

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4100 South Coulter Street



Amarillo, TX 79109

Church Phone: (806) 358-2461
Rectory Phone: (806) 353-1016
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Website: www.stthomasamarillo.org
Office Hours: (M-F) 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM



Diocese of Amarillo

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUDGMENT

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." —Mt 5:21-22a



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

REFLECTION

"Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Jesus presents two paths for us today: we can break his commandments or obey them. And the result corresponds to our choice. If we decide not to follow God's guidelines, we will not enjoy the fullness of the kingdom of heaven. But if we choose otherwise, eternity will look much brighter for us!

Of course, it's easy to know in our minds what the right choice is. But putting this into practice is another matter. The commandments Jesus gives in today's Gospel are not easy to follow. He takes the ancient Ten Commandments to a deeper level of commitment. He says more than do not kill. Rather, do not even harbor anger in our hearts. He says more than do not commit adultery. Rather, do not even indulge in lustful thoughts. He says more than do not lie. Rather, do not even swear.

Undoubtedly, Jesus is asking us to chart a challenging course. But he would not expect us to follow these directives if it were impossible to do so. And it's important to bear in mind that Jesus doesn't set high standards to test or punish us. His love for us is at the root of everything he teaches us. Following these commandments, challenging though they may be, will in fact make us happier people, both now and in eternity! As with so many good things in life, committed effort on our part is necessary--whether it be maintaining good health, accomplishing a certain skill, or earning a sought-after award. So too with a soul that is truly free. We need to exercise a life of virtue by taking the advice of Jesus Christ, the best life coach we could ever hope to have.

Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00 PM (Sunday Vigil Mass)
 Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:15 AM
 Weekdays: 7:00 AM (Tuesday-Friday)
 Holy Days: (to be announced)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday: 5:30-6:30 PM
 Saturday: 3:30-4:30 PM
 (Other times by appointment)

Sacrament of Baptism

Contact the Parish Office to schedule a date and time. Parents and sponsors must attend a Baptism class. One sponsor must be Catholic and at least 16 years of age.

Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion

These sacraments combine into one sacramental preparation program which takes two consecutive years of religious education classes to complete. Students must be at least in first grade to begin this preparation.

Sacrament of Confirmation

This sacrament takes two consecutive years of faith formation to complete. Students must be in at least sixth grade before beginning this preparation.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Contact the Pastor at least six months before the date of the wedding.

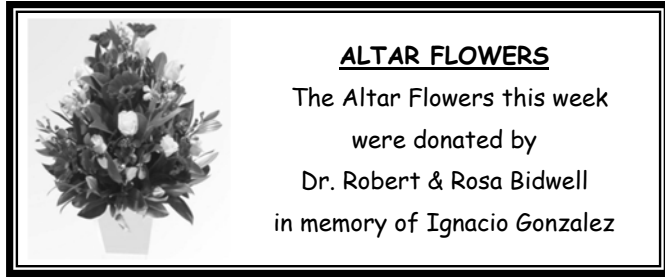
Sacrament of the Sick

Please notify the parish secretary of any sick or elderly shut-ins and all those in the hospital.

The Rite of Christian Initiation

The program for adults (RCIA) is open to non-Catholics who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith and to Catholics who have not celebrated the Sacraments. This process is offered on an ongoing basis.

Parish News



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers this week
were donated by
Dr. Robert & Rosa Bidwell
in memory of Ignacio Gonzalez

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #4621 BREAKFAST: Pancake breakfast today, **Sun., Feb. 12** They will be serving continuously from **8:00 a.m., to 12:30 p.m.**, in the Gym. **Adults \$7, Children 10 and under eat for \$3.** Proceeds benefit seminarians and charities.

EVENING ALTAR GUILD meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on **Monday, February 20**, in the parish hall. Come join us for dinner, drinks, and games to get to know each other better and to meet new members. Please bring an individual portion of your favorite Valentine's dessert in a decorated (optional) container to share. Prizes will be given to the lucky winners and fun will be had by all! We will be collecting bed pillows for the Catholic Charities refugee program at this meeting.

