



St. Thomas Catholic Church

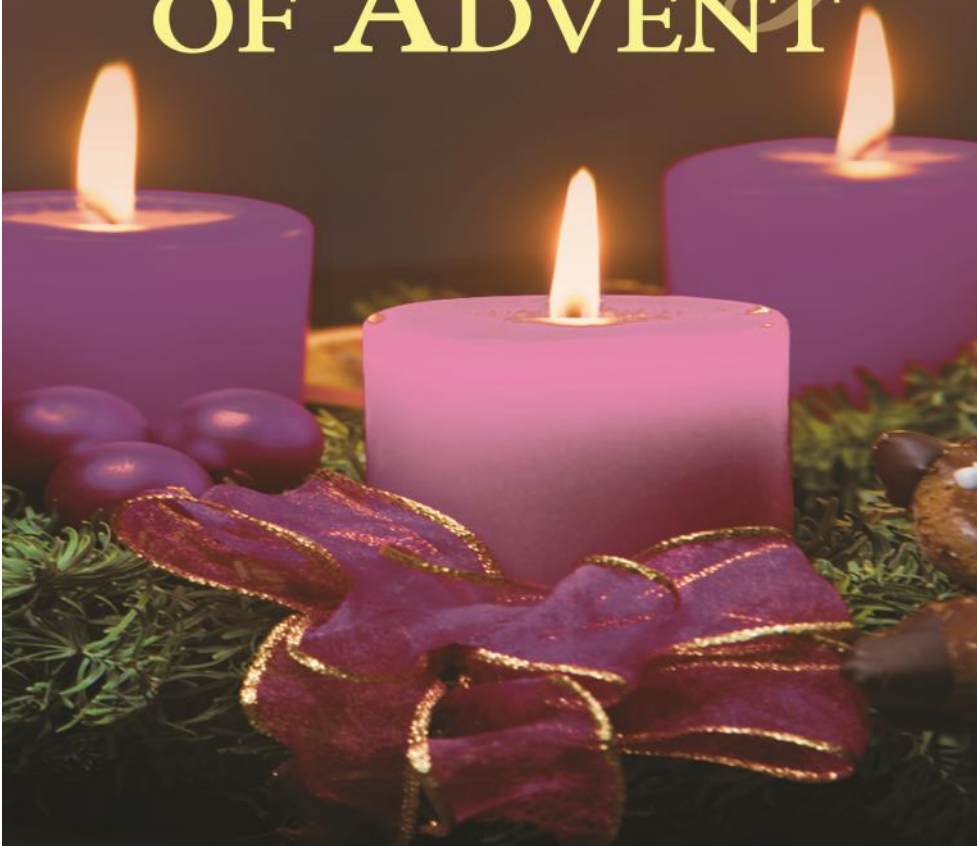
PARISH & CAMPUS MINISTRY

SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER



• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

3rd Sunday OF ADVENT



80 ST. THOMAS WAY • MONTEVALLO, AL 35115 • 205-663-3936
PARISH WEBSITE: <http://stthomascatholic.com>

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil..... 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,
12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday.....9:00 a.m.
Main Church
Thursday9:00 a.m.
Main Church
Friday.....9:00 a.m.
Main Church

CATHOLIC COLLEGE MINISTRY MASS

Wednesday..... 5:30 p.m.
Student Center Chapel
(During school session)

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Please consult bulletin or website
<http://stthomascatholic.com/>

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday..... 4:00pm - 5:00 p.m.
& by appointment

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday..... 10:00 a.m.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Dec. 11

5:30 PM Mass Vinzene Vetrano, deceased

Sunday Dec. 12

8:00 AM Mass for John Drescher, deceased

11:00 AM Mass Intention of Joann Simonetti

12:30 PM Misa para la Gente de la Parroquia

Monday Dec. 13

Tuesday Dec. 14

Wednesday Dec. 15

9:00 AM Mass for Tony Champagne, deceased

Thursday Dec. 16

10:00 PM Mass Intention of The Nava Family

Friday Dec. 17

9:00 AM Mass Rosie Levio, deceased

Saturday Dec. 18

5:30 PM Mass for Nida Hammond, deceased

Sunday Dec. 19

8:00 AM Mass Intention of Joseph Graffo

11:00 AM Mass for Ida Ruth Lane, deceased

12:30 PM Misa para la Gente de la Parroquia

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading— The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness. (Zephaniah 3:14-18a)

