



535 Rucker Road  
Alpharetta, GA 30004  
P: 770-475-4501  
F: 770-772-0355  
[www.sta.org](http://www.sta.org)

January 31, 2021



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
4º DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO



ARCHBISHOP'S  
ANNUAL APPEAL 2021

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL COMING SOON

A letter from Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer was mailed this past week to all previous donors to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. He is asking for continued support of the many important programs that help thousands in our archdiocese each year. The goal for the 2021 appeal is \$8,700,000 and the goal for our parish is \$195,900

Please respond generously when you receive your letter. For more information, and to donate online, visit the appeal website at [archatl.com/appeal](http://archatl.com/appeal).



CAMPAÑA ANUAL  
DEL ARZOBISPO 2021

PRÓXIMAMENTE LLAMAMIENTO ANUAL DEL ARZOBISPO

Una carta del Arzobispo Gregory Hartmayer fue enviada por correo la semana pasada a todas las personas que han donado anteriormente a la Campaña Anual del Arzobispo. Él está pidiendo que continúen apoyando los muchos programas importantes que ayudan a miles de personas en nuestra arquidiócesis cada año. La meta para la campaña de 2021 es de \$ 8,700,000 y la de nuestra parroquia es de \$ 195,900

Por favor respondan generosamente cuando reciban su carta. Para más información, y para donar por Internet, visíten nuestra página de Internet [archatl.com/appeal](http://archatl.com/appeal).

# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Office Hours / Question of the Week

## OFFICE HOURS

**Parish Office:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

**Faith Formation:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Tuesday - Friday

## HORARIO DE OFICINA

**Oficina Parroquial:** 9 a.m. a 4 p.m.  
Lunes a viernes.

**Formación de fe:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Martes  
a viernes

**La Oficina de atención al público en  
español:** 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Lunes a viernes

## CLERGY

**Msgr. Daniel Stack**

Pastor

**Fr. Roberto Herrera**

Parochial Vicar

**Fr. Paul W. Berny**

In Residence

## FOLLOW US



## MASS TIMES

**Monday-Friday:**

- Facebook Live at 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Mass at noon is open to seniors (62 and over).**
- Misa del jueves en español - 7:00 p.m.
- Friday Mass at noon is open to the public.**

**Saturday Vigil / Vigilia:**

- 5:00 p.m. - **Indoors** - English
- 7:30 p.m. - **Templo** - Español

The Saturday Masses will be livestreamed and posted on our website and YouTube following each.

*Las misas del sábado se transmitirán en vivo y se publicarán en nuestro sitio web y luego en YouTube.*

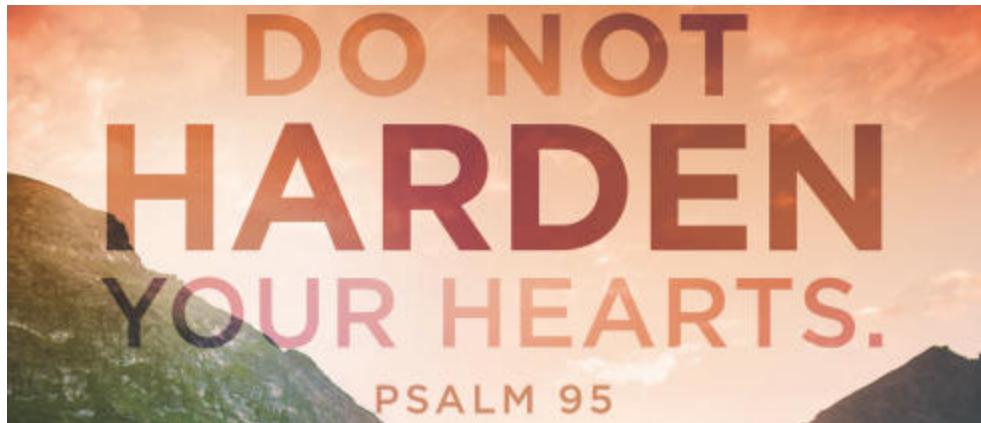
**Sunday / Domingo:**

- 8:00 a.m. - **Indoors** - English
- 11:00 a.m. - **Outdoors** - English
- 2:00 p.m. - **Afuera** - Español
- 5:00 p.m. - **Indoors** - English



