



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

December 5, 2021



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT 2º DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

*Thank you for  
Joining us at Mass!  
Let's keep in  
touch!*

*!Gracias por  
celebrar la misa  
con nosotros!  
¡Mantengámonos  
en contacto!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in:

- registering at the parish
- receiving the electronic newsletter
- knowing more about ministries at STA

**Please tear off this form  
and place it in the  
offertory basket and  
someone will contact you  
within a week.**

Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

Información del contacto

Correo electrónico: \_\_\_\_\_

Número de teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_

Estoy interesado en:

- registrarme en la parroquia
- recibir el boletín electrónico con las noticias de la parroquia
- recibir más información sobre los ministerios en Santo Tomás de Aquino

**Por favor arranque esta  
sección con sus datos y  
colóquela en la canasta  
de la ofrenda, alguien se  
pondrá en contacto con  
usted durante la semana.**

CLERGY



Msgr. Daniel Stack  
Pastor



Fr. Jaime Rivera  
Parochial Vicar



Fr. Paul W. Berny  
In Residence

FOLLOW US



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# 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

*This Advent season, how is the road I am currently travelling preparing the way of the Lord?*

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. **Luke 3:1-6**

### PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

*En este tiempo de Adviento, ¿Cómo preparas tú el camino para que llegue la alegría de la salvación?*

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. **Lucas 3:1-6**



**BEYOND OUR 40 ACRES**

St. Thomas Aquinas extends its outreach far beyond these 40 acres. In this new section, you will find some of the many ways we are actively giving back to our communities. If you participate in any active charities, let us know by e-mailing us at STAreplay@sta.org.

Nuestra Parroquia de Santo Tomás de Aquino se extiende mucho más allá de los 40 acres que la forman. En esta nueva sección del boletín, encontrará información de algunas de las muchas formas en que estamos apoyando activamente a las comunidades que tenemos a nuestro alrededor. Si usted participa en alguna organización de beneficencia que esté ayudando/apoyando a alguna comunidad, háganoslo saber para que podamos compartir esas buenas noticias con el resto de la comunidad. Envíe ésta información a través de un correo electrónico a STAreplay@sta.org

**GIVING GARDEN MINSITRY**

The Giving Garden Ministry is new in 2021 and a dream fulfilled for a number of parishioners. The ministry is working to create a new sense of community with varied backgrounds and demographics, while providing organically grown vegetables and fruits. Growing fresh, healthy vegetables has added to the physical and mental health of both the volunteers and our SVDP pantry clients. It's been an exciting way to share our talents. Our first year harvest totaled over 300 lbs. of tomatoes, new potatoes, sweet potatoes, peppers, green beans, eggplant, carrots, okra, lettuce, bunching onions, leafy greens and lettuce, basil, oregano, mint and chives. We harvest twice weekly, and any excess produce not utilized by our SVDP pantry is delivered to North Fulton Community Charities Food Bank. The Garden, although a LOT of work, has been a blessing to our volunteers, and the clients.



**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS**

- Dec. 5 | Christmas Flowers / Guadalupe
- Dec. 8 | Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 12 | Feast of Guadalupe
- Dec. 13 | Retired Religious Fund
- Dec. 19 | St. Vincent de Paul - STA
- Dec. 21 | Christmas Donations

Donations for second collections may now be placed in the white drop box in the Narthex.

Yellow envelopes in the pews are available for your second collection donations and can be placed in the collection basket or in the dedicated box in the Narthex.

**SVdP FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:**

- Canned chicken
  - Canned fruit
  - Pasta sauce
  - Cereal
  - Rice
- Crackers
- Please note that expired food will not be accepted. Thank you for donating!

**MASS ATTENDANCE**

**Nov. 22 - Nov. 28**

- Wednesday Mass for Seniors | 53
- Thursday Spanish | 150
- Saturday 5 p.m. (English) | 170
- Saturday 7:30 p.m. (Spanish) | -
- Sunday 8 a.m. (English) | 201
- Sunday 11 a.m. (English ) | 587
- Sunday 2 p.m. (Spanish) | 490
- Sunday 5 p.m. (English) | 179

**TOTAL | -**

**JOB NETWORKING MINISTRY**

Job seekers, recent graduates, or those looking to further their careers are invited to join our free job assistance session on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. in Room 202. If you need assistance in your job search or know someone who does, you are welcome to join us.

