

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Iglesia Católica Romana

天主教華人傳教中心



1501 South Atlantic Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754



First Sunday of Advent – December 2, 2018

From the Desk of Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles Archdiocese, in collaboration with Archbishop Joseph Li Shan of Beijing Archdiocese, has assigned Fr. Justin Liu Zhen Tian to St. Thomas Aquinas as Associate pastor. Fr. Justin will be taking the place of Fr. Peter who is returning to Beijing in late December after completing his assignment.

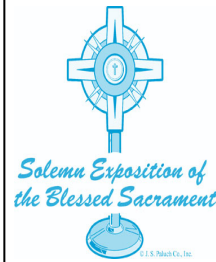
Fr. Justin will start his ministry here at St. Thomas Aquinas the weekend of January 5 2019. He speaks English, Mandarin and Cantonese.

Fr. Justin belongs to the Archdiocese of Beijing, China. He was born on May 24, 1969. He studied Theology in Beijing Seminary, and also at the Holy Spirit Seminary in Hong Kong. Fr. Justin was ordained to the priesthood on Apr 25, 1999. After his ordination, Fr. Justin has taken on several assignments as pastor and also served as associate pastor in various parishes in the Archdiocese of Beijing. He also served in the diocesan seminary as the formation director until 2002.

In 2002 year, he came to the United States to study English and Spirituality in Mundelein Seminary in Chicago. He continued his studies at the Department of Religious Education in the University of Fordham in New York in Sep 2004, where he received a Master Degree in Pastoral Studies. He also studied Pastoral counseling and spiritual direction.

We will hold a farewell party for Fr. Peter on December 23. Please keep Fr. Peter and Fr. Justin in your prayers as they both begin a new journey in their ministry.

Fr. John



*Solemn Exposition of
the Blessed Sacrament*

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**1st Friday
December 7**

9 AM–6 PM:

Eucharistic
Adoration

6 PM: Rosary

6:45 PM: Benediction

7 PM: Mass

**Immaculate
Conception**



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Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

December 8th

8 AM Mass

English and Chinese

**Parish School
Second Collection
12/1-12/2**

This weekend we will have our monthly second collection for our parish school. Please consider the impact your donation makes on providing a Catholic based education to our students.

Christmas Tree Sponsorship

We are asking individuals, families and businesses to sponsor the purchase of a Christmas tree for only \$40.00. The names of the sponsors will be displayed on our Christmas trees. Sponsorship forms are available at all church entrances.

Your generosity in previous years provided a beautifully decorated church environment which added so much joy to all who entered and worshiped in our church. We appreciate your continued support.

Pastoral Goals Information Meeting Saturday, December 8th 9 AM—Church

Anyone who signed up to help with our pastoral goals is invited and encouraged to attend an information meeting on Saturday, December 8th at 9 AM in the church.

Spanish Advent Retreat Making Room for Jesus this Christmas

Everyone is invited to join us in an evening reflection in Spanish at STA parish hall, on Monday, December 3 from 6 PM–9 PM. Fr. Isaias Rodriguez Missionary of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be leading this retreat for the Hispanic community. Bring some snacks to share in our potluck.

8th Grade Fundraiser Sunday, Dec. 2nd

Our STA school 8th graders are hosting a fund raiser this Sunday after all masses. Monies raised will be used for their 8th grade expenses. They will be selling tamales, tacos, sweet bread and hot chocolate. Please stop by and enjoy a delicious meal while supporting our 8th graders.

We appreciate the support of those who stopped by and purchased items at our gift sale last Sunday. The profit of \$601.00 will be used for our school's operating budget.

Mass of Remembrance—Special Blessing Friday, Dec. 7th @ 7 PM

On December 7th, the First Friday of December, we will have a Mass of Remembrance at 7 PM. If you have a picture of your loved one on the altar of remembrance in the Church you are invited and encouraged to attend this Mass. At the end of this Mass we will bless the pictures on our Remembrance altar and the families will pick them up and take them home. We look forward to seeing you on that day.

Together In Mission
2018 Goal: \$34,994.00
Paid: \$33,040.00

We are reaching out to all of you to consider sharing a little bit of your blessings with those in need. We are asking you to consider contributing a little more towards Together in Mission. Our parish goal this year is \$34,994. We have paid \$33,040. **We only need \$1,954 to meet our 2018 goal.** Please continue to make your pledge payments.

This money goes to help parish schools and churches in Los Angeles Archdiocese meet their basic needs. Any extra amount above this goal will be returned to us to use in our parish. We ask for your prayerful consideration and support. Envelopes can be found at church entrances.

