

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 2nd, 2018 - 1st 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.

St. Thomas Aquinas Canadian Martyrs, 1725 Oxford Street

- **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
- **Tony Howard, Maintenance (Janitorial)**
- **George Reid, Janitorial Assistant**

Daily Masses:

- Monday & Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 a.m.

Weekend Masses:

- Saturday at 4:30 pm
- Sunday at 9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:30 - 4:15 pm

Mass Intentions

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|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ Monday, December 3rd - | 7:30 a.m. | Geraldine Gorman † |
| ➤ Tuesday, December 4th - | 7:30 a.m. | Douglas Young † |
| ➤ Wednesday, December 5th - | 9:00 a.m. | Bonita Davis † |
| ➤ Thursday, December 6th - | 9:00 a.m. | Barbara Jean Fraser † |
| ➤ Friday, December 7th - | 9:00 a.m. | Dennis Doyle † |

EXTENDED HOURS FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

We are pleased to announce that we have extended our hours for Eucharistic Adoration. Because of your YES and your commitment, we are able to extend the hours in addition to Friday (9:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.). We now have the following days/times:

- ❑ **Tuesday evenings - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- ❑ **Wednesday mornings - 9:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
- ❑ **Thursday evenings - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

In addition to the dates listed above, we have Eucharistic Adoration on the *First Friday evening of each month: (October - May) 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. as well as the All night (Nocturnal) Prayer Vigil: (First Friday night) from 10:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.*

If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please phone Tracy at the Parish Office. If you have not already picked up a brochure on Adoration, please do so at the back of the Church. Our Parish will be greatly blessed by these extended times of Adoration.

When arriving/leaving Adoration, we ask that you use the **Jubilee Road entrance**. (Door closest to the Sacred Heart Chapel).

SYRIAN REFUGEE SPECIAL COLLECTION

The refugee committee would like to thank our parish community for their generous contributions to date. A total of **\$5,550** was raised at last week's special collection towards the goal of **\$9,700** to fulfill our refugee sponsorship commitment. It has been an uplifting experience to see the joy in the eyes of our refugee family starting a new life. If you would like to contribute to enable us to meet our goal, there are envelopes at the back of the Church. You can drop your contribution on any Sunday in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deacon Dan Daley at 902-423-3057 or daleyd@bellaliant.com Thank you for your support.

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 more fully away from our self-centeredness and more fully embrace the selflessness that the Gospel calls us to. It is a time to have our hearts healed and be more fully led by the Holy Spirit. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available all day, **Friday, December 14th at St. Thomas Aquinas, 10 a.m. Mass until 6 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.

BRIDGE MINISTRY



THE BRIDGE MINISTRY ~ Advent Contemplation

“Behold you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus”. Luke 1:31

We invite you to join us on **Friday December 7th, 7:00- 8:30 pm** at St. Thomas Aquinas church. The evening is a retreat from the world offering us an oasis from the busyness and distractions of our daily lives. This time of silence in Adoration; interspersed with praise and worship, gives us the opportunity to draw closer to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please visit the parish website at www.stacm.ca or call the parish office at (902) 423-3057.

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.

P2P NICARAGUA COLLECTION

Next weekend, **December 8th & 9th**, there will be a special collection to support our annual sponsorship of our new student in the Pathway Program in Managua, Nicaragua. Her name is Génesis Rachell, who is in grade 4A at Loyola in a class of 40 students. (*Adriana Ramirez, our previous sponsorship student is now in university*). 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 Génesis. More details about the program can be found at: www.p2pnicaragua.org Thank you all for your faithful, continuing support.

WEEKEND OF GRACE FOR WOMEN

The 13th Weekend of Grace is fast approaching. To avoid disappointment, we encourage those who are planning to attend to register now. The early-bird deadline is **December 31**. Info can be found at www.weekendofgrace.com. The conference will be held **May 3 - 5, 2019** at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Conference Keynote Speakers are Andi and Deacon Larry Oney, international Catholic presenters from New Orleans who have authored multiple books and appeared on many EWTN shows. We invite all women to attend!

FORMED: ONLINE WEB-BASED DIGITAL FORMATION SERIES

We are excited to announce that we have re-subscribed to **Formed**, the exciting online web-based digital Catholic Formation Series. The cost is \$20 for an annual subscription through the parish. Passcodes will be sent out to parishioners who have paid for their subscription. Envelopes are on the tables at the back of the church. For more information go to www.formed.org If you have any questions, please contact Tracy at the parish office.

COMMUNITY COLLECTION

Thank you to all who have generously donated to the Community Collection. You can make your donation at anytime. As an added incentive, the Archdiocese rebates 20% of our parish's donations back to the parish. Last year, our parish generously contributed \$14,700. to this collection. The Archdiocese has assigned our parish a goal of \$20,000 for this year. For more information about the Community collection, call Christine Spears at 902-429-9800 ext 312.

36th HALIFAX SCOUT GROUP CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

The Scouts are selling Christmas trees by pre-order only. Pick-up day is Saturday, **December 8th from 8:30am to 11:30am** in the parking lot of First Baptist Church Halifax, 1300 Oxford Street. Order forms are available at the back of the Church. You may also pre-order your tree by calling Scouter Howard Donohoe at 902-223-4544.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHRISTMAS GIFTS

For almost 40 years this charitable ministry ensures that each of the clients of the hospital receives a Christmas gift. Suggested items include new winter clothes, pyjamas, toiletries, candy, new books, and gift cards. Please do not wrap items or offer used items. Donations can be deposited in the marked box in the Church or at the Parish Office. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping to make this a Merry Christmas for someone in need.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Family Formation will be hosting a Christmas Bake Sale on **Saturday & Sunday, December 15th/16th** 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.

youth news

Rooted Youth in grades 7-9 MEET ON TUESDAY NIGHTS IN THE HALL AT 7PM! This week we will be talking about Jesus' BFFs...the Apostles! Please come, bring a friend!

THRIVE will be meeting on Sunday, December 9th at 7 p.m. in the STACM Hall. We will continue our Hot Topic Series. Please follow us on Instagram for updates [@thrive.hfx](https://www.instagram.com/thrive.hfx). We use programs from YDISCIPLE and Formed.org

Heather Orlando: youth16@bellaliant.com or 902-423-3057

 **A FAMILY OF FAITH**
Family Catechesis for Our Parish

Friends and family are welcome to join Family Formation on **Sunday Dec. 16th at 6 pm at the St. Thomas Aquinas Hall for caroling in the neighborhood.** Afterwards we will have hot chocolate, warm apple cider, and a sweet or savory, (please bring something to share), and watch a short family Christmas DVD. For more information contact, Mary Therese MacDonell familyministries@bellaliant.com For more information please contact, Mary Therese MacDonell, Director of Family Formation, at familyministries@stacm.ca or at 902-423-3057

FINANCIAL CORNER – Collections - Week of November 25th, 2018

	WEEKLY BUDGET	ACTUAL OFFERING	DIFFERENCE
PAO	\$3,231.	\$3,282.	\$51.
Envelopes	\$3,443.	\$2,251.	(\$1,192.)
Loose	\$436.	\$304	(\$132.)
Total	\$7,110.	\$5,837.	(\$1,273.)

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.