



June 4, 2017

Vol. 35 No. 43

St. Stephen's Catholic Church

4601 Neely Avenue Midland, Texas 79707 (432) 520-7394 Fax (432) 520-7395

www.ststephensmidlandtx.com

Monsignor James P. Bridges, Pastor

Assistant Pastor: Fr. Bala Anthony

Deacons: Leonard Hendon, Luis Mata, Fidel Saldivar, Larry Salazar

Sisters: Gertrudis Muñoz, Leonila Torres

Happy Birthday

June 4

Carmen Damron
 Alan Espinoza
 Stuart Mizzles
 Yvonne Salazar
 Barney Seidenberger
 Kelsi Sentena
 Alyssa Sotelo
 Elena Tavas
 Alejandra Tejada

June 5

James Bradford
 John Halldorson
 Jennifer Juarez
 Jesus Marquez
 Yolanda Tinoco
 Sarah Wiesman

June 6

Geronimo Carrillo
 Dayran Cruz
 Angela Franco
 Kourtnae Gamboa
 Christopher Garcia
 Delia Ramos
 Bertha Sanchez
 Matthew Sentena
 Alexander Torres

June 7

Yazlyn Almazan
 Delma Barriga
 Liza Carrasco
 Alexis Chavez
 Carlos Finol
 Billy Foster
 Craig Grenvik
 Joshua D. Humphries
 Marisela Madrid
 Barney McCann
 Pete Molina
 Irma Munoz
 Shannon Murphy
 Victor Ochoa
 Brittany Olivias
 William Percifull
 Briana Ramos
 David Valencia

June 8

Manuela Cantu
 Zachary A. Curtis
 Christina Flores
 Israel Fuentes
 Brock Jones
 Maria Marquez
 Jessica Ornelas
 Donald Osborne
 Christina Valencia
 Daniel Wise

June 9

Denise Benavides
 Zachary Fabro
 George Fierro
 Cindy Garcia
 Miguel Garza
 Raceli Gibson
 Hilario Guerrero
 Dimitri Guzman
 Irma Martinez
 Fred Rodriguez Jr.
 Henry Stoesser
 Annabel Wiesman

June 10

Blanca Aguilar
 Vanessa Carrasco
 Angela Cordova
 Roxette J. Doria
 Daniel Guzman
 Kristian Herrera
 Anna Lee
 Rosalva Meraz
 Blandina Ponce
 Erika Rodriguez
 Landon Viney
 Kurt Williamson

June 11

Catarina Garza
 Julian Jaquez
 Abel Luna
 Glona Martinez
 Stephen Simmons



PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



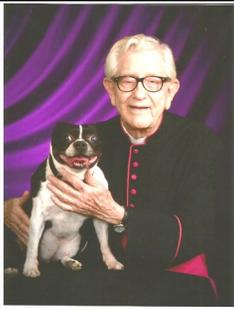
Rebecca Cedillo,
 Cecilia Reyes, Terisa
 Munoz, Jude Munoz,
 Brittney Garza, Daniel
 P., Max Mendoza,
 Kenneth B. Jones,
 Jaden Marmolejo,

Mayra Favela, Tameron Ramon, Ines Rodriguez, Maria Luisa Rodriguez, Josefina Alvarez, Javier Florez, Eiddie & Maria Laing, Jim Brimer, Alicia S., Noah Stone, Elia Gonzalez, Isaiah V., Vanessa V., Dina Angay, Reginald Odima, Mason Allen, Olga, Anthony, Eva Talamantez, Patsy Sotelo, Jaelynn G. Garcia, Jose Luis Pando, Beatriz Pacheco, Bea Herrera, Acosta Family, Julio Orozco, Maria Orozco, Sandra Orozco, Yolanda Rodriguez, Dina Harper, Larry White, Arian Mendoza, Gina Angay, Dolores Higgins, Palmer Ann Anderson, Bob Field, Dorothy Markey, Helene Naydock, William Bernreuther, Bonnie Lentner, Gina Angay, Arian Mendoza, Jessie Castillas, Pepe Lopez, Cynthia & Christy, Margaret Robson, Juanita Avalos, Jesus Munoz, Anita Morin, Joe Munoz III, Bertha Renteria, Bill Hobbs, Michelle Rizo, Nora Lujan, Mary Ramirez, Enedina Gonzales, Morales Family, Olga Rodriguez, Joseph Young, Margarita Cereceres, Kaely Munoz, Alejandro Munoz, Jr., Jesse Julius Garcia, Dayton Martinez, Juanita Muniz, Brigido & Alma Garza & Family, Raymond Swafford, Bill Swafford, Isaiah Vasquez, Gracie Mata