Religious Retirement Fund Second Collection 12/8 - 12/9

Support the Retirement Fund for Religious. A donor writes, "Your flyer touched my heart—seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced." Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to next week's second collection.

STA Parish Posada

STA is pleased to announce an **Advent and Christmas Celebration** the STA Parish Posada will be held in the school playground on Friday, December 14, 2018, from 6 PM to 9 PM. This will be a fun family event, we will have live music, delicious food for sale, piñatas, candies and performances from our First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates. The admission is Free!

Furthermore, you will have the opportunity of participating in our Posada raffle, each ticket is \$2 and are available for purchase in the religious education and parish office. The prizes are:

1. a complete Nativity scene of 12"
2. a frame of Our Lady of Guadalupe
3. a Christmas Basket.

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**Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration
Wednesday, December 12, 2018**

Morning Program: 6 AM Mañanitas and Rosary in Spanish

Evening Program: 6:30 PM Rosary (Bilingual)
7 PM Mass with mariachi, followed by music of mariachi and Aztec dancers. Refreshments following both celebrations.

Come to celebrate with us at STA church the Feast of Our Blessed Mother, our Lady of Guadalupe.

**Senior Gathering
Wednesday, December 12th
10:30 AM – Parish Hall**

Our next senior gathering will be held on December 12th. We will not only celebrate Christmas but also the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. We will celebrate with a few games of bingo, trivia questions, and a special performance by our STA School students with sing along Christmas carols. We will finish with a delicious meal of tamales, chicken, fried rice, vegetables, and a great selection of delicious desserts. A \$5 donation is appreciated.

**Dream Trip
Holy Land Pilgrimage
Oct 1 to 12, 2019**

Have you ever dreamed about going to the Holy Land? Are you interested in a 12 Days Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Jordan in October 2019? Fr. John will be the spiritual director of this pilgrimage.

In the footsteps of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we will visit places of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. For example, we will visit Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth; Cana, the village of Jesus' first miracle; (Here couples may renew their wedding vows.) Capernaum, where Jesus started his ministry; Tabgha, the site where the miracle of the multiplication of fish and bread took place; Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Jerusalem - Mount of Olives, Upper Room of the Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow), and much more. We will not forget about Lake Galilee and Dead Sea!

We will also visit places in Jordan – Mt. Nebo also location of the Tomb of Moses; Amman, the modern capital city of Jordan; Petra, famous for the rock-cut architecture and water conduit system; Jerash, known as the "Pompeii of the East".

When? Oct 1 to Oct 12, 2019. Cost: \$3,700 (including airfare, hotel, meals and transportation) plus \$200 for gratuities. Space is limited – 24.

In preparation for this trip, we plan to form a group so we can encourage each other to do exercises, to study the Bible, and to save money. Do you want to be part of this group to become physically, spiritually, and financially ready for this pilgrimage?

You can get more general pilgrimage information at website nativitypilgrimage.com. We will have a presentation to provide details of our pilgrimage package including itinerary and other information on Jan. 13 2019. **If you are interested, please contact Agnes Yu at (562) 761-3055 or email agnes.yu@verizon.net**

READ & REFLECT ON THE SCRIPTURES

DECEMBER 2— DECEMBER 9

- Sunday:** Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 — 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
- Monday:** Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday:** Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018

5:30 PM For the peace and health of Haiboh Wang by Agnes Yu

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

8:00 AM For the deceased members of John & Emma Arroyo's family

11:30 AM In memory of Santiago Sulit

1:30 PM For all STA Parishioners

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018

8:00 AM For the peace and well-being of Ai Min Lau In celebration of Jenn Hayden's birthday

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018

8:00 AM For the peace and well-being of Ai Min Lau

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018

7:00 PM For the peace and well-being of Ai Min Lau

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 2018

8:00 AM For the peace and well-being of Ai Min Lau

KEEP IN PRAYER

- Aurora Guillen
- Vivian Hamilton
- Richard Jerome
- Rudy La Ferla
- Celia Lopez
- Geneva Luna
- Richard Mann
- Diana Marquez
- Candelaria Martinez
- Julie Melendez
- Isabel Mesa
- Cole Moviz
- Victor Morales
- Donnie Nava
- Phillip Orozco
- Paul Ortega
- Maria Perez
- Emma Pham
- Felicitas Pimentel
- Carmen Gutierrez
- Maria Ibarra
- Enrique Juarez
- Yvonne Lau
- Alfonso Luna
- Chris Maestas
- Alice Maldonado
- Tiffany Marquez
- Charles Melendez
- Jesse Mendoza
- Leonor Montanez
- Dolores Morales
- Irma Moreno
- Margarita Ordonez
- Susan Orozco
- Ann Peccino
- Susana Perez
- Ruben Piedra
- Michael Preciado

