



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

January 16, 2022

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME 2º DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

**THANK YOU**  
for your generosity

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all our parishioners who were generous in funding the St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Program. You helped bring Christmas blessings to more than 170 individuals.

Gracias a todos nuestros feligreses que fueron generosos al financiar el Programa de Navidad de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl. Ayudaste a traer bendiciones navideñas a más de 170 personas.

**PRESCHOOL**

### PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

St. Thomas Aquinas Preschool will begin registration for this year on Tuesday, Jan. 18. Please visit <https://www.sta.org/preschool> for more details. Call 770-664-2214 to schedule a tour.

### REGISTRO PREESCOLAR

El preescolar de Santo Tomas de Aquino comenzará la inscripción para el año escolar 2022-2023 el martes 18 de enero. Visite <https://www.sta.org/preschool> para obtener más detalles o llame al 770-664-2214.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

### OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office and Faith Formation Office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The offices will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 9 a.m.

### HORAS DE OFICINA

La Oficina Parroquial y la Oficina de Formación en la Fe estarán cerradas el lunes 17 de enero en honor al Día de Martin Luther King Jr. Las oficinas reabrirán el martes 18 de enero a las 9 a.m.

# 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

*How do you live the words of Jesus's mother: "Do what he tells you"?*

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. [John 2:1-11](#)

## PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

*¿Cómo aplicas en tu vida las palabras de la Virgen María: "Hagan lo que El les diga"?*

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. [Juan 2:1-11](#)





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:STAreplay@sta.org)

### SISTER PARISH IN HAITI

The group organizes prayer support, cultural exchange, communication, and material assistance for our sister parish of St. Martin in Delatte, Haiti.

The second collection for our sister parish is coming up on Jan. 23. Please see below for more details about this ministry.



### COMITÉ DE NUESTRA PARROQUIA HERMANA EN HAITÍ

El grupo organiza apoyo de oración, intercambio cultural, comunicación y asistencia material para nuestra parroquia hermana de St. Martin en Delatte, Haití.

La segunda colecta para nuestra parroquia hermana se realizará el 23 de enero.

## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

- Jan. 16 | Archdiocesan Hispanic Ministry
- Jan. 23 | Sister Parish Haiti Semi-Annual
- Jan. 30 | GA Bulletin Semi-Annual
- Feb. 6 | STA 50th Anniversary Event June 2022
- Feb. 13 | St. Vincent de Paul STA

**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.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>SVdP FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$25 gift cards from Kroger, Publix or Walmart (for perishables)</li> <li>• Paper towels</li> <li>• Crackers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toothpaste</li> <li>• Toothbrushes</li> <li>• Shelf Stable Milk</li> </ul> <p>Please note that expired food will not be accepted. Thank you for donating!</p> |
|--|--|

## MASS ATTENDANCE

### Jan. 3 - Jan. 9

- Wednesday Mass for Seniors | 69
- Thursday Spanish | 57
- Saturday 5 p.m. (English) | 135
- Saturday 7:30 p.m. (Spanish) | 161
- Sunday 8 a.m. (English) | 158
- Sunday 11 a.m. (English) | 383
- Sunday 2 p.m. (Spanish) | 530
- Sunday 5 p.m. (English) | 127

**TOTAL | 1,620**

## AN UPDATE FROM OUR SISTER PARISH MINISTRY

The annual collection for our sister parish in Delatte, Haiti is coming up the weekend of January 23, 2022. As a reminder, St. Thomas Aquinas has been partnering with St. Martin de Tours since 1997. The church and the parish are larger in size and population than ours. The church is located in one of Haiti's most impoverished areas and is about 45 miles from Port-au-Prince airport. The average annual income of the parishioners is less than \$100 per year.

The mission statement of our Haiti sister parish committee is to support the parishioners of St. Martin de Tours in Delatte, Haiti, with prayer, financial support to educate their children, and 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.

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 continued political upheaval, it is even more imperative than ever to keep the light of hope shining.