Psalm— Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Psalm 12:2-3,4,5-6)

Second Reading— The Lord is near. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Gospel— What should we do? (Luke 3:10-18)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13; Matthew 21:28-3

Wednesday: I Corinthians 2:1-10a; Luke 14:25-33

Thursday: Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30

Friday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17

Saturday: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday: Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Everyone Has a Divine Vocation

“Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand-picked, called by name by Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation! Some are called audibly by God, but the usual kind of call is internal, through the inner working of the Spirit.” ~ *Homily by Pope Saint John Paul II*

Eucharistic Adoration



Come spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. 1st & 3rd Friday of each month. Friday adoration begins at noon and ends on Saturday at noon. In need of someone from 2am-3am Saturday mornings. For more information or to sign-up call RoseMarie Vetrano 620-0051 or cell 370-6618. Adoration is held in the Chapel at the Student Center.

Monthly Altar Flowers

Dec. 11th & Dec. 12th

In memory/honor of Hugh Taylor

In memory/honor of Becca Parclls

Dec. 18th & Dec. 19th

In memory/honor of Ed & Norma Smith

In memory/honor of George Mason

		EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS	SACRISTANS
Saturday Dec. 18th	5:30 PM	Deacon Ed Angelini	Beth Taylor	Madison Johnson Reece Johnson Alissa Johnson	David Higdon Ron Hoff	Cathy Bailey
Sunday Dec. 19th	8:00 AM	Deacon Clay Reece	Ann Mason	Dalton Ash Brinley Ash Audrey	Roland Burns Norma Russo Gerry Mason	Gloria Q
	11:00 AM	Deacon Judy Lemieux	Leland Wallace	David McClary Owen Daniel Kim Abraham Gallo Christopher Gallo	Bill Richardson Jasper Lee Lee Travis	Jena Evanko
	12:30 PM (Spanish)		Magda		Heron Patrick	Rivera/Roan

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

DEC. 12, 2021 TO DEC. 19, 2021

SUNDAY DEC. 12

8:30 AM Coffee & Donuts
 9:15 AM Rosary in Adult
 Faith Formation Room
 RCIA

MONDAY DEC. 13

8:30 AM-4:00 PM
 OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY DEC. 14

8:30 AM-4:00 PM OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY DEC. 15

8:30 AM-4:00 PM OFFICE OPEN
 7:00PM The Gospel of Luke
 with Father Jantz

THURSDAY DEC. 16

8:30AM-4:00PM OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY DEC. 17

8:30am-12:30pm OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY DEC. 18

4:00PM-5:00PM Reconciliation
 5:30PM Mass

St. Thomas Facebook

St. Thomas is excited to announce that we now have an official Church Facebook group. It can be found by searching, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church-Montevallo, AL. Our hope is to help our parish community remain connected to the Church throughout the pandemic and beyond. We are currently live streaming our 5:30pm Saturday evening mass. Please share this information with other parishioners you know.

Faith Direct

Electronic Offertory Giving: Looking for a convenient way to support our parish offertory and building fund? Faith Direct is the innovative solution that allows you to support our parish using electronic funds transfer from either a bank account or credit/debit card. If you would like an enrollment form, please call the parish Finance Office at 663-3936 x109. You can also enroll from the St. Thomas website www.stthomascatholic.com. Just click "Online Giving" and follow directions.

Coffee & Donuts 12/12

The coffee & donuts will start up again on Sunday, Dec. 12 during Faith formation in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Pastoral Staff

ADMINISTRATOR
 Rev. Brad JantzExt. 101

RETIRED PRIEST
 Rev. Adrian L. Cook
 alcook46@outlook.com

DEACONS
 Bill Alexiou Ext. 102
 David Hicks.....Ext. 105
 dhicks@stthomascatholic.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
 Jackie Lampton Ext. 109
HISPANIC COORDINATOR
 Marisa Roan Ext. 100

CAMPUS MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Courtney Keller, Matt Rankin,
 Alyssa Williams, & Michael Whitfield
 ccm@stthomascatholic.com
<http://stthomascatholic.com/>

Mission Statement

We, the parish family of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, proclaim our belief in the message & mission of Jesus Christ.

