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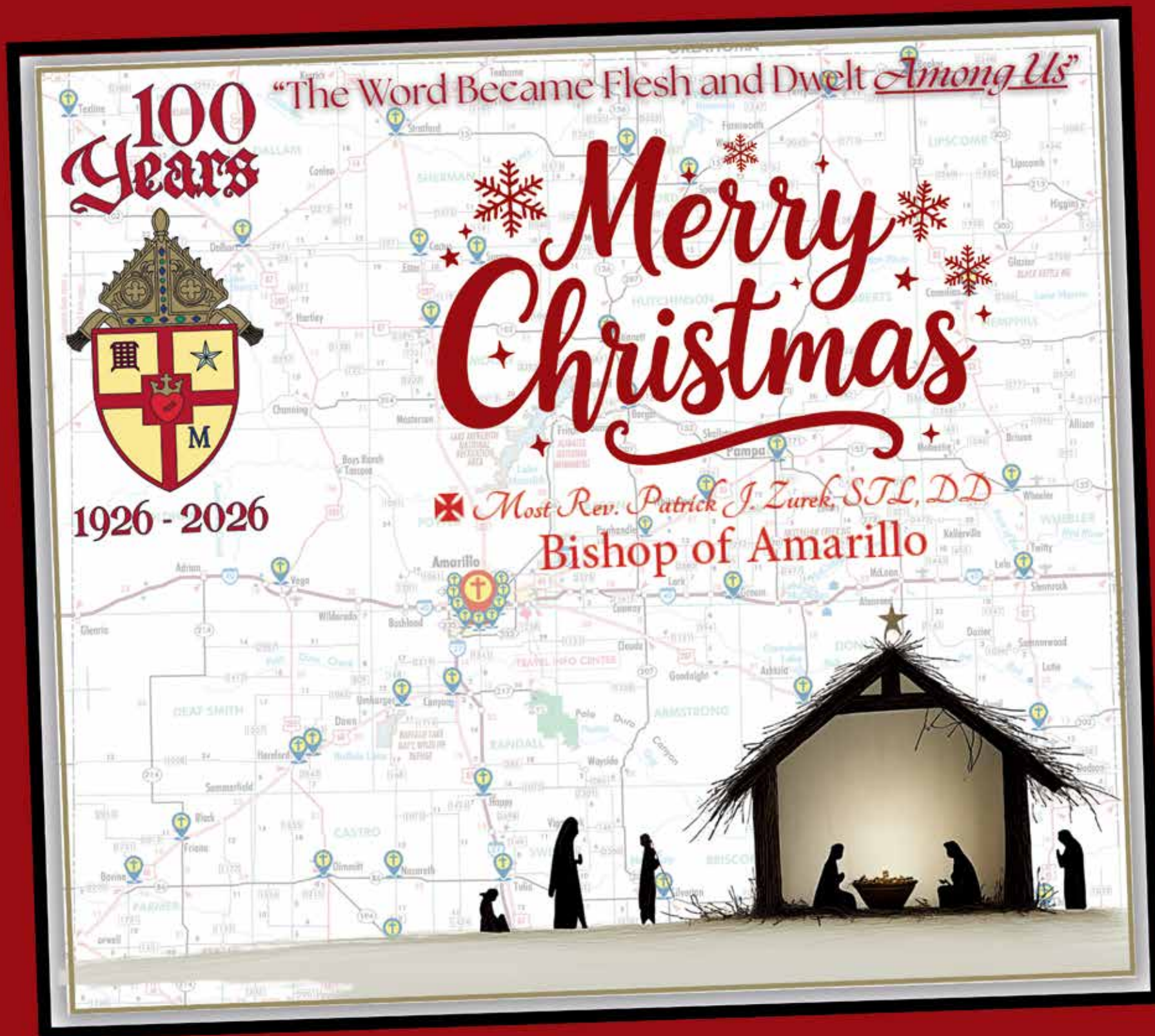
THE
WEST TEXAS CATHOLIC westtexasatholic.org



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Serving Catholics in the Texas Panhandle - Roman Catholic Diocese of Amarillo

December 21, 2025



On Guadalupe Feast Day, Pope Prays Leaders Shun Lies, Hatred, Division, Disrespect For Life

Vatican City (CNS)—Pope Leo XIV prayed for Mary's maternal intercession so that she would help nations avoid lies and hatred and instruct leaders to protect the dignity of all human life.

He also prayed that families find strength, young people find meaning and people of Faith seek greater communion because "within the Church, Mother, your children cannot be divided."

In his homily at Mass for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 12, Pope Leo also asked Mary to support him in his ministry as the successor of St. Peter and "grant that, trusting in your protection, we may advance ever more united, with Jesus and among ourselves, toward the eternal dwelling place that He has prepared for us and where you await us."

While it was his first Mass marking the Marian feast day at the Vatican as pope, as Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, he had already served as the main celebrant at the altar during the Dec. 12 Mass in 2024 and 2023 when he was prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. Pope Francis had presided over both of those Masses, but due to bouts of illness, he remained seated during the celebrations and gave the homily.

Pope Leo, who spent more than two decades as a missionary in Peru, gave the homily in Spanish and recalled how the Marian apparitions in 1531 in Tepeyac, Mexico, awakened "in the inhabitants of America the joy of knowing that they are loved by God."

Devotion to Our Lady of Gua-

dalupe is deeply rooted in Latin America. According to tradition, Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego, an Indigenous Mexican, and left her pregnant image imprinted on his cloak. It was said she assured him in his native language not to be afraid because, "Am I not here, who am your Mother?" offering protection, health and safety in the folds of her mantle.

"It is the voice that echoes the promise of divine fidelity, the presence that sustains when life becomes unbearable," especially "amidst unceasing conflicts, injustices and pains that seek relief," Pope Leo said.

Her motherhood "makes us discover ourselves as children," and "as children, we will turn to her to ask" what must be done, especially "how to grow in Faith when our strength fails and shadows grow," the pope said. Referring to her son, Jesus, she will "tenderly reply: 'Do whatever He tells you.'"

Pope Leo then prayed for Mary's intercession, asking that she "teach nations that want to be your children not to divide the world into irreconcilable factions, not to allow hatred to mark their history or lies to write their memory."

"Show them that authority must be exercised as service and not as domination," he said. "Instruct their leaders in their duty to safeguard the dignity of every person during all stages of their life," and may these people create places "where every person can feel welcome."

He prayed that Mary would accompany young people so they could find strength in Christ "to choose what is good and the courage to remain firm in the Faith, even when the world pushes them in another direction."

"Show them that your Son walks beside them. May nothing afflict their hearts so that they may

"Seek out, Mother, those who have strayed from the Holy Church. May your gaze reach them where ours cannot, break down the walls that separate us, and bring them back home with the power of your love."

—Pope Leo XIV

fearlessly welcome God's plans," he said, praying that she also help keep young people safe "from the threats of crime, addiction and the danger of a meaningless life."

"Seek out, Mother, those who have strayed from the Holy Church," he said. "May your gaze reach them where ours cannot, break down the walls that separate us, and bring them back home with the power of your love."

Pope Leo then implored Mary to touch the hearts of those "who sow discord toward your Son's desire that 'they may all be one' and restore them to the charity that makes communion possible, for within the Church, Mother, your children cannot be divided."

"Strengthen families," he prayed. "Following your example, may parents educate their children with tenderness and firmness, so that every home may be a school of Faith."

He prayed that those who teach be inspired to share the truth "with the gentleness, precision and clarity that comes from the Gospel," and he prayed that the clergy and consecrated men and women find support and encouragement to be faithful, prayerful and revitalized.

"Holy Virgin, may we, like you, keep the Gospel in our hearts," he said, and help Christians understand "we are not the owners of this message, but, like St. Juan Diego, we are its simple servants."

A special *Thank You* to the parents who support Catholic Education in the Diocese of Amarillo and a special Thank You to the men and women who teach and provide support at our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo. Your efforts and hard work are appreciated!

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Priests Birthdays

Priests in the Diocese of Amarillo celebrating birthdays in December include:

Monsignor Rex Nicholl

Dec. 3

Father John Valdez

Dec. 4

Father Taylor Elzner

Dec. 18

**Catholic Daughters of America Court #2472
at St. Martin de Porres Church, Amarillo**



**ANNUAL
ENCHILADA
DINNER**

Sunday, Feb. 22

11:00am to 2:00pm

St. Martin de Porres Church Parish Hall

Corner of Northwest 16th and Adams

Enchiladas, beans, rice and dessert

Adults \$12.00

Children 12 and under \$6.00

**There will be a Silent Auction
Proceeds from the dinner will benefit the many
charitable efforts of Court #2472**

**For more information,
please contact Patti Lineman at 806-676-7973**

*Christmas Greetings From
Bishop Patrick J. Zurek*



“Once again, the calendar tells us that we are about to celebrate one of the greatest Feasts in the Church’s history: the birth of the Son of God, who became the Son of Man. The Father gave Him to us, and in turn, Jesus gave Himself to us. The great sign of His love is not the birth, which was necessary, but simply the giving of His own body, His life, so that we could become as He is.

“I think of two things specifically that I would like to wish for all of you, and both of them come from the dialogue I had with Pope Leo at the end of June when I was in Rome.

“We spoke about the Mass and he was very concerned that too many of our people come to Mass late, and miss so many good things in it. He said how I pray and wish that people would come to be there for the Sign of the Cross, the very beginning, and stay for the Final Blessing. I would make that my prayer, along with him, and hope that you can make it part of your life. That’s Part A of my Christmas Message—that you come to understand the Liturgy of the Mass by coming on time and not leaving until the Mass has concluded.

“The second part of my Christmas Message has to do with growth of Faith. The Holy Father and I spoke of the young people and how they have really embraced the Faith. I told him that I have seen that in so many and he said ‘so have I.’ We both together said that this is what we will both pray for together after I return to Amarillo.

“My prayer is that you get to know Christ so much more and to love Him so much more that people will see you, not as the newborn babe, but as the adult Christ, who is ready to give His all for our benefit. My prayer is that you and I can become more like Christ, that we can shine like His light that comes from the Spirit, following the example of our ancestors in the Faith who made the Faith the center of their life and did everything in their power to transfer the essence of their Faith to their children. To assure this, each home had a special room dedicated to prayer. There were no priests, so the family became the leaders of Faith in prayer and worship in their homes, i.e., praying the Rosary, litanies, songs and instruction in the Faith.

“I love you all. I thank God for you. I pray for you and I just enjoy being with you when we have those opportunities, but especially at the celebration of the Eucharist. God bless you all with the most blessed Christmas that you ever had in your life, and let us pray for others to share that with us.

“Merry Christmas!”



Bishop’s Schedule

Diocesan Pastoral Center closes at 5:00pm Tuesday, Dec. 23 for Christmas and will reopen for business Monday, Jan. 5 at 9:00am.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

9:00am, Christmas Mass, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Amarillo
THURSDAY, JAN. 1

10:00am, Mass, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Amarillo
SATURDAY, JAN. 24

10:00am, Respect Life Mass, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Amarillo
Bishop Zurek encourages and invites all people of Christian Faith to attend the Respect Life Mass on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10:00am. He is also asking that no activities or events be scheduled in the Diocese of Amarillo on Jan. 24 until after 1:00pm so all Catholics can attend the annual Respect Life Mass.

