



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

535 Rucker Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004
P: 770-475-4501
F: 770-772-0355
www.sta.org

August 29, 2021



22nd Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME 22° DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

FINANCE UPDATE

UPDATE FROM FINANCE COUNCIL

This is my eighth parish as a priest and my fifth as Pastor. We have been blessed here with the finest staff I have had the pleasure of working with and the finest Finance Council. I consider myself a very lucky man and St. Thomas Aquinas as a very lucky parish. I thank God and thank all of you for keeping our Mission of "Welcoming Everyone to Proclaim and Live the Joy of the Gospel" alive here in Alpharetta.

*Msgr. Daniel Stack
Pastor*

See page 5 for the financial update from STA Finance Council.



MASKS AT STA UPDATE - NOW IN EFFECT

Now in effect, **St. Thomas Aquinas requires the use of masks indoors for all Masses and church related activities for all Parishioners.** This applies regardless of vaccination status. We pray that this is a temporary situation, however the current infection rates in our local community are high. We will continue to monitor and will adjust the mask requirement as soon as we can. We appreciate your help and cooperation in this operational change. See page 3 for more details.

A partir de este momento **es mandatorio el uso de tapabocas para ingresar a cualquiera de las instalaciones de Santo Tomás de Aquino.** Esto incluye la misa dentro del Templo. Esta norma aplica para todos, independientemente de su estado de vacunación. Estamos orando para que ésta sea solo una medida temporal, pero el número de contagios en la comunidad es alto y deseamos ser precavidos. Continuaremos monitoreando la situación y ajustaremos la medida cuando sea prudente hacerlo. Consulte la página 3 para obtener más detalles.

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Office Hours / Question of the Week

CLERGY



Msgr. Daniel Stack
Pastor



Fr. Jaime Rivera
Parochial Vicar



Fr. Paul W. Berny
In Residence

FOLLOW US



**GIVE ONLINE
DONAR EN LÍNEA**

MASS SCHEDULE

MASS TIMES

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

- Noon - English*

Wednesday:

- Noon - English - Senior Mass (62 and older) *

Jueves

- 7 p.m. - Misa en español*

Saturday Vigil / Vigilia:

- 5 p.m. - English*
- 7:30 p.m. - Español*

Confessions are held on Mondays from 3 - 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 3 - 4 p.m. All confessions take place in the Confessionals.

Las confesiones se realizan los lunes a partir de las 3 - 4 p.m. y sábados a partir de las 3 - 4 p.m. Todas las confesiones tendrán lugar en los confesionarios (dentro del Templo a la izquierda).

Sunday / Domingo:

- 8 a.m. - English
- 11a.m. - English
- 2 p.m. - Español
- 5 p.m. - English

**Mass is livestreamed through our Facebook page and posted on our website and YouTube following each Mass.*

** La misa se transmite en vivo a través de nuestro pagina de Facebook y se publica en nuestro sitio web y en YouTube después de cada misa.*

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

OFFICE HOURS

Parish Office: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Faith Formation: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

HORARIO DE OFICINA

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

Formación de fe: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lunes a Jueves

La Oficina de atención al público en español:

3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Lunes a jueves

Question of the Week

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What spiritual practices keep your heart open to God and neighbor?

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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿Qué prácticas espirituales mantienen tu corazón abierto a Dios y a los demás?

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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATON UPDATE

Thank you to all that stopped by the Faith Formation open house and blessing! We appreciate your support as we ramp up for the start of the Faith Formation year. Please note that online registration is now closed. We are accepting late registrations for limited program offerings, contact the Faith Formation office for additional information. A \$25 late fee will be applied.

Available openings:

- Family Forming Disciples Sunday at 12:30 p.m. (English)
- Family Forming Disciples Monday 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)
- YDisciple, Confirmation preparation program Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Contact us at faithformation@sta.org or call 770-475-4508.

FORMACIÓN EN LA FE

¡Gracias a todos los que pasaron el domingo para la bendición de los programas de Formación en la Fe! Agradecemos su apoyo mientras nos preparamos para el inicio del año de formación en la fe. Tenga en cuenta que el registro en línea ya está cerrado. Seguimos aceptando inscripciones para los programas que aún tienen cupo. Comuníquese con la oficina de Formación en la fe para obtener información adicional. Se aplicará un cargo por mora de \$ 25.

