



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

stthomasga@stthomastheapostle.org

<http://www.stthomastheapostle.org>

November 27, 2011

Parish Office
770 - 432-8579
Fax. 770 - 432-8570

Office Hours
Monday—Friday
9:00AM—5:00PM
Closed Wednesday 1PM-3PM

Religious Ed. Office
770 - 432-5296

Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
10:00AM - 8:00PM

Preschool Office
770 - 432-8579 Ext. 125

Office Hours
Tuesday—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

**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

First Sunday of Advent

Blessing of the Advent Wreath (Bendición de Corona) Page 2

Today's Advent Reflection (Reflexión de Hoy) Page 6

Breakfast with Santa (Desayuno con Santa) Page 4

Advent Giving Tree (Árbol de Regalos) Page 4

Live Nativity (Posadas) Page 5

Hope

Sunday, November 27, 2011



www.facebook.com/stthomastheapostlechurch

Pastor: Rev. James H. Kuczynski, M.S. (x108)
Parochial Vicars: Rev. Pedro Chingandu, M.S. (x106) • Rev. Andrews Kollanoor, M.S.. (x128) • Rev. Jaime Molina J., M.N.M. (x121)
• Rev. Paul Rainville, M.S. (in residence x.193) **Deacons:** Rev. Mr. Michael Garrett • Rev. Mr. Earl Jackson
Parish Administrator: Mr. Gus Scannapieco (x109)



Stewardship is...
what we DO after
we say we Believe

Feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and clothe the naked. For those who have demonstrated good stewardship by sharing their gifts with the less fortunate who will receive God's blessing and inherit the kingdom.

Alimenta al hambriento, recibe al extranjero y viste al desnudo. Porque Aquellos que han compartido sus dones con los menos afortunados son los que recibirán la bendición de Dios y heredarán el reino.

Weekly Scripture Stewardship Reflections
Lectionary Cycle A

FY 2012 Offertory Projection vs. Actual to Date
Ofertorio: Proyección vs. Real
and Ofertory/Ofertorio November 20-21 2011
were not available at the time of this publication.

Thanks to the 1317 parishioners/families that have made their pledges for our capital Campaign Moving Forward in Hope to build a new church. We are grateful and appreciative of their commitment to help us reach our goal.

**Update on our Capital Campaign
Moving Forward In Hope**

Campaña Caminando en Esperanza

Goal (Meta)..... \$5,000,000.00
Pledged (Compromisos)\$3,063,000.00
Paid to date (Pagos) \$689,180.00

What our children at St. Thomas gave to God...
El regalo de nuestros niños a Dios...

♥ November 5-6, 2011 ♥

♥ Treasure (Tesoro): \$403.54 ♥

Time & Talent (Tiempo & Talento): ♥ I helped my Mom in everything! (*¡Ayudé a Mamá con todo!*) ♥ I did my homework (*Hice mi tarea*) ♥ I cleaned the living room (*Limpié la sala*) ♥ Got a good report (*Tuve un buen reporte*) ♥ Be a good baby (*soy un buen bebé*) ♥ I am going to spend some time with family (*Pasaré tiempo en familia*) ♥ Helped find friend's cat (*Ayudé a encontrar el gato de mi amigo*) ♥ I listen to my Mommy! (*Escucho a Mami*) ♥ Help my Daddy (*Ayudo a Papi*) ♥ I am going to read a book to my sister (*Leeré un libro a mi hermana*) ♥ I got honor roll (*Saqué cuadro de honor*) ♥ I was nice to my friends (*Fui buena con mis amigos*) ♥ Helped pack (*Ayudé a empacar*) ♥ I took Molly out in the cold (*Saqué a Molly cuando hacía frío*) ♥ behaved in school (*Me porté bien en la escuela*) ♥ Make my bed (*Tendí mi cama*) ♥ I love God (*Amo a Dios*) ♥

Children's Stewardship Envelopes
are available on the Commons Table.