Email frontdesk.sccc@att.net or call the office at 520-7394 to be added to the prayer list

Diocese of San Angelo Superintendent of Catholic Schools – Position Opening

The Diocese of San Angelo is seeking a Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for coordinating the educational programs of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of San Angelo, and implementing diocesan guidelines and policies of the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department. There are currently three Catholic Schools in operation in the diocese. The Superintendent of Schools assists the bishop as well as the pastors of the sponsoring parishes, facilitates activities of the Diocesan School Commission, and provides consultation and expertise to the local school boards. The Superintendent also serves as a member of the board of directors for the upcoming Holy Cross Catholic High School in Midland-Odessa. Qualifications for this position include a Master of Education degree with at least 18 hours of Administration Supervision, and 5 years' experience as a Catholic School principal. This position will become available on June 9, 2017 and is part-time with variable hours. Occasional travel is required. Interested applicants should contact Michael Wyse, Director of Human Resources, Diocesan Pastoral Center; PO Box 1829, San Angelo, TX 76902; [\(325\) 651-7500](tel:3256517500); E-mail – mwyse@sanangelodiocese.org.



Dearly Beloved,

Above all else the Bible is the story of God's love for us. Genesis is the beginning. Its rising action comes from the historical books of the Old Testament. Its climax is indeed the Incarnation. It has no conclusion because of the Resurrection. This is my rendition of this greatest love story of all time, namely, God's love for us:

The profound interest that men and women of every age have shown toward the subject of love is written large across the pages of human history.

It seems that the whole world loves a lover and a love story. Libraries all over the world are filled with love stories. The great epics of old and the classics of every nation are set in, revolve around, and develop through the medium of a love story. As we read these great human love stories, the tragedy and meaning of Aristotle's definition of love is dramatically unfolded time and again. Aristotle defined love simply as striving and tending toward an object. Simple as this description may sound, it does nevertheless suggest the awful tragedy that has shaken the heart of every man and woman since the beginning of time.

This tragedy is the separation between the lover and the object loved. More exactly, how can we strive or tend toward that which is not in some way separated from us? As a savior is not possible without first suffering the existence of a lost soul; so also the striving and tending toward an object cannot be without first suffering its loss. Return presupposes separation. Love takes loss for granted. Greece had to suffer the loss of Helen before it could generate the love necessary for Homer's Iliad. The painful frustration of Romeo's separation from Juliet produced one of the greatest human love stories. It would seem that the human heart cannot love what it has not lost.

Even God first suffered the divine catastrophe of losing us before He became our tremendous lover. When we willfully and maliciously turned away and left God, it occasioned the greatest love story of all time; namely, God's love for us. That is when God became the tremendous lover that He is — actually a Hound of Heaven striving and seeking to gain back our love as He continues to pursue us down through the arches of time.

The mere reality of this divine rendezvous almost takes our breath away; yet, to be so intimately involved with God often makes us feel downright awkward. This difficulty, however, is not one-sided. God also has difficulty adjusting to the situation. It seems that God's biggest problem is the fact that He can't force us to love Him. Our journey home, like our departure, must be free and deliberate; otherwise it would mean nothing to God.

Even though God can't force us to strive and tend toward Him, He never ceases in His efforts to win us back. First, He began by giving to us material gifts, but to no avail. It seemed the more loaded down materially, the slower we move toward God. Then, through the great Prophets of the Jewish nation, He began calling us back; but we wouldn't listen. Finally, it seemed that God realized that He was too far gone, too abstract, too metaphysical, too big to be a lover. So, He decided to cease being a creator, and a first cause, and a metaphysical principle, and He became a man. Thus, He sent His own divine Son into the world in the garb of human nature in the person of Jesus Christ.

How lovable our human nature made God! Before He couldn't even touch you; now He has arms that caress and bless. Before, humanly speaking, God was blind; now He has eyes that see and watch. Before, God was dumb; now he has lips that speak and whisper. Moreover, it was Christ's human nature that gave you a divine ear to whisper in, a holy face to look at, an adorable body to kneel before and a Sacred Heart to love.

