



**SACRED HEART  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Seymour, Texas

**SACRED HEART  
PASTORAL CENTER  
206 N. CEDAR ST.  
SEYMOUR, TX 76380-2102  
OFFICE (940) 889-5252 FAX (940) 889-2136**



**ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Megargel, Texas

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 20, 2025**

**FR. BOSE JUJUVARAPU**

**Pastor**

**Office—940-889-5252 Cell—940-655-8037**

**DEACON JIM NOVAK**

**940-733-3784**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: (Reconciliation Room)  
Wednesday's 6:30 -7:15 p.m. Saturday 4 – 4:45 p.m. or by appointment**

**PARISH LITURGY SCHEDULE:**

**MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK: (July 21 - 27)**

Monday:	12:10 PM	+Johnny Joe Pechacek by Deborah Bewley
Tuesday:		No Mass
Wednesday:	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Special Birthday Intentions for Joe Bill Simek by Mike & Kay Flippin
Thursday:	12:10 PM	<b>No Daily Mass</b>
Friday:	12:10 PM	In Thanksgiving by Donna Carver
Saturday:	8:00 AM	<b>No Morning Mass</b>
	5:00 PM	+David Bench by Terry & Belinda Bench
Sunday:	8:00 AM	For the Matt & Rian Potysman Family by Rebecca McAnally
	10:00 AM	+Dr. Larry Boyd by Marilyn McGough

**PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY FOR THE WEEKDAY MASSES: (July 21 - 26)**

Mon.: Exodus 14 :5-18	Matthew 12 :38-42
Tues.: Song of Songs 3:1-4b	John 20:1-2, 11-18
Wed.: Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15	Matthew 13:1-9
Thurs.: Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b	Matthew 13:10-17
Fri.: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15	Matthew 20:20-28
Sat.: Exodus 24:3-8	Matthew 13:24-30

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (July 27)**

Please prepare for worship by prayerfully reading the Scriptures for next weekend Masses:

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32  
Second Reading: Colossians 2:12-14  
Holy Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

**Sunday, July 20: (Texas Hill Country Flood Emergency Special Collection)**

7:30 AM, St. Mary of the Assumption/Rosary followed by 8:00 AM Mass  
9:40 AM, Sacred Heart/Rosary followed by 10:00 AM Mass  
All Weekend Liturgies: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
All Weekend Liturgies: Presider for Mass – Fr. Bose

**Monday, July 21:** 12:10 PM, Sacred Heart/Daily Mass

**Wednesday, July 23:** 6:00 PM, Sacred Heart/Mass followed by Holy Hour Adoration until 7:10 p.m. Benediction

**Thursday, July 24: No Daily Mass**

**Friday, July 25:** 12:10 PM, Sacred Heart/Daily Mass

**Saturday, July 26: (No 8 AM Morning Mass) (Collection for the Missionaries of Christ the Mediator)**

4:45 PM, Sacred Heart/Rosary followed by 5 PM Vigil Mass

**Sunday, July 27: (Collection for the Missionaries of Christ the Mediator)**

7:30 AM, St. Mary of the Assumption/Rosary followed by 8:00 AM Mass  
9:40 AM, Sacred Heart/Rosary followed by 10:00 AM Mass  
All Weekend Liturgies: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
All Weekend Liturgies: Presider for Mass – Fr. Hugo D. Sánchez

**Please sign-up for Flock Notes and also follow us on our Facebook or our website: <https://sacredheartseymour.org/>**

For bulletins: go online to <https://sacredheartseymour.org/bulletins>. All past and present bulletins are posted.

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**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: LUKE 10:38-42**

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

**ADULTS:** Which response to God's call is more natural to you—prayer or action? Why?

**CHILDREN:** In the past week, when have you prayed and when have you done good things for others? Which could you do better?

**ST. MARY MAGDALENE – FEAST DAY – JULY 22<sup>nd</sup> :**

The feast of St. Mary Magdalene is considered one of the most mystical of feasts, and it is said that of all the songs of the saints, that of Mary Magdalene is the sweetest and strongest because her love was so great. That love was praised by Jesus Himself who said that because much was forgiven her, she loved much. Where she is buried, no one knows. Legend has her dying in Provence, France, in a cavern where she spent her last days, and her body resting in the chapel of St. Maximin in the Maritime Alps. Another has her buried in Ephesus where she went with St. John after the Resurrection. This latter view is more likely, and St. Willibald, the English pilgrim to the Holy Land in the eighth century, was shown her tomb there.