IN OUR PRAYERS - EN NUESTRAS ORACIONES

To Request Prayers From St. Thomas the Apostle **Prayer Chain**
contact Valerie Panditaratne at 770-438-9078 or
email: vpandit@emory.edu

Egdar Alvarado
Brandi Dabney
Gil Campos
Ricky Carreño
Bonnie Caruso
Bob Contino
Michael Chastain
Doris Cushing
Ed Fitzgerald
Ashley Guadalupe Frausto
Andrea Galvan
Paula García Patiño
Lauren Garger

Justin Patrick Gooden
Sandy Haynes
Linda Hudson
Cordelia Kelly
Gloria Kincer
Alan Knieter
Linda Laurens
Shirley Loggins
Frank Madden
Dorothy Madson
Ian Martin
Carol J. Mohring
Franz Mohring
Leona Morales

Frank Perez
Kathy O'Hara-Rosa
Rodolfo Proaño
Emmanuel Poblete D.
Diane Ray
Mary Ellen Rizzuto
Helen Robertson
Steve Scheneman
John Schroeder
Lenna Spencer
Bess Sprinkle
Chuck Sykes
David Troughton, Sr.

We ask the friends and families of those for whom we are praying on this bulletin sick list to please take a moment to call the Parish Office and tell us how they are doing. They are always in our prayers.

Pray For Our Troops

We remember in our prayers all of those who are serving in the military, especially:

CPT Donald Carducci, USA
Sgt. Christopher Conkel, USMC
SFC Steve Creason, GaARNG
SFC Arcelio R. Davis, Jr. USA
ET3 Carolyn Deacon, USN
Sgt. Sonjanique Ferrell, USA
Sgt. Mark Gallant, USA
LCpl. Quinn Gordon, USMC
SFC Charles Granke, USA
PFC Ronald Griffin, Jr., USA

CPT Bobby Hall, USA
Sgt. William Scott Haney, ARNG
E3 Spencer Hanemann, USN
PFC Brian Harris, USA
Maj. Marise James, USAF
HMC Damian J. Lovello
LT CDR Dominic R. Lovello
CW3 Peter Paul Leone, USA
CPT Michael McDonald, USMC
HM3 Kenneth McIntosh, II, USN

2LT Kyle Pernelli, USA
Specialist Robert H. Roberts, USA
Major Robert A. Robinson, II USA
Pvt. Jeffrey Sanborn, USA
Specialist Brian Saunder, USA
CPT Anna Smith, ARNG
MSG Donald Smith, USA
S.Sgt. Michael Throne, USA
CW4 Anthony Veney, USA
Sgt. Richard Whelan, USMC

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to add a family member who is serving in the military.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Written by Kathy Coffey.
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God our Father,
as Advent begins,
we look forward to celebrating
the coming of your Son as a human child,
and we look forward also to his Second Coming.
Bless all our preparations, especially this Advent wreath.
We light the first candle,
asking you to illuminate our hearts
and ground us in your goodness.
May we be like Christ to each other and to our communities.
You who sent your Son into a human family,
grace ours.
When we become busy or frustrated, give us peace.
We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



Higher Education for All!

Thousands of undocumented students—that is, children born abroad who are not U.S. citizens or legal residents—graduate from U.S. high schools each year. These children are guaranteed an education in U.S. public schools through grade 12, but may face legal and financial barriers to higher education.

Join us on

**Saturday, December 3rd
at 5:00 p.m. in the Social Hall**

and learn more about the options available for undocumented students.

For more information contact:

Estela at 770-421-3285

You may also sign up online at:

<http://bit.ly/nGIL5b> (case sensitive)

¡Educación Superior para Todos!

Miles de estudiantes indocumentados— aquellos nacidos en otro país y que no son residentes legales o ciudadanos de los E.E.U.U.— se gradúan cada año en este país. Estos niños pueden asistir a escuelas públicas hasta el grado 12, pero es posible que enfrenten dificultades legales y financieras para obtener una educación superior. ¡Infórmate acerca de las opciones disponibles en estos casos!

Participa en la reunión del

**Sábado, 3 de diciembre
a las 5:00 p.m. en el Salón Social**

Para más información llama a:

Estela al 770-421-3285

Regístrate en línea: <http://bit.ly/nGIL5b>



Attention Existing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

A certification workshop is scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd.

Check the sign-in binder in the Commons for a list of those members who are up-to-date with their 3-year certification.

If you do NOT find your name there and want to continue serving in this ministry, you must attend the workshop on

**Saturday, December 3rd
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
in the Main Sanctuary.**

New ministers are welcome to attend.

For more information, please call
Deacon Earl Jackson at
504-495-2392.

Get enriched in your faith!!

**RCIA Classes are on:
Sundays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
(English)**

Adult Faith Formation Building

Considering “a refresher course” in your Catholic Faith? Join the R.C.I.A classes for the following presentations:

Liturgical Calendar /

AdventNovember 27

Mary / IncarnationDecember 4

Service Project.....December 4-9

For more information please contact

Michael Okuto at
770-432-8579 Ext. 122

mokuto@stthomastheapostle.org



Sacramentos para Adultos

Domingos a las 12:30 p.m.