MORNING ALTAR GUILD meeting will be held at 10:00 am on **Friday, February 24**, in the parlor. Come join us for brunch and games. Prizes will be given to the lucky winners and fun will be had by all who attend. We will be collecting bed pillows for the Catholic Charities refugee program at this meeting.

SAVE THE DATE: Family Movie Afternoon, **Sun., Feb. 26** from **3:00-5:00 p.m.**, in the Msgr. Tash Hall featuring Disney's "Finding Dory". Bring your family, a comfy chair and a snack to enjoy the movie with our parish family.

SAVE THE DATE: Knight of Columbus will be serving **pancakes and ice cream sundaes on Feb. 28**, as we celebrate Mardi Gras. The meal will be compliments of the parish and reservations can be made by contacting Julie Jones at 358-2461, Ext 123 or jjones@stthomasamarillo.org by **Feb. 27**. The celebration will take place in the Msgr. Tash parish hall from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Come celebrate with the parish family before the Season of Lent begins.

Our Stewardship

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Feb. 5, 2017	\$ 26,831.00	\$ 27,350.00	\$ 519.00

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

~Matthew 5:16

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear - it's the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

~Office of Stewardship and the Annual Catholic Appeal

Prayer Intentions

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND: Kate Schmidt, Ben Canales, Marilyn Brzostowski, Cleta Bustos, Steve Chontos, Elizabeth Stone, Terry Moenter, Carmen Oviedo, Lynn Gerken, Glenda Fassauer, Braxton Sandoval, Cheryle Wayne, Jerry Stone, Jerry Terry, Esther York, Shanna O'Gorman, Mike O'Neill, Angie Van Bakel, Mark Ortega, Bill & Marie Hughes, Jeannette Kaminski, Mary Maalouf, Emile Jones, Frank Galitski, John (Jack) Hoben, Nadine Hadley, Brian Dolan, Robert Mitchell, Madeline Arrott, Lupita Randon, Carolyn Shoberg, Allen Lamb, Betty Cutting, Judy Allen, Roy Steele, Maria Arias, Jordan Barrientez, Melinda Gloe, Robert Herrera, William Ruzicka, Roger Gloe

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, Cody Keese, Justin Spencer.

ST. THOMAS PRAYER CHAIN

Do you know someone in need of special prayers? The Prayer Chain is always taking requests. **Please contact Debi Banach at 358-2461, Ext. 107.**

LENTEN FISH FRY'S: Mark your calendars for the Lenten Fish Fry's scheduled for **Mar. 3 & Mar. 31, from 5:00-8:00 p.m., in the St. Thomas Gym.** Presale tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (6-11.) **Tickets for sale after all Masses on Feb. 18/19, Feb. 25/26, Mar. 4/5, & Mar. 25/26.** At the door, tickets will be \$12 for adults and \$6 for children (6-11.) There will also be raffle tickets available for a \$10,000 drawing. Only 2,000 tickets are available and there will be 20 winners. Thank you in advance for your support as the Music Dept. continues to raise funds for their Italy Pilgrimage Christmas 2017.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL COLLECTION has been remitted to the Diocese, **Balderas Family, 14,090.22.** Thank you for your generosity.

ST. THOMAS ROSARY GROUP: If you are interested in praying the rosary with a group once a week, you are welcome to join the **St. Thomas Rosary Group each Thurs. morning at 10:00 a.m., in the Chapel.** Afterwards, they meet in the Parlor for some refreshments and fellowship.

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.**

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: At this time, the hours needing to be filled are **Mon., 4:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m. /Tues., 5:00 a.m./Wed., 2:00 a.m./Thurs., 1:00 a.m./Fri., 12:00 a.m., 2:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m./Sat., 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m.** If you are interested in being a part of this worthwhile ministry, call **Simon Wright, 806-570-9776.**

Youth Schedule and Events

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you are graduating from high school this May, email Caleb Hubbard your full name and the high school you are graduating from. Information is due no later than Mar. 7.

Young Adults will be meeting this Tuesday, Feb. 14, in The Dwelling at 7:00 p.m.

High School STAY will be meeting this Wed., Feb. 15, in The Dwelling from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

MS STAY (6th – 8th Grade) will meet TONIGHT, Sun., Feb. 12, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., in The Dwelling.