She was the first recorded witness to the resurrection of Jesus, His most ardent and loving follower. She had stood with Mary at the foot of the Cross on that brutal Good Friday afternoon and had been by the side of Mary during these difficult hours. On Easter morning, she went with the other women to the tomb and it was there, in the garden near the tomb, that Jesus appeared to her. It was she who brought the news of the Resurrection to the Apostles, and Peter and John raced to the tomb to see what had happened.

She was from Magadala, a small fishing town on the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum and Tiberias. She was known to be a "great sinner," a woman of the streets who heard Jesus speak of the mercy and forgiveness of God and changed her life completely. Her matter-of-fact witness to the Resurrection moved Peter and John to go and see for themselves: "I have seen the Lord and these things he said to me." Jesus had chosen her to bring the news to them and she simply told them what had happened.

She has always been the example of great love and great forgiveness, one of those close to Jesus who grasped the truth of God's love for human beings and spent her life bearing witness to that love.

—Excerpted from The One Year Book of Saints by Rev. Clifford Stevens - <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2025-07-22>

**ST. JAMES, APOSTLE – FEAST DAY - JULY 25<sup>th</sup>:**

In Spain, he is called El Senor Santiago, the patron saint of horsemen and soldiers, and his great shrine at Santiago de Compostela in that country has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries. He is one of those that Jesus called Boanerges, "son of thunder," the brother of John the Evangelist and the son of Zebedee the fisherman from Galilee.

St. James the Greater and his brother John were apparently partners with those other two brothers, Peter and Andrew, and lived in Bethsaida, on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. How and where James first met Jesus, we do not know; but there is an old legend that makes Salome, his mother, a sister of Mary, and if this were the case, he would have known Jesus from childhood.

Along with Peter and his brother John, James was part of the inner circle of Jesus, who witnessed the Transfiguration, were witnesses to certain of His miracles, like the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and accompanied Him to the Garden of Gethsemani. Like his brother, he was active in the work of evangelization after the death of Jesus, and one legend, very unlikely, even has him going to Spain after Jesus' resurrection.

His prominence and his presence in Jerusalem must have been well known, for scarcely a dozen years after the Resurrection, he became involved in the political maneuverings of the day and was arrested and executed by King Herod Agrippa. This was followed by the arrest of Peter also, so his death must have been part of a purge of Christian leaders by Agrippa, who saw the new Christian movement as a threat to Judaism.

Jesus had foretold this kind of fate when He prophesied that James and his brother John would "drink of the same chalice" of suffering as Himself. The two brothers had asked to be seated at the right of Jesus and at His left in His kingdom, and Jesus told them that they would be with Him in a far different way than they expected.

James's death is the only biblical record we have of the death of one of the Apostles, and he was the first of that chosen band to give his life for his Master. *Excerpted from The One Year Book of Saints by Rev. Clifford Stevens -* <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2025-07-25>

**BLESSING OF ENCOUNTER GOD:** In the first reading, Abraham welcomes three visitors with kindness and generosity. This small act becomes a way of encountering God. The meeting of these guests was the blessed moment for Abraham and his wife Sarah. They brought God's message to the broken family and filled them with unending hope. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading St. Paul talks about the joy he finds even in his suffering for Christ. He sees himself as a servant of the Gospel, helping others understand the great mystery: "Christ in you, the hope of glory." He encourages us to stay faithful and trust that God is with us, even in hard times. In the Gospel reading, Jesus visits Martha and Mary. Mary chooses to sit and listen to Jesus while Martha is busy serving. Jesus praises Mary, showing us that being with Him and listening to His word is more important than being busy with tasks. He also reminds us that whatever task is chosen, to do it with total commitment and not to complain. Hence, Jesus reminds us to balance our 'being' and 'doing' and open our hearts to encounter God in our work and in quiet moments of prayer to receive His blessings in abundance. **Pray and Practice:** *Dear Lord, teach us to be generous. Grant us the heart and mind of yours so that we may be ever faithful and recognize your encounter in every step of our lives.* Have a blessed week. **Love and Prayers Fr. Bose**

#### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: 16th Sunday in Ordinary**

