# 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time January 28th, 2024



#### ST. STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

4601 Neely Avenue Midland, Texas 79707

Phone: 432-520-7394 Fax: 432-520-7395

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Growing Friendships, Families & Faith

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday: 5:00pm (English)
Sunday: 8:00am (English)
10:00am (English)
12:30pm (Spanish)
5:00pm(English)
7:00pm (Bilingual)

#### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Mon:7:00am & 5:30pm Tue: 7:00am & 5:30pm Wed: 7:00am, 12:15pm & 5:30pm

Thu: 7:00am & 5:30pm Fri: 7:00am, 12:15pm, & 5:30pm

Sat: 8:00am

#### **ADORATION**

Monday– Friday 7:30am-10:00pm



#### **CONFESSIONS**

#### SUNDAY:

7:30 AM to 8:00 AM 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM 4:15 PM to 5:00 PM 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM

#### MON-FRI

6:45 AM to 6:55 AM 5:00 PM to 5:25 PM

#### WED & FRI

12:00 PM to 12:15 PM

#### SATURDAY:

7:45 AM to 8:00 AM 4:00 PM to 4:55 PM

#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

#### **Pastor**

Rev. Bala Anthony Govindu

#### **Deacons**

Dcn. Leonard Hendon, Dcn. Luis Mata and Dcn. Fidel Saldivar

#### **Religious Nuns**

Madre Gertrudis Munoz Mendieta Hna: Leonila Torres Berrnudez

#### <u>Administrator</u>

Josie Brenner

#### Asst. Administrator

Annabel Wiesman

#### **Director of Religious Education**

Gretchen Lara

#### **Youth Coordinator**

**Bridgette Costello** 

#### **Director of Music**

Gabriel Salgado

#### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-5:00pm Friday: 9:00am-1:00pm

#### **HEALING MASSES**

Every First Saturday in English at 7pm

#### MISA DE SANACION

Cada ultimo Sabado en Espanol at 7pm

# CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION WITH ROSARY

Every Friday night at 8:00pm

#### **EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION**

Every First Friday 8:00PM

Parish Website: www.ststephensmidland.com Parish Email: frontdesk@ssccmidland.com



### Fr. Bala Sunday Reflection

#### **Heeding God's Voice in a Distracted World**

#### Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, our readings from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Corinthians, and Mark converge around a central theme: the call to listen to God's voice and the challenge of responding amidst the distractions of our world. Let us delve into these sacred texts to uncover the wisdom they offer for our lives today.

**In Deuteronomy 18:15-20**, we are reminded of God's promise to raise a prophet like Moses, through whom He will speak. This prophet, we know, is Jesus Christ.

God's admonition is clear: "Listen to him." This is not merely an invitation but a command to hear and heed the voice of God as relayed through His chosen messenger. In a world brimming with voices vying for our attention, how often do we pause to listen to the voice of God? Are we attuned to the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit amidst the clamor of our daily lives?

The Psalmist in Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9, invites us to sing and bow down in worship, acknowledging God as our Maker. Yet, it also warns us not to harden our hearts as the Israelites did at Meribah and Massah. They heard God's voice but did not trust or obey it. How often do we, too, harden our hearts? We come to church, we sing the hymns, but do we truly open our hearts to let God's word transform us? Or do we leave unchanged, our hearts hardened by skepticism, pride, or indifference?

**In 1 Corinthians 7:32-35,** Paul speaks about the concerns of the unmarried and married states. His underlying message is about undivided devotion to the Lord. In a world that constantly pulls us in multiple directions, how can we maintain a focus on God? Our relationships, careers, and even our personal ambitions can become distractions if they lead us away from God. Paul urges us to evaluate our lives and consider how our commitments impact our relationship with God. Are we divided in our loyalties, or do we seek first the Kingdom of God?

**Finally, in Mark 1:21-28,** we see Jesus teaching in the synagogue with authority and casting out an unclean spirit. People were amazed at his teaching because he spoke as one having authority, not as the scribes. This passage challenges us to recognize and respond to the authority of Jesus in our lives. Do we acknowledge His power to transform and renew? Or do we, like the scribes, rely on our own understanding and interpretations?

