

Online Giving



GIVE TODAY!

Even small sacrifices can mean **a lot.**

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St Anthony's is now offering Online Giving!

Visit our website to sign up and to begin contributing automatically to our parish. This convenient new system does not require you to contact your bank to sign up or to make changes. You can use any of your checking or savings accounts and the funds will be automatically transferred to our parish bank account. This system is more convenient for the parish than electronic checks from your bank. And it's convenient for you because you can make changes at any time. You can see reports on your contribution history and generate tax statements at each year's end. And you can still put your envelopes in the collection basket if desired: Just write OLG on the envelope so that money counters know they won't need to process the envelope. [Go to www.saopdtx.com to get started.](http://www.saopdtx.com)

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Save the Date!!!

DANBURY ISD Education Foundation 3rd Annual AWARDS BREAKFAST

— Thursday, May 18th at 8:30 am

St. Anthony Center

Danbury, Texas

Please join us as we recognize a group of teachers that have really made a difference to the students and join us to award our teacher grants. If you have an interest in becoming involved in helping our teachers, please consider becoming a partner of the foundation.

Please RSVP to Lisa at 979-922-1218 or Educationfoundation@danburryisd.org

Flyers in the back of the Church.....

A LENTEN CONCERT, performed by well-known ACTS musician, David Kauffman, will be held on Friday evening, March 24th at 7:30 pm at St. John the Baptist Church, Alvin. Kauffman is the composer of such songs as "Behold", "I Will Make This Day My Prayer", and "Purify My Heart". Many say his concerts are like a mini-retreat. Bring your family and friends and come sing and pray together for this special Lenten week-end event. A Free Will Offering will be collected to cover the costs of the evening concert.

David Kauffman will also lead a LENTEN PRAYER JOURNAL WORKSHOP on March 25th, Saturday morning from 8:30 am to 11:30 am in the Parish Hall. This workshop combines scripture readings with music to draw deeper reflection on the sacred passages. The cost is \$25 which includes breakfast & music CD (doors open at 8:15 am). For more information or to register, contact the church office at (281)331-3751 or check the parish website www.stfohnalvin.org or email stjohnaff@gmail.com.

The Highest Power: Carolyn Heap, another Sunday School teacher, said to her children, 'We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?' George blurted out, 'I know, Aces.'

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church Altar Society in Damon, Texas is having their annual Turkey and Dressing Dinner on Sunday, March 19, 2017 in the Parish Hall [3715 Railroad Street]. Serving of Turkey and Dressing with all the trimmings begins at 10:30 am until 1:30 pm. Plates are \$10 each. There will be Pastries for Sale and a KJZT Raffle and Craft Sale. Come spend the day with us and enjoy some good food with good company!

3rd Sunday of Lent: March 19 That we may joyfully use the gifts God has given us to help spread the message of the Risen Christ to all those who need to know our Savior's love and grace. "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." John 4:13 Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us for long. When we build our lives around material possessions we always want more. True Joy and Peace only comes when we follow Jesus; when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."

World Down Syndrome Day is March 21. Did you know that 1 out of every 800 pregnancies results in a baby with Down syndrome (or Trisomy 21), a naturally-occurring chromosomal deviation? If you or someone you know has received a pre-natal diagnosis of Trisomy 21 or Down syndrome, and would like to speak to a mother of a child with that disability, contact Elizabeth at elizabethtotah@gmail.com or 650-653-1797.

"Together in Holiness"– An Inspiring Event for Couples! May 6, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in Houston, Texas You are invited to the third annual Together in Holiness marriage conference presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston! This event inspires couples to grow together in holiness and empowers parents to form their children in the Catholic faith. It includes dynamic presentations, Mass, Eucharistic adoration, and Reconciliation. Speakers include the renowned "Doctor Ray" Guarendi EWTN's The Doctor is In!; Danielle Bean, publisher of Catholic Digest; Mary Caprio of the St. John Paul II Foundation; and Deacon Tom Vicknair, author of the "One in the Lord" marriage program. Registration: \$49/couple thru March 30th then \$59/couple; \$29/\$35 individuals; \$5 childcare! (limited space). Learn more and register at www.TogetherInHoliness.org

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School

Employment Opportunities for the 2017-2018 School Year

- Professional and Support Staff
- Middle School Math and Science
- Middle School Spanish
- Lower Elementary K-5
- Physical Education/Bus Driver

Please visit <http://www.olqpschool.org/about/employment/> for more information or contact

Kim Wilson at kwilson@olqpschool.org.



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Instilling Knowledge, Inspiring Faith

**The St. Joseph Altar or St. Joseph Table is an old tradition from Sicily.
Here is the explanation of how the tradition started.**

The people of Sicily prayed. For too long there had been no rain to nourish the crops that sustained life for most of the island.

The dried out wheat stalks cracked beneath the feet of the poor farmers as they walked through their barren fields. Only a sea of dust and withered vines remained from what had once been row upon row of brightly colored fruits and vegetables.

And so the people prayed.

They pleaded to St. Joseph, their patron, for relief from the famine that gripped the island. At last the skies opened, sending down the life-giving water. The people rejoiced. Some time later, to show their gratitude, they prepared a table with a special assortment of foods they had harvested. After paying honor to St. Joseph, they distributed the food to the less fortunate.

The first St. Joseph Altar set up on the Island of Sicily was a small one, of course. But as time went on and the tradition took hold, the flamboyant nature and creative spirit of the Italians caused the altars to grow larger and more ornate.

Today, the artistic quality of the breads, cookies and pastries, which are baked in such shapes as chalices, staffs and pyramids, often rivals the exquisite flavor of the food offerings.

Though Sicilian immigrants introduced the custom to America, the celebration is not confined to any nationality. Rather, it has become a public event which its devoted participants embrace for a host of private and personal reasons. The feast is alternately a source of petition and thanksgiving.

Many families believe that having a St. Joseph Altar can bring good fortune. And it is common to hear stories about favors received (a loved one's recovery from an illness, for example), which are in turn attributed to the family's dedication to St. Joseph.

But whatever the reasons people become involved. St. Joseph's Feast Day is a tradition that centers on the entire family. One of the special customs calls for the selection of children to portray members of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Angels and favorite saints may also be included in the ritual, which begins with the "saints" going door to door to seek aid until finally reaching the place where the altar is on display.

After the Holy Family has eaten, guests may partake of the meal. Most of the foods presented on the altar are acquired through begging, a symbol gesture that represents what the poor of Sicily were forced to do. When the feast is over, the remaining food and whatever money has been contributed are given to the poor.

Whether a St. Joseph Altar is an elaborate display at an elegant church or a humble table in a modest home, it is a reflection of deep devotion to St. Joseph, the patron of those in need—workers, travelers, the persecuted, the poor, the aged, the dying. And it is a custom that has enjoyed resurgence in recent years, as young and old have begun to rediscover their heritage.

After many centuries, the St. Joseph Altar still serves as a reminder that those who have enjoyed some measure of good fortune must share it with those who have less.