



# SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4300 King Springs Road SE, Smyrna, GA 30082-4214  
stthomasga@stthomastheapostle.org  
www.stthomastheapostle.org

November 27, 2016

### Parish Office

**Main Phone: 770 - 432-8579**

Fax. 770 - 432-8570

### Regular Office Hours

**Monday—Friday**

9:00 AM—8:00 PM

Closed Wednesday 1 PM-3 PM

### Religious Ed. Office

770 - 432-5296

### Regular Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

10:00 AM—8:00 PM

Tuesday 10:00 AM—5:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

### Preschool Office

770-293-1267

### Regular Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

678-626-3939 (English Hotline)

678-626-3949 (Línea en español)

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
SOLAMENTE CON CITA**

### English Mass Schedule

Monday: 12 Noon  
Tuesday: 12 Noon  
Wednesday: 6:30 AM & 7:00 PM  
Thursday: 7:00 PM  
Friday: 12 Noon  
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM  
Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM  
11:30 AM & 5:00 PM

### Confession:

Saturdays: 3:00 PM

### Adoration

Wednesdays: 7:30 AM-6:45 PM

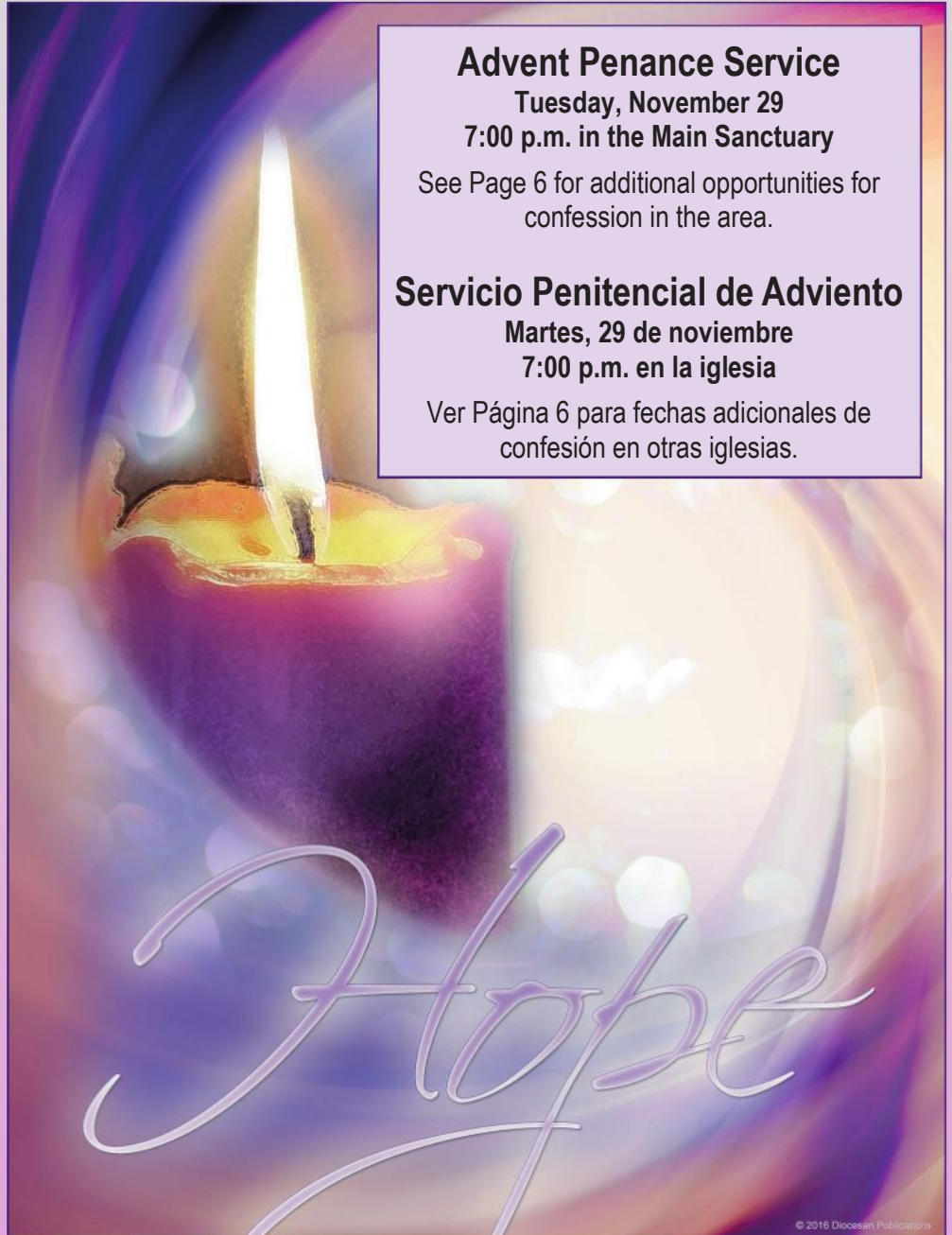
### Horario de Misas en Español

Lunes: 7:30 PM  
Jueves: 8:00 PM  
Sábado: 6:30 PM  
Domingo: 6:00 AM, 2:00 PM &  
7:30 PM

### Confesión:

Sábados: 5:30 PM

Domingos: 1:00 & 6:30 PM



### Advent Penance Service

**Tuesday, November 29**

**7:00 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary**

See Page 6 for additional opportunities for  
confession in the area.

### Servicio Penitencial de Adviento

**Martes, 29 de noviembre**

**7:00 p.m. en la iglesia**

Ver Página 6 para fechas adicionales de  
confesión en otras iglesias.

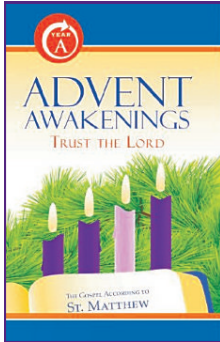


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**Pastor:** Rev. Brian R. Sheridan, M.S. (x108)

**Parochial Vicars:** Rev. Jojohn Chettiyakunnel, M.S.. (x128) ▪ Rev. Jaime Molina J., M.N.M. ▪ Rev. Paul Rainville, M.S. (in residence x.193)

▪ **Deacons:** Rev. Mr. Michael Garrett ▪ Rev. Mr. Earl Jackson ▪ Deacons Office (x106)

