  
**8:00pm-9:00pm:** Lenten Bible Study

**LENTEN CONFESSION**  
 Fridays until April 4th — 9:30am to 10:00am y  
 6:00pm to 6:30pm

**BIBLE STUDY**  
 Fridays until April 4th — 8:00pm to 9:00pm

## Calendario de Cuaresma 2025

### VIERNES

**9:00am:** Santa Misa  
**9:30am:** Adoración y Reconciliación  
**6:00pm-6:30pm:** Confesión  
**6:45pm-7:10pm:** Santa Misa  
**7:15pm:** Viacrucis  
**8:00pm-9:00pm:** Estudio Bíblico de Cuaresma

**CONFESIÓN DE CUARESMA**  
 Viernes hasta el 4 de Abril — 9:30am a 10:00am y  
 6:00pm a 6:30pm

**ESTUDIO BIBLICO**  
 Viernes hasta el 4 de Abril — 8:00pm a 9:00pm

**Thank you for your generosity!**  
**March 2, 2025**  
 Regular Collection \$ 5,946.00  
 Youth Ministry \$ 723.00

**Muchas gracias por su generosidad!**  
**2 de Marzo, 2025**  
 Colecta Regular \$ 5,946.00  
 Ministerio de Jóvenes \$ 723.00

## 2025 Parish Report Notes (see Report in next page)

- \*Other Parish Coll.** Include: All Souls, Ash Wednesday, Conf. & First Communion Mass don., Holy Thursday, New Year/Solemnity of Mary, Novena, & Immaculate Conception.
- \*Other Donations Include:** Car blessing, Flower, Certificates, statue of Mary, Poor Box & CCE donation.
- \*Sacramental Prep:** Baptism, First Communion (excluding Confirmation -- not deposited until 2025).
- \*Youth Ministry:** Includes: YM donations and \$12,500 grant
- \*Sundry Receipts:** Cath. Cemeteries, Initial Offering, HST Rebates, Health Benefits Refund, clergy room & boarding.
- \*Grants Receipts: Government - Anti-Hate** \$7,500
- \*Fundraising Proj. Revenue:** BBQ and raffle Fundraiser \$16,531, Flea Market \$1,330 = \$17, 861
- \*Building Fund, Maintenance, Heating & Restoration:** Since April 1, 2019, the Parish has been collecting donations for a Special Building Project in anticipation of STA's 100th anniversary in 2026. This project includes renovations to the main entrance, main hall ceiling and floors, as well as the installation of an accessibility ramp. The ceiling was recently completed in 2024. From April 1, 2019, to December 31, 2023, we raised \$300,166. In 2024, through additional fundraising efforts and the Maintenance Collection, we raised \$68,120, bringing our total revenue to \$368,286. However, due to ongoing renovations and necessary church maintenance, our expenses for 2024 totaled \$400,655.
- \*Chancery Investments** = Church savings throughout the years that are withdrawn from Archdioceses/ Chancery as needed.
- \*Diocesan Assess** = The total amount that the parish has contributed to the Archdioceses pastoral funds.
- \*Clergy Health & Pension assessment:** Includes 2023 and 2024 Year.
- \*Choir and Music payments:** Music, Supplies, Organ/ Piano repair.
- \*Other church payments:** Books, Pamphlets, seasonal decoration, subscriptions
- \*Fundraising Expenses:** BBQ Fundraiser supplies/ payments \$3,499.73, parish centenary reception \$4,599.11.
- \*Maint: Church/rectory minor reno.:** minor hall reno., locks, paintings, plumbing, rectory renov., windows and doors.
- \*Sundry Expenses Include:** Missals, candles, HST Expense, Social (Parish BBQ) payments, staff training, Priest Retreats and seminars.
- \*Furnishing and Equipment:** Wi-Fi routers, projector, troubleshoot cameras/ install new ones.

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS 2024 PARISH REPORT

## REVENUE

Offertory	\$ 295,018
<i>*Other Parish Collections</i>	19,347
Easter & Christmas Collections	13,408
Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals	7,452
Mass Intentions	29,192
<i>*Other Donations</i>	8,432
Hall Revenue	2,105
Interest Revenue (Bank & Chancery)	13,563
<i>*Sacramental Preparation</i>	2,220
<i>*Sundry Receipts</i>	35,103
<i>*Youth Ministry Receipts</i>	14,474
Bibles, Missals & Catechisms	2,620
Votive Candles	35,174
<i>*Grants Receipts</i>	7,500
<i>*Fundraising for Maintenance Project</i>	17,861
<i>*Building, Maint. Fund Donations</i>	50,259
ShareLife	24,408
Diocesan Collections	16,400
	<b>\$ 594,537</b>

