

ST THOMAS

THE APOSTLE

3774 Jackson St. Riverside, CA 92503-4359 ~ Phone: (951) 689 - 1131

www.stthomasriverside.org ~ Facebook.com/StThomasRiversideCA

YouTube ~ St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church Riverside CA 92503

Parish Office Hours: Monday thru Friday - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Mass Schedule

Horario de Misas

Saturday Vigil ~ Vigilia del Sabado

5:00 p.m.

Sunday ~ Domingo

English - 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,

*11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Spanish - *1:00 p.m.

Daily Mass ~ Misa Diaria

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday -
8:00 a.m.

Wednesday -

*9:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Friday -

*8:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. in Spanish
1st Saturday of the month - 8:00 a.m.

* = Livestream Masses via YouTube

Eucharistic Adoration

Adoración Eucarística

After Friday 8:00 a.m. Mass and

After first Friday 6:30 p.m. Mass

Reconciliation ~ Reconciliación

Saturday ~ 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Also by appointment if NEEDED

Anointing of the Sick

Unción de los Enfermos

First Monday of the month after the
8:00 a.m. Mass.

Emergency phone number for After Hours

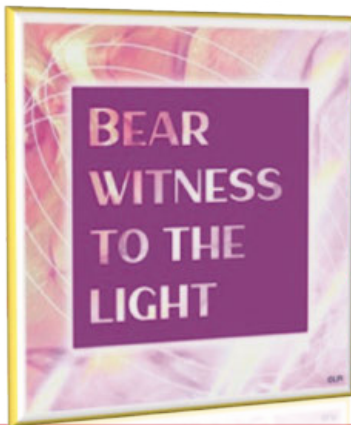
Anointing **Only** (951) 396-1247

December 17, 2023



OPTIONAL





**Readings for the week of
December 17, 2023**

Sunday:

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
(Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday:

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56

Saturday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and
14/Lk 1:57-66

**MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO – ALEN-
TAR UN ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO
DE LA ESCRITURA**

17 de diciembre de 2023

3er Domingo de Adviento

El Tercer Domingo de Adviento es el domingo de “Gaudete”, que en latín quiere decir alégrese o estar alegres. Por este motivo, las lecturas de hoy nos hablan del regocijo de tener al Señor ya casi con nosotros: “Estén siempre alegres en el Señor, les repito, estén alegres.” El Señor está cerca. A esta altura del Adviento, debemos estar ya preparados y listos para recibir a Jesús, especialmente en la familia. Es esencial ayudar a los más pequeños a comprender que el mejor regalo de Navidad es Jesús en nuestro hogar. Danos Señor la alegría del Evangelio y el gozo de María, al esperar a su Hijo amado. Danos el compromiso de Juan Bautista, que anunciaba la luz del que iba a venir, y del cual no era digno de desatarle la correa sus sandalias. Todo eso es lo que nos hace cristianos comprometidos, ayudándonos unos a otros a ir al encuentro de Dios en esta Navidad.

“El camino de la alegría no es fácil, no es un paseo. Se necesita trabajo para estar siempre en la alegría” (Papa Francisco 12-13-2020). ¿Cuándo soy testigo de la alegría que existe en mi por mi bautismo? ¿Cuándo soy testigo de la luz de Cristo? Señor, tú me conoces bien y sabes que muchas veces mi estilo de vida no está al nivel que tu mereces. Sabes que, en lugar de confiar en ti plenamente, cierro las posibilidades de encuentro, de confianza contigo y con mi familia. Deseo ser libre de toda oscuridad, dame tu luz para ver tu verdad. ¡Ven Señor! ©LPi

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE
DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We’ve never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we’ve never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John’s Gospel we hear: “There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.” The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God’s promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist’s spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let’s commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

— Father John Muir - ©LPi

MAS+
INTENTIONS
INTENCIONES DE MISAS

Saturday - Sabado, December 16

5:00 p.m. † Zoila Eusebia Nalvarte

Sunday - Domingo, December 17

7:00 a.m. † Luis A. Cervantes

9:00 a.m. † Ron Kirby

11:00 a.m. **Ints. Manuel & Mary Calderilla ~**
65th Wedding Anniversary

1:00 p.m. † Maria Dolores Olivares

5:00 p.m. † Otto Schaffler

Monday - Lunes, December 18

8:00 a.m. † Mary Cordeiro

Tuesday - Martes, December 19

8:00 a.m. **Ints. Cesar Adajar**

Wednesday - Miercoles, December 20

9:00 a.m. † Camilo Gurtiza

6:30 p.m. † Ciriaco Valdez

Thursday - Jueves, December 21

8:00 a.m. † Pedro Mendoza

Friday - Viernes, December 22

8:00 a.m. **Ints. Ponciano Casta**

6:30 p.m. **Ints. George Garcia**



Sanctuary Candle

Ints. Edward Cesena & Family



St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff
Personal Parroquial de Santo Tomás Apóstol

Parochial Administrator

Very Rev. Theodore Drennan V.F.

