

**3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER / III DOMINGO DE PASCUA  
May 4, 2025 / 4 de Mayo de 2025**



# ST. STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

4601 Neely Avenue  
Midland, Texas 79707  
Phone: 432-520-7394

## MISSION STATEMENT

Growing Friendships, Families, and 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



### PASTORAL STAFF

#### PASTOR

Rev. Bala Anthony Govindu

#### PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Ignatius Edet

#### DEACON

Dcn. Leonard Hendon

#### NUNS

Madre Gertrudis Munoz Mendieta (DRE)  
Hermana: Leonila Torres Bermudez  
Sister Rajamma Mendam (DRE)  
Sister Nirmala Panditi

#### ADMINISTRATOR

Josie Brenner

#### ASST. ADMINISTRATOR

Annabel Wiesman

#### YOUTH COORDINATOR

Carlos Garcia

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Gabriel Salgado

#### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Gladys Qualls

#### RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASST.

Maria T Arredondo

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Parish Website: [www.ststephensmidland.com](http://www.ststephensmidland.com)  
Email: [frontdesk@ststephensmidland.com](mailto:frontdesk@ststephensmidland.com)

Find us [@st.stephenmidland5420](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCststephenmidland5420) on YouTube to watch the live stream of the Mass!



Daily online Rosary with Fr Bala at 10pm on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/holyrosary82>

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, we rejoice in the risen Lord who continues to reveal himself to his disciples after his resurrection. Evidently, the appearances of the risen Lord occupy an important place in the Easter story. They are fundamental to the Christian faith in the resurrection as the apostle Paul highlights in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. For they deepen the reality of the empty tomb which, on its own, would not exhaustively demonstrate the resurrection. Yet, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* puts it, remains “the first element we encounter in the framework of the Easter events” (CCC 640). Through these encounters, the risen Lord gradually convinces the disciples that he is indeed risen, strengthens their floundering faith, renews, restores, and empowers them to witness to the paschal mystery. Against their failures, betrayals, and lukewarmness, the encounter with the risen Lord particularly reassures them that, indeed, love conquers all things.

### **Love Writ Large**

God’s unfathomable love and mercy is clear and obvious in the appearances and interactions of the risen Lord with his disciples. His patience and tolerance in the face of their slowness to believe or lack of understanding about the resurrection is unsurprising. It resonates with his merciful attitude and outlook towards sinners (see Mt 9:9-13; Lk 19:1-10; Jn 8:1-11) which climaxes on the Cross. There, he readily forgives and prays for his tormentors: “Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing” (Lk 23:32). This is astonishing. Reflecting on this, the apostle Paul reminds us that nothing demonstrates God’s love for humanity than the fact that “Christ died for us while we were still sinners” (Rm 5:8). The risen Lord repeatedly makes this palpable through his post-resurrection appearances to his initially doubting disciples. Thus, he draws them into the mystery of the Resurrection – not simply as an event, but as an encounter with divine love, a love that conquers all.

### **A Powerful Resurrection Encounter**

Last Sunday, the risen Lord appeared for the second time to the disciples behind locked doors. At the centre was Thomas who was absent at his first appearance and had vowed not to believe unless he personally saw the risen Lord and physically inspected his wounded body. Instead of condemning him, he was unconditionally forgiven and reassured of God’s love as he was helped to overcome his initial doubt. Overwhelmed, he confessed Jesus as Lord and God.

Today, the Risen Jesus appears to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (also known as the Sea of Galilee or the Sea Gennesaret). It is a very intriguing episode. Led by Simon Peter, they had gone to fish. Was this a routine activity to provide for themselves? Were they giving up already on their evangelising ministry as ‘fishers of men’ (see Mt 4:19; Mk 1:17; Lk 5:10b) – and so, were trying to return to their former trade as fishermen? Oddly, the evangelist does not give us any hint either way. So, whether they simply went to find subsistence or were abandoning their new calling because of the ‘absence’ of their Master, the failure of this venture seems more important to the evangelist than any such details: They had toiled the whole night without any success. Imagine their disappointment, fatigue and frustration! Then comes the risen Lord; already waiting for them on the shore. He meets them in their failure, in their fatigue, and in their frustration. Like with Thomas, he comes not with blame, but with breakfast. And, ultimately, with mercy! Through his outreach to them, the risen Lord concretely demonstrates God’s steadfastness. He reminds us clearly that God never abandons us! Come what may, he is and will always be there. True to his name: Immanuel – God-with-us! His presence and command changes everything. Besides, this episode is rich in symbolism: echoes of the calling of the first disciples; sacramental imageries; and the imperative of mission.