Parishioners, we are in need of one more volunteer who have a background in business leadership, human resources, or recruiting.

For more details, please e-mail Bob Volz at [bvolz\\_atl@yahoo.com](mailto:bvolz_atl@yahoo.com).



**DOT MINISTRIES - THE 2022 WHITESVILLE MISSION TRIP**

After a two year pause due to the pandemic, DOT Ministries is excited to bring back this amazing, fun-filled, and spiritually enriching mission trip, designed specifically for high school teens. This week-long experience will enable participants to put their faith into action. The 2022 Whitesville Mission Trip is June 18 - 26 and is open to all high school teens. Teenagers must be a rising high school freshman for the 2022 / 2023 school year.

For all interested teens and their parents, there will be a mission trip information and signup meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Signups begin at 7:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 8 p.m. Spots are limited, so please plan on attending this meeting with a \$75 deposit to secure your place on the trip. For more information, please visit [dotministries.org](http://dotministries.org).



# Advent Sing-a-Long

## ADVENT SING-A-LONG

Join us on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., for our Advent/Messiah Sing-a-long! This program will feature Advent songs, old and new, and will inspire us all to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. Selections from the Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah will also be performed with soloists and choir members from St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Michael the Archangel.

We are hoping to have an orchestra join us for this awesome event. Tickets are free, but a suggested \$20 donation is greatly appreciated to help pay for the orchestra performance. You can drop off your donation in the red and green box in the Narthex this weekend after Mass, or donate online under the Messiah Orchestra Fund. We appreciate your donation and your help to make this program a success!

## ADVENT SING-A-LONG

¡Únase a nosotros el martes 14 de diciembre para nuestro canto de Adviento / Mesías! Este programa contará con canciones de Adviento, antiguas y nuevas, y nos inspirará a todos a prepararnos para el nacimiento de Jesucristo. También se tocarán algunas porciones navideñas del Mesías de Handel con solistas y miembros del coro de Santo Tomás de Aquino y San Miguel Arcángel.

Esperamos que una orquesta se una a nosotros para este increíble evento. Los boletos son gratuitos para este evento, pero se agradece enormemente una donación sugerida de \$ 20 para ayudar a pagar la actuación de la orquesta. Puede dejar su donación en el recuadro rojo y verde en el Narthex este fin de semana después de la misa, o donar en línea bajo el Messiah Orchestra Fund. ¡Agradecemos su donación y su ayuda para que este programa sea un éxito!

## KofC Presents Pictures with Santa

Sunday December 5  
Room 201-202  
10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

All photos will be provided in a digital format at no cost per family.

Register by scanning the QR code.



## SMALL FAITH COMMUNITIES

Whatever else Catholics know, they must know that they are loved by the people of the Church. We at St. Thomas Aquinas have been working to create a smaller, more personal experience of church for every member of our Parish. We call these Small Faith Communities.

Small Faith Communities are groups of 8-12 adults who gather in homes to share their experiences of faith and love. Hundreds of adult parishioners participate in Small Faith Communities at St. Thomas Aquinas.

Won't you come join us? Contact Terry Zobel at [tzobel@sta.org](mailto:tzobel@sta.org) for more information.



### SVDP WALMART GIFT CARD COLLECTION

This Advent, St. Vincent de Paul STA will continue its tradition of collecting Walmart gift cards for our sponsored families to purchase Christmas gifts. Walmart cards will be collected from now until Dec. 19. You can drop gift cards at the Parish Office or in the collection basket.

Our Vincentians will be collecting gift cards and monetary contributions after mass. Look for the Blue Santa hats! For added convenience, there is an online option on the Parish donation page at [www.sta.org](http://www.sta.org) where you can make your contribution.

### COLECCIÓN DE TARJETAS DE REGALO SVDP WALMART

Este Adviento, St. Vincent de Paul STA continuará su tradición de recolectar tarjetas de regalo de Walmart para que nuestras familias apadrinadas compren regalos de Navidad. Las tarjetas de Walmart se recogerán desde ahora hasta el 19 de diciembre. Puede dejar las tarjetas de regalo en la oficina parroquial o en la canasta de recolección.

