



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4300 King Springs Road SE, Smyrna, GA 30082-4214

stthomasga@stthomastheapostle.org

www.stthomastheapostle.org

December 15, 2013

Parish Office

770 - 432-8579

Fax. 770 - 432-8570

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday—Friday

9:00AM—7:00PM

Tuesday: 9:00AM—5:00PM

Closed Wednesday 1PM-3PM

Religious Ed. Office

770 - 432-5296

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

10:00AM—8:30PM

Tuesday 10AM—5PM

Preschool Office

770 - 432-8579 Ext. 125

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

10:00AM - 1:00PM

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:	5:00 PM
Sunday:	7:30 AM, 9:30 AM 11:30 AM & 5:00 PM

Confession:

Saturdays: 3:30 PM

Adoration

Wednesdays: 7:30 AM-6:45 PM

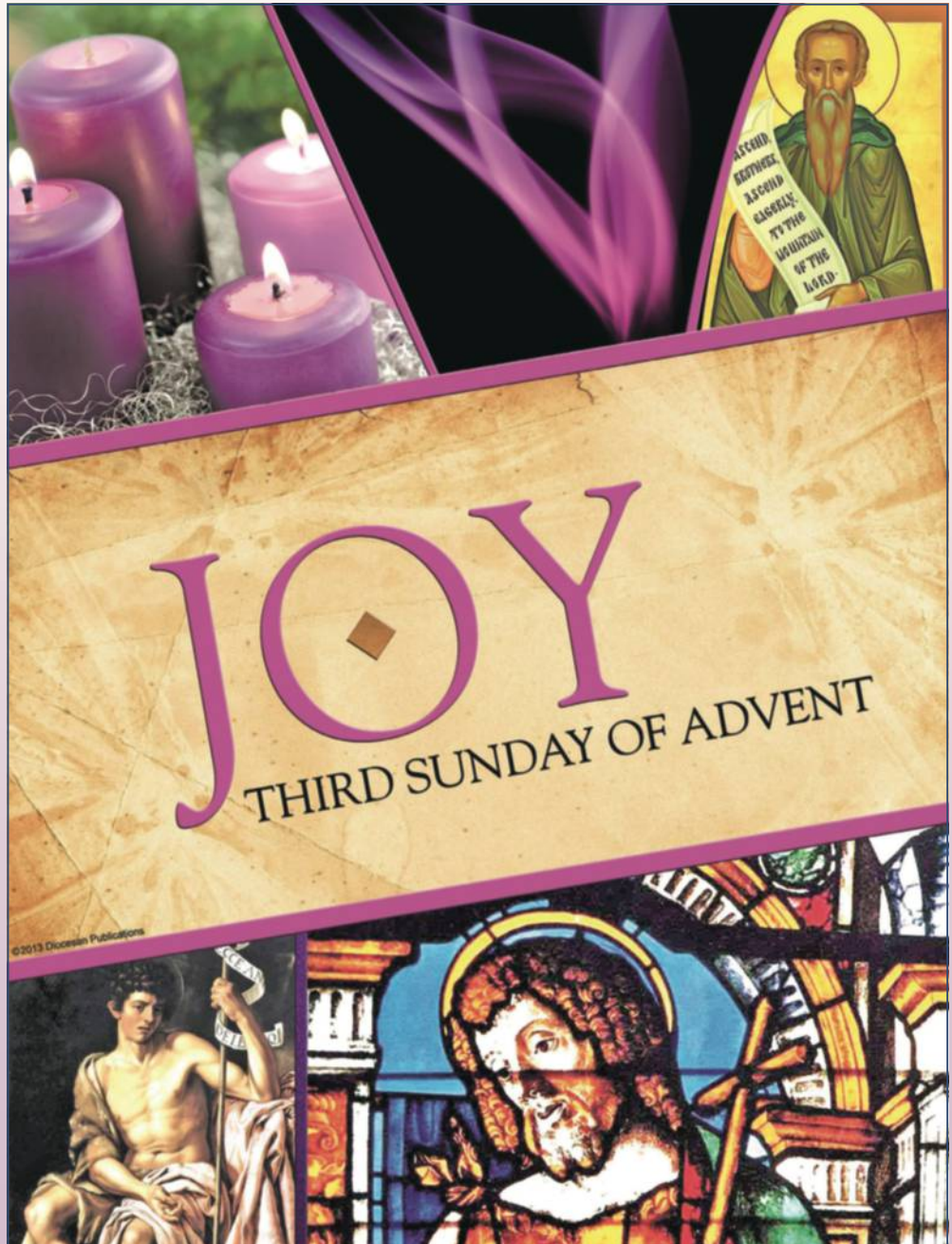
Horario de Misas en Español

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

Confesión:

Sábados: 6:30 PM

Domingos: 1:00 & 6:30 PM



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www.facebook.com/stthomastheapostlechurch

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

Parochial Vicars: Rev. Andrews Kollannoor, 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 • Rev. Mr. Mark Mitchell • Deacons Office (x106)

Parish Administrator: Mr. Gus Scannapieco (x109)



This Christmas we invite you to share the gift of God's love by remembering your loved ones in our Spiritual Bouquet Mass Enrollment. Please return envelopes to the Parish Office by Friday, December 20th.



*Also available in the Commons Area:
Offering Envelopes to support our Christmas Flowers Fund!*

Offertory/Ofertorio December 7-8, 2013

Budgeted (<i>Proyección</i>)	\$35,165
Actual (<i>Real</i>)	\$42,700
Surplus (<i>Ganancia</i>)*	\$7,535

