

Parish News

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #4621 BREAKFAST: Their pancake breakfast will be held **TODAY, Sun., Dec. 11** They will be serving continuously from **8:00 a.m., to 12:30 p.m.**, in the Gym. **Adults \$7, Children 10 and under \$3.** Proceeds benefit seminarians and charities.

ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION: The Advent Communal Reconciliation Service will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral on **Wed., Dec. 14, at 7:00 p.m.** **This will be the only reconciliation service during Advent.**

ALTAR GUILD CHRISTMAS BRUNCH will be on **Sat., Dec. 17, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the home of Belinda Britten.** Directions to her home and a phone number to request transportation have been sent to you by Flocknote. Come join us as we celebrate this joyous season with our ladies' group. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

ST. THOMAS MUSIC DEPARTMENT: All are welcome to join us this **Sat., Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m., for the Annual Christmas Caroling Celebration in the Msgr. Tash Parish Hall.** Hot cocoa will be served. You will hear sounds of the season from the Children's Choirs, Youth Choir, Handbell Choirs and the Adult Choir.

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

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.

ST. THOMAS PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The Shawl Ministry meets each **Wed. evening in the Parlor from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** If you like to knit or crochet, you are welcome to join this very worthwhile ministry.

PADRE'S SALSA: In preparation for New Year salsa sales, please return your empty jars as soon as possible. Watch the bulletin for dates when Padre's Salsa will be on sale.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH IRS REGULATIONS

all contributions are being recorded as of the date they are received by the Church. All contributions to be credited for 2016 should be received **no later than Dec. 31.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Our Stewardship

| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <u>Dec. 4, 2016</u> | \$ 26,831.00 | \$ 46,151.00 | \$ 19,320.00 |

This is what the Lord said to Moses: "Tell the Israelites to take up a collection for me. From every man you shall accept the contribution that his heart prompts him to give to me."

~Exodus 25:1-2

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, Donna VonOsinski, Esther York, Shanna O'Gorman, Mike O'Neill, Angie Van Bakel, Mark Ortega, Bill & Marie Hughes, Ray Harmon, Jeannette Kaminski, Mary Maalouf, Emile Jones, Tony Sisneros, 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.

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.**

REFLECTION FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations."

~Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 NRSV



Youth Schedule and Events

Young Adults will be meeting this **Tues., Dec. 13, at 7:00 p.m., at the Amarillo Botanical Gardens.** We are going to all go see the Christmas lights, then go eat dinner.

High School STAY is not meeting again for 2016.. **We will start back up on Jan. 11, 2017.** Happy Holidays and good luck on finals coming up!

MS STAY (6th – 8th Grade) We will be meeting **TONIGHT, Dec. 11, for our Christmas activity from 7:00-8:30pm., in The Dwelling.**

FAST (4th and 5th grade) **We are meeting TONIGHT, Dec. 11, from 5:30-7:00 p.m., in The Dwelling.** This is our Christmas party and last meeting for 2016.

Lunch Bunch will resume on **Jan. 11, 2017.**

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

Holy Cross Corner

Don't Forget!



The **Holy Cross Catholic Academy** Alumni Basketball game will be on December 16th at Holy Cross gym. Included in the fun will be a brisket dinner and a silent auction with unique and fun items. We encourage any Price College, Alamo Catholic and Holy Cross alum to come and reconnect with classmates and supporters of our Catholic schools, especially our secondary schools. The brisket dinner is only \$8. With a \$1.00 convenience fee we can now accept all major credit cards.

Go Mustangs!



CHRISTMAS LITURGY 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE - Sat., Dec.24

Children's Mass
Prelude Music: 4:45 p.m.
Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Vigil Mass
Prelude Music: 6:45 p.m.
Mass: 7:00 p.m.
Midnight Mass
Prelude Music: 11:30 p.m.
Mass: 12:00 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY, Sun., Dec. 25
10:00 a.m. only

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

Vigil Mass, Sat., Dec. 31
5:00 p.m.
New Year's Day, Sun., Jan. 1, 2017
7:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
11:15 a.m.



More Parish News

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS: If you have elected to make your contributions to St. Thomas by using the on-line payment option, please contact the Parish Office, 358-2461, and request that your monthly envelopes be stopped. Thank you.

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS: Please be reminded that in the event you are unable to serve on your designated date and need of a substitute, there are lists of the assigned ministers available in the Parish Office. Just give Rita a call, 358-2461, and she will e-mail or fax a list to you. Thank you for your service to our parish community.

VOCATIONS CRUCIFIX: The crucifix is taken home by a person or family each week and put in a safe place of honor. The prayer for vocations is then prayed each day by the person or family for the entire week. **Your prayers are greatly needed so we ask that you sign up now in the Bell Tower.**

GIFT BEARERS are needed at all Masses. If you would like to participate, please sign up in the book in the Bell Tower.

