

## IN THIS SECTION:

### Remembering a Deacon

Deacon Bill Allein: 1942-2025  
See Page 3

### United Catholics Appeal

An update on the 25-26 Appeal  
See Page 4

### Diocesan Calendar

Activities for 2026  
See Pages 5-8

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THE

# WEST TEXAS CATHOLIC

westtexasatholic.org



Volume 85, No. 16

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

December 21, 2025

## Leading Off

**Amarillo**—Parishes are beginning to assemble its lists of Catholic high school seniors for the annual Graduation Issue of *The West Texas Catholic*, which will be dated Sunday, May 17.

Parents of Catholic high school seniors are asked to contact their parish with their graduates' names as soon as possible. The list of Catholic high school graduates from diocesan parishes is due to the Office of Communications by **NOON on Thursday, Feb. 26.**

Questions regarding the 2026 Graduation Issue can be addressed to the diocesan Office of Communications at 806-414-1075, or via email, [westtexasatholic@gmail.com](mailto:westtexasatholic@gmail.com).

**Amarillo**—A *Know, Love, Serve* Thematic Retreat, presented by the Diocesan Youth Office, is set for Saturday, Jan. 31, beginning at 9:30am in the parish hall at St. Lawrence Church, 2300 North Spring.

The retreat, which is for students in grades six through twelve, is being offered to all youth throughout the Diocese of Amarillo, according to Diocesan Youth Director Oscar Guzman.

Cost of the retreat is \$25 per person.

Learn more about the retreat by contacting Luis Ruiz at 806-338-0873 or via email, [luiscarlos1872@gmail.com](mailto:luiscarlos1872@gmail.com). Additional details can also be found at [amarillodiocese.org/know-love-serve-retreat](http://amarillodiocese.org/know-love-serve-retreat). The *Know, Love, Serve* Thematic Retreat is presented by Covenant Teen and supported by the United Catholic Appeal.

**The Diocesan Pastoral Center closes at 5:00pm Tuesday, Dec. 23 for Christmas and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 5 at 9:00am. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

## Vatican: Marriage Is An Exclusive Union Requiring 'Tender Care'



**Pope Leo XIV greets newlywed couples who came for a blessing at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Nov. 19. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)**

**Vatican City (CNS)**—The foundation of sacramental marriage is the unity of the spouses, a bond so intense and grace-filled that it is exclusive and indissoluble, said a document from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The document, *Una Caro (One Flesh): In Praise of Monogamy. Doctrinal Note on the Value of Marriage as an Exclusive Union and Mutual Belonging*, was released only in Italian by the Vatican Nov. 25. Pope Leo XIV approved its contents Nov. 21 and authorized its publication.

"Although each marital union is a unique reality, embodied within human limitations, every authentic marriage is a unity composed of two individuals, requiring a relationship so intimate and all-encompassing that it cannot be shared with others," the document said.

Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the doctrinal dicastery, wrote in the document's introduction that the dicastery wanted to draw from Scripture, theology, philosophy and "even poetry" to explain why it is best to choose "a unique and exclusive union of love, a reciprocal belonging that is rich and all-embracing."

The poets quoted included Walt Whitman, Pablo Neruda, Emily Dickinson and Rabindranath Tagore.

The dicastery said it issued the note in response to requests from the bishops of Africa where polygamy is still practiced as well as because "various public forms of non-monogamous unions—sometimes called 'polyamory'—are growing in the West."

"Polygamy, adultery or polyamory are based on the illusion that

## Pope: Vatican Always Will Denounce Injustice

**Vatican City (CNS)**—Welcoming a group of new ambassadors to the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV told them, "The Holy See will not be a silent bystander to the grave disparities, injustices and fundamental human rights violations in our human and global community."

In a world that is "increasingly more fractured and conflict-prone," he said, the Vatican always will speak up to defend human dignity and peace.

Pope Leo met Dec. 6 with the new ambassadors representing Uzbekistan, Moldova, Bahrain, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Liberia, Thailand, Lesotho, South Africa, Fiji, Micronesia, Latvia and Finland.

All the ambassadors have other assignments as well and do not live

in Rome. When the pope accepts the letters of credential of new ambassadors resident in the city, he conducts a private meeting with them. Nonresident ambassadors are received as a group, and the pope gives a speech.

The pope told the group that when he greeted the crowds who had gathered at the Vatican for his election May 8, he wanted to share "the greeting of the Risen Lord Jesus—'Peace be with you'—and to invite all peoples to pursue what I have called an 'unarmed and disarming peace.'"

"Peace is not merely the absence of conflict but 'an active and demanding gift,' one that is 'built in the heart and from the heart,'" he told them, quoting from his first

speech to the diplomatic corps after his election in May.

Peace, he said, "calls each of us to renounce pride and vindictiveness and to resist the temptation to use words as weapons."

Promoting peace, the pope told the ambassadors, "has become all the more urgent, as geopolitical tension and fragmentation continue to deepen in ways that burden nations and that strain the bonds of the human family."

And the poor are always the first to suffer, he said.

"In my apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te*, I echoed the same conviction: that our world cannot afford to avert its gaze from those

Please see "Injustice," p. 3

Please see "Marriage," p. 2

## Marriage... from page 1

the intensity of a relationship can be found in the succession of faces," the document said. But "as the myth of Don Juan illustrates, numbers dissolve the names; they disperse the unity of the loving impulse."

While the Church, its theologians, pastors and canon lawyers have written much about the indissolubility of the marriage bond, the note said, there has been less official reflection "on the unity of marriage—meaning marriage understood as a unique and exclusive union between one man and one woman."

The doctrinal dicastery insisted that sacramental marriage is forever and that openness to procreation is an essential part of marriage, but it also said the purpose of the doctrinal note was to focus primarily on the unitive aspect of marriage.

While there are examples of polygamy in the Old Testament, many other passages celebrate the love found in an exclusive, monogamous relationship, it said. And the *Song of Songs* uses the language of a lover and beloved allegorically to refer to the relationship of God with His people—a relationship that is unique and exclusive.

In the Gospels, it said, Jesus exalts Faithful, lifelong monogamy, pointing back to God's "original plan" that a man and a woman would become "one flesh."

The document has a long section on what popes and Christian theologians—from the early Church to modern times—have said and written about marriage.

Unlike other early theologians, it said, St. John Chrysostom did not

emphasize procreation as a primary purpose for marriage but wrote that "the unity of marriage, through the choice of a single person to whom one is joined, serves to free people from an unrestrained sexual outlet devoid of love or fidelity, and properly directs sexuality."

Until Pope Leo XIII wrote an encyclical on marriage in 1880, the popes did not write much about matrimony, the document said.

In that encyclical, it said, the pope's defense of monogamy was in part "a defense of the dignity of women, which cannot be denied or dishonored even for the sake of procreation. The unity of marriage therefore implies a free choice on the part of the woman, who has the right to demand exclusive reciprocity."

Because marriage is a union between a man and a woman "who possess exactly the same dignity and the same rights," the document said, "it demands that exclusivity which prevents the other from being relativized in their unique value or being used merely as a means among others to satisfy needs."

