

As disciples of Jesus, we look for God present in all things, that we might LOVE him and SERVE him in all things.

### SAINT THOMAS MORE **CHURCH & SCHOOL**

636 W Ponce de Leon Ave Decatur, Georgia 30030-2951 www.stmgaparish.org

### **PARISH OFFICE**

Phone: 404-378-4588 Fax: 404-378-0506 Email: ParishOffice@stmga.org Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Closed for Lunch 12-12:30 PM

### SCHOOL

404-373-8456

### **EMERGENCY NUMBER**

678-337-8910

### **SCHEDULE OF MASSES SATURDAY**

5:30 PM (Vigil)

**SUNDAY** 

9:00 AM

10:15 AM\*

\*(outdoor, if above 50°, below 80° and no rain)

11:30 AM

5:30 PM

MON-FRI

12:15 PM

### **RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 PM or by appointment

#### **PARISH NURSERY**

Available during the 9am Mass

### **CHAPEL**

Open weekdays during parish office hours.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE 678-892-6163

Report suspected abuse by **Church employees and** volunteers to the **Archdiocesan 24-hour Abuse Reporting Hotline:** 1-888-437-0764



High School Mission Week El Paso, Tx. July 9-14, 2023

Parish Mission Week Clarkston, GA June 26-30, 2023

Learn about our upcoming parish mission, Love Alive, in Parish News!



# Confirmation Mass Monday, February 6 at 6:00pm.

Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM, Conv will be here to celebrate the sacrament with our youth.

\* Due to participants with severe allergies, this will be a fragrance-free Mass.



### Join us every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Family Room for a Bible study with LGBTQ+ Catholics & Friends.

We come together to reflect on the Sunday readings in a safe and inclusive space. Whether you identify as LGBTQ+ or are an ally, all are welcome to join us in this meaningful and uplifting discussion. Together, we will deepen our understanding of the Word of God and grow in our faith.

See you there!





### NO WINE AND CHEESE NEXT SUNDAY!

Join us next Sunday at 6:30pm at Inner Voice Decatur, located at 308 West Ponce de Leon Avenue.

To RSVP, scan the QR or visit bit.lv/3WrLbg6

The gathering will be a combination of the Young Adults Ministry and the LGBTQ+ Catholics & Friends group.





# PRAYER REQUESTS

At the weekday Masses this coming week, the presider will remember the following persons along with all the living and dead during the General Intercessions, and he may invite parishioners to say aloud the names of deceased loved ones.

Mon., Feb 6, 2023 Ernesto Havacon † Tue., Feb 7, 2023 Bianor Velez † Thu., Feb 9, 2023 Katie Trocheck Abel † Phyllis Jean McNeil † Fri., Feb 10, 2023 James Cranwell †

If you would like the presider at our weekday Masses to remember a loved one in the General Intercession for the sick or dead, contact the parish office at 404-378-4588. We will not accept any gift in return for the presider's praying for someone at Mass. In order to add a name to these lists, you must be either the person seeking prayers, an immediate

relative of the one to be remembered, or have the express permission of the one to be remembered.

### Pray for those who are sick:

Eric Myracle, Philip Selpha, Joe Giordano, Ripley Brasuell, Nancy

### Pray for those who have recently died:

Adele Llop (mother of Adele DiCristina), Robert Francis Seedlock (brother of Mary Seedlock), John Monaco

### Pope Francis' February Prayer Intention: For Parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity, and welcome towards those most in need.



Fr. Bob Hussey, S.J., Pastor rhussey@stmga.org

Fr. Jim Stormes, S.J., Parochial Vicar istormes@stmga.org

Leigh Holbrook, Parish Administrator lholbrook@stmga.org

Shaun Bland, Principal, STM School sbland@stmga.org

Debbie Whiteley, Accounting Manager dwhiteley@stmga.org

Joe Messina, Director of Worship imessina@stmga.org

Andy Otto, Director of Adult Faith Formation aotto@stmga.org

Fernanda Mucchiut, Director of Youth Faith Formation fmucchiut@stmga.org

Jessica Prince, Director of Youth Programs iprince@stmga.org

Elias Benn, Director of Parish Communications ebenn@stmga.org

Mitu Assefa, Administrative Assistant sassefa@stmga.org

Stephanie L. Windon, Administrative Assistant swindon@stmga.org

Todd Hines, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds thines@stmga.org

