

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4100 South Coulter Street • Amarillo, TX 79109

Church Phone: (806) 358-2461

Rectory Phone: (806) 353-1016

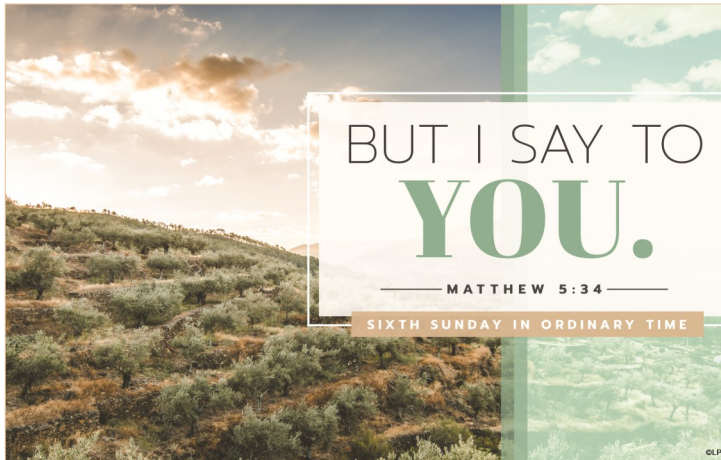
Fax: (806) 358-2529

Website: <https://amarillo.church>

Office Hours: (M-F) 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM



Diocese of Amarillo



GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 5:17-37

A few years into my priesthood, I hit a wall. I had taken on too many commitments: Masses, meetings, ministries, projects. I couldn't keep up. I was double-booking, forgetting things, running late, and letting people down. My boss at the time, a wise priest, and our shared secretary, noticed. For my birthday, the two gave me a stack of 100 flashcards, each with one word printed in a different language: "NO." It was funny, but also painfully true. If I couldn't say no, my yes was in danger.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says, "Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the Evil One" (Matthew 5:37). He's not just giving advice about polite speech. He's showing us something about the freedom of Christian discipleship. The follower of Christ is called to speak clearly, simply, and honestly. There is joy in that kind of freedom.

The Church Fathers often linked this kind of straightforward truthfulness with spiritual maturity. The devil is the father of lies, but Jesus is the Word made flesh. When we hedge, flatter, exaggerate, or avoid, we open space for the shadows to creep in. That little stack of flashcards reminded me that God does not want us enslaved to the expectations of others or to the fear of disappointing them. He wants us to enjoy the peace of saying yes and meaning it, and saying no, and meaning it, too.

Lenten Challenge: Practice one moment of honest, peaceful speech this week. Maybe it's a sincere "yes" to something important, or a humble "no" to something you cannot do. Let it be a quiet step into the freedom Jesus offers.

~Father John Muir/writer for LPI

©LPI

Mass Times:

Saturday: 5:00 PM (Sunday Vigil Mass)

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

Monday, Tuesday: 6:00 PM

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:00 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 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.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

The program for adults OCIA 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.

(PRACTICING)
CATHOLIC

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Carpenter and the Law

My husband and I couldn't believe our luck: our new house had a deck. It was more than a couple of broke millennials had ever dared to dream. Lounging in our patio furniture drinking coffee and watching the cars drive past, we felt like Kennedys at Hyannis Port. We had arrived.

Well, until it started falling apart.

To be fair, my husband knew this was going to happen all along, because he's a person who uses words like "joist" and "weight-bearing" correctly. He took one look at the deck at the open house and knew it wasn't up to code. "We're going to have to reinforce this at some point," he told me. "Whatever!" I replied, daydreaming about twinkle lights and porch parties.

Sure enough, our second summer in the house, he had to rip the rotting surface boards off. The biggest issue was that the joists were too far apart; when we stepped on the boards, they bowed and almost cracked, lacking adequate support beneath. But we weren't going to redo the whole deck — we're not *actually* Kennedys. We (okay, he) simply ripped the surface boards off, added the necessary joists, and replaced the decking with newer, better, stronger wood.

Simply put, my husband did not come to abolish the deck, but to fulfill it.

