



St. Thomas More

April 16, 2017 | Easter Sunday

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

PARISH OFFICE

404-378-4588

Fax 404-378-0506

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sun 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

SCHOOL

404-373-8456

EMERGENCY NUMBER

678-337-8910

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

SATURDAY

5:30 PM (Vigil)

SUNDAY

8:00 AM

9:30 AM

12:00 Noon

5:30 PM

MON—FRI

5:30 PM

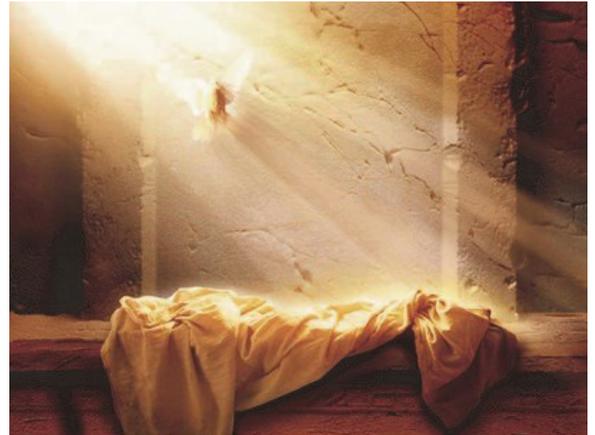
RECONCILIATION

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

ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN!

Excerpted from an editorial in America, April 1, 2013, www.americamagazine.org, used with permission.

Our world still needs to hear the Easter proclamation; it longs to hear it, yearns for the freedom it signifies. Yet if our Easter proclamation is to convey the transformative power it bespeaks, then the heralds must be first in faith, repentance and reform. The Easter proclamation is no mere philosophical or theological proposition. It is the beating heart of a living body or it is nothing. Like Mary Magdalene's, our proclamation must flow from burning, faithful hearts. The disillusioned, weary world that waits in the upper room demands an authentic witness, a credibility that love alone provides. The world must see our salty tears, must sense our breathless hope. They must know that we are not simply vain clanging cymbals in the din of modern life, but the heralds of another person, the One who comes to us in the silence, the creator for whom we long and in whom we dare to hope. If we fail to account for the joy that is within us, then we will have failed to proclaim the risen Lord. In the absence of joy, moreover, a joy that only comes from the one who is truth, then all our other truths are ultimately unintelligible.



In his first homily as successor of St. Peter, Pope Francis said that "to walk, build and confess without the cross means that we are not true disciples of the Lord. We must confess the one cross, and in that way we will be a true church." Like Mary Magdalene, our discipleship must be in motion. "Our life is a path," the pope said. "When we stop, the thing doesn't go."

In Pope Francis, it seems, the Lord has a herald in deed as well as in word. His first gestures as pope proved deeply moving to millions of observers; prayers for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI united Catholics all over the world; then—before he offered the traditional blessing *urbi et orbi*, "to the city and the world," upon the people gathered below him—came a touching request from the new pope for a "favor," a blessing from the assembled faithful that again united Catholics in a captivating silence. Pope Francis reminded us that our Easter proclamation must not only be heard, it must be seen in humble acts of loving service.

This Easter, then, we give thanks to the Lord for Pope Francis, while we also remember that the latest successor of St. Peter is but one among the billions of successors of St. Mary Magdalene. This Easter we once more join our voices with hers, as we herald among the far and near, amid the untold terrors of earthly life, the good news that is the final hope of the world: "Alleluia! He is risen!"





PRAYER REQUESTS

At the weekday Masses this coming week, the people of St. Thomas More will remember the following persons along with all the living and dead. We encourage parishioners to say the names of deceased loved ones aloud during the "General Intercessions" if invited to do so by the presider.

MONDAY, April 17, 2017
5:30 PM Michele Bischoff

TUESDAY, April 18, 2017
5:30 PM Jeanne Ramsey †

WEDNESDAY, April 19, 2017
5:30 PM Hubert Janicek †

THURSDAY, April 20, 2017
5:30 PM Manuel Lopez †

FRIDAY, April 21, 2017
5:30 PM Charles F. Thuman †

To add a name to these prayer lists, contact Charlotte Collins at: ccollins@stmga.org, or 404-378-4588. 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.

The names on the list of the sick and the dead will be mentioned aloud at Sunday Masses during the General Intercessions and will be published in the parish eLetter and bulletin as soon as possible after we receive the request.

In addition, you may add names or special intentions in the Book of Remembrance that is kept in the narthex. Parishioners will remember these each time we gather for Eucharist.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Deadline for bulletin notices is Friday the week prior to printing by 9:00 AM in written form or via email to bulletin@stmga.org.