Joyfully yours in the Risen Lord,

Msgr. James P. Bridges



Mass Intentions

For the week of June 4, 2017

Sunday, June 4 - Pentecost Sunday

- 8:00 am † **Paul Bustamante** by Pablo & Mary Helen Bustamante
- 10:30 am † **Cruz A. Granado** by Lopez Family
- 12:30 pm † **Salvador Hernandez Sr.** by Wife & Kids
Spanish Mass
- 5:00 pm **Jayden Davas (Happy Birthday)** by Family
- 7:00 pm † **Nayeli Marquez** by Parents
Spanish Mass

Monday, June 5 - St. Boniface

- 7:00 am † **Leonard D. Hendon Sr.** by Hendon Family
- 12:15 pm **Caroline Davis (Happy Birthday)** by Theresa Woodruff
- 5:30 pm † **Nick Dragisic** by Tom & Jeanette Dragisic

Tuesday, June 6 - St. Norbert

- 7:00 am **Brian Schaetz** by Tom & Jeanette Dragisic
- 12:15 pm † **Nicholas Ryan Gutierrez** by Family
- 5:30 pm † **Gary Olgin** by Parents

Wednesday, June 7 -

- 7:00 am **Thanksgiving to Mary** by Linda Foster
- 12:15 pm † **Joe P. Lopez Sacred Heart of Jesus** by Family
- 5:30 pm **Delma Lopez (Healing)** by Family

Thursday, June 8 -

- 7:00 am † **Anita Bencomo** by Herminia Razo
- 12:15 pm **McDonald Family**
- 5:30 pm † **Susie Olgin** by Parents
- 7:00 pm † **Omar Valles Nieves** by Jeidy & Hanzel

Friday, June 9 - St. Ephrem

- 7:00 am **Father Geral Gawronski** by Gloria Oetting
- 12:15 pm † **John W. Martinez & † Robert Rivera** by Family
- 5:30 pm **Linda Quiroz (Healing)** by Family

Saturday, June 10 -

- 8:00 am † **Manuel Dominguez** by Herminia Razo
- 5:00 pm † **Leonard D. & † Charlotte M. Hendon Sr.** by Hendon Family
Fr. Timothy Lane Hayter (Ordination) by St. Stephen's Staff

Sunday, June 11 - Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

- 8:00 am **Fr. Warren Brown (Ordination Anniversary)**
by Gloria Oetting
- 10:30 am † **Paul Bustamante** by Pablo & Mary Helen Bustamante
- 12:30 pm † **Johnny Cordero** by Wife & Family
Spanish Mass
- 5:00 pm **Logan Holley (Happy Birthday)** by Kiowski Family
- 7:00 pm **For the Parish**
Spanish Mass

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION - 31,288.80

Regular	\$25,437.03
Building Fund	\$ 892.00
Poor Parish	
Mission Assistance	\$ 4,959.77

Financial reports are available in the parish office.



This weekend's special collection is for the poor of Midland as distributed by Helping Hands of Midland. Please help. Thank you!

COMMUNION AND VISITATION

If you know of someone who is homebound, or is going into the hospital and desires Communion, please call the parish office, 520-7394 to schedule visitation and Communion.



ST. STEPHEN'S CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday

6:45 am - 7:00 am; 12 noon - 12:15 pm;
& 5:00 - 5:30 pm

Saturday

7:45 am - 8:00 am; 4:00 - 4:45 pm

Sunday

20 minutes prior to each Mass

And anytime, by appointment



Upcoming Baptismal Classes:

June 4th & June 11th
July 2nd & July 9th

English : 2:00 - 4:30
Spanish: 2:30 - 5:00

Please Call Parish Office to Register
(432) 520-7394



4 DE JUNIO 2017 -DOMINGO DE PENTECOSTÉS. FIESTA GRANDE PARA LA IGLESIA.

Con el Espíritu Santo tenemos el espíritu de Jesús y entramos en el mundo del amor. Gracias al Espíritu Santo cada bautizado es transformado en lo más profundo de su corazón.

!!!Pentecostés fue un día único en la historia humana!!!

En la Creación del mundo, el Espíritu cubría las aguas, “trabajaba” para suscitar la vida. En la historia del hombre, el Espíritu preparaba y enviaba mensajeros, patriarcas, profetas, hombres justos, que indicaban el camino de la justicia, de la verdad, de la belleza, del bien. El Espíritu descendió sobre la Virgen María, y el Verbo se hizo Hombre en la plenitud de los tiempos, En el inicio de su vida pública, el Espíritu se manifestó sobre Cristo en el Jordán, y nos indicó ya presente al Mesías.

