

Parish News



ALTAR FLOWERS DONATION

There will be no altar flower donations until the weekend of January 9 & 10.

ST. THOMAS MEN'S CLUB MEETING: The Men's Club will meet **Mon., Jan. 4, at 7:00 p.m., in the Msgr. Tash Hall.** All men of the parish are invited. Join us for food, fun, fellowship and service to the parish. **All are welcome to pray the rosary with us beforehand at 6:30 in the chapel.**

SAVE THE DATE: All parishioners are invited to a "**Good Old-Fashioned**" Dance, **Sat. Jan. 9, 2016**, in the gym. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the "Grand March" will begin at 7:00. There will be a DJ playing music for all different kinds of dances until 10:00 pm. If you have never participated in a Grand March, you won't want to miss it! This will be an opportunity for dads to dance with daughters, moms to dance with sons and adults to show us how it's done! Every dance has a wall flower so make plans to join us! It will be FUN for the entire family!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #4621 BREAKFAST: The next breakfast will be held on **Sun., Jan. 10, 2016.** 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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS will be held the weekend of **Feb. 27/28, 2016.** The Nominating Committee, Charlie Hennessey, Ryan Huseman, Sandy Riney & Cindy Schilmoeller will be **accepting names of proposed nominees for consideration by the committee until Jan. 8, 2016.**

PADRE'S SALSA SALES: Salsa sales are coming up in early 2016, for Super Bowl Sunday. Please return your salsa jars to the church as soon as possible. Watch the bulletin for details about the dates for the salsa sales. Thank you.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: At this time, Hours that need filling are **Wed., 8:00 a.m., & Saturday, 11:00 a.m.** Thank you to all regular & substitute Adorers who have signed up. **Please call Simon Wright at 806-570-9776 if you are interested in becoming a part of this wonderful ministry.**

BAPTISM CLASS: If you are new parents and/or 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.**

Our Stewardship

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>Dec. 20, 2015</u>	\$ 26,831.00	\$ 44,864.50	\$ 18,033.50
<u>Month-to-Date</u>	\$ 80,493.00	\$ 101,091.80	\$ 20,598.80

Dec. 27, 2015 NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO PUBLICATION DATE

"For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

~1 Corinthians 6:20

Prayer Intentions

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND: Kate Schmidt, Ben Canales, Tonia L. Allen, Marilyn Brzostowski, Cleta Bustos, Steve Chontos, Elizabeth Stone, Terry Moenter, Carmen Oviedo, Lynn Gerken, Glenda Fassauer, Braxton Sandoval, Cheryl Wayne, Jerry Stone, Jerry Terry, Donna VonOsinski, Sue Bezner, Esther York, Shanna O'Gorman, Mike O'Neill, Angie Van Bakel, Eveline Rivers-McCoy, Mark Ortega, Bill & Marie Hughes, Ray Harmon, Jeannette Kaminski, Aggie Padilla, Mary Maalouf, Emile Jones, Tony Sisneros, Mary Britten, Frank Galitski, Ray Prien, Mike Hartman, and Alice & Ollie Perry.

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.

ST. THOMAS PRAYER CHAIN

Do you know someone in need of special prayers? The Prayer Chain is always taking requests. **Please contact Eileen Dolan at 358-2461, Ext. 106.**

A LITTLE SLICE OF HEAVEN COOKBOOK: The new Catholic Historical Society has put out a 125-recipe cookbook which is a compilation of the recipes of Bishop Zurek and the Priests & Religious of the Diocese of Amarillo. **St. Thomas has a limited number of copies for sale (cost is \$17.50.) Checks should be made payable to CHS Cookbook Project. Just come by the church between 8:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m., if you would like to purchase a cookbook. Any staff member can assist you.**

Social Concerns

The Work of Christmas begins . . .
**"When the song of the angels is stilled
 when the star in the sky is gone,
 when the Kings and the princes are home,
 when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
 Then the work of Christmas begins
 to find the lost,
 to heal those broken in spirit
 to feed the hungry,
 to release the oppressed,
 to rebuild the nations
 to bring peace among all peoples,
 to make a little music with the heart . . .**

And, to radiate the Light of Christ every day, in every way, in all that we do, and in all in all that we say.

Then the work of Christmas begins
 The message of the Feast of the Epiphany to all people everywhere:

Rise up in splendor . . . your light has come,
 The Glory of the Lord shines upon you!

Let the work of Christmas begin, and let it begin with YOU!

Howard Thurman
 (adapted)

Youth Schedule and Events

Hey gang! High school STAY gears back up for another semester this Wednesday, January 6, from 7-9 PM in the Dwelling. See you there!

Middle school STAY will begin again next Sunday, January 10 from 6:30-8 PM in the Dwelling. Friends are always welcome, hope to see you there!

If you are going on the STAY Ski Trip, please have your final payment and waivers packet turned in by January 10 at the latest. Thanks!!