**ADVENT AWAKENINGS****4-session program****Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning November 30.****Adult Faith Formation Building**

As the Season of Advent draws near, we can get caught up so easily with the many seasonal obligations this time of year brings.

This year, step out of the whirlwind and plan to attend *Advent Awakenings: Trust the Lord* and accept the invitation of Jesus' coming by reflecting on how to be more open to his presence in our lives.

Please join us on: Wednesday, November 30, for the first of four consecutive sessions being held in the Adult Faith formation building from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Sign-up is required. Cost of the book is \$10.**

A sign-up sheet is available in Commons.

For questions, or to sign up via phone, please contact:

**Linda Veit at 678 626-3961.**

### In Our Prayers En Nuestra Oraciones

**Bulletin Sick List**

We ask you to take a moment to pray for the people who are listed on this Bulletin Sick List. Please call the Parish Office to place a name on the list below. The names will be kept in our bulletin for three consecutive weeks.

Sionnie Gernaat	Milagros Bellido	Patrick All
Antonio González	Kathleen Brady	Louis Caruso
John Scannaliato	Sylvia Sánchez	Marguerite Earhart
Patty Smith	María Sesmas	Kristin Harris
Susan Walsh	Lilian Tramarria	Hilda Henderson

**Prayer Line / Cadena de Oración**

Here at St. Thomas the Apostle we have a Prayer Line Ministry. The members of this ministry are dedicated prayer warriors. If you have a prayer request that you would like to place in the care of the Prayer Line, contact Valerie Panditaratne at vpandit@emory.edu

**Praying for our Troops / Orando por Nuestras Tropas**

We also remember in our prayers all of those who are serving in the military. Please contact the Parish Office if you have a family member who is currently serving in the military:

PVT Derek Collins, USA • Ensign Tanner Collins, USN • ET2 Carolyn Deacon, USN • Capt. Chisom Ezeoke, USAF • LCPL Manuel Kendrick, USMC • FC2 Spencer Hanemann, USN • Sgt. Brian Jaynes, USA • CDR Dominic R. Lovello, USN • HM2 Kenneth McIntosh, USN • SrA Earl Zachary Shelton, USAF

**Prepare for Advent****Prepárate para Adviento**

The Little Blue Book is a pocket-size collection of reflections that will offer you inspirational guidance for living the season of Advent. Copies available in the Commons Area. \$2.00 each book.



*Prepárate para la época de Adviento con el libro de meditaciones "Librito Azul" el cual contiene reflexiones diarias para vivir la época de Adviento. Libros disponibles en el Área Común. Precio del libro: \$2.00 c/u.*

### Statements mailed

**Please pay by  
January 17, 2017.**

**PSR & Life Teen  
Statements** have been mailed out to those who still have a balance for this school year 2016-2017. If you have a balance, please pay no later than Tuesday, January 17, 2017. After this date all balances will be past due.

If you have any questions regarding your statement, please visit the Religious Education Office or call 770-432-5296. Thank you.

# first SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## ■ LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ... Come Lord Jesus, be our light! Help us prepare our hearts for your coming at Christmas.*

## ■ READ THE GOSPEL for the First Sunday of Advent (Cycle A) Matthew 24:37-44

*“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”*

## ■ REFLECT WITH A STORY

Jesus gives us a very clear image in this Sunday’s Gospel: a thief in the night. Of course, we say, if we knew the hour that someone was going to break into our house, we would be prepared! We would call the police. We would lock the doors. We would make sure all of our valuables were hidden away. But, as Jesus points out, we so rarely can know in advance when such things will happen. The only real solution is to plan ahead—and be prepared.

Joseph Muchina, the director of Trinity Jewellery Crafts in Nairobi, Kenya, helps us understand what it means to prepare. Joseph grew up in a very poor community and didn’t know where his next meal would come from. He learned that it is impossible to be prepared for unexpected challenges—like getting sick, for example—when you don’t have any extra money.

Joseph cofounded Trinity Jewellery so he could help other people in his community have a more stable income and be better prepared for emergencies. The people who work at Trinity take part in a savings plan where they can save 10 percent of their income to prepare for the future.

Planning ahead for what we can expect, as well as for events that are simply unpredictable, is the kind of preparation we’re called to during Advent. When Jesus tells us to “stay awake” in the Gospel, he’s not saying we should never go to sleep! Rather, he is encouraging us to ready our hearts for what’s to come. We can do this by asking ourselves what we need to change in our lives in order to better love ourselves, our neighbors and our God. By reflecting on the changes we need to make, we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ into our lives in a new way this Christmas.



Photo by Brian Backe/CRS

### PRAY

Christ Jesus, you want to make a home in my heart this Christmas. Help me to use this Advent season as a time to better prepare for your coming. Amen

### REFLECT

What changes do you want to make in your life this Advent to be ready for Christ at Christmas?

### ACT

Make a list of small acts of kindness you can perform throughout Advent. Each week, select a different one, and remember that you are performing them for Christ in preparation for Christmas.

### GIVE

Help families like Joseph’s prepare for unexpected challenges by purchasing handmade jewelry. Your commitment to buying ethically produced gifts like Trinity Jewellery, allows families like Joseph’s the opportunity to save for the future. Visit [crsfairtrade.org](http://crsfairtrade.org).

### Christmas Ornament 50th Anniversary Edition



Our beautiful Christmas ornaments, commemorating the 50th anniversary of our parish, are back by popular demand!

The ornaments will be available after Masses, the weekend of December 10-11 only.

You may also purchase your ornaments at the Parish Office, during office hours.

**Sale Price:**  
\$10 per ornament  
\$5 stand

¡Nuestros hermosos adornos de Navidad, conmemorando el 50 aniversario de nuestra parroquia, regresan a pedido del público!