Parochial Vicar - Fr. Celestine Afugwobi

Deacons and Deacon Wives

Raul and Maricela Michel

Paul (ret.) and Elsie Ann Myers

Maria Cordeiro	Ext. 221
Secretary	mcordeiro@sbdiocese.org
Bryant Delafosse	Ext. 236
Liturgist Assistant	bdelafosse@sbdiocese.org
Valerie Doran	Ext. 224
Funeral Coordinator	vdoran@sbdiocese.org
Arcelia Maldonado-López	Ext. 239
Office Manager	alopez@sbdiocese.org
Dana Robles	Ext. 240
Catechetical Coordinator	drobles@sbdiocese.org
Marisol Aceves	Ext. 227
Spanish Catechetical Coord	maceves@sbdiocese.org
Bertha Muñoz Gomez	Ext. 235
Bookkeeper	bamunozmarquez@sbdiocese.org
Lisa Upattiya	Ext. 240
Youth Minister	lupattiya@sbdiocese.org
Grace Fernandez	Ext. 233
RCIA & Media Coordinator	gfernandez@sbdiocese.org
Eileen Gamboa	Ext 241
Faith Formation Assistant	egamboa@sbdiocese.org

Volunteer Coordinators - Call the office

Arturo & Claudia Monteon	Ext 201
Baptisms	baptism.stthomasriv@sbdiocese.org
Dcn. Raul & Maricela Michel	Ext 231
Weddings & Quinceañeras	rmichel@sbdiocese.org

St. Thomas the Apostle School

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Jeanette Morrow	Principal
Jasia Martinez	Vice Principal
Valerie López	Administrative Assistant

Parish News



Alfred Velasquez, Thomas Vaughn,
Francisco Ybarra, Michael Aja, Alberto Jun,
Otto Schaffler, Karen Blod, Yolanda Meiers,
Roger Merino, Gloria DeLeon, Kevin Ramirez,
Estele Vaca, Marcia Evans, Seth Cesena,
Steve Fedenuik and Jesse Aramburo Sr.
*May the souls of our faithful departed
rest in peace.*
*Descansen en paz las almas de todos
los fieles difuntos.*



2023 DDF Annual Appeal

St. Thomas the Apostle Church is a blessed giving community. We have met our DDF goal for this year. All DDF gifts received until December 31st will now come back to St. Thomas parish 100%. It is not too late to be included in the 2023 Appeal. Thank you



Prayer request for the sick Oremos por nuestros enfermos

Jeannette Quesada, Chelsea Wandro,
Rosemary Ojeda, Joanne DeGeorge,
Walt Perne, Michelle Perine, Carol Cowles,
Sarah Davenport, Cruz Ballesteros, Margie Alvarez,
Deacon Paul & ElsieAnn Myers, Mary Schaffler,
Basil & Sally Binckley, Orest Stetkevich, Santiago Guillen,
Donna Valenzuela, Gio Roman, Jamie Rios,
Lidia Bonilla-Garcia, Raquel Bernal, Irene Meurer,
José Luis Cervantes, Margie Cervantes, Peter C,
Cevannah Cheng, Bernice Santa Maria,
Corinne Malone, Lois Kirk, Adam Ksiazek, Jane Bjelke,
Francis Blumschein, Pennie Rials,
Juanita Blumschein, Sarah Blumschein,
Rey Reboles, Kate Kemp, Chanelle M Brooks,
Sharon Drucker, Louis Drucker, Linda Carter,
Jojo Doran, Elizabeth Mendez, Donna Cabrera,
Mary Reategui, Peter Leon-Guerrero, Don Fennell,
Mama Fran Hernandez, Daling Soledad Santos,
Tim McNamara, Juana Martin Nicolas, Epi Lemons,
Jose Quintana, Del & Deanna Rice, Patricia Garcia,
Fernando & Denise Moreno, Donna Marshall,
Tim St. Croix, Dick & Carol Egan, Avery Brantley,
Benjamin Montano, Martha Romero, Joanne Carter,
and Crystal DeLa Cruz

*May they feel the healing power of God.
Que sientan el poder sanador de Dios.*



We're here!
How can we
help

Is anyone
out there
listening ?



Stephen Ministry



FAITH FORMATION

Youth Confirmation

Classes have begun. Contact Information

Dana Robles, Catechetical Coordinator
drobles@sbdiocese.org

Eileen Gamboa, Faith Formation Assistant
egamboa@sbdiocese.org

Faith Formation

Registration Forms and steps for enrollment are located in the vestibule of the church and the parish office.