*THANK YOU ST. THOMAS PARISHIONERS!

FY 2014 Offertory Projection vs. Actual to Date
Ofertorio: Proyección vs. Real

To Date Budget (<i>Proyección</i>)	\$808,795
To Date Actual (<i>Real</i>)	\$747,664
To Date Shortfall (<i>Pérdida</i>)	(\$61,131)

Update on our Capital Campaign
Moving Forward In Hope
Campaña Caminando en Esperanza

Goal (<i>Meta</i>)	\$5,000,000
Pledged to Date	\$2,976,000
<i>Compromisos hasta la fecha</i>	
Pledges Deleted for Non-Payment	(\$692,000)
<i>Compromisos Morosos Borrados</i>	
Total Pledged Net of Deletions	(\$2,284,000)
<i>Total neto sin compromisos morosos</i>	

Pledges Collected to Date	\$1,835,830
<i>Recolectado hasta la fecha</i>	
Other Funds Collected	\$319,000
<i>Otros Fondos recolectados</i>	

Total Receipts	\$2,154,830
<i>Total Recibido</i>	

Campaign Expenses	(\$307,000)
<i>Gastos de Campaña</i>	

Net Funds to Date	\$1,847,830
<i>Pagos netos hasta la fecha</i>	

Number of Donors (*No. de Donantes*)..... 1,309

Operating Financial Statement (4 months)
Costos de Operación (4 meses)
as of October 31, 2013

Revenue (<i>Ingresos</i>)	\$909,208
Expenses (<i>Gastos</i>)	(\$906,907)
Surplus/Loss from Operations	\$2,301
<i>(Ganancia/Pérdida por Operaciones)</i>	

Total Assessments

still owed to Archdiocese from 2010-June 2013
(Deudas Totales a la Arquidiócesis del 2010/2013)

Archbishop Annual Appeal 2013 (Week 41)
Llamado Anual del Arzobispo 2013 (Semana 41)

Goal (<i>Meta</i>)	\$144,515
Total Pledged (<i>Compromisos totales</i>)	\$161,886
Paid to date (<i>Pagos recibidos</i>)	\$107,039
Percent Paid to Goal (<i>Porcentaje pagado</i>)	74%
Number of Donors (<i>No. de Donantes</i>)	775

SHORTFALL TO GOAL \$37,476

In Our Prayers / En Nuestras Oraciones

We ask you 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.

