

# 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

**Easter Sunday**  
**John 20:1-9**

Zander Price was the fastest kid at my grade school. He won every race on Field Day. To me, his swiftness meant he was the greatest. Zander was the best.

It's the same with the speediest Apostle on Easter morning. John tells us he "ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first." (John 20:4) But only *after* Peter entered did John go in, see the burial cloths, and believe. Here is a symbol of two dimensions of the Church. John, the beloved disciple, represents the contemplative, mystical life: affection, prayer, intimacy. Peter, the rock, represents the Church's institutional life: steady, authoritative, structured...but slower.

Of course, John runs faster! Love is the heartbeat of Christian faith, so love will always arrive first. Peter's role is, in a sense, secondary. He arrives later, but is still very much needed. John waits for him. The Church must be built, balanced, protected, and led. Love without structure can vanish; structure without love becomes lifeless.

This dynamic is not just historical — it is personal. In you, there is a John who longs to run to the tomb in love. Let him run! Pray, sing, love Jesus. There is also a Peter, who eventually gets to the tomb and takes charge. The Risen Christ wants both. Remember: if you want to get to the mystery of Jesus' resurrection *fast*... love him, for love is best.

~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 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.

### 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

#### While It Is Still Dark

If you are a person who is religious in any way, chances are that at some point, someone has asked you to give a reason why.

I meet lots of people who identify as *spiritual* but not *religious*, lots of people who are more comfortable splashing in the shallow end of belief but hesitating to wade into the more uncertain depths of doctrine. So when they ask the question "Why do you believe what you believe?" it usually comes out as "Why do you go to church?"

They want to know why I come to this specific place at this specific time. What am I expecting to happen?

We read that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb "while it was still dark." I imagine she could not sleep. She was traumatized. Grieving. Confused. Angry, perhaps. Doubting? Maybe. It's possible. We cannot know what was in her heart.

We only know what she did. We only know where she went. And we know that it was dark, that the light of Easter's dawn had not yet pierced the sky.

Often, I am grieving when I go to church, or angry, or confused, or all three. I have gone many times with a doubting and resentful heart.

Because, you see, it is still dark. The dawn of eternity, which will illuminate all understanding, has not yet even begun to creep across my horizon.

My answer to the question, when I am asked, is that I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again.

©LPi



## WEEKLY READINGS (APRIL 5, 2026)

#### Sunday, April 5:

Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9

#### Monday, April 6:

Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15

#### Tuesday, April 7:

Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18

#### Wednesday, April 8:

Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35

#### Thursday, April 9:

Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48

#### Friday, April 10:

Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14

#### Saturday, April 11:

Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

#### Sunday, April 12:

Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

#### Observances for the April 5, 2026

Sunday: Easter Sunday

Next Sunday: Easter Sunday

"Risen again, all of us, through the grace of Jesus,  
who is perpetuated in our spiritual life.  
Let us take up again our good journey.  
A happy and blessed Easter to you all!"  
~St. John XXIII 1961"

### 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, Michael Sherby, Ben Reina, Mary Ann Kammerer, Kelly Koepp, Albert Gonzales, Sam Saied

#### OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN:

Lee Wingfield, Sean Callahan, Bryan Revell, John Nussbaum, Rachel Nussbaum, Matt Nussbaum, Christopher Schrock, Jacob Bitonel, Jason Freeby, Cody Keese, 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, Gunnar Luna



### **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.**

**Knights of Columbus Council 4621** will be hosting their monthly breakfast **Sun., April 12**. They will be serving breakfast continuously from **8:00 a.m., to 1:00 p.m.**, in the Gym. **Adults, \$10, Children 10 and under, \$5.** Proceeds benefit seminarians and charities.

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** "Let's celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday together, **April 12, at 2:00 pm** in the Church. Deacons Darryl Dixon and Mark White will lead the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Sorrowful Mysteries and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Jesus promised St. Faustina that on Divine Mercy Sunday: **"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened"** (Sor Faustina diary number 699).

### **John & Margaret Anderson Leadership Scholarship Fund:**

This fund was established in 2007 for Senior girls who are members of St. Thomas. For the class of 2026, a \$3000 scholarship will be awarded to a girl who demonstrates all of Margaret's strengths: attendance at religious education classes, service to church & community, outstanding academics, sportsmanship and leadership.

**The applications for both John and Margaret Anderson & St. Thomas Men's Club scholarships are available in the Youth Office and are due by Apr. 15, 2026.**

**The Annual St. Thomas 50th Wedding Anniversary Luncheon** is scheduled for **Sun., Apr. 19**. All couples in the parish who have been **married for 50 or more years will be recognized at the 11:15 a.m. Mass**. In addition, a sit-down luncheon with reserved seating will be held in your honor in the Msgr. Tash Hall immediately following the Mass. **Please RSVP to the Parish Life Office, 806-358-2461, Ext. 123, by Fri. Apr. 15.**

JOIN ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S CIRCLES FOR A FUN AND REFRESHING EVENING!