### **Renewal of Initial Calling**

The setting reminds us of the calling of Simon Peter and the first disciples by the same lake in Luke 5:1-11. In fact, there are significant parallels between both episodes which, to say the least, are theologically suggestive. First, the same location and activity. Second, the failure of the Simon Peter and his companions in their fishing expedition. Third, meeting Jesus without knowing who he was. Fourth, obeying his command to cast the net for a catch in broad daylight – in the first instance into the deep and over the right side of the boat in the latter. Fifth, the resulting miraculous catch of fish that filled the boat to sinking point. Sixth, the impact of the miraculous catch of fish on the unveiling of the identity of Jesus – in the former by Simon Peter who at the same time confessed his utter unworthiness and in the latter by John who exclaims, “It is the Lord.” Lastly, the impetuosity of Peter, who abandons everything and dashes towards Jesus echoes his leaving behind everything to follow him at his initial calling.

### **Restorative Love**

Upon reaching the shore, the disciples were treated to a breakfast by the Risen Lord who also *broke bread and gave thanks* (a symbol of the Eucharist!) while feeding them with grilled fish. By eating with them, the risen Lord does not just demonstrate that he is not a ghost (see Lk 24:39-43; CCC 645). Particularly, for Simon Peter, this feasting is a sacramental moment of reconciliation and recommissioning. Through it, the risen Lord meets Peter in his weakness and offers him mercy greater than failure. This is expressed as he asks Peter thrice, “Do you love me?” The threefold question mirrors his threefold denial ((see Mt 26:34,69-75) – not to shame him, but to transform and restore him. In other words, no failure is final, and no sin is greater than the love of God who, as Pope Francis repeatedly reminded us, “never tires forgiving us.”

### **Forgiven and Sent**

Peter’s threefold confession of love is met with a threefold invitation: “Feed my lambs... Tend my sheep... Feed my sheep.” This means that Peter is not merely forgiven – he is entrusted with an important responsibility. In other words, Christ’s love does not just overlook our sins; it calls us forward into mission.

Of course, Peter is able to profess his love for Jesus because he has personally experienced Jesus’ love for him. This is not a sentimental love or mere feeling. Loving Jesus means “keeping his words” (Jn 14:23). This is what Peter and the apostles strive to do in the first reading (Acts 5:27-32,40-41), through their ministry of preaching and healing despite the opposition and threat from the authorities. That is why they insist, “We must obey God rather than men” while at the same time “rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonour for the sake of the name [Jesus].” Their love for God, therefore, conquers every doubt and fear just as God’s love for them conquers their betrayals and sins, restores their dignity, and recommissions them for his mission.

### **Over to Us**

Today and always, the Risen Lord asks each of us the same question: “Do you love me?” Like Peter and the apostles, answering this question honestly presupposes a personal encounter with God’s love — a love that embraces, liberates, heals, forgives, renews, restores and empowers. Such an encounter is rooted in faith and communion and leads to mission. As 1 Jn 4:10,19 says, it is not so much about our love for God as God’s love for us. This is the love that conquers all!

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, May 4 **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 8:00am †Cruz & †Juanita Muñiz by Marilyn W.  
†Sue & †Angela Wiesman by Marilyn W.  
10:00am Matthew Johnson (BD) by parents  
†Brandon Barger by famiy  
12:30pm †Edecio Montero by German Montero  
†Victor Manuel Villegas by family  
5:00pm Altar Servers of St. Stephen  
Loretta & Sammy Gonzalez (GH) by White  
7:00pm †Yoleida Perez by family  
†Angela Wiesman by Darrel and Annabel

### Monday, May 5 **Weekday of Easter**

- 7:00am Elizabeth Johnson (GH) by family  
Tyler Schroder (Delivery) by Mom  
5:30pm †Maria Teresa Zaldivar Perez by daughter  
†Robert J Ramirez by family

### Tuesday, May 6 **Weekday of Easter**

- 7:00am Santiago & Carolina Giraldo (AV) by family  
†Delfin Galeano by daughter  
5:30pm †Mary Hayes by Fryt Family  
Amy Elena G Alcazar (BD) by daughter

### Wednesday, May 7 **Weekday of Easter**

- 7:00am †John E. Richards Jr. by Pam Cepero group  
†Angela Wiesman by Darrel and Annabel  
12:15pm †Joe Lopez by family  
Josie Brenner (GH) by Beatris Lambdin  
5:30pm A.G. Aguilar (BD) by Linda Aguilar  
Ruth Merino (BD)

### Thursday, May 8 **Weekday of Easter**

- 7:00am †Richard Otis Powell by family  
John Campion (BD) by Linda  
5:30pm †Jesus Chavez  
Loretta and Sammy Gonzalez (GH) by White

### Friday, May 9 **Weekday of Easter**

- 7:00am Penelope's Recovery by John & Linda  
†Angela Wiesman by Darrel and Annabel  
12:15pm †Ced Thomas by family  
7:00 pm Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop Sis)

### Saturday, May 10 **Weekday of Easter (St. John of Avila)**

- 8:00am Esperanza Padilla by Eloy and Leticia  
†Angela Wiesman by Darrel and Annabel  
5:00pm †Juan Manuel Anguiano  
Dianne Anderson (BD) by Audrey and Mike

### Sunday, May 11 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** (Mother's Day)

- 8:00am †Maria Torres by Max and Rose Flores  
†Fran Thetford by McCarty family  
10:00am †Corina de Leon Cisneros by daughter  
†Guadalupe Saldivar by Son  
12:30pm †Anita Barron by daughter  
†Manuela Arredondo by Son  
5:00pm †Rosa Rivas by family  
†Cody Portillo by Chris and Vanessa P.  
7:00pm †Victor Manuel Villegas by family  
†Sarah †Felisa †Manuela by Martha M.