We will also be using Flocknote this year as an additional form of communication for youth news and activities, so please subscribe to the Flocknote group for which your youth will be in!

We have a separate list serve for F.A.S.T. (4th & 5th grade) Middle School S.T.A.Y. (6th – 8th grade) and High School S.T.A.Y. (9th – 12th grade.) If you are already subscribed to the St. Thomas Flocknote group, search for the appropriate group under the Youth Ministry tab and click to subscribe!



Music Notes



Important Dates:


Sun., Jan. 3 - No youth orchestra, Handbell or Choir Rehearsals

Wed., Jan. 6 - No Adult Handbell Rehearsal or KIDS Choir Rehearsals
7:45 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sun., Jan. 10 - 5:00 p.m. - Youth Handbell
5:45-6:30 p.m. - Youth Choir

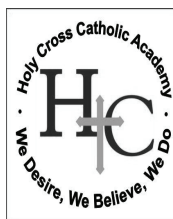
ATTENTION PARISHIONERS Our volunteers who count our collection each week request that all parishioners indicate on the outside of their contribution envelopes the amount of monies enclosed. This will insure better accuracy for accounting purposes. Also, if you put a loose check in the collection basket please show your full name (not initials) in order to record that donation properly. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter.

STA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The Prayer Shawl group meets each Wed. evening meetings from 6:00-8:00 p.m., in the Parlor. All women in the parish who knit and/or crochet, are welcome you to join this meaningful ministry.



WELCOME ALL OF YOU! We are so glad you came to worship with us today. If you are new to St. Thomas and interested in becoming a registered member, please find registration forms on the credenza outside the bell tower visit our website, at www.stthomasamarillo.org.

Holy Cross Corner



Holy Cross Catholic Academy would like to thank everyone who made purchases at Barnes & Noble during the HCCA Book Fair. Each year the revenue from this event helps us purchase special reading materials for our religion classes, language arts classes, junior and senior seminar classes and literary criticism classes.

Happy New Year from everyone at HCCA!

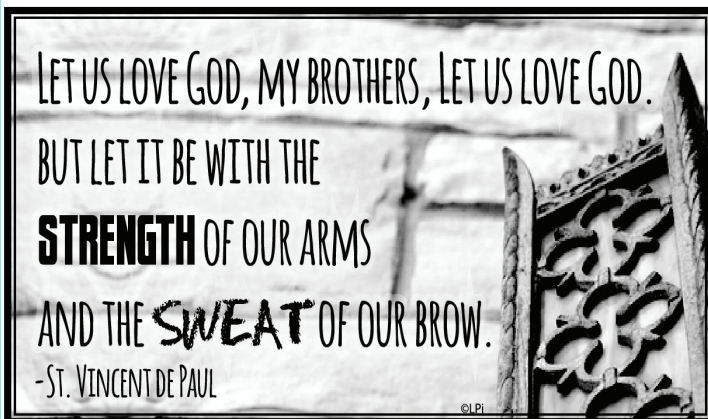
Around the Diocese

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRIES: For Two - Couple Prayer – starts **January 8, 2016**, it's the perfect gift to give your beloved and family for generations to come! Still not too late to join us on Fridays from 7:00-9:00 p.m., St. Hyacinth's, Saturdays in Hereford. **For more info call us (806) 383-2243 Ext 129 or find us on www.facebook.com/ForTwoBecomeOne.**

SAVE THE DATE: Diocesan Walk for LIFE – **January 23, 2016** “Come to Me, all you who suffer and are burdened, and I will refresh you.” Mt. 11:28. The Year of Mercy will soon be upon us, and we hope that many will join us in the sharing of the grief, the suffering and the sorrow that has been placed upon our brothers and sisters who have been affected by a culture of death. **For more information contact our office at Respect Life 806-383-2243, Ext 129.**

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Married Couples: As we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas let us live in his love in all we do, especially in our marriage relationship. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is **Feb., 12-14, at the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center** in Amarillo? Contact Rick & Bev Feller, (405-323-9119) or email rbfeller@gmail.com for more information, or apply online at www.wmme-section10.org/Amarillo by Jan.10, to receive \$25 discount on your \$100 application fee (use Promo Code: Early Bird.)

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 Breast-feeding (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. The cost is \$70.00. We are listed at: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/nfp-distance-learning.cfm>.