Vieja Rectoría

Contacta a Miguel Mendoza al
404-543-9166 para más información.



**MOVING FORWARD
— IN HOPE —**



TO BUILD
**a NEW
CHURCH**

We are making some good progress...

Since September, when the Capital Campaign committee re-introduced the second phase of our targeted goal of reaching \$5,000,000, we are now at \$3,063,000 pledges (up about \$300,000 in less than 3 months.) As of last week, 1317 parishioners/families have made their pledges. We are grateful and appreciative of their commitment to help us reach our goal.

If you have not made your pledge yet, please consider participating over the next 3 years to help your parish build a new church.

Necesitamos tu ayuda para construir una nueva iglesia, para tener más aulas y más espacio en la iglesia, y así servir mejor a nuestra comunidad parroquial.

¡Necesitamos tu ayuda!

**CAMINANDO
— EN ESPERANZA —**

Para Construir Una
NUEVA Iglesia

“Undecorating” of the Giving Tree Continues!

Please select an ornament from the Giving Tree. Each ornament lists a gift request for simple things like a pair of gloves, a gift card to Target, or a few cans of tuna fish. These items will be given as Christmas gifts to our neighbors in need through eleven different local ministries.

For example:

- St. Vincent de Paul and Cobb Christmas will give toys, books, gift cards, and warm clothing to children and teenagers who would otherwise have no gifts under their Christmas tree.
- Crossroads Soup Kitchen, Central Presbyterian Night Shelter, and Open Door Shelter provide warm clothing and personal care items to homeless people.

How to participate:

1. REMOVE one or more paper ornaments from the Giving Tree in the Commons area and get 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 December 3–4th.

El Árbol de Regalos

ya se encuentra en el Área Común.
Toma un ornamento, envuelve tu regalo y tráelo de vuelta al Área Común **a más tardar el 4 de diciembre.**
¡Con tu ayuda podremos brindar sonrisas a muchas personas necesitadas esta Navidad!



Women's Auxiliary
presents
Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 3rd
9:30 a.m. - 11:30am
Social Hall

Tickets will be on sale after all the masses the weekends of November 19/20 and November 26/27

For more information you may contact
Ann Corrigan, 404-932-5004 or
amc014@att.net



Desayuno con Santa

Sábado, 3 de diciembre
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Salón Social

Boletos a la venta el 20 y 27 de noviembre después de Misa.

Para más informes llama a la Oficina Parroquial al 770-432-8579 Ext. 0.

Please join the Latino community on Tuesday, December 6th, for a Bilingual Rosary and Mass to celebrate the Novena in honor of the Patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Rosary is at 8:00 p.m., followed by Holy Mass.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

What? Children's Choir to lead music at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy (English)

For whom? Children in grades Kindergarten through 8th

When and Where Are Rehearsals? Four rehearsals (mark these dates on your calendar!): Mondays, November 28, and December 5, 12, and 19 from 5:45-6:45 p.m. (the first three are in the Music Room; the last one is in the Sanctuary)

- Participating children must:
- Attend at least 3 of the 4 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.

For your children to be guaranteed songbooks and practice CD, YOU MUST register in advance by submitting:

- Names, gender, ages and grades of children
- Parent/guardian names
- Phone numbers
- Indicate whether your children have sung in the Christmas choir in previous years

Send info to Patty Smith via email psmith@stthomastheapostle.org or submit your information by phone to Patty at 770-432-2215.

- Practice materials are now available.
- Contact Patty Smith to pick up materials before first rehearsal so that rehearsals can be most productive.
- Adult volunteers who will remain at rehearsal (and help control the chaos) would be much appreciated!



Coro Navideño para Niños

Para cantar en la Misa en inglés del 24 de diciembre a las 4:00 p.m.

Llama a la oficina parroquial (770-432-8579 x101) para más detalles o visita:
www.stthomastheapostle.org/cc-2011

Las Posadas/Live Nativity

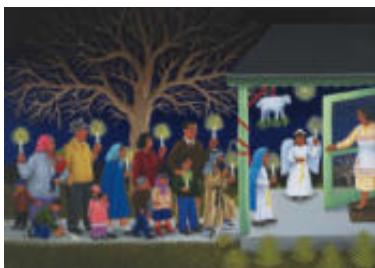
Friday, December 16
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Parking lot of the church

Join us for this multi-cultural event at St. Thomas the Apostle as we re-enact Mary and Joseph's cold and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of shelter.