Nuestros vicentinos recolectarán tarjetas de regalo y contribuciones monetarias después de la misa. ¡Busque los sombreros azules de Santa! Para mayor comodidad, hay una opción en línea en la página de donaciones de la parroquia en [www.sta.org](http://www.sta.org) donde puede hacer su contribución.



## Christmas Flowers



If you would like to contribute to our Christmas floral decorations in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please attach this coupon to your gift of \$15 or more. You may place your donation in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office during business hours.

Checks can be made payable to: *St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.*

Si desea contribuir a nuestras decoraciones florales navideñas en honor o en memoria de un ser querido, adjunte este cupón a su regalo de \$ 15 o más. Puede colocar su donación en la canasta de recolección o dejarla en la Oficina Parroquial durante el horario comercial.

Los cheques pueden hacerse pagaderos a: *St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.*

*In Honor of Memory of / En honor a la memoria de:* \_\_\_\_\_

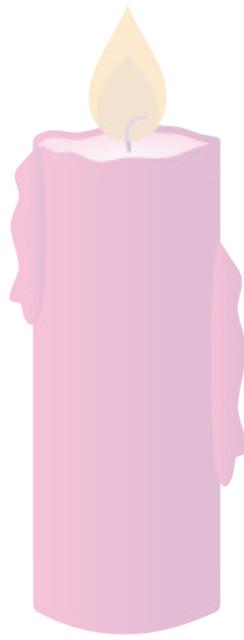
*Donated by / Donado por:* \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for your generosity! / ¡Gracias por tu generosidad!***



*Journey to Joy*

- Dec. 7** **Immaculate Conception**  
Mass in Spanish - 7 p.m. - Church
- Dec. 8** **Immaculate Conception**  
Mass in English - 9 a.m., noon, 7 p.m. - Church
- Dec. 11** **Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebrations**  
See full schedule to the right
- Dec. 12** **Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebrations**  
See full schedule to the right
- Dec. 14** **Advent Sing-a-Long**  
7 p.m. - Church
- Dec. 17** **Advent Penance Service**  
7:30 p.m. - Church
- Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve Masses**  
See full schedule below
- Dec. 25** **Christmas Day Masses**  
See full schedule below



**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Schedule**

- Saturday, December 11**
  - 7:00 p.m. Aztec Dancers/Procession
  - 7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass (spanish)
  - 8:30 p.m. Adoration/Rosary/Prayers (spanish)
  - 9:30 p.m. Dancers
  - 10:00 p.m. Mañanitas – A festive birthday song and other music will be played by Mexican Mariachi
- Sunday, December 12**
  - Additional Mass under the tents added to the Sunday Schedule
  - 8:30 a.m. Aztec Dancers/Procession
  - 9:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass under the tents in the lower parking lot
  - 10:00 a.m. Mexican Mariachi Music to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe
  - 1:30 p.m. Aztec Dancers/Procession
  - 2:00 p.m. Sunday Spanish Mass

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

For your safety and comfort, we have added **OUTDOOR** Masses this Christmas\*

**Friday, December 24:**

- 12 p.m. - Mass in English - Tents\*
- 4 p.m. - Mass in English - Church
- 7 p.m. - Mass in Spanish - Church
- 10 p.m. - Mass in English - Church



**Saturday, December 25:**

- 10 a.m. - Mass in English - Both under the tents\* and in the Church
- 12 p.m. - Mass in Spanish - Church

For more information or updates please see our website at [www.sta.org](http://www.sta.org) & bulletin



Viaje a la alegría

Dec. 7

**Inmaculada Concepción**  
Misa en español - 7 p.m. - Iglesia

Dec. 8

**Inmaculada Concepción**  
Misa en inglés - 9 a.m., mediodía, 7 p.m. - Iglesia

Dec. 11

**Celebraciones de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**  
Ver horario completo a la derecha

Dec. 12

**Celebraciones de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**  
Ver horario completo a la derecha

Dec. 14

**Advent Sing-a-Long**  
7 p.m. - Iglesia

Dec. 17

**Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento**  
7:30 pm. - Iglesia

Dec. 24

**Misas de Nochebuena**  
Vea el calendario completo a continuación

Dec. 25

**Misas de Navidad**  
Vea el calendario completo a continuación



**Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**  
**Horario de eventos**

**Sábado 11 de diciembre**

- 7:00 p.m. Danzas Aztecas/Procesión
- 7:30 p.m. Misa de Vigila en español (Templo)
- 8:30 p.m. Adoración/Rosario/Oración
- 9:30 p.m. Danzas
- 10:00 p.m. Mañanitas – Mariachi (2 horas)

