



# St. Thomas Catholic Church

## PARISH & CAMPUS MINISTRY

SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER



• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT



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

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil..... Not on the 25th  
Sunday ..... 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,  
12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday.....9:00 a.m.  
Main Church  
Thursday .....9:00 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. 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

### Monday Dec. 20

### Tuesday Dec. 21

### Wednesday Dec. 22

9:00 AM Mass for Robert Carr, deceased

### Thursday Dec. 23

10:00 PM Mass Intention of Christopher Evanko

### Friday Dec. 24

4:00 PM Mass for Susan Ragsdale, deceased  
 9:00 PM Mass for Media Landry, deceased

### Saturday Dec. 25

10:00 AM Mass for the People of the Parish

### Sunday Dec. 26

8:00 AM Mass for Rosa Maria Pena, deceased  
 11:00 AM Mass for Clair Murrell, deceased  
 12:30 PM Misa para la Gente de la Parroquia

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

**First Reading**— From you shall come forth the ruler of Israel. (Micah 5:1-4a)

**Psalm**— Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19)

**Second Reading**— Behold, I come to do your will. (Hebrews 10:5-10)

**Gospel**— And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Luke 1:39-45)

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38  
**Tuesday:** Songs of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45  
**Wednesday:** I Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56  
**Thursday:** Malachi 3:1-4,23-24; Luke 1:57-66  
**Friday:** II Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12,14a,16; Luke 1:67-79  
**Saturday:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18  
**Sunday:** Sirach 3:2-6,12-14; I Samuel 1:20-22,24-28; Luke 2:41-52

## 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*

## Monthly Altar Flowers

### Dec. 18th & Dec. 19th

In memory/honor of Ed & Norma Smith  
 In memory/honor of George Mason

### Dec. 25th & Dec. 26th

Christmas Flowers  
 Positas

## 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. 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.

**Adoration will be on January 7th & 21st**

		EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS	SACRISTANS
Saturday Dec. 25th	10:00 AM	Deacon Esther Zagar	Mary Kiser			Jerry & Mary
Sunday Dec. 26th	8:00 AM	Deacon Christy Ash	Susan Phillips	Ana Miralyn Hazel Lily Phillips Mary		Bruno Navarro
	11:00 AM	Deacon Jasper Levio	Pat Shoop	Byron Waithaka Wes Evanko Nicole Waithaka Maylin		Judy Lemieux
	12:30 PM (Spanish)		Dany		Heron Patrick	Rivera/Roan

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

DEC. 19, 2021 TO DEC. 26, 2021

## SUNDAY DEC. 19

8:30 AM No Coffee & Donuts  
9:15 AM No Rosary in Adult  
No FF  
No RCIA

## MONDAY DEC. 20

8:30 AM-4:00 PM  
OFFICE OPEN

## TUESDAY DEC. 21

8:30 AM-4:00 PM OFFICE OPEN

## WEDNESDAY DEC. 22

8:30 AM-4:00 PM OFFICE OPEN

## THURSDAY DEC. 23

8:30 AM-4:00PM OFFICE OPEN

## FRIDAY DEC. 24

8:30 AM-12:30PM OFFICE CLOSED  
4:00 PM Family Mass  
9:00 PM Evening Mass

## SATURDAY DEC. 25

10:00 AM Christmas 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](http://www.stthomascatholic.com). Just click "Online Giving" and follow directions.

## Coffee & Donuts 1/9

The coffee & donuts will start up again on Sunday, Jan. 9 during Faith formation in the parish hall. All are welcome.

## Pastoral Staff

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
Rev. Brad Jantz .....Ext. 101

## RETIRED PRIEST

Rev. Adrian L. Cook  
[alcook46@outlook.com](mailto:alcook46@outlook.com)

## DEACONS

Bill Alexiou ..... Ext. 102

David Hicks.....Ext. 105

[dhicks@stthomascatholic.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

## 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.

Due to the early Bulletin deadline Stewardship of Treasure will be available in next week's bulletin.

# 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,

Our season of waiting and preparation is almost done! The decorations are almost complete, the great feasts of expectation are behind us, and now there are only 6 more days until Christmas!

