



# St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 2, 2021

## Confirmation Mass Sunday, May 16th @ 6:00 PM

This year's Youth and Adult Faith Formation Confirmation ceremony will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the pandemic, our students have remained focused on preparing for this special sacrament. They are completing our two year program and are looking forward to receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord).

Our Most Reverend Bishop O'Connell, San Gabriel Pastoral Region Bishop will be the main celebrant. Please pray for our Confirmantees as they continue on their spiritual journey.

## Chinese Zoom VIRTUS Class Sat. May 22nd @ 12:30 PM

A zoom VIRTUS class will be held on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:30 PM–3:30 PM for those individuals who need to take the initial VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training class. **This class will be held in Chinese.** Please contact the parish office to enroll.

## STA School First Holy Communion Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 10 AM

Our parish is joyfully resuming services and programs for our church family. Our parish school First Communion students are preparing for their in-person First Communion mass. The students are excited and ready to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first of many times. We would like to thank the teachers and parents who have guided them on their journey. Please keep the students and their families in your prayers.



## First Friday May 7th Adoration 9 AM Mass 10 AM

Our May First Friday Adoration will start at 9 AM; Mass will begin at 10 AM. Individuals wishing to recite the rosary may do so following our First Friday Mass. Adoration and Mass will be held in the church. Please plan on joining us.

## 104<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparition Of Our Lady of Fatima

You are invited to join Msgr. Tim O'Connell and the Blue Army of Los Angeles in celebrating the anniversary of the First Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>:

**6 PM – Holy Rosary  
May Crowning  
7 PM – Holy Mass**



Via live streaming:

[tinyurl.com/bluearmyla/live](https://tinyurl.com/bluearmyla/live)

Zoom ID: 865 9447 4664

Passcode: 104Fatima

## Summer Camp @ STA School June 22nd – July 23rd

Catholic and public school students in grades TK – 5 are welcome to attend a summer program at STA. Our school is currently enrolling students for the 2021 in-person summer camp. Students are invited to join us for Camp Eagle this summer! Enjoy four weeks of math and reading review, theater, science club, games, water play, and weekly themed activities! Extended day care will be available. For additional information go to: <https://www.smore.com/dxkbn>

## National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

***“LORD pour out Your LOVE, LIFE, and LIBERTY.”***

This is a year of great celebration and thanks as The National Day of Prayer celebrates 70 years of prayer for America! How wonderful it is to live in a nation where, by law every year on the first Thursday of May, the President proclaims a day of prayer for our nation. As we make plans to celebrate, we reflect on how God has heard and answered seven decades of prayer; weaving His glory through the fabric of America's past, present and future.

Visit [nationaldayofprayer.org](https://nationaldayofprayer.org) to join the celebration at 5 PM, May 6th for the National Broadcast! Let's PRAY FOR AMERICA - TOGETHER!

## ***St. Thomas Aquinas' Eagles Soar to New Heights in Academic Junior High Decathlon***

***By C. G. Vassar***

In 2019, during my interview for a middle school humanities teacher position at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Monterey Park, CA, the principal, Stefanie Lutero, now my boss, expressed to me her desire to transform the culture of our small Catholic school; she wanted STA to be known for its high expectations and academic rigor. I admired her vision then, just as the rest of the STA staff, and I admire her vision now.

"Our patron Saint is St. Thomas Aquinas," I said to Mrs. Lutero one day in conversation, "That is a huge expectation to live up to."

For those who may be unaware, St. Thomas Aquinas is a doctor of the Catholic Church and is renowned, not just in the Church, but in secular circles as well, for his work on the idea of natural rights, sentiments echoed by John Locke and Thomas Jefferson in centuries to come. Despite Aquinas' shoe size, Mrs. Lutero remains determined to cultivate an image of academic success at STA, and this year, while stuck online, our small school of fewer than 150 students, kindergarten through 8th grade, took its first step in that direction.

Enter in the 2021 St. Thomas Aquinas Academic Decathlon team, led and coached for many years by Maria Rugama, the middle school English Language Arts teacher and vice-principal of the school. "I won't leave STA until we have a first-place winning team in Academic Decathlon," a passionate and dedicated Ms. Rugama once shared with me. In the past, there have been bright moments in Academic Decathlon. Last year, a few individual students placed in their specific subject and earned themselves a medal, but past success does not compare to what, as a team, the 2021 decathletes accomplished.

Co-captained by 8th graders Pablo Torres, a recipient of the Onward Scholar program at Cathedral High School, and Vincent Hernandez, who earned himself a 3rd place medal for social studies in last year's event, the 2021 decathlon team rose to new heights. From November to March, this group of twelve students: three 8th graders, seven 7th graders, and two 6th grade alternates, took on the workload of Academic Decathlon in addition to all the work of their regular scheduled classes at STA. Given the challenges of online learning, the decathletes and their coaches met regularly on Zoom Monday through Friday, even some Saturdays, to prepare for the decathlon event.

In the end, the hard work paid off, and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School went home, taking 1st place in the Super Quiz team event and placed 3rd overall, accompanied by two students placing 2nd in their respective individual subjects.

So perhaps Ms. Rugama has a year or two left at STA until she reaches her goal of coaching the 1st place overall team. Still, because of the dedication and effort put forth by our decathletes and coaches, under the leadership of Principal Lutero, our small Catholic school can, if only for a moment, hold its head up high. But our work is not done; we must continue to work towards Ms. Lutero's vision for our school, one we all now proudly share in. St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us! Go Eagles! Woo!



**Safeguard The Children  
DID YOU KNOW?**

**Beware the dangers of online  
enticement**

The events of 2020 pushed most of our lives more fully online than ever before: working from home, virtual schooling, Zoom get-togethers. This past year also saw a dramatic increase in reports of online child abuse, including online enticement. Enticement involves an individual communicating online with someone believed to be a child, with the intent to commit a sex offense or to abduct the child. Online enticement can happen to any child using the internet. Parents should be very aware of what their children do online, including who they talk to and what sites they spend time on. For more information, visit <https://www.missingkids.org/blog/2021/rise-in-online-enticement-and-other-trends--ncmec-releases-2020->

**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS**

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

4/24-4/25 Offertory/Online: \$5,843.00

Over/(Under): (\$1,657.00)

***Thank you for your support!***

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, May 1st

5:30 PM All STA Parishioners

### Sunday, May 2nd

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yoyo Yu  
Joe Saragueta (D)  
Jesus Gonzalez (D)  
Brianna Tretter (Health)  
Natalie Ramos (Health)  
Nenita Chiu-Ong (Birthday)

11:30 AM Carlos Zuniga (D)  
Ray Gutierrez (D)  
Jesus Gonzalez (D)  
Arroyo deceased family  
members  
Natalie Ramos (Health)

1:30 PM All STA Parishioners

### Tuesday, May 4th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yoyo Yu

### Thursday, May 6th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yoyo Yu

7 PM For All STA Parishioners

### Friday, May 7th

10 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yoyo Yu  
Aurora Garcia (D)  
Anne Wong (D)  
Romi Romero (Birthday)

### Saturday, May 8th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Yoyo Yu

## 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  
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 Sherry Hsu—Chinese Ministry Staff  
 stachinese@stampk.org Ext. 104  
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 JWang@stampk.org Ext. 105  
 Bill Zhu—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>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**