## BSMG UPDATE

Did you sign a card for the soldiers in December? Then you will want to look at the banner of "Thank You cards from our Soldiers" in the Narthex! Some of the cards are addressed to individuals, so you may have a thank you card waiting for you to read. The Blue Star Military Support Group would like to thank everyone who donated items or signed a Christmas card for this project. Your kindness means SO much to our soldiers! STA Parishioners are the BEST!



## Question of the Week

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*What does it mean to be the messenger of God today?*

Each week, members of the staff gather to study and reflect on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel, and from that study and reflection they prepare the Question of the Week. Refer back to today's Gospel to reflect on your personal response. **Mark 1:21-28**

### PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

*¿Qué significa ser mensajero de Dios hoy?*

Cada semana, miembros del personal se reúnen para estudiar y reflexionar en el próximo evangelio del domingo y en base de ese estudio y reflexión ellos preparan la Pregunta de la Semana. Usa el evangelio y las lecturas para encontrar tu respuesta personal a la pregunta. **Marcos 1:21-28**



## BAPTISM PREPARATION

Baptismal preparation class required by parents (y padrinos). A Baptismal preparation class must have been attended at St. Thomas Aquinas or another Catholic parish within the last three years. This class is usually offered monthly, once in English, once in Spanish. For more information on this class and how to register, please contact Maria Yactayo at ext. 102 or Andrea Garcia at ext. 215.

- Preparation in Spanish - Third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. virtual (Zoom). Modifications may be made accordingly.
- Preparation in English - Third Saturday of every other month in room 204 at 1:00 p.m. Modifications to the schedule will be made accordingly.

- March 20
- May 15
- July 17
- September 18
- November 20

BAPTISMS in English—Second Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m. (except Lent)



## PREPARACIÓN PARA EL BAUTISMO

BAUTISMOS en español - Primer sábado de mes a las 9:00 AM (excepto Cuaresma)

BAUTISMOS en inglés: Segundo domingo del mes a las 12:30 p.m. (excepto la Cuaresma)

Preparación para Bautizo

Los padres y padrinos son requeridos a tomar una clase de preparación bautismal, pláticas de bautismo. Se debe haber asistido a una plática de bautismo en St. Thomas Aquinas u otra iglesia católica en los últimos 3 años. Esta clase generalmente se ofrece mensualmente, una vez en inglés y otra en español. Para obtener más información sobre esta clase y cómo registrarse, comuníquese con Maria Yactayo al ext. 102 o Andrea García a la ext. 215

Pláticas en Español- Tercer martes del mes 7 pm por Zoom. Puede variar de acuerdo con las circunstancias.

Pláticas en Ingles- Tercer sábado cada mes en persona en salón 204 a la 1 pm. Puede variar de acuerdo con las circunstancias.

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### FIRST READING:

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. (Dt 18)

### PSALM:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

### SECOND READING:

An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. (1 Cor 7:34)

### GOSPEL:

The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. (Mk 1:22)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31, 2021

Sunday:	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week
Tuesday:	The Presentation of the Lord; World Day for Consecrated Life
Wednesday:	St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
Friday:	St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Saturday:	St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Next Sunday:	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## HELP US CONTINUE GIVING PEOPLE HOPE

### A BIT OF HISTORY FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE HAITI MINISTRY:

Our relationship with the parish of St. Martin in Delatte, Haiti started in 1998 when St. Thomas Aquinas, then led by Msgr. Al Jowdy, answered the call to help build St. Martin a church, after theirs had been destroyed by a hurricane. Their church is still the only large gathering facility for the community.