In the Latin-rite Sacrament of Matrimony, it noted, "consent is expressed by saying: 'I take you

as my wife,' and 'I take you as my husband.' In this regard, following the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, it must be said that consent is a 'human act by which the spouses mutually give and receive one another.'"

"This act, 'which binds the spouses to each other,' is a giving and a receiving: it is the dynamism that gives rise to mutual belonging, called to deepen, to mature and to become ever more solid," the doctrinal note said.

How that belonging to one another in an exclusive way is lived out may change over time, "when physical attraction and the possibility of sexual relations weaken," the document said, but it does not end.

"Naturally, various intimate expressions of affection will not be lacking, and these are also considered exclusive," it said. "Precisely

because the experience of reciprocal and exclusive belonging has deepened and strengthened over time, there are expressions that are reserved only for that person with whom one has chosen to share one's heart in a unique way."

"The mutual belonging proper to exclusive, reciprocal love implies a delicate care, a holy fear of profaning the freedom of the other, who has the same dignity and therefore the same rights," the note said.

The unique friendship of spouses, it said, is "full of mutual knowledge, appreciation of the other, complicity, intimacy, understanding and patience, concern for the good of the other and sensitive gestures."

That friendship "transcends sexuality," but "at the same time embraces it and gives it its most beautiful, profound, unifying and fruitful meaning," the document said.

### Natural Family Planning Calendar

**Amarillo**—Two Natural Family Planning opportunities in the Diocese of Amarillo have been scheduled in early-2026.

Marquette Method sessions in English will be offered Saturday, Jan. 10 and Saturday, March 14, both at 1:00pm at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 4512 NE 24th Ave., Amarillo. For more information or to register for the sessions, please contact Dr. Faye Usala at 806-683-

5561 or via email, fayeobrienusala@gmail.com.

An online, Sympto-Thermal self-paced NFP class in either English or Spanish can be accessed at ccli.org. Cost of the class is \$170, plus shipping. The class lasts approximately two months, according to Jennifer Wagner.

Learn more about the course by contacting Wagner at 806-433-9561.

[amarillodiocese.org](http://amarillodiocese.org)

## Prayer Intentions of Pope Leo XIV 2026

Please join the millions worldwide who pray each day for the monthly prayer intentions of Pope Leo XIV. Since 1844 the members of the Apostleship of Prayer have offered themselves to God for the salvation of souls, the Church, the intentions of all Apostles of Prayer and the intentions of the Pope. The Holy Father gives us two prayer intentions each month—one, a general intention and the other an intention for world missions.

### January:

• **For Prayer with the Word of God.** Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

[westtexascatholic.org](http://westtexascatholic.org)

## THE WEST TEXAS CATHOLIC

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*The West Texas Catholic* welcomes your letters, articles, church bulletins and captured photos, preferably in a digital JPEG format. Photos taken by cellphone cameras will not be accepted for publication in *The West Texas Catholic*. Letters must be signed and include your mailing address and telephone number; however, only the letter writer's name and city will be published. Email is the preferred method of receiving information and photos.

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## 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.**



## Deacon William “Bill” Allein: 1942-2025



**Deacon Bill Allein**

**Amarillo**—Deacon William “Bill” Allein, who served the Diocese of Amarillo as a deacon from 2006 to 2017, passed away Dec. 8. He was 83 years old.

A Mass will be celebrated in Buffalo in the near future.

William Joseph Allein was born on Feb. 2, 1942 in Buffalo, the first-born son of Joseph and Lorraine Allein. According to his family, he carried a bold, head-strong spirit with him throughout his life. He had opinions—plenty of them and did not mind sharing them, whether you agreed or not, you always knew exactly where he stood. Deacon Allein approached life the same way: direct, determined and marching to the beat of his own drum. His presence influenced those around him in ways that were real and uniquely his.

Deacon Allein was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on June 17, 2006 at St. Laurence Cathedral (now St. Laurence Church) by then-Bishop John W. Yanta. He

was an active deacon until his retirement in 2017. His family said the diaconate was an important chapter in his life and Faith. The family added that Deacon Allein in his ministry offered guidance, compassion and a steady spiritual presence to his community, sharing his belief in God and his commitment to serving others.

The Allein family commented that Deacon Allein was a man whose personality filled whatever space he was in, sometimes to our delight, often in our amusement and always in a way we won’t forget. He lived with conviction, volume and a certain unapologetic confidence. Subtlety was never his style.

Deacon Allein was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Genave Allein; a brother, Richard Allein; and a brother-in-law, Robert Matthewson.

Survivors include four daughters, Deborah Epler and her husband Joseph Jr., Linda Fukuoka and her husband Tatsuo, Pamela Kuhn and Rebecca Petross and her husband Jason; his wife’s Vivian’s four children, Scott Wayne Abernathy, David Garland Abernathy, Donald Robert Abernathy and Angela Vivian Abernathy; three siblings, Mary Barnum and her husband James, Susan Green and Joann Matthewson; his former wife, Shirley Murray Allein; 16 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

## Pampa Parish Fundraiser

**Pampa**—Tickets are now available for the annual Parish Fundraiser to benefit St. Vincent de Paul Church on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 6:30pm to 11:30pm in the Pastoral Education Center (PEC) at 810 West 23rd Street.

Tickets for the evening are \$125 each, which includes a dinner for two, served from 7:15 to 8:15, dancing and a chance to win the top prize of a \$4,000 VISA Gift Card. Second prize is a \$2,000 VISA Gift Card and third prize is a \$1,000 VISA Gift Card. The winners will be determined in a reverse

raffle, according to St. Vincent de Paul parishioner Dr. Jack Albracht, chairman of the event.

The evening will also include music, Calcutta boards, a Silent Auction and a Live Auction at 8:30. No one under the age of 21 will be admitted into the fundraiser, including babies. No takeout plates for the meal will be sold.

For more details, to purchase tickets or donate items for the auctions, please contact Dr. Albracht at 806-663-1950; or, the St. Vincent de Paul parish office at 806-665-8933.

**“We must sacrifice everything for everything: our ambitions, indeed our entire selves, for the cause of the Faith.”**

—St. Pier Giorgio Frassati



**Catholic Student Center at  
West Texas A&M University  
2610 4th Avenue  
Canyon, 79015  
806-655-4345  
wtscsc.com**

**Father Alvin Tshuma,  
Chaplain/Executive Director  
Betty Aragon,  
Assistant Director**

### Mass and Activity Schedule: Sundays:

5:30pm, Mass

### Mondays:

8:00pm-11:00pm, Adoration

### Wednesdays:

4:30pm, Confession

5:30pm, Catholic U

6:30pm, Mass

7:00pm, Free Home-cooked Meal

### Nightly Prayer at 10:00

## Injustice... from page 1

who are easily rendered invisible by rapid economic and technological change,” Pope Leo said.

The pope asked the ambassadors to work with the Holy See in highlighting “the situations of those in need, those who are too often forgotten,” and he prayed that “our shared commitment will inspire the international community to lay the foundations for a more just, fraternal and peaceful world.”