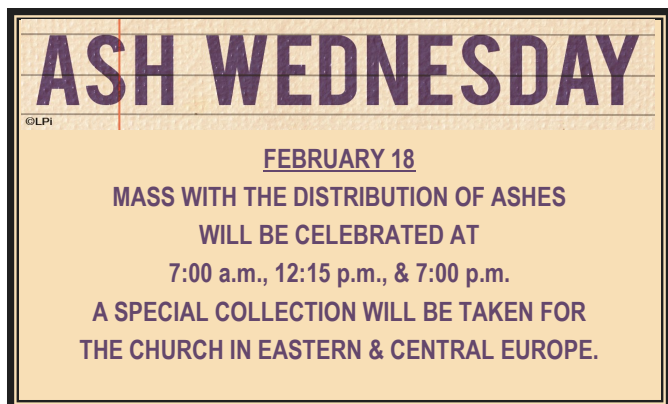
The law of Moses was like a good deck, admirably built. You could say "Raqa," your heart filled with anger, and the law didn't break. But that anger treads heavily on boards not adequately supported. Over time, the anger becomes too much to bear. And that board — that law, that heart — it'll break. Just you wait.

And when it does, you'll see why: there wasn't anything beneath, holding it up.

So God sent a Carpenter to reinforce the law. The Carpenter crafted joists from prudence, fortitude, justice and temperance — strong virtues that can withstand a lifetime of battery, if properly maintained.

And the law still holds.

©LPI



Readings for the Week of February 15, 2026

Sunday, February 15:

Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37

Monday, February 16:

Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 17:

Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday, February 18:

Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, February 19:

Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

Friday, February 20:

Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday, February 21:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19/Mt 4:1-11

Sunday, February 22:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19/Mt 4:1-11

Observances for the February 15, 2026

Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Monday: Presidents' Day

Tuesday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday

Saturday: St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS:

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND:

Ben Canales, Braxton Sandoval, Cheryle Wayne, Jerry Stone, Jerry Terry, Esther York, Emile Jones, Madeline Arrott, Judy Allen, Rod Lancour, Ray Ramirez, Kim Zinsmeyer, Jac DeMont, Marilyn Carr, Steven Torres, Jeannine Bellinghausen, Marisa Delgado, Gerald Lis, Madeline Ryberg, Diana Gomez, Eric Olivas, Dean Zinsmeyer, Francisco Olivas, Marissa Kruckeberg, Henry Sisneros, Basilla Rhodes, Patrick Day, Cheryl Olivas, Annie Schacher, Laurie Chrzanowski, Damian Chrzanowski, Richard Dambold, Carol Olivas, Ryan Holdren, Arnulfo Valdez, Vickie Fowler, Krista Artley, Christopher Scott, Severo Gonzales, Jr., Michael Sherby, Ben Reina, Mary Ann Kammerer, Kelly Koepp, Lydia Gauna

OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN:


Lee Wingfield, Sean Callahan, Bryan Revell, John Nussbaum, Rachel Nussbaum, Matt Nussbaum, Christopher Schrock, Jacob Bitonel, Jason Freeby, Cody Keesee, Justin Spencer, Ryan Huseman, Toby Bitonel, Jarred Romero, Trevor Bunkers, Chase Logan, Swasey Brown, Jonathan Brooks, Diego Hinojosa, Chafin Hale, Cara Castañeda, Kannen Zinsmeyer, Alex Ballin, Mathew Gjerde, Mac Frieri, Nathaniel Elliott, Hannah Spargo, Tarin Cavazos, Gavin Hoover, Jaidyn Rodriguez, Tarin Cavazos



Need to Have a Child Baptized?

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 at 806-358-2461, to register for the next scheduled class.**

Getting Married? If you are getting married sometime this year, Natural Family Planning is a mandatory requirement in the Diocese of Amarillo for couples seeking the sacrament of matrimony. For information and class schedules, please visit www.amarillodiocese.org/nfp.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

THE PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THIS HOLIDAY.

