

# SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

December 22, 2013

Christmas

Mass Schedule See Page 3

# 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

Adoration

3:30 PM

Wednesdays: 7:30 AM-6:45 PM

## Horario de Misas en Español

 Lunes:
 7:30 PM

 Jueves:
 8:00 PM

 Sábado:
 7:30 PM

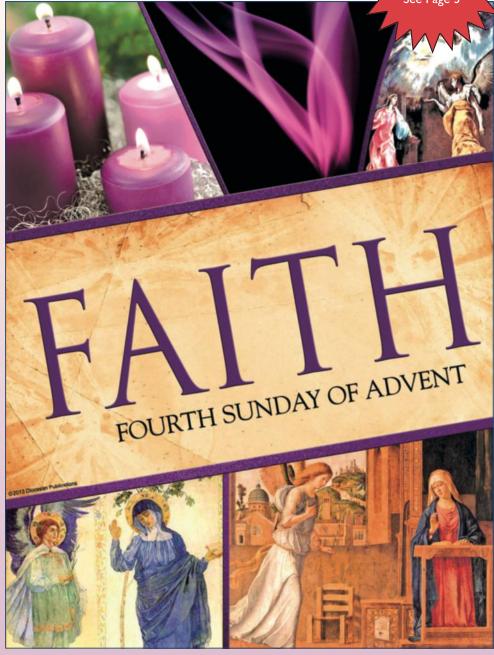
 Domingo:
 6:00 AM

 2:00 PM &

Confesión:

Sábados: 6:30 PM Domingos: 1:00 & 6:30 PM

7:30 PM





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

Parish Administrator: Mr. Gus Scannapieco (x109)



# Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year 2014! 祝您耶誕快樂,並祝歲歲平安! (Chinese) Feliz Navidad y un Año Nuevo 2014 Bendecido! (Español) Mele Kalikimaka (Hawaiian)



hatever the language, our faith celebrates the fact that God became human so that we could become a part of his divine life forever.

On behalf of the Clergy, Staff and Parishioners of our Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish I pray that this year's observance of Jesus' Birth brings new insights and illuminations as to what it truly means that God's incarnation (THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELLS AMONG US) makes it possible for us to participate in His divine Love, Peace, and Hope. The "ChristMasses" (Masses celebrating our Christ's Birth) provide the encounters with Jesus through the Word and through His Body and Blood. It is my first Christmas with you, my parish family of faith, hope and love, for which I am very grateful and excited. I will get to revel in the glory of God's presence with songs and prayers of comfort and joy. God is with us! God is with us!

I pray that each person feels the welcome and love of the community here at STA. I pray that each person's experience of Christmas 2013 will bring about an increase of generosity in service of those who lack love, peace and joy in their lives. May the gifting be rooted in love as God gifted us with His only begotten Son. "YES, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life." Jn 3:16

Fr. Brian R. Sheridan, M.S., Pastor

ea cual sea el idioma, nuestra fe celebra el hecho de que Dios se hizo hombre para que nosotros pudiéramos ser parte de su vida divina para siempre.

En nombre del Clero , el Personal y los Feligreses de nuestra Parroquia Santo Tomás el Apóstol ruego porque la celebración del nacimiento de Jesús en este año traiga nuevas ideas e ilumine el significado verdadero de la encarnación de Dios (EL VERBO SE HIZO HOMBRE Y HABITÓ ENTRE NOSOTROS) que hace posible que participemos en Su Amor divino, Paz y Esperanza. Las Misas que celebran el nacimiento de Cristo proporcionan los encuentros con Jesús a través de la Palabra y por medio de su Cuerpo y Sangre . Es mi primera Navidad con ustedes , mi familia parroquial en la fe , la esperanza y el amor, por lo cual estoy muy agradecido y emocionado. Me deleitaré en la gloria de la presencia de Dios con cantos y oraciones de consuelo y gozo. ¡Dios está con nosotros! ¡Dios está con nosotros!

Ruego para que cada persona siente la acogida y el amor de la comunidad aquí en STA. Ruego para que la experiencia de cada persona en esta Navidad 2013 traiga consigo un aumento de la generosidad en el servicio de los que carecen de amor, paz y gozo en sus vidas. Que nuestros obsequios estén basados en el amor, así como Dios nos regaló a su Hijo único . "SÍ, Dios amó tanto al mundo que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en él cree no se pierda, sino que tenga vida eterna. "Juan 3:16

Fr. Brian R. Sheridan, M.S., Párroco



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# In Our Prayers

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.

Kevin Aguilar • Madelyn Harris • Eileen Phagan • Diane Starkovich | John Argent • Marcelina Aviña • Héctor Martínez • María Sesmas | Josefina Alvarez • Kimberly Marshal • Rachel Prezou • Mary Schuster • Colin Stanton



# Prayer Line

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

We 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 serving in the military.