**Pilgrimage Of Hope
Locations**

Amarillo—You’re running out of time to visit the four additional Pilgrimage of Hope locations for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

They are:

- St. Laurence Church, 2300 North Spring, Amarillo, representing the Central Deanery;
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 411 Ware Ave., Groom, representing the East Deanery;
- Church of the Holy Spirit, 511 South Austin, Tulia, representing the South Deanery; and,
- Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 915 Maddox, Dumas, representing the North Deanery.

These parishes are in addition to the Divine Mercy Chapel at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1200 South Washington, Amarillo.

Please pray for rain!

CONDITIONS TO RECEIVE PLENARY INDULGENCE DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

His Holiness Pope Francis, has granted during the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, a plenary indulgence to all the faithful, who are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin, who are moved by a spirit of charity and who, during the Holy Year observe the following general requirements:

1. **Purified through the Sacrament of Penance,**
2. **Receive Holy Communion,**
3. **Pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff**

The plenary indulgence, for the remission and forgiveness of all their sins, can be applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory in the following ways:

- I. A Pilgrimage to any sacred Jubilee site and devoutly participating in Holy Mass.
Bishop Patrick Zurek has named our local pilgrimage site **our Diocesan Cathedral (Blessed Sacrament Chapel).**
- II. Pious visits to sacred places individually or in a group (Rome, Holy Land), for a suitable period of time, engage in Eucharistic Adoration and meditation, concluding with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God.
- III. Works of mercy and penance if, with a devout spirit, they participate in popular missions, spiritual exercises, or formation activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, held in a church or other suitable place, according to the mind of the Holy Father.

During this Jubilee year one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day. A second indulgence can be obtained on the same day only to be applied to the souls in Purgatory, if the faithful receive Holy Communion a second time (if present to a full Mass) that day exercising charity to the deceased.

Jubilee Plenary Indulgence can also be obtained through initiatives that put into practice, in a concrete and generous way, the spirit of penance which is, in a sense, the soul of the Jubilee through:

- a. Abstinence on Fridays from futile distractions like social media, movies, tv, or the use of phone.
- b. Abstinence from superfluous consumption (no shopping)
- c. By donating a proportionate sum of money to the poor; or by supporting works of a religious or social nature, especially in support of the defense and protection of life in all its phases, or by supporting the quality of life of abandoned children, young people in difficulty, the needy or lonely elderly people, or migrants from various countries.
- d. By dedicating a reasonable portion of one’s free time to voluntary activities that are of service to the community or to other similar forms of personal commitment.

(Extracted/paraphrased from the Decree on the Granting of Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 called by His Holiness Pope Francis, May 13, 2024)



Amarillo—Parishes in the Diocese of Amarillo have announced Mass Schedules for Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25 and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Thursday, Jan. 1.

Listed below are the parishes that supplied the Office of Communications with their schedules. Parishes not listed here either failed to report their schedules or are not planning celebrations.

Schedules are subject to change without notice. Please consult your parish bulletin or website for additional information. This Mass Schedule can also be found on the Diocese of Amarillo website at amarillodiocese.org

AMARILLO

St. Mary's Cathedral: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Prelude Music at 5:30pm, Mass at 6:00pm; Prelude Music at 8:30pm, with Mass at 9:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am

Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 8:00pm (Bilingual); Thursday, Dec. 25, Masses at 9:00am (English) and Noon (Spanish); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 8:00pm (Bilingual); Thursday, Jan. 1, Masses at 9:00am (English) and Noon (Spanish)

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Masses at 5:00pm (English) and 10:30pm (Bilingual); Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am (Bilingual); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 11:30pm (Bilingual); Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am (Bilingual)

Our Lady of Vietnam: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Prelude Music at 7:00pm, followed by Mass; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am

St. Francis of Assisi: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Prelude Music at 6:30pm with Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am

St. Hyacinth: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Prelude Music at 7:00pm, followed by Mass; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:30am (English); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 5:00pm (English); Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 11:00am (Bilingual)

St. Joseph's: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Masses at 5:00pm (English) and 10:00pm (Bilingual) **At the end of the 5:00 Mass, children will sing Happy Birthday to Jesus;** Thursday, Dec. 25, Masses at 10:00am (English) and Noon (Spanish); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:00pm (Bilingual); Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 11:30am (English) and 1:00pm (Spanish)

St. Laurence: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Masses at 6:00pm (English) and 8:00pm (Spanish); Thursday, Dec. 25, Masses at 9:00am (English) and 11:00am (Spanish); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:00pm (Bilingual), followed by a Holy Hour until 8:00pm

St. Martin de Porres: Thursday, Dec. 25, Masses at Midnight and 10:00am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 12:15pm

St. Thomas the Apostle: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Prelude Music at 4:45pm, with Mass at 5:00pm; Prelude Music at 6:45pm, with Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Midnight Mass, with Prelude Music at 11:30pm; Mass at 10:00am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am

BOOKER

St. Peter's: Wednesday, Dec. 25, Mass at 9:00am; Wednesday, Jan. 1, Mass at 9:00am (both Masses in Spanish)

BORGER

St. John the Evangelist: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 9:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am (all Masses Bilingual)

BOVINA

St. Ann's: Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 8:30am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am (both Masses Bilingual)

CACTUS

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Masses at 1:00pm and 7:00pm; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Masses at 1:00pm and 7:00pm (all Masses Spanish)

CANADIAN

Sacred Heart: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at Noon; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:00pm (all Masses Bilingual)

CANYON

St. Ann's: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Prelude Music at 3:30pm, Masses at 4:00pm and 6:30pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:30pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am

CHILDRESS

Holy Angels: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 5:15pm; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 5:15pm (all Masses Bilingual)

CLARENDON

St. Mary's: Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 11:00am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 11:00am

DALHART

St. Anthony of Padua: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 4:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 4:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 4:00pm (all Masses Bilingual)

DIMMITT

Immaculate Conception: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 8:00pm (Spanish); Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 8:00am (English); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 8:00pm (Spanish); Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 8:00am (English)

DUMAS

Sts. Peter and Paul: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at Noon; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, followed by Mass; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at Noon (all Masses Bilingual)

FRIONA

St. Teresa of Jesus: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 5:30pm (English); Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:45am (Spanish); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 5:30pm (Bilingual)

GROOM

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 5:30pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 8:30am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 5:30pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 8:30am

GRUVER

Cristo Redentor: Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 8:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 11:00am (both Masses Spanish)

"Call my Daddy!"



• Will

• Financial Power of Attorney

• Medical Power of Attorney

• Probate, Guardianship

• House Calls Available

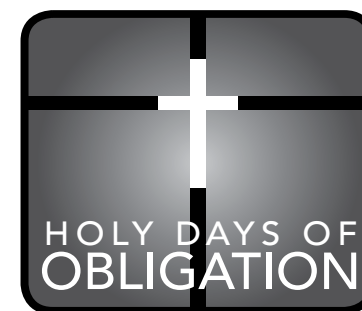
Robert Hands
Attorney-at-Law

678-0688
83 N. Avondale
Amarillo, Texas 79106

The Diocesan Pastoral Center at
4512 NE. 24th Ave., Amarillo,
will close Tuesday, Dec. 23
for Christmas
and will reopen for
business on Monday,
Jan. 5 at 9:00am.

*Bishop Patrick J. Zurek
and the staff at the
Diocesan Pastoral Center wish
everyone a Merry Christmas
and the very best in 2026.*

*(This schedule is subject to change
without notice.)*



Thursday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day and Thursday, Jan. 1, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, are Holy Days of Obligation. Please be sure to attend Mass on these days.

*El jueves, 25 de diciembre, día de la Navidad y el
jueves, 1° de enero, la Solemnidad de la Virgen
María, Madre de Dios, son Días Santos de Precepto.
Debemos asistir a Misa en esos días.*

HAPPY <i>Holy Name of Jesus:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Prelude Music at 6:30pm, Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 11:15am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 5:30pm (all Masses Bilingual)	MEMPHIS <i>Sacred Heart:</i> Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 7:00pm (both Masses Bilingual)	PERRYTON <i>Immaculate Conception:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Masses at 5:00pm and 6:30pm (Spanish); Thursday, Dec. 25, Masses at 11:00am (English) and 1:00pm (Spanish); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Masses at 5:00pm and 6:30pm (Spanish); Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 11:00am and 1:00pm (Spanish)	STINNETT <i>St. Ann's:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 6:00pm; Mass at 9:00pm (Bilingual, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Borger); Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am (Bilingual, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Borger); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 7:00pm (Bilingual; at St. John the Evangelist Church, Borger); Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am (Bilingual; at St. John the Evangelist Church, Borger)	TURKEY <i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 31, Masses at 8:00pm (Bilingual)
HART <i>St. John Nepomucene:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 6:15pm; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:15pm (both Masses Bilingual)	NAZARETH <i>Holy Family:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Masses at 4:00pm and 6:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 9:15am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 9:15am	QUITAQUE <i>San Juan Diego:</i> Thursday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 1, Masses at 11:00am (both Masses Bilingual)	STRATFORD <i>St. Joseph's:</i> Thursday, Dec. 25, Masses at 9:00am (English) and 11:00am (Spanish); Thursday, Jan. 1, Masses at 9:00am (English) and 11:00am (Spanish)	UMBARGER <i>St. Mary's:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Prelude Music at 9:30pm, Mass at 10:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 9:00am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 9:00am
HEREFORD <i>St. Anthony's:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 9:00am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 5:30pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 9:00am <i>San Jose:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 7:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am (all Masses Bilingual)	PAMPA <i>St. Vincent de Paul:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 5:30pm (English); Thursday, Dec. 25, Masses at 9:30am (English) and Noon (Spanish); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 7:00pm (Bilingual); Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:00am (Bilingual)	SHAMROCK <i>St. Patrick's:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 7:30pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 9:00am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 9:00am	SUNRAY <i>Christ the King:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 31, Masses at 6:30pm (Bilingual)	VEGA <i>Immaculate Conception:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 5:30pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 9:30am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 9:30am
KRESS <i>St. Paul the Apostle:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 4:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at Noon; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 4:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at Noon (all Masses Bilingual; all at Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia)	PANHANDLE <i>St. Theresa's:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 8:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 9:00am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 5:30pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 9:00am	SILVERTON <i>Our Lady of Loreto:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 5:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 9:00am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 5:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 9:00am (all Masses Bilingual)	TEXLINE <i>St. Mary's:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 6:30pm; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:15pm	WELLINGTON <i>Our Mother of Mercy:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 11:00am; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:00pm
		SPEARMAN <i>Sacred Heart of Jesus:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:00am (Bilingual); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 9:00am (Bilingual)	TULIA <i>Church of the Holy Spirit:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 4:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at Noon; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 4:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at Noon (all Masses Bilingual)	WHEELER <i>St. Mary's:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 8:00pm (Spanish); Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 9:30am (English); Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mass at 8:00pm (Bilingual)
				WHITE DEER <i>Sacred Heart:</i> Wednesday, Dec. 24, Mass at 10:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 25, Mass at 10:30am; Thursday, Jan. 1, Mass at 10:30am



STTHOMAS

Catholic Church

4100 South Coulter
Amarillo

Homebound? Sick? Shut-in due to snow or ice?

You can still participate in Mass online through our website!
amarillo.church

We live stream our 11:15am Mass EVERY Sunday and ALL Holy Day evening Masses. Simply go to our website and click on the “WATCH MASS ONLINE” button to watch live or recorded.