### WHERE IS OUR SISTER PARISH?

St. Martin occupies a territory of approximately ten square miles in a mountainous region, about 48 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. Access to our sister parish has improved over the last 22 years, but is still very difficult and not recommended for the faint of heart! The Parish Center, comprising the church, single-story rectory, dormitory, main school and other small administrative offices form a compound that sits at the top of a mountain.

### WHAT DO WE DO IN ST. MARTIN?

In the first few years of our relationship, we of St. Thomas Aquinas focused our efforts on the basic necessities of life at their Parish Center, such as clean water, a reliable source of electricity for day-to-day living, repairs to reinforce existing structures, etc. We also shipped school supplies, and provided other needed material support to their parish school.

After a few years of witnessing the excitement and positive change the school was making in Delatte, it became glaring to all involved that education would be the most important motor of change to give the whole community hope for a better future, and pride in their achievement.

After all, it has been proven time and time again that education is the main catalyst to self-sufficiency.

You and other parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas supported this collective effort in a most generous way, year after year. Our parish committed to cover teacher salaries, a daily meal of rice and beans for the students, and other school related expenses. The plan worked! Over the years, our sister parish has been able to operate not only the Parish Center school, but seven other remote locations which provide widespread access to education to the children of Delatte. No one is refused. Parents who were hesitant in the early days to send their children to school instead of to the fields are now encouraging them to excel. The graduation rate and quality of results are among the best in the country. Some students have been able to pursue higher education, and Delatte is seeing priests, teachers, agronomists and nurses come back to serve its population.

You and other parishioners have given a people so much hope!

### A SETBACK BECAME A VICTORY!

In 2010, a terrible earthquake rendered most of the old structures unusable.

If you remember, things were so bad in the cities of Haiti that the world noticed and rallied to help. Switzerland was originally looking to rebuild a school in one of those cities, but after looking into many possible locations, they chose Delatte in the mountains. What changed their minds? YOU DID!

They were thoroughly impressed by your desire to effect lasting

change in Delatte, and the enthusiastic response of our sister parish, that translated into the amazing results of its students. And so a new beautiful large Parish Center school opened in 2015, able to serve over 1,400 students in a safe, hurricane-proof, clean environment. You cannot imagine how immensely grateful the people of St. Martin are to you and the community of St. Thomas Aquinas! Those of us who were there will never forget their joy!

### OUR MISSION CONTINUES:

We are counting on your generous support to keep the children of St. Martin in school, and the dreams of the community alive! With the current pandemic and global political upheaval, it is even more imperative than ever to keep the light of hope shining.

Our annual need is \$70,000 which translates to an average teacher salary of \$600 a year, with a little extra for other school expenses.

Just think how far a donation of a few hundred dollars can go in our sister parish!

As Msgr. Jowdy once told me, "This is the best investment I ever made!"

The second collection for our Haiti Sister Parish will be on Feb. 7. Your donation can also be brought directly to the parish office, with the notation "Haiti" on your check, or made online at [sta.org](http://sta.org).



## EMBRACING CHANGE IN CHRIST

It's officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

New years can be scary, can't they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: "What

have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!"

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ's healing power into our lives. We won't regret it — I'm sure the demoniac never did.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## I GET ANNOYED WITH MYSELF WHEN I AM DISTRACTED WHILE I PRAY. IS IT A SIN? HOW CAN I BE MORE ATTENTIVE?