## Volunteers Needed

**Amarillo**—Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle needs volunteers in its InterFaith Hunger Project grocery store.

Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays and Thursdays to check out clients, sack groceries and deliver them to their vehicles. Volunteers are also needed to help stock shelves.

Find out more by calling Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle at 806-376-4571.

## Ana Maria Chairez de Mercado: 1925-2025



**Ana Maria Chairez  
de Mercado**

**Perryton**—Ana Maria Chairez de Mercado, one of the oldest parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church, passed away Nov. 23 at the age of 100.

Mass was celebrated Nov. 26, Immaculate Conception Church, Father Victor Hugo Andrade, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Ochiltree Cemetery.

Mrs. Chairez was born Feb. 16,

1925 in Apaseo Nieves, Zacatecas, Mexico, the daughter of Teresa Mendoza and Florentino Chairez. She married her husband, Jose Vicente Mercado in June 8, 1944 in Zacatecas. Mrs. Chairez was a homemaker and later in life worked as a produce picker in Oxnard, Calif. According to her family, she loved going to the casino, loved chicken nuggets and believed the key to a long life was drinking Coca Cola.

Survivors include four daughters, Irene Mercado, Ana C. Mercado and her husband Joel, all of Oxnard and Tere Mercado and Edith Mercado and her husband Andres, all of Perryton; two sons, Rogelio Mercado and his wife Adela of Santa Maria, Calif. and Gerardo Mercado and his wife Luz of Oxnard; a son-in-law, Estevan Gutierrez; 36 grandchildren; 100 great-grandchildren; 38 great-great-grandchildren; and two great-great-great-grandchildren.



## Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

### OUR MISSION

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) acts through its members to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. DCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

### Women of Faith — You're Invited!

Join the DCCW and grow in Faith while building lasting friendships and serving with purpose.

All are welcome!

**Come serve, connect and be blessed.**

**For more information please contact:**

**Emily Sanchez**  
(806) 676-0251

**Jeannie Friddell**  
(806) 679-9144



Steward Saints

**St. Raymond of Penyafort**  
**(1175-1275)**  
**Priest**  
**Feast Day: Jan. 7**  
**Optional Memorial**

St. Raymond was born near Barcelona, in Spain, and lived to be 100-years-old.  
The son of noble parents, he

studied philosophy and law and earned doctorates in both civil and canon law before he was 30.  
When he was 47, he joined the newly formed Order of Preachers (the “Dominicans”) and later served as head of that order. At the request of Pope Gregory IX, he collected and organized Church

Law into five volumes, known as the “decretals,” which remained one of the most complete references on Canon Law until the modern codification in 1917.  
St. Raymond also wrote a practical handbook on the Sacrament of Penance and served as confessor to the Pope.

When he “retired” as head of his order at 65, he returned to Spain and devoted himself to spiritual direction and the evangelization of the Moors. An expert in law, a persuasive preacher and a compassionate confessor, St. Raymond of Penyafort had many gifts—and used them for almost a century in

the service of God.  
*Steward Saints, from the book Steward Saints for Every Day, written by Sharon Hueckel ©1999 the National Catholic Stewardship Council.*

Ordination  
Anniversaries

- Deacons of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their ordination anniversaries in December include:
- Deacon Michael Anzaldúa  
Dec. 3, 2016
  - Deacon Robert Aranda  
Dec. 3, 2016
  - Deacon José Castañeda  
Dec. 3, 2016
  - Deacon Joe Hochstein  
Dec. 3, 2016
  - Deacon Brian Lewis  
Dec. 3, 2016
  - Deacon Richard Martinez  
Dec. 3, 2016
  - Deacon Davin Winger  
Dec. 3, 2016
  - Deacon Gabriel Bermudez  
Dec. 6, 2025
  - Deacon Jesus Chacon  
Dec. 6, 2025
  - Deacon Jesus Martinez  
Dec. 6, 2025
  - Deacon Todd Murray  
Dec. 6, 2025
  - Deacon Rudy Munoz  
Dec. 6, 2025
  - Deacon Dwayne Rickwartz  
Dec. 6, 2025
  - Deacon Kevin Rickwartz  
Dec. 6, 2025
  - Deacon Martin M. Ruiz  
Dec. 6, 2025

Ordination  
Anniversaries

- Deacons of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their ordination anniversaries in January include:
- Deacon Jose Correa  
Jan. 6, 2001
  - Deacon José Garcia  
Jan. 26, 2008
- Ordination  
Anniversaries
- Priests of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their ordination anniversaries in the month of January include:
- Father John Valdez  
Jan. 19, 1991
  - Father Anthony Kowtiki  
Jan. 26, 2002

United Catholics Appeal 2025-26	City	Parish	Quota	Pledged Amount By Parishioners	Amount Paid By Parishioners
	Amarillo	St. Laurence	45,038	\$40,999	25,732
	Amarillo	Our Lady of Vietnam	15,709	\$1,571	1,571
	Amarillo	Blessed Sacrament	29,293	\$26,146	16,531
	Amarillo	Our Lady of Guadalupe	34,673	\$27,370	16,620
	Amarillo	St. Francis of Assisi	18,262	\$21,622	18,071
	Amarillo	St. Hyacinth	38,659	\$42,935	34,144
	Amarillo	St. Martin de Porres	15,360	\$6,401	5,351
	Amarillo	St. Joseph's	53,696	\$62,620	35,167
	Amarillo	St. Mary's Cathedral	144,926	\$128,915	90,441
	Amarillo	St. Thomas the Apostle	192,772	\$237,437	176,117
	Booker	St. Peter's	9,040	\$6,420	4,620
	Borger	St. John the Evangelist	39,689	\$34,846	27,527
	Bovina	St. Ann's	10,444	\$6,473	5,458
	Cactus	Our Lady of Guadalupe	14,808	\$16,230	12,475
	Canadian	Sacred Heart	13,012	\$7,997	7,227
	Canyon	St. Ann's	109,588	\$107,654	78,316
	Childress	Holy Angels	8,619	\$6,989	5,684
	Clarendon	St. Mary's	2,275	\$2,453	2,118
	Dalhart	St. Anthony of Padua	56,634	\$62,321	54,471
	Dimmitt	Immaculate Conception	15,252	\$10,982	7,052
	Dumas	Sts. Peter and Paul	59,645	\$41,595	31,397
	Friona	St. Teresa of Jesus	12,152	\$7,894	6,009
	Groom	Immaculate Heart of Mary	21,191	\$21,601	18,782
	Gruver	Cristo Redentor	5,542	\$1,932	1,932
	Happy	Holy Name of Jesus	1,533	\$2,140	1,250
	Hart	St. John Nepomucene	7,563	\$5,937	4,261
	Hereford	St. Anthony's	62,860	\$39,755	34,070
	Hereford	San Jose	47,376	\$30,566	23,362
	Kress	St. Paul the Apostle	2,466	\$2,475	1,451
	Memphis	Sacred Heart	3,228	\$2,043	1,817
	Nazareth	Holy Family	51,667	\$45,816	40,198
	Pampa	St. Vincent de Paul	43,274	\$40,425	27,560
	Panhandle	St. Theresa's	12,373	\$15,555	14,805
	Perryton	Immaculate Conception	36,744	\$31,596	21,956
	Quitaque	San Juan Diego	1,414	\$283	283
	Shamrock	St. Patrick's	5,900	\$5,694	5,384
	Silverton	Our Lady of Loreto	3,640	\$240	100
	Spearman	Sacred Heart of Jesus	27,109	\$11,843	11,293
	Stinnett	St. Ann's	4,395	\$3,586	1,891
	Stratford	St. Joseph's	10,237	\$11,005	8,788
	Sunray	Christ the King	3,778	\$5,310	3,540
	Texline	St. Mary's	2,596	\$4,200	3,500
	Tulia	Church of the Holy Spirit	15,476	\$16,615	11,700
	Turkey	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	1,207	\$365	365
	Umbarger	St. Mary's	15,794	\$13,927	12,257
	Vega	Immaculate Conception	21,488	\$22,890	22,293
	Wellington	Our Mother of Mercy	4,521	\$4,157	2,862
	Wheeler	St. Mary's	5,736	\$2,952	2,297
	White Deer	Sacred Heart	10,242	\$5,382	5,382
			1,368,896	\$1,256,160	945,478