Carl and Fran McColman, RCIA Coordinators, rcia@stmga.org

Mary Ann Brock, Parish Nursery, nursery@stmga.org

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Mon., Feb 6 Confirmation Mass—6:00pm to 7:30pm—Church

Tue., Feb 7

3th-8th Basketball Practice—5:00pm to 10:00pm—Gym LGBTQ+ Bible Study—7:00pm to 8:30pm—Family Room RCIA Weekly Meeting—7:00pm to 8:30pm—Julie Room

Wed., Feb 8 3rd-8th Basketball Tournament—6:00pm to 9:00pm—Gym

AGAPE Group —6:30pm to 7:30pm—Parish Library Trauma Support Group—6:30pm to 8:00pm—Family Room Centering Prayer Group—7:00pm to 8:30pm—Zoom Adult Choir Practice—7:00pm to 8:30pm—Church

Thurs., Feb 9 Tai Chi—6:00pm to 7:30pm—Mulhern Hall

Men's Basketball League—8:00pm to 10:00pm—Gym

Tai Chi—7:30am to 9:00am—Mulhern Hall Sat., Feb 11

> 9th—12th Basketball Tournament—9:00am to 10:00pm—Gym Centering Prayer Group—9:00am to 11:00am—Julie Room

Sun., Feb 12 Parish Nursery—8:45am to 10:15am—Nursery

Habits of the Household Book Study—9:00am to 10:00am—Teacher's Lounge

Coffee & Creation Hour: Sustainability: Beyond the Parish Walls—9-10am & 10:15-11:15am—Julie Room

Bible Study with Jerry Pendrick—10:00am to 11:30am—Parish Library

Coffee and Donuts—10:00am in front of Parish Library; 11:15am in Mulhern Hall

9th—12th Basketball Tournament—6:00pm to 10:00pm—Gym JYLT Leadership Team—6:30pm to 8:30pm—Family Room

# PARISH NEWS



### 2023 OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN

As our Offertory Appeal comes to a close, we would like to thank everyone who made a commitment to this year's appeal. Your support and dedication to your fellow parishioners will allow us to continue building our parish community together.

# WELCOME TO STM, NEW PARISHIONERS!

Brittani and Amara Gray Michael and Angela Gray Dr. Stephanie Pouch and Phillip Lloyd Anastasia Grigoreva

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**



Connor Timothy Brown (*parents Matthew and Mary*) celebrated the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, January 29.



Eleonora and Julia Veneziani (parents Alessandro and Manuela) celebrated the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, January 29.

# CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD NEEDS CATECHISTS!

We are in need of catechists for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, our Montessori-based faith formation for children ages 3-6. Please contact Andy Otto at aotto@stmga.org if you're interested in volunteering.

# S LOVE ALIVE BETTER TOGETHER

Parish Mission Week June 26-30, 2023

Our upcoming parish mission week will be on June 26-30. The mission promises to be an opportunity to learn more about the outreach programs in the Clarkston community, and for us to offer a helping hand to our neighbors! Each day that week, we will gather at the church in the morning for prayer and refreshment, then travel with our small groups to our assigned projects. At the end of the day, we will return to connect as a community before ending our day. All parishioners are invited to participate. Additional information will be shared with the parish in the upcoming months. Visit <a href="mailto:bit.ly/parish-mission-2023">bit.ly/parish-mission-2023</a> to sign up! Questions? Contact Leigh at lholbrook@stmga.org.

### WARMING SHELTERS DRIVE

We are collecting new or gently used sweats, hats, and gloves, as well as travel-size toiletries for those in need at our local warming shelters. Donations can be left in the designated collection bins in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

### WHAT YOUR SVDP CONTRIBUTIONS DO...

James, an elderly, disabled man who lives in Decatur Section 8 (limited income) housing, was unable to pay his gas bill, and his gas (heat) was turned off in November. He reached out to SVdP the week before Christmas asking for assistance. Thanks to the generous donations from our STM parishioners, we were able to pay to reconnect his gas account two days before Christmas, allowing him to heat his apartment during the extreme cold snap in December.