Los adornos estarán disponibles después de todas las Misas, el fin de semana del 10-11 de diciembre solamente.

También puedes conseguir los adornos en la Oficina Parroquial, durante horas de oficina.

**Precio de Oferta:**  
\$10 cada adorno  
\$5 base



The Knights of Columbus will be selling Monks' Bakery goods from the Monastery of the Holy Spirit during the weekends of December 3-4 and December 17-18.

These two weekends will be your only chance to stock up on fruitcake, biscotti, fudge, and gourmet coffee and tea, made by the monks.

These items make delicious gifts and special stocking stuffers.

Your purchase helps the Knights support our parish activities as well as supporting the Monastery.

### Monk's Bakery Goods for sale December 3-4 and 17-18

- Fruitcake / Pastel navideño de frutas
- Biscotti
- Fudge
- Gourmet coffee and tea / Café

Los Caballeros de Colón estarán vendiendo artículos de la Pastelería de los Monjes del Monasterio del Espíritu Santo los fines de semana del 3-4 y el 17-18 de diciembre.

Estos son los únicos dos fines de semana en los que tendremos la oportunidad de comprar delicias tales como pastel navideño de frutas, biscotti, fudge, y café y té gourmet, hechos por los monjes.

Son deliciosos regalos durante la época navideña.

Con tu compra, estarás apoyando a los caballeros de Colón y el Monasterio.

### Knights of Columbus News

Congratulations  
We welcome our newest member, Richard Struempf, who joined our Order in a 1st Degree exemplification at Holy Family Parish on November 7.

And we congratulate our newest Sir Knights – Howard Gooden, Jean Joseph, Daniel Kwurue and Jan Youngers – who achieved the 4th Degree of our Order in an exemplification at Holy Family Parish on November 12.

#### December Events

##### Saturday 12/3:

Cooking for Breakfast with Santa Social Hall from 7:30 AM till Noon

##### Saturday & Sunday 12/3 & 12/4:

Selling Monastery Goods in Commons after all Masses

##### Monday 12/5:

Delivering Giving Tree gifts to the Open Door Men's Shelter

##### Tuesday 12/6:

Council Business Meeting at the Community House 7:15 - 9:15PM

##### Tuesday 12/13:

1st Degree Exemplification at the Community House 6:30 to 9:30PM

##### Wednesday 12/14

4th Degree Assembly Meeting Social Hall 6:30 to 9:30PM

##### Tuesday 12/27:

Council Officers Meeting at the Community House 7:15 to 9:15PM

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to all!



## This Week in our Parish

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

9:00 AM PRESCHOOL  
12:00 PM MASS  
† ANOSIUS ETIENNE  
4:30 PM PSR  
5:45 PM CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
7:00 PM PSR  
7:30 PM MISA  
† IGNACIO SALGADO  
8:00 PM CREDO CHOIR

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

7:00 AM FIDELES  
9:00 AM PRESCHOOL  
12:00 PM MASS  
† GLADYS McDONALD  
7:00 PM CONFIRMATION CLASS  
7:00 PM RCIA  
6:30 PM SVdP  
7:00 PM **PENANCE SERVICE**

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

6:30 AM MASS  
† ELLIOT SAVARY  
7:00 AM ADORATION  
9:00 AM PRESCHOOL  
6:45 PM BENEDICTION  
7:00 PM ADVENT AWAKENINGS  
7:00 PM MASS  
TOM & MARYROSE STEINBOCK  
7:00 PM PSR  
7:30 PM LIFE/TEEN BAND  
8:00 PM ROSARY FOR LIFE

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:00 AM PRESCHOOL  
10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY  
10:00 AM STORY TIME  
7:00 PM ADULT CHOIR  
7:00 PM **COMMUNION SERVICE**  
7:00 PM PSR  
8:00 PM MISA  
NATALIA GONZALEZ  
RAUL CASTILLO

## Adopt-a-Family



### Adopt a Family for Christmas

If you and your family or ministry would like to personally adopt and help a family less fortunate than your family, this is a great opportunity to enhance and bless your Christmas spirit by sharing your material blessings with others.