LET US LOVE GOD, MY BROTHERS, LET US LOVE GOD.
BUT LET IT BE WITH THE
STRENGTH OF OUR ARMS
AND THE **SWEAT** OF OUR BROW.
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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
 RE/Social Concerns/AFF Dir.Eileen Dolan
 Assistant Music Dir.Nicole Koetting
 Youth DirectorGreg Nagel
 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, January 3:
 Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday, January 4:
 1 Jn 3:22—4:5/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday, January 5:
 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday, January 6:
 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday, January 7:
 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday, January 8:
 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday, January 9:
 1 Jn 5:114-21/Jn 3:22-30
Sunday, January 10:
 Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Liturgy Schedule and Special Mass Intentions:

Monday	1/4	NO MASS	
Tuesday	1/5	7:00 AM	+Becky Teeter Shirley Kuriyama
Wednesday	1/6	7:00 AM	+Sharon Smart Darrell Goodin Family
Thursday	1/7	7:00 AM	+Norbert Mechenbier Mark & Catherine Mechenbier
Friday	1/8	7:00 AM	+Linda Kelly H. R. & Marcia Kelly
Saturday	1/9	5:00 PM	+Mildred Lueschen Marlene Casasanta
		7:30 AM	Members of the Parish Family
Sunday	1/10	9:00 AM	+Dennis Sweeney Bunnie Brooks
		11:15 AM	Spec. Int. of Brandon Anderson Family Mary Ann Treviso

Religious Education News

ATTENTION PARENTS OF RCIC CANDIDATES:

There is a parent meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 10th, at 10:10 AM, in Room B-1.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: The Epiphany of the Lord

The Gospel according to Matthew tells of wise men, from the East, who followed a star and went in search of the Christ child. Through the years tradition has added many other details to the story, giving the names of Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar to the wise men, and explaining the significance the gifts: precious gold given to a king; frankincense, offered to God; and myrrh, for one doomed to die.

The word epiphany is Greek for "manifestation" or showing forth. What happened when the Magi followed the star: they recognized Christ as God and worshipped Him and revealed His Glory to others.

In many countries, especially in Europe and Mexico, children receive presents on the Feast of the Epiphany instead of on Christmas. This is in remembrance of the gifts the Magi brought to the infant Jesus.

What gifts can you and your family give to others on this day. Here are a few suggestions: a kind word to a lonely person; a sincere act of kindness and a prayer for someone who is having a bad day; a smile to someone you don't know; a visit to someone who is a shut-in

Adult Faith Formation

LOOKING IN THE RIGHT PLACES

"Appearances can be deceiving," as the saying goes. As we celebrate the *epiphania*, the "appearing" of the eternal Word of God on earth, this is still true.

What rapturous foresight must have filled Isaiah as he wrote the words we hear today. How, for four hundred years, they must have filled the hearts of the people of Israel with hope for the day when God's glory would shine on them. How deceived some must have felt when the glory of God came to them in the lowliest and humblest of human lives.

We have many expectations about how the divine presence will appear among us. But we can also set ourselves up, through these expectations, to miss the divine glory when it truly appears. We get caught up in looking for the star, forgetting that the star is not the divine sign, the babe is. It may take a persistent journey for us to come upon the true appearance of God's glory in our lives: Jesus Christ.

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

New bible studies will start on the last week of January. More information coming up.

Week at a Glance

Monday, January 4

12:00 p.m. - Contemplative Power Hour - Chapel
6:30 p.m. - St. Thomas Men's Club - Chapel/Msgr. Tash Hall
6:30 p.m. - Cub Scout Leader Meeting - Education Wing

Tuesday, January 5

2:00 p.m. - Divine Mercy Cenacle - Marian Room
7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts - Gym
7:00 p.m. - RCIA - Msgr. Tash Hall

Wednesday, January 6

7:30 a.m. - ACTS Small Group - Library
9:00 a.m. - Community Scripture Study - Parlor
11:00 a.m. - Lunch Bunch - The Dwelling
5:30 p.m. - Confessions - Chapel
6:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Group - Parlor
6:30 p.m. - Adult Handbells - Music Wing
7:00 p.m. - High School STAY - The Dwelling/Gym
7:45 p.m. - Adult Choir - Music Wing

Thursday, January 7

10:00 a.m. - Rosary Group - Chapel
2:00 p.m. - Our Lady's Rosary Makers - Marian Room

Friday, January 8

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

Saturday, January 9

2:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Court of Honor - Msgr. Tash Hall
3:30 p.m. - Confessions - Chapel
4:00 p.m. - Cantor's Rehearsal - Music Wing
6:30 p.m. - Parish Dance - Gym

Sunday, January 10

7:30 a.m. - KC Breakfast - Gym
9:00 a.m. - Breaking Open the Word - Library
10:05 a.m. - AFF Class I - Epic - Msgr. Tash Hall
11:15 a.m. - Breaking Open the Word - Library
12:30 p.m. - Depression Support Group - Bride's Room
4:15 p.m. - Youth Orchestra - Music Wing
4:30 p.m. - Young in Spirit - Msgr. Tash Hall
5:00 p.m. - Divorce Care - Groom's Room
5:00 p.m. - Youth Bells - Music Wing
5:45 p.m. - Youth Choir - Music Wing

EPIPHANY MORNING PRAYER

Father,

You revealed your Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star.

Lead us to your glory in heaven
by the light of faith.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen

~The Liturgy of the Hours