



# *St. Thomas Aquinas Church*

1501 S. Atlantic Blvd., Monterey Park, CA 91754  
323-264-4447 • parishoffice@stampk.org



Third Sunday of Advent - December 13, 2020

## *From the Desk of Our Pastor*

### **Advent Season**

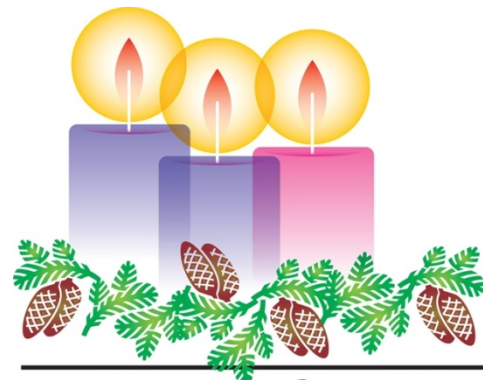
Dear Parishioners,

Advent is quickly giving way to Christmas. Amidst this fast pace of time, we stopped to celebrate the Feast of Immaculate Conception on December 8th, and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th. These two feasts all point to Christmas which is just days away from now.

As we reflect on this Advent season, we can turn our eyes a little further back and see how a year ago we had a different experience of Advent. But despite the changes that drastically befell us in March of this year, we at STA have stayed on course. We have not missed a single Mass; we have continued to celebrate baptisms, weddings and other sacraments during this time of the global pandemic. Our ministries have continued with the great support of our frontline parish and school staff who are working as usual to keep our parish life moving forward.

These are just a few things we can look back to and give thanks to God for what we have today and what we have been able to accomplish during this challenging time. As we near Christmas, let us continue the spirit of care and love for each other. Our Christmas Mass schedule will be the same as in the past year. We shall also use Zoom for those who are not able to join us on the Church grounds. May God bless us.

Fr. John.



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THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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## Christmas Season Environment

Our environment team has been hard at work to make our altar area look welcoming and joyful. In addition, a few school parents decorated the outside church with trees and festive ornaments.

Due to their sharing of their talents, our parishioners and visitors will enjoy a beautiful setting in which everyone can reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas season.

### Parish Office Christmas Schedule

The Parish Office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24th through Monday, Dec. 28th. May the Peace and Joy of this Christmas Season be with you now and throughout the New Year.

### The Advent Candle of Joy

We celebrate Advent by putting up an Advent Wreath and lighting candles each week. This week we will light the third candle which is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.



### Christmas Mass Schedule

#### Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

- 5:00 PM Mass in English
- 8:00 PM Mass in Chinese
- 11:00 PM "Midnight Mass" –  
in English/Spanish

#### Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

- 8:00 AM Mass in English
- 9:30 AM Mass in Chinese
- 11:30 AM Mass in English
- 1:30 PM Mass in Spanish
- 3:00 PM Mass in Chinese

## School News

### Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Thank you to all the STA School families and STA Church parishioners who supported our school for our Christmas tree fundraiser! We earned a profit of \$1,300, which we are very excited about!

### Together In Mission "Our Story is Alive"

**2020 Goal - \$38,792**

**Paid to Date: \$15,650**

**Amount Still Needed: \$23,142**

As we approach the end of the year, please consider making a year-end tax deductible donation to Together In Mission. Funds collected will be used to help parishes like ours to keep their doors open and continue serving the spiritual needs of their communities. Envelopes can be found at the table by our altar. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity.

### Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation classes are available for anyone wishing to learn more about the catholic faith. Topics regarding the Sacraments will begin on Jan. 3, 2021 via Zoom.

For more information, please contact Ana Martinez at (323) 264-1338 or [religiouseducation@stampkschool.org](mailto:religiouseducation@stampkschool.org)

## Appreciation from Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities San Gabriel Region board, staff and clients thank those of you who participated in our toy drive for your donation to their annual Christmas with Catholic Charities event. The event was held on Sat. Dec. 12th and served over 300 needy families with food baskets, toys and gift cards. Your kindness is very much appreciated. May the Lord continue to bless you and yours.

### Simbang Gabi Virtual Mass December 15th at 6:30 PM

Everyone is invited to join the Cathedral's virtual celebration of the Simbang Gabi Filipino tradition. The Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels will kick off the celebration by having the Mass on December 15th at 6:30 PM which will be livestreamed for everyone to join in prayer. Visit the [Cathedral webpage](#) for the livestream information.