For more information about Adopt-A-Family contact Don Sabbarese at 770-435-3024.

## LAST DAY TO BRING BACK GIFTS: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4



Please help the many ministries at St. Thomas share God's love by reaching out to our neighbors in need during this Advent Season. You can help by selecting an ornament from the Giving Tree which lists a gift request for simple things like a pair of gloves, a gift card, or a few cans of tuna fish.  
LAST WEEK TO BRING YOUR GIFTS BACK!

### Ultimo día para traer regalos: Domingo, 4 de diciembre

Nuestra parroquia estará recolectando donaciones para el Árbol de Regalos hasta el 4 de diciembre. Tomen un adorno de papel del árbol, compren y envuelvan el artículo que aparece listado, coloquen el adorno de papel en el regalo a manera de colilla.  
Traigan sus regalos de vuelta al Área Común a más tardar el 4 de diciembre.

#### How to participate in the 2016 Advent Giving Tree Collection: It's easy as 1-2-3-4!

1. **REMOVE** one or more paper ornaments from the Giving Tree in the Commons area.
2. **BUY** the listed gift.
3. **WRAP** it nicely and **ATTACH** the paper ornament securely to the gift.
4. **PLACE** the gift under the Giving Tree by the Second Sunday of Advent, December 4.



## Children's Christmas Choir: REGISTER IN ADVANCE! Coro Navideño de Niños: ¡Regístrase con anticipación!

**What?** Children's Choir to lead music at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy (English).  
*Coro Navideño de Niños (se presentarán en la Misa en inglés de Nochebuena)*  
**For whom?**

Children in grades Kindergarten through 8 (Grade level is the determining factor, not age)  
**When and Where Are Rehearsals?**

- Four rehearsals (mark these dates CAREFULLY on your calendar!):
- Monday, November 28 – 5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. in the Music Room
  - Monday, December 5 – 5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. in the Music Room
  - Monday, December 19 – 5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. in the Music Room
  - Friday, December 23 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Main Sanctuary

**What Is Required?** Participating children must:

- Attend at least three of the four rehearsals in order to participate on Christmas Eve.
- BE ON TIME for rehearsal!
- Arrive for Christmas Eve liturgy by NO LATER THAN 3:15 p.m.

Only the first 50 children registered will be allowed to participate in the Christmas Choir.  
For your children to be guaranteed songbooks and practice CD,  
**YOU MUST register in advance!**

Contact Patty Smith at the English Sunday Masses (9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 5:00 p.m.) or make other arrangements with her to pick up materials so that your children can learn the songs and have fun from the first day!

You can register your children online at:  
**[stthomastheapostle.org/cc-2016](http://stthomastheapostle.org/cc-2016)**  
or you can send info to Patty Smith via email [psmith@stthomastheapostle.org](mailto:psmith@stthomastheapostle.org) or submit your information by phone to Patty at 770-241-9343.

## This Week in our Parish

Updated on November 18, 2016

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 NOVENA GUADALUPANA

- 9:00 AM PRESCHOOL
- 12:00 PM MASS  
HOME SCHOOLING FAMILIES
- 7:30 PM CHARISMATIC PRAYER
- 7:30 PM PLÁTICA PREBAUTISMAL
- 8:00 PM NOVENA GUADALUPANA
- 8:30 PM MISA

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 NOVENA GUADALUPANA

- 8:00 AM SUNDAY AM CHOIR
- 9:30 AM BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
- 9:00 AM ATOUBA BAPTISM
- 10:00 AM MARÍA NIÑA
- 11:00 AM ALLIU WEDDING
- 2:00 PM PELICO WEDDING
- 2:00 PM RCIA SPONSORS
- 3:00 PM CONFESSION
- 4:30 PM MASS  
† TONY RUCCO
- 6:30 PM MISA  
† CELIA DOMINGUEZ

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 NOVENA GUADALUPANA

- 6:00 AM MISA  
† JUAN BRUNO GONZALEZ
- 7:30 AM MASS  
SIONNE GERNAAT
- 8:00 AM GIVING TREE SORTING GIFTS
- 8:00 AM LEGION OF MARY
- 9:30 AM MASS  
† PEGGY JORBAN
- 9:30 AM PSR
- 10:00 AM RCIA
- 11:00 AM LEGION OF MARY
- 11:15 AM PSR & FIRES
- 11:30 AM MASS  
† ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 (CONT.)