STAFF

Rev. Mark Horak, S. J., Pastor
mhorak@stmga.org

Rev. Pat Earl, S. J., Parochial Vicar
pearl@stmga.org

Carol Palmer, Business Manager
cpalmer@stmga.org

Elaine Phillips, Co-Director of Religious Ed
Lifeteen teens@stmga.org
Religious Ed ephillips@stmga.org

Michele McHale Pickard, Co-Director of Religious Ed
EDGE youth@stmga.org
Adult Faith mcp@stmga.org

Joe Messina, Director of Worship
jmessina@stmga.org

Marie Diebold, Parish Secretary
mdiebold@stmga.org

Open position, Plant Manager

Charlotte Collins, Receptionist
ccollins@stmga.org

Corky Pagoria, Receptionist
cpagoria@stmga.org

Jerry Raymond, Principal, STM School
jraymond@stmga.org

Karyl Davis, Financial Administrator, STM School
kdavis@stmga.org

Shelly and Shon Stafford, Communications
news@stmga.org

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

JOIN STM PARISH

We invite you to join our parish community by registering as a parishioner. By registering, you declare your intention to participate actively and meaningfully in our parish by worshiping with us at Sunday Eucharist as often as possible, by participating in our parish programs and ministries, by doing service in your neighborhood, and by financially supporting the parish as much as your means allow. By registering, you also enable us to be of greater service to you and to your family.

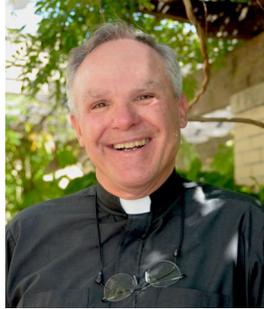
The registration form is available online at stmgaparish.org and in the pamphlet racks in the narthex of the church. Complete the form and mail, fax, or scan and email it to mdiebold@stmga.org, drop it in the Offertory basket during any Sunday Mass, or bring it to the parish offices during normal business hours.

FROM THE PASTOR

From the Pastor...

Easter greetings!

At the core of Ignatian spirituality, that distinctive way that Jesuits and their colleagues experience, understand, and approach God and the world, are the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.



The Exercises are a series of meditations based on Ignatius' own experience of his dynamic relationship with God. He composed them in the hope that others might benefit from his experience. The meditations are designed to clear the way for one to encounter the living Jesus, to freely choose to accompany him in his work in the world, and to grow in personal relationship with him. In doing these meditations, one is expected to pray with all of oneself, not just by using one's intellect, but also by using one's imagination, one's emotions, and even one's senses, trusting that God is communicating through each of these.

Ignatius asks the one making the Exercises to use one's imagination so as to be present to what Jesus is doing in the Gospel stories; to watch closely, for example, as Jesus asks the blind Bartimaeus what he wants from him, and then cures Bartimaeus of his blindness; or to listen attentively as Jesus calls Zacchaeus out of the sycamore tree so that he can have dinner with him. Ignatius asks the one making the Exercises to be open to the possibility that Jesus will in turn ask her, the retreatant, what she wants, or that Jesus will call him, the retreatant, out of the tree and ask him to be his companion.

Ignatius wanted the one making the Exercises to use his or her bodily senses in prayer so that the Gospel story comes alive. For example, Ignatius urges the retreatant to hear the voices of the persons in the Gospel story, to smell the animals that might be present, to smell even the unwashed bodies of the beggars whom Jesus befriends, to taste the food that Jesus shares with the hungry. Ignatius wants the retreatant to touch Jesus, to feel the roughness of the road on which he walks, and to feel the same heat of the day and cool of the night that Jesus feels.

Specifically, in the third part of the Exercises, when the retreatant is contemplating the crucifixion of

Jesus, Ignatius asks the retreatant to "see" the place where Jesus was crucified, to be with him as he dies, to feel his sorrow, and to share his anguish and his pain. Ignatius' hope is that the retreatant will experience Jesus dying, and will feel a profound intimacy with Jesus as he dies.

And finally, as the retreatant nears the end of the Exercises, Ignatius asks that he or she meditate on the resurrection of Jesus. Ignatius tells the retreatant to ask for the grace to be glad and to rejoice intensely with the risen Jesus, that is, to be permitted to share in the joy that Jesus himself must have felt upon being raised up.

If the Exercises are working as Ignatius intends, and if God has been gracious to the retreatant, the retreatant will finish the Exercises not only with an increased familiarity with Jesus and his ways, but also and more importantly, with a deep, heartfelt affection for him and a newfound freedom to love him in all one's brothers and sisters.

