



# SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

December 3, 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

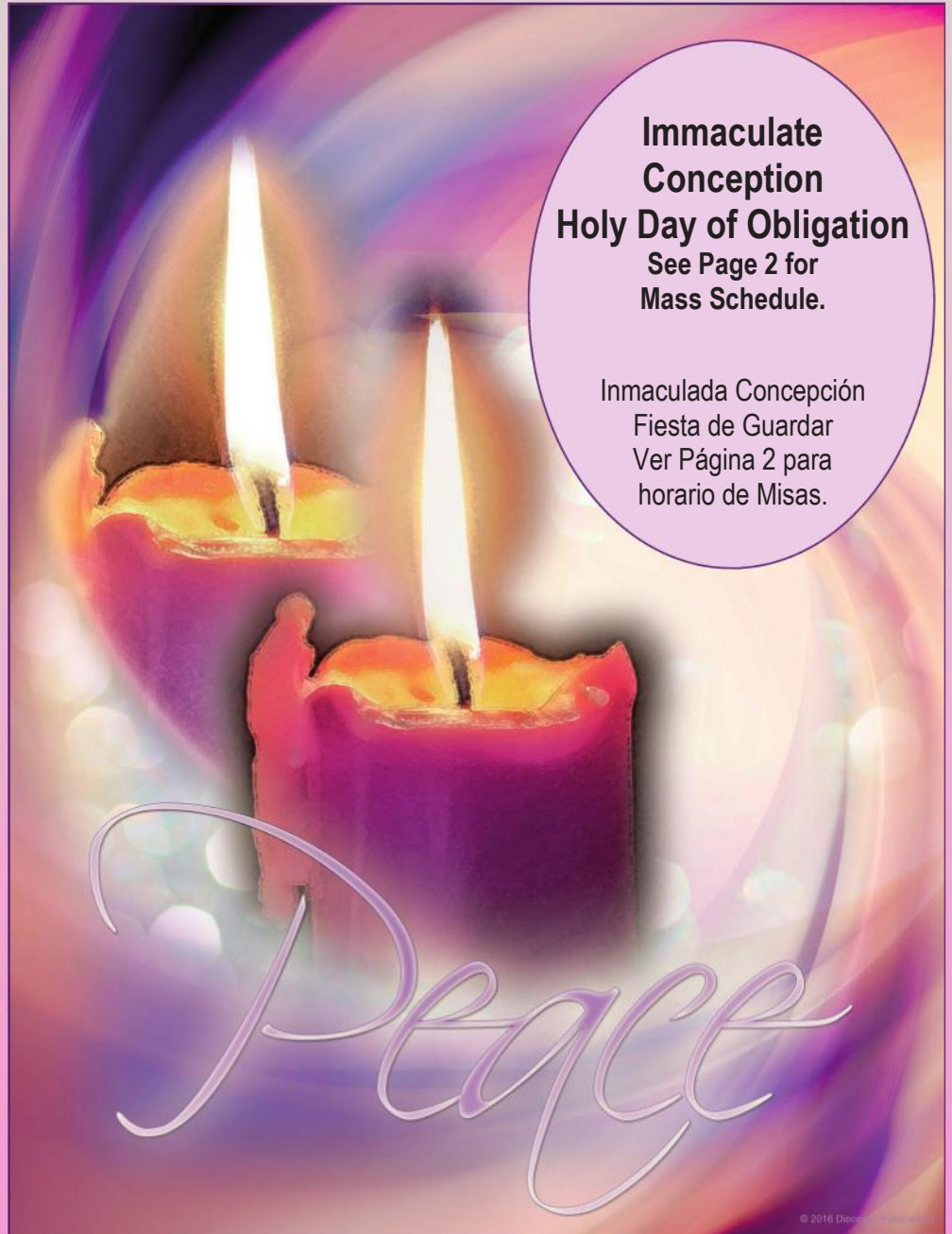
### Horario de Misas en Español

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



**Immaculate  
Conception  
Holy Day of Obligation**  
See Page 2 for  
Mass Schedule.

Inmaculada Concepción  
Fiesta de Guardar  
Ver Página 2 para  
horario de Misas.