Our annual need is \$60,000 which translates to an average teacher salary of \$600 a year, with a little extra for other school and church expenses.

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

The second collection for our Haiti Sister Parish will be on January 23rd. Your donation can also be brought directly to the parish office, with the mention "Haiti" on your check, or made online at [sta.org](http://sta.org).

As a reminder, donations are tax exempt with 100% of donations given to pay the teachers.



## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL IS NOW ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

The Parish Pastoral Council is accepting applications for new members. 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](http://sta.org) on the home page. Interested parishioners and those with nominations to recommend should contact Mimi Madrid at [mmadrid@sta.org](mailto:mmadrid@sta.org).

## EL CONSEJO PASTORAL DE SANTO TOMÁS ESTÁ ACEPTANDO NUEVOS MIEMBROS

El Consejo Pastoral aceptando solicitudes para nuevos miembros. 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](http://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](mailto:mmadrid@sta.org).

## RETRouvaille

Does your marriage need a tune up? Or even a major overhaul?

Sometimes a marriage can run along fine and then things change. Sometimes lines of communication break down and they need repair. Sometimes our focus moves away from our marriage and family and needs a little redirection. Sometimes a fair or average marriage is just not enough.



Have you ever thought to yourself, "How can I make my marriage better?" If so, Retrouvaille can help. Retrouvaille is a marriage program for couples whose marriages have gone off course. It begins with a weekend program that can help get your relationship back on track. It is an effective program that has worked for thousands of couples and it can work for your marriage.

For more information about our upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend, February 4-6, 2022 program for couples, contact: Andy and Lilly Cichon @ 770.912.4743 or visit our website: [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org)

## JOB SEARCH MINISTRY

Job seekers, recent college graduates, or those looking to enhance their careers are invite to our job assistance session the next time we meet.

Our first meeting of the year will be Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. in room 202. This is a great opportunity to meet and network with other job seekers. Everyone is welcome. If you need assistance in your job search or know someone who does, you are welcome to join us for this free meeting. Come learn our "4 Strategies of Job Seeking Success".

We are in need another VOLUNTEER with a business background including Human Resources and or Recruiting. For more details, please contact one of our Co-Chairs, by emailing them at:

Gladys Tejada: [gltejada24@gmail.com](mailto:gltejada24@gmail.com)  
Julie Mullaney: [jmc06820@yahoo.com](mailto:jmc06820@yahoo.com)



## MASKS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

With this rise in COVID-19 cases, we want to strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask when coming inside the building. Please practice maintaining social distance, sanitize your hands, and stay within your family cohort if possible while attending Mass inside the building. For the health of our staff, volunteers, and clergy, we ask for your consideration during these busy times.

If anyone is feeling ill or in contact with someone who has COVID, please join us on our Facebook page for our livestreaming Monday-Friday at noon in English, Thursday at 7p.m. in Spanish, Sunday at 11 a.m. in English, and Sunday at 2 p.m. in Spanish. Each Mass is then uploaded to our YouTube channel and our website at [www.sta.org](http://www.sta.org).

We appreciate your understanding during this time.

## RECOMENDAMOS EL USO DE TAPABOCAS

Si bien la última variante de COVID-19 parece menos grave, es mucho más fácil de contagiarse, y Georgia está viendo un drástico incremento en el número de casos.

La mejor manera de no contagiarse es prevenir. Por lo anterior les solicitamos que usen una máscara cuando entren al edificio, mantengan el distanciamiento social, desinfecte sus manos y permanezca dentro de su grupo familiar. Ayúdenos a proteger la salud de nuestro personal, voluntarios y clérigos.

Si se siente enfermo o ha estado en contacto con alguien que tiene COVID, quédese en casa y únase a la celebración de la Misa vía nuestra página de Facebook Transmisiones de la misa en vivo lunes a viernes al mediodía en inglés, el jueves a las 7 p.m. en español, el domingo a las 11 a.m. en inglés y a las 2 p.m. en español. Cada misa se cargará en nuestro YouTube y sitio web después de que finalice la transmisión en vivo.