Aperturas disponibles:

- Familias formando discípulos el domingo a las 12:30 p.m.(inglés)
- Familias formando discípulos el lunes 7:30 p.m. (español)
- YDisciples, programa de preparación para la Confirmación- Domingo a las 9:30 a.m.

Contáctenos en faithformation@sta.org o llame al 770-475-4508

WEARING MASKS REQUIRED INSIDE STA

STA has adjusted safety protocols

Now in effect, **St. Thomas Aquinas requires the use of masks indoors for all Masses and church related activities for all Parishioners, regardless of vaccination status.** We pray that this is a temporary situation, however the current infection rates in our local community are high. We will continue to monitor and will adjust the mask requirement as soon as we can. We appreciate your help and cooperation in this operational change.

We further require any visitor who is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 (symptomatic), those who are asymptomatic, or those with a positive COVID-19 test within the last 14 days to remain away from the campus until three days after a negative COVID-19 test.

For those who cannot attend or choose not to attend, you are welcome to participate in Mass during our livestream (Daily Mass at noon and Saturday Vigil at 5 p.m.). For those coming to the campus, St. Thomas is blessed to provide many options to worship and receive communion either daily and/or on the weekend. Those options include:

- Inside following our COVID protocols,
- Outside in the tents in the social circle,
- In the prayer garden or
- In your car listening to 102.7 FM.

Communion is available to all who attend via the hand only.

EL USO DE MÁSCARAS REQUERIDO DENTRO DE STA

La Parroquia de Santo Tomás modificará sus protocolos de seguridad

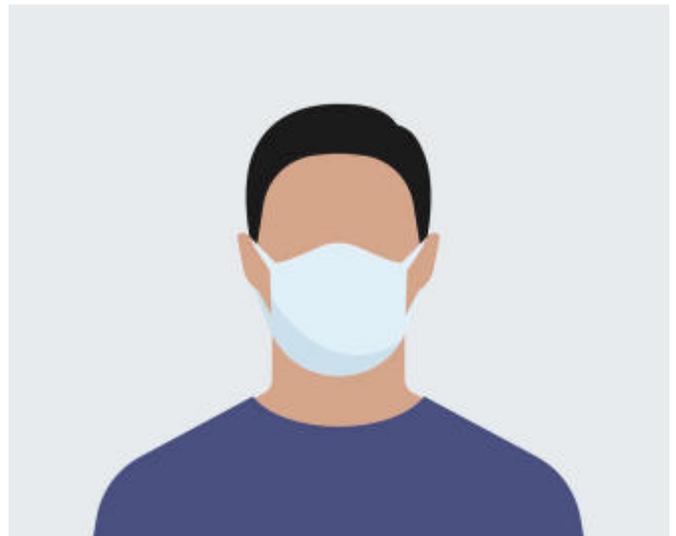
A partir de este momento es mandatorio el uso de tapabocas para ingresar a cualquiera de las instalaciones de Santo Tomás de Aquino. Esto incluye la misa dentro del Templo. Esta norma aplica para todos, independientemente de su estado de vacunación. Estamos orando para que ésta sea solo una medida temporal, pero el número de contagios en la comunidad es alto y deseamos ser precavidos. Continuaremos monitoreando la situación y ajustaremos la medida cuando sea prudente hacerlo.

Aquellas personas diagnosticadas con COVID-19 en los últimos 14 días, aquellas con síntomas de COVID-19 o aquellas que hayan estado en contacto con alguien con COVID-19, deben permanecer en casa y no venir hasta después de 3 días de que hayan recibido una prueba negativa de COVID-19.

Para todos los que no puedan asistir o elijan no asistir, pueden participar en la Misa durante nuestra transmisión en vivo en Facebook (Misa diaria al mediodía en inglés, Jueves a las 7 p.m. en español y vigilia del sábado a las 7:30 p.m. en español). Para aquellos que si pueden y desean venir a Misa, Santo Tomás de Aquino le ofrece múltiples opciones para ello:

- Dentro del templo cumpliendo con nuestros protocolos COVID (usar tapabocas y distanciamiento social)
- Afuera en las carpas en el círculo social,
- En el jardín de oración o
- En su automóvil escuchando 102.7 FM.

La sagrada comunión se ofrecerá a todos los asistentes exclusivamente en la mano (no en la boca).





Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up



All 5 Screenings for \$139

Carotid Artery/ Plaque Screening	Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation)	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening	Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening	Osteoporosis Risk Assessment
Ultrasound scan of the carotid arteries that screens for plaque buildup.	Screens for irregular heart beat.	Screens for an aneurysm in the abdominal aorta, which could rupture.	Screens for peripheral arterial disease in the lower extremities.	Ultrasound screen of the shin bone to determine abnormal bone mass density.

We will be in your neighborhood soon on **August 30th** at **St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church**

Get your special Community Circle pricing!

Three ways to register:

Call toll-free: 1-800-679-5609

Online: www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle

Text: the word [circle](https://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) to 797979



Getting Screened is Simple!

Painless, non-invasive, keep your clothes on.



Screening results are provided to you in 21 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims. Screenings in California are provided by Life Line Mobile Screening, a physician owned practice. Screenings in Kansas are performed by Life Line Screening of America, Ltd. on behalf of Life Line Screening Physicians, P.A. Screenings in New Hampshire, New Jersey and New York are performed by Life Line Medical Screening, LLC (Dr. Andrew Manganaro, 70 Niagara Street, Buffalo NY, 14202). Life Line Screening does not engage in the practice of medicine in those states. This information is not intended to induce referrals by Life Line Screening to Life Line Medical Screening, LLC for any professional medical service. Texas residents: Physician authorization is required. A Life Line Screening affiliated physician will provide authorization for you if you qualify. Cancellation Policy: A full refund is issued if you call to cancel at least 2 days prior to your appointment. If less than 2 days' notice is given, we will issue a Gift Card for the full amount to be used, to purchase future screening services.



A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL

With the end of the fiscal year, we want to take this opportunity to provide a review of our financials, a recap of the Parish activities, and the 2021-2022 budget forecast.

For the 12 months ending June 30, the Parish cumulative income exceeded the budget by \$659,062 and expense exceeded the budget by \$97,324. This provided a positive net income for the Parish of \$214,539.

Based on the information we had in 2020, we had expected a loss of \$347,199 over the last 12 months as we had seen a significant decline in offertory and attendance, and uncertainty in the economic outlook that began in March 2020 with the onset of the COVID virus. These results show a \$561,738 positive change from what was expected.

As a council, we asked the staff to do all that is possible to make the expected loss a worst case scenario and mitigate where possible to ensure the Parish serve the community and meets its mission during the pandemic.

The financials indicate, that your generosity and some tough decisions did mitigate the budgeted loss, and the staff was able to serve the community every weekend, keep everyone safe and make progress in meeting the Parish mission in new ways and methods.

Regarding income, with the guidance of the Archdiocese, the Parish was able to participate in the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) which helped offset our payroll costs in June, July, and August of 2020. These monies became realized income to the Parish when the PPP grant was satisfied. In the area of offertory, the staff and select volunteers reached out to you, our loyal parishioners, in August and September in a stewardship call to ac-

tion. The financial response made the difference as we had experienced an average decline in the regular weekly offertory of 25 percent the first four to five months of the fiscal year.

The uncertainty of the virus and its impact created significant challenges for a traditional Faith Formation program and with Preschool attendance/tuition as in person classes were halted and families withdrew from both programs. Both of those areas saw a reduction in fees that negatively impacted the Parish income.

In the area of cost, the tough decision to reduce the workforce was not easy and became a reality as variable expenses could not be reduced anymore without a significant reduction in basic services and operating capabilities. The decision to provide those basic services ended up being the best decision for the long-term viability of Parish. The outdoor set up was necessary to ensure we could provide a sense of community for the larger Masses efficiently and safely, but it did come with a financial cost. Those costs over the 12 months drove the large variance in the budget. The two outdoor Masses averaged over 800 in combined attendance per week after the tents were implemented. The six-foot social distancing requirements in the sanctuary would allow at most 180 people per Mass.

Those cost decisions, the PPP program, and the generosity of the Parish allowed the church to provide outdoor masses every weekend, stand up a digital/livestreaming process for Mass, keep the facilities maintained on a reduced schedule, keep our savings intact, avoid any debt, and maintain staffing and benefits at basic levels.

Continues on next page.