We are committed to sharing our time, talent & treasure through worship, spiritual formation & outreach.

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Thurs | 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Friday | 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Parish Telephones

Parish Ph: 663-3936 | Fax: 663-0657
 Rectory Ph: 665-0968

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly Collection of 12/05/21

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$9,500.00	\$4,735.00	\$4,765.00
Building Fund	\$7,000.00	\$8,679.95	\$1,679.95
Total	\$16,500.00	\$13,414.95	\$3,085.02

Year-to-Date Collection 07/01/21—Present

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$218,500.00	\$214,070.29	\$4,429.71
Building Fund	\$161,000.00	\$159,824.38	\$1,175.62
Total	\$379,500.00	373,894.67	\$5,605.33

With the advice of the Parish Finance Council, Saint Thomas Parish does financial planning according to a fiscal year rather than a calendar year. Our current fiscal year began 7/1/21.

Baptisms

Please contact Fr. Jantz at 663-3936 for Baptismal Preparation.

Marriage

Parish Membership and a six month preparation period are required. For weddings, please contact Father Jantz at 663-3936.

Ministry of the Sick

Please contact the office at 663-3936 if someone is in need of Holy Communion at home/hospital/nursing home.

Membership in the Parish

All Catholic adults, 18 and older, who regularly participate in the Liturgy here should register in the parish. Those who enroll in Faith Formation programs or request Baptism or Marriage in our church should already belong to our parish family. To register, please contact the Parish Office. Those moving are asked to let us know.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Interested In Becoming Catholic?

You may have been coming to Catholic Church for a long time with a family member or with a friend, but you had not thought about the possibility of becoming Catholic. Are you interested in possibly becoming Catholic? Would you consider that possibility now? Would you like to learn more about the Catholic Church to consider your decision? If you would like to know more about the RCIA, please call Father Jantz or Jackie Lampton at 663-3936.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In our Advent journey toward the birth of Christ, we have a constant companion along the way: the Blessed Virgin Mary, who in her earthly life saw the fulfillment of the hopes of her people. Even now, in heaven she is an image of the hopes of the pilgrim Church on earth, and our powerful intercessor along the way.

This past week, we celebrated her under the title of Immaculate Conception, her complete openness to God's purposes at every moment of her existence. And this Sunday, we celebrate her under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the New World and the messenger of God's love to every human being. In her appearance at Tepeyac, with the face of a native woman, she made it clear to the European settlers that the people of the Americas were equally beloved by God—and with her hands folded in prayer, she brought them the gift of Jesus Christ.

As the lovely Guadalupe altar in our Church shows, the Virgin of Guadalupe is deeply revered in this parish. The presence of her image at all of our weekend Masses, both English and Spanish, is a sign of our unity as Catholic in the midst of our cultural diversity. We might speak different languages at home, but we're all united under our Lady's mantle.

I invite every parishioner of St. Thomas to join with our Hispanic brothers and sisters this week in offering special prayers to Our Lady of Guadalupe. If you're not familiar with the traditional devotions in Spanish, that's OK! Contemplate the beautiful icon of Guadalupe (the cloth which bears her image) and offer a Hail Mary. As we journey toward Christmas, let's make straight the Lord's way, strengthened by the example and prayers of the Virgin of Guadalupe and our holy patron St. Thomas.

God bless,
Fr Jantz

Christmas Parade Thank you

I would like to thank all those who helped with the Montevallo Christmas parade last Thursday, Dec. 3rd. The dancers (danza) did a great job. Also thank you Emery and Emily Williamson for your animals, the camel was a great hit. Thanks to our parishioners in donating candy and their time. Thank you all.

Candle Lighting for Advent

St. Thomas will light the candles of the Advent Wreath as part of the Entrance Procession each week. We invite families or groups of individuals to sign up in the Gathering Area for this ministry.

