

Saint Thomas Aquinas Canadian Martyrs Parish
Parish Office located at 1725 Oxford Street, Halifax, NS B3H 3Z7
Phone: 902-423-3057 Fax: 902-484-6944 (Open: Monday to Friday from 8:00 am - 12 pm and 1 – 4:00 pm)
www.stacm.ca

December 3rd, 2017 - First Sunday of Advent

Vision - A growing, joyful community of disciples engaged through personal relationship with Jesus Christ, inspired and sustained through the Holy Spirit, and focused on the transformation of our city and our world.

Mission - Through personal and community worship and prayer, faith development, vibrant and uplifting Liturgies, and engaged ministry leadership, we form missionary disciples to build the Kingdom of God.

<p>St. Thomas Aquinas Canadian Martyrs, 1725 Oxford Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rev. Mark Cherry, Pastor frmark@bellaliant.com ➤ Rev. Owen Connolly, Assistant Priest, Part-Time owen885@ns.sympatico.ca ➤ Tracy Francis, Parish Secretary, office@bellaliant.com ➤ Deacon Dan Daley, Coordinator of Pastoral Life & Strategic Planning daleyd@bellaliant.com ➤ Mary Therese MacDonell, Director of Adult & Family Faith Formation – familyministries@bellaliant.com ➤ Heather Orlando, Youth Coordinator- youth16@bellaliant.com ➤ Melanie Kennedy, Director of Sanctus Choir, mkennedy@hrsb.ca ➤ Tony Howard, Maintenance (Janitorial) ➤ George Reid, Janitorial Assistant 	<p>Daily Masses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monday & Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. ➤ Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 a.m. <p>Weekend Masses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Saturday at 4:30 pm ➤ Sunday at 9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m. ➤ 6:30 p.m. ~ until December 10th <p>Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday: 3:30 - 4:15 pm</p>
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Mass Intentions		
➤ Monday, December 4th-	7:30 a.m.	Agnes Napier †
➤ Tuesday, December 5th-	7:30 a.m.	Gertrude Mooney †
➤ Wednesday, December 6th -	9:00 a.m.	Marguerite O'Connor †
➤ Thursday, December 7th-	9:00 a.m.	Joan Corbett †
➤ Friday, December 8th -	9:00 a.m.	Anita Ross (Living)

PARISH DAY OF RECONCILIATION

As a significant part of Advent, we are each called to take time to look within our own hearts and hear Christ's call for renewal and repentance – to turn away from sin and to believe the Gospel so that Christ may be born anew in our hearts. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available all day, **Friday, December 8th at St. Thomas Aquinas following the 9 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.** with Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day. Please mark your calendar, prepare your heart, and come to the Sacrament of God's mercy so that we may be spiritually ready to celebrate the feast of Christmas with joy.

COMMUNITY COLLECTION (Formerly Archbishop's Annual Appeal)

Last weekend was the second opportunity for you to make a contribution to this year's **Annual Community Collection**. The Community Collection replaces the *Archbishop's Annual Appeal* and the *Needs of the Canadian Church* collections. Your contribution will support initiatives of Archbishop Mancini to build our church Community. This includes:

- ❑ The Ministry of Care and Companionship
- ❑ Hospital Chaplaincy
- ❑ University Chaplaincy
- ❑ Catechetical and Adult Faith Formations
- ❑ Catholic Cemeteries of Halifax
- ❑ Assistance to Parishes.

Contributions to the appeal can be placed in regular Sunday collection or dropped off at the parish office up until the end of December. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to date. Please prayerfully consider contributing this year.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of the end of October we are running an operating deficit of **\$37,790**, which is \$15,703 more than we have budgeted for. We would like to ask all parishioners to be mindful of our ongoing expenses of our parish as we enter the final month of this year. We have produced a consolidated financial statement up until the end of October, which is located at the back of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Dan Daley at the Parish Office, 902-423-3057 or daleyd@bellaliant.com

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

As we begin to think about our Christmas celebrations, parishioners are invited to make donations towards flowers in memory of loved ones. The names of those being remembered (*not the donors*) will be published in a frame and placed at the Altar by the flowers at Christmas. Envelopes are located at the back of the Church or you can phone Tracy at the parish office. These donations can be credited towards a tax receipt.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR ABBIE LANE HOSPITAL

The Social Action Committee is looking for volunteers to bake cookies for the patients at the Abbie Lane Hospital as part of the Social Action Committee's Christmas activities for the hospital. Members of the Social Action Committee will be at the back of the Churches this weekend, December 2nd & 3rd to collect names to make the cookies.