We will also be live streaming both of our Christmas Eve Masses at 5:00pm and 7:00pm and our Midnight Mass on Christmas Day.

Meet A Catholic School Teacher

Name: Misti Polster

School: St. Anthony's School, Hereford

Subjects/Grades You Are Teaching: First Grade

Degree Obtained: Bachelor of Art in Spanish, Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with specialization in English, Reading and English-as-a-Second Language (ESL), Tarleton State University

Spouse's Name: Ryan Polster



Children: Emma Reich, Elaine Porterfield, John Polster and Joseph Polster

Why do you teach at a Catholic School, compared to a Public School? "I firmly believe that God called me to teach at St. Anthony's. The last few years I have been able to build good relationships with my ESL families but

spent much of my time doing paperwork as I served as the ESL Director for the district. I am excited to be back in a classroom and extremely excited that many of my students come from a bilingual background. As a teacher of 31 years I have taught elementary Spanish, ESL K-8, music K-5, third grade reading, second grade math and first grade. Teaching first grade was by far the hardest of all the jobs I have taught, but it takes a dedicated, organized instructor to give kids what they need for success. With all my own children out of the nest, I was ready for God's next challenge. I've also volunteered as a Sunday School teacher for 30 years, a youth and children's ministry leader for 25ish years, VBS director for 20ish years. I'm excited by the opportunity to bring my two passions together to teach children the Good News of Jesus."

Why are Catholic Schools important? "I was raised Church of Christ, met my husband at the Baptist Student Union where we both volunteered as ministry leaders, became Lutheran when I was married and am now learning about the Catholic Church. I am extremely impressed with the reverence and self-reflection time within Mass."

"I have already developed a great respect for the heritage of the Catholic Church and the value of both academic and religious education. I know that the parents who are sending their kids to school at St. Anthony's are doing so because they desire the best for their children."

What is your philosophy when it comes to the classroom? "Learning is Fun! has always been my motto. I want kids to leave my classroom feeling uplifted. First grade is really hard work, and I don't want it to feel like work all the time, so my challenge is to find fun ways to teach all the skills. I hope the children learn my quote that I gave my kids before school each morning, 'Be blessed and be a blessing!'"

Hobbies: Flower gardening, puzzles, reading/learning, teaching ESL, children's ministry

Favorite Television Show: "I haven't really watched TV because I've been too busy. *Seinfeld* takes me back to college years and gives me a laugh, but I don't really have anything that I just love."

Favorite Books: "The Energy Bus by Jon Gordon is my most recent favorite. I actually wrote a book called *When Daddy Comes Home* that my daughter Emma illustrated and had published. It has been fun to read the book to the students at St. Anthony's and teach them about the love of family and imagination in play."

Profile continues to the right on this page

Catholic Schools Week Masses

Amarillo/Dalhart/Hereford—Bishop Patrick J. Zurek will celebrate Masses at all five Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo during Catholic Schools Week, set for Sunday, Jan. 25 through Saturday, Jan. 31.

Bishop Zurek will celebrate Masses:

- **Monday, Jan. 26** at 10:00am for students at St. Anthony's School, Hereford, at St. Anthony's Church;

- **Tuesday, Jan. 27**, at 11:00am for students at St. Anthony of Padua School, Dalhart, at St. Anthony of Padua Church;

- **Wednesday, Jan. 28**, at 11:15am for students at Holy Cross Catholic Academy, at St. Joseph's Church;

- **Thursday, Jan. 29**, at 8:15am for students at Saint Joseph's School, at St. Joseph's Church; and,

- **Friday, Jan. 30**, at 8:15am for students at St. Mary's Cathedral School, at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Additional information about Catholic Schools Week is scheduled to be featured in the Sunday, Jan. 18 issue of *The West Texas Catholic*. Contact information for the five Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo:

- **Holy Cross Catholic Academy**, 4110 South Bonham, Amarillo, 806-355-9637, holycrossama.org. The principal is Craig Logan.

- **St. Joseph School**, 4118 South Bonham, Amarillo, 806-359-1604, stjosephamarillo.com. Angi Seidenberger is principal.

- **St. Mary's Cathedral School**, 1200 South Washington, Amarillo, 806-376-9112, stmarysamarillo.org. The principal is Kim Lackey.

- **St. Anthony of Padua School**, 410 East 13th, Dalhart, 806-244-4811, stanthonydalhart.com. The principal is Shay Batenhorst; and,

- **St. Anthony School**, Hereford, 120 West Park Ave., 806-364-1952, herefordstanthonys.com. Linda Gonzalez serves as principal.

Prison Ministry

Amarillo—The prison ministry team in the Diocese of Amarillo is recruiting ordained deacons or lay volunteers for this special ministry. Prison ministry is also one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Those interested in this ministry are asked to contact Deacon Blaine Westlake at 806-383-2243, ext. 117.

Holy Cross Basketball Schedule

Editor's Note: This is the schedule of athletic events at Holy Cross Catholic Academy, Amarillo, as provided by the school. Dates, times and locations are scheduled to change without notice. The latest information can be found online at holycrossama.org. All home basketball games are at the Holy Cross Catholic Academy Event Center at 4102 South Bonham.

Monday, Dec. 29-Wednesday, Dec. 31, Mustangs varsity at the Hobbs Classic, Hobbs, NM

Friday, Jan. 2, vs Midland Holy Cross. Lady Mustangs game at noon, followed by the Mustangs varsity contest.

Tuesday, Jan. 6, vs. San Jacinto Christian. Junior Varsity Mustangs at 5:00pm, followed by the Lady Mustangs varsity and Mustangs varsity games.

Thursday, Jan. 8, at Christ the King, Lubbock. Junior Varsity Mustangs at 5:00pm, followed by the Lady Mustangs varsity and Mustangs varsity games.

Saturday, Jan. 10, at Kingdom Prep. Junior Varsity Mustangs at

11:00am, followed by the Lady Mustangs varsity and Mustangs varsity games.

Monday, Jan. 12, at Accelerate. Middle School Lady Mustangs game at 5:00pm, followed by the Middle School Mustangs game.

Tuesday, Jan. 13, at All Saints. Lady Mustangs varsity game at 5:00pm, followed by the Lady Mustangs game and the Mustangs varsity tilt.

Thursday, Jan. 15, Middle School Lady Mustangs and Mustangs in round one of the WTCAA North Regionals at St. Andrew's, Amarillo. The Lady Mustangs play at 5:00pm, followed by the Mustangs game.

Friday, Jan. 16, at Southcrest. Junior Varsity Mustangs game at 5:00pm, followed by the Mustangs varsity game.

Saturday, Jan. 17, Middle School Lady Mustangs and Mustangs continue play in the WTCAA North Regionals at Ascension Academy, Amarillo. Lady Mustangs play at 11:00am, followed by the Mustangs game.

The Market On Tierra Blanca

Canyon—Volunteers continued to be needed to assist at The Market on Tierra Blanca, a ministry of St. Helen's Outreach at St. Ann's Church.

The Market on Tierra Blanca, the only full-service food pantry in Randall County, is open Tuesdays from 3:00pm to 7:00pm and Friday

mornings from 9:00 to noon, on the east side of St. Ann's Church.

For additional information about St. Helen's Outreach or to volunteer to help in The Market on Tierra Blanca, please contact Glenn Backus at 806-655-3302 or via email, sthelens@stannsofcanyon.org.

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo will Creopen from Christmas Break on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Polster...continued from left...

If you had chosen another career path, what would it have been?

"I started playing teacher when I was in first grade. As a senior in high school I told my friends when I grew up I wanted to teach ESL, Spanish, Theater, yearbook and coach volleyball and basketball. They told me I could never do all of that. God blessed me to get to do all of that and also live out my childhood dream of singing in the nursing home as I took my students there to perform each fall and Christmas. In college I was a lab assistant for geology. I always thought that would be fun to know more about all the rocks and geologic formations."

If you were Superintendent for a day, what would you do? "I have only been in Catholic Schools for a short time, but for public school I would develop a training for teachers that shows them how to team up with parents to create a 'WE' atmosphere and not have parents and teachers against one another. It is so important for teachers and parents to work together to develop strong academic, spiritual and emotional students. Life is hard, we all need to support one another."



HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

5:30pm-10:30pm
Holy Cross Event Center
4102 S. Bonham | Amarillo

Steak Dinner, Live and Silent
Auction, Drawings, and Dance

Music by
Agave Posse

Event Tickets \$75 General Ticket/ \$125 VIP Ticket

TO DO LIST

- ✓ **Buy your event ticket - don't miss out!**
- ✓ **Share the fun! Invite your friends and family to join the celebration!**
- ✓ **Enter our prize drawings - the more entries, the better your chances!**
- ✓ **Get ready for the trip of a lifetime - adventure awaits!**

SCAN HERE



*Visit our website for full
prize and event information!*

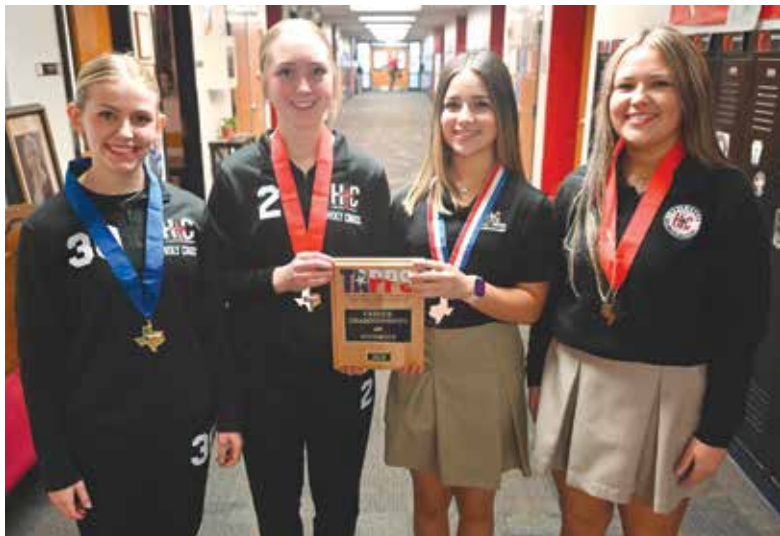


Golden Ticket Drawing

**\$100
EACH**

WINNER CHOOSES FROM THESE DESTINATIONS

- Kentucky Bourbon Tour + Gift Card for Airfare
- Cabo All-Inclusive + Gift Card for Airfare
- Sedona Arizona + Gift Card for Airfare
- Tuscany with Wine + Gift Card for Airfare



The Holy Cross Catholic Academy, Amarillo, Cheer Team finished fifth at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) state Cheer Championships Dec. 9 at the Extraco Event Center Coliseum in Waco. The squad also received a “Superior” rating. Four members of the team received All-State recognition at the meet. Left to right, are Carlee Seidenberger, Bridget Burton, Lilly Burton and Madeline Anderson. (WTC Photo)

Holy Cross Cheerleaders Place Fifth

Waco—The Holy Cross Catholic Academy Cheer Team finished fifth in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) state Cheer Championships Dec. 9 at the Extraco Event Center Coliseum.

HCCA competed against six other schools in the Tier V division: Greenville Christian School; Harvest Christian School in Keller; Allen Academy in Bryan; Wylie Preparatory Academy High School; and, Providence Academy in Rockwall. The Lady Mustang squad received a “Superior” rating.

