

The Bell Tower

Christmas Edition

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Merry
Christmas
AND A
Happy
New Year

From Fr. Tony Neusch and the Staff and Faculty
of St. Anthony Catholic Church and School.



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We hope you enjoy this Christmas Edition of The Bell Tower, if you would like to check it out online, you can visit our website, at www.stanthonycatholicparish.com.

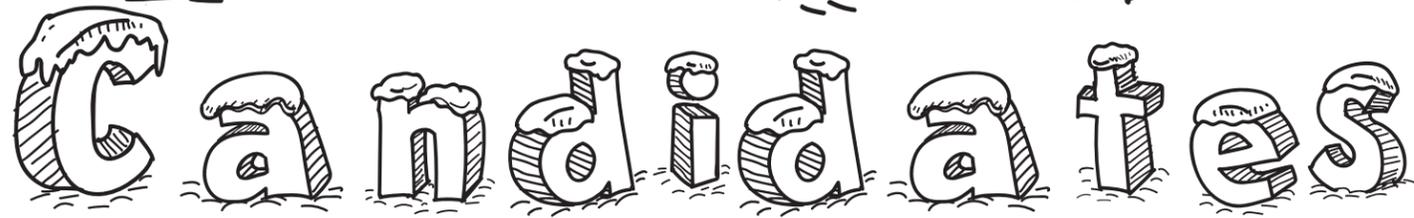
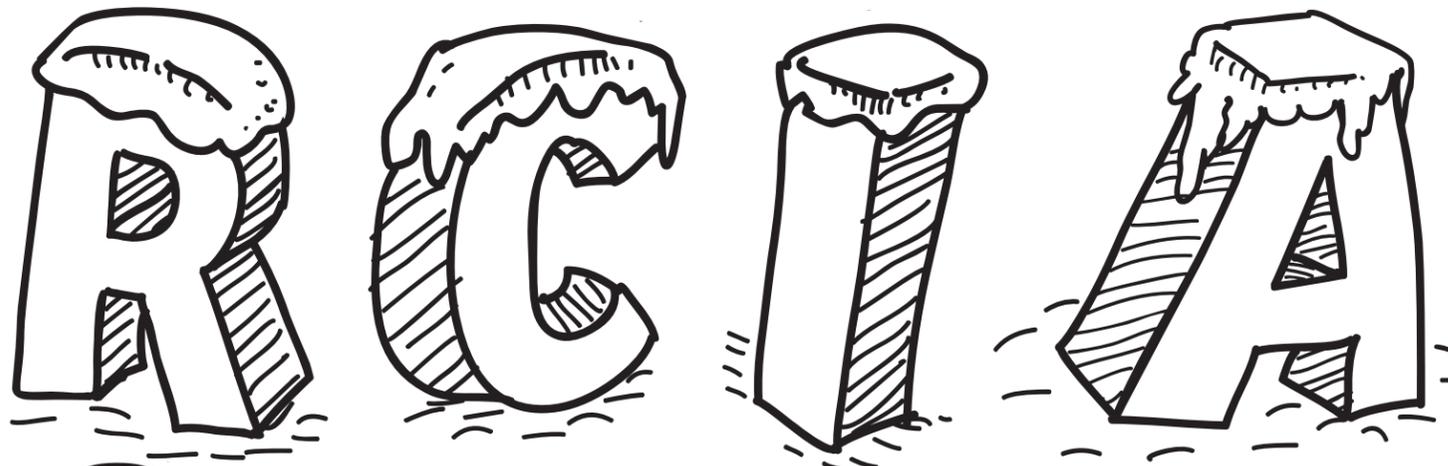
In this edition, you will meet the new RCIA candidates, read a reflect about Advent and Christmas, read about what's happened at the school and the fun exciting events coming up, and what's going on at F.F.C, there's also a fun list of things you can do this Christmas with your family.

The cover art for this edition is a painting done by B.L. "Lynn" Jones of Hereford. The painting is hanging in the foyer of the church office, parishioners are welcome to come by to see it.

A Christmas Prayer

Lord and Giver of all good things, the magi traveled for miles to bring the Christ child the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us, especially the gift of life itself. - *Amen.*





Maribel Alonzo (significant friend of Matthew Zamora and his family; Matthew works for Deaf Smith Electric Co., is a member of San Jose Parish and attended St. Anthony's School and F.F.C. in teen/youth programs) Maribel is also accompanied on her RCIA journey by Matthew's cousin, Karisa Ramirez, also a member of our sister parish, San Jose. The young women are both students – Karisa a Biology Major hopeful, getting basics at Amarillo College, who is a nanny for an aunt and uncle in Amarillo; Maribel will graduate in December with her Registered Nursing Degree from WTAMU. Maribel has been baptized in Trinity Fellowship of Amarillo, seeks the rest of the Sacraments and to make a Profession of Faith in The Catholic Church, and works part time for Kids Inc. of Amarillo...a very busy young lady.



