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St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community

Welcoming the Immigrant and the Stranger In South Philadelphia

Reflection from Father Dominic

As thinking, rational human beings we pride ourselves on being logical. We conduct our business affairs so that our dealings are fair. We balance our checkbooks and budget our resources. We raise our children to play fair and to respect fairness in return. We solve math problems, logical sequences, and problems we have in our lives with fair-mindedness.

We are reminded in today's readings that we can't apply human logic to situations involving God. According to the prophet Isaiah, the Lord tells us that his ways are above our ways, and his thoughts are above our thoughts. In the parable Jesus speaks of a landowner who hires laborers, agreeing to pay them the usual daily wage. Throughout the course of the day he hires additional workers. But at the end of the day, he pays them all the same. He is not acting unjustly. He is not violating the early morning agreement. When those hired first protest, he simply responds, "Are you envious because I am generous?"

God's mercy, wisdom, and justice is beyond our comprehension. Unfortunately, we try to make God's rules fit our lives instead of making our lives fit God's rules. That is what conversion is all about. It literally means "to change." To extend ourselves beyond our comfort zone; to give more than we receive; to realize that all we have and all we are is a gift from God; to forgive the unforgivable; to make Christ the center of our lives.

Saint Paul has it right. He reflects that "life is Christ, but death is gain." He could go on serving Christ and the early Christians, and that would be a fruitful existence. Or he could "depart this life and that would be far better." In either case, Christ is central.

That is why we gather here every Sunday—to convert our minds and hearts to the teachings of

Christ. We are here to be nourished by his word and Eucharist so that we may go out into the world and to act like him- to be Christ to others. We are supported by a community of believers so that, together, our actions will bear fruit. When we fail, we try again to overcome our human condition and to convert our hearts and minds to the ways of Christ.

Isaiah, Paul and Matthew are reminding us that God' ways are different, it is beyond our comprehension. Only after we accept this truth can we begin to conduct ourselves in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

May God bless you!

Fr. Dominic

Your brother in Christ

Celebrating Father Dominic as our 15th Pastor



Thank you to all who celebrated the installation of Father Dominic as our 15th Pastor on Sunday. It was a beautiful ceremony celebrated with our Parish family and friends in person at St Thomas Aquinas and around the world via livestream. You can watch via [livestream here](#)

Congratulations to Fr Kurniawan!



This past Sunday, Romo Kurniawan also celebrated 11 years ordained as a priest! Make sure to say congratulations next time you see him! We are very lucky to have him here as part of our multicultural community at St. Thomas Aquinas.

Campaign for the Needy



Did you hear about our Campaign for the Needy? The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented levels of economic strain across the country. Due to shutdowns and job losses, many families in our St. Thomas Aquinas parish community are currently struggling to pay for

even the very basics.

We need your help to help them from falling through the cracks! We have a big goal of \$8,000 to raise! Please give and share to help us get there! Thank you for your continued support!

[Give Now](#)

Thank you!



Thank you to all those who came out and helped clean our parish's campus, you did a great job and our campus is beautiful once again. You all worked very hard and we truly appreciate it. Thank you again, you are the BEST

FREE English Classes



Online English Classes (on the internet) for Fall 2020

The parish is offering English Speakers of Other Languages (ESoL) classes on the internet for Fall 2020. Because of the Coronavirus, we will not have class in person. We will post lessons on the parish website once per week and have class on Google Meet once per week. Class starts on September 15 and ends on December 17. There is no fee for these classes.

You can register here: <https://staquinas.com/esol-registration-form>

For more information: contact the rectory at (267) 388-1281, email education@aquinascenterphilly.org, or visit the English Class website at <https://staquinas.com/esol>

Mass Schedule



Now that we've returned to Mass there is a new schedule.