- 1:00 PM ENGLISH BAPTISM
- 2:00 PM MISA  
MARIAN DOMINGUEZ
- 2:00 PM SP RCIA
- 4:00 PM DIVINA VOLUNTAD
- 4:00 PM GIVING TREE SORTING GIFTS
- 5:00 PM MASS  
PEOPLE OF SAINT THOMAS
- 6:00 PM LIFE TEEN NIGHTS
- 6:30 PM CONSECRATION TO JESUS
- 7:30 PM MISA  
GUADALUPE HURTADO

## Our Lady of Guadalupe

Celebración Guadalupana



### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Patroness of the Americas Feast Day: December 12

**Guadalupe Novena: December 2—December 10 (Main Sanctuary)**  
Weekdays: Rosary at 8:00 p.m. / Spanish Mass at 8:30 p.m.  
Entre semana: Rosario a las 8:00 p.m. y Misa a las 8:30 p.m.

#### Weekend Masses:

Rosary 30 minutes before Spanish Mass in the evening  
Fines de semana: Rosario 30 minutos antes de la Misa de la noche

**Sunday, December 11, 2016 (Jim R. Miller Park)**  
2245 Callaway Road, Marietta, GA 30008

4:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	Traditional Dances / Danza Matachines Enthronement of Virgin / Entronización
9:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.	Living Rosary / Rosario Viviente
10:30 p.m.—12:00 a.m.	Holy Mass / Santa Misa
12:00 a.m.—2:00 a.m.	Serenade / Las Mañanitas

**Monday, December 12, 2016**  
(Main Sanctuary at St. Thomas the Apostle)

2:00 p.m.	Spanish Mass (Expecting Parents and Children) Mujeres Embarazadas y Niños
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Mass (Workers and Blessing of their Tools) Bendición de Herramientas

## Weekly Donations Report

Reporte de Donaciones Semanales

INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.  
Información no disponible en el momento de publicación.

## Around the Archdiocese of Atlanta

Eventos en la Arquidiócesis de Atlanta

### PENANCE SERVICES IN THE AREA

Servicios Penitenciales en el área

November 29 = Saint Thomas the Apostle (Smyrna, GA)  
December 5 = Our Lady of La Salette (Canton, GA)  
December 6 = Saint Joseph (Marietta, GA)  
December 13 = Saint Michael the Archangel (Woodstock)  
December 14 = Saint Ann (Marietta, GA)  
December 15 = Saint Catherine of Siena (Kennesaw, GA)



### Fertility Care/Natural Family Planning: December 7, 2016

#### Christ the King

This isn't your parent's old rhythm method! Learn more about your fertility, why the Church promotes Natural Family Planning (NFP), why NFP is 99% effective, and how it can positively impact your marriage (3% divorce rate!)

To register or for more information on future classes, contact Ann Hall at 404-915-1685 or annlabar@hotmail.com

### Advent Days of Reflection December 7 and December 13

9:00 a.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

#### Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center

- God sending Jesus - An act of mercy for the world.
- Reflect upon themes of mercy and hope,
- Know the full grace of the season.
- Come for a Day of Advent Prayer.

For more information visit: [ignatiushouse.org](http://ignatiushouse.org) or call 404-255-0503

### Advent Women's Retreat December 1-4

#### Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center "BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN"

Listen and Reflect on the Word spoken to us by Mary and her cousin Elizabeth. Through their profound love of God, unwavering trust in God and uncompromising belief in miracles, they mediate for us a spirit of hope and joy, peace and patience, wonder and awe.

Nothing is impossible to God!

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