**Time -** "...I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God." Colossians 1:25 - We are all called to evangelize – to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel. Our faith is more attractive to others by our actions than by our words alone. We may not be called to evangelize like St. Paul, but we should look for opportunities to share our faith through our actions and words, especially with those closest to us, like our family, friends, and neighbors. Pray for the courage to joyfully express your faith the next time the opportunity arises.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS, ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

**PARISH:** The Diocesan Board of Directors of the Advancement Foundation has approved our operational grant request for the upcoming 2026 fiscal year. St. Mary of the Assumption will receive \$15,000 annually. The grant will be distributed monthly to be used for Salary and benefits of Pastor, Faith Formation, and Utilities. This is from the "Annual Diocesan Appeal" we have just finished.

#### **Texas Hill Country Flood Emergency Special Collection**

This week, we are taking up an emergency special collection for the Texas Hill Country flood victims. If you can, please give today during our second collection. Be sure to note "Flood" on your check memo or envelope to ensure it reaches the victims directly. You can also text TEXASFLOOD to 817-402-3525 or give online at <https://www.givecentral.org/Texas-Hill-Country-Special-Collection>

#### **YOUNG HEROES OF THE BIBLE VBS:**

Your kids know all of the classic superheroes, but what does it take to be a hero in The Eyes of God? Join as we study three great young heroes from The Bible as kids learn what it takes to be a true hero. It will be at the Megargel Christian Fellowship Church, 1306 Cedar St., Megargel on July 28th, 29th, and 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to Noon and 5 – 8 PM. Text or VM RSVP to Debbie at 979/255-6831, Please include your name, phone #, email address, number of children and their ages.

**Contact Information for Seminarian Trent Barton:** You can email him at [Trent.barton@fwdioc.org](mailto:Trent.barton@fwdioc.org). Please continue to keep him in your daily prayers.

#### **OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP: July 13, 2025**

##### **SACRED HEART:**

Amount in Checks/Envelopes & Loose: Regular- \$ 4,355.00  
Youth: \$ 50.00 Special: \$ 0 Holy Day: \$ 0  
**TOTAL: \$ 4,405.00**

Envelope Use: 45 Regular; 1 Youth; 0 Special; 0 Holy Day

##### **ST. MARY:**

Amount in Checks/Envelopes & Loose: Regular- \$ 727.00  
Youth: \$ 50.00 Special: \$ 0 Holy Day: \$ 0  
**TOTAL: \$ 777.00**

Envelope Use: 14 Regular; 1 Youth; 0 Special; 0 Holy Day

**Attendance: Sacred Heart – Sat. 74 & Sun. 121 St. Mary – 41**

##### **SEVEN DAY LIGHTS:**

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** For the Alvin & Glenna Jungman Family by Shannon & Barbie Donnell Family, For the Henry & Lillie Mae Novak Family, For the George & Margaret Holub Family, For the Jim & Janice Knezek Family, For Michael Wright & Family, For the Ricky Wright Family, For the Living & Deceased members of the Ermis & Simaichl Family by Judy Ermis Holden & Family. For the complete healing of Scarlett Morrison by Shannon & Barbie Donnell. For the healing of Robert Weeks and Carolyn Bertschy by Cathy Lohman.

**FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS BY:** Kay Flippin, Terry & Belinda Bench, Charlotte Wright, Marilyn McGough, Donna Carver. **If you would like to contribute to the Seven Day Lights, the cost is \$1 per week. Thank You.**

##### **OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN NOTICES:**

This week office Hours are Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am – 3:30 pm. All bulletin notices must be in by **12 noon on Wed.!**

##### **ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:**

Perhaps you wonder at times why we do what we do as Catholics. Or perhaps you have considered becoming a Catholic but just don't know how. Or you know someone that might be interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. In any case, we invite you to enrich yourself or invite others to learn more by asking questions. The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (the OCIA) is for people who either want to learn about Catholics or to become Catholic. If you are in an interfaith marriage and are already actively involved in a church of a different denomination, you may want to understand your family's Catholic faith better. If you are not connected to any faith community, you are most welcome to inquire with us. If after preparation you decide to become Catholic, you will normally be formally accepted at Easter or at Pentecost. **We will be starting in the fall.** If you know someone who may be interested and need a personal invitation, please contact Fr. Bose or Johnny Holub, our director, with their name.