**Domingo 12 de diciembre**

- Misa Adicional en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
- 8:30 a.m. Danzas Aztecas/Procesión
- 9:00 a.m. Misa Bilingüe en las Carpas
- 10:00 a.m. Homenaje/Mariachi (2 horas)
- 1:30 p.m. Danzas/Procesión
- 2:00 p.m. Misa de Domingo en español (Templo)

Para mayor información y horarios exactos por favor consulte nuestro sitio en la red [www.sta.org](http://www.sta.org)

**HORARIO DE LA MISA DE NAVIDAD**

Para su seguridad y comodidad, hemos agregado Misas **AL AFUERA** esta Navidad\*

**Viernes 24 de diciembre:**

- 12 p.m. - Misa en ingles - Afuera\*
- 4 p.m. - Misa en ingles - Templo
- 7 p.m. - Misa en español - Templo
- 10 p.m. - Misa en ingles - Templo



**Sábado 25 de diciembre:**

- 10 a.m. - Misa en ingles - Afuera\* y Templo
- 12 p.m. - Misa en español - Templo



## RCIA NEWS

On Nov. 21 at the 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Masses we joyfully accept into the Order of Catechumens those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist:

- Elsy Amaya Monge
- Norma Amaya
- Jack Timothy Derrickson
- Brandon Jair Guzmán-Rocha
- Gisselle Lorena Guzmán-Rocha
- Joel Huerta Calderón
- Jesús Ixcayao
- Ryan Holt Lyda
- Kerlin Lopes
- Dana Martínez-Granados
- Jennifer Morales-Cruz
- Randy Enrique Ortiz Muñoz
- Erik Barry Seeney

And we welcome with great joy the following candidates who are preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist and Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church:

- Kristina Marie Lappin
- Lori Ann Weisel



As well as those Catholics preparing to complete the Sacraments of Initiation:

- Alma Daniela Arias
- Allison Ascensión Molina
- Raúl Andrés Barrientos Romero
- Jesús Bueno-Campos
- Lesly Bueno-Campos
- Durhams Mariana Cegarra Madrid
- Jennifer Duran Alcantar
- Alvaro Garcia-Correa
- Milca Lizbeth Guerrero Delgado
- Juan Guzmán Torres
- José Saul Hernández De Paz
- Sandy Jasso-Navarro
- Vanessa Jasso-Navarro
- Luis Enrique López
- Anderson Joel Peña Ayala
- Carlos Peñaloza Rivera
- Cesar Peñaloza Rivera
- Johnny Peñaloza
- Kendra Michelle Peñaloza
- Nicolas Arturo Rios Altamirano
- Cindy Rivera
- José Pedro Rivera
- Irene Rivera-Ponce
- Saul Alexander Rivera Espinoza
- Ashley Xiomara Servin Orellana
- Alondra Suarez
- Edgar Imanol Ulloa
- Manuel Arturo Vergara Aizpurua
- Jimmy Villegas-Rivera
- Stephanie Villegas-Rivera
- Xavier Villegas
- Leonardo Miguel Zamudio Vizcaya

Please keep them in your prayers and extend to them a warm St. Thomas welcome.

## BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE

Read the following Scripture passage aloud:  
Luke 2:1-8

Blessing of the Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have made manifest your love:  
When our need for a Savior was great  
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy and love.  
Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;  
May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and raise our thought to him,  
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,  
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.  
AMEN.

