

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4100 South Coulter Street • Amarillo, TX 79109

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Website: <https://amarillo.church>

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



Diocese of Amarillo



GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 14:13-21

In his song, "Lose Yourself," the artist Eminem raps, "the mood all changed."

We all know that moment when the mood changes, when life turns from lighthearted to deadly serious. That happens in today's Gospel. Jesus has just heard that John the Baptist, his cousin, forerunner, and friend, has been murdered. As Matthew tells us, "When Jesus heard of it, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself." Until now, he had been teaching in parables and healing quietly. But John's death signals a new phase. The shadow of the Cross begins to fall. Evil shows its teeth.

And how does Jesus respond? Not with rage or despair. He goes to a lonely place to go into deep communion with his Father. From that silence comes action. He feeds the multitude. Out of grief comes generosity. Out of sorrow, life.

This is the rhythm of every disciple's life. When tragedy or violence breaks our hearts, we face a choice. We can react, or we can retreat into prayer — like and with Christ. This is the hidden place where pain becomes compassion and compassion becomes self-gift.

Lord Jesus, when life intensifies, draw me into Your quiet strength. In that hidden place with You and the Father, turn my heartbreak into the bread of love for the world. Amen.

~Father John Muir/writer for LPI

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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 Miracles We Don't See

"Why aren't there miracles anymore?"

I've heard people say this more than once. Usually, it is someone who is a believer in Christ but not a Catholic, because Catholics understand that miracles happen at every Mass, to say nothing of the other miracles the Church recognizes. But even some Catholics often find themselves wondering why it's been so long since God gave us a good show. A good sundance in the sky. A good, flashy reason to believe.

I don't know what it looked like when the loaves and the fishes were multiplied. I believe it happened, and I have envisioned it often, but I just can't picture it. Did everyone blink, and there was a giant pile of food? Did they just keep finding more? Was it all the same kind of bread, or did Jesus mix it up?

I think the Gospel is deliberately vague on this to test the patience of pathologically nosy people like myself. It's not important what it looked like. If those details mattered, they would be spelled out in Scripture.

How often we find ourselves unsatisfied with the answers God has for us.

I wonder if that's what Christ was thinking when he savored those last few minutes of solitude on the boat, where he had gone to be alone after hearing the crushing news of his cousin's execution. Was he imagining the crowds gathering on shore? Was he contemplating their enormous expectations for God — for him! — and anticipating their disappointment when every wish could not be granted?

Maybe. But that's not what the Scripture says.

"His heart was moved with pity," we are told. I think of him looking at them all, so weary and uncertain and hungry. Pity — this is what he felt. Not resentment, exhaustion or frustration. Pity. And his precious heart was moved.

What a miracle. No details, no explanation. No dancing sun. But what a miracle.

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The Diocese of Amarillo is honored to announce that **His Excellency, Most Rev. Gabriele Giordano Cassia, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States** will join us for the **Mass on Sat., Aug. 22 at 10:00 am, in the Cal Farley Coliseum at Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan, Amarillo.**



ALTAR FLOWERS
*The fresh flowers on the altar
are in loving memory of
Valerie Knight
from the Knight Family*

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday, August 2:

Is 55:1-3/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21

Monday, August 3:

Jer 28:1-17/Mt 14:22-36

Tuesday, August 4:

Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday, August 5:

Jer 31:1-7/Mt 15:21-28

Thursday, August 6:

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9

Friday, August 7:

Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Mt 16:24-28

Saturday, August 8:

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

Sunday, August 9:

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

Observances for the Week of August 2, 2026

Sunday: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tuesday: St. John Vianney, Priest

Wednesday: The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

Thursday: The Transfiguration of the Lord

Friday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs;

St. Cajetan, Priest

Saturday: St. Dominic, Priest

Next Sunday: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, 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, Velma Tyler

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

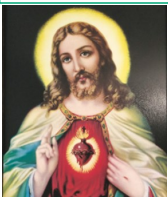
Need to Have a Child Baptized?

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.**



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

Knights of Columbus 4621 completed the gift card drawing and the lucky winner was notified. **The Knights would like to thank all of you who bought tickets** and express their sincere appreciation for your continued support of their Charity goals.



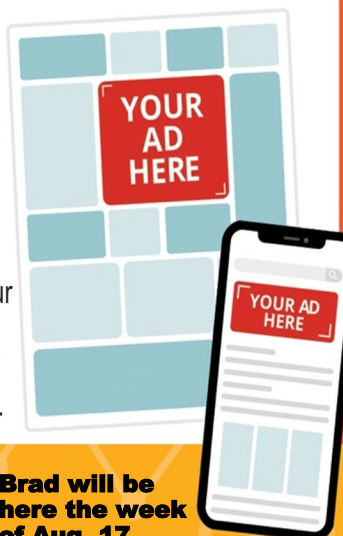
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: The First Friday Sacred Heart of Jesus Devotional prayers will be held **Fri., Aug. 7**, immediately following the **7:00 a.m. Mass**, in the church. **All are welcome to attend.**

Monthly Contribution Envelope Packets: This message is for all our members who receive monthly contribution envelopes. Due to the significant increase in postage, we have made the decision to move to a **bi-monthly mailing**. Therefore, each month you will receive two monthly packets instead of one. **The first bi-monthly mailing will be the September/October envelopes.** This is a cost-efficient move which will result in significant monthly savings for our parish. Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.

AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Brad Dawson from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



Brad Dawson
214-335-2148
bdawson@4lpi.com

**Brad will be
here the week
of Aug. 17**

WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

6:30 p.m. - St. Thomas Men's Club (Chapel/Hall)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

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

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

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

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

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

7:00 a.m. - Sacred Heart of Jesus Devotional (Church_

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Power of a Simple Action

I remember seeing a story on a morning news program about a little girl who wanted to give an elderly man in a grocery store a hug. She had no way of knowing that this man had just lost his wife of many years and now felt so very alone and depressed. Her reaching out to the man seemed odd to her mom at first, but the girl was so insistent about giving a hug she moved the shopping carts close together so the exchange could take place. No one knew that from that moment on the little girl would ask to visit her new friend at least once a week for the next four years until he passed away. In an interview soon after the initial encounter, the man said, "I haven't been this happy in some time." Imagine the joy that relationship brought to them both over the years!

It was just a moment. It was a simple gesture. Yet, it had a large impact that no one could have predicted. You never know what will result when we give just a little of ourselves. That uncertainty too often leads us to hold back or refrain from the simple actions of love or gestures of generosity that could come so easily for us if we wanted. We should never doubt the power of a simple random act of kindness. Generosity does not need to be grand to make a big difference. The time is now, and the opportunity presents itself often to plant a small seed that God can water and nourish so that something beautiful can grow.

- Tracy Earl Welliver

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TRANSFIGURATION
of Christ
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

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
CustodianJimmy Green
CustodianCurtis Zeissel
Liturgical Environmentalist.....Julie Pierce

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

6:00 PM

+Andrew David Casey by Eliene Justino

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

6:00 PM

+Barry Blackwell by Gary & Helen Sage

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

7:00 AM

Spec, Int. of David & Gaby Hernandez

+Liborio Avalos Garcia by Ed & Margie Valdenor

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

7:00 AM

+Jane Roberts by J. C. & Jocelyn Pohlmeier

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

7:00 AM

Int. of Thomas & Annette Albracht by Their Family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

5:00 PM

+Rev. Timothy M. Gahan by Rudy & Vickey Velez

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

7:30 AM

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH FAMILY

9:00 AM

+Rose Crawford by Ann & Julie Lueb

11:15 AM

+Joe & Eunice Schilling by Dennis & Theresa Hunt



Religious Education & RCIA RE NEWS

Faith Formation registration for 2026-27 is **HERE!** The registration links will remain live till Aug. 9 at 11 p.m. After that a waitlist will start, and cost will go up \$5/child. Please reach out if cost is a deterrent to registration!

New Families:



Returning Families:



Classes start Aug. 30, 2026 at 10:05 a.m.

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.

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! *If you're looking for a sign to start, here it is!*

A 5-part series on the Parts of the Mass led by Dcn. Mark White will be offered for those interested in the process of becoming Catholic on all the Sundays of August. Come to the Marian Room from 10:05-11 a.m.

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

Adult Faith Formation

Daily Prayer This Week

This week we can ask, in the variety of ways, in the situations of our daily lives, that our eyes might be opened to see Jesus as he really is - glorified, with the Father, and ready to renew our faith and trust in him.

As we begin our day, and at brief times throughout our day, we can pull our consciousness together by letting the themes of this week's reading guide us.

One day, we might ask to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we go through a day full of strong wind and waves. We can ask again and again, as things get tougher and more challenging. Another day, we might focus on what comes out of our mouths. Is there cynicism, judgments, distortions of the truth, divisive and self-serving manipulation, yelling and hurtful put-downs? How do I practice using my voice to give praise to God by affirming others, forgiving them, by telling the truth, by defending the poor and the voiceless, by giving God thanks?

Later in the week, we can get in touch with the call of Jesus to deny ourselves. This is not self-denial for its own sake. This is the dying to self that comes from loving in the self-sacrificing way that Jesus did. Who in my family, friends, relative, co-workers, members of my parish or congregation need my self-denying love? How have I focused on "gaining the world" and lost some of my true self in the process? Is there some way this week that I can taste discovering my true self in giving some time, some compassion, some love, some special care to someone who needs this from me?

And throughout the week, perhaps at a special time of powerlessness or some time when I feel that I don't have the energy or gifts to do the "more," to move a mountain, I can ask for faith the size of a mustard seed. And, each night I can give thanks to God for being generous to me all week, for this simple focus on our relationship every day.

@onlineministries-Creighton

Pancakes *and Pom Poms*

Cheer Fundraiser

Sunday, August 9

8am-1:00pm

HOLY CROSS EVENT CENTER
4102 S. BONHAM

Breakfast Plate \$10
(3 Pancakes, Bacon or Sausage, and a Drink)
Large Breakfast Burrito \$5
(Bacon, Sausage, or Chorizo, potatoes and a Drink)
Drink Choices
Coffee, Orange Juice, Apple Juice or Water
Gluten Free Options Available

ORDERS AVAILABLE FOR TAKE-OUT