Brothers and sisters, let us take these scriptures to heart. Let us strive to be like the prophet who speaks God's truth, like the worshipper who sings with an open heart, like the believer who maintains an undivided focus on God, and like the faithful who recognize and respond to the authority of Christ.

#### 7 CONSEJOS PARA UN MATRIMONIO SEGURO.

28 de enero 2024 Hermana Gertrudis Muñoz Mendieta I.C.A.S.



- 1. El matrimonio es para amar. Y amar es una decisión, no un sentimiento. Amar es donación. La medida del amor es la capacidad de sacrificio. La medida del amor es amar sin medida. Quien no sabe morir, no sabe amar. No olvides: "amar ya es recompensa en sí", Amar es buscar el bien del otro: cuanto más grande el bien, mayor el amor. Los hijos son la plenitud del amor matrimonial.
- 2. El amor verdadero no caduca. Se mantiene fresco y dura hasta la muerte, a pesar de que toda convivencia a la larga traiga problemas. El amor, ama hoy y mañana. El capricho, sólo ama hoy. Los matrimonios son como los jarrones de museo: entre más años y heridas tengan, más valen, siempre y cuando permanezcan íntegros. Soportar las heridas y la lima del tiempo, y mantenerse en una sola pieza es lo que más valor les da. El amor hace maravillas.
- 3. Toda fidelidad matrimonial debe pasar por la prueba más exigente: la de la duración. La fidelidad es constancia. En la vida hay que elegir entre lo fácil o lo correcto. Es fácil ser coherente algunos días. Correcto ser coherente toda la vida. Es fácil ser coherente en la hora de alegría, correcto serlo en la hora de la tribulación. La coherencia que dura a lo largo de toda la vida se llama fidelidad. Correcto es amar en la dificultad porque es cuando más lo necesitan.
- 4. Sêneca afirmo: "Si quieres ser amado, ama". El verdadero amor busca en el otro no algo para disfrutar, sino alguién a quien hacer feliz. La felicidad de tu pareja debe ser tu propia felicidad. No te has casado con un cuerpo, te has casado con una persona, que será feliz amando y siendo amada. No te casas para ser feliz. Te casas para hacer feliz a tu pareja.
- 5. El matrimonio, no es "martirmónio." De ti depende que la vida conyugal no sea como una fortaleza sitiada, en la que, según el dicho, "los que están fuera, desearían entrar, pero los que están dentro, quisieran salir".
- 6. El amor matrimonial es como una fogata, se apaga si no la alimentas. Cada recuerdo es un alimento del amor. Piensa mucho y bien de tu pareja. Fíjate en sus virtudes y perdona sus defectos. Que el amor sea tu amar es hacer que el amado exista para siempre. Amar es decir: "Tú, gracias a mí, no morirás".
  - 7. Para perseverar en el amor hasta la muerte, vive las tres "Des": Dios. Diálogo. Detalles.
    - 8. a. Dios: "Família que reza unida, permanece unida".
      - 9. b. Diálogo, para evitar que los problemas crezcan.
- 10. c. Detalles: de palabra y de obra. "Qué bonito peinado". "¿Qué se te antoja comer?" "Eres el mejor esposo del mundo". "Hoy, la cena la hago yo". "Nuestros hijos están orgullosos de ti". El amor matrimonial nunca puede estar ocioso.