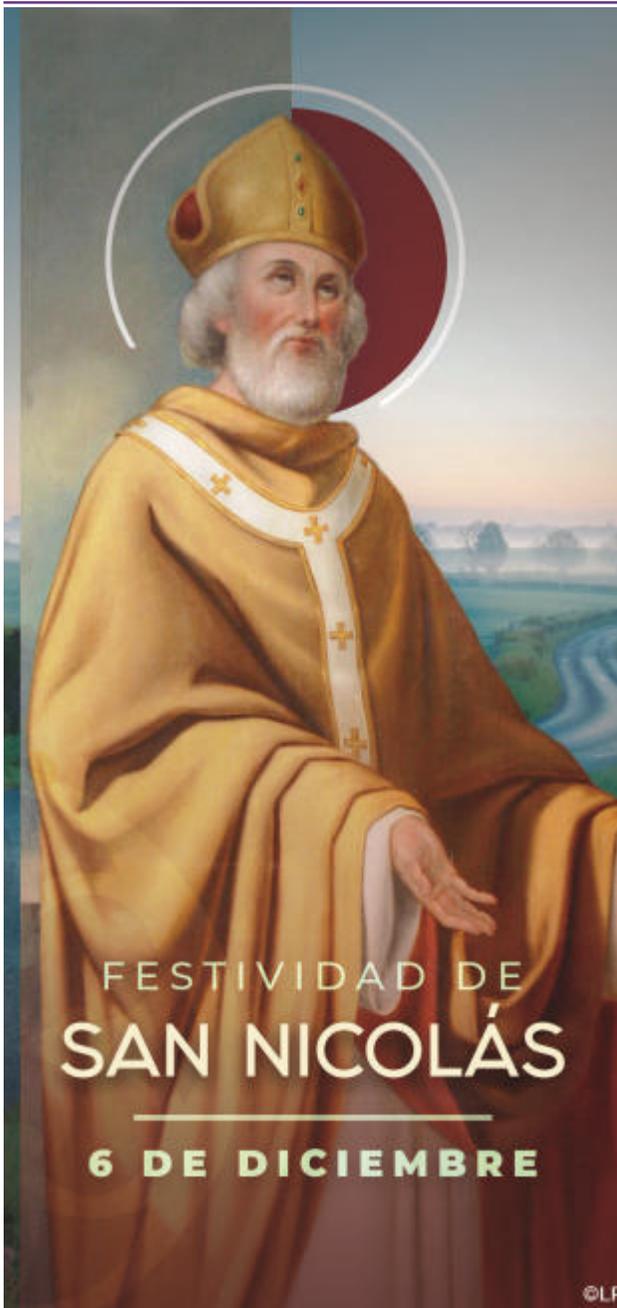
From Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers



## 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).



FESTIVIDAD DE  
**SAN NICOLÁS**  
6 DE DICIEMBRE

# Mass INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 6

Noon (+) Valerie Casey by Deacon Bernard Casey

### Tuesday, December 7

Noon (+) Mary J. LaHouse by Deacon Ed LaHouse

(+) Hildegard A. Cleary by Rotolo Family

(L) Nikhil Ballah by Lorena Perez

7 p.m. Misa en español - **Inmaculada Concepción**

### Wednesday, December 8

9 a.m. Mass in English - **Immaculate Conception**

Noon (+) Thomas Richard Hopson by Daniel Hopson

7 p.m. Mass in English - **Immaculate Conception**

### Thursday, December 9

Noon (L) Kacey Stachelek by Lorena Perez

(+) Connie Korecky by Sharon Leemann

(+) Antonio Fundora by Knights of Columbus

7p.m. (+) Wenceslado Peñaloza by Edelmira Peñaloza

### Friday, December 10

Noon (L) Cathy O'Sullivan by STA Staff

### Saturday, December 11

5 p.m. (+) Jim Goslin by Sue & Jim McIntyre

7:30 p.m. (+) Rosa Maria Arteaga by Martha Zamorano

### Sunday, December 12

8 a.m. For the Intentions of the Parish Family

9 a.m. Bilingual Mass - **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

11 a.m. (+) John & Helen Kopec by Ken & Mat Massimine

2 p.m. (L) Hanna Escamilla by Adriana Escamilla

5 p.m. (+) Josephine Znoj by Znoj Family



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Fabio Alvarez  
Lynn Brady  
Barbara Butler  
Ellen Reuland Coons  
Sally Clark  
Regina Flaherty  
Peter Gallagher  
Philip Garcia  
Deacon Ed LaHouse

Lucretia Hart  
Winifried Hofmann  
Kathy Hudon  
Angie Mastrangelo  
Bob McPhee  
Jackie School  
Roxanne Spillet  
Deacon John Strachan  
Bill Wickham

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).