PFP 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 • CPT Ana Maria Hartwig, USA • Maj. Marise James, USAF • LT CDR Dominic R. Lovello USN • 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



# 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 Mass8:00 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

<u>Please note: English Regular Mass on Tuesday, December 24th and December 31st,</u> 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.

### **Attention Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Christmas & New Year's Sign Up Sheets for 8 Masses are posted on the Common's Bulletin Board. Please review them, select your dates and times, then sign up for the Masses you wish to serve. Our goal is for each Mass those 4 days to be completely covered for both species. Hopefully we will not repeat similar results experienced last year by a lack of Ministers to serve. Please note: Wednesday, January 1, 2014, is the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. Questions should be directed to Deacon Earl.

# Coming soon ...

### December 20

7:00 p.m.
Parking Lot

Posadas (Live Nativity)

Read more about this special event on Page 4.



## 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 4 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! Call 1-800-448-3543 to registe



### Parish Life

## **Town Hall Meeting**

Monday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Our Pastor, Fr. Brian, will be addressing concerns regarding our church renovation, a new multipurpose facility, and stewardship of treasure in our parish. See today's bulletin insert for more details.

### **Welcome Ministry**

Provide a personal welcome for new parishioners and help them to develop an active life of stewardship within our parish community.

Contact Lauren Russell at 808-285-4124 if you are interested in serving.

# LEGACY (College-Age Ministry)

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. A group where young adults can grow and learn how to live their faith in new and deeper ways as they begin to take on the responsibilities of Catholic adults.

Contact Jonathan Denis at 918-550-9438 or Ron

Purisima at 201-674-5121.

### **Pew Angels**

The Pew Angels Ministry is looking for more volunteers to help straighten up the pews before and after the weekend masses. Help is needed on Monday and/or Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Call the parish office if you are willing to help.

## **Bereavement Ministry:**

10-week sessions begin on January 21st. For more information contact Deacon Mark Mitchell at 770-438-0539.

# 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:

Please note that there will be no adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament on Christmas Day and New Years Day. But you can resolve to add a new resolution in 2014 to make Wednesdays a special time with the Lord! Adoration takes place every Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. until 6:45 p.m.

## Pray the Rosary with us!

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary. Weekly meetings resume on Jan. 2nd.

## 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.

# LifeTeen & EDGE

Life Nights are held on Sundays after the LifeTeen Mass (5:00 p.m.) Contact Ian Griffis, Youth Minister, to learn about the activities that our parish offers to Middle School and High School students! 770-432-8579, Ext. 116.

# Parish School of Religion (PSR)

### 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
- Sunday, January 12thMonday, January 13th
- Monday, January 15th

Story Time resumes on Thursday, January 19th at 10:00 a.m. Contact the department of Religious Education if you have any questions: 770-432-5296.

# Christmas Children's Liturgy

# Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.

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!

# 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.

# PARISH AGENDA—December 23-29, 2013

#### NO PSR 8:00 AM CHRISTMAS DECORATION 12:00 PM MASS **Bob Burke** 4:30 PM **PSR** 5:30 PM CHRISTMAS CHOIR 7:00 PM ADVENT AWAKENING 7:30 PM MISA Joaquín & Roberto García 8:00 PM **EMA CHOIR EVANGELIZATION CHOIR** 8:00 PM

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 23** 

TUESDAY, DEC	
CHRISTMAS E	
9:00 AM	MASS
t	Ethel Duncan Gregory
4:00 PM	CHILDREN'S LITURGY
t	JoAnn Yorio
6:00 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
†	Randy Philip Rizzuto
8:00 PM	MISA DE NOCHEBUENA
†	John Fowler

<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25</b>
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
CHRISTMAS DAY
NO ADORATION
NO PSR
40.00 AM Minimum Micon

12:00 AM	MIDNIGHT MASS
t	Chris Harding
9:30 AM	CHRISTMAS MASS
	Christopher Ugokwe
11:30 AM	CHRISTMAS MASS
	Atemkeng Family
2:00 PM	MISA DE NAVIDAD
t	Carmela Fernández E.
7:30 PM	MISA DE NAVIDAD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
NO PSR
9:00 AM MASS
† Patrick Anunkem



# Adult Faith Formation

# 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!

# Consecration to Jesus

# 26 people consecrated to Jesus through Mary last December 9th.

For 33 days 26 people studied the teachings of four Marian giants: St. Louis de Monfort, St Maximillian Kolbe, Blessed Mother Teresa, and Blessed John Paul II. They have welcomed Mary into their homes and will bring her into everything that makes up their spiritual life. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception we had 26 people consecrate themselves to Jesus through Mary. Yeah Jesus!!Yeah Mary!!

Look for this class the same time next year!! The next class in this series Consoling the Heart of Jesus begins February 9th, a great Lenten preparation! For more information call Clarence Burkholder at 770-432-5020.

# Vida Parroquial

## 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 la página 4.

## Horario de Misas de Navidad y Año Nuevo

Disponible en la Página 3. 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.