[www.facebook.com/stthomastheapostlechurch](http://www.facebook.com/stthomastheapostlechurch)

**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)

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception

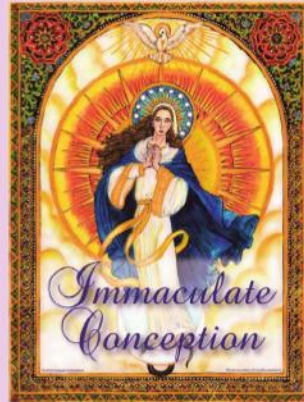
### Mass Schedule:

- **Wednesday, December 7:**  
English Vigil Mass at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 8:**  
English Masses at 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

## Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción

### Horario de Misas:

- **Miércoles, 7 de diciembre:**  
Misa de vigilia en español a las 8:30 p.m.
- **Jueves, 8 de diciembre:**  
Misa en español a las 8:30 p.m.



This Christmas we invite you to share the gift of God's love by remembering your loved ones in our **Spiritual Bouquet Mass Enrollment**.

Christmas cards for your loved ones are available in the Commons Area.

Please return offering envelopes to the Parish Office by Thursday, December 22.

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

## 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.

Patrick All	Sionnie Gernaat	Milagros Bellido
Angelita Castro	Antonio González	Kathleen Brady
Brandon Lau	John Scannaliato	Sylvia Sánchez
Sylvia Rojas	Patty Smith	María Sesmas
Edward Schanze	Michael Stanton	Lilian Tramarria
Monique Verly	Susan Walsh	

### 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

## 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.

# second 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 our lives bear good fruit.*

## ■ READ THE GOSPEL for the Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle A) Matthew 3:1-12

*“Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

## ■ REFLECT WITH A STORY

It sounds like John was having a bad day. The Pharisees and Sadducees arrive on the scene and John nearly loses it. He calls them a brood of vipers, compares them to stones and then tells them that if they don't change their sinful ways, they'll be cut down like dead trees. He says, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

It's a harsh image and one that might be difficult for us to relate to. Why would we destroy trees that don't bear good fruit? But farmers around the world today who depend on their fruit trees for their income know that one, bad tree can hurt their entire crop.

Take Fidencio, for example. He is a coffee farmer who lives in Narino. Fidencio and his family's well-being depends on his ability to continue to produce good fruit. To do that, he has to pay close attention to the coffee trees that do not bear good fruit, and make sure they do not affect the rest of the crop. This is a very real concern for farmers like Fidencio, because many coffee trees where he lives are infected with a deadly fungus called leaf rust that can spread to other trees. Sometimes the farmers have to cut down infected trees to save the rest of the crop.

Just as Fidencio must rid his coffee farm of disease that will damage his trees, we must prune our lives of the things that damage our relationship with God, ourselves and others. By doing so, we can bear the good fruit John the Baptist talks about.



Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

### PRAY

Creator God, you are the master gardener. Help me to bear good fruit in my life—for myself, for my family and for my community. Amen

### REFLECT

What do I need to stop doing or get rid of in my life in order to bear good fruit?

### ACT

This week, prune your life of one or more material items you no longer need and donate them to charity. Oftentimes the clutter of everyday objects prevents us from focusing on what leads us to Christ.

### GIVE

Support farmers like Fidencio by purchasing coffee that bears good fruit! Warm your heart this holiday season with coffee from CRS partners. Visit [crsfairtrade.org](http://crsfairtrade.org).

### Christmas Children's Liturgy Misa Navideña para Niños



**Saturday, December 24  
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 Saturday,  
December 24 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!

**Sábado, 24 de diciembre a  
las 4:00 p.m.**

Venid y adoremos!  
Invitamos a todos los niños  
de la parroquia Santo  
Tomás el Apóstol a  
participar en la **Misa en  
inglés para niños, el  
sábado, 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  
en 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!