As our hearts turn toward the celebration of the Lord's birth, I would encourage each family in our parish to spend some time gathered around a Nativity scene in your home. It might be a simple drawing of the manger, or a fancy carved scene with statues. Whichever it is, I always find it important to spend some time in prayer before the manger, and it's a good custom to have in the family, as well.

When you gather on Christmas day to prayer before the image of the Christ child, here is a prayer I would offer for your consideration:

O God, whose Son was born in Bethlehem long ago, lead us in our hearts to the same place where Mary laid her Child. As we look on him with wonder and worship, help us welcome him in our lives, in each other, and in the poor. God of all love, bless us in your great love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Be assured of my Christmas prayers for you and our whole parish family, through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, and our 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 on 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.

## 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.

## Calendars

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

## Sympathy

St. Thomas Parish offers our sympathy to Eno Landry on the death of his wife Media Landry. May her soul and all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

## 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 2022

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.

## 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 \$131,018.00 for offertory and \$87,642.00 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 provide a pancake breakfast on the First Sunday of each month from 8:30 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 Thank You

St. Thomas celebrated Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th. Thank you to all who came out and a big thank you to those who organized this event.

## 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.

## 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 to 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. 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 for more information. Thank you so much for being involved in our Christmas celebration



**Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:**

¡Nuestra temporada de espera y preparación casi ha terminado! Las decoraciones están casi completas, las grandes fiestas de la expectativa se acaban, ¡y ahora solo quedan 6 días más hasta Navidad!

Mientras nuestros corazones se vuelven hacia la celebración del nacimiento del Señor, animo a cada familia de nuestra parroquia a pasar algún tiempo reunidos alrededor de una imagen de Belén (y especialmente el pesebre) en su hogar. Puede ser un simple dibujo del pesebre o una elegante escena tallada con estatuas. Ya sea simple o elegante, es siempre pasar algún tiempo en oración ante el pesebre, y también es una buena costumbre hacerla con la familia.

Cuando se reúnan el día de Navidad para orar ante la imagen del niño Jesús, les ofrezco una oración para su consideración:

Oh Dios, cuyo Hijo nació en Belén, llévanos en nuestro corazón a la misma posada donde el Niño Divino nació de la Virgen María. Al mirarlo con asombro y adoración, ayúdanos a recibirlo en nuestras vidas, en los demás y en los pobres. Dios de todo amor, bendícenos con tu gran amor, por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén.

Yo también ofreceré mis oraciones navideñas para ustedes y toda nuestra familia parroquial, a través de la intercesión de María, la Madre de Dios, y nuestro patrón Santo Tomás.

Dios los bendiga,  
P. Jantz

**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.

Para obtener más información, llamar a María al 205-451-2915 o a Rosa María al 205-205-901-0470.

**LECTURAS: DEL DOMINGO**

**Primera lectura:** De ti saldrá el príncipe de Israel. (Miqueas 5 1-4a)

**Salmo:** Señor, haz que nos volvamos a ti; déjanos orinar tu rostro y seremos salvos. (Salmo 80 2-3,15-16,18-19)

**Segunda lectura:** He aquí, vengo a hacer tu voluntad. (Hebreos 10 5-10)

**Evangelio—** ¿Y cómo me pasa esto, que la madre de mi Señor venga a mí? (Lucas 1 39-45)

**LECTURAS PARA LA SEMANA**

Lunes	Isaías 7 10-14; Lucas 1 26-38
Martes	Cantos de los Cantares 2 8-14; Lucas 1 39-45
Miércoles	I Samuel 1 24-28; Lucas 1 46-56
Jueves	Malaquías 3 1-4,23-24; Lucas 1 57-66
Viernes	II Samuel 7 1-5, 8b-12,14a, 16; Lucas 1 67-79
Sábado	Isaías 52 7-10; Hebreos 1 1-6; Juan 1 1-18
Domingo	Eclesiástico 3 2-6,12-14; I Samuel 1 20-22,24-28; Lucas 2 41-52

**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 2 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.

**Gracias a Todos**

Gracias por su ayuda en el festejo de Nuestra Madre la Virgen de Guadalupe. Fue un gran éxito gracias a todos los grupos.

## 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.