NICARGUA COLLECTION

Next weekend, (*December 9th & 10th*) there will be a special collection to support the sponsorship of Adriana Ramirez, the student in the Pathway Program in Managua run by Ed & Barbara Dunsworth, former STACM parishioners now living in Managua, Nicaragua. The annual cost to sponsor our student is approximately \$2,300. Please find the green envelope at the very back of your box of envelopes marked Nicaragua Mission and give generously to ensure another year of high quality education for Adriana. (*Extra Envelopes are also at the back of the church*) More details about the program can be found at: www.p2pnicaragua.com. Thank you for your support.

REFUGEE UPDATE

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our Refugee Family's arrival has been delayed. We will advise you when they arrive. Please keep them in prayer.

SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2018 Offertory Boxed Envelopes are available at the back of the church. **Please note all parishioners have been assigned new envelope numbers due to a change in our Envelope Distribution Company.** Please enter your full name and address on the first few envelopes so that we may be sure we are allocating donations correctly for income tax purposes. Please notify the Parish Office of any address updates. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box, please contact the Parish Office at 902-423-3057. Thank you.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHRISTMAS GIFTS

There is still time to donate to the Christmas Gift Program for Mental Health, which is organized by Fr. Eric Theriault. With your help we can make Christmas a little brighter for patients in hospital. We ask that gifts not be wrapped. Gifts can be dropped off at the parish office or with the ushers at Mass up until **December 18th**. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

WEEKEND OF GRACE FOR WOMEN

Registration is open for the 12th Weekend of Grace Conference, to be held APRIL 13-15, 2018 at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax. Conference Keynote Speakers are Deacon Larry and Andi Oney, husband and wife. The early-bird deadline to register at the reduced price of \$175 is DECEMBER 31st, 2017, after which the full price of \$195 will apply. We invite all women to attend! More information can be found at www.weekendofgrace.com

36th HALIFAX SCOUT GROUP CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Halifax Scout are selling trees to support Scouts and their activities. Trees are available in two sizes: Small 5½-7 ft (\$35) and Large 8 or 9 ft (\$40). Pick up is at **First Baptist Church parking lot, 1300 Oxford Street on December 9th from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Storm or rain date is Sunday, December 10th, between 1:00 and 3:00 PM. **You must pre-order.** Home delivery for an additional \$10. Wreaths are also available for \$20. Order forms are located at the back table of the Church. Contact Scouter Howard Donohoe at 902-223-4544

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Family Formation will be hosting a Christmas Bake Sale on **Saturday & Sunday, December 16th/17th** in the hall after the 4:30 p.m., 9 a.m. and the 11 a.m. Masses. The proceeds will be used to help their Chalice sponsored child, Maria Gissell.



Rooted

Teens continue to meet every **Tuesday from 7:00 p.m.** in the hall. This week we will be talking about scripture. **Please keep your eyes open for our exciting Christmas Fundraiser.** We are starting early this year to raise funds for the Steubenville 2018 Conference in July. **We will be selling hand painted ornaments after Masses during the Advent season.** There are four patterns to choose from...or buy all four!! They make perfect Christmas gifts or great to keep for your own tree. We have been working hard in the youth room to make sure each ornament is made with love.
Heather Orlando : youth16@bellaliant.com or 902-423-3057

FAMILY FORMATION



Family Formation: Sunday, Dec. Sunday, Dec. 3 after the 9 am Coffee Social **Topics: The Annunciation, the Immaculate Conception, & the Incarnation.** Guest Speaker: Heather Orlando.
Sunday, Dec. 17: Carolling 6 pm. Meet in the STA Hall at 6pm
December Memory Verse: "Mary said, 'Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word'. Then the angel departed from her" Luke 1:38

**FINANCIAL CORNER –
Collections - Week of November 26th, 2017**

	WEEKLY BUDGET	ACTUAL OFFERING	DIFFERENCE
PAO	\$3,231.	\$3,282.	\$51.
Envelopes	\$3,443.	\$2,622.	(\$821.)
Loose	\$436.	\$218.	(\$218.)
Total	\$7,110.	\$6,122.	(\$988.)

PEW ENVELOPES

Anyone using Pew Envelopes who would like a tax receipt, please fill in the information on the front of the envelope and include your name and address. Thank you.