



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

1501 S. Atlantic Blvd., Monterey Park, CA 91754
323-264-4447



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 9, 2020

From the Desk of Our Pastor

Religious Education Program



Dear Parishioners,

I would like to introduce to you Mrs. Ana Martinez who is our New Coordinator for the Religious Education Program. She will be in charge of coordinating the Faith formation program, working with the catechists who teach children in the First communion program and the teens who are preparing for Confirmation. Ana will work with the Adult formation team to assist those preparing to receive sacraments of initiation as adults.

Ana comes to us from La Soledad Church here in East Los Angeles. We are glad to have her as part of our Religious Education and parish staff. Below is a message from Ana Martinez:

My name is Ana Patricia Martinez. I am originally from Mexicali, Baja California, México and the proud daughter of two immigrants. My immigration journey brought me to the United States when I was 12 years old accompanied by my siblings and parents. As an individual who early on found a passion and calling for helping others I joined the medical field as a Licensed Vocational Nurse where I spent 20 years of my career. As a bilingual nurse I found a calling for working with immigrant communities where I could provide appropriate medical care but also relate to the challenges of being in a new country and within those experiences is where I found my love for teaching and educating.

I began my volunteer journey in 2010 as a way to give back to my community as a missionary for Guadalupe Radio. I also began volunteering at Our Lady of Solitude Church where I taught Bible, Catechism, and Baptismal classes in both English and Spanish to children, youth, and families. Additionally, my role included the implementation and delivery of all Virtus classes. As part of my experiences, I also served as a monitor and lector for Sunday Masses. My calling and passion for delivering the word of God is what brings light, love, and meaning to my life and a calling I hope to continue to share for years to come.

On my downtime I enjoy spending time with my 4 beautiful adult children and 4 grandchildren. I feel blessed to be part of this journey where the students, families, and staff continuously inspire me to evolve and grow as a mother, grandmother, human being, and a daughter of God. I'm blessed and grateful to join St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church as a Catechist Coordinator effective August 1, 2020.

Fr. John

Parish News and Updates

Blood Drive Appreciation

Many thanks to those who signed up for the 8/10 Community Blood Drive. This blood drive being held at STA is completely booked. The Red Cross is currently experiencing a severe summer blood shortage so they need all the help they can get! Thank you for your support.

Facility Update

Though we were not able to meet in our church for three months and are currently restricted to outdoor Masses, we have been concentrating on ensuring our parish continues to refresh and maintain our facility.

Thanks to generous parishioners for the following gift to the parish:

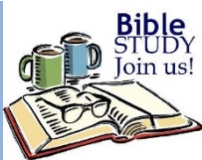
A large screen television that you see in the canopy area will be used to project Mass liturgy. It was donated by the Abrantes family.

School Garden Project

Last year the school started a fruit and vegetable garden project. This garden continues to grow and



flourish. Most of the fruit trees are now in the Kinder play area. With the leadership of Dr. Patrick Chou, a resident of Monterey Park, we have added planting Moringa trees that are also known for their unique food supplement. Most of these trees will be moved to the hillside around our parish property to help increase the green area of our parish. More information about these trees is displayed in the garden area.



**Bible Study
Wednesdays at 7 PM**

Bible Study continues on every Wednesday at 7 PM using Zoom. They are currently studying Matthew's Gospel, the first Gospel (an account of Jesus' life and ministry) in the New Testament. In Matthew, Jesus teaches people what it means to be part of his kingdom, the "kingdom of heaven."

Text Henry Ayala at (323) 717-1126 to receive the meeting ID for the Zoom meeting.

**Safeguard The Children
DID YOU KNOW?**

Build Appropriate Social Media Relationships

Online relationships are important, especially for teens and young people. But adults who use social media to connect with the children in their lives need to be sure that they are building appropriate relationships. Before sending a friend request, consider the "PAN" standard. While used commonly for appropriate real-life touch, in today's increasingly virtual use, PAN is a good benchmark for online interactions. Communications should be Public, Appropriate, and Non-sexual. For more information, request a copy of the VIRTUS article "Before you send a young person a 'friend request'" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Weekly Expenses: \$7,500.00

8/1-8/2 Offertory/Online: \$8,118.00
Over/(Under): +\$618.00

Thank you for your support!

**Mass Intentions
For the Week**

Saturday, August 8th

5:30 PM STA Parishioners

Sunday, August 9th

8 AM Joe Saragueta (D)
Joseph Nhgi Nguyen (D)
Agnes Myhue Nguyen (D)
Sterling Schubert (D)
Angeles Palomino (D)
Henry Carranza (Health)
Jean Genera (Health)

11:30 AM Thomas Ayala (D)

1:30 PM Carlos Betancourt (D)

Tuesday, August 11th

8 AM Ai Min Lau (Well-being)
Evelyn Muniz (Birthday)

Thursday, August 13th

8 AM Ai Min Lau (Well-being)
7 PM STA Parishioners

Friday, August 14th

8 AM Ai Min Lau (well-being)
Celia Dennis (D)

Saturday, August 15th

8 AM Ai Min Lau (Well-being)