



## St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community

# TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## Week of October 18, 2020

---

**Mission Statement:** *Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community, through our cultural diversity, united in our expressions of faith, lives the Gospel message in our neighborhood through worship, education, service, and advocacy.*

---

### **Celebration of the Eucharist – Covid 19 Schedule**

#### **Saturday Vigil:**

4:00PM (English)

6:00PM (Spanish)

#### **Sunday:**

8:00AM (Vietnamese)

10:00AM (English)

12:00PM (Indonesian)

#### **Holidays:**

8:30AM (Church)

#### **Weekdays:**

8:30AM (Church)

---

**Saint Thomas Aquinas  
1719 Morris St.**

**Philadelphia, 19145**

**www.staquinas.com**

Rectory: (215) 334-2312

staquinasparish@gmail.com

Fax: 215-755.9369

School:(215) 334-0878

Aquinas Center:

215-334-2312

*St Thomas Aquinas Parish Office  
will be run virtually (online)  
until further notice. The rectory  
will be closed during this time.  
The new phone number to call is:  
267-388-1281*

### **Message From Our Pastor**

Today's Gospel begins with a somewhat familiar scene. Some influential members of Jewish society, the disciples of the Pharisees, and some Herodians are trying to trick Jesus with a question, "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" On the surface, this appears to put Jesus in a bind. If he answers yes, he may appear to be sanctioning the oppressive rule and paganistic practices of the Roman Empire. If he answers no, he might come across as an anti-Roman revolutionary. Many of us face similar challenges and tensions each day as we wonder, can I be good Christian and good citizen at the same time? Can I support government officials who approve to legalized abortion or favor embryonic stem cell research, or favor a host of other issues that are in conflict with the teaching of Jesus and the church?

The response Jesus gave to his challengers was, "Repay Caesar what belong to Caesar and God what belongs to God". This response provides us with some guidance on how we can live in a secular and pluralistic society, while still remaining faithful to God. Let us start with the second half of the answer Jesus gave- with what we are to render to God. Common sense gives to God the fundamental recognition that every person is created in his image and likeness. This means that every person is a child of God and is worthy of our respect and love, and that all human life is sacred. Next, we are to make our faith in God, our obeying his laws, and living by gospel values, the number one priority and defining feature of our lives. This leads us to treating all people with kindness for justice and acting as good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us.

Returning to Caesar what belongs to Caesar reminds us that, while we are citizens of heaven, the setting for where we lead our lives of faith is on earth, within the confines of a particular society that has its own unique characteristics. Given this reality, the Church recognized the good that can come from government, and its civil institutions in establishing order and structure in society. They also give great assistance in providing for people's welfare in promoting the common good. It should not surprise us that the church calls us to abide by our society's justice laws, and to faithfully fulfill our civic duties and responsibilities, such as voting and paying taxes. With regard to those laws and practices that are just, that contradict God's laws, they deny the sanctity of all human life and strip people of their dignity. We are called to work within our governmental systems to bring an end to such immoral practices.

So, as we give worldly obligations their due, our highest commitment is to be to God and his commandments. We are to raise people's thinking and lift up their actions to make the world a better place. We are citizens of heaven first, but we can still love, respect, correct and challenge those who govern us on earth. We are called to have our presence, our faith, make a difference in the world.

**Fr. Dominic**

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday October 17

4:00PM Sylvia Agatha & Ryan Hyacinth by Martina Hyacinth  
6:00PM Spanish Mass

## Sunday October 18

### TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

8:00AM Vietnamese Mass  
10:00AM CBC by Fr. Lidinus  
12:00PM Indonesian Mass

## Monday October 19

8:30AM People of the Parish

## Tuesday October 20

8:30AM Our Lady of Fatima by Maltilde Estrellado and Family

## Wednesday October 21

8:30 AM People of the Parish

## Thursday October 22

8:30AM Dead of Rev. Francis E. Kelly

## Friday October 23

8:30AM Robert Kelly by Frank McHale

## Saturday October 24

8:30AM The Minora Family by Barbara Inforzato

## Saturday October 24

4:00PM Joseph Anzideo Jr by Mom and Dad  
6:00PM Spanish Mass

## Sunday October 25

### THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

8:00AM Vietnamese Mass  
10:00AM Alice Guarino by mother in law  
12:00PM Indonesian Mass