Rosa Mendoza (wife of Jake) is accompanied on her RCIA journey this year by her sister Raquel Mendoza. Rosa is a teacher's aide at Bluebonnet Elementary School and a woman of deep faith, baptized as a young teen in the Methodist Church. They have three sons and a daughter. Rosa is a candidate seeking to make her profession of faith in the Catholic Church and celebrate her sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, First Eucharist and receive a blessing on their marriage. Raquel is married to Brandt, works at Merrick Pet Foods, and they have young son, Gus, who keeps them on their toes! She is a former RCIA candidate as well.

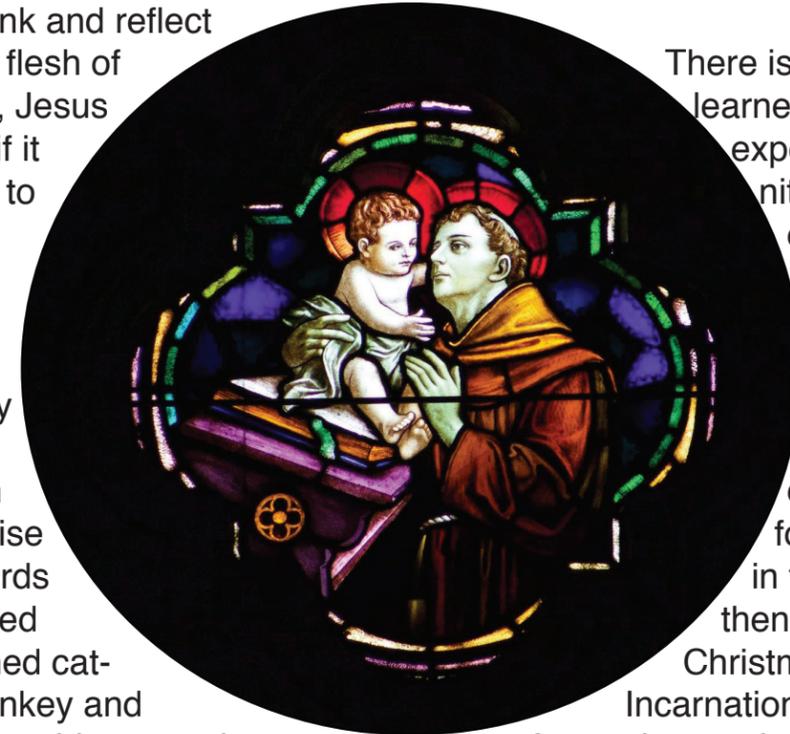


We thank all who bring foods and help teach and share the faith in our Sunday morning sessions. We ask all to keep this small group in your prayers, daily.
Janie Banner, Lisa Blakely, RCIA Directors/Catechists

Advent & Christmas

Reflection.

It is extremely difficult to write a reflection about Advent and Christmas in the middle of September. My deadline will be while I am walking in Spain and I didn't want to try to compose my thoughts on a cell phone keyboard. As we think and reflect on the coming in flesh of the Word of God, Jesus Christ, I wonder if it would do us well to make it a little bit messy. What I mean by that is our idea of the nativity with finely dressed Mother and Joseph, with finely dressed Wise men and shepherds and neatly trimmed and freshly washed cattle, and oxen, donkey and sheep, is perhaps a bit too sanitized to pray with well, since it doesn't really reflect the world we live in.



world where the hay is precisely arranged, and the vesture neat and ironed, and the animals smelling of daisy and wildflowers. But at Christmas we glimpse manger, creche, and nativity that shows precisely that.

There is a spiritual lesson to be learned, just because we can't experience it this side of eternity doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Too often we look to the reality of this life and its many disappointments and place them at the feet of Christ as reason to cast stone. "I can imagine better, therefore it must be possible in this life and when it isn't then Jesus Christ is at fault." Christmas and the Feast of the Incarnation will come, even if we forget the cranberry sauce. The world will not fall apart if we don't get the latest gadget that we think we need. Our lives are filled with mess, no matter the amount of straightening up. This Holy Season let us embrace a more realistic experience of the Nativity, one with smell and mess, and noise, and confusion. And in the midst of the world's imperfections allow the gift of God's perfection, Jesus Christ, to be born in us.

- Fr. Anthony Neusch, Pastor.