On this Easter Sunday, my prayer and the prayers of Fr. Pat and all the staff of St. Thomas More are that you and your family feel the joy of the risen Jesus. May he wipe away all your tears; may he ease all your fears; may he heal any injury you may have suffered at the hands of the Evil One; and may he fill you with hope for your own rising.

Fr. Mark



WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS



RECONCILIATION

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

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 Michele McHale-Pickard at mcp@stmga.org, or 404-378-4588. Note: Persons presenting a child for baptism may be required to participate in a short preparation program.

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 Elaine Phillips at ephilips@stmga.org, or 404-378-4588.

MATRIMONY

To schedule a wedding, contact Michele McHale-Pickard at mcp@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 "Worship and Sacraments."

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.

LITURGY NOTES—

Today's readings focus on the astonishing event of Jesus' Resurrection from the tomb. In Acts, we hear Peter's address to the friends and relatives of Cornelius, a Gentile. In his speech, Peter summarizes the mission and ministry of Jesus, presenting the Resurrection as the climax of Jesus' life. As the Anointed One of God, Jesus "went about doing good" and then he commissioned his disciples to "preach and to Testify" in his name. In the verses following today's reading, Cornelius and his group receive the Holy Spirit and are baptized.

The psalm was likely intended for an assembly to sing at a liturgy. Just as ancient worshippers did, today's Christian assemblies are invited to give thanks for the mercy and goodness of the Lord. Today Christian assemblies are invited to lift up their voices in thanksgiving for the enduring mercy of God.

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RCIA NOTES

The STM community celebrated the baptism of four adults at our Easter vigil on Saturday, April 15. Along with Baptism, they received the other sacraments of initiation: Confirmation and Holy Communion. This is the culminating Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

From a Rite of Acceptance, to the Rites of Sending and Election, three Scrutinies, and several minor rites, the RCIA process has taken many months. During this period, a number of adults have been meeting weekly to study the Catholic faith — along with our four adults seeking baptism, others who are already baptized in other Christian communities and now seek full membership in the Catholic Church. A number of these candidates will be receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Communion on Pentecost Sunday — the day when we celebrate Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

(continued on page 7)

STM YAM (YOUNG ADULTS)

YAM
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
for 20s and 30s
Social • Spiritual • Service
f SaintThomasMoreYAM
@ stm_young_adult_ministry
✉ stthomasmoreyam@gmail.com
stmgaparish.org/young-adult-ministry

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Tues April 18	RCIA Class 7:00 PM St. Julie Room
Wed April 19	Bridge 2:00 PM Parish Library
Fri April 21	S Factor Movie Night 7:00 PM St. Julie Rm
Sat April 22	1st Eucharist Retreat 9:00 AM Mulhern
Sat April 22	Merton Group 11:00 AM St. Julie Room
Sun April 23	Children's Liturgy 9:30 AM Chapel
Sun April 23	Youth Group Meetings 6:30 PM
Tues April 25	RENEW Bible Study 1:30 PM Parish Library
Tues April 25	RCIA Class 7:00 PM St. Julie Room
Sun April 30	Children's Liturgy 9:30 AM Chapel
Sun April 30	The Word – Parish Library 10:30 AM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 10-14, 2017

YOUTH

For activities, info or questions about the STM Life Teen or EDGE visit: stmgaparish.org & click on the Youth Programs.

Life Teen contact Mrs. Elaine Phillips:
404-378-4588 X 126, teens@stmga.org

EDGE contact Mrs. McP:
404-378-4588 X 119 or youth@stmga.org

LIFETEEN HAPPENINGS (9th to 12th grade)

- No Lifeteen April 16th. Happy Easter!
- Rising 8th graders and older can sign up on the parish website to volunteer at VBS this summer.
- Lectors & Ushers—we are in need of more teen lectors & ushers for 5:30 PM Sunday mass. We are having a training session on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30 PM. We'll feed you dinner too! Sign up on the parish website.
- Eucharistic Ministers—If you have been Confirmed, you are eligible to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Eucharist (EM). Please email Elaine (teens@stmga.org) if you are interested in becoming an EM and I will set up a training for you. Rising 8th graders and older can sign up on the parish website to volunteer at VBS this summer.

EDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH (6th to 8th grade)

- No EDGE April 16th. Happy Easter!
- Ignatius House EDGE retreat is Sunday, April 23rd from 2:00 - 7:00 PM.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

STM SUPPORTS CRISTO REY STUDENTS

Thanks to a generous gift from STM to Cristo Rey Atlanta, STM parishioners are sponsoring four young students there. Below is a brief profile of one of these four.