# New Members Welcome!



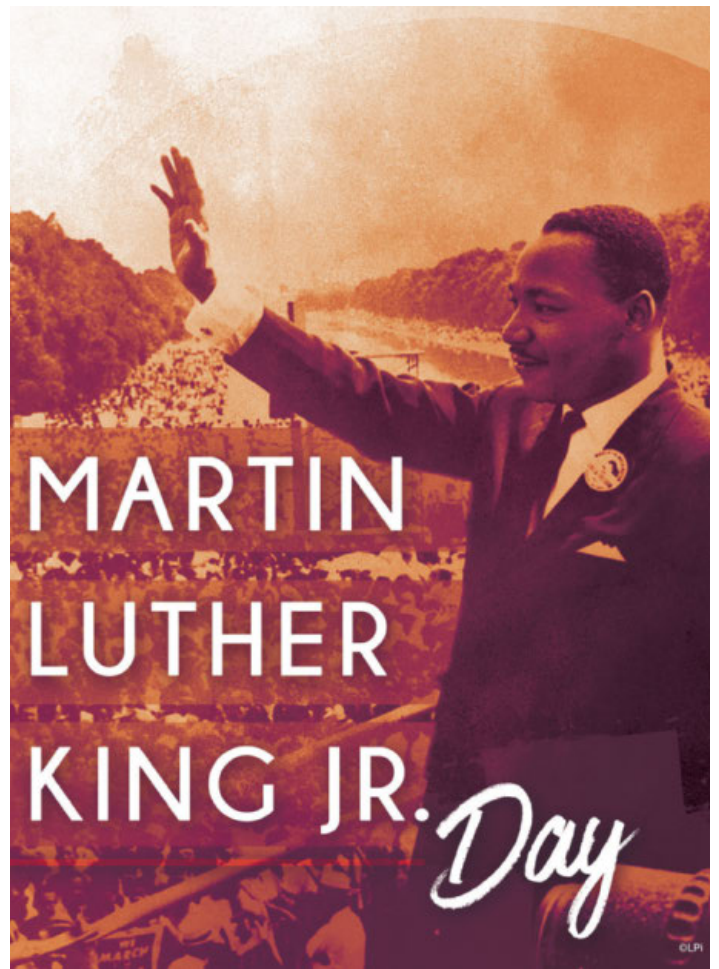
Please help me in welcoming with open arms these new parishioners to the St. Thomas Aquinas Family!

Por favor ayúdenme en darle la bienvenida con los brazos abiertos a estos parroquianos nuevos a la familia de Sto. Tomás de Aquino!

— Msgr. Daniel Stack

Mario and Belinda Biancardi  
 Christopher Boeckel  
 Andre John and Jenny Bulot  
 Veronica Campbell  
 Maria Chavira  
 Erick Garcia  
 Thomas and Kathleen Gruber  
 Juancarlos and Cruz Gonzalez  
 Gabriela Guzman  
 Jesus and Leticia Guzman  
 Antonio Herrera  
 Juanita Hull  
 Kevin Kembel  
 Kristina Lappin  
 Kristy and Ryan Lyda

Brandon and Alice Marsh  
 Evans and Marie Morisset  
 Seig and Monica Nadela  
 Melizza Navas  
 Elizabeth Nicolosi  
 Luis Alberto Perez  
 Vincent and Nicole Picerno  
 Tressa Scineaux  
 Neil and Michelle Secretario  
 Jeffery and Lori Stickland  
 Trent and Tiffani Trobough  
 Juan and Marlin Varela  
 Daniel and Lori Weisel  
 Maria Euginia Yoris



# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Day

*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

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

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

**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.**





*The things that matter most in our lives are not fantastic or grand. They are moments when we touch one another, when we are there in the most attentive or caring way. This simple and profound intimacy is the love we all long for.*

Jack Kornfield, American Author

## SMALL FAITH COMMUNITIES AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Remember the popular television show “Cheers”? Its opening song went like this:

*Sometimes you want to go  
Where everybody knows your name,  
and they're always glad you came.  
You wanna be where you can see,  
our troubles are all the same  
You wanna be where everybody knows  
Your name.*

That song is a great description of a Small Faith Community. People who were once strangers come together, get to know one another and, before long, become friends. They know they are accepted as they are and are supported in their struggles as well as their joys.