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Second Collection: There will be a second collection taken at all liturgies next weekend, **Feb. 21/22, for Native & African Americans.** You may either place it in the collection basket, mail it to the church or schedule it online. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

ACTS **Calling all Men!** Prayerfully consider attending the Men's ACTS Retreat at the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center. **The retreat begins on Thurs. evening, Feb. 26, and will conclude with Mass & a meal on Sun., Mar. 1. Registration ends at midnight Tues., Feb. 17.** Register today at actsamarillo.org. The men's retreat verse is 2nd Timothy 1:8:

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, but join with me in suffering for the Gospel according to the power of God."

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

10 DAYS: NOVEMBER 3 - 12, 2026

Visiting


**HAIFA * TIBERIAS * NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM * JERUSALEM**

Hosted by

MSGR. JOSEPH BIXENMAN

\$4499 PER PERSON FROM DALLAS
(Air/land tour price is \$3699 plus \$800 government taxes/airline surcharges)

For more information, contact
Msgr. Bixenman, 806-681-1717 or
bixenmanjoe6@gmail.com



QUALITY TOURS SINCE 1949

WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

6:30 p.m. - Men's Study Group-AFF (Upper Room N)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

10:00 a.m. - A Walk-the Bible-AFF (Marian Room)

2:00 p.m. - Rosary Makers (Marian Room)

6:30 p.m. - Surviving Divorce-Aff (Groom's Room)

7:00 p.m. - Scout Troop 87 (off-site)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:00 a.m. - Ash Wednesday Morning Mass (Church)

12:15 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Afternoon Mass (Church)

7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Evening Mass (Church)

6:30 p.m. - OCIA (Upper Room S)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

10:00 a.m. - Rosary Group (Chapel)

5:30 p.m. - Adult Bells (Bell Room)

6:30 p.m. - Adult Choir (Choir Room)

7:00 p.m. - Young Adults (Upper Room)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

12:05 p.m. - Bach's Lunch (Church/Parlor)

5:30 p.m. - Lenten Meal (Gym)

7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross (Church)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

6:30 a.m. - Men's Study Group-AFF (Upper Room)

3:30 p.m. - Confessions (Chapel)

5:00 p.m. - Rite of Sending-OCIA (Church)

5:15 p.m. - Breaking Open the Word (Marian Room)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:30 a.m. - Blood Drive (Hall)

9:00 a.m. - Youth Lenten Choir (Church)

10:05 a.m. - RE Class (Marian Room)

10:05 a.m. - RE Classes (Education/Pre-K Wings)

10:05 a.m. - The Cosen Season 2-AFF (Upper Room S)

10:10 a.m. - Observation Class (Upper Room N)

10:15 a.m. - Church Search-RE

2:30 p.m. - Rite of Election (St. Mary's Cathedral)

5:30 p.m. - F.A.S.T. (The Dwelling/Gym)

7:00 p.m. - Middle School S.T.A.Y. (The Dwelling/Gym)



2025 - 2026

TAPPS State Cheer Competition-Small School Spirit 1A/2A

Superior Team Rating

Carlee Seidenberger - Senior

Lilly Burton, Madeline Anderson - Junior

Azalea Alvarez, Elizabeth Malek, Bridget Britten - Sophomore

TAPPS All State Team

1st Team

Carlee Seidenberger - Senior

2nd Team

Madeline Anderson, Bridget Britten - Junior

TAPPS Academic All State

Carlee Seidenberger - Senior; Madeline Anderson - Junior

Holy Cross Catholic Academy
4110 S. Bonham St.
Amarillo, TX 79110
(806) 355-9637

PARISH STAFF

PastorRev. John Valdez
DeaconBlaine Westlake
Deacon.....Mark White
DeaconDarryl Dixon
Retired DeaconTerry Pevehouse
Music Director/Organist/Choir Master.....Mykel Byersmith
Religious Ed & RCIA Director.....Kerry Acker
Youth Director.....Andrew Neighbors
Parish SecretaryRita Walker
Facility AdministratorBryan Webb
Parish BookkeeperVirginia Christian
Parish Life CoordinatorJulie Jones
Adult Faith Formation Coordinator.....Dayamin Winchester
Safe Environment Coordinator...Melissa Wright
Music/RE AssistantStephanie Kelley
Facility AssistantDavid Hooks
CustodianMark Ebenkamp
CustodianCurtis Zeissel
Liturgical Environmentalist.....Julie Pierce

