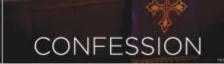


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CONFESSION

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

CONFESIÓN

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).

PASTORAL COUNCIL

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council is accepting applications for new members. We will have open positions for parishioners beginning in 2022. Please see page 4 for more details.

EL CONSEJO PASTORAL

El Consejo Pastoral aceptando solicitudes para nuevos miembros. Tendremos puestos vacantes para feligreses a partir de 2022. Consulte la página 4 para obtener más detalles.



KOFC FREE THROW CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual free throw contest later this month. Winners in each age group will receive a plaque, a basketball, and STA bragging rights for the next 12 months. See page 4 for more details.

Los Knights of Columbus son organizará su concurso anual de tiros libres a finales de este mes. Los ganadores de cada grupo de edad recibirán un plaquw y una pelota de baloncesto. Consulte la página 4 para obtener más detalles.

CLERGY



Msgr. Daniel Stack Pastor



Fr. Jaime Rivera Parochial Vicar



Fr. Paul W. Berny In Residence

FOLLOW US









GIVE ONLINE DONAR EN LÍNEA

MASS SCHEDULF

MASS TIMES

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

Noon - English*

Wednesday:

Noon - English - Senior Mass (62 and

Jueves

7 p.m. - Misa en español*

Saturday Vigil/Vigilia:

- 5 p.m. English
- 7:30 p.m Español

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

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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

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

How can we in our parish community become more inclusive of people from other nations and cultures? 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. Matthew 2:1-12

PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿Cómo podemos, como comunidad parroquial, acoger mejor a las personas de otras culturas y naciones?

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. Mateo 2:1-12



BEYOND OUR 40 ACRES

DISCIPLES AROUND YOU

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 STAreply@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

PRECHOOL HELPS NFCC

For the past few weeks our Preschool has been collecting toys for North Fulton Community Charities to bring the Christmas spirit to many families Beyond Our 40 Acres.

We thank our preschoolers and their families for all of their hard work!



EL PREESCOLAR AYUDA A LA NFCC

Durante las últimas semanas, nuestro preescolar ha estado recolectando juguetes para las organizaciones benéficas de la comunidad de North Fulton para llevar el espíritu navideño a muchas familias de Beyond Our 40 Acres.

¡Agradecemos a nuestros niños en edad preescolar y sus familias por todo su arduo trabajo!

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

Jan. 2 | STA 50th Anniversary Event June 2022

Jan. 9 | St. Vincent de Paul - STA

Jan. 16 | Archdioceasan Hispanic Ministry

Jan. 23 | Sister Parish Haiti Semi-Annual

Jan. 30 | GA Bulletin Semi-Annual

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 chicker
 Canned fruit
- Pasta sauce
- Cereal
- Rice

- Crackers
- Please note that expired food will not be accepted. Thank you for donating!



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.









DISCIPLES AROUND YOU Parish News

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL IS ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS IN 2022

The Parish Pastoral Council is accepting applications for new members. We will have open positions for parishioners beginning in 2022. If you are passionate about the success of our parish, then the Pastoral Council is the team for you! Please prayerfully consider this ministry and reflect upon your own strengths, talents, and gifts to serve the needs of our Parish. A link to the application for Pastoral Council members can be found at sta.org on the home page. Interested parishioners and those with nominations to recommend should contact Mimi Madrid at mmadrid@sta.org.

EL CONSEJO PASTORAL DE SANTO TOMÁS ESTÁ ACEPTANDO NUEVOS MIEMBROS

El Consejo Pastoral aceptando solicitudes para nuevos miembros. Tendremos puestos vacantes para feligreses a partir de 2022. Si te apasiona el éxito de nuestra parroquia, ¡el Consejo Pastoral es el equipo para ti! Por favor considera este ministerio, reflexiona y ora sobre tus propias fortalezas, talentos y dones para atender las necesidades de nuestra parroquia. Si estas interesado, puedes encontrar el enlace para aplicar en sta.org en la página de inicio. Los feligreses interesados y aquellos que deseen nominar a alguien más como candidato a estas posiciones deben comunicarse con Mimi Madrid en mmadrid@sta.org.

COMING SOON: CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

An Introduction to the Faith and Practices of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

In today's world, knowing something about what other religions believe and practice can be essential to making sense of the daily news – around the globe and within our own community. How would you rate your religious literacy?

If you're one of those people who have said, "Someday, I'd like to learn more about" (name the religion of your choice), then this study is for you!

Class size is limited. Registration is OPEN NOW @ ignatiushouse. org

Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. - 13 weeks, beginning Jan. 18 at Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center. For more information, contact Kathy Hoffman at kdhoffman53@gmail.com.