### What is a Small Faith Community?

A Small Faith Community (sometimes called a Small Christian Community, a Small Church Community, or in Spanish, Comunidad de base) is a group of 8-12 adults who gather together to share their life experiences and to grow in their faith. A Small Faith Community is a smaller, more intimate experience of church. Small Faith Communities provide a safe place where you can be open and honest.

### Who is invited to join a SFC?

You are invited to be part of this exciting and enriching model of parish life! It's our hope that everyone would be a part of a small faith group.

### What are the benefits?

Here are just a few:

- feeling like you belong to the parish
- having the opportunity to be listened to in a trusting and non-judgmental atmosphere
- making the connection between what we believe—what we celebrate at Mass—and your own life
- having your abilities and talents encouraged and appreciated
- feeling supported during trying times and sharing joys during the happy times
- deepening your faith and your relationship with Jesus Christ
- finding ways to serve the parish and the wider community as an individual and as a group

### What is the importance of joining a SFC today?

Catholic parishes are meant to foster an experience of love and an experience of faith. In a large parish like St. Thomas Aquinas, that can be a challenge. Among so many, it is easy to feel isolated and alone, especially during a pandemic. Gathering in Small Faith Communities allows the church to become smaller and more intimate. These communities offer what everyone desires: the experience of being known and being loved. SFCs also offer an experience of faith. We all have faith, but most of us need help from others to learn to trust the faith within us and learn to recognize and describe our experience of faith. The more our experiences of faith and love are shared—and this can only happen in a small group—the more we notice God and God's call to be church for one another. SFCs enable us to be who we are—the loved and cherished faith-filled people of God.

### What is faith sharing?

It is the simple sharing of our experience that gives us the opportunity to reflect on and recognize God's activity and presence in our daily lives.

### What about the programs used by the groups?

Groups begin with Come as You Are, a 12-session program that is an invitation to slow down and become more reflective about life. It helps people connect with one another beyond the usual “news, weather, and sports” conversations so that they will want to stay together and go beyond this introductory program.

“... Anytime I have a challenge, I have this group of people that I can just e-mail [and ask them to pray for me] and they can e-mail me and say, “Pray for me.” ...Also, it is great to share the joys in our lives. ....It's true joy looking around and seeing the faces of people who are happy for you.”

“I love the way that our small faith group comes together to serve others.”

“I love my small faith group because it has allowed me to have a safe place where there is no condemnation or judgment of anything I share...only love and encouragement.”

## SMALL FAITH COMMUNITIES AT STA CONT.

### How do the groups meet?

- In homes
- Online
- Outside around a fire pit
- In parks
- Wherever!

### How do Small Faith Communities remain connected to the parish?

Each group has a leader who keeps the community connected to the parish just as the pastor is the connector to the diocesan church and the bishop is the connector to the Pope and the universal church.

### How do I join?

There are several options:

- Sign up cards will be available on the weekend of Jan. 15-16.
- Sign up at the Small Faith Community lunch after the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Jan. 23.
- Sign up online using the QR code to the right or visit [www.sta.org](http://www.sta.org)



*A Small Faith Community's Fourth Annual Small Faith Family Feast. The caption that came with the picture read: "So here's what we do every now and then. Gather at table..." Brenda Sevcik*



*Annual Small Faith Community Leaders' Retreat at Ignatius House*

### SOME TESTIMONIES:

"During the winter five couples and two individuals met to create a small faith group. The only thing we had in common was that we were parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Over the past ten weeks we have prayed together and shared experiences as Catholics. All of us have enjoyed each other's company and respect what the other members of our group have to say. It has been great to see each other at church events and meet everyone's families. We all agree that we would like to continue our small faith group on in the fall. If you have been thinking about doing this we feel it is a great way to connect with other members of St. Thomas Aquinas Church."