### Celebración Guadalupana:

Ver más información (y fotografías) en la página 6.

# Other opportunities for Spiritual Growth:

**Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament:** Wednesdays (7:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.) See Page 4 for more details.

**New Evangelization Series:** 6-week program beginning in February 2014.

Contact: Linda Veit at 770-432-8579 Ext. 131.

**Bible Study:** Thursday morning (10:00 a.m.) or Thursday evening (7:00 p.m.)

Contact: Linda Veit at 770-432-8579 Ext. 131.

Evangelization Retreat: April 21st-27th. Contact John Casey at 770-432-8579 Ext. 130.

**Charismatic Prayer Group:** Fridays at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Faith Formation building. Contact Carolus Korie at 770-944-9150.

**Holy Hollywood:** Friday, January 10th at 7:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Additional details will be available in next week's bulletin or contact: Linda Veit at 770-432-8579 Ext. 131.

#### Mass intentions updated as of December 16, 2013 **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27** SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29** 2:00 PM MISA PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 AM BAUTISMOS HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH GUARDERÍA DISPONIBLE 12:00 PM 10:00 AM RECOVERY INT. NO PSR Teresa Delgado MASS George Patrick Garger 11:30 AM PÉREZ CONVALIDATION 6:00 AM Victor Parra 4:00 PM SMITH BAPTISM 2:00 PM GONZÁLEZ WEDDING Agripino Ortega Elvia Parra 7:30 AM 5:00 PM GONZÁLEZ REHEARSAL 3:30 PM CONFESSIONS MASS 5:00 PM MASS 6:00 PM SOLORIO FAMILY 4:00 PM ESTUDIANTINA CHOIR **Charles Irving Vigliaturo** PEOPLE OF ST. THOMAS 9:30 AM 6:00 PM SP REHEARSAL 5:00 PM MASS MASS Bugea & DiPerno Fam NURSERY AVAILABLE Bernardino Rodríguez 7:30 PM MISA Joseph Downey Familia González 11:00 AM LEGION OF MARY 11:00 AM AFRICAN CHOIR 11:30 AM MASS NURSERY AVAILABLE Bernard Edoga

# Gospel Reflection Today's Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-24.

### **Reflection for Families**

How often have our young children called out to us in fear. Maybe they're afraid of the night, or a bad dream, or an insect. They call out to us with complete trust that we will run to their side as soon as we hear their cry. It's important that we remind our children that God is with us always. Like a loving parent, God is there when we call out. It is reassuring for our children to hear about examples from our own lives that recall times when we were afraid and God was present to us.

# Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Light the fourth candle on your family's Advent wreath. Ask each person to recall one time during this Advent season when they were confused, unsure, or frightened about something. Encourage each person to share how Jesus helped them . . . or how they will call on Jesus the next time they're in a frightening situation.

### **Discussion Starters**

- I remember one time when I was afraid but knew that God was with me . . .
- It's important to me that my children know I'll be there when they call me because.

. .

 This week I heard a news story that made me know God is with us. The story was about...

Reflection courtesy of: RCL Benziger

# Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration—2013

undreds of people gathered at Jim R. Miller Park (Marietta, GA) to celebrate the anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. Worshippers gathered and sang the traditional Mexican birthday song "Las Mañanitas" to the Virgin Mary at 12:00 a.m. to welcome the December 12th Feast Day. On that day our parish was honored to receive the Auxiliary Bishop Luis

Zarama, D.D. who presided the Mass at 2:00 p.m. He offered a special blessing to all the children and then, the expectant mothers who also received the gift of a rose.

See additional photos available in our digital album at: www.flickr.com/photos/stta/sets





ientos de personas se congregaron en el Parque Jim R. Miller (Marietta, GA) para celebrar el aniversario de la Aparición de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de las Américas. A la media noche cantaron Las Mañanitas a la Virgen María.

El 12 de diciembre, nuestra parroquia tuvo el honor de recibir al Obispo Auxiliar Luis Zarama D.D., quien presidió la Misa de las 2:00

> p.m. El Obispo ofreció una bendición especial a todos los niños, y después a la madres que están esperando, quienes también recibieron el regalo de una rosa.

Más fotografías disponibles en nuestro álbum digital en: www.flickr.com/photos/stta/sets

Parishioners Laura Michelle V. and Mario S. re-enact the Apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the Rosary at the Park. / Laura Michelle V. y Mario S. miembros de Santo Tomás, participaron en la dramatización de la Aparición de la Virgen.





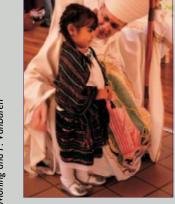


















Auxiliary Bishop Luis Zarama, D.D. offered roses to some of the mothers attending the 2:00 p.m. Mass in our parish. / El Obispo Auxiliar Luis Zarama, D.D., ofreció rosas a algunas de las madres que asistieron a la Misa de 2:00 p.m. en nuestra parroquia.

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