



# 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**

## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever receives one child  
such as this in my name,  
receives me.” - Mk 9:37a

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

There is something about being first. Whether it be first in line, first to be picked for the team, or the first one to finish their work, great satisfaction is achieved. Our egos love being first. It somehow sets us apart from everyone else, gives us a sense of pride and positions us to feel better than others. When we are first, we can glory in our efforts, skills, and achievements. Isn't that what really matters? After all, we are taught from a very young age to be proficient, stay on top, be the best at what we do, and win the praise and esteem of others. This is the stuff that makes us successful and provides us with a comfortable, satisfying life.

Jesus wants none of it. All of the details we anguish over mean little to the kingdom of God. You want to be first? Then, be a servant and welcome a child. All of this is the opposite of our often vehement pursuits. If we are serious about following Jesus and living the Gospel, then we must put the needs of others before our own. If we continue to listen only to the noise of the world, we are going to continue to believe the illusions we inherit. Those illusions come in many forms, but all have things in common: me before you, being on top and not the bottom, us versus them, personal security over universal harmony and peace. When are we going to learn that always striving to be the best and first is an empty pursuit in our struggle for happiness? While satisfying our ego with this momentary boost of esteem may feel good for a moment, is it what we really desire?

If we can break from the world's noise and create a space of sacred silence in our lives, we can begin to listen and see that we are being called in another direction. What we really desire is not the bolstering of our egos but the innocence we lost somewhere along the way. When we can be playful, joyful, and even somewhat carefree, life is good. We want our relationships to work, a place to call home, and to live peaceful lives with our sisters and brothers. Only a servant can do this. The servant's prayer seeks to detach from self-concern in order to be used by God. Rather than worrying about being first and coming out on top, we can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led to do good works. Stop worrying about being first and put greater energy into feeling joy.

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### Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00 PM (Sunday Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:15 AM

Monday thru Friday: 9:00 AM

Holy Days: (to be announced)

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Altar Flowers



The Fresh Flowers on the Altar  
were donated by  
Randy and Mary Huseman  
in loving memory of  
Raphael and Nell Britten  
& Denis Huseman

## Catholic Question

### Communion Fasting

#### Question:

Do we need to fast for one hour before Mass, or one hour before communion?



#### Answer:

The practice of fasting before receiving the Eucharist is a centuries-old act of devotion that was once very different than it is today. In the 1917 Code of Canon Law, for example, anyone who wanted to receive the Eucharist had to fast from midnight until the time of communion (even water and medications were forbidden). Over the following decades, the rules for the eucharistic fast were relaxed, first by Pope Pius XII and, later, by Pope Saint Paul VI.

The current Code of Canon Law (1983) states very clearly: "A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before holy communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine" (Canon 919, §1). And, in the case of those who are ill and the elderly, the rules are even more accommodating, "The elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour" (Canon 919, §3).

So, if we strictly follow the "letter of the law," the fast is calculated from the time of Holy Communion and not the start of Mass. However, when we remember why we fast — it is a reminder of the deeper hungers of the spirit that our physical thirst or hunger symbolize — we see that the issue is much bigger than simply fulfilling what is called for by Church Law and tradition. Joining fasting to our prayers and reflection before Mass is an opportunity to really center ourselves and to prepare our minds, hearts, and bodies to welcome the One we receive in the Eucharist.

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## Perpetual Adoration

Adoration to re-start this Fall pending filling the majority of the below open hours and substitutes.

Sunday	3a	4a	7a	11a	12p
Monday	2a	8a			
Thursday	12a	1a	9a		
Friday	1a	2a	3a	6a	8a
Saturday	7a	11a	12p	5p	6p 7p

**Substitutes urgently needed for midnight thru 8am.**

To take an hour or volunteer to substitute **text Simon @ 570-9776** and give your name, number, day and hour, am/pm.