Fun with Santa Thank You

Thank you to all that helped with the "Fun with Santa" event. Thank you to the set up crew, clean up crew and all who helped during the event. A special thanks to Santa, Mrs. Claus and Father Jantz for making the event extra special. Most of all thank you to the children and their families that showed up to enjoy the day! Merry Christmas.

The Gospel of Luke with Father Jantz 12/15

Father Jantz will have a special Adult Study on the Gospel of Luke. It will be on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

Faith Formation

Adult... Sun. 9:30-10:45 a.m.
1st-10th Grade ... Sun. 9:30 -10:45 a.m.
Catechumenate ... Sun. 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Ladies' Bible Study
Wed. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
(September - May)

K of C Monthly Meeting

The St Thomas Knights of Columbus meet in the modular building behind the church office at 7PM. The 4th degree meets on the 1st Tuesday and the Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday. Masks and social distancing are encouraged.

Altar Flowers 2021

St. Thomas normally has a sign-up sheet for Altar Flowers in honor of a loved one or in memory of a loved one are available in the gathering space. Thank you for your assistance in having flowers for the altar. The Altar flowers are \$45.

Rosary on Sunday Mornings

The Sunday Morning Rosary will be in the Adult Faith Formation room with Social Distancing.

Parish Office Holiday Closure

The parish office will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Friday, Dec. 12/24 and New Years Eve Friday, Dec. 31.

End of the Year Gifts

St. Thomas Parish would welcome end-of-the-year gifts, to the parish in money or stock. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

Christmas Flowers

There are envelopes in the Gathering area for the those people who wish to contribute to the cost of the Christmas flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Please place the envelopes in the collection.

Calendars

The 2022 calendars are in available in the Gathering Area or Parish office.

Welcome to St. Thomas!

St. Thomas Parish is happy to welcome all people to our faith community. If you live in this area, we invite you to register as a parishioner. Registration forms in both English and Español are available in the Gathering Area of the church.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Resumption of Sunday Mass Obligation

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Bishop Raica had offered a dispensation from the requirement to participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation for the people of the Diocese of Birmingham until May 23. On May 3, Bishop Raica promulgated a decree restoring the obligation beginning on May 24.

Every Catholic is required to attend Mass unless they are excused for a serious reason. In relation to COVID-19, serious reasons include:

- Being in a high-risk category
- Being advised by a medical doctor that it is not yet safe for you to attend
- Experiencing a significant amount of mental stress regarding returning.

It is always possible to receive a dispensation from one's Pastor. Father Jantz is happy to talk with anyone who is concerned about returning to public worship.

Parish Stewardship Pledge Thank You

Thank you to all the parishioners who have returned their pledge cards for the coming year. St. Thomas is grateful for your generosity. If you have not yet returned your pledged card, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thus far we have raised \$233,722.00 for offertory and \$148,566.00 for the building fund.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Wednesday Adult Scripture Study will resume on January 12th. Our topic will be "The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy". In this study learn how their prophetic words speak to us even today, as they draw us closer to Jesus, and show us how to share Him with others. Includes sessions on Hosea, Jonah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai and Malachi, and New Testament and Modern Prophets. All are welcome! We meet in the St. Joseph room at 7:00 PM. Call Bill or Debbie at 205-664-2066 if questions.

Angel Tree Thank You

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts for "The Angel Tree". Our Social concerns Ministry has done their usual wonderful job with this event. The people at Shelby Emergency service and at Bibb County DHR and the clients that they serve are deeply appreciative of your generosity.

K of C Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus provides a pancake breakfast on the First Sunday of each month from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM. Our prices have changed for Adults \$5 and children \$3. Please plan to join us. **Next Breakfast is January 2, 2022.**

Our Lady of Guadalupe 12/12

St. Thomas will be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th. There will be a midnight Rosary on December 12th in the church with Mariachi Rio Verde. Afterwards there will be Coffee, hot chocolate and sweet bread in the parish hall. In the afternoon we will have the mass first at 12:30pm followed by our procession with the Rosary and danza dancers. There will be a reception in the Parish hall. All are welcome to come.

Hispanic Breakfast 1/16, 2022

The Hispanic breakfast will start up again every third Sunday of each month. Our first one will be on January 16 from 8:30 AM to 10:45 AM. Please plan to join us.