Dana Robles, Coordinator of Catechetical Ministry
and **Eileen Gamboa**, Faith Formation Assistant

Adult Confirmation

Please check our website for important Adult Sacrament information or contact the RCIA Coordinator, Grace Fernandez in the church office or email her at

gfernandez@sbdiocese.org



Young Adult Ministry



We are also on Instagram: @stthomas_yam!

Home Schooling Ministry

Interested in Homeschooling?

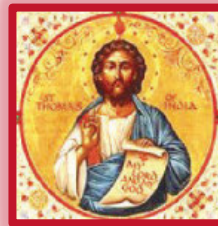
Looking for a Homeschool community?

The Homeschool Ministry invites you to our Homeschool Masses at 11:00 a.m. **on the first Friday of the month**

Contact Lori-Ann Mauricio for more information
juanandloriann@yahoo.com or 858-337-6397



Youth Ministry Mass and Gathering every 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. For January, we will gather on the 8th. See you then.



*St. Thomas the Apostle
Pray for us!*

2024 AT A GLANCE

- ◇ **Parish Blood Drive will be Sunday, April 14th**
- ◇ **Women's Retreat will be Saturday, May 11th**
- ◇ **Parish Fiesta is Saturday, October 19th**

FORMED

[Formed.org](https://www.formed.org) is a premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio, dramas, talks, e-books and even cartoons for children, also many titles in Spanish. Bring your family together to view the many Advent series FORMED has for the family. Best of All, This is all free to you!

<https://watch.formed.org/browse>

Take a look at the many Advent and Christmas videos that are available for your Advent preparation



Nuestro Horario de Servicios

Bienvenidos!

Misa de la Vigilia

Sabado 5:00 p.m. (Ingles)



Misas Dominicales

Misa en Español *1:00 p.m.

Misas en ingles: 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
*11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.



Misas durante la Semana (Ingles)

Lunes, Martes, Jueves, *Viernes 8:00 a.m.
Miercoles *9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.



Misa en Español Viernes 6:30 p.m.

Adoracion

Los viernes al terminar la misa de las 8:00 a.m.* y el primer viernes del mes al terminar la misa de las 6:30 p.m. en español



Confesiones

Sabados 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Uncion de los Enfermos

Se celebra despues de la misa de las 8:00 a.m. el primer lunes de cada mes.



Si se tratara de una "uncion de emergencia" por favor llame al **(951) 776-7382**



* Servicios que se transmiten en vivo via YouTube

Programa de Formación para los Ministros Parroquiales **INSCRIPCIÓN DISPONIBLE**

¿Tiene alguna pregunta sobre su fe? ¿Se siente llamado a servir en algún ministerio? El PMFP provee formación espiritual y teológica para que adquieran las herramientas necesarias para crecer en su fe, compartirla, y servir a los demás. Las clases se ofrecen en línea (a través de Zoom) y comienzan el jueves,

4 de ENERO de 2024

de 6:30 P.M. a 9 :00 P.M.

El programa termina el 20 de junio de 2024.

www.mfisbdiocese.org

(909) 475-5375

Email: pmfp@sbdiocese.org



Ya estamos recibiendo tarjetas de regalo de Navidad para los más necesitados de la parroquia.

Por favor traiga su generosa donación de tarjetas de regalo a la oficina parroquial, colóquela en la canasta de colecta del fin de semana o envíela por correo a Santo Tomás Apóstol "Atención Arcelia".



¡Gracias! Y que Dios bendiga su generosidad.



The Sign of Peace

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father who art in heaven..." In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — "Give us, this day, our daily bread" — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, "Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." ©LPi



El Signo de la Paz

¿Por qué los católicos se dan el signo de la paz unos a otros en la misa?

El signo de la paz es parte de la Misa que se lleva a cabo inmediatamente después de ofrecer el Padrenuestro. Inspirados por las palabras de Jesús a sus primeros seguidores, nos unimos en un espíritu de comunión para orar como Jesús nos enseñó: "Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos..." En esta oración, hacemos un llamado a la venida del reino de Dios en todas sus formas y pedir que Dios provea para nuestras necesidades — "Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día" — para perdonar nuestros pecados y llevarnos al gozo del cielo.

Es casi natural, entonces, que siguiera el rito de la paz. Mientras el celebrante ora para que la paz de Cristo llene nuestros corazones, nuestras comunidades, la Iglesia y el mundo entero, extendemos a quienes nos rodean un signo de paz (generalmente un abrazo o un apretón de manos) como símbolo de la comunión que experimentamos ahora y experimentaremos por siempre en la plenitud del reino de Dios.