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021

Income by Source	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Last Year	Difference
Weekly Offertory (include Online)	\$2,253,500	\$1,898,000	\$355,500	\$2,066,324	\$187,176
Archbishop Annual Appeal	\$81,060	\$50,000	\$31,060	\$307,845	(\$226,785)
Tuition Preschool	\$183,246	\$175,000	\$8,246	\$244,116	(\$60,870)
Faith Formation	\$48,554	\$85,350	(\$36,796)	\$132,440	(\$83,886)
Endowment Contributions	\$113,080	\$75,000	\$38,080	\$45,583	\$67,497
General Maintenance Fund	\$77,975	\$15,000	\$12,975	\$74,753	(\$46,778)
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$257,252	\$0	\$257,252	\$0	\$257,252
All Other Income	\$47,435	\$49,690	(\$2,255)	\$188,305	(\$145,870)
	\$3,007,102	\$2,348,040	\$659,062	\$3,059,366	(\$52,264)
Expense by Department					
Liturgy	\$237,890	\$231,940	\$5,950	\$261,423	(\$23,533)
Evangelization	\$115,813	\$98,430	\$17,383	\$71,634	\$44,179
Faith Formation	\$319,534	\$467,855	(\$148,321)	\$461,704	(\$142,170)
Special Ministries	\$10,827	\$10,100	\$727	\$50,102	(\$39,275)
Preschool	\$166,606	\$172,364	(\$5,758)	\$264,561	(\$97,955)
Administrative & General	\$960,220	\$832,080	\$128,140	\$866,770	\$93,450
Facilities	\$496,790	\$406,970	\$89,820	\$485,707	\$11,083
Rectory	\$31,190	\$34,200	(\$3,010)	\$36,124	(\$4,934)
Archdiocese Support	\$453,693	\$441,300	\$12,393	\$538,321	(\$84,628)
	\$2,792,563	\$2,695,239	\$97,324	\$3,036,346	(\$243,783)
Net Revenue	\$214,539	(\$347,199)	\$561,738	\$23,020	\$191,519



FINANCIAL UPDATE CONTINUED

As the fiscal year concluded, we were able to authorize the completion of the Gathering area and the upgrade to the Parish Hall floor that had been suspended since November 2019.

As the new fiscal year began in July, we know there will be challenges with the “new normal.” The 2021-2022 budget indicates optimism in a return in attendance and participation in both Faith Formation and Preschool. This optimism has required additional monies to increase staffing by two full time equivalents from existing levels. This is still below 2015-2020 levels. Preschool staffing has increased to match the increase in census. Monies have been added as we expect more ministries/events to return to church as well as a dedicated budget for the 50th anniversary of the Parish in June 2022.

As we move towards Fall, offertory and attendance have not yet rebounded to pre-COVID levels. We will continue to operate within our means and will not take on debt to fund operations.

ALPHA IS BACK THIS FALL

This fall we are offering online sessions!

Our online sessions are in Zoom, where you will watch a video, then have time in small groups to discuss the video and share your opinion. Register now! We start on Wednesday Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. For more information or to register online, visit our website at www.sta.org/alpha-program.

Do you have questions or want to register? contact Mimi Madrid at 832-334-8284 or send an email to alpha@sta.org.

ALPHA is a chance for everyone to explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and share their point of view. Through 11 weeks, you will discover basic principles of the Christian faith. Each week you will see a video, discuss the video with your group, share your opinion and build community.

¡ALPHA ESTA DE REGRESO!

¡Este otoño ofrecemos sesiones en línea ¡No te lo pierdas! Nuestras sesiones en línea son a través de Zoom, donde disfrutarás de un video y posteriormente tendrás la oportunidad de compartir y reflexionar con tus compañeros en pequeños grupos. Iniciamos el miércoles 1ro de septiembre de 2021 a las 7:00pm vía Zoom

Más información o para registrarse en línea visita nuestra página de la red www.sta.org/alpha-program

¿tienes preguntas o deseas registrarte? comunícate con Martha Zamorano al 770-475-4501 o envía un email a alpha@sta.org

ALPHA es una oportunidad para dialogar y explorar el significado de la vida. Durante once semanas, descubrirás los principios básicos de la fe cristiana. Cada sesión incluye un video, una charla y tiempo para expresar tu opinión y hacer comunidad.

Staffing and outreach are and will be impacted by this new normal revenue stream.

We can say that the impact of COVID has provided us the ability to be efficient with fewer resources, but we also know that with an aging infrastructure, we will be required to put monies into the buildings and equipment. Just this week, under our main entrance road, the water supply line broke and is being repaired at a cost of \$6,000.