#### 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2024

INTENTIONS

Sunday January 28th-4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

†Kendra Delashaw by Anthony Percifull 8:00am 10:00am †Dcn. Bill Wagner by Johnson Family 12:30pm †Noel Garcia & †Ezequiel Garcia By Familia

5:00pm †Mary Bryan By Family

7:00pm Joan Wilmas (Healing) By Oetting Family

Monday January 29th

†Claudio Arias & †Elivorio Arias by Family 7:00am

For the Parish 5:30pm

**Tuesday January 30th** 

†Juan Manuel Anguiano By Maria 7:00am

Anguiano

5:30pm Tonio Madrid (HB) By Family

Wednesday January 31st-St. John Bosco, Priest

7:00am Enrique Daniel Mangan (HB) By Family †Joe Carrasco by Hortencia Carrasco 12:15pm Mary Helen Price By Bridgett Costello 5:30pm †Felice Moreno By Darrel & Annabel

**Thursday February 1st** 7:00am

†Felice Moreno By Darrel & Annabel

Wiesman

5:30pm Ramirez Family

First Friday February 2nd- The Presentation of the Lord

7:00am Ana Riano (HB) By Family

12:15pm †Felice Moreno By Darrel & Annabel

Wiesman

SSCC Parish Staff 5:30pm

First Saturday February 3rd- St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr, St.

Ansgar, Bishop

†Felice Moreno By Darrel & Annabel 8:00am

Wiesman

5:00pm †Frank & †Bernadina Hernandez By Olga

**English Healing Mass** 7:00pm

Sunday January 28th- 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jacob Edwards (HB) by Family 8:00am

10:00am †Raymand Quintela by Brothers & Sisters

12:30pm †Alfredo Arredondo By Parents 5:00pm Lily Jamin By Qualls Family

7:00pm †Joy By Friends **Upcoming Baptismal Classes /** Próximas clases bautismales:

> February 11, 2023 / 11 de febrero del 2023 English: 2:00 - 4:30pm Español: 2:30 - 5:00pm

Please come by the Office and present a **Driver's License to Register** 

Por favor vengan a la oficina parroquial y presenten la licencia para registrarse

Please pray for the following: Henk Klaucke, Elizabeth Fritzl, Patricia Loira, Paulo Cesar, Regis, Sonia, Sanae, Joseph Mary Fasi, Alvaro Ramos & family, Joe T., Chris W., Cindy M., Kathleen S., Anthony R., Richard Schoel, Roberto L., Vasquez family, Isaiah & Victoria, Esther Estrada, Cecilia Livingston, Valarie Fink, Vanessa V. Betty, Randall, Beth B. Marcus, Marcus Jr. Mica & Brittany V., Eddie L., Aileen Paris Rodriguez, Karen Howe, Shashini Kumari, John Walker, Elizabeth Fritzl, Sammy R., Macaria R., Beth B, Lynda Sanchez., Anita P., Martha P., John W. Grace, Carly P., Olivia V., Frank Hartter, Fermin Salgado, Sokolowski family, Maria Salgado, J.J Hord, Bennie Hawkins, Justina Flayngeg, Quincy Jackson Jr., Terri Padilla, M. Gloria Escobedo – Chong, Elia R., Mateo F., Albert Lopez, Ty Hawkins, Ramona Hawkins, Tammy Seidenberger, Maria Ramirez, Socorro M., Christina M., Virginia M., Ian V., Emma Elia R., Frankie Hartter, Mario Ramirez, Axton, Sarah Beth Carrasco, Luke, Zac Curtis, Dayton Martinez, Contreras-Holguin family, Marisela R., Michael R., Luna R., Oscar O., Estela O. Brisa O, Joel Ybarra, Erica Hernandez, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, the Cáceres family. Evan Lujan, Jonathan Jaquez, Linda Q., John V., Mila Thorn, Britani Thorn, Jake Thorn, Joseph R Kiowski, Annette Robertson, Edgar Zapata, Ruben Hernandez, Sr., Leslie Curtis, Esteban M., & Chandler.

Email frontdesk@ssccmidland.com or call the office at 520-7394 to be added to the prayer list! If someone needs to be removed from prayer list please contact the office to remove request. Thank you!