John Argent
Héctor Martínez
María Sesmas
Suzanne Sheridan

Josefina Alvarez
Kimberly Marshal
Rachel Prezou
Mary Schuster
Colin Stanton

Marcelina Aviña
Lorena Estrada
John & Leah DeLaigle
Jesús Durán
Marjoire Kimmeeck
Sr. Helen Mick
Stephen Moore
María Sesmas
Fr. Richard Wise

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

Pray For Our Troops / Oremos por nuestros soldados

We remember in our prayers all of those who are serving in the military, especially: /
Recordamos en nuestras oraciones a todos aquellos que se encuentran sirviendo en el ejército, especialmente:

PFM Andrew Ashibuogwu, USA
PVT Michael Ashibuogwu, USA
Sgt. John R Beuth ANG
Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Bright, USA
Sgt. Manuel Chico, USA
Sgt. Christopher Conkel, USMC
SFC Steve Creason, GaARNG
SFC Arcelio R. Davis, Jr. USA
ET3 Carolyn Deacon, USN
LT Rogelio Espinosa, USN

Sgt. Sonjanique Ferrel, USA
2LT Adam Fisk, USA
Sgt. Mark Gallant, USA
LCpl. Quinn Gordon, USMC
SFC Charles Granke, USA
PFC Ronald Griffin, Jr., USA
Sgt. William Scott Haney, ARNG
E3 Spencer Hanemann, USN
PFC Brian Harris, USA
CPT Ana Maria Hartwig, USA
Maj. Marise James, USAF

LT CDR Dominic R. Lovello
CW3 Peter Paul Leone, USA
LCpl. Gerardo Morales, Jr. USMC
HM2 Kenneth McIntosh, II, USN
PFC Ernest Dean Rivera, USMC
Specialist Robert H. Roberts, USA
Major Robert A. Robinson, II USA
Pvt. Jeffrey Sanborn, USA
Specialist Darleni Sandoval, USA
CPT Anna Smith, ARNG
S.Sgt. Michael Throne, USA

Please contact the Parish Office if you have a family member who is serving in the military.

Praying Pacem in Terris

But what emerges first and foremost from the progress of scientific knowledge and the inventions of technology is the infinite greatness of God Himself, who created both man and the universe. Yes; out of nothing He made all things, and filled them with the fullness of His own wisdom and goodness. Hence, these are the words the holy psalmist used in praise of God: "O Lord, our Lord: how admirable is thy name in the whole earth!" And elsewhere he says: "How great are thy works, O Lord! Thou hast made all things in wisdom."

Moreover, God created man "in His own image and likeness," endowed him with intelligence and freedom, and made him lord of creation. All this the psalmist proclaims when he says: "Thou hast made him a little less than the angels: thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, and hast set him over the works of thy hands. Thou hast subjected all things under his feet." (3)

*Excerpt of Pope John XXIII's Pacem in Terris
Provided by Justice & Peace Ministries, Archdiocese of Atlanta*



Parish School of Religion (PSR) - Escuela de Catecismo

Our Parish School of Religion (PSR) follows the Cobb County School calendar. If Cobb schools are closed because of a holiday, the PSR classes closest to that holiday will be canceled. Parents can use their PSR calendar for quick reference!

Nuestra Escuela de Catecismo sigue el Calendario Escolar del Condado de Cobb. Si las escuelas del condado de Cobb están cerradas debido a días feriados, las clases de Catecismo más cercanas a esa fecha son canceladas. ¡Por favor mantengan el calendario de Catecismo a la mano!

Last class before Christmas is on Thursday, December 19th.

