

St.Thomas Mo

July 23, 2023—16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



'If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest.'

Matthew 13:29-30

CURRENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Youth Faith Formation Kicks Off on August 13! See Youth Ministry on Page 4 for details

Feast of the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary Tuesday, August 15 - Mark Your Calendars

Register for Our Fall Youth Athletic Programs See STM Athletics on Page 4 for Registration details

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

(FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-17)











bit.ly/youth-formation-2023

RSVP FOR ST. IGNATIUS FEAST DAY EVENTS



RSVP TODAY!





SUNDAY, JULY 30 6:30 PM TO 9:00 PM SIGN UP TODAY!





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.

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:

Malika Watson, Annie Jeter, Patricia Roller, Tegan Campbell, Beth Painter, Patrick Jones, Edward Dieser Jr, Ezra Brook, Anthony Tumpson Jr, Allison Levierge, Philip Selpha, Thristinne Terrusa, Josie Capps, Diane Sykes, Susan Smith

Pray for those who have recently died:

Wesley Chavis, Liz Bucko,

Pope Francis' July Prayer Intention: For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.



STM PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

The STM Parish Council is a group of active parishioners who advise the pastor regarding significant parish matters pertaining to parish identity, mission, and ministries. Present members are Paul Blackstone, Erin Brewster, Mary Ellen Davis, Larry Diehl, Lindsey Farrell, Tanya Frazee, Johnathon Kelso, Kunle Oguneye, and Elizabeth Small. Leigh Holbrook serves an *ex officio* role.

STAFF

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

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

Leigh Holbrook, *Parish Administrator,* Iholbrook@stmga.org

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

Debbie Whiteley, *Accounting Manager,* dwhiteley@stmga.org

Joe Messina, Director of Worship, jmessina@stmga.org

Kirsten Wehner, *Liturgical Coordinator*, sacristan@stmga.org

Andy Otto, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation aotto@stmga.org

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

Nolan King, Interim Director of Athletics, athletics@stmga.org

Gaby Guerrero, Youth Minister, gguerrero@stmga.org

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

Mitu Assefa, Administrative Assistant, sassefa@stmga.org

Yosan Gebrehiwet, Administrative Assistant, ygebrehiwet@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

Wed., July 26 Centering Prayer Group—7:00pm to 8:30pm—Zoom

Adoration—7:00pm to 9:00pm—Chapel

Thu., July 27 Tai Chi—6:00pm to 8:00pm—Mulhern Hall

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

Sat., July 29 Tai Chi—7:30am to 9:30am—Mulhern Hall

Centering Prayer Group—9:00am to 10:00am—Julie Room

St. Ignatius Feast Day Cookout—6:30pm to 9:30pm—Mulhern Courtyard

Sun., July 30 Parish Nursery—8:45am to 10:15am—Nursery

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

Ignatius of Loyola: Soldier, Saint, Sinner (Film Viewing) - 6:30pm to 9:00pm—Julie Room

PARISH NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!



James Sullivan Dunning (parents Catherine and Christopher) celebrated the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, July 16, 2023.

Alec Brandon Grove (parents Tuan and Brandon) celebrated the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, July 16, 2023.





Nathaneil Lewis & Vivienne Katherine Sivilus (parents Maribeth and Jean) celebrated the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, July 16, 2023.

DID YOU KNOW?



The feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, is on Monday, July 31.

We will be celebrating the feast day at all our weekend Masses next weekend. As part of the feast day festivities next weekend, we will be having a cookout on Saturday, July 29 at 6:30pm in the Mulhern Courtyard, and a viewing of the film *Ignatius of Loyola: Soldier, Saint, Sinner* on Sunday, July 30 at 6:30pm in the Julie Room.

Don't forget to RSVP for both of these events. RSVP details can be found on the bulletin cover and on the parish website.



TWO STM PARISHIONERS RECOGNIZED DURING THE CATHOLIC MEDIA CONFERENCE LAST MONTH

The Georgia Bulletin received nine Catholic Press Awards during the 2023 Catholic Media Conference last month which was held in Baltimore, Maryland. These awards were for stories, columns, photography, and its website. Of the nine awards that they walked away with, STM parishioners Lorraine Murray was awarded 1st place for Best Regular Column and Johnathon Kelso, 2nd place for Best Photography in the portrait category for *'Joseph Newton of Peachtree Farm'*. Congratulations to you both!



