

Parish News

ALTAR FLOWERS



The Altar Flowers this week
were donated by
Jim Brown
in memory of Rosemary Brown

PARISH OFFICES will be closed **Mon., Jan. 18**, in observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday. Have a blessed and safe holiday.

ST. THOMAS EVENING ALTAR GUILD: St. Thomas Altar Guild will meet on **Mon., Jan. 25, at 7:00 p.m., in the Msgr. Tash Hall.** Come enjoy the program, "A Conversion to the Catholic Church" presented by Scott Nelson. Treats, snacks and wine will be provided along with great fellowship.

PADRE'S SALSA SALES: St. Thomas Men's Club will be selling **Padre's Superbowl Salsa the weekend of Jan. 30/31, (not Jan. 23/24 as previously published.)** They will be in front of the Parish Office after all Masses. Please see flyer in today's bulletin for price information.

AUSPICIOUS CLASS IN FINANCE: This 11-week series will begin on **Feb. 7, after the 11:15 a.m., Mass.** Topics will include budgets, stock, bonds, options and retirement as well as a segment on time, talent & tithing. **The sessions will be facilitated by Daniel Martinez and Tim Revell. Everyone is welcome. There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza next to the bell tower. Call Tim Revell at 806-290-8142, if you have any questions.**

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING: The next NFP Class series of the Sympto-Thermal Method here at St. Thomas, starts on **Feb. 11, at 6:30 p.m., in the Marian Room.** The follow up classes for the series are **Mar. 10, and Apr. 7.** To sign up, go to www.ccli.org. If you have any questions call Chrissy Acker at 806-654-2057.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: At this time, Hours that need filling are **Fri., 1:00 a.m., Sat., 11:00 a.m., & Sun., 12:00 a.m.** Please call Simon Wright at 806-570-9776 if you are interested in becoming a part of this wonderful ministry.

STA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: If you know someone in need of prayers, please let the Prayer Shawl Ministry reach out to you with a Prayer Shawl. **You can pick up a shawl at the Religious Education Office Mon.-Thurs. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Monetary or yarn donations (three skeins of Lyon Brand Homespun) will be greatly appreciated. **The Prayer Shawl group meets each Wed. evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Parlor.**

Our Stewardship

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>Jan. 10, 2016</u>	\$ 26,831.00	\$ 29,934.51	\$ 3,103.51
<u>Month-to-Date</u>	\$ 53,662.00	\$ 56,089.01	\$ 2,927.01

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God & money."

~Matthew 6:24

Prayer Intentions

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND: Kate Schmidt, Ben Canales, Tonia L. Allen, Marilyn Brzostowski, Cleta Bustos, Steve Chontos, Elizabeth Stone, Terry Moenter, Carmen Oviedo, Lynn Gerken, Glenda Fassauer, Braxton Sandoval, Cheryle Wayne, Jerry Stone, Jerry Terry, Donna VonOsinski, Sue Bezner, Esther York, Shanna O'Gorman, Mike O'Neill, Angie Van Bakel, Eveline Rivers-McCoy, Mark Ortega, Bill & Marie Hughes, Ray Harmon, Jeannette Kaminski, Aggie Padilla, Mary Maalouf, Emile Jones, Tony Sisneros, Mary Britten, Frank Galitski, Ray Prien, Mike Hartman, Alice & Ollie Perry and Nancy Mason.

OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN: Cruz Rey Esparza, Sheldon Fowler, Shelby Lopez, A. J. Serafin, Lee Wingfield, Sean Callahan, Bryan Revell, John Nussbaum, Rachel Nussbaum, Matt Nussbaum, Christopher Schrock, David Oviedo Cantu, Jacob Bitonel, Jason Freeby, Brandon Owens, Jacob Tumbelson, T. J. Pevehouse & Swasey Brown.

ST. THOMAS PRAYER CHAIN

Do you know someone in need of special prayers? The Prayer Chain is always taking requests. **Please contact Eileen Dolan at 358-2461, Ext. 106.**

Social Concerns

"A nation can be considered great when it . . . fosters a culture which enables people to 'dream' of full rights for all their brothers and sisters, as Martin Luther sought to do . . . That dream continues to inspire us all. I am happy that America continues to be, for many a land of dreams. Dreams which awaken what is deepest and truest in the life of a people."