Advent Penance Service 12/16

St. Thomas Parish will celebrate its annual Advent Penance Service on Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 PM-8:00PM. This is a wonderful way to prepare spiritually for Christmas. Additional opportunities will Friday, Dec. 17 at 7:00PM and Tuesday, Dec. 21 from 2:00PM-3:00pm

Ladies Bible Study

On January 12th, 2022 the Wednesday morning Ladies bible study will begin a new study on Lectio: Mary with Dr. Brant Petri. We will explore the Old Testament and New Testament, the life of Christ, and the early church fathers about the life and identity of Mary. We meet in the St. Joseph's room from 10:00 -11:30 am. If you have any questions please call Debbie Drescher at 205-664-2066

Christmas Eve Children's Mass 12/24

First through 6th grade students will perform "The Story of Christmas" during Christmas Eve Children's Mass at 4:00 p.m. We will have practice in the church sanctuary on the following days: Sunday, December 12th - 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Sunday, December 19th - 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. and Thursday, December 23rd - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. (dress rehearsal) • Please plan to attend ALL practices. • Please have children in the Parish Hall to get costumes on by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 24th. Contact: • Chalane Tucker at 572-5159 or Jena Evanko 205-800-5765 for more information. Thank you so much for being involved in our Christmas celebration



Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

En nuestro camino de Adviento hacia el nacimiento de Cristo, tenemos una compañera constante en el camino: la Santísima Virgen María, que en su vida terrena vio el cumplimiento de las esperanzas de su pueblo. Incluso ahora, en el cielo, es una imagen de la esperanza de la Iglesia peregrina en la tierra, y nuestra poderosa intercesora en el camino.

La semana pasada, la celebramos bajo el título de Inmaculada Concepción, su completa apertura a los propósitos de Dios en cada momento de su existencia. Y este domingo la celebramos bajo el título de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, patrona del Nuevo Mundo y mensajera del amor de Dios para todo ser humano. En su aparición en el Tepeyac, con el rostro de una mujer nativa, hizo claro a los europeos que la gente de las Américas es igualmente amada por Dios, y con las manos cruzadas en oración, les trajo el regalo de Jesucristo.

Como muestra el hermoso altar de Guadalupe en nuestra Iglesia, la Virgen de Guadalupe es profundamente venerada en esta parroquia. La presencia de su imagen en todas nuestras Misas este fin de semana, tanto en inglés como en español, es un signo de nuestra unidad en medio de nuestra diversidad cultural. Hablamos diferentes idiomas y tenemos diferentes tradiciones, pero estamos unidos bajo el manto de Nuestra Señora.

Invito a todos los feligreses de St. Thomas a buscar la intercesión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe esta semana, como compañera de Adviento. Contempla el hermoso icono de Guadalupe (la tilma que lleva su imagen) y ofrece un Ave María cada día—¡o más! En nuestro camino hacia la Navidad, preparemos el camino del Señor, fortalecidos por el ejemplo y las oraciones de la Virgen de Guadalupe y nuestro patrón, Santo Tomás.

Dios los bendiga,
P. Jantz

LECTURAS: DEL DOMINGO

Primera lectura: El Señor se regocijará por ti con gozo. (Sofonías 3 14-18a)

Salmo— Clama con gozo y alegría porque entre vosotros está el grande y Santo de Israel. (Salmo 12 2-3,4,5-6)

Segunda lectura: El Señor está cerca. (Filipenses 4 4-7)

Evangelio— ¿Qué debemos hacer? (Lucas 3 10-18)

LECTURAS PARA LA SEMANA

Lunes	Números 24 2-7,15-17a; Mateo 21 23-27
Martes	Sofonías 3 1-2,9-13; Mateo 21 28-3
Miércoles	I Corintios 2 1-10a; Lucas 14 25-33
Jueves	saías 54 1-10; Lucas 7 24-30
Viernes	Génesis 49 2, 8-10; Mateo 1 1-17
Sábado	Jeremías 23 5-8; Mateo 1 18-25
Domingo	Miqueas 5 1-4a; Hebreos 10 5-10; Lucas 1 39-45

Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento 12/16

La Parroquia de Santo Tomás celebrará su Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento anual el Jueves 16 de Diciembre de 6:00 p.m. a 8:00 p.m. Esta es una manera maravillosa de prepararse espiritualmente para la Navidad. Oportunidad adicional será el Viernes 17 de Diciembre a las 7:00 p.m. y el Martes 21 de Diciembre de 2:00 p.m. a 3:00 p.m.