Members of the team are:

- Senior Carlee Seidenberger;
- Juniors Madeline Anderson and

Lilly Burton; and,

- Sophomores Azalea Alvarez, Bridget Burton and Elizabeth Malek.

Four members of the team were named All-State. Carlee Seidenberger was named to the first team, with Madeline Anderson and Lilly Burton were named to the second team, according to HCCA cheer coach April Fetterman. Bridget Burton received honorable mention recognition.

Seidenberger and Anderson were also named to the TAPPS All-Academic Team. To qualify, students must be named first or second All-District, be a junior or senior and have an accumulative grade average of 3.5 or above.

Annual Respect Life Mass Saturday, Jan. 24

Amarillo—*Life, Our Sign of Hope*, is the theme of the annual Respect Life Mass in the Diocese of Amarillo on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10:00am at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1200 South Washington.

Bishop Patrick J. Zurek will preside at the Mass, with priests of the Diocese of Amarillo, concelebrating. All Deacons are also invited to participate in the Mass.

Bishop Zurek encourages and invites all people of Christian

Faith to attend the Respect Life Mass on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10:00am. He is also asking that no activities or events be scheduled in the Diocese of Amarillo on Jan. 24 until after 1:00pm so all Catholics can attend the annual Respect Life Mass.

To learn more about the annual Respect Life Mass, please call the parish office at St. Mary’s Cathedral during regular business hours at 806-376-7204.

“May our hearts be full of hope and joy as we wait for the coming of the Christ child.”
—St. Bonaventure

19th Annual Catholic Schools Charitable Raffles

San Antonio (CLI)—Having a hard time finding a great gift for a person on your shopping list who support Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo?

Here’s an idea. Purchase tickets for the 19th annual Catholic Life Insurance Catholic Schools Charitable Raffles.

Three Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo are selling tickets for the Charitable Raffles:

- Holy Cross Catholic Academy and Saint Joseph’s School, both in Amarillo; and,

- St. Anthony’s School, Hereford.

Tickets for the Charitable Raffles are \$5.00 each. The Grand Prize is a \$20,000 Prepaid VISA Card. Each participating school is also guaranteed to have a winner of a \$1,000 Pre-Paid VISA Credit Card. It is possible to win both the \$1,000 VISA Card and the Grand Prize. The drawing will take place in February.

Catholic Life officials say since 2007, the Charitable Raffles have helped Catholic Schools raise nearly \$16 million, with 100% of the proceeds going directly to the schools.

San Antonio-based Catholic Life Insurance provides all the prizes, marketing material and printing. Proceeds raised by the participating schools can be used in the manner they choose. Examples include the purchase of computer equipment, textbooks, necessary school repairs and tuition assistance.

For more details or to purchase a ticket for the Catholic Life Insurance Catholic Schools Charitable Raffles, please call Holy Cross Catholic Academy at 806-355-9637; Saint Joseph’s School at 806-359-1604; or, St. Anthony’s School at 806-364-1952.

Deacons Birthdays

Deacons in the Diocese of Amarillo celebrating birthdays in December include:

Deacon Francisco Ibarra

Dec. 4

Deacon Mark White

Dec. 8

Deacon Martin M. Ruiz

Dec. 18

Deacon Ricky Delarosa

Dec. 20



Three members of the Holy Cross Catholic Academy, Amarillo, were named to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Six-Man, Division III, District 1, All-District team. Left to right, are Palmer McLean, Isaac Kunkel and Stark Henderson. (WTC Photo)

Three Named To All-District Football Team

Amarillo—Three members of the Holy Cross Catholic Academy Mustang football team were named to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Six-Man, Division III, District 1, All-District team.

Representing HCCA on the second team was junior Isaac Kunkel, who made the second team twice, on offense as a center and on defense as a lineman. Also garnering

second team honors was freshman tight end Stark Henderson.

Freshman linebacker Palmer McLean received honorable mention recognition.

Kunkel was also named to the TAPPS Academic All-State team. To qualify, students must be named first or second All-District, be a junior or senior and have an accumulative grade average of 3.5 or above.

St. Joseph’s Church Brisket Dinner

Amarillo—The Altar Society at St. Joseph’s Church will host its third annual Brisket Dinner Sunday, Feb. 15 from 11:00am to 3:00pm in the Saint Joseph’s School gym at 4114 South Bonham.

Tickets are \$18.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children ages five to twelve. Children four and under eat free, according to parish spokesperson Denice Haley. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the St.

Joseph’s parish office or on the day of the dinner. Takeouts will also be available.

“We will offer both takeout and dine-in,” said Haley. “We invite everyone to visit our Altar Society boutique during our dinner.”

For more details about the Brisket Dinner, please call St. Joseph’s Church at 806-355-5621. More details can also be found on the St. Joseph’s parish website, stjosephamarillo.com.

Singers Needed

Amarillo—Singers of all backgrounds from all parishes in the Diocese of Amarillo are invited to help lead the assembly in song at two diocesan celebrations at St. Mary’s Cathedral in early-2026, according to Dr. Greg Onofrio, Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

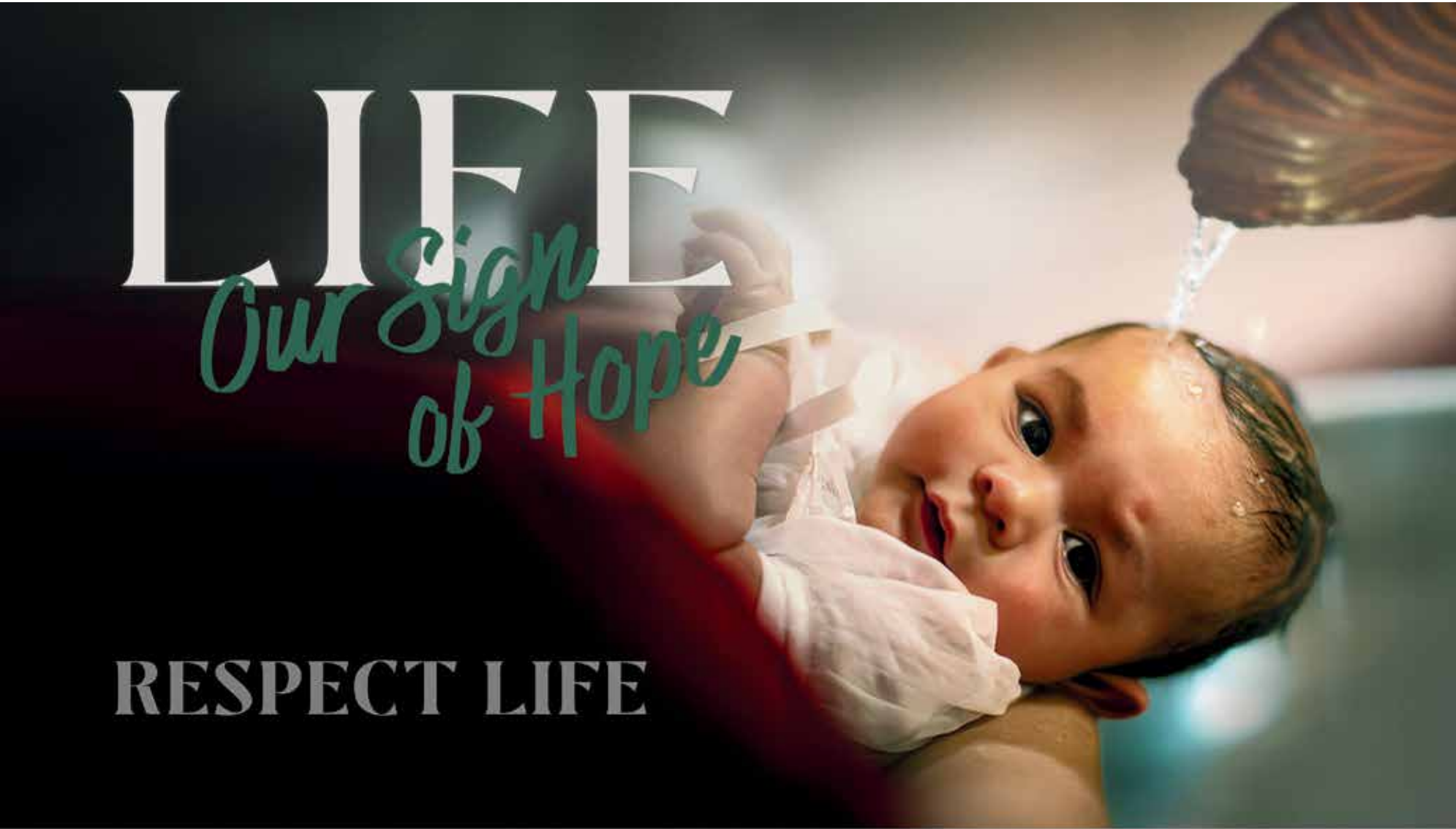
This includes:

- Rite of Election on Sunday, Feb. 22; and,

- The annual Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 31.

Additional Mass dates will be announced in the new year.

Find out more about participation in the diocesan choir by contacting Dr. Onofrio at 806-376-7204, ext. 3003.



RESPECT LIFE MASS
10:00 AM | JAN. 24

St. Mary's Cathedral | 1200 South Washington in Amarillo



Diocese Begins Centennial Celebration



The Centennial Banner, inside St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo, prior to the Dec. 5 Centennial Kickoff Mass.

Amarillo—A celebration 100 years in the making began Dec. 5 with a Centennial Kickoff Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, presided by Bishop Patrick J. Zurek, with priests of the Diocese of Amarillo concelebrating and deacons assisting.

Bishop Zurek began the Mass by lighting for the first time, the diocesan Centennial Candle. After the Mass, each pastor received a Centennial Candle, which is to be lit during the weekend Masses in their own parishes and missions, symbolizing our unity in Faith and our

shared journey as a diocesan family, according to Father Lawrence John, JCL, diocesan Vicar General.

The Kickoff Mass was the first of numerous events and celebrations taking place throughout the Diocese of Amarillo to mark its Centennial, culminating in a Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the 100th anniversary Saturday, Aug. 22 at 10:00am, also at St. Mary's Cathedral.

The Aug. 22 Mass will be the only Mass celebrated during the day in the Diocese of Amarillo.

All photos by Michael Kos and the diocesan Office of Communications



One of the outdoor banners promoting the Centennial of the Diocese of Amarillo, on the west side of St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo, as seen prior to the Dec. 5 Centennial Kickoff Mass.

According to the diocesan archives and amarillodiocese.org, the Diocese of Amarillo is composed of 26 counties comprising approximately 25,800 square miles.

The first evidence of a Catholic presence in this area was on May 26, 1541 when the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado was searching for Cibola, the seven cities of gold.

On the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Fray Juan de Padilla, a Spanish Franciscan Friar accompanying the Coronado Expedition offered Mass in the environs of Palo Duro Canyon south of Amarillo.

The Diocese of Amarillo was originally part of the Diocese of Guadalajara, Mexico; then Linares, Mexico; New Orleans; and, then the Texas dioceses of Galveston and Dallas before being established as a diocese on Aug. 3, 1926.



Bishop Patrick J. Zurek, right, lights for the first time the diocesan Centennial Candle during a Centennial Kickoff Mass Dec. 5 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo. Pictured to the left is Deacon Robert Aranda.