Sunday Collection			
	2020	2019	+/-
10-11-20	\$5,345.00	\$5,648.00	-\$303.00
YTD	\$84,695.81	\$54,141.04	-\$30,554.77

## Services Available For Our Parishioners

**Mass Intentions:** Please contact the rectory. We will try to accommodate your request the best possible way.

**Yearly Memorial Candle:** Remember your beloved deceased by keeping a memorial candle lite for them all year.

**Prayer request for the sick:** If you would like us to include the name of your intention in the bulletin for prayer please contact the rectory.

**Leaving a Legacy:** Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1719 Morris St. (our legal title) in your will. Your legacy will help support our mission and allow us to serve future generations.

## Please Remember In Your Prayers Those Who Are Sick

Daniel Lorenzo Fernandez, Alexander Dwight-Theresa, Giosa Concetta Parker, Ulises Lopes, Ana Colon, Elza, Phillips Alexander, Stephan Todd- Ryan, Catherine Todd, Gwen Munson, April DeMatto, Louise Mento, Adeline Ostobile, Oscar Martinez, John Daniel, Virginia Tinkler- Moore, Robert Salvadore, Margaret Coleman, Evelyn Emmanuel Daniel, Ada Roebuck, Deacon Fred Poellnitz, Lilian Offord, David Anderson, William Jackson, Helen Zungolo-William Cirino

### Please Pray For The Intentions Of:

Sandra Evertt and Family, Latrice & Sierra Brooks, Ralph Berarducci, Armando

## Announcements of the Week

To all Friends and Parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas, You are all cordially invited to a renewal of the dedication and blessing of the Rosary Garden and the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 24, 2020 from 9:30-10:30AM.

### Message from our Business Manager:

"The pandemic has changed many things we have been used to. It has caused financial stress on many. We here at St. Thomas Aquinas have had to change our Mass schedule, we've had to move our daily Mass from the chapel into church. We've had to change the way we do Communion and the seating arrangement for our Masses and we've had to have the church cleaned between Masses. We've seen our attendance at Mass drop by 50% and more importantly we have seen our weekly collection go down about \$2,333.00 per week. We can handle most of the changes but we can not continue to survive with our collections as short as they have been. Our expenses have been cut to the core and we simply can not continue paying all of our bills each month without increased revenue. I just want to make you aware of this issue. You have all been good to the church in the past and to a large extent are continuing to be but with less people attending and no second collection each week we are in trouble. If you are able to give more, I ask that you consider doing so. If you know someone that has attended in the past and does not now, I ask that to tell them of our struggle and if they are not comfortable coming back perhaps they can help support us financially. We need your help and we need it now.

St. Thomas Aquinas has become my home, it is a parish that shows concern by its members for its members. I have said many times that miracles happen frequently at this parish; I hope as I am sure you do also that another miracle happens now."

Ralph Citino, Business Manager and Parishioner

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, (The best parish I have ever been a part of)



St Thomas Aquinas  
Catholic Community

---

Santo Tomas de Aquino  
através de su diversidad  
cultural, unida en su  
expresión de fé, vive el  
mensaje del evangelio en  
nuestra comunidad a  
traves de oración,  
educación, servicio y  
abogacia.