Just A Reminder: There will be no PSR on:

Sunday, December 22nd, 29th, January 5th
(Primary & FIRES Sunday classes)

Monday, December 23rd, 30th, January 6th

Wednesday, December 25th, January 1st

Thursday, December 26th, January 2nd
(Elementary & Middle School)

CLASSES WILL RESUME on

Wednesday, January 8th

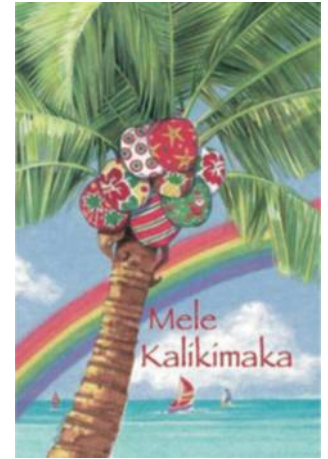
Thursday, January 9th

Sunday, January 12th

Monday, January 13th



Contact the department of Religious Education if you have any questions:
770-432-5296.



Welcome Ministry

On behalf of the St. Thomas Welcome Ministry and parish, Bill and I would like to say, "Thank You" to all those who have made the Fellowship Sundays an enjoyable gathering.

We'd also like to wish everyone a safe holiday season and a very "Mele Kalikimaka ame a Hau'oli Makahiki Hou." (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in Hawaiian!)

Hope to see you at the next Fellowship Sunday on

**PRO BOWL Sunday,
January 26th, 2014,
7:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Social Hall**

Aloha A Hui Hou, (With love until we meet again.)

Lauren and Bill Russell
Welcome Ministry Coordinators



For those little friends who enjoy Story Time each Thursday at 10:00 a.m., we would like to remind you that we won't meet on December 26th and January 2nd.

There will be Story Time on December 19th. Regular schedule resumes on January 9th.

Coming soon ...

December 17

7:00 p.m.

Main Sanctuary

Penance Service

Let us renew and recommit ourselves as disciples of Jesus through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

December 20

7:00 p.m.

Parking Lot

Posadas (Live Nativity)

Read more about this special event on Page 5.



December 24

4:00 p.m.

Main Sanctuary

Children's Christmas Mass

All children are welcome to wear a simple costume, dressed as one of the people or animals in the story of the Nativity.

See Page 5 for details.

January 5

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Classrooms #5 and #6

Blood Drive

Be a Hero! Save a Life! Donate blood





Parish Office Closed
December 24th-27th

December 31st-January 1st
Regular office hours on
Monday, December 23rd and
Monday, December 30th.
Please call 770-432-8579
Ext. 0 if you have any
questions.

We thought you
should know:

Mass Intentions:

The suggested offering for
Mass Intentions is now \$15.
If you would like to place an
intention to honor a loved one,
please contact the Parish
Office at 770-432-8579,
Ext. 0.

**Adoration of the Most Blessed
Sacrament:**

Every Wednesday from
7:00 a.m. until 6:45 p.m.
Jesus is waiting for each of us
to come and express our love,
our gratitude, our acceptance
of Him as King of our lives.
You have one more Advent
Wednesday to visit,
December 18th. Then for 2
Wednesdays, Christmas Day
and New Years Day, we will
not have Adoration. But you
can resolve to add a new
resolution in 2014 to make
Wednesdays a special time
with the Lord.

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th, 2013 (Christmas Eve)

- 4:00 p.m. Children's Liturgy (English Mass)
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve English Vigil Mass
- 8:00 p.m. Misa de Nochebuena en español

Wednesday, December 25th, 2013 (Christmas Day)