##### **Incoming Texas A&M University or Blinn College Student?**

Connect 2025 at St. Mary's Catholic Center in College Station, TX is a process that welcomes incoming freshmen and transfer students at Texas A&M University and Blinn College. It culminates in a 2-day retreat - August 22/23 . We welcome incoming students home to St. Mary's by cultivating meaningful friendships and inviting them to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. The students who attend Connect will be equipped to remain devoted to our God and Holy Mother Church during college. Registration is open now. To register or if you need more information, please go to [www.stmarysconnect.com](http://www.stmarysconnect.com).

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: LAY LEADERS, PRIESTS, DEACONS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE!**

### St. Anne & St. Joachim – Feast Day, July 26<sup>th</sup>

Who does not know about the great shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre in Canada, where miracles abound, where cured cripples leave their crutches, and where people come from thousands of miles to pray to the grandmother of Jesus? At one time, July 26 was the feast of St. Anne only, but with the new calendar the two feasts of the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary have been joined and are celebrated today. Our information about Mary's parents comes from an apocryphal Christian writing, the *Protoevangelium Jacobi* (or *Gospel of James*), written about the year 170. According to this story, Joachim was a prominent and respected man who had no children, and he and his wife, Anne, looked upon this as a punishment from God. In answer to their prayers, Mary was born and was dedicated to God at a very early age. From this early Christian writing have come several of the feast days of Mary, particularly the Immaculate Conception, the Nativity of Mary, and her Assumption into Heaven. Very early also came feast days in honor of SS. Joachim and Anne, and in the Middle Ages numerous churches, chapels, and confraternities were dedicated to St. Anne. The couple early became models of Christian marriage, and their meeting at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem has been a favorite subject of Christian artists. Anne is often shown in paintings with Jesus and Mary and is considered a subject that attracts attention, since Anne is the grandmother of Jesus. Her two great shrines — that of Ste. Anne d'Auray in Brittany, France, and that of Ste. Anne de Beaupre near Quebec in Canada — are very popular. We know little else about the lives of Mary's parents, but considering the person of Mary, they must have been two very remarkable people to have been given such a daughter and to have played so important a part in the work of the Redemption.

There is a church of St. Anne in Jerusalem and it is believed to be built on the site of the home of SS. Joachim and Anne, when they lived in Jerusalem. —Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day>

### LIGHT OF CHRIST PARISH STEWARDSHIP AWARD:

*You are the light of the world.... Your light must shine in the sight of all, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your father in Heaven. – Matthew 5:14-16* - **Congratulations** to John Cuba (St. Mary of the Assumption) and Terry Bench (Sacred Heart) for being the honorees for the Diocese of Fort Worth Light of Christ Parish Stewardship award for our Parishes. They will be recognized for living out their baptismal call in an extraordinary way through their stewardship and leadership on Thursday, July 31 at Sacred Heart in Wichita Falls.

**ADVOCATE – to help with Blessings of Marriage (including Annulments "declaration of nullity" if necessary):** Debbie Bewley (979-255-6831) has volunteered to be our Advocate. She will be available at the Pastoral Center on Monday's from 10 am – 12 pm & 1– 3 p.m. or by appointment.

**THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD:** The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood. Here is a traditional prayer to God, asking for grace to be poured out upon all your friends and family members, through the merits of the Precious Blood of Jesus.



**Prayer:** *Eternal Father! I offer Thee the merits of the Precious Blood of Jesus, Thy well-beloved Son, my Savior and my God, for all my relations, friends, and enemies; for the poor, the sick, and the afflicted, and for all those for whom you, my God, know that I ought to pray, or would have me pray. Amen*

### LITURGICAL NORMS IN ORDINARY TIME

The Sundays in Ordinary Time are most frequently characterized by the use of green vestments to emphasize that we are a pilgrim Church in process of growth. However, on occasion, Ordinary Time is punctuated with the celebration of a special feast on Sunday with the use of white vestments as a sign of special joy for Jesus, Mary or a Saint. Always, we feed upon the Word and Sacrament at each Liturgy. The wisdom of the Hebrew Scriptures, the teachings of the Apostles in the Epistles, and the preaching of the Kingdom of God by Christ in the Gospels are proclaimed to nurture us. Eucharist is the source and summit of our life and nourishment. The use of flowers, song and music complement the liturgy. In Ordinary Time we are always between the major seasons of the Church year. Our Theme throughout all of Ordinary Time is "Thy Kingdom Come!"