Regardless, we will remain cautious in our fiscal decisions as we navigate these immediate challenges in front of us.

Thank you for your support, your generosity, and your prayers as we move to our 50th anniversary in June 2022.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Finance Council

INQUIRY SESSIONS BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER FOR ADULTS, TEENS AND CHILDREN

Each year in September, our Parish hosts Inquiry sessions for men, women, children and teens who wish to know more about our Catholic way of life. The sessions are designed to answer whatever questions you may have—in fact, our agenda is set by your questions.

This weekend after all the Masses, members of the Initiation Team will be available to talk with anyone who is interested in finding out more about attending these informal and informative sessions. The Inquiry period is the first stage in the process commonly called “The RCIA” (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) through which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Catholicism, please look for the RCIA Inquiry sign in the prayer garden and chat with a team member or call Terry Zobel (770-475-4508 x 205).

We also offer Inquiry sessions for children over the age of 7 who have not celebrated Baptism or participated in faith formation, and who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith. Please contact Ivette Mahfoud in the Faith Formation office for more information (770-475-4508 x 220).

LAS SESIONES DE RICA INICIARÁN EN SEPTIEMBRE PARA ADULTOS, JÓVENES Y NIÑOS

Cada año en septiembre, nuestra parroquia organiza sesiones de preguntas para hombres, mujeres, niños y adolescentes que desean saber más sobre nuestra fe católica.

Este fin de semana después de las misas, miembros del Equipo de RICA estarán disponibles para hablar con cualquier persona que esté interesada en saber más sobre la asistencia a estas sesiones. El período de preguntas es la primera etapa en el proceso comúnmente llamado “RICA” (Rito de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos) a través del cual las personas se convierten en miembros de la Iglesia Católica Romana.

También ofrecemos sesiones para niños mayores de siete años que no han sido bautizados, y que desean aprender más sobre la fe católica. También para jóvenes que aún no se han bautizado o les faltan los sacramentos de Primera Comunión y/o Confirmación.

Si usted o alguien que conoce está interesado en aprender más sobre el catolicismo, busque el letrado de RICA en el jardín de oración y converse con un miembro del equipo o llame a Ivette Mahfoud en la oficina de Formación en la fe para obtener más información (770) 475-4508 ext. 220.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

August 29, 2021

The 22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Albert Einstein said that the “true measure of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.” Being a disciple of Jesus Christ requires a great deal of imagination. It is not enough to simply attend to facts, rules and rituals and consider the job done. Quite contrarily, the Gospels demands creativity, of trying to discern how to put flesh on the Beatitudes and properly serve God’s children. Jesus never doled out a top down agenda. Not once did he ever demand conformity over conversion or sacrifice over mercy. The Gospel is always about putting people in touch with their compassionate, forgiving, and unconditionally loving God and meeting them where they are.

For Jesus, it often meant breaking a few rules. Well respected and time-honored traditions had to be set aside in order to attend to what really mattered. God’s compassion, mercy and true conversion were always the trump cards. The story of the Good Samaritan, healing on the Sabbath, and bypassing of purification rituals all display this theme. Human beings can get too hung up on protocol and tradition. This is so much so that often preserving all of these things is of greater concern than the beggar knocking on our door or the sinner looking for mercy. It is no wonder, then, that we can easily become hypocritical. Many can see us on our knees in prayer while our true heart and actions, rooted in judgment and self-preservation, are hidden from others. It is a trap into which we can easily fall. Who cares how we live our lives as long as our hands are properly washed!

Here enters the need for imagination and the distinction of truly being a wise and intelligent person. It takes a good measure of creativity and a lot of guts to really be a doer of God’s word and not merely a hearer. Being a person who doesn’t just tell people about God but shows people God requires courage and ingenuity. That’s why people like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Teresa of Calcutta are timeless. Their genuineness speaks volumes generation to generation. It’s risky business taking the step to allow God into our hearts. Permitting God to release us from the grip of our evil thoughts, infidelity, greed, malice, sexual improprieties, licentiousness, envy, arrogance, folly, and the like takes courage. That’s why we prefer to spend our energy rearranging the future rather than take measures to secure a foundation that is most certainly crumbling.