FAST (4th and 5th grade) will meet tonight, Sun., Feb. 26, in The Dwelling from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Please contact Caleb Hubbard at chubbard@stthomasamarillo.org or by phone at 358-2461, Ext. 121, if you have any questions.

Holy Cross Corner



Holy Cross Catholic Academy's nationally ranked Speech and Debate Team has continued the tradition of doing very well in this year's tournaments.

At the Hereford High School tournament, the team placed 4th out of 26 schools.

Nicholas Aranda - 1st in domestic extemporaneous and impromptu speaking

William Pena - 2nd in international extemporaneous

Anthony Innocenti - 3rd in impromptu speaking
4th in domestic extemporaneous

Joey Benitez - semifinalist in impromptu speaking

Mary Huseman - semifinalist in poetry interpretation

John Reeves - semifinalist in domestic extemporaneous

At the Wayland Baptist University tournament, the HCCA team placed 3rd out of 21 teams.

The team will be participating in the National Speech and Debate Association District meet in Lubbock February 16-18th and the TAPPS State Speech and Debate competition April 3-5th.

Way to go Mustangs!

Around the Diocese

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND March 31

– **April 2:** Married Couples, Valentine's Day is only a few days away! One of the greatest gifts you can give your spouse is your time and desire to make your relationship even better than it is today. Whether you've been married 1 year or 65, plan to join us on the Mar. 31, to Apr. 2, for a Weekend at the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo, to enhance your communication and build a lifetime of love, romance and intimacy. Contact Tung & Nanette Nguyen at (505) 400-0617, (505) 463-0261 or nguyenswwme@outlook.com for more information, or apply online at www.meAmarillo.org by March 3 to receive a \$25 discount off your \$100 application fee (use Promo Code: Early Bird).

ST. HYACINTH CHURCH, AMARILLO: Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer, pastor of St. Hyacinth Parish, has instituted a prayerful **Eucharistic Holy Hour on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.**, and invites all to join in prayer for vocations as well as private intentions. The hour opens with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily followed with silent meditation, common prayer, concluding with Benediction. It is a very special time.

BISHOP DEFALCO RETREAT CENTER: Join them in the beautiful Gallery at DeFalco on the **First Wednesday of each month, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.**, to hear an engaging presentation on a topic relevant to our community. Invite your friends and bring your favorite beverage. Love offerings are accepted.

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 Breastfeeding (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. Only \$70. We are listed at the U.S Bishops' website under NFP long distance learning: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/nfp-distance-learning.cfm>.

ATTENTION MEMBERS OF ST. THOMAS: ADVERTISE ON THE BULLETIN!

Feb. 21 through 24, John Lopez, our parish representative from Liturgical Publications, Inc., will be working on our bulletin, and contacting advertisers for the back page. Please consider advertising in the bulletin since the revenue from the ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to the parish. It's a great way to get your name in front of the families in the church!

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS, SELF-EMPLOYED AND FAMILIES!

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Available ADVERTISING SPACE

BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING

- Local, targeted community advertising for one full year, at one low price.
- A FREE ad listing on parishesonline.com.
- FREE, professional ad design, and 4 free ad changes per year.

IPi BISHOP DEFALCO RETREAT CENTER

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IPi BISHOP DEFALCO RETREAT CENTER

If you are interested or just curious to check it out, please call **John Lopez: 817-983-4152**, or feel free to email him anytime at: JLopez@4LPi.com.



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH STAFF

PastorRev. John Valdez
 DeaconBlaine Westlake
 DeaconPhillip Whitson
 Retired DeaconJim Brown
 Retired DeaconTerry Pevehouse
 Music Dir./Organist/Choir Master..... Jim Gardner
 Assistant Music Dir.Nicole Koetting
 Youth DirectorCaleb Hubbard
 Religious Ed & Adult Faith Formation Director.....Kerry Acker
 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, February 12:
 Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37
Monday, February 13:
 Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday, February 14:
 Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday, February 15:
 Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26
Thursday, February 16:
 Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33
Friday, February 17:
 Gn 11:1-9/Mk 8:34—9:1
Saturday, February 18:
 Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13
Sunday, February 19:
 Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/1 cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Liturgy Schedule and Special Mass Intentions:

Monday	2/13		NO MASS
Tuesday	2/14	7:00 AM	+Billy Reeves Dr. Stephen Usala
Wednesday	2/15	7:00 AM	+Anna Rowe Lucille Quinto
Thursday	2/16	7:00 AM	+Jimmy Austin Knights of Columbus 4621
Friday	2/17	7:00 AM	+Jack London Tom & Sandy Riney
Saturday	2/18	5:00 PM	+Ken Gabel Don & Alby Peters
Sunday	2/19	7:30 AM	MEMBERS OF PARISH FAMILY
		9:00 AM	+Barbara Fowlkes Pat Stich
		11:15 AM	+Clare Wood Raymond & Sammie Wood

Religious Education News

RE News

*I need baptismal certificates for children in sacramental classes not baptized at St. Thomas.
NO sacraments can be received without it.

*Parents of 1st Communion kids have a meeting on Sunday, February 26 at 10:05 in the Dwelling.

RCIA News

*Not Catholic but interested in learning more?
Our new Inquiry class is held in the library
10:05-11:05 a.m. Join us for the next class on
Feb. 19! Any non-Catholic is welcome
at any time!

*Contact Kerry Acker, DRE, at kacker@stthomasamarillo.org or (806)358-2461 ext. 106, or Debi, RE secretary, at ext. 107 for more info!

Adult Faith Formation



CHOICE

“If you choose you can keep the commandments,” Sirach tells us. God “has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand” (Sirach 15:15, 16). This is a great mystery: God does not control us so completely that we cannot choose our own path. We have certain boundaries, of course, but no one but we can choose our way within those boundaries.

In today’s reading from Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus reminds us of our freedom and our responsibility for our lives. He calls us to look beyond the words of the commandments, all the way to their meaning. Look beyond the adultery to the selfishness that poisons our love. Look beyond the murder to the anger that eats away at our compassion. Look beyond the perjured testimony to the lies and deception that drive our behavior.

Our vocation is to choose life for ourselves, and to choose a path through our part of the world that helps make life possible and more abundant for others as well.

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Week at a Glance

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

12:00 p.m. - Contemplative Power Hour - Chapel
6:30 p.m. - Cub Scouts Den Meeting - Education Wing

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

10:00 a.m. - Bible Timeline (AFF) -Marian Room
2:00 p.m. - Divine Mercy Cenacle - Marian Room
6:15 p.m. - Boy Scouts - Scout Room
7:00 p.m. - Young Adults - The Dwelling
7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts - Gym

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:30 a.m. - ACTS Small Group - Library
9:00 a.m. - Community Scripture Study - Parlor
10:00 a.m.- Marianist Group - Marian Room
11:00 a.m.- Lunch Bunch - Gym
5:30 p.m. - Confessions - Chapel
6:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry - Parlor
6:30 p.m. - The Mass (AFF) - Marian Room
6:30 p.m. - Adult Handbells - Music Wing
6:30 p.m. - K.I.D.S. Choirs - Music Wing
7:00 p.m. - High School STAY - The Dwelling/Gym
7:45 p.m. - Adult Choir - Music Wing

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

10:00 a.m. - Rosary Group - Chapel
5:00 p.m. - Special Olympics Practice - Gym
7:00 p.m. - Theology on Tap - IDK Bar

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

10:00 a.m. - Morning Altar Guild - Msgr. Tash Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6:15 a.m. - TMIY - Msgr. Tash Hall
3:30 p.m. - Confessions - Chapel
4:00 p.m. - Cantor’s Rehearsal - Music Wing

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

9:00 a.m. - Coffee/Fellowship Hour - Gym
9:30 a.m. - Breaking Open the Word - Library
10:05 a.m. - Follow Me (AFF) - Marian Room
10:05 a.m. - The Prophets (AFF) - Msgr. Tash Hall
10:05 a.m. - RE Classes - Education Wing
5:00 p.m. - Youth Orchestra - Music Wing
5:30 p.m. - Youth Bells - Music Wing
6:15 p.m. - Youth Choir - Music Wing

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

~John F. Kennedy