## **MUUMUUS, MARGARITAS & MEDITATION**



**APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 6PM**  
TASH HALL

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE MUUMUU (OPTIONAL... PRIZES FOR THOSE WHO DO!) AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP, LAUGHTER, AND MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION.

**WOMEN'S HEALTH PANEL:**  
• NUTRITION & GUT HEALTH  
• SLEEP SOLUTIONS  
• PRAYER & MEDITATION  
• SKIN CARE

MARGARITAS, MOCKTAILS, APPETIZERS, AND DESSERTS PROVIDED.

Childcare will be provided.  
Invite a friend and don't miss this encouraging and joy-filled evening!



## **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

### **MONDAY, APRIL 6**

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED FOR EASTER BREAK  
6:30 p.m. - St. Thomas Men's Club (Chapel/Hall)

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 7**

10:00 a.m. - A Walk...the Bible-AFF (Marian Room)  
6:30 p.m. - She Shall be Called Woman-AFF (Upper Room)  
7:00 p.m. - OCIA Inquiry Class (Marian Room)  
7:00 p.m. - Scout Troop 87 (Off-site)

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**

5:00 p.m. - Children/Youth Easter Party (Church)  
6:00 p.m. - LANDNGS Program (Upper Room N)  
7:00 p.m. - High School S.T.A.Y. (The Dwelling/Gym)

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 9**

10:00 a.m. - Rosary Group (Chapel)  
5:30 p.m. - Adult Handbells (Bell Room)  
6:30 p.m. - Adult Choir (Choir Room)  
6:30 p.m. - Baptism Class (Marian Room)  
7:00 p.m. - Young Adults (Adoration Chapel)

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 10**

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 11**

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

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

8:00 a.m. - KC Breakfast (Gym)  
10:05 a.m. - First Communion Interviews (Upper Room)  
10:05 a.m. - RE Class (Marian Room)  
10:05 a.m. - RE Classes (Education/Pre-K Wings)  
10:05 a.m. - The Chosen-AFF (Upper Room S)  
3:00 p.m. - Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)  
4:00 p.m. - Young in Spirit (Hall)  
5:00 p.m. - F.A.S.T. (The Dwelling/Gym)  
7:00 p.m. - Middle School S.T.A.Y. (The Dwelling/Gym)



### **2026 Golf Season**

HCCA offers Golf as an extracurricular activity.  
Golf Coaches-Tim Gallegos & Scott McLean  
See our athletic calendar for the full schedule  
<https://holycrossama.org/athletics>

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram  
**Holy Cross Catholic Academy-Amarillo**  
**Holy Cross Catholic Academy Athletics**

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

### **Tri-State Fair Evangelization Booth Coordinator**

**Needed:** Each year the Diocese of Amarillo sponsors an evangelization booth at the Tri-State Fair. In order to continue with this ministry we need a new volunteer coordinator for the booth. This would involve setting up the booth, restocking the booth during fair week and coordinating our group of volunteer workers that staff the booth for the nine days of the fair. If you are interested in this ministry or have questions, **please contact Cindy Cox at 806-672-3105.**

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor .....Rev. John Valdez  
Deacon .....Blaine Westlake  
Deacon.....Mark White  
Deacon .....Darryl Dixon  
Retired Deacon .....Terry Pevehouse  
Music Director/Organist/Choir Master.....Mykel Byersmith  
Religious Ed & RCIA Director.....Kerry Acker  
Youth Director.....Andrew Neighbors  
Parish Secretary .....Rita Walker  
Facility Administrator .....Bryan Webb  
Parish Bookkeeper .....Virginia Christian  
Parish Life Coordinator .....Julie Jones  
Adult Faith Formation Coordinator.....Dayamin Winchester  
Safe Environment Coordinator... .....Melissa Wright  
Music/RE Assistant .....Stephanie Kelley  
Facility Assistant .....David Hooks  
Custodian .....Mark Ebenkamp  
Custodian .....Curtis Zeissel  
Liturgical Environmentalist.....Julie Pierce

## MASS INTENTIONS

### MONDAY, APRIL 6

6:00 PM

Int. of Maria Teresita Eusebio by Ruben & Marilyn Mendoza

### TUESDAY, APRIL 7

6:00 PM

+Barry Blackwell by Paul & Jenny Harpole

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

7:00 AM

+Evelyn Rossi by Bernie & Diane Wieck

+Courtney Hudson by Jeff & Lisa Gray

### THURSDAY, APRIL 9

7:00 AM

+Shara Partlow by Amarillo DCCW

### FRIDAY, APRIL 10

7:00 AM

+Sue Diller by Eileen Harpole

### SATURDAY, APRIL 11

5:00 PM

Int. of Susie Guzzi by Robert & Rondelle Parker

### SUNDAY, APRIL 12

7:30 AM

Scott MacLaughlin by His Family

9:00 AM

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

11:15 AM

+Leo Freeby by Cathy Freeby



## **Religious Education & RCIA** **RE NEWS**

Rejoice! Our Lord has risen!