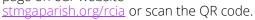


Pictures: Lorraine Murray (*left*) and Johnathon Kelso (*right*)

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, better known as RCIA, is a program for adults to be received into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiations. We also include with our RCIA program the opportunity for adult Catholics to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The program begins with an inquiry phase

that allows one to learn more about the faith before discerning whether to move forward with receiving the sacraments. The group gathers weekly in the Julie Room. For more information about the program or details about one of the upcoming Open Houses, see the RCIA page on our website





Every year, our parish is blessed with individuals seeking to learn more about Catholic spirituality, and/or are thinking about becoming Catholic. An important part of our RCIA is connecting each participant with a sponsor – a member of the parish who is willing to accompany them as they explore this spiritual path. Sponsors do not have to be experts in theology or Catholic doctrine – it's a job for ordinary, everyday Catholics who are willing to be a friend and companion to someone who is discovering the beauty of our faith. Sound interesting? Please reach out to Richard Joseph at richardjoseph@comcast.net to learn more.



For activities, information, or questions about STM's Youth Ministry, visit stmgaparish.org and click 'Formation' **Contact Persons**

> Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Ages 3-6) Ann Garrido—garrido@ai.edu Spark (PreK-5th)

Fernanda Mucchiut—fmucchiut@stmga.org Wildfire (6th-7th), IGNITE! (8th-10th), and JYLT (11th-12th) Gaby Guerrero—gguerrero@stmga.org



Sunday, August 13 is the first Sunday for the 2023-24 Faith Formation year! SPARK will be having their kickoff gathering in the morning, Wildfire and IGNITE in the afternoon/evening. More information will be shared via email once you register. In addition to the kickoff events on that Sunday, our new Children's Liturgy of the Word will launch during the 10:15am Sunday Mass!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER AND SHARE YOUR FAITH!

We are actively seeking enthusiastic individuals to join our team of volunteers for our 2023-2024 faith formation year. We need your help in fulfilling our mission to share Jesus' Good News with the youth of our community through our programs Spark, Wildfire, and Ignite. Please consider offering your time and talents to one of our faith formation programs. Our catechetical program, as well as our youth ministry programs, are looking for volunteers who are willing to walk with our children and teens, and their families, as they journey towards a deeper relationship with the Lord. No prior experience is required! For more information or to sign up for our faith formation programs, contact our Youth Ministry at youth@stmga.org.



STMATHLE

REGISTER FOR OUR FALL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS!

Registration for the following athletic programs is open:

- High School Girls' Volleyball
- PreK-8th Soccer
- 5th—8th Cross Country

For more information and to register, scan the QR or visit our Athletics page at statmagaparish.org/athletics.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Wildfire/IGNITE! Parents Open House—Sunday, July 23 at 6:30pm in the Youth Room First Sunday of Faith Formation Classes —Sunday, August 13

FAITH IN ACTION



CARE FOR CREATION RECOMMENDATION

Looking for ways to learn about the connection between our faith and the environment? Check out the Laudato Si and the US Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home, hosted by Creighton University (creighton.edu/catholicclimate). In the most recent lecture in this series, which focuses on "Ecological Spirituality", three AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH speakers talk about ways to develop and deepen your own spirituality from an ecological lens. Scan the QR code or visit bit.lv/43Dpvac to watch the lecture.



WAYS TO SERVE

Prepare Dinner for the Gift of Grace House—Sundays and Thursdays—Contact Jen at iengossett@gmail.com for details Become a volunteer in our Faith Formation Program — Contact <u>youth@stmga.org</u> for details

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

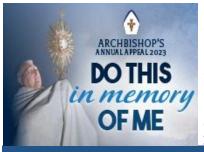
3. Text 'Give' to 512-559-3279

5. Place your offering in the basket at Mass

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



If you have not yet made a gift to the 2023 Archbishop's Annual Appeal, pledge cards can be found in the narthex. You can also easily donate online. The campaign goal is \$8,400,000 and our parish goal is \$140,600. To learn more about the appeal, and to donate online, visit www.archatl.com/appeal.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

August 20—STM's St. Vincent de Paul Society September 3—Catholic University of America



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 rcia@stmga.org or register at www.stmgaparish.org/rcia.

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 ParishOffice@stmga.org, 404-378-4588 or visit stmgaparish.org/baptism. 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 ParishOffice@stmga.org, 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: www.stmga.org, 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

WEEKLY AT STM

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Woman's Bible Study is on hiatus during the summer months and will resume meeting in the Fall.

NOT YOUR MAMA'S ROSARY GROUP

First Tuesday of the month, 8:00am to 9:00am in the Parish Library; Other Tuesdays from 8:30am to 9:00am, Zoom (Email erin.e.brewster@gmail.com)

All are invited to the weekly rosary group.