8—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
9—International Buy Your Priest a Beer Day (806-355-5621)  
10—Deadline to submit information for the Golden Tributes section in the Sept. 20 issue of *The West Texas Catholic* (806-414-1075)  
12—Deacon Formation, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 117)  
12—*TREAT* Fundraiser, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
13—Jamaica, St. Ann’s Church, Bovina (806-251-1511)  
13—Jamaica to benefit San Juan Diego Church, City Park, Quitaque (806-823-2548)  
13—Grandparents Day  
14—The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
15—Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows  
15—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
18—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)  
20—Catechetical Sunday  
20—Jamaica to benefit Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Main Street, Spearman (806-659-2166)  
21—Feast of St. Matthew  
23—Feast of St. Pius of Pietrelcina  
22—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
27—Priesthood Sunday  
29—Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels  
29—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

October

1-31—Safe Environment Month throughout the diocese. All minors attending Parish Programs must receive *Circle of Grace®* classroom training. (806-383-2243, ext. 117)  
1-31—Respect Life Month (806-414-1059)  
1-3—Kolbe Prison Retreat, Dalhart Unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (806-290-8842)  
2—Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels  
3—Deacon Formation, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 117)  
3—Annual Fall Carnival to benefit St. Mary’s Cathedral School, school and parish grounds, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Amarillo (806-376-9112)

3—Gala to benefit St. Anthony’s School, St. Anthony’s School Gym, Hereford (806-364-1952)  
4—Feast of St. Francis of Assisi  
4—Deacon Sunday (806-383-2243, ext. 117)  
5—Feast of St. Faustina  
6—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
7—Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary  
10—School Festival, grounds of St. Joseph’s Church and St. Joseph’s School, Amarillo (806-359-1604)  
12—Feast of St. Carlo Acutis  
12—Columbus Day  
13—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
15—Feast of St. Teresa of Jesus  
16—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)  
17—Youth Dinner to benefit Sacred Heart Church, Canadian Elementary School (806-323-6608)  
18—Annual Chicken Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Martin de Porres Church, Amarillo (806-376-8771)  
18—Mexican Pile-On Dinner to benefit Sacred Heart Church, Canadian Elementary School (806-323-6608)  
18—45th Annual Oktoberfest and Auction to benefit St. Anthony of Padua School, Rita Blanca Coliseum, Dalhart (806-244-4811)  
20—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
22—Feast of St. John Paul II  
22-24—Calendar Project, Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, Columbus Home Association, Amarillo (806-679-7855)  
23-25—Deacons and Wives Retreat, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 117)  
25—Enchilada Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Mary’s Church, Clarendon (806-874-3910)  
27—Annual Enrollment Report for Parish Faith Formation Programs is due to the diocesan Faith Formation Office (806-383-2243, ext. 113)  
27—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
28—Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude  
29-31—Women’s ACTS Retreat, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-344-4842)  
31—23rd Fallback Festival, Parish Hall, St. Ann’s Church, Canyon (806-655-3302)

November

1-7—National Vocation Awareness Week (806-355-5621)  
1—All Saints Day  
1—Daylight Saving Time ends. Standard Time resumes at 2:00am. *Please set clocks back an hour.*  
1—Women’s ACTS Retreat, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-344-4842)  
1—*Christmas in November*, Parish Hall, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo (806-584-3947)  
1—Thanksgiving Dinner, St. Ann’s Church, Bovina (806-251-1511)  
1—Thanksgiving Dinner, Parish Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, Dimmitt (806-647-4219/806-240-4594)  
1—20th Annual German Sausage Dinner, Immaculate Conception Church, Vega (806-344-5971)  
1—12th Drive-Through Polish Sausage Dinner, to benefit Knights of Columbus Council #2767, Pastoral Education Center, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa (806-663-1950)  
2—All Souls Day  
3—Feast of St. Martin de Porres  
3—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
3—Election Day  
4—Feast of St. Charles Borromeo  
7-8—Thanksgiving Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Laurence Church, Amarillo (806-383-2261)  
7—Deacon Formation, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 117)  
7—Annual 5K Freedom Run, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #4621, Thompson Park, Amarillo (806-683-3272)  
8—37th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Pastoral Center, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas (806-935-5002)  
8—75th Annual German Sausage Festival, Parish Hall, St. Mary’s Church, Umbarger (806-499-3531/806-499-3446)  
9—The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica  
10—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
11—Veteran’s Day  
11—Remembrance Day, Holy Cross Catholic Academy Event Center, Amarillo (806-355-9637)  
13—Feast of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini  
13—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

14—17th Fall Fun Raiser, Parish Hall, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Amarillo (806-231-0066)  
15—2026-2027 Initial Parish/Catholic Schools Safe Environment Reports Due (806-383-2243, ext. 117)  
17—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
21-22—Engaged Encounter Weekend, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-414-1059)  
21—The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
21—World Day of Cloistered Life  
21—Harvest of Blessings Gala to benefit the Franciscan Sisters of Christ the Light, Legacy Room, Arts in the Sunset at Sunset Center, Amarillo (806-537-3182, ext. 3)  
22—Christ the King Sunday  
23-27—Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo closed for Thanksgiving  
24—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
25—Diocesan Pastoral Center closes at noon for Thanksgiving  
26—Thanksgiving Day  
27—Diocesan Pastoral Center and the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center closed for Thanksgiving  
29—First Sunday of Advent  
30—Feast of St. Andrew

December

1—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
5—Deacon Formation, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 117)  
5—Christmas Craft Show, Pastoral Center, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas (806-935-5002 or via email, theswartz24@gmail.com)  
8—Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *Holy Day of Obligation. Diocesan Pastoral Center closed.*  
8—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
10—Feast of Our Lady of Loreto  
10—Deadline to submit information for the Golden Tributes section in the Dec. 20 issue of *The West Texas Catholic* (806-414-1075)  
11—Annual Christmas Luncheon, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
12—Children’s Business Fair, St. Anthony’s School, Hereford (806-364-1952)

