



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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



Pentecost Sunday - May 23, 2021

From the Desk of our Pastor

From the Canopies to the Church; encountering God in both places

In the middle of July 2020, we were facing yet another challenge during the pandemic. We were not allowed to celebrate Mass inside the Church! I asked what we should do? Where are we going to celebrate Mass? I prayed for a solution.

When someone suggested using the blue canopies plus all our Fiesta canopies to set up a place of worship, I immediately gathered a few people and within a few days, the school lunch area along with the beer tent and fiesta canopies became the place of refuge when we needed a space for spiritual gathering.

For almost a year now, the canopies have been our meeting point. Here we have celebrated baptisms. Here we have celebrated First communions. Here we have celebrated the sacrament of confession and reconciliation. Here we have celebrated confirmation, and here we have celebrated the Eucharist. These canopies have been our place of encountering God and with one another. It is a sacred place where we have met to mourn our loved ones, and to celebrate baptism of the newborn. Here the new catechumens celebrated the sacraments of initiation. It is truly our sacred place.

So, as we are saying farewell to the canopies, we need to remember that it is a holy place, like the meeting place in Exodus 33:7 where Moses entered the tent to speak with God. We have come to the tents to meet the Lord and each other. During the school days, the tents become a place where friendships are nourished and meals are shared. We give thanks to God for the sacred places in our lives.

History of our Blue Canopies:

2005: 2 large blue canopies were installed to replace our Big Old Trees providing a shaded area for school lunches and church activities.

2016: 24 metal benches were purchased, retiring all damaged wooden benches.

2018: concrete pad was added under and around the canopies, replacing cracked asphalt. At the same time, the entire rear parking lot was repaved with new asphalt.

2020: 1 big beer tent and 20 fiesta tents were added to the blue canopies providing us the shelter for STA's sacred place.



Solemn Exposition of
the Blessed Sacrament



**First Friday
June 4th
Adoration 9 AM
Mass 10 AM**

Our June 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.

Fireworks Stand Volunteers Needed

It is almost that time again.....the past several years our parish school has done a great job in maintaining the Fireworks stand. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold this fundraiser in 2020. This year we are excited to be able to host a fireworks stand.

We need many volunteers to have a successful sales program. COVID-19 protocols will be in place as mandated by our local Dept. of Public Health. Check your calendar for your availability. Detailed information on sign-ups and sales will be provided in the near future.

This is a wonderful and fun opportunity for parents to start earning required volunteer hours for our school and for parishioners to support this very profitable fund raiser.



Fr. Justin

Please join us in wishing Fr. Justin (May 24th) a very happy and blessed birthday. May his day be filled with joy and good health!

RETURN TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS

We have been notified that in-person meetings of our parish organizations and ministries are once again permitted as we are now well into the "yellow tier" of reopening of the state. This means that our various parish ministries can once again start scheduling meetings, with COVID-19 protocols in place.

At this time, the school classrooms, parish office and rectory remain closed to visitors. No meetings or unescorted visitors are allowed.

Our various ministries should reserve their desired meeting days and times with the parish office staff and receive confirmation of facility availability before notifying members of any meetings. The process to use our facilities /grounds has not changed; all requests must be presented to the parish office for approval. Please contact the parish office for more detailed information.

TOGETHER IN MISSION
FORWARD
WITH
FAITH
 2021 ANNUAL APPEAL

MAKE A GIFT WITH QR CODE

VISIT [TOGETHERINMISSION.ORG](https://togetherinmission.org) OR TEXT 'FORWARD21' TO 213-397-0682 AND MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

Together In Mission 2021 Forward With Faith Annual Appeal

The Together in Mission 2021 “Forward with Faith” Annual Appeal launch is June 5-6, 2021. Please make a special effort to attend mass, virtually or in-person, so we can pray and reflect on how we can continue to help our struggling parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. One in EVERY 5 parishes needs financial assistance and 1 in every 4 Catholic schools needs critical funds to keep their doors open. **Our 2021 parish goal is \$38,792.**

Register for eGiving

As summer nears, a return to normalcy seems to be within our reach. Families are planning getaways and get-togethers. Beaches, lakes and swimming pools are once again open. Youth sports are back on the schedule. The summer months ahead promise to be busy – and this can slow down our parish offertory at St. Thomas Aquinas. You can help us turn the tide!

To build steady support for our parish, please sign up to eGiving via Faith Direct. Families that switch to eGiving help power our ministries so we can continue to do our best for our parish families and for those in need in our community.

eGiving is especially important during the summer, when many families may be out of town some weekends and STA won't receive their offertory envelopes. Being part of the solution is simple: you can do so by visiting faithdirect/CA779 to register for eGiving.

We ask you to give eGiving your prayerful consideration so we can continue to help those who thirst for the love and acceptance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and your loved ones this summer and throughout the year.

Safeguard The Children DID YOU KNOW?

Monitoring your children on YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular sites for children, and anyone can upload and share videos about anything. YouTube can showcase creativity and foster learning and connection for children, but it is also home to a variety of dangerous and inappropriate content. It is the user's responsibility to filter the content he or she sees, and often, children don't have the ability or knowledge to filter their viewing before it's too late. Talk to your children about what they want to watch, and what they are and are not allowed to do while on YouTube. For more information, visit:

<https://www.catholicnh.org/assets/Documents/Child-Safety/Articles-Parents/YouTube.pdf>

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Weekly Expenses: \$7,500.00

5/15-5/16 Offertory/Online: \$6,473.00

Over/(Under): (\$1,027.00)

Thank you for your support!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 22nd

5:30 PM Rosie Muniz (D)
Carmen Bascon Tibajia (D)

Sunday, May 23rd

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Albert Ma
Carmen Bascon Tibajia (D)
Enrique Garcia (D)
Jesus Gonzalez (D)
Brianna Tretter (Health)
Natalie Ramos (Health)

11:30 AM Ray Gutierrez (D)
Jesus Gonzalez (D)
Natalie Ramos (Health)
Jesus Gabrielo Huerta (Health)

1:30 PM Alba Jimenez Ordaz (D)
Emily Lima (Health)

Tuesday, May 25th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Albert Ma

Thursday, May 27th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Albert Ma

7 PM All STA Parishioners

Friday, May 28th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by Albert Ma
Anne Wong (D)

Saturday, May 29th

8 AM Hou Yuan Chiao (D) by JueYu Liu

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
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 Linda Almaguer—Parish Secretary
 LAlmaguer@stampk.org Ext. 102
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 stachinese@stampk.org Ext. 104
 Jessie Wang—Chinese Ministry Staff
 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

Saturday Vigil	5:30 PM (English)
Sunday	8:00 AM (English) 9:30 AM (Mandarin) 11:30 AM (English) 1:30 PM (Spanish) 3:00 PM (Cantonese)
Monday	7:00 PM (Chinese)
Tuesday	8:00 AM (English)
Wednesday	8:00 AM (Chinese)
Thursday	8:00 AM (English) 7:00 PM (Spanish)
Friday	8:00 AM (English)
Saturday	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