Ese Espíritu descendió sobre los creyentes la mañana de Pentecostés. Mientras estaban reunidos en oración, junto a la Madre de Jesús, la Promesa, el Abogado, el que Jesús prometió a sus discípulos en la Última Cena, irrumpió y se posó sobre cada uno de los discípulos en forma de lenguas de fuego (Hch 2,1-13).

Queridos hermanos “El orgullo y el egoísmo del hombre siempre crean divisiones, levantan muros de indiferencia, de odio y de violencia. **El Espíritu Santo, por el contrario, capacita a los corazones para comprender las lenguas de todos, porque reconstruye el puente de la auténtica comunicación entre la tierra y el cielo. El Espíritu Santo es el Amor**” (Benedicto XVI, homilía del 4 de junio de 2006).

Hermana Gertrudis Muñoz Mendieta I.C.A.S.

AVISOS:

- 6 de junio junta de Formación para Ministros de comunión. De 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 10 de junio ordenación Sacerdotal de Padre Timothy Lane Hayter Próximo vicario de nuestra Parroquia. En San Ángel a las 10:00 de la mañana.
- **El teléfono directa de hermanas es el (432)520-2057**



Del Padre Tonito

El 10 de junio despedimos al padre Tonito a las 7:00 PM en el salon parroquial.
We will have Fr. Bala Anthony’s going away party on June 10th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.
All are invited!



ADORACIÓN DEL SANTÍSIMO

Personas interesadas en pasar una hora con El Santísimo en Adoración una vez por semana, durante las siguientes horas:

Martes: 1:00 PM & 3:00 PM

Si El Señor te esta llamando para pasar una hora con El acompañándolo, comuníquese con Linda Foster (habla Español) al 432-559-8888.



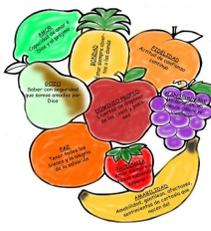
Entrenamiento Para los Monaguillos Para Spanish and English Mass Servers

Cuando: **Lunes, Junio 5**
Hora: **6:00 - 8:00 pm**
Donde: **Sanctuary of the Church**

Si Tiene preguntas llamar a:
Anne Hobbs 432-934-3192, Cindy Lujan 806-392-3714,
Bianca Gonzales 432-894-9554

Frutos del Espiritu

Ya dieron inicio las registraciones en la oficina de la iglesia para la escuela biblica



escuelita biblica vacacional en español para los niños en la edad de 5-12 años . \$25.
Sera Junio 19-23 de las 8am-12pm. Los esperamos!

Se divertiran y aprenderan de la biblia!





Vacation Bible School will be June 12-16th 2017 from 8am—12pm! Send your kids on an imaginative, impacting adventure this summer at St. Stephen's! At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids discover

not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose too! Register now!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Gretchen @ (432)520-7394.

**Altar Server Training
For
Spanish and English Mass Servers**

When: Mon., June 5
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Where: Sanctuary of the Church

If you have questions, please contact:
Anne Hobbs 432-934-3192
Cindy Lujan 806-392-3714
Bianca Gonzales 432-894-9554



**Seminaian for the Month
Thomas Shows**

- 3rd year Theology – St. Mary's Seminary, Houston
- Birthday: July 12, 1989
- From: Abilene, TX
- Favorite Food: Indian food and Rosa's Café
- Likes Playing Video Games, running, making model miniatures,
- and practicing the harmonica

Pray for Thomas!

**New Deacon Class?
What is a deacon?**

The Come & See sessions will help answer your questions. These informational sessions are being presented in Midland, Big Spring, Abilene and San Angelo. The inquiry period begins in September 2017. The Big Spring meeting is scheduled for June 3rd at Holy Trinity Church from 10:00-11:30 pm. For more information call or email Deacon Freddy Medina [325-651-7500](tel:325-651-7500) fmedina@sanangelodiocese.org

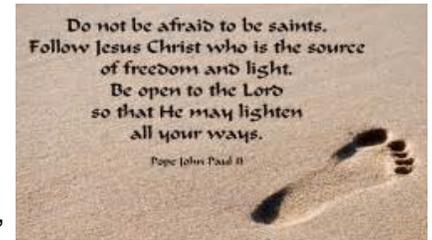


Youth Group

SCHOOL'S OUT

Come celebrate that school is out and summer is here with us at the youth building Wednesday, June 7th, 6pm—

8pm. We will have youth group all of June and July so that you wont be bored this summer and we are kicking it off big. We'll have a taco bar, water balloons, s'mores, and some pie throwing at our team. We have one more BIG surprise but come and see for yourself! Bring a friend and we'll see you there!