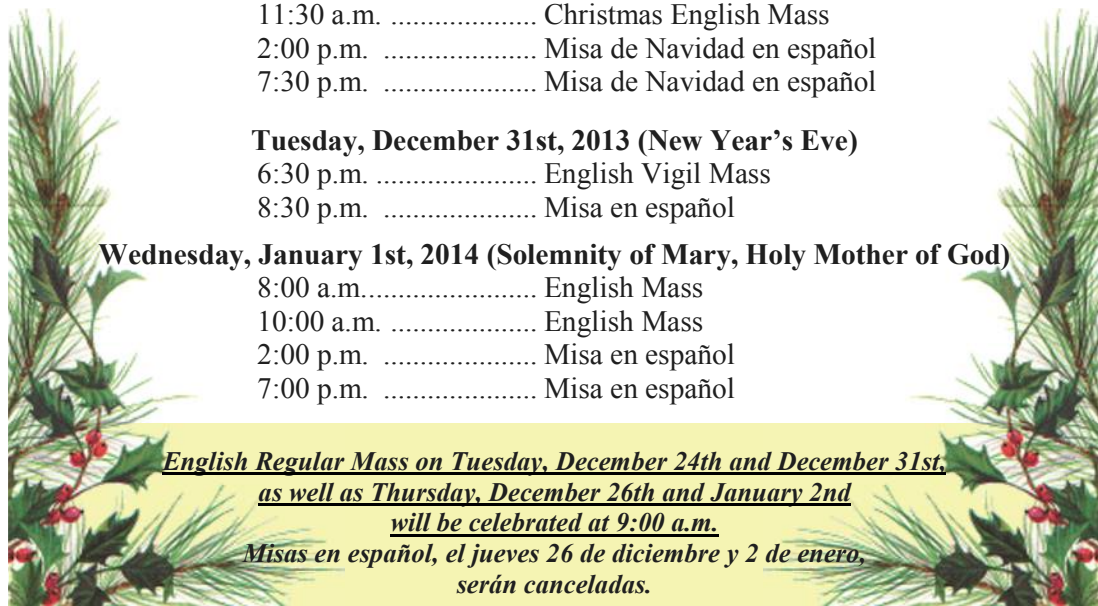
- 12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass in English
- 9:30 a.m. Christmas English Mass
- 11:30 a.m. Christmas English Mass
- 2:00 p.m. Misa de Navidad en español
- 7:30 p.m. Misa de Navidad en español

Tuesday, December 31st, 2013 (New Year's Eve)

- 6:30 p.m. English Vigil Mass
- 8:30 p.m. Misa en español

Wednesday, January 1st, 2014 (Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God)

- 8:00 a.m. English Mass
- 10:00 a.m. English Mass
- 2:00 p.m. Misa en español
- 7:00 p.m. Misa en español



*English Regular Mass on Tuesday, December 24th and December 31st,
as well as Thursday, December 26th and January 2nd
will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.
Misas en español, el jueves 26 de diciembre y 2 de enero,
serán canceladas.*

Ignite!

Tuesday, January 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Ignite! is an evening where parishioners gather together to encounter the Living Jesus in music, prayer, scripture and in the testimony of a fellow pilgrim in the journey. When we gather together and reflect on people whose hearts are on fire with God, we too feel that our own hearts are not far from being alive with God's profound love! We are inspired, enriched and transformed. We grow more passionate about our faith.

Make Ignite! part of your spiritual journey and join us on Tuesday, January 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary. You may also join us for dinner beforehand beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Please bring a dessert to share, and also bring a friend!