**BD= Birthday; GH= Good Health; BA= Baptism Anv;**

### **Please pray for the following:**

Katalina A, Cesareo V, Sammy G, Angie L, Gonzalo, Elida and Rogelio V, Cristina M, Esteban M, Aj S, Cristina P, Vanessa H, Sarah S, Manuel A. Jr, Ludivina E, Ruben M, Cristina R, Juho, Elviira, Reijo, Aino, Kalevi, Seppo, Birgitta, Gape, Alexandra L, Bertta, Otto, Tatiana T, Samantha S. M, Joel L, John & Britney V, Jeremy & Marissa T, Eddy & Maria L, Dinh M, Theresa C, Loretta G, Andrea Emilia B, Sylvia S, Javier Maria A, Isaiah, Victoria & Vanessa V, Kathen H, Malcom & Brandy, Jacob F, Luis S, Charlie H, Ygnacio M, Jolan V, Jose O, Annaliza E, Gladys N, Josie B, Ann C, Rio Family, Santa Cruz family, Caceres family, Gustavo, Ester E, Ruben A, Raymundo F, Andrea B, Abdulia B, Drew W, Charlie H, Joan M, Mary S, Jeanette G, Gonzalo, Maria del Rocio, Edmundo A, David L, Olivia H, †Joyce B, LeAnn H, Ruben A, Amanda O, Brigitte, Manoj Y, Dr. Manickavasagar, Jacob S, Maeve & Krew, Xiomara L, Nicholas C, Maddie F, Ramon B, Janie S, Galen Jr.

**Email [frontdesk@ststephensmidland.com](mailto:frontdesk@ststephensmidland.com) or call the office at (432) 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. Thankyou!**

### **Up coming Baptismal Classes** **Proximas Clases bautismales**

**June 8, 2025 / June 8, 2025**

**English : 2:00 - 4:30pm**

**Español: 2:30 - 5:00pm**

**Please contact the parish office to register.**  
**Por favor contacte la oficina parroquial para registrarse.**



Dear Parishioners,

As we enter the beautiful Month of Mary, I warmly invite each of you to join us in prayer and reflection through the daily recitation of the Rosary. This is a wonderful time to deepen our devotion and seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother. Let us come together in faith and unity, lifting our hearts in prayer. We look forward to praying with you and strengthening our spiritual community during this special month.

Blessings,

Fr. Bala Anthony





## **YOUTH NEWS**

We meet TUESDAYS from 6pm to 8pm  
Youth Building

### **MAY 2025 CALENDER**

MAY 6- WATER BALLON BATTLE

MAY 13-PAINT PARTY\*\*

MAY 20- LAST DAY

### **PAINT PARTY**

We will have a paint party on May 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be led on how to paint on canvas the Divine Mercy image. If you plan to attend, please contact Carlos or email

[youthdirector@ststephens.com](mailto:youthdirector@ststephens.com)

DEADLINE IS MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> TO SIGN UP

### **KICKBALL**

#### **CLERGY vs YOUTH**

MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 4:00PM TO 6:00PM

#### **HOGAN PARK**

Any youth interested in being on team contact Carlos or email:

[youthdirector@ststephens.com](mailto:youthdirector@ststephens.com)

### **YOUTH VOLUNTEERS**

We are seeking out adult volunteers to assist with youth group activities. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve, please send email to :

[youthdirector@ststephens.com](mailto:youthdirector@ststephens.com)

**THE VOCATION OFFICE:**  
PRESENTS:

# **KICKBALL**

## **CLERGY VS. YOUTH**

• **SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025** •



**Hogan Park**  
Bill Williams Sports Complex  
1300 E. Wadley Ave  
Midland, TX 79705  
4:00PM to 6:00PM

[WWW.DOSAVOCATION.ORG](http://WWW.DOSAVOCATION.ORG)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 325-651-7500 OR DROP AN EMAIL TO [vocation@sanangelodiocese.org](mailto:vocation@sanangelodiocese.org)

# **YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE**

The Ordination to the  
Diaconate of

**Mr. Francisco J Camacho**

Saturday, May 24, 2025  
10:30 am

Our Lady of Guadalupe  
1401 Garden Ln  
Midland, TX 79701



First Homily

**Rev. Mr. Francisco J Camacho**

All Masses  
May 24th 5 pm (Spanish)  
May 25th 8 am, 2 pm (Spanish)  
10 pm, 12 pm (English)