### 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.

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



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

### Ornaments on sale!

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of our parish  
Sale price: \$10 (ornament) \$5 (stand)



#### Adornos a la venta

Commemorando el 50 aniversario  
de nuestra parroquia.

Precio de oferta:  
\$10 (adorno)  
\$5 (base)

## This Week in our Parish

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 5 NOVENA GUADALUPANA

9:00 AM PRESCHOOL  
12:00 PM MASS  
† ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY  
4:30 PM PSR  
5:45 PM CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
7:00 PM PSR  
8:00 PM CREDO CHOIR  
8:00 PM NOVENA GUADALUPANA  
8:30 PM MISA

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 NOVENA GUADALUPANA

7:00 AM FIDELES  
9:00 AM PRESCHOOL  
12:00 PM MASS  
† NICHOLAS POMPONIO  
6:30 PM CONFIRMATION CLASS  
6:45 PM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
7:00 PM RCIA  
7:00 PM SVdP  
8:00 PM ESTUDIANTINA  
8:00 PM NOVENA GUADALUPANA  
8:15 PM APOYO A LA FAMILIA  
8:30 PM MISA

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 NOVENA GUADALUPANA

No PSR  
6:30 AM MASS  
† LAURETT ADELMAR  
† CHARLES SAINSEME  
7:00 AM ADORATION  
9:00 AM PRESCHOOL  
12:00 PM LUNCH BREAK GATHERING  
5:00 PM BENEDICTION  
6:30 PM VIGIL MASS  
SIONNE GERNAAT  
7:00 PM ADVENT AWAKENINGS  
8:00 PM NOVENA GUADALUPANA  
8:30 PM MISA DE VIGILIA

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

NOVENA GUADALUPANA  
No PSR  
6:30 AM MASS  
8:15 AM MASS  
9:00 AM PRESCHOOL  
10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY  
10:00 AM STORY TIME  
12:00 PM MASS  
6:30 PM MASS  
† WILLIAM CHUA TAN  
7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY  
8:00 PM NOVENA GUADALUPANA  
8:30 PM MISA  
† OSCAR QUINTANILLA

**TRAINING for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**  
 Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Sanctuary.

Attention to all active members of Saint Thomas the Apostle, 16 years of age or older who have received the sacrament of Confirmation, have good qualities of Christian life, faith & morals, and are willing to serve Holy Communion with dignity. We invite you to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Please plan to attend the training on December 17 at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Sanctuary.

Contact Deacon Earl Jackson at email: [foothills3@aol.com](mailto:foothills3@aol.com), or call 504-495-2392.



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



**This Week in our Parish**

Updated on November 28, 2016

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9**

**NOVENA GUADALUPANA**

- 9:00 AM PRESCHOOL
- 12:00 PM MASS**
- † SALVADOR LIMON
- 5:00 PM CROSSETT REHEARSAL
- 6:00 PM SP REHEARSAL
- 7:30 PM CHARISMATIC PRAYER
- 8:00 PM EDGE LOCK-IN
- 8:00 PM NOVENA GUADALUPANA**
- 8:30 PM MISA**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**

**NOVENA GUADALUPANA**

- 8:00 AM SUNDAY AM CHOIR
- 8:00 AM ULTREYA
- 9:00 AM BAUTISMOS
- 10:00 AM FILIPINO CHRISTMAS
- 10:00 AM MARIA NIÑA
- 11:30 AM CROSSETT WEDDING**
- 2:00 PM ROMO CONVALIDATION**
- 3:00 PM CONFESSION
- 4:30 PM MASS**
- † CHRIS HARDING
- 6:30 PM MISA**
- ANA LOPEZ
- PRECIOUS LUNA