KOFC FREE THROW CONTEST

The annual basketball free throw contest is Sunday, Jan. 16, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. It is open to all boys and girls ages 9 -14 as of Jan. 1. To provide a safe environment for all participants, the event will be held outside at the basketball hoops in the back parking lot. All non-vaccinated participants are requested to wear a mask.



Come and have some family fun! Winners in each age group will receive a plaque, a basketball, and STA Champion bragging rights for the next 12 months. These winners also qualify for the District Playoffs to be held here at St. Thomas Aquinas on Feb 5th.

El concurso anual de tiros libres de baloncesto es el domingo 16 de enero, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m. Está abierto para todos los niños y niñas de 9 a 14 años a partir del 1 de enero. Para proporcionar un ambiente seguro para todos los participantes, el evento se llevará a cabo afuera en los aros de baloncesto en el estacionamiento trasero. Se solicita a todos los participantes no vacunados que usen una máscara.

¡Ven y diviértete en familia! Los ganadores de cada grupo de edad recibirán una placa, una pelota de baloncesto y los derechos de fanfarronear de STA Champion durante los próximos 12 meses. Estos ganadores también califican para los Playoffs del Distrito que se llevarán a cabo aquí en St. Thomas Aguinas el 5 de febrero.







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 Aguinas.

Won't you come join us? Contact Terry Zobel at tzobel@sta.org for more information.



DISCIPLES AROUND YOU Parish News

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



















Thank you to everyone that helped decorate our beautiful Parish for our Christmas celebrations.

ADVENT SING-A-LONG









STA Director of Music, Eric Alexander, with music directors from St. Michael, Holy Spirit, and St. Matthew, work together for our Advent Sing-a-Long on Dec. 14. Thank you to everyone that attended and those that contributed to help make this evening possible!

TEEN WORSHIP NIGHT



















On Dec.15, 120 diverse teens gathered for an evening of fun, service, s'mores, and WORSHIP. The social circle, narthex, and church was filled with the Holy Spirit and an overwhelming sense of community. Thank you to all that came out but more importantly thank you to the priests, volunteers, parents, musicians, and staff that made the night great!

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

ESTUDIO DE BIBLIA PARA ADOLSCENTES

BIBLE STUDY

We are inviting all high schoolers (including rising ninth graders) to our Bible study! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to grow in faith and community! Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in the Faith Formation building.

ESTUDIO BÍBLICO

Invitamos a todos los adolescentes de high school (incluyendo los estudiantes entrando al noveno grado) a nuestro estudio de biblia! ¡No se pierdan de esta gran oportunidad de crecer en fe y en comunidad! Únete a nosotros el miércoles a las 7:00 p.m. arriba en el edificio de formación en la fe.

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:	Please tear off this form and place it in the offertory basket and someone will contact you
I am interested in: ☐ registering at the parish ☐ receiving the electronic newsletter ☐ knowing more about minstries at STA	within a week.
Nombre:	_
Información del contacto Correo electrónico: Número de teléfono:	Por favor arranque esta sección con sus datos y colóquela en la canasta de la ofrenda, alguien se pondrá en contacto con
Estoy interesado en:	usted durante la semana.
□registarme en la parroquia	Satura de la composita
□recibir el boletín electrónico con las noti	
☐recibir más información sobre los minis	terios en Santo Tomás de Aquino

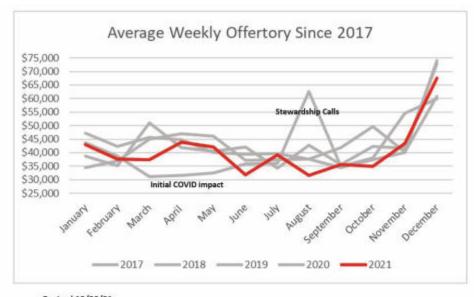




STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of 12/20/2021 – as we end the calendar year, we are down almost \$370,000 annually in offertory and AoA Annual Appeal contributions compared to 2017 and down almost \$89,000 compared to 2020. This current trend continues to limit our ability to meet our 2021-2022 budget and may require additional reductions in hours, services, and line items beyond general maintenance. The campus infrastructure is showing its age. As we all know, the cost of everything is increasing, as we feel the same pressures (cost, availability) our parishioners do for basic supplies, vendor services and equipment.

We will continue to defer fixing the AC in the preschool as the weather change has allowed that but we will need to make that repair in March. Each of the councils has been briefed on these circumstances and challenges. Clearly, the growth of our parish in numbers and level of engagement is the long term solution for STA. We are testing a Newcomer program and plan to expand it in 2022. Please join all of us in prayer and reflection to find the best path for the Parish and our neighbors in these difficult times.