#### **Last Week Collections** Week of 01.14.24-01.22.24

Contributions:	Cash	Checks	Totals
Sat. 5pm 1st collection	\$2,373.00	\$3,661.00	\$6,034.00
Sun. 8am 1st collection	\$1,134.00	\$1,870.00	\$3,004.00
Sun. 10am 1st collection	\$1,057.00	\$1,626.00	\$2,683.00
Sun.12:30pm 1st collection	\$1,622.02	\$440.00	\$2,062.02
Sun. 5pm 1st collection	\$1,100.00	\$648.00	\$1,748.00
Sun. 7pm 1st collection	\$354.00	\$100.00	\$454.00
Daily Masses	\$253.00	\$50.00	\$303.00
Online Giving	\$4,318.71		\$4,318.71
Mailed-In Contributions	\$3,035.00		\$3,035.00
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	\$23,641.73

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

# Pilgrimage to the

# National Eucharistic Congress

INDIANAPOLIS JULY 17 - 21, 2024

with Bishop Michael Sis and the Diocese of San Angelo



Participate in this pivotal moment in the Church and draw into a deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join our diocese by registering today! Scan the QR code or click Book Now to attend this historic event.



BOOK NOW!









Friday, February 9, 2024 Cocktails at 5:30pm. Dinner at 6:30pm St. Ann's Youth Activity Center \$25 per person

The Knights of Columbus Councils in Midland wish to recognize and thank all Priests, Deacons, and Sisters for their service and dedication to the Catholic faithful in the Midland/Odessa deanery of the Diocese of San Angelo.

Please join us at this event to help show your appreciation to our local clergy!

#### ADMISSION TICKETS

Tickets to the event can be purchased at the St. Ann's Church office or by scanning the QR code here. Donations also welcome!



QUESTIONS? Contact Cory Rylander at 432.312.0206



#### SE NECESITAN COORDINADORES DE MISAS:

Necesitamos Coordinadores de Misa para bodas y funerales. No es necesario que sea un coordinador de Misa, ya que lo capacitaremos. Si está interesado por favor póngase en contacto con Viviana Martinez a 817-249-9095.

#### **BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

Let us know your areas of interest. Let's serve our Parish Community together. Visit our website <a href="Ststephensmidland.com/volunteer">Ststephensmidland.com/volunteer</a> to see where you might be interested in volunteering.

## Exhibitor Booths for 2024 Diocesan Conference Day

Exhibitor Registrations are now open for booth reservation at the Diocesan Conference Day to take place on October 19, 2024 at the McNease Convention Center in San Angelo, Texas. Booth availability is limited to 20 vendors or exhibitors this year and the deadline to reserve your booth is April 19, 2024. The fee for booth reservation is \$30. Exhibitors must be a representative of either a non-profit organization. publishing company, or an independent vendor of gifts, foods, crafts, artworks, or other merchandise inspired by the Catholic faith. Each booth includes one table. cloth dividers, and a cloth backdrop. Exhibitors are responsible for the supply, maintenance, and merchandising of their own booths. You can reserve your booth at https:// sanangelodiocese.org/diocesan-conference-day.

#### **CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE**

Catholic Men's conference taking place at Holy Family Catholic Church in Abilene TX on February 17th 2024. Keynote speaker is renowned speaker and catholic evangelist and former LAPD officer as seen and heard on EWTN: Jesse Romero. And our very own Most Reverend Bishop Sis. Kick off lent 2024 by living the first retreat of the Lenten season and aim for Manliness and Eucharistic Revival. Save the Date and visit WTXmen.com for updates as they come along.

#### Annual Awards Banquet - April 14, 2024

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of San Angelo will be hosting the Diocesan Annual Awards Banquet at Sacred Heart Parish in Abilene on April 14, 2024 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. This banquet recognizes the commitment and dedicated service of catechetical and youth ministry leaders and young people of the diocese. The event will include a meal, a speaker, and the presentation of awards/certificates. The cost per person is \$30. All participants are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in Abilene. For information about nominations and registration, please contact your Director/Coordinator of Religious Education or contact the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis directly at evangelizationcatechesis@sanangelodiocese.org. The deadline for registration and nomination submissions is April 5, 2024.