Around the Diocese

RETROUVAILLE: Thinking about Separation or Divorce? Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend struggling or even heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust, and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. **For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan. 6-8, call Paul or Patty Miguel, 806-420-1520, or email us at retropairamarillo@gmail.com or visit the website at www.HalpOurMarriage.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 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>.

NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ST. THOMAS?

Visit our website at:

www.stthomasamarillo.org

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.**



STTHOMASAMARILLO.ORG

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
 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, December 11:
 Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday, December 12:
 Zec 2:14-17; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday, December 13:
 Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday, December 14:
 Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday, December 15:
 Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30
Friday, December 16:
 Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday, December 17:
 Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Sunday, December 18:
 Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Liturgy Schedule and Special Mass Intentions:

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|----------|---|
| Monday | 12/12 | | NO MASS |
| Tuesday | 12/13 | 7:00 AM | +Pat McCarty Zidlicky Family |
| Wednesday | 12/14 | 7:00 AM | +Dick Wilcox Mary Sweeney |
| Thursday | 12/15 | 7:00 AM | Spec. Int. of Mary Britten Dcn. Blaine & Louise Westlake |
| Friday | 12/16 | 7:00 AM | +Tom Stich Pat Stich |
| Saturday | 12/17 | 5:00 PM | +John Casasanta Marlene Casasanta |
| Sunday | 12/18 | 7:30 AM | MEMBERS OF PARISH FAMILY |
| | | 9:00 AM | Spec. Int. of Marion Gabel Jerry & Jan Lis |
| | | 11:15 AM | +Linda Kelly STA Prayer Shawl Ministry |

Religious Education News

RE Notes:

Parents of children in sacramental years, please bring by baptismal certificates if your child wasn't baptized at St. Thomas!



RCIA Notes:

Beginning January 8, we will have an on-going inquiry class offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Any non-Catholic with questions about the faith or a desire to become Catholic is welcome to join at any time!

Contact the RE office at 358-2461 ext. 106, or e-mail Kerry at kacker@stthomasamarillo.org or contact Debi at ext. 107, to sign up as a catechist or to learn more about RCIA.

Adult Faith Formation

ADVENT



Advent provides an opportunity to look ahead to the celebration of the coming of Jesus.

Join Us on Wed., Dec. 14 & 17, at 6:30 p.m., in the Marian Room.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Week at a Glance

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

12:00 p.m. - Contemplative Power Hour - Chapel
6:30 p.m. - Cub Scouts Den Meetings - Education Wing
7:00 p.m. - Social concerns - Msgr. Tash Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

10:00 a.m. - Bible Timeline (AFF) -Marian Room
2:00 p.m. - Our Lady's Rosary Makers - Marian Room
7:00 p.m. - Young Adults - The Dwelling
7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts - Gym
7:00 p.m. - RCIA - Msgr. Tash Hall/Parlor
7:00 p.m. - RCIA - Msgr. Tash Hall/Parlor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:30 a.m. - ACTS Small Group - Library
9:00 a.m. - Community Scripture Study - Parlor
10:00 a.m.- Marianist Group - Marian Room
6:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Group - Parlor
6:30 p.m. - Advent Class (AFF) -Marian Room
6:30 p.m. - Adult Handbells - Music Wing
6:30 p.m. - K.I.D.S. Combined Choirs - Music Wing
7:00 p.m. - Communal Reconciliation - St. Mary's Cathedral
7:45 p.m. - Adult Choir - Music Wing

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

10:00 a.m. - Rosary Group - Chapel
1:30 p.m. - Focolare Movement - Marian Room
7:00 p.m. - PAT Meeting - Marian Room
7:00 p.m. - Theology on Tap - IDK Bar
7:00 p.m. - Baptism Class - Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

NO SCHEDULED CHURCH EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:30 a.m. - Cultural Christmas Exchange - Msgr. Tash Hall
9:30 a.m. - AFF Book Club - Marian Room
10:30 a.m. - Christmas Caroling Celebration - Hall
3:30 p.m. - Confessions - Chapel
4:00 p.m. - Cantor's Rehearsal - Music Wing

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 a.m. - Coffee & Fellowship - Gym
9:00 a.m. - Combined Music Mass - Church
9:30 a.m. - Breaking Open the Word - Library
10:05 a.m. - RE Classes - Education/Pre-K Wing
2:00 p.m. - Catechist Christmas Party - Msgr. Tash Hall
5:00 p.m. - Youth Orchestra - Music Wing
5:30 p.m. - Youth Bells - Music Wing
6:15 p.m. - Youth Choir -Music
7:00 p.m. - A/V Christmas Party—Msgr. Tash Hall