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MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

29 de Agosto de 2021

22º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Estamos viviendo un contexto social muy difícil, muchas personas, a estas alturas del año, todavía no tienen trabajo y su salud es muy precaria. Las injusticias están a la orden del día. Gracias a la Palabra de Dios que nos guía, nuestro corazón se fortalece en la esperanza. Litúrgicamente, hoy regresamos al Evangelio de Marcos, ciclo B, después de haber escuchado el capítulo 6 de San Juan, donde se da el discurso del Pan de Vida. Iniciamos la lectura de Santiago, después de haber escuchado la de los Efesios. Hoy las lecturas apuntan a una misma dirección. ¡Hacia la coherencia en la propia vida! Hacer y vivir lo que decimos es una tarea de todos los días. Seguir los mandamientos con fidelidad es lo que pide el Señor. La enseñanza de Dios de vivir moralmente es el objetivo desde la creación del mundo.

“Y ahora, Israel, escucha las normas y los mandamientos que yo te enseñé, para que los pongas en práctica” (Deuteronomio 4:1). La Carta de Santiago lo describe de la siguiente forma: “Hermanos muy queridos, no se equivoquen: son las cosas buenas y los dones perfectos lo que proceden de lo alto” (Santiago 1:16). Y en el Evangelio, Jesús lo pone más claro todavía explicando la manera de ser coherentes: “Ninguna cosa que de fuera entra en la persona puede hacerla impura; lo que hace impura a una persona es lo que sale de ella” (Marcos 7:15-16). Jesús habla un lenguaje desconocido para la gente de su tiempo, muchos de ellos eran muy apegados a la ley. Por lo tanto, no podían comprender lo que es la verdadera pureza. ¿Tú lo comprendes? ¡Vivir como Dios manda es lo ideal!

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Amen Corner

Kathy Kuczka

Sunday – Our First Feast

What are your childhood memories of Sunday? Was it a day that began with worship? Was it a time set aside to spend with family and friends? Were there special meals or other family rituals? Sunday for my family meant going to Mass first thing in the morning. Sunday was the day we ate pasta. I can still smell the aroma of homemade tomato sauce which filled the house on Sundays. In the afternoon, we would sit out on the front porch, or we would visit relatives or visit our loved ones at the cemetery. It was a special day because we did things on Sunday we didn't normally do during the rest of the week. Whatever your childhood memories of Sunday are, chances are that your current experience of Sunday is different. Times have changed but the meaning and purpose of Sunday are the same as they were from the beginning of creation.

Sunday: Rooted in Sabbath

Observe the sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you may labor and do all your work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God. No work may be done then, whether by you, or your son or daughter . . . your male and female slave should rest as you do (*Deuteronomy 5:12-15*).

The word for sabbath in Hebrew is Shabbat, which is a name for God. The Sabbath is a day to praise God for all his goodness and to make the day holy as God himself did when he created it.

When God created the seventh day, he blessed it, and he rested from all the work he had done (*Genesis 2:3*).

Scholars of the Talmud say that the reason the sabbath was created was not

because God needed rest, but, in order to make rest holy, to demand rest of us so that by regularly resting in God, we could become new people. Unlike the other six days, which are filled with the movement of work, the sabbath mandates that all be still so that peace and harmony might prevail.

The History of Sunday

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought perfumed oils with which they intended to go and anoint Jesus. Very early, just after sunrise, on the first day of the week they came to the tomb (*Mark 16:1,2*).

Much of early Christianity was tied to Jewish practices. So, it's likely that the early Christian communities continued to gather in their synagogues for the celebration of the sabbath, which began at sunset on Friday and ended at sundown on Saturday. They would also gather on various days for the "breaking of the bread." Numerous factors led to Sunday being the day when Christians gathered to worship. The primary reason was that Jesus, according to all the gospel writers, rose on the **first day of the week**, Sunday. Many of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection, when he encountered the disciples, also took place on the **first day of the week** (*Luke 24:1; John 20:19*). We too, like the early church, gather not only to celebrate the good news of the resurrection, but to encounter the living Lord, risen and present among us. The **first day of the week** is also, in biblical tradition, the first day of creation (*Genesis 1-5*). On that first day, God began his creative work by rolling back the darkness from the universe and giving birth to light. In Christ, God has undertaken a new work of creation in which the darkness is once again overcome by light, the light of Christ. For this reason, Christians eventually adopted the name Sunday (*die solis*), the day of the sun, which comes from the Greco-Roman week in which the days were named after the planets.