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

6:00 PM
+Rosario B. Tan by Narcisa Slaton

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

6:00 PM
+Eunice Schilling by Eileen Harpole

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:00 AM
MEMBERS OF THE PARISH FAMILY
12:15 PM
+Sue Diller by Mary Sweeney
7:00 PM
+Vencenzo Tan by Narcisa Slaton

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

7:00 AM
In Thanksgiving by Leah Onod

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:00 AM
+Courtney Hudson by Jeff & Lisa Gray

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

5:00 PM
Int. of Joan Gulde by Marlene Casasanta

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:30 AM
MEMBERS OF THE PARISH FAMILY
9:00 AM
+Hector & Emma Castio by Canales Family
11:15 AM
+Leonard R. Leos III by His Family



Live the Liturgy

Jesus does not want us to live within the law -
he wants the law to live within us. God's law, fulfilled
by His Son, is rich soul. We must let it nourish the
words and the decisions of our Christian life -
only then will it flow forth into the world.

Religious Education & RCIA RE NEWS

No class this weekend, Feb. 15!

If you're an adult who needs to be safe environment trained, please go to www.virtus.org to sign up. You must pre-register. From that site you will be able to register for any session offered in the diocese. If you have questions, please call Melissa Wright at the parish office. Our next training will be in February.

Contact Kerry Acker for more information about RE at kacker@amarillo.church or 806.358.2461 ext. 106.

OCIA NEWS

Did you know? You can begin the process of becoming Catholic at any time!

Interested? Contact Kerry!

Welcome to Kyleigh Hooks and Brittany Williams, both who joined our Catechumenate process at a special mass on February 4!!

Upcoming on February 21, our candidates and catechumens who are ready to join the Catholic Church at Easter will participate in the Rite of Sending during the 5 p.m. mass. This Rite reflects our parish "sending forth" those who have prepared at our parish to the Cathedral to formally enter the 3rd step of the OCIA process. This stage is called "Purification and Enlightenment."

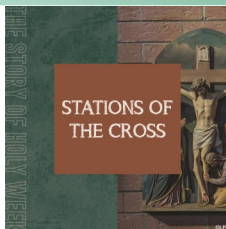
Contact Kerry Acker for more information about OCIA at: kacker@amarillo.church or 806.358.2461, ext. 106.

DEVOTIONS, Explained Stations of the Cross

In the earliest years of Christianity, the locations central to the story of Holy Week — the Garden of Gethsemane, Calvary, the Holy Sepulcher, and more — were destinations for pilgrims who wanted to experience Christ's sacrificial love for us in a physical way. In the years after the Crusades, pilgrimage to the Holy Land became impossible for most Christians, and the Stations of the Cross was popularized as a devotional means to pray through the passion and death of Christ.

Throughout history the number of stations has varied, with different traditions focusing on different events. In the 18th century, the number was officially fixed at 14 by Pope Clement XII. These stations are taken from the Gospel accounts of Christ's passion and death, though there are several which are derived from tradition and apocryphal sources, such as the meeting of Mother and Son and St. Veronica wiping the face of Christ.

©LPI



*The fresh flowers on the altar
were donated by
the Stich Family
in loving memory of
Thomas H. Stich*

Adult Faith Formation



Season 3 starts on March 8

In Season 3 we will focus on the way of the narrow gate. It requires personal sacrifice, self-control, self-denial, being humble, and repenting when we go astray. Join us on Sunday, 10:05 a.m., in the Upper room (South Wing).

Lenten Season

Lent is a season of being invited by God in a deeply personal way. "Come back to me, with all of your heart," our Lord beckons. "We will," we respond, but we aren't quite ready yet, our hearts are not prepared. We want to squirm, evade, avoid. Our souls not yet perfect. We are not ready for God to love us.

Yes, of course we want to have a deeper relationship with God, we tell ourselves earnestly. And we will....Soon. God calls to us again: *Come back to me, with all of your heart.*

It is an extraordinary invitation to each one of us. To me in a personal, individual way. God invites me to drop the defenses that I hold up between myself and God. All God wants is for me to realize that *my standards, my way of judging and loving are so very different from God's way, and so much smaller.* God offers an entire Lent season, an entire lifetime, of loving me unconditionally, no matter what I have done or how much I think I have hidden from God.