ATTENTION ST. STEPHENS YOUTH: Are you going to 9th Grade this Fall 2017, then you can join us for Steubenville Lone Star Conference (Irving, TX) this summer. Incoming Freshmen and graduating Seniors 2017 under the age of 18 can attend. We only have room for a few more so hurry and reserve your spot before they are all gone. You can come by parish office for an application. **The fee is \$100.00 and the dates are Friday, June 23, 2017 through Sunday, June 25, 2017.** For more information email Deacon Larry Salazar at lsalazar@sanangelodiocese.org or leave a message at the parish office (432) 520-7394.

Religious Education Registration

Registration is now ongoing in the Parish Office at this time and during the Summer. Limited spots available! Please Register Now!

**Any questions please contact
Gretchen at (432)520-7394**



**You know you want to
Don't be afraid
Join the choir now, you are needed!!**

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. in the music room. To sign up please call or text Gabriel Salgado at 432-638-5127 or email him at: gabriel_yafet@hotmail.com



Eucharistic Adoration Openings

Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Please prayerfully consider signing up to spend an hour with our Lord in adoration!

Call Linda Foster at 432-559-8888 for information.





**HELPING HANDS
OF MIDLAND**

**1301 BRINSON LANE
(432) 520-8900**

www.helpinghandsmidland.com

Because we feel it is important that you know how and where your donations to Helping Hands are spent, here is what was done last week:

Water	1 family	\$ 133.15
Rent	27 families	\$ 24,306.71
Transportation	2 families	\$ 1,477.78
Medical	2 families	\$ 385.18
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$ 26,302.82</u>

We received a call from someone who was irate that she had been calling Helping Hands for more than a week and we had not responded. What kind of an organization are we that can claim to help so many but do not? If we weren't going to help her why didn't we at least have the courtesy of calling her back and telling her that we would not help? How can we be so rude?!

We feel a need to explain that it is not unusual for Helping Hands to receive over 100 calls in any given day on our helpline. The message on our line states that *"we do not return phone calls, so if you do not hear from us in a day or two please try again."* We simply do not have the time to return all of those phone calls and still get the rest of our work done. We also encourage them to try other agencies. The only people we decline at this stage are those who we consider to be "habitual," those who have outwardly abused the system in the past through deception and false pretenses, and those people who do not leave the information we request (name, phone number, social security number, the type of help needed and why it is needed). The person who made the call we are writing about had been helped with over \$5,000 in rent over the past years. We declined to help her because we are here to help people over that *"bump in the road"* and we counsel them on how to get their lives back on track. When someone comes to us repeatedly and has done nothing to better his/her particular situation, we will decline help. Unfortunately, we have many people who call our helpline monthly expecting repeated help, yet they do nothing to better their situations.

At the interview level we will not help those who we feel are trying to get a free ride off of those of you who donate to Helping Hands. If someone proves to have income sufficient to pay his/her bills and cannot come up with a justifiable reason for not having the money to pay rent or utilities, they will be declined. We have a long list of previous clients who we will no longer help, and we do so because we are not here to use your donations to take on "dependents."

Because of the large number of calls that we receive, we opt to help those clients who are either evicted, have lock-out notices, or have eviction notices. Again, they must have a justifiable reason for not being able to pay their rent; they must not be a person who calls us month-after-month or on the one-year anniversary of when we helped them last, and they must not have a long history of help from us (again, unless there is a serious extenuating reason).

We are stewards of the money you give us to help the poor. We consider the money to be a sacred trust. It pains us greatly to have to say "no" to people who come to us for help because we can feel the agony that they are feeling. It is painful to have to discern between what we consider to be legitimate needs and what we do not. It is very painful. Our desire at Helping Hands is always to respond with a resounding **YES** to any legitimate need, and we wish we could help everyone who calls us with a legitimate need. It is important that you know that we are careful that the money you give to us is spent carefully to help those who we consider to be in crisis situations over which they have no control. Unfortunately, there are far too many such families here in Midland. We wish we were able to help them all. Please pray for them and for us. It is very difficult out there right now for not a few.

We are an all volunteer organization. No one gets a salary. We continue to thank God for all of you who continue to enable us to spend at least \$25,000 each week to help our neighbors in need. Thank you very, very much and may God bless you!