Father Luis René López, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas and Dean of the North Deanery of the Diocese of Amarillo, was one of several priests who wore vintage vestments Dec. 5 during the Centennial Kickoff Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo.



CONDICIONES PARA RECIBIR LA INDULGENCIA PLENARIA DURANTE EL JUBILEO DEL AÑO 2025

Su Santidad el Papa Francisco concedió durante el Jubileo Ordinario del año 2025 una indulgencia plenaria a todos los fieles que sientan verdadero arrepentimiento, y excluyan todo afecto al pecado y movidos por espíritu de caridad y que durante el curso del Año Santo observen los siguientes requisitos generales:

1. Que recurran al Sacramento de la Penitencia,
2. Y reciban la Sagrada Comunión,
3. Y oren por las intenciones del Sumo Pontífice.

La indulgencia plenaria por la remisión y perdón de todos los pecados se puede aplicar en sufragio por las Almas del Purgatorio de las siguientes maneras:

- I. Una peregrinación hacia cualquier lugar sagrado jubilar y participando devotamente en la Santa Misa. El Obispo Patrick J. Zurek ha nombrado **la Capilla del Santísimo Sacramento en St. Mary's Cathedral como el sitio diocesano de peregrinación.**
- II. Visitando piadosamente los lugares sagrados individualmente o en grupo (Roma, Tierra Santa) y que hagan Adoración al Santísimo y mediten por un tiempo razonable, y que concluyan con el rezo del Padre Nuestro, la Profesión de Fe, y oraciones o jaculatorias a la santísima Virgen María, Madre de Dios.
- III. Haciendo obras de misericordia y de penitencia y con espíritu devoto participar en Misiones Populares, o en Ejercicios Espirituales u otros encuentros de formación sobre los textos del Concilio Vaticano II y del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica que tengan lugar en una iglesia u otro lugar adecuado, según la intención del Santo Padre.

Durante este año Jubilar se puede conseguir una indulgencia plenaria al día. Los fieles podrán conseguir otra indulgencia plenaria al día aplicable solo a los difuntos, si reciben la Sagrada Comunión por segunda vez ese día (si están presentes en la Misa completa) realizando un acto de caridad en favor de los difuntos.

La Indulgencia plenaria jubilar podrá ser conseguida también mediante iniciativas que ayuden de modo concreto y generoso al espíritu penitencial que es el alma del Jubileo, a través de:

- a. Abstinencia los viernes de distracciones banales como redes sociales (celular / computadora), películas, ver televisión o pasar tiempo hablando en el teléfono.
- b. Abstinencia de consumo superfluo (es decir, comprar solo lo necesario).
- c. Ayudando económicamente a los pobres; o ayudando al sostenimiento de obras de carácter religioso o social, especialmente en favor de la defensa, protección y calidad de la vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte, o ayudando a los huérfanos, a la juventud en dificultad, y a los ancianos necesitados o que estén solos, incluyendo a los migrantes.
- d. Dedicando parte de nuestro tiempo libre a actividades de voluntariado, que sean de interés para la comunidad u otras formas similares de compromiso personal.

(Extraído/parafraseado del Decreto Sobre la Concesión de la Indulgencia Durante el Jubileo Ordinario del Año 2025 convocado por Su Santidad el Papa Francisco, mayo 13 de 2024.)



Se Anuncian Fechas de Publicación Para 2026

Amarillo—La publicación del *West Texas Catholic* durante el año 2026 se hará de la siguiente manera, dijo el editor ejecutivo Chris Albracht.

Habrán 12 ediciones del *WTC* durante el año que se publicarán el tercer domingo de cada mes.

La fecha límite para someter anuncios, fotos y sugerencias de artículos será diez días antes de la fecha de publicación. Las fechas de publicación y límites podrán cambiar a discreción del jefe de publicación y del editor.

Estas son las fechas de publicación y límites:

Publicación	Fecha Límite
Enero 18	Enero 8
Febrero 15	Febrero 5
Marzo 15	Marzo 5
Abril 19	Abril 9
Mayo 17	Mayo 7
Junio 21	Junio 11
Julio 19	Julio 9
Agosto 16	Agosto 6
Septiembre 20	Septiembre 10
Octubre 18	Octubre 8
Noviembre 15	Noviembre 5
Diciembre 20	Diciembre 10

Toda la correspondencia y las fotos por email se deben enviar a westtexascatholic@gmail.com.

La dirección postal del *West Texas Catholic* es P.O. Box 5644, Amarillo, 79117-5644. También pueden enviar información por fax al 806-383-8452 o entregarla en persona durante horas hábiles al Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Avenida 24 NE #4512.

Para más detalles acerca del *West Texas Catholic*, favor de llamar a la Oficina Diocesana de Comunicaciones, 806-414-1075.

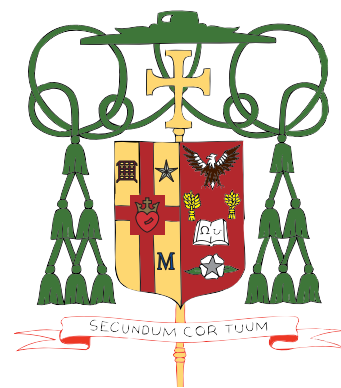
Solicitamos Datos de Comidas de Cuaresma y Pescado Frito

Amarillo—La Oficina Diocesana de Comunicaciones está recopilando la lista y solicita su información respecto al Pescado Frito y Comidas que se servirán durante la Cuaresma.

Si usted está a cargo de planear esos eventos, haga el favor de enviarnos los detalles a westtexascatholic@gmail.com.

La lista de comidas que se servirán durante la Cuaresma se publicará en las ediciones de febrero y marzo del *West Texas Catholic*.

Saludo de Navidad del Obispo Patrick J. Zurek



“Nuevamente el calendario nos dice que estamos a punto de celebrar una de las Fiestas más grandes en la historia de la Iglesia: el nacimiento del Hijo de Dios que se hizo hijo del hombre. El Padre nos lo dio y a la vez, Jesús se entregó a nosotros. La gran señal de Su amor no es el nacimiento, que fue necesario, sino simplemente la entrega de Su propio cuerpo, Su vida, para que pudiéramos ser como Él es.

“Pienso en dos cosas en particular que quisiera desear a todos ustedes, y ambas vienen del diálogo que tuve con el Papa León a fines de junio cuando estuve en Roma.

“Hablamos de la Misa y a él le preocupa que mucha gente llega tarde a Misa y pierden tantas cosas buenas que contiene. Dijo, ‘¿Cómo hago oración y deseo que la gente estuviera allí para la Señal de la Cruz al principio y se quedaran hasta la Bendición Final!’ Yo uno mi oración a la de él y espero que ustedes puedan hacerla parte de sus vidas. Esa es la Parte-A de mi Mensaje Navideño—que ustedes lleguen a entender la Liturgia de la Misa llegando a tiempo y no se vayan hasta que la Misa haya terminado.

“La Segunda parte de mi Mensaje Navideño es acerca del crecimiento de la Fe. El Santo Padre y yo hablamos de los jóvenes y cómo han abrazado su Fe. Yo le dije que lo he visto en muchos de ellos, y él dijo ‘yo también’. Juntos dijimos que los dos rezaríamos por esa intención cuando yo regresara a Amarillo.

“Hago oración por que ustedes lleguen a conocer a Cristo mucho más y a amarlo tanto así que la gente los vea, no como el bebé recién nacido, sino como el Cristo adulto, dispuesto a darse por completo por nuestro bien. Oro por que ustedes y yo lleguemos a ser más como Cristo hasta brillar como Su luz que viene del Espíritu siguiendo el ejemplo de los antepasados en la Fe que pusieron la Fe al centro de sus vidas e hicieron todo lo posible por transferir la esencia de su Fe a sus hijos. Para asegurar eso, cada casa tenía una habitación dedicada a la oración. No había sacerdotes, así que la familia era el líder de la Fe con oración y culto en sus casas; por ejemplo, oración del Rosario, letanías, cantos e instrucción en la Fe.

“Los amo a todos. Doy gracias a Dios por ustedes. Oro por ustedes y disfruto su compañía cuando tenemos la oportunidad, pero en especial en la celebración de la Eucaristía. Que Dios los bendiga con la Navidad más bendita que hayan tenido en su vida y hagamos oración para que otros compartan eso con nosotros”.

“¡Feliz Navidad!”

Reporte de la Bolsa de Seminario
Diócesis de Amarillo

Donativos en-honor-a/en-memoria-de		
Sam Albracht	\$	25.00
Monseñor Rex Nicholl	\$	200.00
Sin Designar y Misceláneos	\$	50.00
Total de Donativos Nuevos	\$	275.00
Bolsas Abiertas		
Amarillo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women No. 2	\$	2,915.33
Andrés Pulgarín	\$	100.00
Anthony and Katherine Paschel	\$	1,700.00
Arnold Husmann	\$	2,900.00
Benjamin Seago	\$	800.00
Billie Jean Matthiesen	\$	50.00
Buster Davis	\$	500.00
Catholic Daughters of the Americas Burse No. 2	\$	2,300.00
Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas	\$	1,724.10
Catholic Life Insurance	\$	500.00
Cecilia Neusch	\$	165.00
Charlie Hennessey	\$	110.00
Clementine Renner	\$	2,500.00
Debby Pope	\$	250.00
Diácono Mauricio Valadez	\$	575.00
Diácono Richard Riley	\$	225.00
Diocesan Committee of 2000	\$	2,558.50
Edward Venhaus	\$	50.00
Ellen Neusch	\$	4,225.00
Emily Diller/Jim and Emily Pavlicek	\$	4,000.00
Eric Walterscheid	\$	1,075.00
Francis and Hilda Neusch	\$	500.00
Gerald Brandt	\$	1,250.00
Gregorio López	\$	900.00
Grove Family	\$	500.00
Guy D Raef	\$	700.00
Harry Garrison	\$	100.00
John Casasanta	\$	1,150.00
Johnnatan Ibarra	\$	260.00
José and Epifana Vega	\$	400.00
Joseph P. Sullivan	\$	5,000.00
Josephine Lange Burse No. 2	\$	233.56
Knights of Columbus	\$	5,032.00
Martha Huseman	\$	809.00
Marvin Batenhorst	\$	500.00
Michelle M. Quinto	\$	50.00
Monseñor Fred Hyland	\$	1,500.00
Monseñor Harold Waldow	\$	10.00
Monseñor Joseph Tash	\$	4,733.00
Monseñor Kevin Hand	\$	2,250.00
Monseñor Mario Stortz	\$	100.00
Monseñor Monroe J. Matthiesen	\$	300.00
Monseñor Norbert Kuehler	\$	50.00
Monseñor Pete DiBenedetto	\$	1,667.65
Monseñor Peter Morsch	\$	4,373.18
Monseñor Raymond Crosier	\$	450.00
Monseñor Rex Nicholl	\$	200.00
Monseñor Richard Vaughn	\$	180.00
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Betzen	\$	1,000.00
Obispo John W. Yanta	\$	2,050.00
Obispo Leroy T. Matthiesen	\$	1,050.00
Obispo Patrick J. Zurek	\$	50.00
Owen Seamans	\$	4,020.00
Padre Francisco Pérez, JCL	\$	1,500.00
Padre Gary Sides No. 2	\$	985.00
Padre Grant Spinhime	\$	1,100.00
Padre J. Arnold Carlson	\$	100.00
Padre Ken Keller	\$	1,200.00
Padre Raphael Chen	\$	3,000.00
Padre Richard Neyer	\$	3,010.00
Padre Ryan Winger	\$	1,350.00
Padre Scott L. Raef	\$	250.00
Padre Shane Wieck	\$	1,750.00
Padre Taylor Elzner	\$	480.00
Padre Víctor Hugo Andrade	\$	100.00
Richard Escalante	\$	400.00
Ruth Bednorz	\$	50.00
Sam Albracht	\$	25.00
Sammy Gonzales Sr.	\$	1,405.00
Serra Club of Amarillo Burse No. 5	\$	3,010.00
Sidney Birkenfeld	\$	100.00
Sisters of the Sacred Heart Amarillo	\$	100.00
St. Anthony's Church - Hereford	\$	4,500.00
St. John the Evangelist Church - Borger	\$	3,128.70
St. Thomas the Apostle Church - Amarillo Men's Club	\$	2,229.40
Steve and Rosalie Chontos	\$	100.00
Susie Dolle	\$	425.00
Ted and Marie Keller	\$	300.00
Tony and Dorothy Broman	\$	50.00
Tonya Taylor	\$	25.00
Sin Designar y Misceláneos	\$	4,621.94
Total de Bolsas Abiertas	\$	105,886.36
Bolsas Cerradas	\$	976,778.90
Total de Bolsas Originales	\$	1,082,665.26
Valor de Inversiones en Bank of America el día 30 de Septiembre de 2025		
	\$	1,120,499.12