Our Lady of Guadalupe  
1401 Garden Ln  
Midland, TX 79701



## OICA TESTIMONIOS 2024-2025

Estoy muy agradecida y muy contenta con mis maestros de OICA. He aprendido mucho, y día a día mi corazón se alegraba por venir a las clases. Mi fe en Dios ha crecido, y siento que, gracias a las clases de OICA, me he acercado más a nuestro Señor Jesucristo. La verdad es que quiero seguir aprendiendo y continuar en la Iglesia católica. OICA me ha enseñado sobre santos que yo no conocía, y me ayudó a resolver muchas dudas que tenía. Me siento plena conmigo misma porque sé que Dios ha entrado en mi vida. Les recomiendo asistir a estas clases; es un proceso muy bonito del cual estoy segura que no se arrepentirán. Muchas gracias, Belén.

La experiencia en OICA fue algo que nunca antes había vivido. Fue tan hermosa y aprendí tanto, que no entiendo cómo pude pasar tantos años sin acercarme a Dios. En este testimonio quiero que sepan que llegué como una hoja en blanco, sin saber nada, con mucho entusiasmo espiritual, pero también con complicaciones interiores que me mantenían en una nube oscura. Nada me hacía feliz, y muchas cosas no las comprendía en mi vida. Cuando mi esposo me sugirió que asistiera a las clases —porque sabía que me gustaban— lo hice, y ahora me arrepiento de no haber comenzado antes. Esta experiencia ha sido mi fortaleza y me ha cambiado la vida. Muchas gracias a todos por lo que me enseñaron y por haberme aceptado en esta familia. Siento que conocí tanto de Dios que ahora tengo sed de seguir aprendiendo y de adaptarme cada vez más a la cultura católica. Muchas gracias al equipo. Gracias.

OICA ha sido una experiencia muy bonita, llena de paz y de fe. Todo el equipo de OICA se convirtió en una familia para mí.

Le agradezco a Dios por haber puesto a OICA en mi camino para poder cumplir con mis sacramentos.

Hoy puedo decir que estoy muy agradecido con Jesús por haber ingresado a este programa. ¡Dios nos ama!

OICA me ayudó a reencontrarme con mi fe en Dios. Antes estaba muy distanciado, pero ahora, gracias a ustedes, soy una persona diferente y tengo fe. Gracias a OICA, hoy tengo mis sacramentos.

Al principio, no quería venir; me daba miedo. Pero seguí asistiendo, y me sentí tranquila, gracias a Dios y al equipo de OICA. Me han dado más sabiduría para continuar en el camino de Dios.



**Trusting Jesus in a wild world**

# St. Stephen Catholic Church

## VBS

Niños Vamos de Vacaciones  
a la escuela Bíblica

**ESPAÑOL**

Vacation Bible School

**ENGLISH**

Junio: 9 - 13, 2025      Date: June 16-20, 2025

Horario: 8:15am - 12:00pm      Time: 8:15am - 12:00pm

**Volunteers are needed**

## OICA TESTIMONIOS 2024-2025

Venir a las clases de OICA reavivó mi amor y mis ganas de aprender más sobre Dios. Cada martes aprendí algo nuevo y hermoso, no solamente sobre Dios, sino también sobre lo que verdaderamente significa ser católico.

Cuando decidí entrar a OICA, la verdad fue solo por los sacramentos, para poder casarme. Sin embargo, luego empecé a sentir cosas que nunca antes había experimentado, y sinceramente, me siento muy a gusto cada vez que asisto a OICA o a misa. No sé exactamente qué sentimientos tuve, pero quiero seguir viniendo para conservar esta tranquilidad que Dios me ha dado.

Mi experiencia en OICA fue muy hermosa. Conforme fuimos avanzando en cada clase, me fui enamorando más de Cristo. Aprendí muchas cosas que desconocía sobre el significado de los sacramentos y de la Iglesia. Me enseñaron muchas cosas. Hoy, que fue nuestra última clase, me sentí triste porque ya se terminó. Me gustó mucho asistir a cada clase. El equipo de OICA fue muy amable y atento; en cada sesión nos recibían con gusto, amor y cariño. Fue una experiencia muy bonita. Mi fe se fortaleció.

Estos siete meses de asistir a las clases de OICA fueron una experiencia fabulosa. Las lecturas y las clases me abrieron mucho los ojos y la mente. Siempre había querido bautizarme, y por fin lo hice. Cuando presentaron al santo, ese día lloré. Tenía nervios, la piel de gallina, y solo pensaba en mis errores y en mi pasado. De repente, lloré y sentí una gran paz. Tengo muchas cosas que decir, pero no todo me viene a la mente ahora. Solo puedo decir: gracias, Belén, por tus clases, y también gracias a las hermanas y a la madre por todo.

OICA, para mí, fue una experiencia muy bonita. Aprendí sobre la fe cristiana y muchas cosas acerca de la Palabra de Dios. Aprendí a rezar. Las personas que nos ayudaron en las clases forman un equipo excelente. Te acompañan y te ayudan a resolver tus dudas. Fue una experiencia muy bonita. Te invito a que hagas tus sacramentos; es algo muy importante. No te arrepentirás. La convivencia con las demás personas fue muy agradable. Gracias al equipo de OICA.