*- A Small Faith Community Member*

"Since I don't have a family in Georgia, they are my family. I know I can count on my small faith group for all kinds of support."

*- A Small Faith Community Member*

"I think I can sum it up. It's a place to be known and to be loved, and I think it is important as part of our Christian journey."

*- A Small Faith Community Member*

"I love the way that our small faith group comes together to serve others."

*- A Small Faith Community Member*







**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

January 16, 2022

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

God delights in you. How do you feel when you hear that? Delight usually comes with an exuberant flow of joy that seemingly arises from one's toes with the expression of great glee. Reflecting upon the deep measure of joy God has in us can be a source of joy for ourselves. Delight is infectious. A very young brother and sister were playing on the beach when the all too familiar ice cream truck made its daily rounds. The boy shook with excitement and delight as he took his sister's hand and exclaimed,

"The ice cream man is here, isn't it great!" As they ran off toward the truck, one could hear the girl reply, "Yeah, I can't wait!" The experience of a child's delight in something so simple as ice cream, lifts our spirits from our burdens and transports us to the lighter, more innocent side of life.

Life is not meant to be a burden. Believe it or not, God actually wants us to be happy! In fact, the wedding feast at Cana shows us that God even puts His blessing on our happiness. It is okay to celebrate the wonder of ourselves and others. Life is good. It is always interesting to note that Jesus saves the good wine until last. You would think it would be the other way around. The superb quality of Jesus' wine points to the superior quality of life we find in Christ. It is not a life of burdens but a life of wonder and delight! In Christ, we are lifted from the superficial and mundane to a life of purpose, hope, and love.

God is with us through the long haul, through the challenges and sorrows as well as the successes and accomplishments. In spite of the fact that we often wander from the path, God's celebratory delight in us remains. As spouses are asked to remain faithful to each other through whatever life brings, God remains faithful too. This promise remains through this life and into the next. All we have to do is take the advice of Jesus' mother to heart when she says, "Listen to him." This wisdom saves us from foolishly giving in to the illusion that we can make better wine than Jesus.

©LPi



**MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO**

16 de enero de 2022

2º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Con la fiesta de la Epifanía y el Bautismo del Señor se cierra el Tiempo de Navidad, que siempre es precedido por el Adviento. Ahora, comenzamos el Tiempo Ordinario. Serán siete domingos de este corto periodo, que termina el día anterior al Miércoles

de Ceniza. La segunda etapa de este Tiempo es más larga, da comienzo después del domingo de Pentecostés y termina hasta el sábado antes del primer domingo de Adviento. ¿Para qué sirve a los cristianos este Tiempo Ordinario? ¿Qué nos pide la Liturgia de este tiempo? Pues, es muy sencillo, nos pide meditar en el misterio de Cristo. En su invitación de participar en su Reino con alegría y compromiso verdadero. La Iglesia tiene diversidad de carismas, donde podemos entregarnos al servicio de los demás.

Por ejemplo, hoy el Evangelio nos invita a participar junto con María y Jesús en las bodas de Caná. Y es ahí en esa boda, donde Jesús hace su primer milagro a petición de su Madre María. El diálogo de ambos viene a ser a causa de la falta de vino. Por lo tanto, los novios estaban en apuros por esta razón. Este relato es muy profundo, el hecho de que Jesús participa en la boda, tiene como significado la boda de Dios con la humanidad, que más adelante será la Sangre de Jesús derramada para la salvación de la humanidad. *"Alegrémonos, regocijémonos démosle honor y gloria, porque han llegado las bodas del Cordero"* (Apocalipsis 19,7). También, el profeta en la primera lectura lo pone claro: *"No te llamaran más 'Abandonada', ni a tu tierra 'Desolada', sino que te llamaran 'Mi Preferida' y a tu tierra 'Desposada'. Porque Yavé se complacerá en ti y tu tierra tendrá un esposo"* (Isaías 62,4).

