

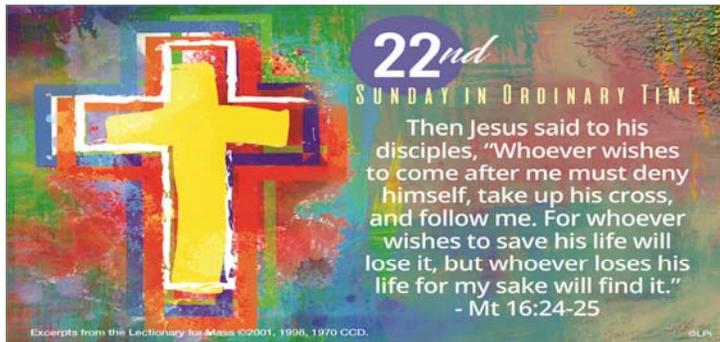
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4100 South Coulter Street • Amarillo, TX 79109

Church Phone: (806) 358-2461
 Rectory Phone: (806) 353-1016
 Fax: (806) 358-2529
 Website: <https://amarillo.church>
 Office Hours: (M-F) 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM



Diocese of Amarillo



Secular pursuits only bring a temporary amount of satisfaction and fulfillment. As much as we may think that achieving worldly success, economic security, personal well-being, and self-fulfillment are worthy goals to obtain, they all are dependent on external variables and can lead to emptiness. We are trained to be very pragmatic and productive. Unless we are able to check off all of the boxes or comply with specific measurable requirements, our value and worth becomes questionable. Corporations, educational institutions, systems, structures, and secular ideology rarely consider deeper, more spiritual, and human contributions a person can and needs to make.

To the secular mind, the wisdom and ideals of the Gospel are making less and less sense. Consider for a moment this question: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" While Jesus is asking this very challenging question to people who are considering his message, many in our world are in a quite different place. Whether we realize it, many folks are asking a much different question. Why would you not want to gain the whole world and secure your life? If you look at where a lot of folks are investing their time, energy, and resources, it becomes obvious where current priorities rest.

Modern day comforts and possibilities are backing us out of our relationship with God. The fire burning in every human heart is trying to find its satisfaction in the things that humans have created and not God. Being altruistic and offering compassion for those most in need becomes a political responsibility or responsible gesture. We realize that our hearts need to be centered on something and someone who calls us out of ourselves, but we struggle and battle with naming the source of that call. God places the desire to seek, find, and love Him in the core of every soul. We are not abandoned and left to fend for ourselves. But we can easily get confused. We know that when we extend ourselves to another self-sacrificially, we are doing what is just and right. We know that we can work through suffering and loss and come out better and more whole on the other side.

Our minds need to be renewed so that they can begin to understand that there is much more to who we are, and that faith plays a pivotal role in achieving our true and everlasting goals. It is when we see that it is only faith that can bring us to this heightened awareness of ourselves and God that it will begin to make sense. Then, we can put things in proper perspective and consider being a disciple.

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Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00 PM (Sunday Vigil Mass)
 Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:15 AM
 Monday & Tuesday: 6:00 PM
 Wednesday thru Friday: 7:00 AM
 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 seventh 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.

Catholic Question

Instruction on Receiving Communion

Question:

How many times a day can a person receive communion?



Answer:

To find an answer to this question, we need to turn to the Church's Code of Canon Law. Here we read, "One who has received the blessed Eucharist may receive it again on the same day only within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates ..." (no. 917). This tells us that the standard answer would be that we can receive communion twice in a day.

Having said that, we also want to be sure that we pay attention to the entire instruction. The phrase "within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates" is important. It means a) that we always have to think of receiving communion as being within a celebration of the Mass and b) we have to be participants in that celebration – we can't simply show up "in time" for communion.

So, when would this rule apply?

For example, if you attend Mass on a Saturday morning and then take part in the Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday evening, you could licitly receive communion at both celebrations. Or, another example, if you receive communion at a wedding or funeral Mass, you could also receive communion at a daily Mass or Sunday Vigil celebrated on the same day. We always want to be sure that we observe the rules for fasting from food and drink before receiving the Eucharist (see Code of Canon Law, no. 919.)