In Spanish, Las Posadas means "The Inns." Traditionally, Las Posadas last for nine days representing the 9 months of Mary's pregnancy. This procession has been a tradition in Mexico for 400 years. While its roots are in Catholicism, even Protestant Latinos follow the tradition.

At St. Thomas the Apostle, our procession will be outdoors, stopping at 3 designated "inns" while singing, praying and listening to the story of Las Posadas, concluding with a celebration of food, drinks and Christmas Carols.

If anyone has access to a donkey, for Mary to ride on this journey, please contact the Religious Education office at 770-432-5296.



*Celebración parroquial de
Las Posadas*

*Acompáñanos el
Viernes, 16 de diciembre,
de 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
a una celebración multicultural en
el estacionamiento de la iglesia.*

Necesitamos un burro para esta noche de Posadas. Comunícate con la Oficina de Catecismo 770-432-5296 si nos puedes ayudar a conseguir el animal.

The Saint Vincent De Paul Society

Continues collecting donations for our Christmas Baskets. Consider organizing a food drive at your place of work to help with our Thanksgiving drive and/or volunteer to give out the Thanksgiving baskets. There is always a need for additional volunteers for this and other special events.

If you would like to help, please leave a message at 770-432-8579 ext. 300.

La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl continúa recolectando donaciones para las canastas de Navidad. Puedes organizar a tu comunidad o lugar de trabajo y recolectar aún más donaciones. También estamos solicitando voluntarios que deseen ayudar.

Interesados, favor dejar mensaje en el 770-432-8579 Ext. 302.

Keep Christ in Christmas

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting their annual Christmas card sale after all masses beginning this weekend. Beautiful boxed assortments and styles are available in English and Spanish, each with a religious message. Lapel pins, car magnets, and ornaments will also be available. Help "Keep Christ In Christmas" by sending religious cards to family and friends this holiday season while supporting our Knights of Columbus Council's charitable works in our parish and community.

Tarjetas y Adornos Navideños disponibles a la salida de las Misas a partir de este fin de semana. Apoya a los Caballeros de Colón y ayuda a mantener a Cristo en las tradiciones navideñas.

"Adopt-A-Family" For Christmas

Last year the St. Thomas the Apostle community adopted 16 families through the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP). The adopt-a-family experience has been such a rewarding and blessed experience that SVdP is making this program available to our parish community on a regular basis for the Christmas season.

If you, your family, friends or ministry would like to personally adopt and help a family less fortunate than those of us that are more blessed in our parish community, this is a great opportunity to enhance and bless your Christmas Spirit by sharing your financial and material blessings with others.

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



Adopta una Familia esta Navidad

Esta Navidad, nuestra comunidad parroquial tiene la oportunidad de adoptar a familias necesitadas a través de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl.

Organiza a tu familia, amigos, vecinos o pequeña comunidad y vive el espíritu de la Navidad al compartir tus bienes materiales y bendiciones con otros.

Si deseas más información, llama a la Oficina Parroquial al 770-432-8579 Ext. 101.

This week in our parish

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

9:00 AM	PRESCHOOL
12:00 PM	Mass † McGrath & Garger Families
4:30 PM	PSR
5:30 PM	CUB SCOUTS TRACK TEST
5:45 PM	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR
7:00 PM	PSR
7:30 PM	Misa † Fulgencio Olvera

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:00 AM	PRESCHOOL
12:00 PM	Mass Winifred Ugokwe
5:30 PM	INEA
6:30 PM	ENGLISH CLASSES CENTERING PRAYER GROUP CUB SCOUTS
7:00 PM	CHILDREN'S CHOIR APOSTLES CLASS
7:30 PM	SVDP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

6:30 AM	Mass for Peace † Elliot Savary
7:00 AM	ADORATION
9:00 AM	PRESCHOOL
9:30 AM	JUSTFAITH
6:45 PM	BENEDICTION
7:00 PM	Mass Special Intention for Healing
7:00 PM	CRACK IT OPEN JUSTFAITH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
7:30 PM	LIFETEEN BAND
8:30 PM	SMALL FAITH COMMUNITIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00 AM	MISA People of St. Thomas & Immigration Reform
7:30 AM	Mass † Anne & Anthony Yorio
9:30 AM	Mass † Kathleen Cunningham NURSERY AVAILABLE
9:30 AM	PSR RCIA
11:00 AM	LEGION OF MARY
11:30 AM	Mass † Columbia C. Korrie NURSERY AVAILABLE
12:30 PM	SPANISH RCIA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:00 AM	PRESCHOOL
10:00 AM	BIBLE STUDY STORY TIME
6:30 PM	ROSARY
7:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY Mass † Joseph Downey
7:00 PM	WORDS, WORDS, AND THE WORD
8:00 PM	Misa † Mother of Victoria Pearson