Amber is a member of the Cristo Rey class of 2018. She is a "second honors" student, and she enjoys cheerleading, being a student ambassador and choir. She works five days each month for her corporate sponsor, First Data, which pays about two-thirds of her tuition. One of her teachers at Cristo Rey Atlanta says this about her: "Amber is a kind-hearted, hard-working, and bright young

student. She has displayed on numerous occasions a desire to learn that is unrivaled by her peers, and her sincere disposition in class is a pleasure to experience."

MORE THANKS FROM CRISTO REY ATLANTA

Mr. William Garrett, President of Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School (CRA), offers additional thanks to STM parishioners for our major gift to CRA that will support four students during the next school year: "With your support, Cristo Rey will 'educate young people of limited economic means to become men and women of faith, purpose, and service.' As we wrap up our third school year, your gift will help ensure our success in providing some of Atlanta's most underserved young people with a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, thus opening the door to a college education for our students."

STM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HABITAT PROJECT

STM Church is co-sponsoring a new house build through Habitat for Humanity/DeKalb. STM will be responsible for providing worker volunteers, including a couple persons each work day to organize the food for the volunteers. We need volunteers on each Saturdays in April, through April 22. Sign up and get more information on the parish website or contact Greg Amoroso at: lgjb209@gmail.com.

Are you unable to be on the STM Habitat worksite, but feel you would like to help in some way? Perhaps you could donate some water, sports drinks, snacks or be willing donate a dish, etc. for the workers lunch. If you would like to donate items contact Marie at mdiebold@stmga.org.

STARVE WARS! RETURNS FOR A SECOND EPISODE

STARVE WARS! is a collaborative effort between the Archdiocese of Atlanta's Justice and Peace Ministries, Catholic Relief Services, Helping Hands and the people of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. We are seeking 650 volunteers of all ages to help pack 100,000 meals to go to the impoverished developing country of Burkina Faso in Africa.

The event will take place **Friday, June 16th** in Hall A at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park. There will be two sessions, **9:00 AM -10:30 AM** and **11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**.

Space is limited and online registration is required to participate. Register or donate now on the parish website.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

ADORATION UPDATES

In observance of the Easter Triduum, Adoration will cease Wednesday, April 12th after the 5:30 PM Mass and resume Monday, April 16th at 9:00 AM.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

There will be an Altar Server training on April 30th after the noon mass. For more information, contact Joe Messina at 404-378-4588 x120 or jmessina@stmga.org.

MORE EATS

Mark your calendars – More Eats on Wednesday, May 3rd.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Mark your calendars – Auditions for STM's fall production of Mary Poppins will be on May 13th from 10 AM to 4 PM.



RCIA Retreat participants at Ignatius House.

JOB OPENINGS AT STM CHURCH

The Catholic Church of St. Thomas More in Decatur, GA is seeking a **part-time (20 hours per week) Weekend Custodian**. Responsibilities include: light maintenance/repairs, event set-up/breakdown and cleaning. Required skills: willingness to follow instructions, good interpersonal skills, ability to read, write, speak and understand English, manage time, and work with minimal supervision. Physical Requirements: ability to lift up to 50 pounds, bending at the waist, sitting, kneeling, walking etc. Work Hours, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm Friday and 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. Opportunities for additional hours may arise. Send cover letter and resume to Fr. Mark Horak at mhorak@stmga.org. No phone calls please.

The Catholic Church of St. Thomas More in Decatur, GA is seeking a **part-time (10-12 hours per week) Building/Grounds Superintendent**. Responsibilities include: on-going assessments of the condition of the parish/school, developing a daily work program, assigning tasks to maintenance staff and/or outside contractors. Prior work-related experience is desirable. Required skills: ability to supervise maintenance staff, basic knowledge of plant equipment and security technology, able to manage time and establish priorities. Work Hours, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Monday through Friday. Opportunities for additional hours may arise. Please send cover letter and resume to Fr. Mark Horak at mhorak@stmga.org. No phone calls please.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS SUMMER

Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School on the parish website. The camp is July 10-14th 9:00 AM- 12:00 noon for rising Kindergarten through rising 7th grade. Adult Volunteer Leaders are needed - WE NEED YOU to make this a success! Your child attends FREE of charge if you volunteer to be a leader. Rising 8th graders and older can sign up to be helpers. Sign up on the parish web site or contact Elaine Phillips for more info ephillips@stmga.org

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

WHY SETTLE FOR A "GOOD" MARRIAGE...WHEN YOU CAN HAVE A "GREAT" MARRIAGE?