PULL-OUT  
Events Calendar  
begins on other side

12—Advent Women’s Prayer Brunch, sponsored by Amarillo Rejoicers, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
14—Feast of St. John of the Cross  
15—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
18—Final day of classes, Fall 2026 Semester, Catholic Schools, Diocese of Amarillo  
18—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)  
22—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)  
24—Christmas Eve  
25—Christmas Day  
26—Feast of St. Stephen  
27—Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
28—Feast of the Holy Innocents  
31—Diocesan Pastoral Center closed for New Year’s holiday

Deacons Birthdays

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

Deacon Brian Lewis  
Jan. 4

Deacon John Niño  
Jan. 4

Deacon Blaine Westlake  
Jan. 5

Deacon Pete Valdez  
Jan. 5

Deacon Jesus Martinez  
Jan. 5

Deacon Jesus Chacon  
Jan. 6

Deacon Louis Artho  
Jan. 16

Deacon David Dueñes  
Jan. 18

Deacon Dwayne F. Rickwartz  
Jan. 19

Deacon Bob Birkenfeld  
Jan. 25

Please pray for  
much needed rain!



**Amarillo**—The Office of Communications for the Diocese of Amarillo has released the 2026 diocesan calendar, listing events in the diocese, taking place between Thursday, Jan. 1 through Thursday, Dec. 31.

The calendar was compiled from listings primarily provided by diocesan organizations, parishes and schools. **Events listed here are subject to change without notice.**

Additional dates for updated versions of this calendar can be sent via email to westtexascatholic@gmail.com. This calendar can also be found on the diocesan website, amarillodiocese.org.

### January

1—Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. **Holy Day of Obligation. New Year's Day. Diocesan Pastoral Center closed.**

1-4—Teen ACTS Retreat, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-344-4842)

2—Diocesan Pastoral Center closed for Christmas Break

4—The Epiphany of the Lord

5—Feast of St. John Neumann

5—Diocesan Pastoral Center reopens after Christmas Break

6—First Day of classes, 2026 Spring Semester, Catholic Schools, Diocese of Amarillo

6—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

10—Natural Family Planning Marquette Method Course, Conference Center, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Amarillo (806-683-5561)

11—The Baptism of the Lord

13—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

16—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, Sancta Maria Convent, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

19—Martin Luther King Jr. Day. **Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo are closed.**

20—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

22—Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

24—Respect Life Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo (806-376-7204)

**According to Bishop Patrick J. Zurek, no other Masses or activities are to be scheduled until after 1:00pm on the diocesan level so that all Catholics can attend the annual Respect Life Mass.**

24—Youth Mini Rally for South Deanery, Holy Family Church, Nazareth (806-383-2243, ext. 118)

25-31—Catholic Schools Week

25—German Sausage Dinner, St. Ann's Church, Bovina (806-251-1511)

25—First Mass of the Spring Semester, Catholic Student Center at West Texas A&M University, Canyon (806-655-4345)

26—Catholic Schools Week Mass for St. Anthony's School, Hereford, St. Anthony's Church (806-364-1952)

27—Catholic Schools Week Mass for St. Anthony of Padua School, Dalhart, St. Anthony of Padua Church (806-244-4811)

27—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

28—Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas

28—Catholic Schools Week Mass for Holy Cross Catholic Academy, Amarillo, St. Joseph's Church (806-355-9637)

29—Catholic Schools Week Mass for Saint Joseph's School, Amarillo, St. Joseph's Church (806-359-1604)

30—Catholic Schools Week Mass for St. Mary's Cathedral School, Amarillo, St. Mary's Church (806-376-9112)

30—Holy Cross Catholic Academy Calendar Party, HCCA Event Center, Amarillo (806-355-9637)

31—*Know, Love, Serve* Thematic Retreat, St. Laurence Church, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 118)

31—Feast of St. John Bosco

### February

1-2—World Day for Consecrated Life (806-355-5621)

2—The Presentation of the Lord

3—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

5-7—Kolbe Prison Retreat, T.L. Roach Unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Childress (806-290-8842)

7-14—National Marriage Week

7—Annual Fundraiser to benefit the Catholic Student Center at West Texas A&M University, Canyon, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Amarillo (806-655-4345)

8—World Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

10—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

11—World Marriage Day

13—*An Evening for Married Couples*, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

14—Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius

14—Women's Lenten Prayer Brunch, presented by Amarillo Rejoicers, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

14—Valentine's Day Steak Dinner and Dance, Bishop Zurek Parish Hall, Blessed Sacrament Church, Amarillo (806-374-1132)

14—Parish Fundraiser, Pastoral Education Center, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa (806-665-8933)

15—2025-2026 Parish/Catholic Schools Safe Environment Follow-up Reports Due (806-383-2243, ext. 117)

15—Third annual Brisket Dinner to benefit St. Joseph's Church, Saint Joseph's School Gym, Amarillo (806-355-5621)

16—President's Day. **Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo are closed.**

17—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

17—Shrove Tuesday Shrimp Boil, hosted by Knights of Columbus Council #7840, Parish Hall, St. Ann's Church, Canyon (806-655-3302)

18—Ash Wednesday. **Day of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.**

20—Salt and Pepper Luncheon to benefit Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle, Amarillo Club (806-376-4571)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #12563, Parish Hall, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Amarillo (806-335-1872)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #7840, Parish Hall, St. Ann's Church, Canyon (806-655-3302)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, St. Mary's Church, Clarendon (806-874-3910)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, Parish Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, Dimmitt (806-647-4219)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8938, Parish Hall, San Jose Church, Hereford (806-340-8657)

20—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

22—Rite of Election, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 113)

22—Catholic Daughters of America Court #2472 Enchilada Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Martin de Porres Church, Amarillo (806-676-7973)

22—Eighteenth anniversary of Bishop Patrick J. Zurek's installation as the eighth Bishop of Amarillo.

22—Sausage Dinner to benefit St. Joseph's Church, Stratford, Sherman County Barn (620-629-1593)

24—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

26-28—Men's ACTS Retreat, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-344-4842)

26—Noon deadline for all names of Catholic high school seniors to be submitted for the 2026 Graduation Section of *The West Texas Catholic* (806-414-1075)

27—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #4621 and the music department at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Amarillo, Parish Gym (806-358-2461)

27—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus #2776, Parish Family Center, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Dalhart (806-244-4128)

27—Lenten Fish Fry, Parish Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, Dimmitt (806-647-4219)

27—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #2778, St. Anthony's School Cafeteria, Hereford (806-364-6150)

27—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8938, Parish Hall, San Jose Church, Hereford (806-340-8657)

### March

1—Men's ACTS Retreat, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-344-4842)

1—35th Annual Czech Sausage Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Ann's Church, Canyon (806-655-3302)

1—Mexican Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Teresa of Jesus Church, Friona (806-346-9663)

1—Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Auction to benefit St. Anthony's School, St. Anthony School Gym, Hereford (806-364-1952)

3—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

5-8—Women's Cursillo, St. Francis Convent, Amarillo (806-323-6608)

## Prayer for Priestly Vocations in the Diocese of Amarillo

Oh Jesus, eternal Shepherd of souls!