Pope Francis
United States Congress
September 2015

Did You Know . . . A report from Pew Research describes how people across the spectrum respond to a variety of questions on child rearing. Although the American Trends Panel survey of 3,243 respondents during April 29-May 27, 2014 does not differentiate among faith traditions, its findings are nevertheless both interesting and illuminating :

The percentage saying that it is important to teach children religious faith is 81% among those who have consistently conservative attitudes. By contrast, 26 % of those with consistently liberal attitudes say it is important to teach children religious faith.

By gender, 56 % of women and 50% of men consider it important to teach children religious faith.

By age, the percent who think it important is 40% of those age 18-29, 55% of those age 30-64, and 65% of people 65 and older.

By education, it is 47% for college graduates, 53% of those with some college, and 58% for people with high school or less education.

Pew Research Center
September 2014

Youth Schedule and Events

Hey gang! **High school STAY will be meeting this Wed., Jan. 20**, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., in The Dwelling. See you there and bring your YouCat!

We will be taking a group to participate in the **Walk for Life happening this Sat., Jan. 23, at St. Mary's Cathedral. We'll go to Mass at 10:00 a.m., and join in the procession afterwards. Come join us in our call to pray for and stand up for the protection and dignity of all life!**

Our next **Middle school STAY will be next Sun., Jan. 24**, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., in The Dwelling. Friends are always welcome, and hope to see you there!

Our first **F.A.S.T. of 2016 will be Sun., Jan. 24**, from 5:00-6:30 p.m., in The Dwelling. We'll see you there!

We will also be using Flocknote this year as an additional form of communication for youth news and activities, so please subscribe to the Flocknote group for which your youth will be in! We have a separate list serve for F.A.S.T. (4th & 5th grade), Middle School S.T.A.Y. (6th – 8th grade) and High School S.T.A.Y. (9th – 12th grade). If you are already subscribed to the St. Thomas Flocknote group, search for the appropriate group under the Youth Ministry tab and click to subscribe!



Music Notes



Save the date! Knights of Columbus and Music Department Fish Fry Lent 2016: February 12th & 26th

Sun. - Jan. 17

No Youth Orchestra, Handbell or Choir Rehearsals

Wed., Jan. 20:

6:30 p.m. - Adult Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. - All KIDS Choir Regular Rehearsals

7:45 p.m. - Adult Choir

Sun., Jan. 24:

5:00-5:45 p.m. - Youth Handbell Choir

5:45-6:30 p.m. - Youth Choir

Parish News

BAPTISM CLASS: If you are new parents and/or sponsors, you are required to attend a Baptism class before the reception of the sacrament. **Please call the parish office, 358-2461, to register for the next scheduled class.**

A LITTLE SLICE OF HEAVEN COOKBOOK: The new Catholic Historical Society has put out a 125-recipe cookbook which is a compilation of the recipes of Bishop Zurek and the Priests & Religious of the Diocese of Amarillo. **St. Thomas has a limited number of copies for sale (cost is \$17.50.) Checks should be made payable to CHS Cookbook Project. Just come by the church between 8:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m., if you would like to purchase a cookbook. Any staff member can assist you.**

Need more information about St. Thomas?

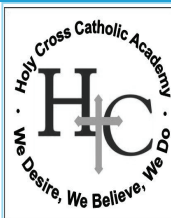
GO to the website: stthomasamarillo.org.

Do you know someone homebound, sick & can't make Mass? GO to the website and check out Mass every weekend streamed

LIVE at 11:15 a.m., on Sunday mornings! (Broadcast begins at 11:00 m.)



Holy Cross Corner



Catholic Schools Week is scheduled for January 31 – February 5, 2016.

Holy Cross Catholic Academy takes part in a school-wide service project in the community every year. HCCA also has several activities including an open house for visitors and "shadow days" in which 5th graders from St. Joseph's Elementary and St. Mary's Elementary schools will spend the day at Holy Cross. The elementary school students attend classes and get to experience what it's like to be a **Holy Cross Mustang!**

Around the Diocese

SAVE THE DATE: Diocesan **Walk for LIFE – January 23, 2016** "Come to Me, all you who suffer and are burdened, and I will refresh you." **Mt. 11:28.** The Year of Mercy will soon be upon us, and we hope that many will join us in the sharing of the grief, the suffering and the sorrow that has been placed upon our brothers and sisters who have been affected by a culture of death. **For more information contact our office at Respect Life 806-383-2243, Ext 129.**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH, DUMAS: St. Vincent de Paul is having a fundraiser on **Sat., Jan. 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the St. Vincent De Paul Gym, 810 W. 23rd St., Pampa, TX.** Tickets are \$100 and include steak dinner for two, dancing and a chance to win a \$10,000 Visa Card. Second Prize is a \$500 Visa Card and there are other great prizes. Call 806-665-8933 for tickets and information.