LGBTQ+ BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the Family Room



Join us as we reflect on the Gospel of Luke and spend time in reflection and conversation on what the Scriptures mean for our lives. All are welcome!

SCRIPTURE STUDY WITH LOUANNE

The Scripture Study with Louanne will be on hiatus during the summer months and will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 5.

CENTERING PRAYER

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm—Zoom Saturdays, 9:00 am to 10:00 am—Julie Room Contact Joanna Brunson at columbus4x@gmail.com with questions.

BIBLE STUDY WITH JERRY PENDRICK

The Word Adult Bible Study will be on hiatus during the summer months and will resume meeting in August.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Next Sunday! View this 2016 dramatic film on the life of Ignatius of Loyola that was produced by the Jesuits of the Philippines on Sunday, July 30, 6:30-9pm in the Julie Room. Light refreshments will be served but you may bring your own dinner. *Please note: This movie contains some minor gore and intense scenes and is recommended for viewers who are 13 and older.* Register at style="color: blue;

INSPIRED STATEMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

WOMEN BIBLE STUDY THIS FALL

Starting in September: Join STM Women's Bible Study on Monday evenings for its Fall 2023 session. The group will be studying *Inspired (Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again)* by Rachel Held Evans this session. For more information and/or to register, scan the QR code or visit

bit.ly/3XSW1rl. Only

new members need to register. Registration closes on September 3. Sessions begins on September 11 and ends in late November. WBS meets in Mulhern Hall from 7:00 pm to 8:30pm.



THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS THIS FALL



Ignatian
Spiritual
Exercises

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius are a collection of meditations, prayers, and contemplative practices intended to help people deepen their intimacy with God. Ignatius House will be offering the Spiritual Exercises as a nine-month retreat in daily life, beginning in September 2023. The retreat involves daily prayer,

weekly meetings with a spiritual director, and four optional group sessions. The retreat cost is \$1,000, and space is limited. Learn more or apply by visiting bit.ly/3XokXay or scan the OR.



IGNATIUS HOUSE

PERSONALIZED 3, 4 OR 5-NIGHT RETREAT August 6-11, 2023

Break away for a silent retreat created just for you. During this special retreat, you will meet daily with a spiritual director, spend time in solitude with daily prayer suggestions selected just for you, and participate in daily liturgy, if you choose. Seeking a more intimate relationship with Jesus? Making a significant decision or simply responding to the Holy Spirit? This deeper exploration of your faith offers a profound experience. Visit <u>ignatiushouse.org</u> to register.

ONLINE WORKSHOP: A TASTE OF MINDFULNESS August 8, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

This 2.5 hour workshop will introduce you to the practice of mindfulness meditation which uses evidence-based mind-body practices, informed by ancient wisdom traditions and supported by modern scientific research, to decrease distraction and stress, and help increase optimal functioning. The workshop will combine brief presentations, discussions, and short mindfulness practices. Visit <u>ignatiushouse.org</u> to register.

SCHOOL NEWS



STM'S CLASS OF 2019 ALUMNI REUNION— CONGRATULATIONS, SENIORS!

As STM alumni, our graduates are forever a part of our STM family. After this year's high school seniors (students who left St Thomas More School in 2019) graduated, we invited them back to STM so we could celebrate with them, and what a joyful reunion it was! STM graduates attend a multitude of different high schools all over Atlanta, so it was wonderful to have them all back together on campus. After visiting with teachers and staff, they took a trip down memory lane on a tour of the campus. As we made our way from kindergarten to 8th grade classrooms, hearing them recount memories of their formative years here was so heartwarming. Please join us in prayers for our alumni as they embark on the next phase of their lives!

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

MARIAPOLIS 2023—A VACATION RETREAT FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Experience MARIAPOLIS 2023, a vacation retreat for families and individuals. MARIAPOLIS is a three-day retreat by the Focolare Movement, organized to help us put into practice the Gospel's message of reciprocal love. The retreat is available for all ages and includes inspiring presentations, prayer, outings, hiking, service projects, and games. Spanish translations will be available. The retreat dates are September 2 through 4 at IHM Church, Atlanta and is organized by the Focolare Movement. The registration fee is \$95 for adults, \$75 for youth ages 13-20, and \$60 for children ages 4-12. The fee covers the retreat as well as meals. A 50% deposit is due by Monday, July 31. For more information and to register, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/Mariapolis23



RETREAT FOR CLERICAL SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVORS

There will be an Ignatian retreat for males who experienced clerical sexual abuse as a minor. The retreat will be from **November 10 through 12** at Enders Island, located in Mystic, CT. Enders Island is home to St. Edmund's Retreat, a Catholic Community offering welcome and hospitality to all who are seeking hope and healing in the beauty of God's Creation. For more information, please visit <u>endersisland.org</u> or contact Teresa Pitt-Green at 860-536-0565.