Deign to look with eyes of mercy on this portion of your beloved flock.

Lord, we need a greater number of priests.

Multiply vocations and sanctify our priests more and more.

We ask this through the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary of Guadalupe, your sweet and holy Mother.

Oh Jesus, give us priests, according to your Heart! Amen.





PULL-OUT  
Events Calendar  
2026

5—Deadline to submit information for Golden Tributes section of March 15 issue of *The West Texas Catholic* (806-414-1075)

6—Lenten Fish Fry, St. Mary's Church, Clarendon (806-874-3910)

6—Lenten Fish Fry, Parish Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, Dimmitt (806-647-4219)

6—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #2778, St. Anthony's School Cafeteria, Hereford (806-364-6150)

6—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8938, Parish Hall, San Jose Church, Hereford (806-340-8657)

7—Craft Show, Pastoral Center, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas (via email, theswartz24@gmail.com)

8—Daylight Saving Time begins at 3:00am. **Please move clocks ahead one hour to conform.**

8—German Sausage Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Amarillo (806-335-1872)

8—Polish Sausage Dinner, conducted by Knights of Columbus Council #2767, PEC, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa (806-663-1950)

10—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

13-15—Authentic Femininity Mini-Retreat, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

13—Lenten Fish Fry, Parish Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, Dimmitt (806-647-4219)

13—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8938, Parish Hall, San Jose Church, Hereford (806-340-8657)

14—Natural Family Planning Marquette Method Course, Conference Center, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Amarillo (806-683-5561)

16-20—Spring Break for Catholic Schools, Diocese of Amarillo

17—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

19—Feast of St. Joseph

20—Worship Prayer Movie Night, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus #2776, Parish Family Center, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Dalhart (806-244-4128)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, St. Mary's Church, Clarendon (806-874-3910)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, Parish Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, Dimmitt (806-647-4219)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8938, Parish Hall, San Jose Church, Hereford (806-340-8657)

20—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #2778, St. Anthony's School Cafeteria, Hereford (806-364-6150)

21-22—Engaged Encounter Weekend, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-410-3839)

22—Italian Meatballs and Spaghetti Dinner, Parish Hall, St. John the Evangelist Church, Borger (806-274-7064)

24—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

25—The Annunciation of the Lord  
27—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #12563, Parish Hall, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Amarillo (806-335-1872)

27—Lenten Fish Fry, St. Laurence Church, Amarillo (806-383-2261)

27—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #4621, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Amarillo, Parish Gym (806-358-2461)

27—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #7840, Parish Hall, St. Ann's Church, Canyon (806-655-3302)

27—Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8938, Parish Hall, San Jose Church, Hereford (806-340-8657)

29—Palm Sunday

31—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

31—Chrism Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 113)

#### April

2—Holy Thursday. **Diocesan Pastoral Center closes at noon.**

3—Good Friday. **Diocesan Pastoral Center closed. Day of Fasting and Abstinence from meat. Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo closed. Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center closed.**

3—Via Crucis, presented by St. Laurence Church, Amarillo (806-383-2261)

4—Holy Saturday. **Sunset at 8:11pm.**

5—Easter Sunday

6—Diocesan Pastoral Center and Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center closed for Easter Break.

6—Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo closed for Easter Break.

7—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

11—New Orleans Night, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #5061 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas, Willie's Dance Hall (806-236-0555)

12—Divine Mercy Sunday

12—St. Mary's Barbecue Day, Parish Hall, St. Mary's Church, Clarendon (806-874-3910)

14—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

15—2025-2026 Parish/Catholic Schools Safe Environment Late Reports Due (806-383-2243, ext. 117)

17—Worship Prayer Movie Night, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

21—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

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24-26—Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC), Amarillo Civic Center (806-383-2243, ext. 118)

25—Feast of St. Mark

25—Annual Golf Scramble, to benefit Saint Joseph's School, Amarillo, Comanche Trails Golf Course, Amarillo (806-378-4281)

26-30—Uplift Your Priests Week

28—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

### May

1-3—Uplift Your Priests Week

1—Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

1—Catholic School Teacher Appreciation Event, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo

2-3—Parish Fiesta, St. Joseph's Church, Amarillo (806-355-5621)

3-9—Uplift Your Priests Week

3—Informational Meeting, World Youth Day 2027, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 118)

3—Cinco de Mayo Celebration/Parish Festival to benefit Sts. Peter and Paul Church, McDade Park, Dumas (806-935-5002)

5—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

5—Luncheon to benefit the Downtown Women's Center, North Exhibit Hall, Amarillo Civic Center (806-372-3625)

9—Centennial Mini Rally for youth in the East Deanery, St. Theresa's Church, Panhandle (806-383-2243, ext. 118)

9—*Frühlingsfest*, St. Mary's Church, Umbarger (806-499-3531)

10—World Day of Prayer for Vocations/Good Shepherd Sunday

10—Mother's Day

12—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

13—Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

14—Ascension of the Lord—**observed in the Diocese of Amarillo on Sunday, May 17**

15—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

16—Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Men's Club at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Amarillo, Ross Rogers Golf Complex, Amarillo (806-316-6727)

17—Brisket Dinner, St. Martin de Porres Church, Amarillo (806-376-8771)

19—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

20—Baccalaureate Mass, Holy Cross Catholic Academy Class of 2026, St. Joseph's Church, Amarillo (806-355-9637)

22—Final Day of Classes, 2025-2026 School Year, Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo

22—Commencement Exercises, Holy Cross Catholic Academy Class of 2026, Holy Cross Catholic Academy Event Center, Amarillo (806-355-9637)

23—Centennial Mini Rally for youth in the Central Deanery, Blessed Sacrament Church, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 118)

24—Pentecost Sunday

25—Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

25—Memorial Day. **Diocesan Pastoral Center and the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center are closed.**

26—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

29—Feast of St. Paul VI

30-31—*Totus Tuus*, location TBA (806-290-1698)

31—The Most Holy Trinity

31—Jamaica to benefit San Jose Church, Dameron Park, Hereford (806-364-5053)

### June

1-5—*Totus Tuus*, location TBA (806-290-1698)

2—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

4-6—Kolbe Prison Retreat, William P. Clements Unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Amarillo (806-290-8842)

6-12—*Totus Tuus*, location TBA (806-290-1698)

6—Deacon Formation, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 117)

7—Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ/Corpus Christi

7—Jamaica to benefit Immaculate Conception Church, City Park, Dimmitt (806-647-4219)

9—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

9—Feast of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

11—Deadline to submit information for Golden Tributes section of June 21 issue of *The West Texas Catholic* (806-414-1075)

12—Feast of the Sacred Heart. World Priest Day (806-355-5621)

13-19—*Totus Tuus*, location TBA (806-290-1698)

13—Feast of St. Anthony of Padua

13—The Feast of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

14—Informational Meeting, World Youth Day 2027, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 118)

16—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

18-21—Teen ACTS Retreat, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-344-4842)

19—Juneteenth. **Diocesan Pastoral Center is closed.**

19—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

20-26—*Totus Tuus*, location TBA (806-290-1698)

21—Father's Day

23—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

24—The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

27—Jamaica, St. John Nepomucene Church, Hart (806-647-6477)

29—Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul

30—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

30—Final day of Fiscal Year 2025-26, Diocese of Amarillo. Safe Environment 2025-26 year ends.