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Rick Kieschnick, Briley Hostas, Melvin Kuhler, Cindy Cuba Boone, Carolyn Bertschy, Bessie Casillas, Joe Saitta, Jr., Donna Hampton, Cathy McElroy, Cora Shelton, Mary Myers, Keaton Hehl, Stella Glass, Bernie Thomas, Josiah Decker, Sheila Helton, Ofelia Garcia, Michael Rodriguez, Bryker Fontenot, Adaline Urbanczyk, Kayley Lowder, Ralph Veitenheimer, Cheryl Hopkins, Genevieve Hrcirik, Hailey Glass, Teagan Matthews, Hannah Green, Arleen Kuhler, Abigail Novak, Braxton Pierce, Andrew Amador, Billie McGough, Jason Gilley, Andrea Sanchez, Ellen Schaefer Bruggeman, Machele Hass, Jeanie Evans, John Helton, Charlene Gajdos, Margarita Martinez, Donovan Muharib, Rosario Cruz, Karla Parker, Jeanelle Howell, Richard Latham, Arya Myers, Keely Willden, Larry Ballard, Michelle Martin, Donna Anders, Michael Wright, Nick Bryant, Linda Willis, Sandra & Ricky Moorhouse, June Hrcirik, Rickey Bohanon, Bobby Bohanon, Connie & Helen Rodriguez, Tony Leal, Marilyn McGough, Mike Sullivan, Chris Christian, Charles Wright, Justin Walker, Scott Christian, Judy Wheeler, Dale Peterson, Anne Marie Vita, Billy Mac Howe, Deven Hall, Kim Novak, Lizzie Smith, Deacon Jim Novak, Jerry Kuhler, Vivian Steinbach, Ashley Felty, Deidra Groves, Melvin & Shirlee Motl, Jaime & Jim McLarty, Justin Elliott, Waylan Wyatt, Levi Bourland, Chris Scott, Phyllis Molina, Mike Flippin, Manny Perez, Loy Studer, Caden Gray & Family, Nellie Cole & Family, Leon Lagesse, Jr., Kaylan Carter, Peggy Brown, Scarlett Morrison, Rose Gonzales, Janet Chism, Jennifer Roy, Karissa Gill, Delores Harris, Kay Bradley, Roland Newman, Larry Howard, Christopher Cardaci, Dr. James Kirkland, Ted Schaefer, Linda Guerra, Mary Garcia-Perez, Lynette Petty, Meg Martin, Doreen Kolacek, Kathy Long, James Haisler, Danny Hrcirik, Brexton Dockins, Jace Smajstrla, Donna Carver, Brent Sosolik, Jennifer Lane, Carl Holley, Tommy Holub, Agnes Pechacek, Bobby Novak, Joe Hrcirik, Melinda Stewart, Keaton Anderson, Jennifer Loving, Robert Weeks, CaRae Reinisch, Jim Hearn & Quentin Bruggeman.

**SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN:** Andrew Gelb, Tai Bandy, James Crawford, Sam Atwood, Josh Wright, Chance Freeman, Wayne Howard, Korey Bailes, Mitchell Lee, Zachary Hamilton, Trey Matus, Julien M. Wright, Carson Pope, Isaak Estraca, Sebastian Mabry, Tyrel Hart & Tylor Don Chism. **Please call the office to update the prayer list for those to be added or removed.**



Sacrament of Anointing

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:** Whenever you are ill or have been hospitalized, please call for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick immediately.

## MISSIONARIES OF CHRIST THE MEDIATOR

*Who we are: our history, mission and charism.*



Our religious Institute, Missionaries of Christ the Mediator, was born in the Church because of the urgent need for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, specially to those who, being baptized, do not live their faith.

The Community of Missionaries of Christ the Mediator was founded on December 28, 1981, in the garage of the Parish of Ahuacatlán de Jesús, in the state of San Luis Potosí, Mexico, by our Founder, Father Servando G. Nieto.

Our charism is “Living the liturgy and help others to live it”, as the font and summit of the Christian life. Living the liturgy in a conscious, active and fruitful way, leads the faithful to a growth in their faith.