Today, the Church calls Sunday the first holy day of all because the first time Christians began to gather on a regular basis happened on Sunday. In fact, Sunday is so important that The Second Vatican Council said that only feasts of the Lord can override the Sunday celebration.

Keeping Sunday

Rest is something sacred, because it is man's way of withdrawing from the sometimes excessively demanding cycle of earthly tasks in order to renew his awareness that everything is the work of God. Dies Domini (65)

Sunday is an opportunity to free ourselves from the ties that bind our identity to what we **do** to and reflect on who we **are** and whose we **are**—to reflect on the freedom we have been given by God in Jesus. It's a time to set aside weekly routines and give permission to our flesh and spirit to relax and be still. Our work, after all, will never be complete. We are called to partake in whatever refreshes our spirits, visiting family and friends, reading for the sake of knowledge or enjoyment, playing or watching sports, participating in the arts, hobbies, games. But Sunday is not meant to serve merely our own renewal. It frees us up to fulfill the Lord's command to "love one another" in ways we normally pass up during a busy week. Our celebration of the Sunday eucharist calls us to this service. As Pope John Paul II exhorts in *Dies Domini*, "The Sunday eucharist commits the faithful even more to all the works of charity, of mercy, of apostolic outreach."



RECONCILIATION / RECONCILIACIÓN

Confessions are held on Mondays from 3 - 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 3 - 4 p.m. All confessions take place in the Confessionals.

Las confesiones se realizan los lunes a partir de las 3 - 4 p.m. y sábados a partir de las 3 - 4 p.m. Todas las confesiones tendrán lugar en los confesionarios (dentro del Templo a la izquierda).

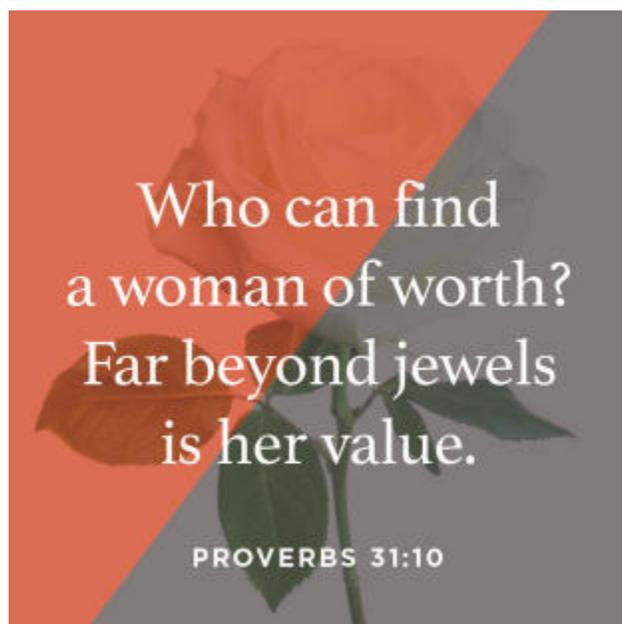


NEW BEREAVEMENT SERIES

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 7, a nine-week Bereavement Series that will meet Tuesdays at 3 - 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 - 8 p.m in the library.

This ministry helps those who have had a significant loss cope in the present and plan for the future using discussion, prayer, education, and journaling in a small group environment.

If you are interested or know of someone who would like to join us, please register by Monday, Sept.6. Due to COVID-19, space is very limited. Contact Suzanne Feeney at suzannefeeney117@gmail.com or 404-405-3514 for more information.



Monday, August 30

12 Noon (+) Mary Ellen Griffin by FOM & the Bereavement Ministry

Tuesday, August 31

12 Noon (L) Sherri Nadeau by The Nadeau Family
(L) Cheryl Anne Perkins by Thomas Gump
(+) Ernesto Concha by Rosario Rosenberger

Wednesday, September 1

12 Noon (+) Martin Keane by John & Roberta Daniels

Thursday, September 2

12 Noon (+) Maureen Krausen by William Kearley
(+) Mary Dowd by Joan McGee
(+) Paddy Dowd by Jean & John McGee
7:00 p.m. (+) Luzmila Orihuela Hinojosa by Natali Fleming

Friday, September 3

12 Noon (+) Lynn Hynes by Jim Hynes

Saturday, September 4

5:00 p.m. (+) Charles Papetti by Tokarz family
7:30 p.m. (L) Siena Ramalinga by Andrea Garcia