No RE classes today, April 5.

If you're an adult who needs to be safe environment trained, please go to [www.virtus.org](http://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 March.

Contact Kerry Acker for more information about RE at [kacker@amarillo.church](mailto: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! *Those who are unbaptized must spend a minimum of one year in formation, so now is a great time to start!*

**Interested?** Join our upcoming inquiry class "The Search" led by Bonnie and Steve Lasher and Patty and Tommy Smith! It will be held again on **April 7, April 14, & April 21 from 7-8 p.m. in the Marian Room.**

Welcome to our neophytes who joined our Catholic Church this April 4!

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

## **CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED** **Why do we do that?**

Easter



### **Question:**

Why is the Easter season so long? And should we be doing something special for it?

### **Answer:**

You've probably noticed the priest continuing to wear white vestments at the Sunday liturgy. While we celebrated Christ's resurrection several weeks ago, the Easter season extends fifty days — just over seven weeks — from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. For most of that time — about six weeks — Jesus is still with the disciples, teaching and encouraging them. The Easter season isn't just a celebration of when Jesus is with us. At the Last Supper, Jesus promised to send an "advocate" or "counselor" when he left. At the Ascension, he directs the disciples to await "power from on high" — the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension completes the Paschal Mystery, beginning with Jesus' suffering and death and continuing in the resurrection. But the Holy Spirit ushers in a new era for the Church.

After spending weeks in prayer, fasting, and service during Lent, it may seem odd that we don't widely have similar practices for Easter. That doesn't mean you can't embrace the season! Commit to taking moments of little joy throughout the weeks, like random acts of kindness towards others. Consider reading the Acts of the Apostles to learn more about the early Church or picking up an Easter devotional to pray with. He is still risen indeed!

## **Adult Faith Formation**

### **Daily Prayer This Week**

We now begin a celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord for the next seven weeks - when we mark the Ascension forty days after Easter and culminating in the celebration of Pentecost on the fiftieth day after Easter. This week, we begin that deepening realization of, and reflection upon, the meaning of the gift of life we have received in God's raising Jesus from the dead so that we might have eternal life.

Just as it difficult for many of our cultures to face the reality of death, it is difficult to accept the reality of life after death. St. Paul invites us to live in this passing world with our hearts set on the world that will never end. This week let us try to open our hearts to a felt sense of what a difference it makes that the tomb is empty, that Jesus is alive, that he allows us to recognize him in the breaking of bread, and that he missions us to proclaim this Good News.

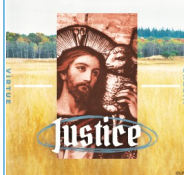
Each morning this week, we can pause for a moment and simply thank God for our being alive today. Even more, we can thank God for the life that Jesus won for us. Throughout the day, and at different brief moments, we can remember that this is Easter Week and ask to live more freely today, more gratefully. We can name the grace in our own terms and in the context of what we are experiencing, what gets us discouraged or what gives us life. Overall, we want to live the freedom we have been given. If death has no hold on us, so many of our fears would melt away. If we realized our ultimate home is in heaven, our spirits would be lighter and we would walk around more gratefully.

So, as we go through this week, we can let ourselves believe in the Resurrection that was won for us. "Lord, I believe in the gift of life you have given me in the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus." We can say this act of faith, or sing any of the wonderful Easter songs in the back of our minds, as many times as it takes to let ourselves feel the effects of Easter.

Perhaps we had a difficult Holy Week or Easter. There might have been loneliness or family conflicts. Perhaps we are facing a chronic illness or deep struggles with a loved one, or we are grieving the loss of a loved one. These, and many other struggles can challenge our Easter hope and joy. This is the week to place our trust in the one who is now alive, so that we can live forever. We can ask for the gifts of hope renewed these days. In giving thanks, we can ask that our hearts be opened even more to receive the gift of his Spirit.

©onlineministries-Creighton

## **Virtues, Explained!** **(Justice)**



### **Justice, Explained!**

"Original justice" is what the Catechism calls the state of harmony that existed between God, mankind and all creation (CCC 376) before the fall. Though original justice perished when sin entered the world, our souls still bear its memory, and we are oriented toward this virtue like a flower is oriented to the light of the sun: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will have their fill." (Matthew 5:6)

The cardinal virtue of justice has to do with the fulfillment of our duty to one another and to God (religion is the justice we owe to our Creator). Justice gives us a framework for existing in the Justice is made possible by the virtue of charity (CCC 1825) because justice demands what is right for all, not just for one.