We should also remember that the Code of Canon Law instructs that anyone who is in danger of death or seriously ill may also receive communion a second time (no. 91, §2.)

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Your Monthly Stewardship

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
August, 2020	NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME		

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" -MATTHEW 16:26

St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent, and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

~archstl.org

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday, August 30:

Jer 20:7-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

Monday, August 31:

1 Cor 2:1-5/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday, September 1:

1 Cor 2:10b-16/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday, September 2:

1 Cor 3:1-9/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday, September 3:

1 Cor 3:18-23/Lk 5:1-11

Friday, September 4:

1 Cor 4:1-5/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday, September 5:

Ez 33:7-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

Sunday, September 6:

Ez 33:7-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND:

Kate Schmidt, Ben Canales, Cleta Bustos, Steve Chontos, Glenda Fassauer, Braxton Sandoval, Cheryle Wayne, Jerry Stone, Jerry Terry, Esther York, Mike O' Neill, Emile Jones, Madeline Arrott, Lupita Randon, Betty Cutting, Judy Allen, Jordan Barrientez, Paul Kiefer, Doug Tyler, JoAnn Mercer, John (Jack) Hoben, LaRuth Haverfield, Richard Herbsleb, James Rhodes, Rod Lancour, Jack Turner, Ray Ramirez, C. D. Williams, Kim Zinsmeyer, Margaret Herring, Carol Olivas, Jac DeMont, Don Terrill, Marilyn Carr, Glenda Gerber, Erminia Wiggs, Cecilia Gleason, Jeannine Bellinghausen, Madeline Ryberg, Tom Leezer, Steven Torres, Marisa Delgado, Rhonnie Kaplan, Gerald Lis

OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN:

Sheldon Fowler, A. J. Serafin, Lee Wingfield, Sean Callahan, Bryan Revell, John Nussbaum, Rachel Nussbaum, Matt Nussbaum, Christopher Schrock, David Oviedo Cantu, Jacob Bitonel, Jason Freeby, Jacob Tumbelson, Swasey & Jena Brown, Cody Keese, Justin Spencer, Ryan Huseman, Ethan Thomas Weaver, Toby Bitonel, Jeremiah Tumbelson, Jarred Romero, William Weinheimer, Trevor Bunkers, Chase Logan.

A Loving Tribute

*The fresh flowers this week were
donated by Tom & Margie Campbell
in memory of Josie Herrera*



Mass Intentions

If you would like to schedule Mass intentions, you do to have to come in person to do so. Just call the office at 806-358-2461, between 8:30 a.m., & 4:30 p.m., Mon., through Fri., to schedule a Mass or Masses. You can mail your Mass stipend check to the Church at 4100 S. Coulter St., Amarillo, TX, 79109. God bless.

Sacrament Information



If you are new parents and/or first-time 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.**

GETTING MARRIED? If you are getting married sometime this year, NFP is a mandatory requirement in the Diocese of Amarillo for couples seeking the sacrament of matrimony. For more information and class schedules near you, please visit the website, www.amarillodiocese.org/nfp.

Updated Mass Times

Beginning Sun., Sept. 13, St. Thomas will have three Sunday liturgies: **7:00 a.m.**, (formerly 7:30 a.m.) **9:00 a.m.**, & **11:15 a.m.** (which will continue to be live streamed.) We will, of course, continue to have **5:00 p.m., Mass on Sat. Beginning, Mon., Sept. 14, Daily Mass will be celebrated Mon., through Fri., at 9:00 a.m.** We hope these changes will work well with everyone's schedule. **Confessions** will continue to be heard on **Sat., from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**, in our Parlor or by appointment.

CURRENT PROTOCOLS WILL REMAIN IN PLACE.

Resource for Healing

"Come! Consume in us whatever prevents us from being consumed in You."