Mi experiencia fue muy linda. Al principio no quería asistir, pero cuando comencé a ir, sentí algo bonito: me sentía más cerca de Dios. Cuando había clases, no quería faltar. Las clases eran hermosas. Aprendí mucho sobre Dios, y con mucho gusto asistía a cada sesión de OICA.

He aprendido a tener más confianza en Dios. Aprendí mucho con el Rosario y con la misa. En OICA aprendí mucho, pero también sobre los santos y las santas.



# St. Stephen's 2<sup>ND</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

## SAVE THE DATE

May 16, 2025  
1:30pm @  
Hogan Golf Park

**SPONSORS**

Platinum \$3000  
Gold \$2000  
Silver \$1000

Green Fee  
Cart  
Drinks  
Meal

4-Man  
Scramble

\$700  
Per Team



## ¿Por qué tenemos que leer la Sagrada Escritura?

4 de mayo 2025

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

*Amados hijos en El Señor, es una cosa muy buena la lectura de las Sagrada Escritura. Da sabiduría al alma, eleva la mente al cielo, hace al hombre agradecido, nos impulsa a no admirar las realidades de aquí abajo, sino a vivir con el pensamiento puesto allá arriba, a realizar todas nuestras obras con la mirada fija en la recompensa que nos dará el Señor, a dedicarnos al trabajo de la virtud con gran entusiasmo. Gracias a ellas, podemos conocer la providencia de Dios, siempre dispuesta a prestar auxilio; la valentía de los justos, la bondad del Señor, la grandeza de los premios. Nos pueden impulsar a imitar fervorosamente la piedad de hombres y mujeres generosos, para no adormecernos en las batallas espirituales y para confiar en las promesas divinas.*

*Por esto les pido: **iiileamos con mucha atención las Escrituras Sagradas!!!** Alcanzaremos su verdadera comprensión si nos dedicamos siempre a ellas. No es posible, en efecto, que quien demuestra gran cuidado y deseo de conocer las palabras divinas se quede estancado. Incluso si no tiene ningún maestro, el Señor mismo entrará en nuestros corazones, iluminará nuestra inteligencia, nos revelará las verdades escondidas; será El nuestro Maestro en lo que no comprendamos, con tal de que nosotros estemos dispuestos a hacer lo que podamos.*

*Cuando tomamos en nuestras manos el libro de la vida, hemos de poner en vela nuestro espíritu, recoger nuestros pensamientos, echar fuera cualquier preocupación terrena. Dedicémonos entonces a la lectura con mucha devoción, con gran atención, para que se nos conceda que el Espíritu Santo nos guíe a la comprensión de lo que está escrito, sacando así gran utilidad. Aquel hombre eunuco y bárbaro, ministro de la reina de los etíopes, que era un hombre importante, no descuidaba la lectura de la Escritura ni siquiera cuando estaba de viaje. Teniendo en sus manos al profeta Isaías, leía con mucha atención, incluso sin comprender lo que tenía ante sus ojos; pero como ponía de su parte cuanto podía diligencia, entusiasmo y atención— obtuvo un guía (Hech 8, 26 -40).*

*Ese hombre era eunuco y bárbaro: dos circunstancias suficientes para que hubiese sido negligente. Otros factores eran su dignidad y sus grandes riquezas, y el hecho de viajar en una carroza, pues no es fácil dedicarse a la lectura cuando se viaja así; más aún, resulta costoso. Y, sin embargo, su deseo y su celo superaban cualquier impedimento. Hasta tal punto estaba enfrascado en la lectura, que no decía lo que muchos repiten en el día de hoy: «No entiendo lo que contiene, no logro comprender la profundidad de la Escritura; ¿por qué, pues, voy a sujetarme inútilmente y sin fruto a la fatiga de leer, sin nadie que me guíe?». Nada de esto pensaba aquel hombre, bárbaro por la lengua, pero sabio por el pensamiento. Creía que Dios no le despreciaría, sino que le mandarla pronto alguna ayuda de lo alto, con tal de que él hubiese puesto lo que estaba de su parte, dedicándose a la lectura. Por eso, Nuestro Padre Dios, viendo su íntimo deseo, no le descuidó ni le abandonó a sí mismo, sino que le mandó enseguida un maestro.*

### Last Week's Collection

Contributions:	Cash	Checks	Totals
Sat. 8:30pm—1st collection	\$ 943.00	\$ 3,520.00	\$ 4,463.00
Sun. 8am—1st collection	\$ 1,696.00	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 4,321.00
Sun. 10am—1st collection	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 3,031.00	\$ 4,816.00
Sun. 12:30pm—1st collection	\$ 3,088.16	\$ 195.00	\$ 3,283.16
Sun. 5:00pm—1st collection	\$ 1,390.00	\$ 2,505.00	\$ 3,895.00
Sun. 7:00pm—1st collection	\$ 952.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,072.00
Daily Masses	\$ 84.00		\$ 84.00
Catholic Home Mission	\$ 2,926.00	\$ 2,035.00	\$ 4,961.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,818.00		\$ 1,818.00
Mailed in Contributions		\$ 5,416.00	\$ 5,416.00
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 34,129.16</b>



## FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH POTLUCK BREAKFAST

Come meet and mingle with other parishioners. If you like bring a dish to share. Our next get together will be Saturday June 7, after the 8:00am Mass.