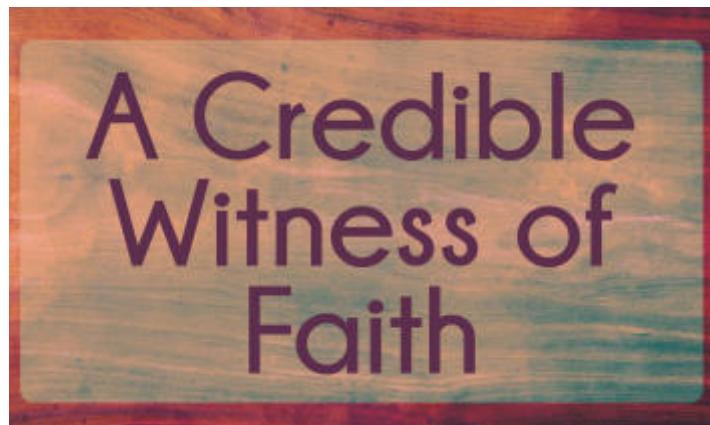
The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us "no!" This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life-dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, daydreaming, etc. A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to play!

There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just "re-collect" ourselves. If some worry or concern just won't leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won't come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds.

"SPREAD LOVE  
EVERWHERE  
YOU GO."

— St. Teresa of Calcutta

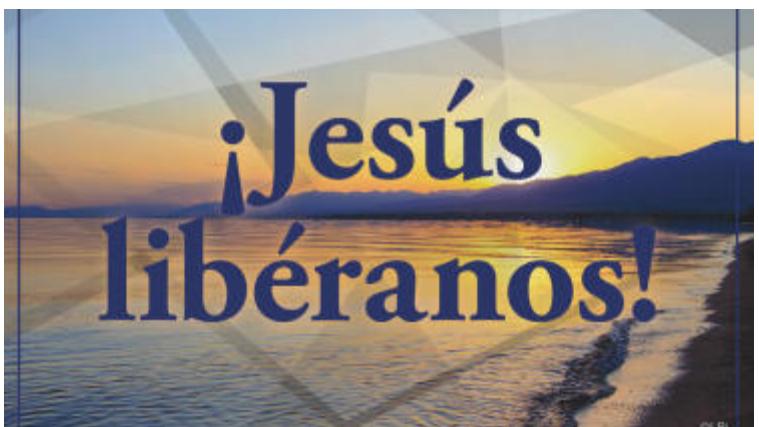




Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.



En el Evangelio de este domingo, Marcos presenta algo como la jornada de Jesús. Primero, él está en la sinagoga enseñando con autoridad, no como los maestros de la ley que repiten e interpretan la misma. Su autoridad se presenta al ordenar salir al espíritu impuro del hombre que entró a la sinagoga, y comienza a gritar a Jesús. "Yo sé que tú eres el Santo de Dios". Jesús le ordena: "¡Cállate y sal de ese hombre! (Marcos 1:26). Nos dice el Evangelio que a causa de ese milagro su fama se extendía por todo el territorio de Galilea. Jesús tenía autoridad porque hablaba con la verdad, lo que proclamaba de justicia, lo hacia él mismo, no tenía doblez, era la bondad misma de Dios en el mundo. La autoridad de Jesús es más fuerte que el mal. Lo decimos al final del Padrenuestro: "No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal". Sí, Señor, líbranos como al hombre endemoniado de tu tiempo, de los males que nos aquejan hoy día, enfermedad, hambre, e injusticia. Además, danos una ayudadita, con los líderes del mundo con respecto a la autoridad. Que sean respetuosos, leales al pueblo, que hagan leyes justas que protejan a todos. La sociedad de hoy necesita palabras con autoridad que erradiquen el mal. ¿Crees tú que Jesús puede liberar en este tiempo? ¿En quién está la autoridad que libera? No tenemos que pensarla mucho. La autoridad está en cada uno de nosotros. Se nota en la justicia y el trabajo por la paz que llevemos a cabo en la familia, la sociedad y en el mundo.



# “Baby Bottle” Digital Donation Drive

## To benefit Pregnancy Aid Clinic

A Catholic pregnancy resource center  
endorsed by the Archdiocese of  
Atlanta.