-St. Magdalen de Pazzi: Feast Day May 25

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

in English

Friday, Sept. 18 - Sunday, Sept. 20

*Tambien, hay un retiro
en español,
hasta el 6 al 8 de
Noviembre.*

Even in a pandemic, the pain of abortion with the loss of our children can overwhelm us.

Seek the Lord's hope and healing at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.

These confidential retreats are small and safe; and follow all health and safety guidelines.

Contact Mindy at rios2000us@yahoo.com or 806-702-2284.

Holy Cross Catholic Academy



Holy Cross Catholic Academy is a Roman Catholic School that strives to be one with our Holy Father and the Magisterium of the Church. Holy Cross religion curriculum is designed to promote Catholic identity and faith in the lives of the students.

Students will attend a steaming Mass during homeroom each Wednesday during the remainder of the pandemic.

6th grade - Sr. Gabriel Mary Gaughan, active at Disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Prayer Town – 8 years at Holy Cross

7th and 8th grade - Burkleigh Hund – Holy Cross alum, graduated from WTAMU in 2018 – 3 years at Holy Cross

9th grade and 12th grade – Collin Backus – graduate of Benedictine College – 3 years at Holy Cross

10th and 11th grade – Devin Van Curen – recently moved from Pennsylvania and will be starting her 1st year at Holy Cross; discerning to join The School Sisters of St. Francis

Employment Opportunity

THE DIOCESE OF AMARILLO is accepting applications for the position of **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**. The CFO is responsible for providing, developing and maintaining financial accountability standards and ethics for all diocesan matters. The CFO directs, manages and supervises the financial operations of the Pastoral Center in conjunction with the Bishop. The CFO manages the diocesan assets and advises management in financial operations. Applicant must be licensed as a Certified Public Accountant or have compatible experience. Familiarity with diocesan financial operations is preferred, but other accounting experience will be considered. Experience as a chief finance officer or other high-level accounting or finance position is a plus. The position requires excellent communication and organizational skills. Applicants should have proficiency with information technology, including knowledge of spreadsheet, database, and accounting computer applications. For a full job description, please visit our the diocese website at www.amarillodiocese.org/finance. Resumes will be accepted until August 31, 2020 and should be sent to: **Dcn. Phil Whitson Diocese of Amarillo P. O. Box 5644 Amarillo, TX 79117** or pwhitson@dioama.org.

Around the Diocese

RESPECT LIFE BANQUET: Please save **Sun., Sept. 27**, on your calendar and join the Family Life Office for the **23rd Annual Respect Life Banquet** at the Amarillo Civic Center. Social Hour begins at 4:30 p.m., with a Prime Rib Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. The keynote speaker is Kathryn Whitaker, a native of Dumas and mother of six, who is an author, blogger, speaker and freelance graphic designer. **For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the Family Life Office at 806-414-1059.**

"Hold your eyes on God and leave the doing to Him. That is all the doing you have to worry about."

~St. Jane Frances de Chantal

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH STAFF

PastorRev. John Valdez
Assistant Pastor.....Rev. Victor Hugo Andrade
DeaconBlaine Westlake
DeaconPhillip Whitson
Retired DeaconJim Brown
Retired DeaconTerry Pevehouse
Music Director/Organist/Choir Master.....Jim Gardner
Children/Youth Choir Director.....Mykel Byersmith
Religious Ed & Adult Faith Formation Director.....Kerry Acker
Youth Director.....Andrew Neighbors
Parish SecretaryRita Walker
Facility AdministratorBryan Webb
Parish BookkeeperVirginia Christian
Parish Life CoordinatorJulie Jones
Ministry Assistant Dayamin Winchester
Music SecretaryJudith Tucker
Music/RE AssistantStephanie Gallegos
Facility AssistantGlen Starcher
CustodianMark Ebenkamp
CustodianCurtis Zeissel
Liturgical Environmentalist.....Julie Pierce

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

11:00 AM

In Thanksgiving for Elsa Aboytes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