### Confirmation BLESSINGS

Dear confirmation candidates,  
Congratulations as you receive the sacrament of Confirmation on May 9, 2025!  
May this special day deepen your faith and fill your heart with the Holy Spirit's blessings. As you continue your spiritual journey, Wishing you a future filled with joy and divine guidance.



Warm regards,  
Fr. Bala Anthony G.

## Healing and Deliverance Masses in English (Every Alternate Fourth Saturday)

- \* May 24, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.
- \* July 26, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.
- \* September 27, 2025—700 P.M.

## Misa de Sanación y Liberación en Español (Cada cuarto domingo alterno)

- \* 22 de Junio de 2025 - 12:30 P.M.
- 24 de Agosto de 2025 - 12:30 P.M.
- 26 de Octubre de 2025— 12:30 P.M.

## LITURGICAL CATECHESIS

ON

### SYMBOLS & GESTURES IN THE HOLY MASS

BY

Fr. Ignatius Edet



## St. Stephen Catholic Church

4601 Neely Ave, Midland, TX 79707

Thursday May 15, 2025

6:30 pm– 7:30 pm

### Ad Sizes:

1. Label Size: Price: \$25 per issue
2. Business Card Size (3.5" x 2"): Price: \$50 per issue
3. Quarter Page (3.75" x 5"): Price: \$75 per issue
4. Half Page (7.5" x 5"): Price: \$150 per issue
5. Full Page (7.5" x 10"): Price: \$300 per issue



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AT A TIME

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**4th Annual  
ST. STEPHEN'S  
JC MEMORIAL  
CLAY SHOOT**

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 7TH**

**AT BOWLING  
RANCH  
11700 FM 1788  
MIDLAND, TX 79706**

Come and Participate in St. Stephen's 4th Annual JC Memorial Clay Shoot! Enjoy a day of fun, competition, and comradery while honoring the memory of JC. All skill levels Welcome. Silent Auction, prizes, food and entertainment for everyone.

**EVENTS**  
\*100 TARGET SPORTING CLAYS  
\*MODIFIED 5 STAND  
\*LONG BIRD

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. STEPHEN'S  
YOUTH BUILDING FUND.**  
1 in 10 entered will win a Door Prize  
Don't Miss Out on This Exciting Event!!

## MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

### **2025 Medical Mission to Honduras June 29 - July 6, 2025**

Bishop Michael Sis and the Diocesan Mission Council are pleased to announce an opportunity to serve on a week-long medical mission trip to Honduras. We will be serving our brothers and sisters of the Diocese of La Ceiba, Honduras.

We are seeking compassionate medical professionals, (physicians, nurses, PAs and NPs), to join us in providing essential healthcare services to underserved communities. This mission aims to offer medical assistance, health education, and support to those in need.

Sunday, June 29, 2025, we will fly from west Texas to beautiful Roatan, Honduras. There, we will work with the local parish in providing the much-needed medical services as a result of a tragic fire that destroyed the only hospital on the island.

From there we will travel to La Ceiba, Honduras, to meet and work with the local medical community in preparation for a trip to Esparta, Honduras, a rural community about 55 miles from La Ceiba. Esparta is a community of approximately 19,000 people with no medical services.

We will spend two days serving the people of Esparta and their surrounding community. We will return home on July 6, 2025.

If you feel called to make a difference and have the skills to help, please consider giving back your expertise and talents as volunteers to our first annual mission to Honduras.

For more information, and to sign up, please contact us at [SanRafaelExpedition@outlook.com](mailto:SanRafaelExpedition@outlook.com) or call Janelle O'Connell at 325-668-3397. Let's come together to bring hope and healing to our brothers and sisters in Honduras!

Scan the QR code below for an explanation of mission from Bishop Sis and the diocesan Mission Council



### **"Attention Senior class of 2025"**

There will be a graduation mass honoring all the St. Stephen's high school graduates on Sunday, May 18 at the 5 PM Mass. And Sunday May 25 at the 12:30pm Mass. You do not need to register / sign up, just show up in your cap and gown.

Thank you and congratulations to our graduating seniors.

### **"Atención Graduantes del 2025"**

Los domingos 18 de Mayo a las 5pm y 25 de Mayo a las 12:30pm se celebrará una misa de graduación en honor a todos los graduados de la escuela preparatoria.

No es necesario registrarse, solo presentarse con su uniforme de graduación.