Our world is messy. No matter how we try to make sure everything is neatly arranged and boxed and wrapped and tagged, our individual lives are filled with mess. Sometimes it is messes of our own making, own bad choices or poor decisions. Maybe it is messes that are bestowed upon us by the great wheels of time, illness our own or people we love, loss of job due to downsizing, or our own approaching retirement. Regardless the mess, regardless the challenge we know without a doubt that there isn't a stable in the

St. Anthony School

Fall Semester News!



Go Saints Go!

Many great things are going on at St. Anthony Catholic School. Our theme for 2019-2020 is "Faith".

The five principals of the Catholic Schools, Superintendent Christine Wanjura, and a committee of school supporters have been busy working on the new Diocese of Amarillo Catholic Schools Long-Range Strategic Plan. Meetings were held during the spring and summer to frame out the new plan and Superintendent Wanjura will continue to work with the Bishop and those committee members to finalize the document detailing the future of Catholic education in the panhandle.

On September 13, celebrating the Feast of Christ the King, an Amarillo Diocese All School's Mass was held at St. Mary's Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Zurek and ten other diocesan priests. The administration of the five schools in the diocese are excited to continue this annual tradition. After Mass the children were served a lunch provided by Josh Raef/Georgia Street Chick-fil-a and allowed to mingle with their cohorts from the other schools.

Our web-based school management system, FACTS School Management, continues to be a great addition to our school. This year we have begun utilizing the Service Hour capabilities to track service hours required of parents and staff of St. Anthony School. Students whose parents fulfill the service hour requirement will be rewarded with a swim party at the Hereford Aquatic Center on the last day of classes, May 22.

The local Catholic Life Insurance chapter launched the annual CLIU Sweepstakes Raffle of a Ford pickup or sedan or \$20,000

prepaid Visa card. St. Anthony students will be selling tickets through January 15th. Every dollar of every ticket sold goes directly to St. Anthony Catholic School. A local winner will also be drawn, for a \$1,000 prepaid Visa card, from tickets sold by our students.

For Veteran's Day, the students and staff hosted veterans for lunch on Monday, November 11. Mrs. Shaw and the students also prepared and performed a Veteran's Day program in addition to traditional Christmas music for their annual Festival of Trees performance.

Our Karnival Krazy PTO event was held on October 20. Over 500 plates of BBQ beef, sausage, potato salad, pinto beans, and dessert were served. Thank you and blessings to all who came out to eat and enjoy the carnival games and activities.

One of our favorite traditions is the Annual Thanksgiving Meal. Mrs. Garcia and Mrs. Chavez along with their volunteer parents cooked a feast for 110 students, 25 faculty/staff, and 185 guests.

Closing out the Fall semester is the annual Advent program on December 19, at 6:30pm in the school gym. "Shepherd, sheep, and a Savior" is directed by Mrs. Shaw and decorated by Mrs. McNutt. The dress rehearsal at 1:30pm is open to grandparents and guests as well.

We are looking forward to a great Spring semester in 2020. Thank you for your continued support of St. Anthony Catholic School.

- Ana Copeland, Principal





Let's Celebrate CHRISTMAS



DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE

WISH SOMEONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAVE A CHRISTMAS MUSIC DANCE PARTY

DECORATE COOKIES

WATCH A CHRISTMAS MOVIE

MAKE & SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD

MAKE A CHRISTMAS CRAFT



SIP HOT CHOCOLATE BY THE FIRE



GO ON A DRIVE AND LOOK AT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

CUT OUT PAPER SNOWFLAKES

DROP MONEY IN THE SALVATION ARMY BUCKET

READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY



DONATE TOYS OR BOOKS TO SOMEONE THAT NEEDS THEM

GIVE A GIFT FROM THE HEART

SLEEP BY THE CHRISTMAS TREE

MAKE A PEPPERMINT TREAT



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The journey is only. Please do not recall or share on your own.

This 2019-2020 Faith Formation Classes has kicked off as of September fourth for grades K-3 through 6th grade from 6pm to 7pm and 7th through 12th grade from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. There are a total of seventy-five students enrolled with twenty-two of these preparing to receive sacraments.

This year we are blessed to have a catechist who is able to teach Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 and 2 on a weekly basis.

The Catechists along with our parish community has access to resources like Formed.org, which help us strengthen our faith.

I would like to give thanks to the catechists who volunteer their time to help these students remain strong in their faith. Thank you to the parents and guardians of these young children and teenagers who take the time to encourage them to attend Faith Formation Classes. You are the first teacher and will continue to be their role models.

During the time that Fr. Tony has been on sabbatical we have continued to pray along with him throughout his journey. Thank you to Fr. Nestor who has been present during this time.

-Aracely Correa, Director of Religious Education





Logo artist: Gillian Gonzales