11:00 AM

+Joseph Ricci by Mark & Catherine Mechenbier

+Catherine McGuire by Bill & Pat Murray

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

11:00 AM

+Julia Peña by the Peña Family

In Thanksgiving for Greg & Mary Lou Venhaus

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

11:00 AM

+Jerry Quinto by Lucille Quinto

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

11:00 AM

+Arthur Britten by Donald & Nila Burgin

Int. of Tim & April Felker & family by Randy & Diane May

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

5:00 PM

+Oskar & Lorina Schwertner by Schwertner Family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:00 AM

+Maria Espino by Carrizo Family

11:15 AM

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH FAMILY



Religious Education & RCIA

RE NEWS

*You can now enroll for RE and pay online!!

Returning RE families, use this link:

<https://amarillo.church/re-returning-family>

New RE families, use this link:

<https://amarillo.church/re-new-family>

*Did you miss our special Back-to-School blessing? Let the RE office know, and we will make sure you get blessed medals and prayer cards!

*Our 1st Sunday of classes will be October 4, 2020. In-person Sunday classes are only open to sacramental-aged kids at this time. Please read about what all we are offering by checking out this link: <https://amarillo.church/child-faith-formation>

*If you think you might be interested in being a catechist this year either in person or via an online class, please contact Kerry!

*2019-2020 Confirmation I students need to complete their saint projects and other lessons at home prior to enrolling for the 2020-2021. The videos needed for this assignment are now only available directly from Kerry. Please check your email!

RCIA NEWS

****Interested in becoming Catholic? Now is the time to get started! Please contact Kerry Acker for more information!**

Contact Kerry Acker DRE at kacker@stthomasamarillo.org or 806.358.2461, Ext. 106, for more info on RCIA or Religious Education.

St. Thomas the Apostle Youth

S.T.A.Y. gatherings will resume in October! There will be new procedures and protocols for youth and parents to follow in order to keep everyone safe. Join **Remind** to keep up to date on S.T.A.Y.

High school youth and parents can join by **texting to 81010, then type the message, @catholic77.**

Fourth through Eighth Grade youth and parents can join by **texting to 81010, then type the message: @fastms.**

Staying Informed

Keep up with what is going on at St. Thomas by signing up for **Flocknote** at www.amarillo.church and like us and follow our latest news and updates on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/amarillo.church



Adult Faith Formation

Daily Prayer This Week

Among the many healing stories in this week's gospels is the story of the call of Peter. It is powerful for us because we see the very human moment of Peter's self-doubt: he realizes the power of Jesus, falls down in an awareness of his own sinfulness and wants Jesus to turn away from him because he is too sinful. The real lesson for us is that it is precisely at the moment when Peter recognizes how unworthy he is, that Jesus calls him to ministry.

All of us can have moments of feeling we are unworthy - and the truth is that we can never be worthy of the unending love Jesus offers us. But how blessed we are if we realize that we are loved without limits even though we have done nothing to deserve that kind of love.

Knowing in a balanced humility that we are sinful is not a bad thing - but if we get stuck there, and are tempted to turn away from Jesus as Peter did, then we have become more focused on ourselves than on the love we are being offered. This week is a week to rejoice in that love and healing Jesus wants to give us. It is a prayer we can carry throughout our days.

Dearest Jesus, be with me in this day. I can feel how much I long for a deeper connection with you, and yet I am ashamed of my weaknesses. Touch my heart so that I might be open to your healing love.

Let me be open to all of those you put in my life today and let me be aware of their needs and care for them before I worry about my own. Give me an awareness of the love that is already there for me and a generosity of heart that allows me to share it with others.

Taken from Creighton University's **Online Ministries** web site <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>
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PRAYER FOR THE SAFETY OF RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN A PANDEMIC

Father please hear us when we tell You of our concerns of sending our children and educators back to school.

Know that we are striving to make all of the right decisions and need Your love and power to help us overcome any difficulties.

Please watch over everyone as times and routines are about to change once again.

We know that we can do anything through You, so please help us ensure health and semi-normalcy in the coming months.

We give our hearts to You, now and forever.

Amen

~Author Unknown