[www.pregnancyaidclinic.com/babybottle](http://www.pregnancyaidclinic.com/babybottle)



### Be a part of our mission

PAC is a non-profit center that has been providing life-changing and life-saving services since 1984. Our care addresses the whole woman - mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual in a compassionate and nonjudgmental way.

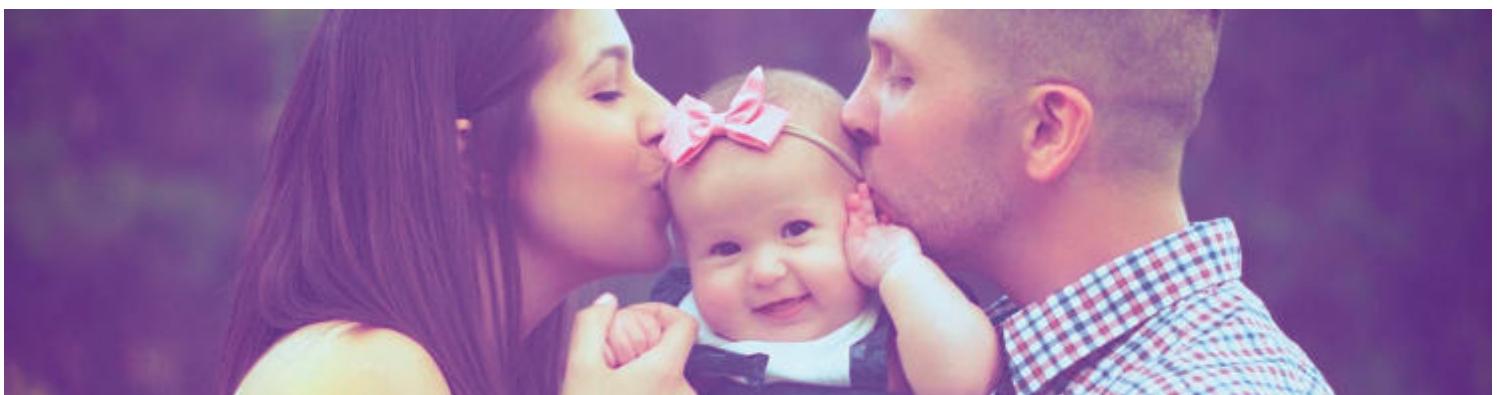
### Listen to client stories

The clinic offers comprehensive programs for mothers and fathers to navigate from pregnancy to parenthood with a focus on parenting and life skills. We strive to protect children by strengthening families.

### Make a donation today

Now more than ever, PAC is in need of your support. Our services are free thanks to donations, grants, and committed volunteers who work together to create a support system that makes it possible for mothers and families to choose life.

# DONATE NOW



## LIVE THE LITURGY

### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Most of us are not trail blazers. Throughout history though, there have been many folks who tirelessly and persistently pursued the promptings of their hearts without giving any care to what others thought or trends dictated. Jesus is one of them. St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Francis of Assisi are examples of others. The rest of us are people who take a more measured look at things, want to test the waters, and take our time choosing what path or person to follow. We need credible witnesses of faith. We need the Moses people in our lives to show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose-driven life looks like. They are the pointers to truth, who even though they struggle themselves, seem to embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and caught the attention of the greatest of skeptics. They were astonished. Even though we need our human prophets we can also be somewhat prophetic ourselves by putting integrity and conviction behind our embrace of the Gospel. Perhaps much to our surprise, we all have the power to be a credible witness. Are you willing to give it a try?

**WE MUST USE  
MERCY  
FOR THE PRESENT  
AND HAVE  
HOPE  
FOR THE FUTURE.**

—ST. JOHN BOSCO

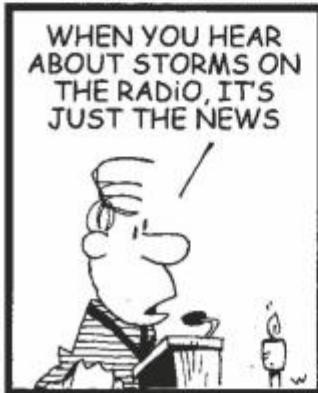
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### PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Thank you!



### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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**Monday, February 1**

12 Noon (+) Nancy Pagan & family by Ivette Rivera

**Tuesday, February 2**

12 Noon (+) Vincent Amatulli Sr. by Claire & Ed Dravis  
(L) Jeannette Boling by Claire & Ed Dravis

**Wednesday, February 3**

12 Noon (+) John Garner by John & Roberta Daniels

**Thursday, February 4**

12 Noon (+) Thomas Harris Jr. by the Mahon family  
7:00 p.m. (+) Agustin Garcia Pacheco by Orlando Cruz

**Friday, February 5**

12 Noon (+) Ricardo Luzondo by STA Deacons, Priests, & Staff

**Saturday, February 6**

5:00 p.m. (L) Sherri Nadeau by the Nadeau Family  
7:30 p.m. (+) Agustina Rojas by Rosa Diaz Nolasco

**Saturday, February 7**

8:00 a.m. (+) William Chok Han Shu & family by STA Preschool Teachers & Staff

11:00 a.m. (+) Jane & Francis Miller by Tracy Gaertner

2:00 p.m. (+) Jesus Maria Landinez by Diana Landinez

5:00 p.m. For the Intention of the Parish Family

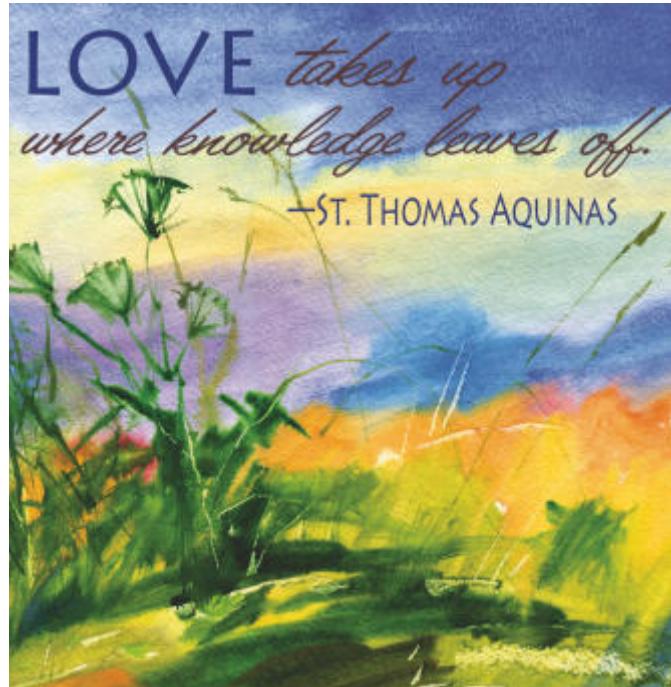


**PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Mary Ellen Adams	Elva Betts Dresner
Tom Adams	Michael Harnett
Lucille Bailey	Mary Hursey
Lynn Brady	Jim Hynes
Kelly Campbell	Deacon Ed LaHouse
Paul Caruso	Bob Luxton
DiAna Casale	Ann Masterson
Sally Clark	Andrea Miller
Ellen Reuland Coons	Peter Pell

Pat Quirk
Mickey
Schoppenhorst
Bert Sembera
Deacon John
Strachan
Mary Ann
Whitehead

This list of those suffering illness is a ministry of Forever Young Friends and is updated at noon on Thursday every week. To be listed for six weeks, removed or extended, contact Marianne Fronek at [marianneFronek@gmail.com](mailto:marianneFronek@gmail.com). Let us pray together as a family for your intentions.



## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

- Jan. 31 | Georgia Bulletin
- Feb. 7 | Siser Parish Haitian
- Feb. 14 | St. Vincent de Paul - STA
- Feb. 21 | Black & Indian Missions
- Feb. 28 | Drake House
- March 7 | Easter Flowers
- March 14 | Catholic Relief Services
- March 21 | St. Vincent de Paul - STA

## MASS ATTENDANCE

**Jan. 18 - Jan. 24**

- |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| Wednesday Mass for Seniors   87   |
| Thursday Spanish   74             |
| Saturday 5:00 p.m. (English)   65 |
| Saturday 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)   95 |
| Sunday 8:00 a.m. (English)   95   |
| Sunday 11:00 a.m. (English)   241 |
| Sunday 2:00 p.m. (Spanish)   336  |
| Sunday 5:00 p.m. (English)   105  |

**TOTAL | 1,098**

**3 EASY STEPS  
TO KEEPING YOURSELF  
& OTHERS HEALTHY!**



## ASH WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Due to the pandemic and to avoid contact, ashes will be sprinkled on the crown of the head rather than applied to the forehead as in previous years.

All liturgies take place inside the church and seating will be on a first come, first serve basis.

- 6:30 am Mass in English with the distribution of ashes
- 9:00 am Mass in English with the distribution of ashes
- 12noon Mass in English with the distribution of ashes (livestreamed on our Facebook page)
- 5:00 pm Liturgy of the Word prayer service in English with the distribution of ashes
- 
- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Distribution of ashes only
- Distribution stations will be set up in the chapel, the parish hall, and outdoors in the social circle.
- 
- 8:00 pm Mass in Spanish with the distribution of ashes (livestreamed on our Facebook page)

## MIÉRCOLES DE CENIZA MIÉRCOLES 17 DE FEBRERO

Debido a la pandemia y para evitar el contacto físico, las cenizas se esparcirán sobre la cabeza (coronilla) en lugar de aplicarse en la frente como en años anteriores.

Todas las liturgias se celebrarán dentro de la iglesia y los asientos serán asignados por orden de llegada.

- 6:30 am Misa en inglés con distribución de cenizas
- 9:00 am Misa en inglés con distribución de cenizas
- 12:00 pm Misa en inglés con distribución de cenizas (retransmitida en directo en nuestra página de Facebook)
- 5:00 pm Servicio de oración de la Liturgia de la Palabra en inglés con distribución de cenizas
- 
- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Distribución de cenizas únicamente
- Habrá estaciones de distribución en la capilla, el salón parroquial y al aire libre en el círculo social.
- 
- 8:00 pm Misa en español con distribución de cenizas (retransmitida en directo en nuestra página de Facebook)



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

If you are celebrating your 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2021 or if you have been married more than 50 years, we want to know! Please reach out to [stareply@sta.org](mailto:stareply@sta.org)

## ¡FELIZ ANIVERSARIO!

Si está celebrando su 25 o 50 aniversario de boda en 2021 o si lleva más de 50 años casado, ¡Queremos saberlo! Comuníquese con [stareply@sta.org](mailto:stareply@sta.org)



**NORTH ATLANTA  
ENT & ALLERGY**

**Cumming Office:**  
4150 Deputy Bill Cantrell Memorial Rd #260  
Cumming, GA 30040  
Phone: (770) 292-3045

**NAENTA.COM**



**NORTH ATLANTA  
HEARING CENTER**



**Dawsonville Office:**  
81 Northside Dawson Drive #305  
Dawsonville, Georgia 30534  
Phone: (770) 292-3045

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Open 7 days a week  
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**Ken Giordano**  
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"Making Home Happen"



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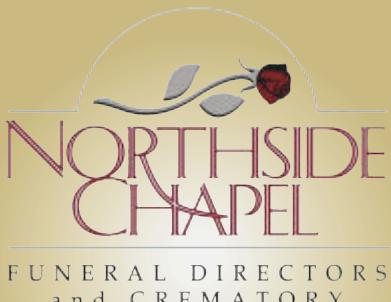
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