9



# Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America

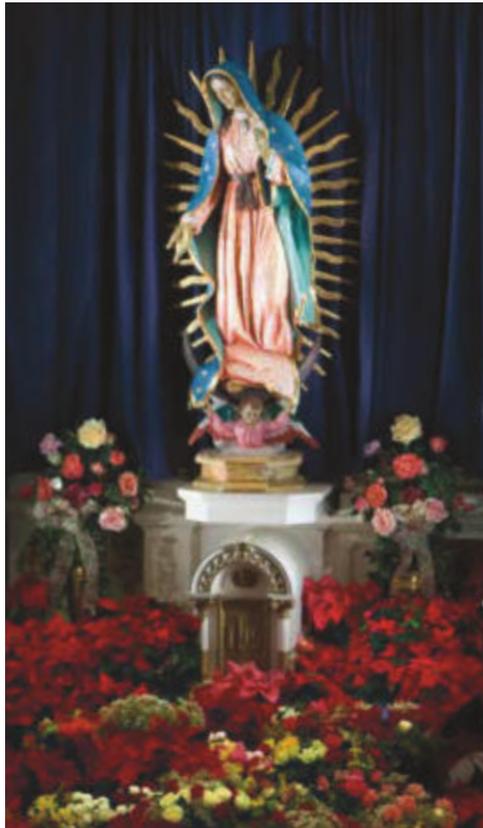
Timothy Matovina

It is not surprising to me that the annual celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe is popular at the University of Notre Dame, where I teach. Our Latino students, faculty, and alumni bring to the campus community their deep reverence for the *Guadalupeana*. But I am struck each December 12 by the faces in Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart that are not Latino. Like students I meet in my classes on Latino theology and spirituality, many of them had scarcely heard of Guadalupe before they arrived at Notre Dame. Yet they join freely in the singing, the worship, and the procession to the Lady Chapel at the end of the Eucharist to present her with the traditional roses that commemorate her day.

The advance of Guadalupan devotion at Notre Dame is by no means unique. Guadalupe's faithful have been expanding for nearly five centuries. Her basilica in Mexico City is the most visited pilgrimage site on the American continent. After Jesus of Nazareth, her image is the most reproduced sacred icon in America. Long acclaimed as the national symbol of Mexico, in the 1999 apostolic exhortation *Ecclesia in America* Pope John Paul II acclaimed her as the "Mother and Evangelizer of America," from Tierra del Fuego to the northernmost reaches of Canada. At the unanimous request of the Catholic bishops of America, he also decreed that her feast "be celebrated throughout the continent."

How does Our Lady of Guadalupe attract such a rich variety of dedicated daughters and sons? What is her power?

One answer is the tradition of her 1531 apparitions to the indigenous neophyte Juan Diego, whom Pope John Paul canonized in 2002. Devotees pass on this treasured narrative to their children. They esteem the richly poetic Nahuatl-language *Nican mopohua* account, which relates how Guadalupe sent Juan Diego to request that Juan de Zumárraga,



the first bishop of Mexico, build a temple in her honor on the sacred hill of Tepeyac. At first, the bishop doubted the celestial origins of this request, but came to believe when Juan Diego dropped exquisite out-of-season flowers from his *tilma* (cloak) and presented the image of Guadalupe that miraculously appeared on the rough cloth of his garment. In various ways, Guadalupe provided Juan Diego with hope and consolation, especially through the healing of his uncle, Juan Bernardino.

Numerous devotees resonate with the encounter between Guadalupe and Juan Diego, an encounter often reenacted during liturgical celebrations of her feast. Those who have experienced the pain of rejection find hope in Guadalupe's election of the unexpected hero Juan Diego, as well as in Juan Diego's unwavering faith and final vindication. They confess that the Guadalupe narrative is true: it reveals the deep truth of their human dignity and exposes the lie of experiences that

unjustly diminish their fundamental sense of worth.

Guadalupe's faithful also contemplate her beauty, especially her compassionate face and eyes. For numerous devotees, the core experience of Guadalupe is that of Juan Diego. In countless conversations, prayers, and sustained gazes at her image, they stand before her and relive Juan Diego's mystical encounter. Beholding their mother's countenance does not obliterate all the difficulties of daily life. But her beauty and unconditional love transform them, enabling them to confront harsh realities with the confident assurance that no human force can thwart God's loving designs.

Guadalupe is our mother. Throughout the Americas, all of us who partake in her devotions and feast day celebrations enter into the ongoing eruption of God's compassion that St. Juan Diego first experienced in her centuries ago.

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