Year !	52 Week Aver	age
2017	\$44,030	
2018	\$42,023	
2019	\$42,761	
2020	\$41,516	
2021	\$39,806	Annualized loss vs 2017 \$220,000
Year	AAA Rollbad	
2017	\$223,328	
2018	\$448,548	
2019	\$297,945	
2020	\$71,399	Estimated loss
2021 Estimate	\$49,000	\$150,000

Normal Revenue Drivers (+/-):

- Lenten Season/Easter
- Summer attendance
- Return to School
- Christmas
- End of Calendar Year Tax Giving

Special Impact:

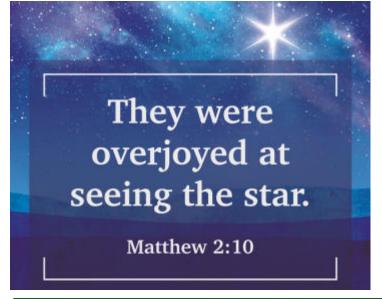
- COVID (March-May 2020)
- Stewardship Call to Action

Revis	sed	12/	20/	21

Average Weekly Offertory by Month

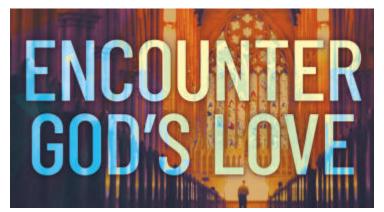
Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2017	\$47,132	\$42,276	\$45,611	\$44,814	\$40,122	\$39,395	\$39,555	\$37,562	\$41,875	\$49,626	\$40,317	\$60,759
2018	\$34,597	\$37,052	\$45,109	\$46,999	\$46,042	\$37,214	\$37,395	\$37,683	\$34,508	\$37,303	\$40,153	\$74,112
2019	\$38,836	\$35,218	\$50,942	\$41,878	\$40,583	\$42,074	\$34,357	\$42,743	\$35,669	\$42,278	\$41,617	\$72,920
2020	\$43,618	\$38,739	\$31,084	\$31,620	\$32,605	\$35,860	\$35,975	\$62,717	\$35,002	\$38,144	\$54,675	\$59,994
2021	\$43,095	\$37,548	\$37,507	\$43,799	\$42,131	\$31,730	\$39,259	\$31,568	\$35,655	\$34,970	\$43,480	\$67,622

Excludes Second Collections, Preschool, Faith Formation and Archbishop Annual Appeal (AAA) rollback. Includes Special Collections and Stewardship campaign (August 2020).









GOSPEL MEDITATION January 2, 2022 The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying,

"Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved. ©LPi



MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO 2 de enero de 2022 La Epifanía del Señor

Aun en estos tiempos, la humanidad continúa buscando la estrella, esa estrella que muchas veces se pierde entre la injusticia, el odio y la discriminación. Sin embargo, hay que seguir el camino y alzar los ojos al cielo para encontrar el centro de su luz. "Levántate y brilla, que ha llegado tu luz y la Gloria de Yavé amaneció sobre ti (Isaías 60,1). La Gloria de la Manifestación de

Jesús en su Evangelio y en la Eucaristía se hace presente entre nosotros en la Liturgia de hoy. El Papa Francisco nos explica acerca de la belleza de esta celebración. "La manifestación de Jesús, simbolizada por la luz: Levántate y resplandece, Jerusalén, porque llega tu luz; la Gloria del Señor amanece sobre ti". Él nos exhorta al movimiento, a no quedarnos ahí fijos como estatuas sin hacer nada.

También, nos explica sobre la participación de los magos del Oriente y lo que ellos representan. "Los Magos, venidos de Oriente, representan a todos los pueblos lejanos de la fe judía tradicional: se dejan guiar por la estrella y se enfrentan a un largo y arriesgado viaje; se postran ante Jesús y le ofrecen regalos simbólicos: oro, incienso y mirra; la búsqueda del Señor implica también la generosidad del corazón" (1/6/2019). ¿Qué le estoy ofreciendo a Jesús en esta etapa de mi vida? ¿Qué tipo de manifestaciones he tenido de Dios a lo largo de mi vida? Pidamos, en esta Eucaristía, que la luz de Cristo se manifieste en estos tiempos turbulentos y oscuros que experimentamos en el mundo entero. Sigamos vigilantes, caminemos por sendas nuevas, sigamos el ejemplo de los Magos. Ellos, regresaron a su país por otro camino.