### July

1—Fiscal Year 2026-2027 begins in the Diocese of Amarillo. Safe Environment 2026-2027 year begins.

1—Feast of St. Junípero Serra

3—Feast of St. Thomas

3—Diocesan Pastoral Center and Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center closed in observance of Independence Day.

4—Feast of St. Pier Giorgio Frassatti

4—Independence Day.

4-10—*Totus Tuus*, location TBA (806-290-1698)

6—Feast of St. Maria Goretti

7—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

11—Feast of St. Benedict

11-17—*Totus Tuus*, location TBA (806-290-1698)

11—World Youth Day 2027 Meeting, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 118)

11—55th annual German Sausage Festival, Nazareth Community Hall (806-945-2616)

12—Jamaica, Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia (806-994-3511)

14—Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

14—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

15—Diocesan Charter Compliance Documentation submitted to USCCB/Stonebridge Auditors

16—Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

17—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

18-19—45th Las Fiestas de Amarillo, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo (806-372-1128)

18-24—*Totus Tuus*, location TBA (806-290-1698)

18—Summer Craft Show, Pastoral Center, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas (806-935-5002 or via email, theswartz24@gmail.com)

19-25—Natural Family Planning Awareness Week (806-410-3839)

22—Feast of St. Mary Magdalene

21—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

25—Feast of St. James

25—33rd Annual Charity Golf Classic, to benefit Knights of Columbus Council #1450, Comanche Trails Golf Course, Amarillo (832-606-3813)

26—Jamaica, Our Lady of Loreto Church, Silverton (806-823-2548)

28—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

31—Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola

31—St. Vincent de Paul Church Women's Council Flea Market, Parish Hall, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa (806-665-8933)

### August

1—Feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori

1—Deacon Formation, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-2243, ext. 117)

1—36th annual Knights of Columbus #7840 Golf Tournament, Palo Duro Creek Golf Course, Canyon (806-678-4700)

1—St. Vincent de Paul Church Women's Council Flea Market, Parish Hall, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa (806-665-8933)

2—Jamaica, Blessed Sacrament Church, Amarillo (806-374-1132)

2—Jamaica, St. Teresa of Jesus Church, Friona (806-250-2871)

4—Feast of St. John Vianney

4—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

6—The Transfiguration of the Lord

7-8—St. Vincent de Paul Church Women's Council Flea Market, Parish Hall, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa (806-665-8933)

8-9—Parish Festival, St. Laurence Church, Amarillo (806-383-2261)

8—Jamaica to benefit Sacred Heart Church, Centennial Park, Jones Pavillion, Canadian (806-323-6608)

10—Feast of St. Laurence

11—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

14—Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe

15—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **Holy Day of Obligation.**

16—Jamaica, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa (806-665-8933)

18—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

21—*Worship Prayer Movie Night*, St. Francis House of Prayer, Panhandle (806-537-3182)

22—The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

22—Centennial Closing Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo (806-376-7204)

23—First Mass of the Fall Semester, Catholic Student Center at West Texas A&M University, Canyon (806-655-4345)

25—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

27—Feast of St. Monica

28—Feast of St. Augustine

29—The Passion of St. John the Baptist

29—Jamaica to benefit St. John the Evangelist Church, Huber Park, Borger (806-274-7064)

### September

1—Contemplative Power Hour, Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, Amarillo (806-383-1811)

5—Feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta

6—Fiesta Night to benefit St. Peter's Church, Main Street, Booker (806-435-3802)

6—Labor Day Picnic to benefit Holy Family Church, Nazareth (806-945-2616)

6—Jamaica to benefit St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, City Park, Turkey (806-823-2548)

7—Labor Day. **Diocesan Pastoral Center, Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo and the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center closed.**

8—The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



**Amarillo**—Ruben “Mejia” Rodriguez, 84, passed away Oct. 21. Mass was celebrated Oct. 28, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Taylor Elzner, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Mary Frances Rodriguez; two sons, Ruben Rodriguez Jr. of Dallas-Fort Worth and John Rodriguez of Austin; a daughter, Cynthia Justus of Amarillo; a sister, Catherine Miller; a brother, Juan “Johnny” Rodriguez; 11 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandson.

**Dimmitt**—Amada “Molly” Moya, 74, passed away Oct. 23. Mass was celebrated Nov. 15, Sacred Heart Church, Plainview. Burial was in Castro Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Dimmitt. Survivors include a brother, Christian Rodriguez of Dimmitt; and a cousin, Maria Reyes of Plainview.

**Canyon**—Gregoria Diaz, 91, passed away Oct. 29. Mass was celebrated Nov. 3, St. Francis Convent Chapel, Father Haider Quintero, pastor, St. Laurence Church, presiding. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery. Survivors include four children, George Cuellar Jr. and his wife Linda, Norma Pratt and her husband Arty, Maria Elvira Perkins and her husband Robert and Sylvia Arrowsmith and her husband Conrad; four stepchildren, Rocky Diaz and his wife Lisa, Vick Diaz and his wife Kathy, Julie Rhinehart and

her husband Chris and Dierdre Slavik and her husband Todd; eight grandchildren, George Cuellar III and his wife Stacie, Elisha Martinez and her husband Oscar, Michelle Flores and her husband TJ, Amy Lynn Bowen and her husband Bill, Krisha McCurry, Caitlin Moore and her husband Zac, Mackenzi Cuellar and Michael Brock; five step-grandchildren, Dustin Diaz, Chelsea Diaz, Kaela Irwin, Gunner Volmer and Savanna Volmer; 14 great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

**Amarillo**—Shirley Ann Hall Greener, 87, passed away Nov. 2. Mass was celebrated Nov. 21, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Father John Valdez, pastor, presiding. Survivors include four daughters, Danilee Frigo and her husband Dean and Shelly Blandford and her husband Rick, all of Amarillo, Angie Gillette of Chandler, Ariz. and Wendy Robbins and her husband Kyle of Los Alamos, NM; 12 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Amarillo**—Leon Bernard Lange, 72, passed away Nov. 7. Mass was celebrated Nov. 25, St. Ann’s Church, Canyon, Father Scott L. Raef, pastor, presiding. Survivors include his wife, Rose Lange; two sons, Nathan Lange and his wife Alli and Jeremy Lange and his wife Katelynn; four siblings, Gwen Gabel, Mike Lange, JoAnn Moore and Janell Terry; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Clarendon**—Neal R. Mercier, 79, passed away Nov. 12. Mass was celebrated Nov. 17, St. Mary’s Church, Father Arokiaaraj “Raj” Malapady, pastor, presiding. Burial was in St. Mary’s Cemetery. Survivors include two sons, Neal Mercier Jr. and Christopher Mercier and his wife Gina; a daughter, Danielle; four grandchildren, Brittany, Michael, Derek and David; and two great-grandchildren, Aurora and Rhiannon.