## Safeguard The Children DID YOU KNOW?

### Gifts and toys should inspire joy, not cause injuries

Avoid safety hazards while gifting with these tips from [the American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#): Toys are age-rated for safety, not for children's intellect and physical ability, so be sure to choose toys in the correct age range; choose toys for children under 3 that do not have small parts that could be choking hazards; for children under 10, avoid toys that must be plugged into an electrical outlet; be cautious about toys that have [button batteries or magnets](#), which can be harmful or fatal if swallowed; and when giving scooters and other riding toys, give the gift of appropriate safety gear, too; helmets should be worn at all times and they should be sized to fit. For more information, visit [www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/winter/holiday](http://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/winter/holiday).

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

**Weekly Expenses: \$7,500.00**

12/5-12/6 Offertory/Online: \$8,008.00

Over/(Under): \$508.00

*Thank you for your support!*

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, December 12th

5:30 PM Raul Mena Jr. (D)  
Clementine Nielsen (Health)

### Sunday, December 13th

8 AM Raquel O. Rivera (D)  
Joe Saragueta (D)  
Mervin Karapinka (D)  
Joseph Nghi Nguyen (D)  
Agnes Myhue Nguyen (D)

11:30 AM George Esquer (D)  
Raul Mena Jr. (D)  
Rev. Erasmo "Sonny" Ramirez O.P. (D)

1:30 PM Elena Ballesteros (D)  
Gerardo Ballesteros (D)  
Victoria Calderon (Health)

### Tuesday, December 15th

8 AM Ai Min Lau (well-being)  
Raul Mena Jr. (D)

### Thursday, December 17th

8 AM Ai Min Lau (Well-being)  
Alice Gust (D)  
Raul Mena Jr. (D)

7 PM All STA Parishioners

### Friday, December 18th

8 AM Ai Min Lau (Well-being)  
Mary To (D)  
Raul Mena Jr. (D)

### Saturday, December 19th

8 AM Teodora Ngan (Health)

*Please contact the parish office  
via phone (323-264-4447 ext. 102) or  
email (parishoffice@stampk.org) for  
mass intentions requests.*

## Parish Contact Information

Parish Office: (323) 264-4447  
 Chinese Ministry Office: (323) 264-4448  
 General Email: parishoffice@stampk.org  
 Parish Website: STAMPK.ORG  
 Fax: (323) 264-2524  
 Hall Rental: (323) 264-4447 ext. 102

### Parish Staff

Fr. John Kyebasuuta—Pastor  
 FrJohn@stampk.org Ext. 108  
 Fr. Justin Liu—Associate Pastor  
 FrJustin@stampk.org Ext. 106  
 Lorraine Melendez—General Manager  
 LMelendez@stampk.org Ext. 103  
 Linda Almaguer—Parish Secretary  
 LAlmaguer@stampk.org Ext. 102  
 Sherry Hsu—Chinese Ministry Staff  
 stachinese@stampk.org Ext. 104  
 Jessie Wang—Chinese Ministry Staff  
 JWang@stampk.org Ext. 105  
 Safeguard The Children - 323-264-4447

## School Information

School Office: (323) 261-6583  
 Stefanie Lutero - Principal  
 Email: SLutero@stampkschool.org  
 General Email: info@stampkschool.org  
 Website: stampkschool.org

## Religious Education Information

Office: (323) 264-1338  
 Ana Martinez - Coordinator  
 Email: stareligioused@stampk.org

## Mass Schedule

<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	5:30 PM (English)
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 AM (English) 9:30 AM (Mandarin) 11:30 AM (English) 1:30 PM (Spanish) 3:00 PM (Cantonese)
<b>Monday</b>	7:00 PM (Chinese)
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 AM (English)
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 AM (Chinese)
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 AM (English) 7:00 PM (Spanish)
<b>Friday</b>	8:00 AM (English) <b>**1st Friday ONLY 7:00 PM**</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 AM (English)

### Zoom Links & Passwords:

English Masses:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/311575271>

**Meeting ID:311575271 Password: Mass**

Spanish Masses:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/912501465>

**Meeting ID:912501465 Password: Misa**

Chinese Masses:

<https://zoom.us/j/3901142241>

**Meeting ID: 3901142241**

**\*THURSDAY 8 AM ENGLISH MASS:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5897232327>

**Meeting ID:5897232327 Password: 1501**