#### SAVE THE DATE! Reflection Day - May 9, 2024

Directors and Coordinators of Religious Education, Coordinators of Youth Ministry, Campus Ministers, and Catholic School Principals! Mark your calendars on May 9, 2024 for a day of reflection with the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. This day offers an opportunity for leaders to reflect and discern in their ministries and also offers an opportunity to connect with their peers. More information to follow at a later date.

#### **VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH NIGHT MEALS**

We need volunteers to help with our youth night meal prep on Tuesday & Wednesday nights. If you are interested in learning more information please contact Gretchen@ssccmidland.com

## Altar Server Training For New, Experienced, Advanced, and Master Servers

There will be two required trainings for all altar servers. Sunday Feb. 18, 20234 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Sanctuary of the Church'

Sunday March 17, 2024 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Sanctuary of the Church

All wishing to be servers must have received First Holy Communion.

For additional information or questions please contact:
Anne Hobbs
432-934-3192
behobbs47@gmail.com

#### Capacitación para monaguillos Para servidores nuevos, experimentados, avanzados y maestros

Habrá dos capacitaciones obligatorias para todos los monaguillos.

Domingo 18 de febrero de 20234 2:00 pm a 3:30 pm. Santuario de la Iglesia'

Domingo 17 de marzo de 2024 14:00 a 15:30 horas. Santuario de la Iglesia

Todos los que deseen ser servidores deben haber recibido la Primera Comunión.

Para información adicional o preguntas por favor comuníquese con:

Anne Hobbs 432-934-3192 behobbs47@gmail.com

#### KNIGHT'S OF COLUMBUS NEWS:

The Knights of Columbus would like to extend an invitation to all practicing Catholic men 18 years or older that are parishioners of St. Stephens to join the largest Catholic fraternity worldwide. At the Knights of Columbus, we teach men lessons in Charity, Unity and Fraternity. We are Catholic men striving to strengthen our families and communities in faith, to strengthen family bonds, to protect those that cannot protect themselves, and to serve those who need help - whether they are next door or halfway around the world. We put our faith into action! If you would like to learn more, please visit our website at http://www.kofc.org/join or you can visit with Marcos Ybarra, our Grand Knight @ 432-638-9097 or any Knight wearing a green vest

#### LOST AND FOUND

The Parish Office has been holding onto miscellaneous items found over time and going forward will only hold any items found on the property for two weeks. If you have lost an item in the past please contact the Parish office to describe and claim. Items left unclaimed over a two week period will be donated or sold.

#### **ADVERTISEMENTS**

If you would like to advertise your business, would like to put "In memory of", birthdays or anniversary's in our bulletin please call the office or email bulletin@ssccmidland.com for more information.

#### **VBS**

We need many volunteers for our 2024 VBS. If anyone is interested in helping and volunteering please contact Gretchen or Destiny at the office! (432)520-7374

#### **TO ALL MINISTRIES:**

If you are needing a room / space for your meetings and or functions, PLEASE REQUEST BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE AND FILL OUT THE FORM

#### A todos los ministerios:

Si necesita una sala / espacio para sus reuniones y/o funciones, POR FAVOR, SOLICÍTELO ACCEDIENDO A NUESTRA PÁGINA WEB Y RELLENE EL FORMULARIO:

St. Stephen's Facility Space Request Form |(ststephensmidland.com) For any other concerns, please feel free to call the Parish office at 432 -520-7394.

#### **BECOME A REGISTERED PARISHIONER**

New Parishioners are welcomed! To become a Parishioner, Please register on our website ssccmidland.com



#### MASS COORDINATORS NEEDED

We are in need of Mass Coordinators for weddings and funerals. You do not have to be a Mass Coordinator as we will train you. If interested, Please contact Gina Ybarra by texting 432.230.4426

# WEST TEXAS CAMPUS MINISTRY

INVITING COLLEGE STUDENTS IN
MIDLAND & ODESSA TO JOIN THIS
GROWING COMMUNITY ON YOUR CAMPUS!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Sister Christina Chavez, CDP 432-215-8169 WTX-campusministry@sanangelodiocese.org