TRAUMA RECOVERY GROUP

The Archdiocese of Atlanta Victim Assistance Program is offering a Trauma Recovery Group for survivors of childhood trauma. The group will be meeting for nine sessions, beginning on **Thursday**, **August 3**, **from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at Holy Family Catholic Church located at 3401 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta GA 30068. The cost is \$25 per session and partial scholarships are available for persons needing financial assistance to participate. Registration closes July 27. The group is limited to 10 participants. Please contact Sue Stubbs at 404-920-7554 or sstubbs@archatl.com for an application.





MAGNIFICAT WOMAN AUGUST GATHERING

All women of the parish are invited to the August Magnificat Gathering to enjoy faith, food, and fellowship. The gathering will be on Saturday, August 19 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Holy Cross Church, 3773 Chamblee Tucker Road in Atlanta. The guest speaker will be Fr. Benedict Abugu, OFM Conv., of Holy Cross Church who will be speaking on the love of Christ in his life. Advanced registration is required. The registration fee is \$25 and the deadline is Wednesday, August 9. To register, scan the QR code or visit

<u>tinyurl.com/Magnificat0823</u>, or send check payments, payable to Magnificat Joyful Visitation, to: Debbie DuPont, 315 Rose Court, SW, Lilburn, GA 30047. Questions? Please contact Debbie at 770-696-6216 or email <u>iovfulvisitation@gmail.com</u>.





678.364.2543

- **EMERGENCY PLUMBING**
- **TOILET REPAIR & MORE!**

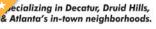
www.plumbworksinc.com





DONALD J. CROCHET, RPT LIFELONG PARISHIONER (404) 377-1223

CHILDREN'S ORTHOPEDICS GAIT / POSTURE CORRECTION PREVENTION OF JOINT DISEASE MEDICARE / UNH CIGNA



THE ANDERSON GROUP KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

404-277-9581

tom@tagatlanta.com www.tagatlanta.com







St. Thomas More School Parent & Parishione



CROCHET REALTY GROUP REAL ESTATE

GET GUARANTEED CASH **OFFERS ON YOUR HOME!**

No Showings, No Stress, You Pick The Closing Date.

(470) 588-2974

CROCHETREALTYGROUP.COM





Oastries 235 Ponce de Leon Place Suite E - Decambur ALGOGG 404-373-3423 American & European Pastries Wedding Cakes · Specialty Items Catering Serving Lunch & Breakfast Mon.-Fri.

(Closed Tues.) Sat. & Sun. Brunch 7:30-2:30p



Parishioner C: 404-626-3604 O: 404-897-5558

43 years of being your neighbor

and REALTOR® of choice!

PAM HUGHES

Personalized Service and an Exceptional Experience 🏩

experience is not Expensive...It's Priceless!





A.S. TURNER & SONS

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY Local Family Owned & Operated Since 1903 Serving All Of The Atlanta Area

Our staff is committed to providing your family with the highest quality care & service in your time of need & we take pride in our responsibility to lighten your burden as you take the first step toward healing.

2773 N. Decatur Road • Decatur, GA 30033 404-292-1551 · www.asturner.com



Dove Dental Specialists

Call us today! (404) 299-7411 2883 North Decatur Rd, Ste F, Decatur, GA 3003



FAITH FAMILY FRATERNITY Knights of Columbus

For a Limited Time - FREE Online Membership Use Promo Code (BLESSEDMCGIVNEY)

kofc.org/joinus

New Patient Exams

- Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry
- Digital X-Rays and Photography
- Teeth Whitening





404.373.7818

755 Commerce Dr | Suite 520 | Decatur, GA 30030

www.OSHEADENTISTRY.com



- GEORGE S. JOHNSON, LLC
- in Residential Facilities
- Wrongful Death & Serious Injury
 Automobile Crashes
 - Inadequate Security

Contact George to see if he can assist

Home or Zoom visit if needed

404.378.5878 • www.gsjohnsonlaw.com 150 E. Ponce de Leon Ave. #230 • Decatur, GA





Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.

Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/4101 ...or scan 🛁



*DISCOVERMASS



Thank Your Advertisers!

Their support helps provide this bulletin at no cost to the church.