You can make the leap from just "good" to "GREAT" on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The Weekend experience is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, the internet & phones and focus their attention only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can offer! The next available Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are scheduled for April 21-23 and June 9-11 at the Atlanta Marriott Peachtree Corners. You can get more information or apply online at GATN-wwme.org or by calling 678-242-WWME.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ATLANTA SOIRÉE

Sat., April 22; 6:30-11:30 PM; Georgia Aquarium, 225 Baker St., NW, Atlanta. Catholic Charities Atlanta invites the public to join the celebration of a "Decade of Help & Hope" at the 10th annual CCA Soirée. This event will feature a silent auction, seated dinner by Wolfgang Puck and music by Rupert's Orchestra. More than 500 individuals will come together to raise awareness about the life-changing services that Catholic Charities provides. Tickets are available now. Contact: Lisa McLean at 404-920-7758 or emclean@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org for tickets.

WAY FOR WOMEN RETREAT

May 5-7; Carmel Retreat Center, Hoschton. 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. Registration deadline is May 1. Contact: Sue Stubbs at 404-920-7554 or sstubbs@archatl.com for information.



School News

STM SCHOOL HONORS MR. VINCE DESANTIS AND MRS. RUTH MURPHY AT THE EVENING OF THE ARTS

Save the date for Evening of the Arts at STM School – Friday, April 28, 2017. The program will feature artwork from students in grades K-8 along with performances by the beginning and advanced band, chorus, color guard, dance, handbells, and ukuleles. The 8th Grade students will be performing their class song. In addition, we will honor Mr. DeSantis and Mrs. Murphy who are retiring after many years of service to the school.. The program begins at 6:30 PM in the gym. Please join us for this very special evening.



Mrs. Ruth Murphy

Mr. Vince DeSantis

LITURGY NOTES (CONT.)

The brief passage from Colossians is part of a longer homily by Paul on the new life in Christ that has been won through his Resurrection. In the verse following this reading, Paul continues to describe this new life in Christ. But first he makes it clear that they need to keep their minds focused on the glory of the Risen Lord. That will be their source of commitment and joy.

John's account of the Resurrection paints a scene of confusion along with the first gleams of understanding. Mary of Magdala is distressed; Peter and "the other disciple" run to see the evidence. Although both see, it is the "other disciple {who}...saw and believed." The last sentence seems confusing. In spite of what they saw and even believed, they "did not yet understand." In a powerful irony, the empty tomb is nevertheless a sign of the fullness of life. Understanding would be slow to grow.

Pastoral Liturgy...Rev. J. Philip Horrigan

RCIA NOTES (CONT.)

Even though our Elect received their Sacraments of Initiation at the vigil, their period of study does not end! Throughout the Easter season the RCIA class will explore mystagogy — an ancient word that literally means "learning the mysteries of God." This final "season" of studying the Catholic faith will emphasize prayer, meditation, spirituality, and service. It's all about how to live a Catholic life, grounded in the wisdom of the saints and mystics of our Catholic tradition.

So please keep praying for our RCIA participants — not only the four being baptized at the Easter Vigil, but also those who will be confirmed at Pentecost or other dates in the near future, along with their sponsors. Thank you!

The businesses who advertise on the back of this bulletin make it possible to be printed at NO CHARGE to the parish. Please support them and let them know you saw their ad here.

PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY

UPCOMING RETREATS AT IGNATIUS HOUSE

Companions on the Road-The Road to Emmaus—April 21-23 with Fr. Joe Schad, S.J. Having just journeyed through the Passion of Christ, you are invited to join us as we reflect on the Risen Christ and the beginnings of the Church. We will revisit the events of that first Easter Sunday, along with the post-Resurrection narratives, accompanying the disciples as they encounter Jesus.

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Retreat—Apr 28-30 with Mark Dannenfelser. The Mindfulness & Stress Reduction retreat will teach the practice of mindfulness meditation (present moment, non-judgmental awareness) and its application to stress reduction, self-reflection and the mobilization of inner resources to support health, healing, spiritual enrichment and personal growth.

Spiritual Life and the Search for Meaning in an Unfinished Universe—May 4-7 with Dr. John F. Haught. Dr. John Haught is a distinguished scholar who leads us into the mystery of science and faith.

If you are interested in the broader question of the relationship between religion and the natural sciences, or want to gain a new perspective on evolution you will not leave this retreat disappointed.

Visit gnatiushouse.org/weekend-retreats to register.

POPE FRANCIS' APRIL PRAYER INTENTIONS Youth.

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.