SERVING THE
CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF
UTPB, MIDLAND COLLEGE, & ODESSA COLLEGE



Helping Hands of Midland 1301 Brinson Lane Midland Tx. (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:

Electricity 7 families \$1,951.11
Gas 3 families \$ 817.11
Water 4 families \$1,450.79
Rent 14 families \$28,940.82
Total \$33,159.83

A recent post on the Nextdoor app sparked this column today. In her post the woman claims that her husband beat her in front of her children, knocked several of her teeth out, had their car repossessed and now she and her children are homeless on the streets. She said she tried to find help, even going so far as to contact all the churches in Midland, but the no one would help her. She then said she had a Go Fund Me and begged people to send her money. We immediately replied that we suspected a scam and to please not send her money. This is Midland, after all, and there is plenty of help for people in her situation. This situation reminded us of a case from several years ago. We are re-running it to show just how the people of Midland operate:

Susan called our helpline last week asking for help with her mortgage. She was very far behind, she said, and facing foreclosure. We called her and found out that she is the mother of five children ranging in age from 18 months to 13 years. When we asked her the status of her employment she said that she works part time jobs, mainly as a substitute teacher, but she also babysits, takes care of pets, and whatever odd jobs she can scrape up. We asked about the father of the children and she said that he left two years ago and she assumes he is in Mexico now to avoid paying child support. He is the natural father of all of he children. She cannot work a full time job, she explained, because her youngest child was born with bilateral vesicoureteral reflux (VUR) that results in ongoing kidney infections and seizures. They must make frequent trips to Cook Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth for the specialized treatment that her daughter requires. While her husband did not pay child support she said that she was able o keep up with bills the first year since they had a joint checking account which he continued to put money into, however about a year ago he closed it, leaving her and the children to fend for themselves.

She was seriously behind on her mortgage and while Wells Fargo had done an admirable job of trying to work with her, they said Susan could no longer stay in her home without catching up on back payments. Foreclosure papers wee issued. She had 60 days to bring her account current or she had to vacate the home. Wells Fargo told her that if she could bring her account current, they would be able to refinance her home and bring her monthly payment down to something more affordable. She was in arrears over \$7,000 (4 months of mortgage).

We asked her how she managed...with 5 children, one very ill, no steady job, and bills upon bills that she cannot pay. What kept her going? She replied that she cannot fail her children. Her children, she said, are innocent and deserve the best mother than she can be to them. When asked how she felt about her husband, she said that she had no time for dwelling on something she can do nothing about. Her priority is her family.

We shared her situation on Charity Tracker, a computer database used by most of the benevolence agencies in Midland. We immediately found out that there was widespread support for Susan ,and several churches volunteered to share in the expense of helping Susan keep her home. Special thanks to First Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church and Midland Fairhavens for joining with us to pay Susan's past due debt in full so that she can refinance her home and keep her family safe.

Please pay for this remarkable lady. And thank all of you for your continued support of Helping Hands that allows us to help people such as Susan. May God bless you abundantly! So yes, there is help in Midland. Churches and social service agencies abound and we are here to help anyone with a legitimate need. Please be very careful and thoroughly research Go Fund Me accounts as well as the panhandlers on the street, since, as we all know, unfortunately scammers are everywhere.



CeCe's Boutique Adornments

PB Roofing (432)853-7270

4400 Midland Dr, Midland, TX 79707

You answered the call to serve our nation, now call on us when you need in-home care.









# Veteran's benefits can help with the cost of in-home care.

If you are a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran requiring in-home care, you may be eligible to receive pension benefits from the Veterans Administration through the Veterans Improved Pension Benefit Program. Comfort Keepers® can help. We'll assist you in accessing the information necessary to evaluate your eligibility for the program.

#### In-Home Care Services

- · Personal care
- Companionship and housekeeping
- Dementia and Alzheimer's Care
- · Respite Care
- Safety Solutions

Uplifting In-Home Care | https://www.comfortkeepers.com/ 4305 N Garfield St. STE 205, Midland, Tx 79705

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