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:00 AM	PRESCHOOL
12:00 PM	Mass † Kathleen Cunningham
6:00 PM	EDGE SOCIAL INEA
6:30 PM	ENGLISH CLASSES
7:30 PM	CHILDREN'S CHOIR INSTRUMENTAL
7:00 PM	SVDP FUNDRAISING
7:30 PM	PREBAUTISMALES
8:00 PM	GIRL SCOUTS NOVENA GUADALUPANA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

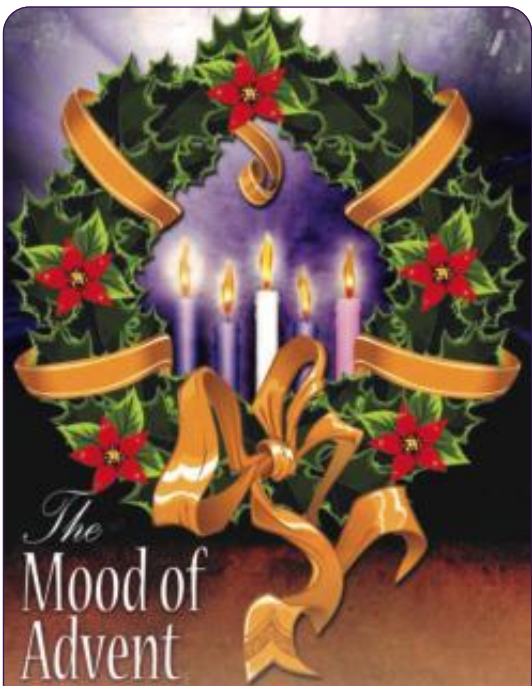
6:00 AM	LIFETEEN SERVICE SATURDAY
9:00 AM	BREAKFAST WITH SANTA MANDATORY TRAINING FOR HOLY COMMUNION MINISTERS
10:00 AM	MARIA NIÑA RECOVERY, INC
3:30 PM	Confessions
5:00 PM	Vigil Mass † Tony Rucco
5:00 PM	COLLEGE FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS
5:00 PM	LECTORES MEETING
7:00 PM	NOVENA GUADALUPANA
7:30 PM	Misa † Yolanda Mora



FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40:1-5,9-11
SECOND READING: 2 PETER 3:8-14
GOSPEL: MARK 1:1-8

2:00 PM	MISA † Archbishop John F. Donoghue
9:30 PM	MINI CORE MEETING
3:00 PM	DIVINA VOLUNTAD
5:00 PM	LIFE TEEN MASS † Patty Rodriguez
6:00 PM	LIFE NIGHT NOVENA GUADALUPANA
7:30 PM	Misa Amelia Turrubiates

Dates and times as of 11-16-11



The Mood of Advent

We start Advent with joyful anticipation. It's like welcoming into our homes a dear friend or relative whom we haven't seen for a while. There's probably a flurry of cleaning, grocery shopping, and cooking—all done with delight. When we look forward to renewing a close relationship, the preparation isn't burdensome. Though tiring, it's happy. Jesus tells the disciples in today's Gospel: Don't be snoozing when an important visitor arrives. Be alert, awake, and as watchful as people are at an airport, searching the crowd for a beloved face.

How much more carefully we await the arrival of God! Although God is already with us, always and everywhere, our Advent preparations highlight that presence, helping us become more aware. If we are lulled into unconsciousness by the anesthesia of busy schedules or over-familiarity, Advent is the wake-up call. Look at what richness surrounds us. See how blessed we are. Do we look for God like the Gospel's gatekeeper, with a sharp eye? Or do we surrender our spirituality for the artificial cheer of sales and malls?

One way of marking time, a way honored by Christians for centuries, is the Advent wreath. This circle of pine with four candles can become the center for Advent prayer, reflection, and song. It reminds us to pause, breathe deeply of its fragrance, and remember what distinguishes this time of year from the rest.

Blessing of
Advent Wreath
on Page 2

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