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**

**NO PSR**

- 6:00 AM MISA**
- ALLISON MONCAYO
- DALIA MONCAYO
- 7:30 AM MASS**
- PEOPLE OF STA
- 9:30 AM MASS**
- † ELSIE TORO
- 10:00 AM RCIA
- 11:00 AM LEGION OF MARY
- 11:30 AM MASS**
- † FEDERICO PARANADA

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 (CONT.)**

- 2:00 PM MISA**
- † BRYAN ROSARIO
- 2:00 PM SP RCIA
- 4:00 PM DIVINA VOLUNTAD
- 5:00 PM MASS**
- † LUCY LUCZON
- 10:30 PM MISA GUADALUPANA (JRM PARK)
- NO 7:30 P.M. SPANISH MASS AT STA
- NO HABRÁ MISA DE 7:30 P.M. EN ESPAÑOL EN SANTO TOMÁS.**

## Weekly Donations Report

### Reporte de Donaciones Semanales

Offertory Actual /Ofertorio Actual  
November 26-27, 2016 vs. 2015

	FY 2017	FY 2016
Budgeted .....	\$36,750	\$35,769
Weekly Actual .....	\$36,625	\$34,833
Surplus/(Shortfall).....	(\$125)	(\$936)

FY2017 Offertory Projected vs Actual to Date  
And Last year Comparison

Budgeted .....	\$808,500	\$786,918
Actual .....	\$794,488	\$771,400
Surplus/(Shortfall).....	(\$14,012)	(\$15,518)

#### Operating Financial Statement

For the 4 months ending 10/31/2016

Operating Revenue.....	\$1,097,110
Operating Expenses .....	(\$978,379)
Operating Revenue over Expense .....	\$118,731

Total Assessments .....\$1,017,760  
still owed to Archdiocese as of 10/31/16

Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2016 (Week 45)  
Llamado Anual del Arzobispo 2016 (Semana 45)

Goal (Meta).....	\$157,700
Total Pledged (Compromisos totales) ....	\$303,189
Paid to date (Pagos recibidos).....	\$161,690
Surplus/(Shortfall) to Goal .....	\$3,990
Percent Paid to Goal (Porcentaje pagado) ..	103%
Number of Donors (No. de Donantes).....	1,309

#### Children's Offertory

Ofertorio de los Niños

November 27-28, 2016

Total .....\$1,227.48

♥ I helped the poor (Ayudé a los pobres) ♥ I helped cleaning with my sister (Ayudé a limpiar con mi hermana) ♥ I made the sign of the cross (Me persigné) ♥ I did not celebrate Halloween (No celebré el Halloween) ♥ I did my homework by myself and helped vacuuming (hice mi tarea solo y ayudé a aspirar) ♥ I went to a beautiful catholic Church: Saint Thomas the Apostle (Fui a una Hermosa iglesia Católica: Santo Tomás el Apóstol) ♥ It feels super good to be here (Se siente súper bien estar aquí) ♥ I cleaned my desk in one day (Limpié mi escritorio en un día) ♥ I helped feeding "Bubbles" the baby kitten (Ayudé a alimentar a "Bubbles" el gatito) ♥ I do my homework and today is my birthday (Hice mi tarea y hoy es mi cumpleaños) ♥ Being nice to my sister (Fui Buena con mi hermana) ♥

Offering envelopes are available in the Commons Area.

Ask your child to write his/her good deed of the week and encourage him/her to deposit the envelope in the special basket near the altar, during the offertory.  
Plant the seeds of a generous heart!

## Around the Archdiocese of Atlanta

### Eventos en la Arquidiócesis de Atlanta

### MISSED OUR PENANCE SERVICE?

#### Servicios Penitenciales en el área

The following parishes are still offering opportunities for Reconciliation in this Advent season:

**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)

### 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

### Retrouvaille: Weekend program for couples

**January 13-15, 2017**

**Atlanta, GA**

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.

Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way?

Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages.

For more information about our upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program, January 13-15, 2017 for couples, contact: Zack & Heather at 317-691-2258 or visit our website: [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com)

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