## Daily Scripture Readings

### Sunday, September 19:

Wis 2:12, 17-20/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

### Monday, September 20:

Ezr 1:1-6/Lk 8:16-18

### Tuesday, September 21:

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13

### Wednesday, September 22:

Ezr 9:5-9/Lk 9:1-6

### Thursday, September 23:

Hg 1:1-8/Lk 9:7-9

### Friday, September 24:

Hg 2:1-9/Lk 9:18-22

### Saturday, September 25:

Nm 11:25-29/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

### Sunday, September 26:

Nm 11:25-29/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

### PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

#### OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND:

Kate Schmidt, Ben Canales, Glenda Fassauer, Braxton Sandoval, Cheryle Wayne, Jerry Stone, Jerry Terry, Esther York, Mike O'Neill, Emile Jones, Madeline Arrott, Betty Cutting, Judy Allen, Jordan Barrientez, Paul Kiefer, JoAnn Mercer, John (Jack) Hoben, Richard Herbsleb, James Rhodes, Rod Lancour, Ray Ramirez, C. D. Williams, Kim Zinsmeyer, Margaret Herring, Carol Olivas, Jac DeMont, Marilyn Carr, Glenda Gerber, Cecilia Gleason, Jeannine Bellinghausen, Erminia Wiggs, Tom Leezer, Steven Torres, Marisa Delgado, Rhonnie Kaplan, Gerald Lis, Shirley Shaughnessy, Madeline Ryberg, Diana Gomez, Eric Olivas, Dean Zinsmeyer, Francisco Olivas

#### OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN:

Sheldon Fowler, Lee Wingfield, Sean Callahan, Bryan Revell, John Nussbaum, Rachel Nussbaum, Matt Nussbaum, Christopher Schrock, David Oviedo Cantu, Jacob Bitonel, Jason Freeby, Jacob Tumbelson, Cody Keese, Justin Spencer, Ryan Huseman, Toby Bitonel, Jeremiah Tumbelson, Jarred Romero, William Weinheimer, Trevor Bunkers, Chase Logan, Justin Werner, Jacob Tumbelson, Kayden Guzman

## Stewardship

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." ~MARK 9:35



Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word that many of us don't like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" = sacred and "facere" = to make. In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

~archstl.org

## 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.**



## Teacher Position Available



**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** is looking for a passionate and faithful, full-time teacher who is certified to teach elementary aged children (or has a 4-year degree.) If interested, please submit any inquiries or resumes to:  
Mr. Hernandez, Principal, at  
[d.hernandez@stjosephlearning.com](mailto:d.hernandez@stjosephlearning.com).

The Education Personnel Requirements include:

- Bachelor's degree
- 12 Credit Hours in Education Courses or an appropriate State Certificate
- Technology Proficiency

## A Prayer for Catechists

*Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists.  
We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.*

*Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.*

*Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.*

*We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

~usccb.org



## Seven Sorrows of Mary

**SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY ROSARY:** Beginning Oct. 1, the Seven Sorrows of Mary Rosary, led by Barbara Gray, will begin meeting each Fri., at 12:00 noon, at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral Chapel, 1200 S. Washington St. For more information about this group, please call Rachel Ornelas, 806-570-5011.

## Holy Cross Catholic Academy



### Exaltation of the Cross

On September 14, **Holy Cross Catholic Academy** along with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from St. Mary's and St. Joseph's schools celebrated HCCA's feast day, The Exaltation of the Cross.

The Mass took place at St. Joseph's Church and was celebrated by Fr. Taylor Elzner. This is a special day for HCCA as we celebrate who we are and give thanks for the cross that saved us from our sins.

The students ate pizza for lunch and the day ended with a pep rally. Thanks to everyone from the HCCA family.

## Everyday Stewardship

### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### The View from the Back of the Line

Have you known that person? The one who leaves every person they encounter feeling a little more blessed for having met them? They're the friend you can count on when nothing is going well. They're the one who's always "doing" for others. They're never gossiping or sniping or complaining.

We wonder how they do it, how they have it in them. We're a little envious, even if we don't let ourselves acknowledge it.

That, folks, is what the view is like from the front of the line, gazing at those suckers in the way back and wondering why they're smiling so much.

We've all been at the front of a line and felt no shame about it. We show up early, we put in the time and the legwork, and we "earn" whatever it is we came for — sports tickets, the latest Apple product, whatever. That's how it works here on Earth, where the fastest win the race, the fittest survive and the first shall be first, always.

It's exactly why stewardship is such a tall order. Stewardship calls us to play by the rules of another kingdom — one where the richest have the least amount in their bank accounts and the happiest don't seem to have anything to show for it, at least materially.

If you have a person in your life who always seems happy "doing" for others, it's because by a boatload of God's grace, they play by the rules of the other place.

Watch and take notes — and don't be afraid to join them at the back of the line.

~Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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LIVING OUR FAITH

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH STAFF**

Pastor .....Rev. John Valdez  
Deacon .....Blaine Westlake  
Deacon .....Phillip Whitson  
Deacon.....Mark White  
Deacon .....Darryl Dixon  
Retired Deacon .....Terry Pevehouse  
Retired Deacon.....Jim Brown  
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 Secretary .....Rita Walker  
Facility Administrator .....Bryan Webb  
Parish Bookkeeper .....Virginia Christian  
Parish Life Coordinator .....Julie Jones  
Ministry Assistant .....Dayamin Winchester  
Music Secretary .....Judith Tucker  
Music/RE Assistant .....Stephanie Kelley  
Facility Assistant .....Glen Starcher  
Custodian .....Mark Ebenkamp  
Custodian .....Curtis Zeissel  
Liturgical Environmentalist.....Julie Pierce

***Mass Intentions***

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

9:00 AM

+Ed Venhaus by Roger & Janice Allison

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

9:00 AM

+Paul Parise by St. Thomas Men's Club

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

9:00 AM

Intention of Berniece Gee by Pat Stich

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

9:00 AM

+Msgr. Joseph Tash by Michael Lindley

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

9:00 AM

Spec. Intention of Mary Ann Acton

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

5:00 PM

Pat Weinheimer, Sr. by Pat Stich

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

7:30 AM

**MEMBERS OF THE PARISH FAMILY**

9:00 AM

+Steve Chontos by His Family

11:15 AM

+Jim McBride by H. R. & Marcia Kelly





## Religious Education & RCIA

### RE NEWS

This weekend, Sept. 18-19, is Catechetical Sunday, a time to bless and thank those who have stepped forward to share our Catholic faith with our children. Please make sure to thank your child's catechists this weekend especially!

\*Our next safe environment training is pending. Please check [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) for additional dates. Adults needing to be trained must now register online in advance of the scheduled training. To register go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and follow the instructions. From that site you will be able to register for any session offered in the diocese. If you have questions, please call Ann Lueb at the parish office.

### RCIA NEWS

\*We have begun a new RCIA formation period! If you or someone you know is interested in the Catholic faith or in completing their sacraments (18 and older), call the RE office about the formation process for RCIA!

Contact Kerry Acker DRE at [kacker@amarillo.church](mailto:kacker@amarillo.church) or 806.358.2461, Ext. 106, for more info on RCIA or Religious Education.

## St. Thomas Youth

New youth calendars are now available on our website for the upcoming 2021 - 2022 school year. High School S.T.A.Y. will begin September 8, and Middle School S.T.A.Y. and F.A.S.T. will begin September 26.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this year!

Andrew Neighbors, Youth Director  
[neighborspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:neighborspatriot@gmail.com)

## St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist, Sept. 21

### *Prayer to Saint Matthew*

*O Glorious St. Matthew,  
in your Gospel you portray Jesus  
as the longed-for Messiah  
who fulfilled the Prophets  
of the Old Covenant and  
as the Lawgiver who founded  
a Church of the New Covenant.  
Obtain for us the grace to see  
Jesus living in His Church and  
to follow His teaching in our lives  
on Earth so that we may live forever  
with Him in heaven.  
Amen.*

## Adult Faith Formation



**THE TURNING POINT** is a nine-session program. This study will introduce you to people and stories in the Gospel of John that you won't find anywhere else in the Bible. **Join us on Sun., Sept. 26 at 10:05 a.m. in the Upper Room or on Tues., Sept. 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Marian Room. Cost of workbook \$10.**

**WISDOM** an eight-week program. In this study, Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith examine biblical wisdom as it relates to daily life. **Join us on Wed., Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Room (North Wing). Cost of workbook \$15.**

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION NIGHT

**FROM THE COMMANDMENTS TO THE BEATITUDES**

**September 30th, 2021**

**6:30 PM – 7:45 PM**

**In the Parish Hall**

**PRESENTED BY**

**Deacon Mark White**

Join us for a night of reflection and fellowship.

**Bring a friend and your bible!**

For more information, contact Dayamín Winchester at [dwinchester@amarillo.church](mailto:dwinchester@amarillo.church) or 358-2461, ext. 107.

## Stay Informed

### NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ST. THOMAS?



Visit our website at [www.amarillo.church](http://www.amarillo.church).

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

Do you know someone who is homebound, sick & can't make it to 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 a.m.**



Please remember St. Thomas the Apostle Church in your wills, memorials, life insurance, stocks, annuities, living trusts and other planned gifts. Thank you.