Calendario de Jamaicas

Iglesias, Escuelas y Entidades Católicas pueden enviar email a westtexascatholic@gmail.com para anunciar jamaicas, comidas y eventos como servicio público. Si no se indica otro local, los eventos tendrán lugar en sus parroquias.

DOMINGO, ENERO 25

Bovina—Salchicha Alemana en el Salón Parroquial de la Iglesia Saint Ann

SÁBADO, FEBRERO 7

Amarillo—Recaudación a beneficio del Centro Estudiantil Católico en la Universidad de West Texas A&M en la Iglesia Saint Thomas the Apostle

SÁBADO, FEBRERO 14

Amarillo—Cena de Bistec y Baile del Día de San Valentín en el Salón Bishop Zurek de la Iglesia Blessed Sacrament

Pampa—Recaudación de la Parroquia de San Vicente de Paúl en el Centro Pastoral Educativo

DOMINGO, FEBRERO 15

Amarillo—Comida de Brisket de la Iglesia San José en el Gimnasio de la Escuela

MARTES, FEBRERO 17

Canyon—Cena del Martes de Carnaval del Consejo #7840 de Caballeros de Colón en el Salón Parroquial de la Iglesia Saint Ann

DOMINGO, FEBRERO 22

Amarillo—Enchiladas de las Hijas Católicas de América, Corte #2472 en el Salón Parroquial de la Iglesia de San Martín de Porres

Stratford—Salchicha Alemana a beneficio de la Iglesia Saint Joseph en Sherman County Barn

DOMINGO, MARZO 1

Canyon—Salchicha Checa en el Salón Parroquial de la Iglesia Saint Ann

Friona—Comida Mexicana en el Salón Parroquial de la Iglesia de Santa Teresa de Jesús

Hereford—Subasta de la PTO Organización de Padres y Maestros en el gimnasio de la Escuela Saint Anthony

DOMINGO, MARZO 8

Amarillo—Salchicha Alemana a beneficio de la Iglesia Saint Francis of Assisi

Pampa—Salchicha Polaca en el Centro Pastoral Educativo de la Iglesia San Vicente de Paúl

DOMINGO, MARZO 22

Borger—Albóndigas Italianas con Espagueti en el Gimnasio de la Iglesia de San Juan Evangelista



El Obispo Patrick J. Zurek, sonríe al aceptar un buqué de rosas y flores de Víctor González, foto centro; su hija, Victoria; y su esposa Claudia el 7 de diciembre en la Misa de la 28ª Celebración Diocesana de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Catedral de Santa María en Amarillo (Foto del WTC)

Se Necesitan Ministros de Comunión

Amarillo — Necesitamos voluntarios para llevar la comunión al Hospital BSA. Este compromiso no requiere mucho tiempo y ofrece entrenamiento, dijo Elma Fletcher. Interesados, favor de llamar a Elma Fletcher, 806-206-4496; o email a elma_fletcher@yahoo.com.



Consejo Diocesano de Mujeres Católicas

El Consejo Diocesano de Mujeres Católicas (DCCW,) actúa a través de sus miembros para apoyar, empoderar y educar a todas las mujeres católicas en la espiritualidad, el liderazgo y el servicio. Los programas del DCCW responden, con los valores del Evangelio, a las necesidades de la Iglesia y de la sociedad en el mundo actual.

Mujeres de Fe — ¡Están cordialmente invitadas!

Únanse al DCCW y crezcan en la Fe mientras forjan amistades duraderas y sirven con propósito.

¡Todas son bienvenidas!

Vengan a servir, a conectarse y a ser una bendición para los demás.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con:

Emily Sánchez
(806) 676-0251

Jeannie Friddell
(806) 679-9144



Martín Ruiz, foto derecha, Candidato a Diácono, de la Iglesia San José en Hereford, promete obediencia al Obispo Patrick J. Zurek y a sus sucesores el 6 de diciembre durante la Misa de Ordenación de la Clase de Diáconos 2025 en la Catedral Santa María en Amarillo. Foto izquierda, el Diácono Brian Lewis; entre el Obispo Zurek y Ruiz, el monaguillo Palmer McLenn. Ruiz y siete candidatos más fueron ordenados al Diaconado Permanente en esta Misa. El reporte en inglés está en las páginas 8 y 9 en la segunda sección de esta edición del *West Texas Catholic*. (Foto del WTC por Eric Engels)

Cuando se hayan apagado las luces de la temporada, que la luz de Cristo siga brillando en nuestras vidas.

El Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Avenida 24 NE #4512 en Amarillo, cerrará el martes, 23 de diciembre para los días de Navidad y Año Nuevo y reiniciará labores el lunes, 5 de enero a las 9:00am.

El Obispo Patrick J. Zurek y el personal del Centro Pastoral Diocesano desean a todos una Feliz Navidad y lo mejor del 2026.

(Esta agenda se sujeta a cambios sin aviso previo.)

Salchicha en Bovina

Bovina—La Iglesia de Saint Ann servirá su Comida Anual de Salchicha Alemana el domingo, 25 de enero de 11:00am a 1:30pm en el salón parroquial en la calle Third.

Servirán platillos completos con Salchicha Alemana Casera y chucrut. Sugieren donativos de \$18.00 por adulto y \$6.00 por niños de seis años y menores. Habrá platillos para llevar sin costo adicional.

Habrán cuatro sabores de salchicha—regular, jalapeño, chile verde y extra-extra picante, informa Joann McDonald, portavoz parroquial.

También podrán comprar la salchicha y el chucrut el día de la comida o pueden contactar a cualquier parroquiano de Saint Ann previo al día de la comida.

Para más información, hagan el favor de llamar a la oficina parroquial, 806-251-1511.

Recaudación Parroquial en Pampa

Pampa—Ya venden boletos para la Recaudación Parroquial anual a beneficio de la Iglesia de San Vicente de Paúl que será el sábado, 14 de febrero de 6:30pm a 11:30 en el Centro Pastoral de Educación (PEC), calle 23 Oeste #810.

Su boleto de \$125 incluye cena para pareja de 7:15 a 8:15, baile y una rifa en reversa en la que pudiera ganar una Tarjeta VISA: el Premio Mayor vale \$4,000; el Segundo, \$2,000 y el Tercero, \$1,000, informa el Dr. Jack Albracht, parroquiano de San Vicente de Paúl y director del evento.

También habrá música, Tableros de Calcuta, Subasta en Silencio y Subasta en Vivo a las 8:30. No se admitirán al evento menores de 21 años ni bebés y no venderán platillos para llevar.

Para obtener más detalles o boletos, o para donar artículos para las subastas, favor de llamar al Dr. Albracht, 806-663-1950, o a la oficina parroquial de San Vicente de Paúl, 806-665-8933.

¡Vamos a aumentar nuestras obras de Fe, Esperanza y Caridad en el Año Nuevo!

Rito de Elección: Domingo, Feb. 22

Amarillo—La Diócesis de Amarillo va a celebrar el **Rito de Elección de Catecúmenos y el Llamado a la Conversión Continua de Candidatos** el domingo, 22 de febrero en la Catedral de Santa María, calle Washington 1200 Sur.

Los participantes en el Rito de Elección de Catecúmenos y el Llamado a la Conversión Continua de Candidatos deben estar en la Catedral de Santa María antes de la 1:30pm para recibir instrucciones finales, dijo la Hermana Educadora de Nuestra Señora, Sor María Elena Ferrer, coordinadora de Formación de Fe en la Diócesis de Amarillo.

“En la vida de cada Iglesia diocesana en los Estados Unidos y en muchos otros países, el primer domingo de Cuaresma es muy especial para los catecúmenos y candidatos”, dijo Sor María Elena. “Después de un largo período de catequesis de más de un año en el *Catecumenado* y de haber celebrado los ritos litúrgicos de este período, los catecúmenos y candidatos, se disponen a reunirse con el obispo en la Catedral para iniciar el período de *Purificación e Iluminación* en el Orden de Iniciación Cristiana (OICA). Este tiempo de profunda reflexión interior antes de celebrar los sacramentos en la Vigilia Pascual ocurre durante los 40 días de Cuaresma.

“El título del rito combinado, *El Rito de Elección de los Catecúmenos y el Llamado de Candidatos a la Conversión Continua*, es necesario para mantener la distinción entre los catecúmenos y los candidatos ya bautizados. Los bautizados católicos o de otra denominación cristiana ya son miembros de la comunidad cristiana”.

“El rito se realiza en la Catedral; pero cada parroquia celebra en su propia iglesia el *Rito de Envío de Catecúmenos para la Elección y de Candidatos al Llamado a la Conversión Continua*. Sólo los catecúmenos se presentan a la comunidad parroquial. Sus catequistas y padrinos dan testimonio de su preparación y después escriben sus nombres en el **LIBRO DE LOS ELEGIDOS**. Los candidatos que se preparan para la comunión plena y los sacramentos de la Confirmación y Eucaristía también se pueden presentar a la comunidad parroquial. Como ya están bautizados, sus nombres están escritos en el Registro Bautismal y no tienen que ser apuntados en el Libro de los Elegidos”.

“Invitamos cordialmente a los catecúmenos y candidatos con sus padrinos, padres y catequistas de OICA a esta impresionante celebración en la Catedral de Santa María en el primer domingo de Cuaresma, el día 22 de febrero a las 2:30pm”.

Rogemos por lluvia favorable y provechosa.

Intenciones del Papa León XIV para 2025

Por favor únanse a millones de personas del mundo entero que cada día rezan por las intenciones mensuales del Papa. Desde 1884 los miembros del Apostolado de Oración se han ofrecido a Dios por la salvación de almas, la Iglesia, las intenciones de todos los Apóstoles de Oración y las intenciones del Papa. El Santo Padre nos da dos intenciones cada mes—una es intención general y la otra es por las intenciones mundiales.