PARISH AGENDA—December 16-22, 2013

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 9:00 AM PRESCHOOL
- 12:00 PM **MASS**
- † **Mark & Scott Zanke**
- 4:30 PM PSR
- 5:45 PM CHRISTMAS CHOIR
- 7:00 PM ADVENT AWAKENING
- 7:00 PM PSR
- 7:30 PM **Misa**
- † **Daniel Valle**
- 7:30 PM STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
- 8:00 PM EMA CHOIR
- 8:00 PM EVANGELIZATION CHOIR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 9:00 AM PRESCHOOL
- 11:00 AM PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS
- 12:00 PM **MASS**
- † **John Fowler**
- 6:00 PM INEA
- 7:00 PM **PENANCE SERVICE**
- 7:00 PM APOSTLES CLASS
- 7:00 PM SVdP
- 8:15 PM APOYO A LA FAMILIA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 6:30 AM **MASS FOR PEACE**
- † **Cleo Carrier**
- 7:00 AM ADORATION
- 9:00 AM PRESCHOOL
- 11:00 AM PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS
- 5:00 PM POSADAS (COM. LEADERS)
- 6:45 PM BENEDICTION
- 7:00 PM **MASS**
- To celebrate life in the Proaño Family**
- 7:00 PM PSR
- 7:30 PM LIFETEEN BAND
- 8:00 PM YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 9:00 AM PRESCHOOL
- 5:00 PM POSADAS (CORO NIÑOS)
- 6:30 PM ROSARY
- 7:00 PM PSR
- 7:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL
- 7:00 PM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
- 7:00 PM LEGACY COLLEGE MINISTRY
- 7:00 PM **MASS**
- † **Antoinette & Isidore Palcy**
- 8:00 PM **Misa**
- Jesús Angel**



Christmas Children's Liturgy Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.

O Come All Ye Faithful
ALL CHILDREN of the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Family are invited to come and participate in a Christmas Liturgy especially celebrated for children on Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.

All children are invited to come in a simple costume, dressed as one of the people or animals in the Nativity Story. Become part of this celebration by being angels, stars, shepherds, wise men, lambs or innkeepers.

Mary and Joseph will be waiting. Come help in the telling of this wonderful story on this special, sacred night!



Misa Navideña para Niños Martes, 24 de diciembre a las 4:00 p.m.

Invitamos a todos los niños de la parroquia Santo Tomás el Apóstol a participar en la Misa en inglés para niños, el martes, 24 de diciembre a las 4:00 p.m.

Los niños pueden disfrazarse de ángeles, estrellas, pastores, ovejas, reyes magos o cualquiera de las personas o animales relacionadas con la historia de la Natividad.

María y José estarán esperándolos en la iglesia. ¡Ven y ayuda a contar la historia de esta noche sagrada y especial!

Vida Parroquial

Servicio Penitencial

Martes, 17 de diciembre, a las 7:00 p.m.

Posadas

Viernes, 20 de diciembre
7:00 p.m.
Estacionamiento de la iglesia

Misa Navideña para Niños

Martes, 24 de diciembre
4:00 p.m.
Misa en inglés. Los niños pueden venir disfrazados para ilustrar la historia de la Natividad. Ver más detalles en esta página.

Horario de Misas de Navidad y Año Nuevo

Disponible en la Página 4. Por favor noten que la Oficina Parroquial estará cerrada del 24 al 27 de diciembre, el 31 de diciembre y el 1º de enero. Horario regular los lunes, 23 y 30 de diciembre.

Intenciones de Misa

Queremos invitarles a ofrecer intenciones de Misa por sus seres queridos. Se sugiere una ofrenda de \$15 por Misa. Por favor llamar a la Oficina Parroquial al 770-432-8579, Ext. 0 para hacer su reservación.

Live Nativity: Las Posadas Journey

Friday, December 20th, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Church Parking Lot



Please join us for a Multi-cultural outdoor procession, as we re-enact Mary and Joseph's cold and difficult journey to Bethlehem in search of shelter.

The outdoor procession at St. Thomas will include 3 designated stops at "inns", live animals, singing, praying and listening to the story of Las Posadas, concluding with a celebration of food, drinks and Christmas carols.

Anyone interested in helping, please contact the Religious Education Office at 770-432-5296.