AGAPE is a faith-sharing community for young adults/late teens with special needs. These individuals may not be able to fully access the other faith sharing groups offered within our parish due to their limited cognitive, physical, or verbal skills. We socialize, pray, reflect, and build a supportive community within a small group setting. For more information, contact Julie Siler at juliesiler05@gmail.com.

### YOUTH NEWS



Looking for activities for your K-5th grader this summer? Sign them up for STM's Camp Spark. The camp will June 12-16. Registration opens in a few weeks. Be among the first to know when registration opens by signing up for the notification. Visit <a href="https://bit.ly/camp-spark-interest">bit.ly/camp-spark-interest</a> to fill out an interest form.



High School Youth! Travel to El Paso to work at an area resource center that serves the refugee and immigrant community at our sister parish, Sacred Heart. Sign up today! Visit <a href="mailto:bit.ly/mission-trip-2023">bit.ly/mission-trip-2023</a>. Questions? Contact Leigh at lholbrook@stmga.org.

# SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION

Registration closes soon!!
To register, or for more
information, visit stmgaparish.org/
athletics



### JLYT PIZZA & QUESTIONS!



Join us on Sunday, February 19 for Pizza and Questions. Join us as we gather with our guest clergy and dig into tough questions surrounding our faith, justice, society, and other issues in our world. Bring your questions and challenges. Nothing is off limits.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TIGERS!!**

Congratulations to our 7th-grade girls' basketball team for winning The Sam Robb Fund 2023 Memorial Classic championship! Read more on Page 7.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

5th-8th Girls Volleyball Registration—Closes on February 5 Confirmation Mass—Monday, February 6 JYLT Night Out—Sunday, February 12

## **FAITH IN ACTION**

### CARE FOR CREATION WEEKLY RECOMMENDATIONS



Join the Care for Creation team for a workshop led by Georgia Interfaith Power and Light on **Sunday**, **February 12**. There will be two sessions: 9:00 am and 10:15 am in the Julie Room. The workshop will discuss sustainability practices that families and individuals can engage with "beyond the parish walls" in their own homes, businesses, and schools. We'll discuss home energy audits and retrofits, zero-waste practices, and other sustainability tips as well as ways to engage the community in these efforts. Coffee and donuts will be available.

To RSVP, scan the QR or visit bit.ly/beyondtheparishwalls.



Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) is hosting their annual **Green Team Summit on February 26th from 2-8 pm** at Temple Sinai in Sandy Springs, GA. The Summit gives people of faith and environmental stewards across Georgia an opportunity to gather together and learn about ways they can engage in the work of environmental justice and sustainability. At this year's event, participants will attend workshops that equip congregations to build their Green Teams, combat climate change, and mobilize around local and federal climate issues. Participants will also share a meal and hear from keynote speakers who will inspire a renewed love for Creation and neighbor and build an

understanding of the importance of voices of faith and conscience within this work. Register at bit.lv/gts2023.

### **WAYS TO SERVE**

Serve Dinner at the Gift of Grace House—Sundays at 4:30pm and Thursdays at 5:00pm—Contact Jen at jengossett@gmail.com for details Volunteer in our Parish Nursery during the 9am Sunday Mass—Contact MaryAnn at <a href="mailto:nursery@stmga.org">nursery@stmga.org</a> for details Become a Welcome Ambassador at Mass—Contact Leigh at Iholbrook@stmga.org

Visit our Service Projects page at stmgaparish.org/service-projects for more information on these and other service opportunities

# We encourage you to give to support our parish.

# Ways to Give

You can give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift. To donate, either:

1. Scan this QR code with your phone's camera



2. Visit our website and Click on 'Donate'

www.stmgaparish.org

5. Place your offering in the basket at Mass

3. Text 'Give' to 512-559-3279

4. Mail to the Church: St. Thomas More Church 636 W. Ponce de Leon Ave. Decatur, GA 30030-2951

Thank you for your generosity!