Gracias y felicitaciones a nuestros Graduados.



St. Stephen Catholic Church cordially invites you to our celebratory

Groundbreaking for the new CCD Building by

**BISHOP MICHAEL J SIS.**

We look forward to sharing this milestone with you.

May 9, 2025  
at 5:00 pm

4601 Neely Ave.  
Midland, TX 79707



*Fr. Bala Anthony*  
**Pastor**





Supporting Project Rachel  
of the Diocese of San Angelo



Father David Michael Moses

Wednesday August 6th  
7:30 PM  
Bush Convention Center  
Midland, Texas

Tickets Available at:



5<sup>th</sup>

TO THE HEIGHTS YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

**June 27-29, 2025**  
**St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Midland, TX**  
**Ages 18-40**



**WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**  
**FR. SAM FLORANCE AND KEITH NESTER**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: \$100**  
**AFTER APRIL 20TH REGISTRATION: \$125**  
*TICKET INCLUDES 4 FULL MEALS AND  
ACCESS TO ALL SESSIONS AND EVENTS*  
**SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER TODAY!**



**FOLLOW US** [@totheheights](https://www.facebook.com/totheheights) [@to\\_the\\_heights\\_1924](https://www.instagram.com/to_the_heights_1924)



Dear Parish Family,

As we gather to celebrate this joyous occasion of Mother's Day, I, Fr. Bala Anthony Govindu, pastor of St. Stephens, wish to extend my heartfelt blessings and warmest wishes to all the incredible mothers in our community. Today, we honor the selfless love, unwavering strength, and nurturing spirit that mothers embody each day. Your dedication and sacrifices are a true reflection of God's love and grace in our lives.

May this special day bring you immense joy and the recognition you so richly deserve. May God bless you with continued strength, health, and happiness, and may your hearts be filled with peace and love. Know that you are cherished and appreciated beyond measure. Happy

Mother's Day!

With love and blessings,  
Fr. Bala Anthony Govindu



En este mes de mayo, mes de la Santísima Virgen María,  
Les invitamos a unirnos como comunidad  
parroquial en el rezo del Santo Rosario de Lunes a  
Viernes a las 7pm,  
donde los niños ofrecerán flores a la Virgen de  
Guadalupe,  
madre tierna y cercana. Que su presencia nos conduzca  
a Jesús  
y nos anime a vivir con fe, esperanza y amor.  
**¡¡¡Los esperamos!!!**



### CLUB DANCE

**DATE/TIME:** Saturday, May 10, 2025 7pm-10pm

**COST/ATTIRE:** \$20.00 per person/Casual

**BAND:** "Emily & the Rumba Kings" (Ballroom, C&W, Latin, Swing)

**DANCE LESSON:** There will not be a Group Lesson at this dance

(Water and Ice Will Be Provided,  
You May Bring a Snack and a NON/Alcoholic Beverage)



**NO ALCOHOL MAY BE BROUGHT INTO THE BALLROOM BY INDIVIDUALS**

**\*\*NOTE: NO BYOB** is allowed in the Gloria Denman Ballroom per church policy. You are Welcome to attend, and you may pay at the door. For more information or if you have any questions, **PLEASE CONTACT** our Secretary at: [permianmusic87@gmail.com](mailto:permianmusic87@gmail.com). Please do not contact St. Stephens for information on this function as it is separate from the church. **THANK YOU!**



The Diocese of San Angelo Presents:

## Discernment RETREAT

May 16-18, 2025

Who: High School Men and Above

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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Odessa, TX 79761

**COME LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD!**

- Meet Our Seminarians
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Confession
- Prayer
- Priestly Witness

**MORE CONTACT INFO:**

Fr. Ryan Rojo  
325-651-7500  
[rrojo@sanangelodiocese.org](mailto:rrojo@sanangelodiocese.org)  
[dosavocation.org](http://dosavocation.org)



*Save The Date!*

*Guadalupe Radio Network*

*Twelfth Annual*

*Fishers of Men' Dinner*

Saturday, October 11, 2025  
7:00 PM

Midland Country Club, 6101 N. Highway 349  
Midland, TX 79701

**Keynote Speaker:**  
Fr. Craig Vasek



**Award Honoree**  
Fr. Bala Anthony Govindu

For more information:  
Toll Free: 888-784-3476

## SCRIPTURES OF SUMMER



Summer bible study at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Room 11

Email: [yogashri1126@gmail.com](mailto:yogashri1126@gmail.com)  
Phone: 281-384-5661