Diciembre:

- **Por los cristianos en contextos de conflicto:** Oremos para que los cristianos que viven en contextos de guerra o conflicto, especialmente en Medio Oriente, sean semillas de paz, reconciliación y esperanza.

19º Año de Rifas de Caridad a las Escuelas Católicas

San Antonio (CLI)—¿Desea apoyar a las Escuelas Católicas en la Diócesis de Amarillo? Puede hacerlo al comprar un boleto para la 19ª Rifa Anual de Caridad a las Escuelas Católicas que patrocina Catholic Life Insurance.

Tres Escuelas Católicas en la Diócesis de Amarillo ya venden boletos para las Rifas de Caridad:

- En Amarillo, Holy Cross Catholic Academy y la Escuela Saint Joseph;
- En Hereford, la Escuela Saint Anthony.

Oficiales de Catholic Life dicen que desde 2007, las Rifas de Caridad han ayudado a las

Escuelas Católicas a recaudar casi \$16 millones y las escuelas reciben el 100% de los fondos.

Los boletos para las Rifas de Caridad cuestan \$5.00. El Premio Mayor es una tarjeta VISA con valor de \$20,000. A cada escuela que participe se le garantiza un ganador de una tarjeta VISA con valor de \$1,000. Se puede ganar el Premio Mayor y la tarjeta VISA de \$1,000. El sorteo será en febrero.

Somos organización basada en la Fe y nos comprometemos a apoyar la Educación Católica y a ayudar a las escuelas a prosperar”, dijo Christopher M. Belz, Presidente y CEO de Catholic Life Insurance.

“Es un honor invertir en el futuro de nuestros niños y nuestra fe”.

Catholic Life Insurance tiene base en San Antonio y provee los premios, materiales de promoción e imprenta. Escuelas participantes pueden utilizar los fondos recaudados a discreción. Por ejemplo, pueden adquirir equipo de informática, libros de texto, hacer reparaciones a la escuela o sufragar colegiaturas.

Para obtener más detalles o boletos para las Rifas de Caridad de Catholic Life Insurance, pueden llamar a las escuelas: Holy Cross Catholic Academy, 806-355-9637; a Saint Joseph, 806-359-1604; o a Saint Anthony, 806-364-1952.



El Obispo Patrick J. Zurek, a la derecha en la foto, enciende por primera vez el Cirio del Centenario durante la Misa de Apertura del Centenario que se celebró el 5 de diciembre en la Catedral de Santa María en Amarillo; frente a él, el Diácono Robert Aranda sostiene el cirio. El sitio web diocesano amarillodiocese.org contiene fotos adicionales de esta Misa bajo el título Diocesan Photos. (Foto del WTC)

Misa Anual por el Respeto a la Vida el Sábado, 24 de Enero

Amarillo—La Misa anual por el Respeto a la Vida será el sábado, 24 de enero a las 10:00am en la Catedral de Santa María, calle Washington 1200 Sur.

El Obispo Patrick J. Zurek oficiará la Misa; sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Amarillo van a

concelebrar y se invita a todos los diáconos a participar en la Misa.

El Obispo Zurek invita y anima a toda persona de fe cristiana a asistir a la Misa por el Respeto a la Vida el sábado, 24 de enero a las 10:00am. Pide además que no haya otros eventos o actividades en la Diócesis

de Amarillo el 24 de enero para que todo católico pueda asistir a la Misa Anual por el Respeto a la Vida.

Para indagar detalles sobre la Misa Anual por el Respeto a la Vida, favor de llamar a la Catedral de Santa María durante horas de oficina, 806-376-7204.

El Mercado En Tierra Blanca

Canyon—Aún se necesitan voluntarios para ayudar en *The Market on Tierra Blanca*, un proyecto del ministerio Saint

Helen’s Outreach en la Iglesia Saint Ann.

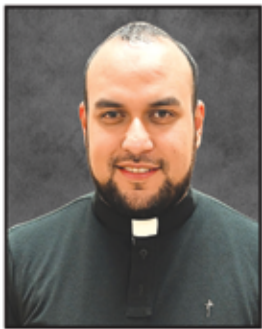
The Market On Tierra Blanca, la única despensa de servicio

completo en el Condado de Randall, abre los martes de 3:00pm a 7:00pm y los viernes de las 9:00am hasta mediodía, al lado

Este de la Iglesia Saint Ann.

Para más información sobre Saint Helen’s Outreach o para ofrecer ser voluntario en el

proyecto El Mercado en Tierra Blanca, favor de llamar a Glenn Backus, 806-655-3302; o email a sthelensofcanon.org.



Diácono Mauricio Valadez



Mr. Richard Escalante



Mr. Benjamin Seago

Nuestros Seminaristas actuales son sus sacerdotes para el futuro ... ¡Invierta en ellos por el bien de su futuro!

Por favor acepten mi contribución a la educación de nuestros futuros sacerdotes. (marque una cantidad)

\$25 \$40 \$50 \$100 \$500 Otra \$_____

Nombre: _____

Dirección: _____

Ciudad: _____

En Honor de: _____

Escriban sus cheques a Diocese of Amarillo
Seminary Burse Fund y envíenlos a:
Diocese of Amarillo Seminary Burse Fund
P.O. Box 5644
Amarillo TX 79117-5644

“No fueron ustedes Quienes Me Escogieron/ Sino que Yo los Escogí a Ustedes” ~ Juan 15:16



New leadership was commissioned for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society at St. Mary's Cathedral during a Dec. 5 Mass. Left to right, are Theresa Grove, Duane Grove, Father Avitus K. Siriwa, who serves as the society's Spiritual Director, Jose Lance Garcia, Tess Walters and Leslie Hartford. (WTC Photo)

Contemplative Power Hour

Amarillo—The Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center at 2100 North Spring is offering a Contemplative Power Hour on Tuesdays, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Adoration will take place from 11:00 to 11:30, fol-

lowed by the recitation of the Rosary at 11:30 and Contemplative Prayer at noon.

For more details please call the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center at 806-383-1811.

Authentic Femininity Mini-Retreat March 13-15

Panhandle—The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the Light invite all young ladies in the Diocese of Amarillo between the ages of 18 and 40 to attend and take part in an *Authentic Femininity Mini-Retreat* Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 15 in the St. Francis House of Prayer at Sancta Maria Convent at 125 John Paul Circle.

"Each mini-retreat has a different topic under the umbrella of Authentic Femininity," said Franciscan Sister of Christ the Light Sister Mary Michael Huseman. "This time, we will focus on *Proverbs 31: Amazing Women of God*. We invite you to join other young ladies exploring the truths of how to live as a Christian woman of God and much more."

Arrival time is 6:00pm on March 13, with the retreat ending after lunch on March 15.

Cost of the retreat is by donation. Please go online to panhandlefranciscans.org/femininity to register for the mini-retreat. For additional information, please call Sancta Maria Convent at 806-537-3182, ext. 3.

New Leadership Commissioned

Amarillo—New leadership has been commissioned for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Installed as the new leadership team during a Dec. 4 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral celebrated by Father Avitus K. Siriwa, the society's Spiritual Director were:

- Theresa Grove;
- Duane Grove;
- Tess Walters;
- Leslie Hartford; and,
- Jose Lance Garcia.

Father Siriwa urged the newly commissioned officers to accompany members in deepening their devotion and to reflect the compassionate Heart of Jesus in their service. He also encouraged them to use their gifts of leadership to promote the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus throughout the Diocese of Amarillo.

Father Siriwa also expressed gratitude to Tara and Dustin Meyer, who have served as leaders since the establishment of the society in the diocese in June 2024.

"Tara and Dustin have helped this group grow significantly and thanks to them, we now have strong devotional prayer groups at St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Thomas the Apostle Church, both in Amarillo," said Father Siriwa. "Our long-term goal is to establish Most Sacred Heart prayer groups in parishes throughout the Diocese of Amarillo."

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society is rooted in an ancient Christian devotion that gained widespread prominence through St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French Visitation nun who re-

ceived revelations between 1673 and 1675. In these revelations, Jesus expressed His profound love for humanity and entrusted to her 12 promises for those devoted to His Sacred Heart. Among these promises he assured that "those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months will receive the grace of final penitence... My divine Heart being their safe refuge in their last moments."

Devotees of the Sacred Heart commit to several spiritual practices, but not limited to:

- Frequent reception of Holy Communion;
- Observing the First Fridays by attending Confession and receiving the Holy Eucharist for nine consecutive months;
- Participating in a weekly Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration; and,
- Celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

New members are welcome and are invited to prepare for consecration at the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, observed annually on the Friday following the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

To learn more about the 12 promises revealed to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, please go online to welcomehisheart.com/12-promises

Learn more about the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Devotion by contacting Duane and Theresa Grove at 303-242-7308 or duane_grove@comcast.net or Father Avitus K. Siriwa at St. Mary's Cathedral, 806-376-7204, ext. 3007 or siriwaavitus@gmail.com.

Attention:

According to Bishop Patrick J. Zurek no activities

are to be scheduled on the parish or diocesan level in the Diocese of Amarillo

on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 until after 1:00pm.

This is to accommodate the annual

Respect Life Mass

which will remember the 53rd anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v Wade decision.

Save Saturday, Aug. 22 on your calendars. The Diocese of Amarillo will celebrate its Centennial with a Mass of Thanksgiving that morning at 10:00 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1200 South Washington. Look for additional information very soon in all available diocesan media and parish bulletins.

The Diocesan Calendar

Please check the diocesan calendar at: amarillodiocese.org/calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts.

To have your event placed on the Diocesan Calendar, please email pertinent information to westtexascatholic@gmail.com

Amarillo Rejoicer's Lenten Women's Prayer Brunch

Saturday, Feb. 14 10:00am to Noon

Tickets \$20

Fellowship Brunch
Praise and Worship
Inspirational Talk
Prayer

Please purchase tickets in advance at
Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center
2100 N. Spring St., Amarillo
Top of Texas Catholic Superstore
2500 S. Coulter St. Suite 100, Amarillo

Save the date
Mother's Day Prayer Brunch Saturday, May 9

Volunteers Needed For Childress Kolbe Retreat



Amarillo—Volunteers are needed for the first Kolbe Prison Retreat of 2026, scheduled at the T. L. Roach Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Childress Thursday, Feb. 5 through Saturday, Feb. 7, according to Deacon Darryl Dixon, a member of the diocesan Prison Ministry team.

Team formation meetings for this retreat begin Tuesday, Jan. 6 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the parlor at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4100 South Coulter, Amarillo. These meetings will continue every Tuesday evening through Feb. 3.

Deacon Dixon is seeking the support of 15 to 20 men from the Knights of Columbus, the ACTS Community and the Cursillo Movement to make the retreat at the Childress Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice possible.

“We are asking for volunteers for these retreats and any assistance to this ministry will be greatly appreciated,” he said.

Additional dates for Kolbe Prison Retreats in 2026 include (*subject to change*):

- Thursday, June 4 to Saturday, June 6 at the William P. Clements Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Amarillo; and,
- Thursday, Oct. 1 through Saturday, Oct. 3 at the Mechler Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Tulia.

The Kolbe Retreats are named after St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Patron Saint of Prisoners, according to Deacon Dixon. St. Maxi-

milian was a Polish Conventual Franciscan Friar who was sent to Auschwitz during World War II in 1941. When Nazi guards selected ten people to be put into an underground bunker to be starved to death in punishment for a prisoner escaping in July 1941, Father Kolbe volunteered to die in place of one of the men selected, Franciszek Gajowniczek. Father Kolbe died Aug. 14, 1941 after a lethal injection of carbolic acid. He was canonized as a Saint by Pope (now Saint) John Paul II on Oct. 10, 1982.