©LPi



Mass Intentions - Pray for the Sick - Sacraments

CONFESSION/CONFESIÓN

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Monday, January 3

Noon (+) Charlie Samayoa by Humphress Family

Tuesday, January 4

Noon (L) Sharon Negus & Family by Small Faith Group All Souls by Dhabliwala

(+) Ann Rieger by Carol Hopkins

Wednesday, January 5

Noon (L) Ed & Claire Dravis by Tom & Mary Ann Pacer

Thursday, January 6

Noon (L) Lucretia Hart by STA Staff

(L) Tamara Duncan by Daniel Lambert

(+) Patricia Quirk by DeJarnette Family

7p.m. (L) Maria Ambrosini

Friday, January 7

Noon (L) Debbie Mahon by STA Staff

Saturday, January 8

5 p.m. For the Intentions of the Parish Family 7:30 p.m. (L) Josefina Ciafrelli by Andrea Garcia (L) Celina Ambrosini by Andrea Garcia

Sunday, January 9

8 a.m. (+) Bob & Elaine School by Mike & Cindy Purdo 11 a.m. (+) Soledad Trinidad by Hedy & Cora Sevilla 2 p.m. (+) Margarita y Constantino Ruiz by Maricela Ruiz 5 p.m. (+) Joe Spinozzi by Ann Masterson



PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Rose Marie Barnes Lynn Brady Charlie Carrio Paul Carrio, Jr Ellen Reuland Coons Sally Clark Peter Gallagher Deacon Ed LaHouse

Fabio Alvarez

Lucretia Hart
Winifried Hofmann
Tashone Hypolite
John Kraw
Bob MacPhee
Andrea Miller
Marqarita Munoz
Peter Quintana
Ann Rodreguiz
Jackie School

Ed Sembera Sandy Soltau Roxanne Spillett Mary Stephens Deacon John Strachan Tonya Wendy Weissman 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.







Amen Corner Kathy Kuczka

One of the first questions my mother would ask my brother whenever he told her of a new love interest was, "Is she Catholic?" My mother's question was due in part to the fact that she was a devout Catholic and wanted my brother to find a mate who practiced the

Catholic faith. But, her question was also motivated by growing up in a Catholic Church that didn't always view other faith traditions in a positive light. In fact, the older Code of Canon Law (1918) forbade Catholics to participate in any non-Catholic religious service including weddings and funerals.

The Second Vatican Council reexamined the Church's view of other faith traditions. The Council was the 21st ecumenical council of the Roman Catholic Church and included more than 100 observers from non-Catholic churches. The Council's documents called for a new openness to other faith traditions, including non-Christian traditions.

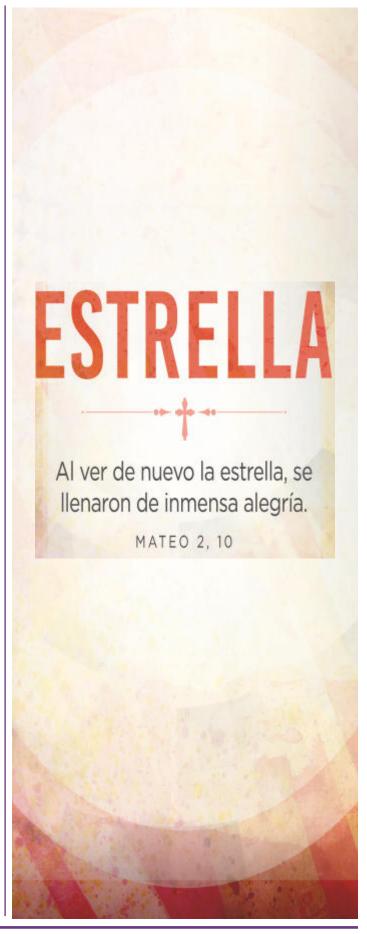
In the landmark document *Nostra Aetate, The Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions*, the Council decried any forms of anti-Semitism and stated that the Jewish people, as a whole, did not bear responsibility for the death of Jesus.

Another document, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, the Decree on Ecumenism, set the stage for new relationships with our Eastern Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican brothers and sisters. In this Decree, the Council embraced all Christians as members of the Body of Christ, saying,

"It remains true that all who have been justified by faith in Baptism are members of Christ's body, and have a right to be called Christian, and so are correctly accepted as brothers by the children of the Catholic Church."

The unity of Christians was not a new concept, even in the 1960s, when the Second Vatican Council took place. Jesus prayed that all his disciples be one. This unity began at his birth and is commemorated today in the Epiphany of the Lord. On this day we remember that Christ was revealed to pagan astrologers, a sign that the Gentiles would now be co-heirs with Jews of the promises of God. The Solemnity of the Epiphany celebrates the reality that Christ has come for and among all people.

Today is a good day to contemplate our relationship with persons of other faith traditions and to respond to the *Decree on Ecumenism*, which called all Catholics to participate in the work on Christian unity. Learn about other traditions by having a conversation with someone of another faith or by reading about other religions. Observe a prayer service at another church, synagogue or mosque. Participate in the annual Alpharetta interfaith prayer service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., typically held on the federal holiday honoring Dr. King (January 17 in 2022) at St. James United Methodist Church. Finally, pray, as Jesus did, for the unity of all.



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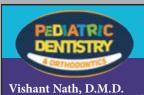
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