Mass intentions updated as of December 9, 2013

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00 AM PRESCHOOL
12:00 PM **Mass**
† **George Patrick Garger**
4:00 PM VERA QUINCE AÑOS
6:00 PM AFRICAN KIDS DANCE
6:00 PM INEA
6:00 PM ENSAYO DE BODA
6:30 PM ESTUDIANTINA CHOIR
7:00 PM CHARISMATIC PRAYER
7:00 PM POSADAS (ALL ARE WELCOME!)
9:00 PM EMA CHOIR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

10:00 AM RECOVERY INT.
1:00 PM GIRL SCOUTS
2:00 PM MENDOZA CONVALIDATION
3:30 PM **CONFESSIONS**
4:00 PM ESTUDIANTINA CHOIR
5:00 PM POSADAS (SECTOR SMYRNA)
5:00 PM **Mass**
† **Pio Ferandos**
7:30 PM **Misa**
Familia Suárez

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NO PSR
6:00 AM **MISA**
Pedro Alvarado
7:30 AM **MASS**
Jose L Ocaña
9:30 AM **MASS**
NURSERY AVAILABLE
People of St. Thomas
11:00 AM LEGION OF MARY
11:00 AM AFRICAN CHOIR
11:30 AM **MASS**
NURSERY AVAILABLE
† **Macaria Espinoza**
† **Ma. del Carmen Valencia A.**

2:00 PM **MISA**
GUARDERÍA DISPONIBLE
† **Salvador Estrada**
† **José Almaraz**
† **Avelina Flores**
5:00 PM **MASS**
7:30 PM **MISA**
† **Ruth Valdez**
† **Arcadio García**
† **Rafael Martínez**



Advent

Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel: Luke 3:10-18.

Reflection for Families

How many times a day do parents, in the young lives of their children, preach this Gospel message: share and don't take more than your share! Especially in the formative years, these are valuable social skills, but they are also life lessons for people of all ages. A part of our human nature wants to hoard—just in case. This insecurity causes us to share only reluctantly, and if we take a little more than our share, we will have an extra amount in case we find ourselves in need. The message of this Gospel encourages us to change that thinking. If we act as God wants us to, others will share with us as well as we share with them. If we take only what we need, there will be enough for everyone.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Consider ways during this Advent season that your family can share with others. Check your parish bulletin or community news page to see what opportunities might be available for giving to others this holiday season. There might be food or clothing drives, opportunities to visit or assist shut-ins. How about the old-fashioned idea of caroling—especially to those who can't get out or may be finding this holiday season especially difficult?

Discussion Starters

- There is much evidence in the world today that people do what John said in this Gospel. One way I see people share (or not take more than their share) is . . .
- The hardest thing for me to share is . . .
- I will show someone my joy and anticipation for Jesus by . . .

Reflection courtesy of: RCL Benziger

Around the Archdiocese

CTK BELIEVES

Tuesday, January 14th at 7:30 p.m. - Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta, GA

A once-a-month speaker series ministry, promotes dialogue around integrating faith in the work life for both business men and business women. Next topic: "What did Jesus say about business that you may not BELIEVE . . . and is simply REMARKABLE?" Featuring David Salyers, Vice President of Marketing for Chick-Fil-A. Register at www.cathedralofchristtheking.org/BELIEVES or contact Andrew Schoppe at andrewschoppe@yahoo.com

Annie Jr. - St. Joseph's Catholic School Drama Performance

Friday, January 24th or Saturday, January 25th at 7:00 p.m. in Marist Hall at St. Joseph Catholic School (Marietta, GA) Advance tickets: \$5 or \$6 at the door. REMEMBER: tomorrow's only a day away so buy your tickets now so you don't miss Annie Jr.! For more information call 770-428-3328.

Healing & Hope Retreat with Immaculee

February 7 – 8, 2014 at All Saints Catholic Church in Dunwoody, GA

Immaculee Ilibagiza, miraculous survivor of the Rwandan genocide and New York Times best-selling author of "Left to Tell," is regarded today as one of world's leading speakers on peace, faith, hope and forgiveness. She will be hosting a retreat and sharing her inspiring message in February. Cost is \$57. Sign up is limited. For more information go to www.immaculee.com.

If you have any questions, you may email Greg Amaya at jgamaya@bellsouth.net

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