Misa Infantil de Nochebuena 12/24

Los estudiantes de primero a sexto grado interpretarán "La historia de la Navidad" durante la misa infantil de Nochebuena a las 4:00 p.m. Tendremos práctica en el santuario de la iglesia los siguientes días domingo, 12 de diciembre - 9 30 - 10 45 a.m. Domingo, 19 de diciembre - 9 30 - 10 45 a.m. Jueves, 23 de diciembre - 6 00 - 7:00 p.m. (ensayo general) • Por favor planee asistir a TODAS las prácticas. • Invite a los niños al salón parroquial para que se pongan los disfraces antes de las 3:30 p.m. el viernes 24 de diciembre. Contacto • Chalane al (205)572-5159

Desayuno del Ministro Hispano 1/16/2022

El Desayuno Hispano comenzará nuevamente el 16 de Enero de 2022. Si desea hacer una donación o ayudar en el Ministerio Hispano, comuníquese con Gricelda al 205-478-5110.

Desfile de Navidad Gracias

Nos gustaría agradecer a todos los que ayudaron con el desfile de Navidad de Montevallo el pasado jueves 3 de diciembre. Los bailarines (danza) hicieron un gran trabajo, los animales les agradecen por traerles a Emery y Emily Williamson ya nuestros propios feligreses en la donación de dulces y su tiempo. Gracias a todos.

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Rosario

Si desea que se le diga un rosario en su casa, inscríbete en el libro sobre la mesa en la sala de reuniones frente a la iglesia.

Nos gustaría que están interesados en que la Virgen de Guadalupe los visitaría en su casa. Para obtener más información, puede llamar a María al 205-451-2915 o a Rosa Maria al 205-205-901-0470.

HORARIO: OFICINA DEL MINISTRO HISPANO

LUNES- JUEVES: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM Y

VIERNES: 8:00AM-12:30PM

Padre Brad Jantz al 205-663-3936.

Horario de la Misa Español

los Domingos 12:30 p.m.

Platicas Prebautismales

Deben registrarse antes del bautismo en el libro situado en el espacio a la entrada de la Iglesia. **Comuniquese con Padre**

Jantz a (205) 663-3936

Catequesis para niños

Domingos | 9:30 A.M.-10:45 A.M.

Hora Santa

Viernes | 6:00pm-7:00pm cada 1er y 3er en la capilla en Montevallo

Lectio Divina

Los Martes| 6:30pm

Preparaciones para los adultos

Marisol Millan | 205-432-8940

Preparaciones para quinceañeras

Magda Rivera | 643-2659

RosaMaria Angel | 205-901-0470

Preparaciones Matrimoniales

Gabriel y Edith Sanches al 205-299-9826.

Clases de Bautismo 1/6

Las clases de bautismo son el 6 de Enero. Las clases de bautismo son para **miembros de Santo Tomás**. Por favor, si asiste a misa en otra Parroquia, reciba sus Clases de Bautismo allí. Si no se registra en el libro del bautismo no puede atender la clase.

Clases de RCIA Para Adultos

La Parroquia de Santo Tomás han comenzado las clases los domingos para aquellos que estén interesados en recibir sacramentos de iniciación. El proceso se llama el rito de la iniciación cristiana. Este proceso de la RCIA es para personas que no han sido bautizadas, personas que han sido bautizadas en otra tradición cristiana que desean convertirse en católicas, y católicos adultos que han sido bautizados, pero que no han sido confirmados. La RCIA ofrecerá sesiones presenciales que comenzarán en Septiembre.

Las sesiones serán los domingos de 9:30 AM a 10:45 AM. Las sesiones en inglés se reunirán en el Salón Parroquial, y las sesiones en español se reunirán en la Sala de San José. Debido a la necesidad de distanciamiento social, las únicas personas que podrán asistir a estas sesiones serán los candidatos, sus cónyuges y sus padrinos.