### Investments Redeemed

*Chancery Investments Redeemed	334,247
	<b>\$ 334,247</b>

### Total Revenue

**\$ 928,784**

## EXPENSES

Salaries, Clergy & Staff Including Benefits	\$ 247,627
Office Supplies & Services	11,962
Insurance & Utilities for Church	20,134
<i>*Choir &amp; Music payments</i>	1,018
Liturgy & Mass Expense	8,429
<i>*Other Church payments</i>	2,261
Repairs Maint.& Grounds/Snow services	33,485
Rectory Expenses	21,488
<i>*Diocesan Assess/ *Clergy Health &amp; Pension</i>	98,997
Grant - Food Bank Payments	5,190
Grant - Anti-Hate	14,205
Youth & young adult payments	7,354
Volunteer & Faith Formation payments	4,348
Catechism (First Communion/Confirm./RCIA)	3,708
<i>*Sundry Payments</i>	69,713
Prof. Fees Before/After Renovation Project	377,791
<i>*Maint: Church/ rectory minor reno.</i>	22,864
ShareLife	24,408
Diocesan Collections	16,400
<i>*Furnishing &amp; Equipment</i>	490
	<b>\$ 991,872</b>

### Other Expenditures & Investments

Chancery & Family of Faith Purchased	\$ 13,466
	<b>\$ 13,466</b>

### Total Expenses

**\$ 1,005,339**

## PROFIT

**\$ (76,555)**

# ALL ABOUT FAITH

## Lent—Combating Sin with Virtue



**“But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing... But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face...” [Matthew 6:3; 6; 17](#)**

One Church Father explains that almsgiving, prayer and fasting are three acts that help us to combat the three temptations that Jesus overcame in the desert. First, our Lord overcame gluttony when the evil one tempted Him to turn stones into bread to satiate His hunger after fasting for 40 days. Second, our Lord overcame vainglory when the evil one took Him to the parapet of the temple and tempted Him to throw Himself down so that the angels of God would save Him, proving His divinity. Third, our Lord overcame greed when the evil one took Him up a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, promising to give them to Jesus if He worshiped him.

Today’s Gospel identifies the three ways that we are able to overcome these same temptations of gluttony, vainglory and greed. Almsgiving, or generosity, is the cure for greed. Prayer within the “inner room” of your soul is the cure for vainglory. Fasting is the cure for gluttony.

As Lent begins, we are also invited into the desert for 40 days. We are invited to face the many temptations we endure in life so as to overcome them by the power of God. If you struggle with one of these above-mentioned temptations, all of them, or some similar temptation, the cure is found when the temptation is identified and the contrary virtue is embraced.

Do you struggle with greed? If so, consider being generous this Lent. God has promised to provide for your needs. He has not promised earthly wealth, but He has promised to care for you. There is great freedom found in believing that promise. One way to more fully trust in God’s providence is to generously give of your money to those in need. Don’t hesitate to do so if this is your struggle.

Do you struggle with a desire for vainglory and have an inordinate desire to prove your worth to others? If so, turn to prayer. It is in personal prayer, within that “inner room” of your heart, where God will meet you and reveal to you your true value and worth. As you discover your dignity in prayer, you will find you have no need to prove that dignity and value to others through prideful means.

—*My Catholic Life*

## Discover the Heart of our Savior



This Lent, join Scott Hahn as he unpacks the biblical richness of Jesus’s Seven Last Words, spoken as He hung dying on the cross. In this free Lenten journey starting Ash Wednesday (March 5), you will receive 30-minute video reflections on one of Jesus’s final utterances. To accompany these reflections, we’re excited to share sacred music by the men’s ensemble, Floriani.

To sign up for this free Lenten journey, click the link below: <https://stpaulcenter.com/lent>

[Read More](#)



## 3 Minute Retreat Being of Service

Jesus turned the wisdom of his time on its head. How can a leader be a servant? It did not make sense. And yet, he stated this not in a parable that took time to work out but in direct language. Not only did he name himself as a servant-leader, he told us we should be like him in this regard.

For me to live my role as a servant-leader, I have to set aside my own need for recognition and praise. It is not all about me; I am all about God. Great things happened around Jesus, because he knew that he came to serve his Father in heaven. Could we commit right now to serving our Father and setting aside our own need to be seen as important?

[English](#)

[Español](#)

# LIVING YOUR FAITH

## Ash Wednesday and Lent?!



**Animated Story**

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

## Pope's March prayer intention: 'for families in crisis'



**By Vatican News**  
**By Deborah Castellano Lubov**

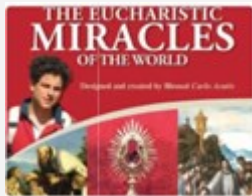
Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of March 2025, and invites everyone to pray for "families in crisis," as he acknowledges that no family is perfect, but that when we forgive our family members, we can rediscover peace.

[\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

## Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit at St. Benedict Parish

**Friday, March 14, 2025 06:00 PM**  
**to Friday, March 14, 2025 08:30 PM**

St. Benedict Parish, 2194 Kipling Ave., Etobicoke



Please join us as we host the Vatican approved Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit.

The exhibit, which was designed and created by Blessed Carlo Acutis, features panels that each tell the story of a Eucharistic miracle and allow you to "virtually visit" the places where the miracles took place.

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

## A Catholic Stance on Artificial Intelligence



"...it is essential to emphasize the importance of moral responsibility grounded in the dignity and vocation of the human person. This guiding principle also applies to questions concerning AI." Antiqua et Nova, 39

Today Fr. Mark-Mary shares how we, as Catholics, should respond to the rise of AI. He explains how we need to be cautiously optimistic and never forget that God is with us in the midst of a technologically advancing era.

[\*\*Watch Video\*\*](#)

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weakness. He only wants the chance to love you." -St. Teresa of Calcutta

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