Sunday, September 5

8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of the Parish Family
11:00 a.m. (L) John & Linda Malgeri by John & Roberta Daniels
2:00 p.m. (+) Javier & Jaime Peñaloza by Nelida Peñaloza
(+) Angelina & Saul Perez by Nelida Peñaloza
5:00 p.m. (+) Anthony Massaro by Sheila Kessler



REMEMBER

in your prayers

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Angelica Alvarez
Paul Bailey
Fran Benoit
Chris Bourne
Lynn Brady
Charlie Carrio
Sally Clark
Phil Cline
Ellen Reuland Coons
John Eanes
Peter Gallagher

Sheila Kessler
Damien Hart
Bill Hartman
Sheila Kessler
Vicki Hartman
Jennifer Hite
Gretel Hofman
Winfried Hofman
Deacon Ed LaHouse
Bob MacPhee
Lina Mooney

Dan Mulvaney
Don Mulvaney
Ron Mulvaney
Kathy Osterday
Mary Peksa
Carol Potishroski
John Quirk
Teresa Reyes
Sheila Kessler
Jackie School
Deacon John Strachan

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. Let us pray together as a family for your intentions.



UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

- Aug. 29 | Maintenance Fund
- Sept. 5 | Catholic University of America
- Sept. 12 | St. Vincent de Paul - STA
- Sept. 19 | Archdiocese St. Vincent de Paul
- Sept. 26 | Georgia Bulletin Semi Annual

Donations for second collections may now be placed in the white drop box in the Narthex specifically marked for these donations.

They may also be placed in the basket at offertory time or online at any time.

MASS ATTENDANCE

August 16 - August 22

- Wednesday Mass for Seniors | 83
- Thursday Spanish | 102
- Saturday 5 p.m. (English) | 180
- Saturday 7:30 p.m. (Spanish) | 162
- Sunday 8 a.m. (English) | 185
- Sunday 11 a.m. (English) | 421
- Sunday 2 p.m. (Spanish) | 450
- Sunday 5 p.m. (English) | 155

TOTAL | 1,737

SVdP FOOD PANTRY:

- \$25 gift cards from Kroger, Publix or Walmart (for perishables)
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Pasta Sauce
- Boxed Pasta
- Paper towel

Please note that expired food will not be accepted.

UPDATE FROM THE HAITI SISTER PARISH COMMITTEE

Although the annual collection for our sister parish in Delatte, Haiti is this was last weekend, you can still contribute! As a reminder, St. Thomas Aquinas have been partnering with St. Martin de Tours since 1997. The church and the parish are larger in size and population than ours. Located in one of Haiti's most impoverished areas, the Church and parish are larger than ours and minister to a community whose annual income is less than \$100/person/year.

The mission statement of the Haiti Sister Parish Committee is to support the parishioners of St. Martin de Tours with prayer, financial support to educate their children, and to provide other services that become available through the generosity of St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners — i.e., dental services, shipping of school supplies and other material goods.

As we've always offered financial support to help pay the teachers salaries, we are also called to help our sister parish through disasters as well. The parishioners of St. Martin were still struggling through Hurricane Elsa that hit a few weeks only to be hit with a 7.2 earthquake on Saturday, Aug. 14 which has been devastating to the people that live in the area. Parishioners have lost homes and have no means of shelter and food and rely on St. Martin to help provide for them.

Even the smallest gift can make a huge impact for our sister parish. Your donation would be substantially helpful and appreciated during this time of need. We pray that the country and our Sister Parish find peace soon.

Thank you and God bless you!



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

St. Thomas Aquinas is hiring for immediate positions. The positions include:

- Youth Minister
- Faith Formation Coordinator
- Preschool Lead Teacher

Please visit our website for more details and full job descriptions.

ST. ANDREWS IS HIRING

St. Andrew in Roswell has an immediate part-time opening for an Adult Discipleship Coordinator, this person needs to coordinate several programs designed to meet the faith development of adults in the parish. The position works closely with the pastor. Work hours and days are flexible, which may include weekends and evenings, but do not exceed 25 hours per week. Must have experience in catechetical work in a Catholic environment. Bilingual in English/Spanish a plus. For more info, please send cover letter and resume to Marquita Richburg mrichburg@archatl.com.

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