



# *St. Thomas Aquinas Church*

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



**Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 21, 2021**

## **From the Desk of Our Pastor**

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings to you and your family.

As you might recall, I left for my vacation in early February, soon after recovering from Corona virus. I am thankful for your prayers and the different ways you assisted me in the recovery process. The virus is still a big problem now, even in Uganda. A few people I know passed away from it, and a lot more are still sick from it. Please keep in your prayers all who passed away and those who are still suffering from this virus.

I was able to spend some quiet time at home, living a village life, and visiting friends and relatives. One afternoon, while my nephews were visiting me at home, they discussed who should go to the forest to get firewood for cooking. I overheard the conversation, and asked if I could join them. This trip to get firewood took me back to my childhood. Some of the things I did as a child still exist in my village. We spent about an hour gathering dry tree branches as firewood for the rest of the week.

While visiting my brother one day, I discovered an old used truck tire. I eyed it and could see a potential game for my nephews and nieces. I grabbed it, found some nylon ropes, tied it on a mango tree branch in my brother's front yard, and made a new swing for the little ones.

It is in simple things such as gathering firewood, playing with used tires, and just spending time with each other, I found a new renewed sense of the divine. In these simple activities, there was no doubt that the presence of God was manifested in the smiles and sometimes in the silent presence of each one of us.

During my stay, I was glad to be able to celebrate my mother's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday with a few family members. She sends you her greetings and thank you for taking care of me at STA. I am also glad to report that, resting and playing was not all that I did. I spent some time to assist in completing a much needed clean water installation project in a village. This water project delivers clean water to hundreds of villagers who otherwise have to get their water from ponds and springs for daily use.

I am very happy to return to my community here at STA. As we come close to Easter, I pray that we may all find time to be renewed in Christ through the various events of our lives.

May the Lord bless us all.

Fr. John

## Weekday & Saturday Morning Masses held in Church

Due to the cold weather, wind and rain, we are moving our weekday and Saturday morning masses indoors. The Archdiocese and the State of California has approved indoor worship services, limited to 25% capacity of the church.

**COVID-19 protocols will remain in place. Face coverings and the 6 foot social distancing are required.**

Weekend masses will continue to be held outdoors.

## 40 Days for Life

From February 17th through March 28th, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside FPA, 501 S Vincent Ave., West Covina, CA 91790, and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please visit:

[40daysforlife.com/westcovina](http://40daysforlife.com/westcovina)



*Dear God, May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that  
You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal,  
You are ever at work in our lives, too.*

*Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this  
Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective,  
for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*by Rev. Mark Bekkedah*

## For Lent .....For Life Rice Bowl Program COMMUNITY IN MADAGASCAR

Poor nutrition can lead to devastating long term consequences for individuals, communities and entire countries. That's why communities must work together to ensure that all children have access to better food and nutrition. New planting and cooking techniques are helping many communities in Madagascar improve the health and wellbeing of their children. How does your community work together for the good of others? Visit [csrricebowl.org](http://csrricebowl.org) to learn more. Please take home a Rice Bowl today, fill it with your spare change and return it full on Easter.

## Join eGiving

COVID-19 protocols or cold weather might cause you to miss Sunday Mass. With eGiving, you can still honor Christ's sacrifice and keep your commitment to our parish even when you're kept home on Sunday. We invite you to accept our 2021 Lenten Challenge and sign up for eGiving.

Reoccurring gifts help sustain our parish as we continue to confront the challenges and turmoil sparked by COVID-19. Please visit [faithdirect/CA779](http://faithdirect/CA779) to sign-up.

Thank you for your continue support of our parish family.

## 2021 Holy Week Schedule



### HOLY WEEK

#### Sunday, March 28th – Palm Sunday



Regular Sunday Mass Schedule – No procession, meet in outdoor Mass area – Palms will be distributed at the end of Mass

#### Monday, March 29th – Chrism Mass @ Cathedral



Livestream available on LACatholics.org and cathedral Facebook page

7:00 PM Chinese Mass @ STA

#### Tuesday, March 30th – 8:00 AM Morning Mass

#### Wednesday, March 31st – 8:00 AM Morning Mass

#### Thursday, April 1st – Holy Thursday



Trilingual mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7 PM  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following mass  
**\*No regular morning mass on Holy Thursday**

#### Friday, April 2nd –



#### Good Friday: Passion of our Lord

3:00 PM – English

5:00 PM – Spanish

7:00 PM – Chinese

**\*No regular morning mass on Good Friday**

#### Saturday, April 3rd – Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil @ 7 PM – bilingual – English & Chinese

**\*No regular morning mass on Holy Saturday**

#### Easter Sunday, April 4th – Resurrection of the Lord

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Return Filled Rice Bowls



## Safeguard The Children DID YOU KNOW?

### Revisit screen time recommendations

Parents everywhere are struggling to be parents, teachers, and friends for their children in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, many are likely and understandably relying on screens to help them through these seemingly endless days. Many children are also online for school, which only increases their screen exposure. The American Pediatric Association warns parents that too much screen time can lead to sleep problems, lower grades, mood and weight problems, and can keep children from learning how to relax and have fun without a screen present. Try to make time for reading, playing games, and other screen-free activities that will help break the cycle of screen addiction and talk to your children's teachers about how screen time for school can be managed. For more information, visit :

[https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Facts\\_for\\_Families/FFF-Guide/Children-And-Watching-TV-054.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Children-And-Watching-TV-054.aspx)

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

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

3/13 & 3/14 Offertory/Online: \$5,444.00

Over/(Under): (\$2,056.00)

*Thank you for your support!*

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, March 20th

5:30 PM Encarnacion Tesoro (D)  
Joseph Barrios (D)

### Sunday, March 21st

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yu Li  
Juse Nghi Nguyen (D)  
Anes Myhue Nguyen (D)  
Martha Tuoi Hyunh (D)  
Brianna Tretter (Health)

11:30 AM Carlos Zuniga (D)  
Josefina Torrez (D)

1:30 PM All STA Parishioners

### Tuesday, March 23rd

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yu Li

### Thursday, March 25th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yu Li

### Friday, March 26th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yu Li

### Saturday, March 27th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yu Li

*If you would like to schedule Mass intentions, please contact:  
Linda Almaguer, Parish Secretary,  
at (323) 264-4447 ext. 102  
or by email: [parishoffice@stampk.org](mailto:parishoffice@stampk.org)*

## 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)
<b>Friday</b>	8:00 AM (English)
<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**