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY: Mark your calendars to attend the annual **WT A&M Catholic Student Center Auction Fundraiser on Sat., Feb. 6, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to midnight at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.** Fundraiser includes a dinner, dance, live & silent auction and a raffle. Advanced purchased tickets are only \$50.00 per person. Donations for the auction from ministries and lay organization in the diocese will be greatly appreciated. Please call Betty Aragon, Auction Coordinator, 806-655-4345, if you have questions or are interested in donating auction items. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Student Center's ministry to students at WT A&M University and beyond.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: One of the best gifts you can give your kids is a strong marriage. Give your husband or wife the Valentine's Day gift of a lifetime by attending the **Marriage Encounter Weekend on Feb. 12-14**, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center in Amarillo. It's a positive, down-to-earth, private experience between the two of you that can revitalize your relationship for a lifetime. There are still a few spaces left, so apply now at www.wwme-section10.org/Amarillo. For more information contact Rick & Bev Feller, 405-323-9119, or email rbfeller@gmail.com.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (NFP) Learn NFP at home and at your own pace with the **Home Study Course** from NFP International, www.nfpandmore.org. Includes Ecological Breast-feeding (it really *can* space babies), a double-check system of fertility awareness, and Catholic teaching that's easy to understand. Work with a live instructor by email. Completion certificate. The cost is \$70.00. We are listed at: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/nfp-distance-learning.cfm>.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH STAFF

PastorRev. John Valdez
 DeaconBlaine Westlake
 Deacon Phillip Whitson
 Retired Deacon Jim Brown
 Retired DeaconTerry Pevehouse
 Music Dir./Organist/Choir Master..... Jim Gardner
 RE/Social Concerns/AFF Dir.Eileen Dolan
 Assistant Music Dir.Nicole Koetting
 Youth DirectorGreg Nagel
 Parish SecretaryRita Walker
 Facility AdministratorBryan Webb
 Parish BookkeeperVirginia Christian
 Religious Ed SecretaryDebi Banach
 Parish Life CoordinatorJulie Jones
 Ministry AssistantDayamin Winchester
 Music SecretaryJudith Tucker
 Music AssistantStephanie Gallegos
 Facility AssistantGlen Starcher
 Facility AssistantTony Derda
 Liturgical EnvironmentalistJulie Pierce

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday, January 17:
 Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11
Monday, January 18:
 1 Sm 15:16-23/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday, January 19:
 1 Sm 16:1-13/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday, January 20:
 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday, January 21:
 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Mk 3:7-12
Friday, January 22:
 1 Sm 24:3-21/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday, January 23:
 2 SM 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Mk 3:20-21
Sunday, January 24:
 Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Liturgy Schedule and Special Mass Intentions:

Monday	1/18	NO MASS	
Tuesday	1/19	7:00 AM	+Stephen John Pesch Pesch & Ronco Families
Wednesday	1/20	7:00 AM	+Barbara Honea STA Prayer Shawl Ministry
Thursday	1/21	7:00 AM	+Robert Bonacorsi Ken Crosson Family
Friday	1/22	7:00 AM	+Dennis Sweeney Dick & Pat Wilcox
Saturday	1/23	5:00 PM	+Bill Mitchell Knights of Columbus #4621
		7:30 AM	Members of the Parish Family
Sunday	1/24	9:00 AM	Spec. Int. of Dr. Terry & Susan Furguile The Rohrbach Family
		11:15 AM	+John Kratochvil His Family

Religious Education News

January Calendar:

Sat. 1/23-2nd Gr./RCIC Prayer Day -12:30-3:45 p.m. - Hall

Sat. 1/30-2nd Gr./RCIC Reconciliation-10:00 a.m. - Church

ATTENTION ADULTS WHO HAVE NOT CELEBRATED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: If you are an adult who has not been confirmed and would like to celebrate this sacrament, the Diocese of Amarillo is offering you the opportunity. Preparation for Adult Confirmation will be done at St. Thomas, followed by a required diocesan retreat for Confirmandi and Sponsor at St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, March 19, 2016. Following the retreat, Confirmandi will be confirmed by Bishop Zurek, at a 4:00 PM Liturgy, also at the Cathedral. For more information, please call Eileen in the Parish Office, 358-2461.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: Sacramental's Scavenger Hunt
Sacramentals are signs and objects that remind us of God's presence in our lives. As a family, find each of the sacramentals listed below. They may be in your Church or home, or they may belong to someone you know. Record your findings by answering the questions listed below each sacramental:

ROSARY: Where I found it; Who owns it; What's it's made of; How the owner got it; What is its meaning.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Where they're located; What is their meaning; How many stations there are.

RELIGIOUS MEDAL: Where I found it; Who owns it; What is its meaning (what it commemorates); why it is special to the owner.

RELIGIOUS STATUE: Where it's located; Which saint it represents; Why is this saint famous.

Adult Faith Formation

ADULT FAITH FORMATION 2016

SUNDAY:

***SYMBOLON – PART II:** *The Catholic Faith Explained.*

Starting on January 24, at 10:05 a.m., in the Marian Room. Cost of book \$20.

FIRST CORINTHIANS: The Church and the Christian community. Starting on February 14, at 10:05 a.m., in the Msgr. Tash Hall. Cost of book \$20.

TUESDAY:

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE – Starting on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 10:00 a.m., in the Marian Room. Cost of book \$15.

WEDNESDAY

***SYMBOLON – PART I:** *The Catholic Faith Explained* – Starting on February 3rd, at 6:30 p.m., in the Marian Room. Cost of book \$20.

BOOK CLUB - HAIL, HOLY QUEEN by *Scott Hann*. Cost of book \$10.

***Sessions are independent - Do not need to take in order**

To sign up, contact Dayamín Winchester at dwinchester@stthomasamarillo.org or 358-2461, ext. 123

Week at a Glance

Monday, January 18

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY

Tuesday, January 19

FR. JOHN'S 25TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

2:00 p.m. - Divine Mercy Cenacle - Marian Room

7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts - Gym

7:00 p.m. - RCIA - Msgr. Tash Hall

Wednesday, January 20

7:30 a.m. - ACTS Small Group - Library

9:00 a.m. - Community Scripture Study - Parlor

11:00 a.m. - Lunch Bunch - The Dwelling

3:00 p.m. - Marianist Group - Library

5:30 p.m. - Confessions - Chapel

6:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Group - Parlor

6:30 p.m. - AFF Meeting - Marian Room

6:30 p.m. - Adult Handbells - Music Wing

6:30 p.m. - Children's Choir Groups - Music Wing

7:00 p.m. - High School STAY - The Dwelling/Gym

7:00 p.m. - Confirmation Class - Room B5

7:45 p.m. - Adult Choir - Music Wing

Thursday, January 21

10:00 a.m. - Rosary Group - Chapel

1:30 p.m. - Focolare Movement - Marian Room

11:30 a.m. - Boy Scout Council Meeting - Msgr. Tash Hall

7:00 p.m. - Theology on Tap - IDK Bar

Friday, January 22

6:00 p.m. - Fr. John's Anniversary Mass - Church

7:00 p.m. - Fr. John's Anniversary Celebration - Msgr. Tash Hall

Saturday, January 23

12:30 p.m. - 2nd Grad Prayer Day - Msgr. Tash Hall/Church

3:30 p.m. - Confessions - Chapel

4:00 p.m. - Cantor's Rehearsal - Music Wing

Sunday, January 24

9:00 a.m. - Breaking Open the Word - Library

10:05 a.m. - AFF Class I - "Epic" - Msgr. Tash Hall

10:05 a.m. - AFF Class II - "Symbolon" - Marian Room

11:15 a.m. - Breaking Open the Word - Library

12:30 p.m. - Depression Support Group - Bride's Room

4:15 p.m. - Youth Orchestra - Music Wing

5:00 p.m. - Divorce Care - Groom's Room

5:00 p.m. - Youth Bells - Music Wing

5:45 p.m. - Youth Choir - Music Wing