Our Community is formed by forty members, 20 of whom are priests and the rest are distributed in the various stages of formation: minor seminary, novitiate, juniorate and the group of brothers who study philosophy and theology.

Our General House is located in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Currently our Founder lives there, and the Superior General in turn, and some of the groups in the process of formation.



### ***Our apostolates***

The Priestly Order is a gift that the religious Missionary of Christ the Mediator receives from God, for his own sanctification and help to sanctify his brothers through the ministry, developing it in different apostolates:



- As a responsible of the formation in the community itself
- Vocational promotion
- Apostolate in parishes
- Catechesis and Evangelization.
- Accompanying and helping in the formation of couples preparing for marriage.
- Formation of the ecclesial movements, such as: Christian Family Movements, Cursillos Movement, Catechists, Youth Groups.
- Assistance and spiritual care for the sick.
- Attention to formation and spiritual assistance to the

different religious communities that ask us.

- Preaching Retreats and Spiritual Exercises in our retreat house in the Mexican state of Querétaro.

Since six years ago we also have founded a private elementary school to provide Catholic education to young children in poor areas, where violence, crime and drugs are very common.

Our institute community is also present in other parts of Mexico, serving some parishes in different states; a parish in Brownsville TX and three parishes in Italy, where we also have a house for our students of philosophy and theology.

## **Consider Tax Law Changes When You Donate**

You can finish this year strong with a gift that maximizes your charitable impact at the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation and that may reduce your taxes. Review the recent tax law changes below and consider how they might affect your giving in 2025:

### **Change: New floor for itemizers**

Starting with the 2026 tax year, you will need to give at least 0.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) to claim a charitable deduction.

**What it means for you:** Consider maximizing your giving in 2025 before this new threshold takes effect.

### **Change: New limit for top earners**

Currently, top earners get a 37-cent tax benefit for every dollar deducted. Starting in 2026, that drops to 35 cents.

**What it means for you:** If you are in the highest tax bracket, consider giving more this year for greater tax savings.

### **Change: Higher standard deduction made permanent and will be indexed for inflation**

For 2025, the deduction will be \$15,750 for single filers and \$31,500 for married couples filing jointly. If you are 65 or older, you may qualify for a bonus deduction of up to \$6,000, although it begins to phase out at higher income levels.

**What it means for you:** Even if you don't itemize, you may still benefit if you give appreciated stock, real estate or, if you are 70½ or older, from your IRA.

### **Change: Deduction limit for cash gifts made permanent**

**What it means for you:** You can still deduct cash gifts of up to 60% of your AGI. Consider a blended gift strategy that combines cash and non-cash assets to maximize your tax benefits as well as your impact.

Great Year-End Gift Ideas This Year (and Beyond)

## **Make an Immediate Difference**

Support the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation with a cash gift via check or online. Your gift may qualify for a federal income tax charitable deduction. Unsure of whether your gift is tax-deductible? Contact your financial advisor or tax consultant.

**Important note:** If sending by mail, your envelope must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before Dec. 31 for your donation to qualify this year.

Use Appreciated Stock

Donating appreciated stock that you have owned for longer than one year allows you to qualify for an income tax deduction and eliminate any tax on the appreciation.

**Important note:** If the stock is electronically transferred to us, the gift date is the day the stock enters our account, not the date you ask your broker to make the transfer.

Make a Gift From Your IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you can give any amount up to \$108,000 from your IRA directly to the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation. You will not pay income taxes on the transfer. This gift can also count toward your required minimum distributions.

**Important note:** Your IRA administrator must transfer the funds by Dec. 31. If you have check-writing features on your IRA, your check must clear your account by Dec. 31 to count toward your required minimum distribution for the calendar year.

## **Receive Income For Life**

Charitable gift annuity rates are currently the highest they have been in almost two decades—but that could change. Why not take advantage of the higher rates by creating a gift annuity before 2025 ends?

**Your deadline:** Begin the process early to ensure completion by year-end. Contact us today for assistance.

## **You Can End 2025 on a High Note**

For guidance on the best ways to leave a legacy at the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation as we approach the end of the year, reach out to Renée Underwood, CFRE at 817-533-7242 or [plannedgiving@adv-fdn.org](mailto:plannedgiving@adv-fdn.org). We are happy to help ensure that you realize the greatest benefit for your kindness.