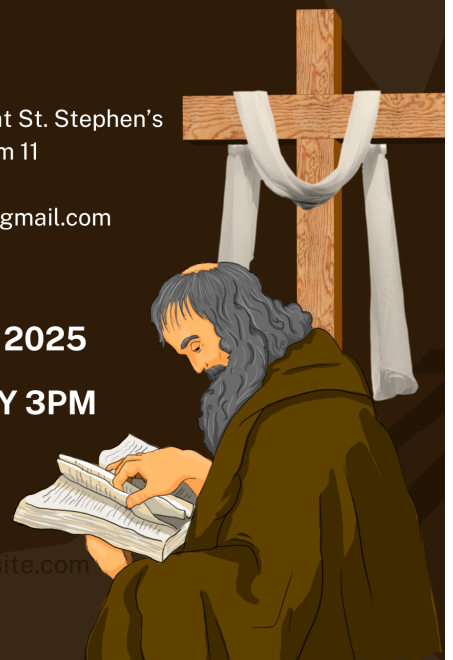


**MAY-AUG 2025**



**SATURDAY 3PM**

[www.reallygreatsite.com](http://www.reallygreatsite.com)





**Helping Hands of Midland**  
**1301 Brinson Lane**  
**Midland Tx.**  
**(432) 520-8900**

[www.helpinghandsmidland.com](http://www.helpinghandsmidland.com)



Because of your very generous donations, this is what we were able to provide in assistance last week:

Electric	4 families	\$ 2,280.24
Water	5 families	\$ 2,064.65
Gas	1 family	\$ 1,149.79
Rent	17 families	\$ 27,813.98
Transportation	1 family	\$ 277.59
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 33,586.25</b>

Several months ago, we received a call on our helpline from a woman concerned about her neighbors – a woman and her two teenage sons. The mother had undergone back surgery months before and became addicted to her pain medication. She became so dependent on the medication that she eventually lost her job in the medical profession. She realized she needed help and checked into the emergency room at the hospital, expecting to be referred to a facility where she could get treatment and counseling on an outpatient basis and still be able to care for her family. Her addiction was so severe that she was whisked away to the detox unit of the state hospital in Big Spring. As part of her treatment, she was unable to contact the “outside world.” Thank God her neighbor called us! The boys, aged 18 and 16 at the time, were managing to care for themselves, but all utilities were on the verge of disconnection and rent was due. The older boy had a job but barely made enough to feed the two of them. We paid their electric bill, water and rent. We asked them to call us back if they needed additional help, but we never heard from them again. Approximately two months later we were approached by a woman who identified herself as the mother. She had since beaten her addiction, recovered her job, and she approached us with a check. She felt deeply indebted to us for caring for her children during their time of need, and she wanted to pay us back. With great pride she told us that her oldest son was now attending college, and her younger son was planning on following in his older brother’s footsteps. She thanked us for making that possible. We asked her to keep the check and use it for her family, but she insisted on donating the money to help another family in need. Financially, emotionally, and physically, she was in a good place now, and she wanted to do something for someone else in need. What a joy! To be a witness to helping someone rise about adversities and make a new start in life is so fulfilling! Your support made that woman’s transformation possible. Thank you very, very much, and God bless you!

**MAY TRUCK SCHEDULE** Our truck will be at St. Ann’s on Saturday, May 17 from 9 am until 1 pm to pick up your donations. We thank the Knights of Columbus for taking on this responsibility.



The Knights are excited to engage with the church community through various activities, and we warmly invite you to join us and lend your support in any way possible. May God bless our endeavors!

**FORE!!** Our annual Golf Tournament tees off on May 16th at Hogan Golf Course at 1:30pm. Come out and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with our Knights!

You are cordially invited to participate in our Rosary prayer sessions at the church every Tuesday in May, starting at 7pm, in honor of Mother Mary.

Additionally, we welcome practicing Catholic men over 18 to consider joining our fraternity. If interested, please connect with any Knight wearing a green vest this weekend. We look forward to embracing new members into our community.

Vivat Jesus! God Bless!  
 Marcos Ybarra Grand Knight



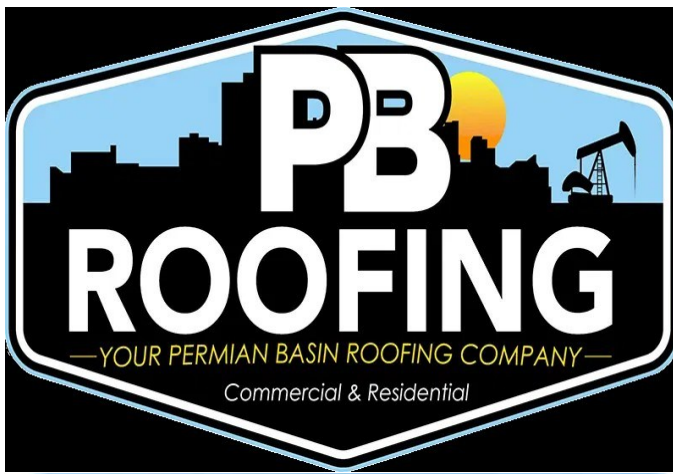
**Would you like to volunteer?**

We are in urgent need for more Mass Coordinator’s to help with Weddings, Quinceanera’s and Funerals!

**\*TRAINING is provided!**

**\*Bi-lingual is helpful!**

**Please contact the church office for further information: 432-520-7394**



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**Naenna Orji M.D.**



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