### 2023 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



A letter from Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer was mailed this past week to all previous donors to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. He is asking for the continued support of the many important programs that help thousands in our archdiocese each year. The goal for the 2023 appeal is \$8,400,000 and the goal for our parish is \$140,600. Please respond generously when you receive your letter. For more information, and to donate online, visit the appeal website at <a href="https://www.archatl.com/appeal">www.archatl.com/appeal</a>.

# **WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS**

### **RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays from 4pm - 5pm, or by appointment.

### **RCIA**

RCIA — the program for learning about Catholicism and/ or preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation — invites you to come and learn and discern with us. We'll be meeting virtually over the summer and in person beginning in the fall. RCIA is a safe space to pray together and have honest conversation about what it means to be a faithful Catholic in today's world. There's no obligation: you're welcome to participate in our program even if you don't think you want to become a Catholic or if you're not sure. If you would like to explore the spirituality and teachings of our Catholic faith contact Fran and Carl McColman at <a href="mailto:rcia@stmga.org">rcia@stmga.org</a> or register at <a href="mailto:www.stmgaparish.org/rcia">www.stmgaparish.org/rcia</a>.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Call the Parish to request the sacrament at home or in the hospital. The sacrament is not only for those close to death, but also for those who are seriously ill or infirm and in need of the community's prayers and support. The anointing can be given multiple times.

#### **BAPTISM**

To schedule a Baptism, contact <u>ParishOffice@stmga.org</u>, 404-378-4588 or visit <u>stmgaparish.org/baptism</u>. The registration form link is under Baptisms on the website.

# FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST EUCHARIST, AND CONFIRMATION

If you or your child want to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation for the first time, or to be confirmed, contact the Parish Office at 404-378-4588.

### **MATRIMONY**

To schedule a wedding, contact <a href="mailto:ParishOffice@stmga.org">ParishOffice@stmga.org</a>, or 404-378-4588. Note: Persons desiring to be married at St. Thomas More will be required to participate in a marriage preparation program. For more information on the sacraments at STM please visit: <a href="mailto:www.stmga.org">www.stmga.org</a>, and click on "Sacramental Life."

### **FUNERALS**

In the event of the death of a loved one, call the parish and ask to speak with the priest on duty. He will attend to your needs and offer advice on how to proceed with funeral planning.

### **CHAPEL**

The chapel near the entrance of the church is available for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and is open on weekdays when parish offices are open.

# **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**



### **IGNATIAN FOUNDATIONS**

Join this online introduction to the Ignatian Worldview Tuesday evening from Feb. 21 to Mar. 28 7:30pm to 9:00pm via Zoom Advanced Registration required. Visit bit.lv/if-spring-2023 to register.

#### THE ENNEAGRAM FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Wednesdays March 1, 8, 15 and 22 7:00pm to 9:00pm via Zoom

Discover how this dynamic personality typing model can help deepen your relationship with your spouse and offer conflict resolution strategies, helping you rekindle relational intimacy.

> Fee: \$150 | Space limited to 10 couples Register at stmgaparish.org/adultfaith



### **WEEKLY EVENTS AT STM**

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Mondays, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm—Mulhern Hall & Zoom

### NOT YOUR MAMA'S ROSARY GROUP

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 8:00 am-9:00 am, Parish Library; Other Tuesdays, 8:30am-9am,

### SCRIPTURE STUDY WITH LOUANNE

Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, - Zoom

### LGBTQ+ BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm—Family Room

### **CENTERING PRAYER**

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm—Zoom Saturdays, 9:00 am to 11:00 am—Julie Room Contact Joanna Brunson at columbus4x@gmail.com with questions.

### BIBLE STUDY WITH JERRY PENDRICK

Sundays from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Parish Library

### **STM SUPPORT GROUPS**





TRAUMA Complex trauma due to childhood trauma and adult sexual assault 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS, 6:30P, FAMILY ROOM



DIVORCE/SEPARATION
IST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS, 6:30P, FAMILY ROOM
Contact Kelly Marriott at kelly marriott7@gmail.com



GRIEF/LOSS
IST SATURDAYS, 6:30P. JULIE ROOM
Contact Mary Delaney at creativecorecounseling@gmail.com

These peer support groups are not a replacement for professional counselling.