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 2nd

- 9 AM— Confirmation— Hall
- 9 AM— FHC— School Clrms
- 11 AM— Ch. Choir—Dining rm.
- 11 AM— Chn. Rel. Ed—Clrms
- 11 AM— RCIA— Hall Mtg rm.
- 11 AM— Chinese Bible— CL3
- 3 PM—CCA Adoration—Church
- 4 PM— Fantasy Folk Dance—Hall

Monday, December 3rd

- 6 PM— Spanish Retreat—Hall

Tuesday, December 4th

- 6 PM— Girl Scouts— Dining rm.
- 7:30 PM— Ping Pong— Hall

Wednesday, December 5th

- 7 PM—Youth Legion of Mary—Hall Mtg Rm.
- 7 PM— Folk Dance—Hall

- 7 PM—Eng. Bible Study—Church
- 7:30 PM— RCIA— Dining Rm.

Thursday, December 6th

- 11 AM— Wedding— Church
- 7 PM— Spn. Bible—Church
- 7 PM— Ping Pong— Hall

Friday, December 7th

- 5:30 PM—Girl Scouts— Hall
- 7:30 PM— Cantonese Fellowship—Hall Mtg Rm.
- 7:30 PM—St. Therese de Lisieux— Dining Rm.

Saturday, December 8th

- 8 AM— Rel. Ed. Retreat—Hall
- 9 AM— Cantonese Legion of Mary—Parish Hall
- 9 AM— PPC Info. Mtg—Church
- 9:30 AM— Tutoring— CL kinder
- 9:45 AM—Mandarin Legion of Mary— Dining Rm.

SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN

Keep Santa visits safe and secret-free

It's the Christmas season, which means children around the archdiocese will be lining up for a picture with Santa and a chance to tell him what they hope to find under their trees this year. The Santa visit is a fun holiday tradition, but it's not a time when parents can let their guard down. Santa and his helpers are usually volunteers and may not have gone through screenings or tests to ensure your child's safety, so it's up to you. Keep an eye on anything happening while your child visits with Santa. Never step away from the action, even for a moment, and don't allow your children to be led away to another room. For a copy of the complete VIRTUS® article, "Safety for Children AND Santa's Helpers," visit <http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/protecting/Pages/VIRTUS-Current-Online-Articles.aspx>

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Weekly Expenses: \$7,500.00
 Avg. Weekly Online Donation: \$500.00
 11/17-11/18 Offertory: \$5,702.00
 Variance: -(\$1,298.00)
 11/24-11/25 Offertory: \$5,733.00
 Variance -(\$1,267.00)
 Human Development: \$1,517.00
 Faith Direct: membership.faithdirect.net/CA779

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM (English)
 Sunday 8:00 AM (English)
 9:30 AM (Chinese)
 11:30 AM (English)
 1:30 PM (Spanish)
 Monday 7:00 PM (Chinese)
 Tuesday 8:00 AM (English)
 Wednesday 8:00 AM (Chinese)
 Thursday 8:00 AM (English)
 Friday 8:00 AM (English)
 1st Friday ONLY 7:00 PM
 Saturday 8:00 AM (English)
 Reconciliation Saturday at 4:00 PM

Parish Information

Parish Office: (323) 264-4447
 Chinese Ministry Office: (323) 264-4448
 General Email: sta91754@gmail.com
 Parish Website: STAMPK.ORG
 Fax: (323) 264-2524
 Hall Rental: (323) 264-4447 ext. 102

Parish Staff

Fr. John Kyebasuuta—Pastor
stapastor@gmail.com Ext. 108

Fr. Peter Wei Cao—Associate Pastor
sta.assocpastor@gmail.com Ext. 106

Lorraine Melendez—General Manager
stamanager1@gmail.com Ext. 103

Linda Almaguer—Parish Secretary
sta91754@gmail.com Ext. 102

Sherry Hsu—Chinese Ministry Staff
stachinese@gmail.com Ext. 104

Jessie Wang—Chinese Ministry Staff
stachinese@gmail.com Ext. 105

Safeguard The Children
 Esther Hwang (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
 Sr. Rocio Nieto - DRE
 Email: stareligioused@gmail.com