©LPi



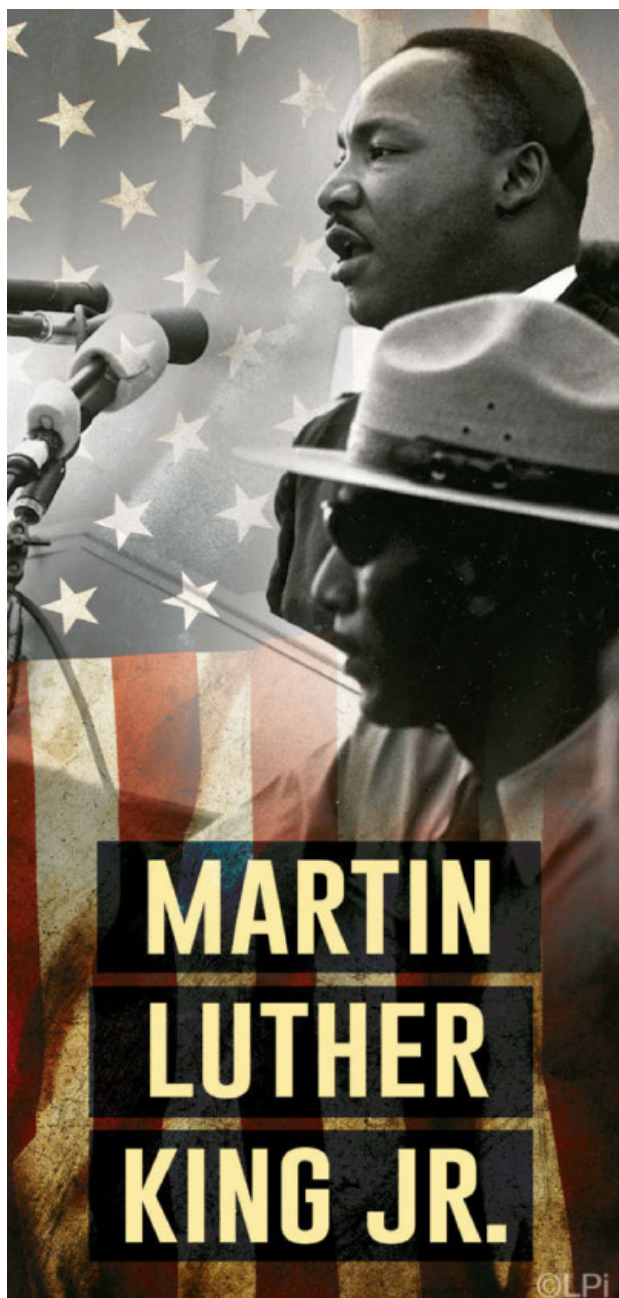




## CONFESSION/CONFESIÓN

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).



### Monday, January 17

Noon (+) Mary Roberts by Forever Young Friends

### Tuesday, January 18

Noon (+) Ann & John Snyder by Judith Nessia  
(+) Kenneth Mousseau by Robert & Connie Santi  
(L) Janet Mousseau by Robert & Connie Santi

### Wednesday, January 19

Noon (+) Victoria Welker by Tom & Mary Ann Pacer

### Thursday, January 20

Noon (L) Kathy Hampton by Nanci Murray  
(L) Cathy O'Sullivan by Nanci Murray  
(L) Nancy Hernandez by Nanci Murray  
7p.m. (+) Maria Ambrosini by Andrea Garcia

### Friday, January 21

Noon (L) Special Intention by Dhahliwala

### Saturday, January 22

5 p.m. (+) Victoria Pineda by Humphress Family  
7:30 p.m. (L) Juan Zuñiga y familia by Unity & Diversity

### Sunday, January 23

8 a.m. For the Intentions of the Parish Family  
11 a.m. (+) Ray Sullivan by Mike ManOugian  
2 p.m. (L) Mayra Ponce y Familia by Unity & Diversity  
5 p.m. (+) Apolonia Calibara by Karen DeCastro



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

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

Tashone Hypolite  
Frana Keeling  
John Kraw  
Carol Mallon  
Bob MacPhee  
Andrea Miller  
Marqarita Munoz  
Peter Quintana  
Herb Reis  
Ann Rodreguiz

Jackie School  
Ed Sembera  
Sandy Soltau  
Mary Stephens  
Deacon John Strachan  
Tonya  
Wendy Weissman

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).