For immediate crises, including thoughts of suicide, call the Georgia Crisis and Access Line at 800-715-4225 or text HOME to 741741.

### **IGNATIUS HOUSE**

## IGNATIAN RETREAT — COUPLES' WEEKEND RETREAT

February 10-12, 2023

St. Ignatius has much wisdom for couples that will help them grow closer to God and one another. His Spiritual Exercises offer a pattern we can apply to the journey of a romantic relationship. This retreat presents Ignatius' wisdom and tools to enrich the life of couples, whether dating or married. Throughout the weekend, retreatants will be given exercises and suggestions for personal prayer and for reflections together as a couple. This is a silent retreat. The retreat directors are Sarah Otto, M.Div. and Andy Otto, MA. To register, visit ignatiushouse.org



# 1-NIGHT WORKING RETREAT ON THE GROUNDS OF IGNATIUS HOUSE February 18-19, 2023

The beautiful grounds of Ignatius House are an integral part of the retreat experience. Help us care for our common home and the "outdoor chapel" as together we lend a hand to improve these forested acres. Experience the deep satisfaction of digging into the Earth with your hands, making it healthy and beautiful on a 1-night, non-silent, working retreat. To register, visit <u>ignatiushouse.org</u>



### SCHOOL NEWS



# ADMISSIONS DEADLINE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR IS FEBRUARY 10TH!

Hoping to make Saint Thomas More Catholic School your school home? This week is the last week! Complete your applications for new students for next school year by Friday, February 10th. Consider joining our STM Family! It all starts with our online application at <a href="mailto:stmga.org">stmga.org</a>.

# 7TH GRADE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM CELEBRATES 1ST PLACE!

Congratulations to our 7th-grade girls' basketball team for winning The Sam Robb Fund 2023 Memorial Classic championship! The girls fought hard to become back-to-back tournament champs. Our 8th-grade girls, who've been playing together since 3rd/4th grades, played with a lot of heart and made it all the way to the finals. We celebrate all the teams who, through this event, raised money to support CURE Childhood Cancer. **Go Tigers!** 



For more School News, please visit www.stmga.org/news/

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**



### CURSILLO RETREAT WEEKEND

Want to deepen your faith? Join the Cursillo weekend, a 3-day workshop at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers. You'll hear inspiring messages, participate in daily mass, and reflect on living the Christian life. Led by experienced laity, religious, and clergy, this is a meaningful and enriching experience. The



Men's next weekend will be on February 23-26, and the Women's next weekend will be on March 2-5. There are only a few remaining spots so sign up soon! To sign up, call Anthony and Kimi Nettuno at 406-579-9535.

### RETREAT FOR ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PARENTS

Life-Giving Wounds is a three-day for young adults and adults with divorced or separated parents. The retreat gives participants a greater understanding of the wound of divorce and the ways it affects their lives, offers advice about the difficulties concerning love and trust of others, and explains how the Catholic faith, spiritual practices, and the sacraments are essential to self-knowledge and healing. The retreat begins on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. and ends on March 12 at 2:30 p.m. Cost per individual is \$100, which includes several meals and all materials. Attendees must be 18 or older to attend. To register and for more information, please visit <a href="http://tiny.cc/lgw2023">http://tiny.cc/lgw2023</a>.





### THE WAY FOR WOMEN RETREAT

The Way for Women is a three-day retreat for adult female survivors of abuse offered by the Archdiocese of Atlanta's Victim Assistance Program March 24-26 at Sautee Mountain Retreat in Clarksville, GA. Registration deadline is March 16. Please contact Sue Stubbs at 404-920-7554 or sstubbs@archatl.com for more information.

### COUPLES CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH AND 60TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2023

The Archdiocese of Atlanta would like to honor couples married in 1973 and 1963 with an invitation to a Golden/Diamond Wedding Anniversary Mass on Saturday April 1, at noon, at Saint Brigid. A light reception will follow the Mass for the anniversary couples and their families. Space is limited. To RSVP and for more information, please visit <a href="http://tiny.cc/anniversarymass">http://tiny.cc/anniversarymass</a>





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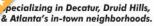
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