Saturday Vigil:

4:00PM (*English*)

6:00PM (*Spanish*)

Sunday:

8:00AM (*Vietnamese*)

10:00AM (*English*)

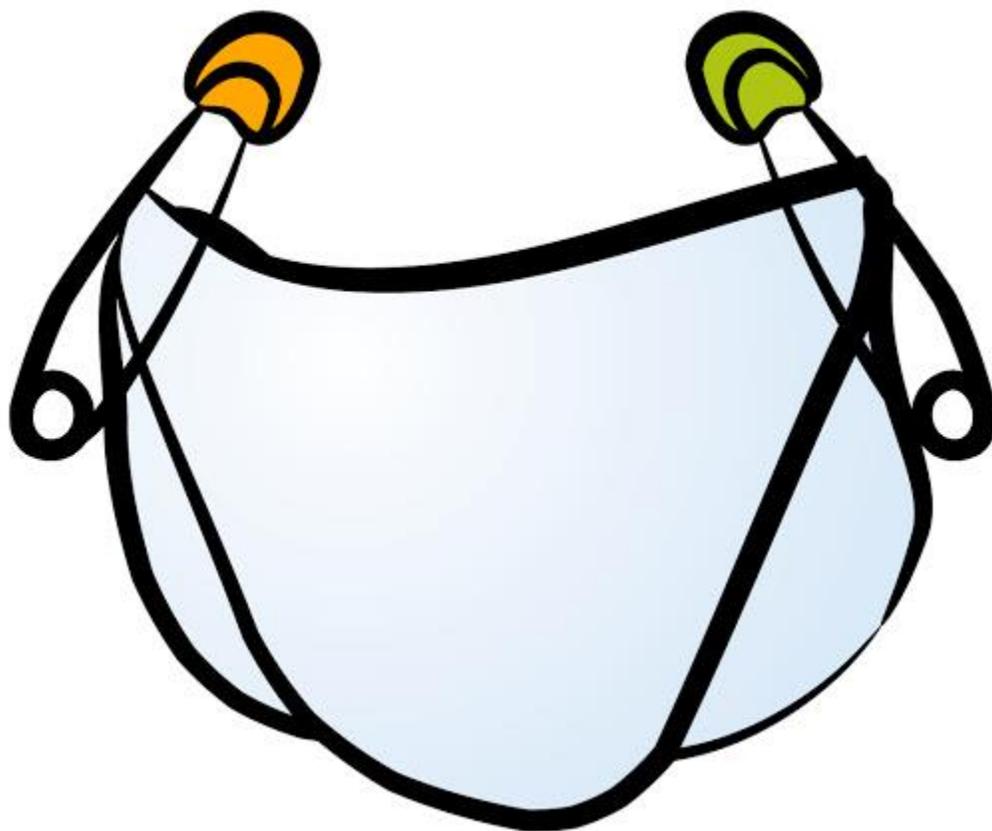
12:00PM (*Indonesian*)

There is a very limited capacity of approximately 130 people due to social distancing. Please listen to the direction of ushers for where to sit and what to do if your particular Mass is at capacity.

The Archbishop has suspended the obligation to suspend Sunday Mass **so stay at home if you are not feeling well or do not feel comfortable coming to Mass.**

Mass will be livestreamed on Facebook Live and can be viewed live or at a later date [HERE](#) (ESPAÑOL [AQUÍ](#))

Diaper Distribution



We are having a diaper distribution site on Fridays starting September 4. If you are interested or know someone that will benefit from the program please contact the rectory at 267-388-1281

Donation Drive



The parish is collecting and distributing food, diapers, hygiene supplies, and gift cards to support our families in need. Currently, we are urgently in need of:

The following hygiene supplies:

- Baby Wipes
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant (fragrance free preferred)
- Soap (fragrance free preferred)
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Menstrual products (all levels of absorbency)
- Laundry detergent (fragrance free preferred)
- Dish soap
- Sponges
- Hand sanitizer

Gift Cards for:

- ShopRite
- Walgreens
- CVS

You can donate by:

- Dropping off supplies at the parish rectory. Contact Clara Jerez at cjerez@staquinas.com or call the rectory at (267) 388-1281 to arrange for a drop-off
- Ordering supplies to be delivered to the St. Thomas Aquinas Rectory:

- St. Thomas Aquinas Rectory
1719 Morris Street
Philadelphia, PA 19145
- Ordering supplies from our [Amazon Wishlist](#):

If you belong to a parish or group that would be interested in organizing a donation drive or fundraiser please contact Clara Jerez, St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Associate at cjerez@staquinas.com. If you are interested in volunteering with distribution or in helping parishioners in applying for city resources, please sign up on our parish [volunteer page](#)