# What Is Ordinary Time?

Kristopher W. Seaman

One of my former professors, in anticipation for the next class session, said we would begin to look at the liturgical calendar—the way the Church tells time. The first topic would be Ordinary Time. Then he said something that would change the way I view, celebrate, and prepare for Ordinary Time. With excitement, he exclaimed, “There is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time!” At the time, I was quite perplexed. What does he mean that Ordinary Time isn’t ordinary? Then why call it ordinary? This confused undergraduate walked back to his dorm room and began feverishly reading for the next class on Ordinary Time.

When we hear the word “ordinary,” we tend to think, “common,” everyday, or mundane. In other words, if something is ordinary it isn’t special. Ordinary from its Latin root means “order.” When we order something, we arrange in a sequence. That is, it is numbered. It is ordinal. This same professor suggested that Ordinary Time is Ordinal Time. It is counted time. We now know why it is called Ordinary Time, but how is it differentiated from other liturgical seasons and feasts?

The liturgical year is the calendar the Church uses for seasons, feasts, and solemnities. Various calendars are used for various reasons: civil, school year, lunar (for example, for calculating Chinese New Year or Jewish holy days), etc. The liturgical year basically celebrates one thing: The Paschal Mystery. The Paschal Mystery is Jesus Christ’s birth, life, Passion, death, Resurrection, Ascension, and subsequent sending of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus to the apostles, is the One who brings us into relationship—into communion—with Christ’s death and Resurrection. This death and Resurrection is the saving event that frees us from sin and death. The Father’s raising of Jesus from the dead transcends all time, because the Spirit—whom Jesus said the Father would send—invites us into this saving Paschal Mystery.



That means, we are always invited by our Triune God to enter into the depths of the Paschal Mystery. What does the Paschal Mystery have to do with Ordinary Time?

The Paschal Mystery is so big, so deep, so vast, that we journey through this mystery for a whole year: the liturgical year. Sundays in Ordinary Time, as the official document on the liturgical year the *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar* states, “are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects” (43). Other liturgical seasons focus on one aspect. For instance, during Lent we focus on turning away from sin in order for our Triune God to transform us into more faithful disciples. Feasts for saints celebrate the exemplary life of a saint who witnessed to

Christ’s Paschal Mystery in his or her very life, sometimes unto death. The 33 or 34 weeks in Ordinary Time then celebrate the whole Paschal Mystery on each Sunday. According to the *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, “Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after the Sunday following 6 January and continues until Tuesday before Ash Wednesday inclusive. It begins again on Monday after Pentecost and ends before evening prayer I of the First Sunday of Advent” (44). Therefore, Ordinary Time is segmented into two parts, with Lent-Holy Week-Easter-Pentecost being in the middle.

My former professor was indeed right; there is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. Rather, we count the Sundays and the weeks as we celebrate the mystery of Jesus Christ who calls us into communion with himself as he leads us through the power of the Holy Spirit to the Father.

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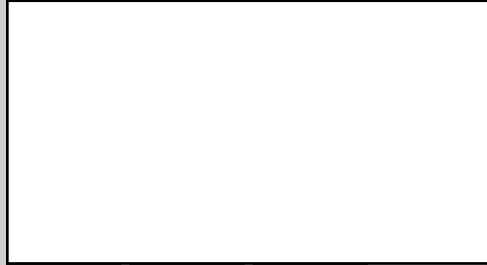
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