For more details or to volunteer to be a team member on a Kolbe Retreat, please call Deacon Dixon at 806-290-8842. The Kolbe Prison Ministry is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are charitable donations for tax purposes. Donations can be mailed to Kolbe Prison Ministries, P.O. Box 4125, Amarillo, 79116.

“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.”

—St. Maximilian Kolbe



Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle hosted its annual Monte Carlo Night Nov. 14 at Arts in the Sunset, Amarillo. The theme of the evening focused on 1925 in the French Riviera. Sporting their finest attire to match the theme were Deacon Robert Aranda, left, executive assistant to Bishop Patrick J. Zurek and his wife, Linda. (WTC Photo)

You can find additional diocesan news, national and international news from Catholic News Service, the fiscal year 2025-26 Diocesan Calendar and much more on our diocesan website. Bookmark this address: amarillodiocese.org and visit often to keep up with the latest in the Diocese of Amarillo.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Valentine Gala
Saturday, Feb 14
Steak Dinner and Dance

Dinner 6:00pm-8:00pm

Dance 8:00pm-1:00am

Bishop Zurek Parish Hall
2500 S. Bolton, Amarillo



All proceeds
to benefit
Blessed Sacrament
Church

Music featuring
Musica con

Dueto Cortez
DJ Luisillo

Tickets Boletos
\$75 per person
\$75 por persona

For more details, please call Blessed Sacrament Church at 806-371-1132
Para más detalles, por favor llamar a la iglesia Blessed Sacrament, 806-371-1132

IGLESIA BLESSED SACRAMENT

Gala de San Valentin
Sábado, 14 de Febrero
Cena de Bistec y Baile

Cena 6:00pm-8:00pm

Baile 8:00pm-1:00am

Salón Parroquial Bishop Zurek
Calle Bolton 2500 Sur, Amarillo

La ganancia
completa beneficia
a la iglesia
Blessed Sacrament





Franciscan Sister of Christ the Light Sister Mary Michael Huseman, left, prays as Father Lawrence John, JCL, Vicar General for the Diocese of Amarillo and Rector at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo, offers a prayer Nov. 21 before the meal at the 16th Harvest of Blessings Gala at Chateau Event and Wedding Venue, east of Canyon. (WTC Photo)

English As A Second Language

Amarillo—The English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle need volunteers. The program needs volunteers willing to tutor students in a class setting

or individually.

For more details about the ESL program, please contact Ashlee Pallares, program coordinator, at 806-376-4571, or via email, akieth@cctxp.org.



Annual Bovina German Sausage Dinner

Sunday, Jan. 25

11:00am to 1:30pm

Parish Hall on Third Street

Adult suggested donation: \$18.00

Children six and under suggested donation: \$6.00

Takeouts available at no additional charge
Proceeds from dinner benefit St. Ann's Church

For more information, call the church at
806-251-1511

Women's Prayer Brunch Scheduled

Amarillo—A Lenten Women's Prayer Brunch, sponsored by Amarillo Rejoicers, will be offered Saturday, Feb. 14 from 10:00am to noon at the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, 2100 North Spring.

As in the past, the Prayer Brunch will be a ticketed event. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and can be purchased online through the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center website, bdr.org, or at Top of Texas Catholic Superstore in the Signature at 2500 South Coulter.

Seating is limited. Doors for the breakfast will open at 9:00. This is the second of three Women's Prayer Brunches this school year at the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center. The final Prayer Brunch, the traditional Mother's Day Prayer Brunch, is set for Saturday, May 9.

For more details about the Feb. 14 Lenten Women's Prayer Brunch, please call the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center at 806-383-1811.

Lenten Meals, Fish Fries Information Requested

Amarillo—The diocesan Office of Communications is seeking information for Fish Fries and Meals being served during the Lenten season.

Those planning these events are asked to email all pertinent information to: westtexasatholic@gmail.com. A list of meals to be served during Lent will be printed in the February and March issues of *The West Texas Catholic*.

**Thanks for reading
*The West Texas
Catholic***

Priests Birthdays

Priests of the Diocese of Amarillo celebrating birthdays during the month of January include:

Father Lawrence John, JCL
Jan. 5

Father Anthony Kowtiki
Jan. 15

Father Phu T. Phan, JCL
Jan. 27

Father Alvin Tshuma
Jan. 30

Needed: Participants For Adoration

Amarillo—St. Thomas the Apostle Church remains in need of people to participate in the parish's Perpetual Adoration Ministry.

"We have had a Perpetual Adoration Ministry for 20 years here at St. Thomas," said Simon Wright, who serves as Adoration Coordinator. "We invite everyone to become a part of this ministry."

"Adoration is a sign of devotion and worship of Jesus Christ who is, present in body, blood, soul and divinity, under the appearance of the sacramental bread."

"Adoration offers many spiritual benefits. It gives us a chance to be still and listen to God. In the quiet, we can hear His voice better."

Blessed Sacrament Church Valentine Dinner, Dance

Amarillo—The third annual Valentine Dinner and Dance to benefit Blessed Sacrament Church takes place Saturday, Feb. 14, beginning at 6:00pm at Bishop Zurek Parish Hall at 2500 South Bolton.

Tickets for the evening are \$75 per person and all proceeds from the evening will go toward the renovation of the restrooms in the church, according to Father César A. Gómez, Blessed Sacrament pastor.

A Steak Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 8:00, followed by a dance with music from *Dueto Cor-*

"Our Eucharistic Lord Jesus, is available all the time, day and night, for anyone to come to Him to praise Him, to pour out one's heart to Him, to ask for inspiration, to be consoled and comforted in afflictions, to express sorrow for sin, to ask favors, to ask guidance, to get encouragement, to receive strength, to give thanks and to be healed of spiritual and physical infirmities."

"Everyone is welcome. We are in particular need of hourly adorers and substitutes who would be available for late night and early morning hours."

Those interested in this ministry are asked to please contact Wright at 806-570-9776.

tez and DJ Luisillo until 1:00am.

The evening will include a number of other activities, including a game with prizes. The parish is also conducting a raffle, with the top prize a 75" television. There will also be a drawing for other prizes. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

For more information on the evening or to purchase tickets for the raffle, please contact the Blessed Sacrament Church parish office during regular business hours at 806-374-1132 or Deacon Baltazar Montoya at 806-433-5266.

HAVE STOCK YOU WISH TO DONATE?

You can donate stock, or other assets, and direct the proceeds to any parish, Catholic Entity in the Diocese of Amarillo or to the diocese itself, such as the United Catholics Appeal (UCA)

Learn more by calling
Joyce Knight or Jim Mitchell
at 806-383-2243 to obtain
more information on how to donate.



Wanted: Missionaries For The 2026 Totus Tuus Team

Amarillo—Any college-aged men and women (18 years of age and older who are one year post high school graduation), who manifest a desire for holiness, demonstrate a love for Christ and His Church and are committed to sharing the Faith by dedicating their summer to knowing, loving and serving Jesus through Mary, are encouraged to apply for the 2026 *Totus Tuus* team for the Diocese of Amarillo.

"I pray that you will allow becoming a *Totus Tuus* Missionary to aid in your personal encounter with the living Christ," said Mallory Heinen, who oversees *Totus Tuus* for the Diocese of Amarillo. "Join our mission of bringing young adults together to spread the Gospel truth by living in community and being active witnesses to the children and youth of our diocese. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to dedicate eight-and-a half weeks of your summer to proclaiming the saving truths of Jesus Christ to the children and

youth of the Texas Panhandle while deepening your own knowledge and Faith through the sacraments, prayer, teaching, community and friendship.

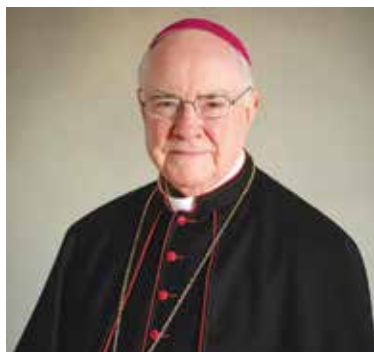
"I served as a *Totus Tuus* missionary for the Diocese of Amarillo for two summers. I gained more than I could have ever imagined—a community of people who continue to help me pursue a life rooted in Jesus Christ, a deep understanding for the necessity of prayer in my daily life, the fruits of having time to discern my vocation and a devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Please prayerful consider saying 'yes' to a summer of *Totus Tuus*. Follow Mary's word to the servants in Cana 'do whatever He tells you.'" (*John 2:5*)

Those interested in applying to be a *Totus Tuus* missionary can find applications online at amarillovocations.org/totustuus. Questions can be addressed to Heinen at 806-290-1698 or totustuusdioama@gmail.com.

"The marriage of those who have been baptized is, in addition, invested with the dignity of a sacramental sign of grace, for it represents the union of Christ and His Church."

—St. Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae*, 1968

New Bishop Named In Corpus Christi



Bishop W. Michael Mulvey

Washington, DC (USCCB)—Pope Leo XIV has accepted the resignation of Bishop W. Michael Mulvey from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, and has appointed Bishop Mario A. Avilés, C.O., currently



Bishop Mario A. Avilés, C.O.

auxiliary bishop of Brownsville, as his successor.

The appointment was publicized on Dec. 1 by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Avilés is scheduled to

be installed as the ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi on Wednesday, Jan. 28. Additional information regarding his installation had yet to be released at presstime.

Bishop Mulvey, 76, was appointed Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Corpus Christi by Pope Benedict XVI on Jan. 18, 2010 and ordained the eighth Bishop of the diocese on March 25. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Austin on June 29, 1975 by Pope (now St.) Paul VI in St. Peter's Square.

Bishop Avilés, 55, was born in Mexico City on Sept. 16, 1969 and joined the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in 1986. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 21, 1998 in San Juan, TX.

Stratford German Sausage Dinner

Stratford—The annual German Sausage Dinner to benefit St. Joseph's Church will be served Sunday, Feb. 22 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Sherman County Barn, 501 Maple, off Highway 287 to the east.

Dinner plates are \$17.00 each.

In addition to traditional German Sausage, sauerkraut and all the fixings, Green Chili Sausage will also be served, according to parish spokesperson Heather Braden. Sausage to go will also

be on sale, as will cooked and uncooked sausage, sold by the pound. Cooked sausage is \$8.00 per pound and uncooked sausage will be sold for \$7.00 per pound.

Find out more about the dinner by calling Braden at 620-629-1593.

A Prayer For Religious Liberty

*Almighty God, Father of all nations,
for freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus
(Gal 5:1).*

*We praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty,
the foundation of human rights, justice, and the
common good.*

*Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote
our liberties;*

*By your grace may we have the courage to defend
them, for ourselves and for all those who live in
this blessed land.*

*We ask this through the intercession of Mary
Immaculate, our patroness and in the name of
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live
and reign, One God forever and ever.*

Amen.

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Is the opportunity to say
Thank You*

*And to wish you the very best for the New Year
Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle*

Wishes all our

*Sponsors, Grantors, Donors, Volunteers, Clients, Friends and Supporters
A Very Merry and Blessed Christmas Season and
A Happy New Year!*