---

***Covid-19 Horario  
de Misa***

***Sábados 6:00 PM***

---

*Covid-19 - Teléfono*

*oficina virtual*

***(267) 388-1281***

---

Saint Thomas Aquinas

1719 Morris St.

Philadelphia, 19145

[www.staquinas.com](http://www.staquinas.com)

## Mensaje de Nuestro Pastor - Octubre 18, 2020

### VIGESIMO NOVENO DOMINGO

#### TIEMPO ORDINARIO

El Evangelio de hoy comienza con una escena un tanto familiar. Algunos miembros influyentes de la sociedad judía, los discípulos los fariseos y algunos herodianos intentan hacer enojar a Jesús con una pregunta, ¿es legal pagar el impuesto del censo al César o no? En la primera impresión, esto parece poner a Jesús en un aprieto. Si responde afirmativamente, puede parecer que está sancionando el dominio opresivo y las prácticas paganas del Imperio Romano. Si responde que no, podría parecer un revolucionario anti-Romano. Muchos de nosotros enfrentamos desafíos y tensiones similares cada día mientras nos preguntamos, ¿Puedo ser buen cristiano y buen ciudadano al mismo tiempo? ¿Puedo apoyar a los funcionarios del gobierno que aprueban la legalización del aborto favoreciendo la investigación con células madre de embriones o favoreciendo una serie de cuestiones que están en conflicto con las enseñanzas de Jesús y de la iglesia?

La respuesta que Jesús dio a sus seguidores fue, devolver al César lo que le pertenece al César y a Dios lo que le pertenece a Dios. Esta respuesta nos proporciona cierta orientación sobre cómo podemos vivir en una sociedad secular y pluralista, sin dejar de ser fieles a Dios. Comencemos con la segunda mitad de la respuesta de Jesús, con lo que debemos dar a Dios. El sentido común le da a Dios el reconocimiento fundamental de que cada persona es creada a su imagen y semejanza. Esto significa que cada persona es un hijo de Dios y es digno de nuestro respeto y amor, y que toda vida humana es sagrada. A continuación, debemos hacer de nuestra fe en Dios, la obediencia a sus leyes y el vivir según los valores del Evangelio, la prioridad número uno y la característica que define nuestras vidas. Esto nos lleva a tratar a todas las personas con amabilidad con justicia y a actuar como buenos administradores de los dones que Dios nos ha confiado.

Devolver al César lo que pertenece al César nos recuerda que, mientras somos ciudadanos del cielo, el escenario para donde dirigimos nuestras vidas de fe está en la tierra, dentro de los confines de una sociedad particular que tiene sus propias características. Dada esta realidad, la Iglesia reconoció el bien que puede venir del gobierno y sus instituciones civiles en el establecimiento del orden y la estructura de la sociedad. También dan una gran ayuda al bienestar de las personas en la promoción del bien común. No debería sorprendernos que la Iglesia nos llame a cumplir con las leyes justas de nuestra sociedad, y a cumplir fielmente con nuestros deberes y responsabilidades cívicas, como votar y pagar impuestos. Con respecto a las leyes y prácticas que son justas, que contradicen las leyes de Dios, que niegan la santidad de toda vida humana y despojan a las personas de su dignidad, estamos llamados a trabajar dentro de nuestros sistemas de gobierno para poner fin a tales prácticas inmorales.

Así que, mientras otorgamos a las obligaciones mundanas lo que les corresponde, nuestro mayor compromiso es estar con Dios y sus mandamientos. Debemos despertar el pensamiento de la gente y elevar sus acciones para hacer del mundo un lugar mejor. Somos ciudadanos del cielo primero, pero aún podemos amar, respetar, corregir y desafiar a los que nos gobiernan en la tierra. Estamos llamados a que nuestra esencia, la fe, marque la diferencia en el mundo.

Su Hermano en Cristo,

Padre Dominic

#### MENSAJE DE NUESTRO ADMINISTRADOR:

La pandemia también está afectando a nuestra parroquia económicamente. Quisiéramos invitarlos a hacer una colaboración con la iglesia dentro de sus posibilidades. Es importante que este espacio de oración y comunidad se mantenga