Yet we spend so much time trying to think of *how* to return and what to say, how to begin the conversation. It's only when we finally appear after so much time away, embarrassed and confused, that we understand we don't have to say anything. We only have to show up.

Look up there on the road ahead of us: our loving God is jumping up and down for joy. The invitation to us has been heard. We have returned home!

@onlineministries-Creighton

FAT TUESDAY CELEBRATION



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17!

SEE FLYER IN BULLETIN FOR DETAILS

**CANDIDATES FOR ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTION**

Elect TWO Women on Feb. 21/22

MANDI WHEELER

I am Mandi Wheeler and our family has been active members of St. Thomas since 2008, and it has truly become our spiritual home. I've been blessed to serve our church community as a high school Religious Education teacher for the past 9 years, as well as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister at the 11:15 Mass. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Dustin, and we have two children, Kaelyn (16) and Derek (15). One of my greatest accomplishments has been to raise children who are curious about our Catholic faith and active in our church community. I work as a Development Scientist and Project Manager at Pantex. I would be honored to bring a heart for service, faith, and community to the parish council.



STACY GJERDE

Stacy Gjerde has been happily married to her husband Ron for 26 years and is the proud mom of two children: Maddie, an event planner, and Matthew, who is serving our country in the US Army. She works as a curriculum assessment specialist for Amarillo ISD and is active in parish life as a lector and member of the audio-visual ministry. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve her parish community and support the mission of St. Thomas.

LEONA WILHELM

Leona Wilhelm has been a faithful member of the St. Thomas Church community for 36 years. She serves as a Eucharistic Minister and is an active member of both St. Clare's Circle and St. Monica's Circle. Leona has also served on ACTS retreats, helping build a welcoming and faith-filled community. She is a retired teacher with 32 years of dedicated service in education. She has been happily married to her husband, Eric Wilhelm, for 35 years. Together they have three children and five grandchildren.



DEBORAH WALTERSCHEID

I have been a faithful member of our parish for the past 38 years and have been blessed to serve our church community in many ways. I have previously served on Pastoral Council and have also been involved as a Sunday school teacher, Eucharistic Minister, St. Clare Circle Leader, Altar Guild member and member of the Serra Club. I am a Registered Nurse and currently work part time at Panhandle Surgical Center, a role that continues to strengthen my commitment to compassion and service. My husband and I were blessed with three beautiful daughters, two sons-in-law, one soon to be a son-in-law and four precious grandchildren. I am grateful once again to have to opportunity to serve our parish and support the mission of our church through prayerful leadership and collaboration.



Fat Tuesday

Pancakes and Breakfast

Ice Cream and King Cake

Served by the Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, February 17

5:30-7:30PM

Gym

Watch Flocknotes for reservations

Gotta Have it

 **KidsInc™**
DONOR DAYS 2026

**SUPPORT
YOUR
SCHOOL!**

Donors that donate blood between February 1 to March 31 at Coffee Memorial Blood Center, 7500 Wallace Blvd., or on any mobile blood drive will receive a Gotta Have It Shirt*. Donors can register their donation in honor of one area school. The school represented with the highest percentage of donors, based on total enrollment, will receive monetary contributions.

St Thomas Catholic Church Blood Drive

Sunday, February 22
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Parish Hall D Room

SCAN TO
SCHEDULE



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

Any 2026 graduating senior that donates blood between February 1 and March 31 (along with some January dates) will qualify for a drawing to win one of four \$1,000 scholarships good for ANY university, community college, trade school or technical school.** *Scholarships provided by Arron Sims in memory of Brittany Fly-Sims.*

*Some restrictions apply. Checks will be issued directly to the school, or to a vendor of the school's choice. Four \$1,000 scholarships are available. They will be awarded by random drawing from the 2026 graduating seniors who have donated blood during Kids Inc Donor Days. Once the student is enrolled, the check will be written to the school to put on their account at any university, college, trade or technical school.



Our Blood Institute

877-340-8777 • obi.org

Photo ID required. While supplies last.