También se nos recuerda las enseñanzas de Jesús de que si estamos en oración y recordamos que un hermano o hermana tiene algo contra nosotros, entonces debemos ir y buscar la reconciliación con ellos antes de continuar nuestra oración (ver Mateo 5:23). Y así, el signo de la paz también nos recuerda la necesidad de estar verdaderamente en comunión, unidos en amor y paz, con Dios y unos con otros antes de acercarnos al altar para recibir la Eucaristía.

Entonces, la próxima vez que estés en Misa y llegues al momento del signo de la paz, recuerda que este es un momento para celebrar el regalo de la paz de Cristo que cada uno de nosotros ha recibido de Dios y para transmitir esa paz a quienes nos rodean. Necesitamos este momento para practicar, porque esta es también la misma paz de Cristo que se nos instruye a llevar al mundo al final de la Misa cuando el sacerdote o el diácono nos dice: "Vayan en paz, glorificando al Señor por su vida." ©LPi

St. Thomas the Apostle

3774 Jackson Street.
Riverside CA, 92503

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you tech-savvy and passionate about contributing to your community?

We're looking for dedicated volunteers to join our team and assist with the projectors during Mass and manage livestreaming.

Roles:

1. PowerPoint Projection Volunteers:

- Ensure smooth projection of slides during Mass.
- Basic knowledge of PowerPoint or similar software.
- Training provided.

2. Livestreaming Volunteers:

- Manage the livestream to bring the Mass experience to those unable to attend in person.
- Familiarity with livestreaming platforms is a plus.
- Training and support available.

Benefits:

- Contribute to the spiritual experience of the community.
- Gain valuable technical skills.
- Join a supportive and welcoming team.

How to Volunteer

Contact:

Communications Ministry at
stthomasriv@sbdioocese.org
 or call the parish Office 951-689-1131
 to sign up and make a difference!



Unveil the beauty of your identity as a daughter of God and Nurture your faith alongside likeminded women. Join our Endow Women's group, dedicated to fostering profound friendships through the study of our Catholic Faith.

Discover your unique mission in life while growing in faith and knowledge. Curious to learn more? Our next study awaits!

*We invite you to our informational meeting on **Tuesday, January 9th, at 7PM** in the KDC. Embrace this opportunity to connect and grow together. Come and join us!*

For more information contact Sandra Burroughs at scburroughs@msn.com

St. Thomas the Apostle *Christmas* Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - December 24th

5:00pm 7:00pm 9:00pm

English Spanish English

Christmas Day - December 25th

7:00am 9:00am 11:00am

New Year's Day - January 1st - 8:00am

Parish Office Schedule -
 Thursday, December 21st

8:30am to 12:00pm

Closed December 22nd to January 1st

Saturday, December 23rd Confessions will be canceled





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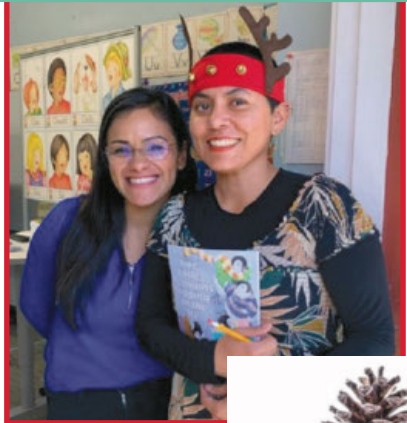
stasriverside.com • www.facebook.com/stthomastheapostleschool • Instagram @stasriverside
Office Hours: Mon.- Thurs. 7:30am-3:30pm • Scrip Hours: Tues. 8:00-8:30am Thurs. 2:30-3:00pm

The school office will be closed December 18th-January 1st

Join us for Mass
every Wednesday
@9:00am

Next Recycle day: **Sunday, January 14th**

**schedule a tour with
the principal!**



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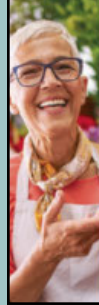


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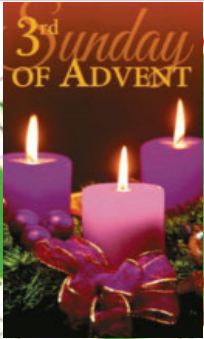
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The third candle is rose and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy.



"SHEPHERD'S CANDLE"

SIGNIFIES JOY
THIRD CANDLE

Christmas Gift Card collection for the needy of the parish is open.



Please bring your generous donation of gift cards to the parish office, drop in the weekend collection basket or mail in to St. Thomas the Apostle "Attention Arcelia".

Thank you!



Schedule of surrounding Parish Reconciliations

Calendario de Reconciliaciones Parroquiales aledañas

Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Monday,	December 18
Corpus Christi	Tuesday,	December 19
St. Mary Magdalene	Wednesday,	December 20
St. Andrew Newman Center	Thursday,	December 21



Services at 7:00 p.m. at all parishes

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