**Groom**—Gary Linn Bohr, 62, passed away Nov. 12. Mass was celebrated Nov. 17, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Father Arokiaaraj “Raj” Malapady, pastor, presiding. Survivors include his parents, Bill and Linda Bohr; a son, Colby Benites; two brothers, Rodney Bohr and John Bohr and his wife Allison; two sisters, Donna Barnett and Karen Hollingsworth and her husband Robert; a granddaughter, Marilyn Trice; 11 nieces and nephews, Blake Barnett and his wife Katy, Nichole Longbine and her husband Josh, Candace Britten and her husband Garrett, Taylor Fields and his wife Shelby, Trenton Fields, Hali Blair and her husband Kyle, Nicholas Bohr and his wife

Brooklyn, Tyler Cox, Lane Cox and his wife Shannon, Ross Hollingsworth and Ransom Hollingsworth; and 13 grandnieces and grandnieces.

**Amarillo**—Loc Thi Vuong, 90, passed away Nov. 12. Mass was celebrated Nov. 22, Our Lady of Vietnam Church, Father Jim Khoi, CRM, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Llano Cemetery East. Survivors include a daughter, Tan Hoang; a daughter-in-law, Hoan Trinh; a son-in-law, Khoa Nguyen; five grandchildren, Quynh, Johnny and his wife Christine, Tony, Dean and Robert; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Amarillo**—Raymond M. Baca Sr., 87, passed away Nov. 13. Mass was celebrated Nov. 18, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Taylor Elzner, pastor, presiding. Survivors include his wife, Mabel Baca; two daughters, Frances Lopez and her husband Chris and Rose Baca; a son, Raymond Baca Jr.; a brother, Juan Baca and his wife Carmen of Amarillo; a sister, Gloria Gonzales of Arkansas; three grandchildren, Cameron Romero, Derek

Romero and Lisa Rosales-Cruz and her husband Esteban; and three great-grandchildren, Azariah Romero, Isaiah Rosales and Azariah Cruz.

**Tulia**—Baldemar “Balde” Subealdea, 59, passed away Nov. 13. A Memorial Service was conducted Nov. 19, Cornerstone Funeral Directors Chapel, Deacon Jackie Gunnels of Church of the Holy Spirit, presiding. Survivors include his wife, Lily Subealdea; a daughter, Jacqueline Subealdea Mata; a son, Nathan Subealdea; a stepdaughter, Isabella Cruz; three brothers, Jaime Subealdea, Eleazar Subealdea Jr. and Frank Subealdea; two sisters, Norma Cruz and Maria Gomez; and seven grandchildren, Naomi Mata, Isaac Mata, Daniel Mata Jr., Caleb Mata, Lucas Mata, Ethan Kamden and Koryn Subealdea.

**Nazareth**—Samuel Owen “Sam” Albracht, 91, passed away Nov. 15. Mass was celebrated Nov. 22, Holy Family Church, Father Arokia “Raj” Samala, pastor, presiding, with Fa-

Obituaries continue on page 10

Please remember in prayer the clergy of the Diocese of Amarillo who died during the month of December:

Father John Pierce, Dec. 1, 1979

Monsignor Curtis T. Halfmann, Dec. 2, 2012

Deacon Ron Hein, Dec. 2, 2021

Deacon Armando Esparza, Dec. 5, 2020

Father Aedan Davis, S.A., Dec. 6, 1977

Father Paul Haefner, S.A., Dec. 7, 1992

Deacon William “Bill” Allein, December 8, 2025

Monsignor Antonio Gonzalez, Dec. 9, 2011

Deacon Leroy Behnke, Dec. 11, 2021

Deacon Art Stewart, Dec. 12, 1998

Father John J. Dillon, Dec. 14, 1970

Father Raymond Eisele, Dec. 15, 1982

Father Nathaniel Madden, S.A., Dec. 18, 1965

Father Norbert Kieferle, Dec. 20, 2015


Father Patrick Ryan, S.A.C., Dec. 21, 1981


Deacon Robert Gutierrez, Dec. 27, 2014

Father Andrew Quante, O.S.B., Dec. 30, 1971

Monsignor James Sonderman, Dec. 30, 2000

Monsignor Mario Stortz, Dec. 30, 2014





YOUR CATHOLIC FUNERAL HOME

Jim Schooler

4100 S. Georgia - Amarillo - (806) 352-2727

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ther Lawrence John, JCL, rector, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Amarillo and Father Anthony Aakula, concelebrating, with Deacon Joe Hochstein, assisting. Burial was in Holy Family Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Margie Albracht; two sons, Chris Albracht and his wife Anna of Amarillo and Dale Albracht and his wife Tami of Lubbock; two daughters, Liz Hernandez and her husband Pascual of Sonora and Cindy Huseman and her husband Scott of Nazareth; a daughter-in-law, Sheryl Albracht of Hart; three brothers, Dr. William Albracht of Austin, Wendall Albracht and his wife Karen of Dallas and Dr. Anthony Albracht and his wife Dr. Michelle Pal of Mission Hills, Kan.; five sisters, Karen Peralta of Fair Oaks, Calif., Mary Haines of McKinney, Rita Bezner and her husband Lanny of Dalhart, Roberta Albracht and her husband Rick Gerber of Austin and Joselle Albracht of Dallas; 14 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren, with one on the way.

**Pampa**—Honorio Dondiego, 59, passed away Nov. 15. Mass was celebrated Nov. 21, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Father Guadalupe “Lupe” Mayorga, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Connie Garcia; a son, Gabino Dondiego; three stepsons, Angel Jimenez, Vincent Martinez and Nahshon Martinez; ten siblings, Cuca Dondiego, Ubaldo Dondiego, Raul Dondiego, Juan Dondiego, Berth Dondiego, Irene Dondiego, Gustavo Dondiego, Carmen Dondiego, Jesus Dondiego and Daniel Dondiego; a granddaughter, Janie Jimenez; eight special nieces and nephews, Humberto Dondiego, Deseraie Dondiego, Jasmine Dondiego, Jesus Dondiego, Denise Dondeigo, Mariela Dondiego, Jessica Dondiego and Ignacio “Boy” Dondiego; and numerous additional nieces, nephews and cousins.

**Hereford**—Linda Castañeda, 77, passed away Nov. 16. Survivors include six siblings, Ernest Castañeda and his wife Lee Ann of Springfield, Mo., Carmen Castañeda-Núñez and her husband Ramón and Christine Castañeda, Rick Castañeda, Jesus Castañeda Jr., and Edward Castañeda, all of Hereford; 11 nieces and nephews, Kelly Castañeda and his wife Amy, Colby Castañeda and his wife April, Courtney Castañeda, Orlando Núñez, Oswaldo Núñez and his wife Debra, Christopher Castañeda and his wife Charity, Roger Rios, Ruben Rios, Susan Ruíz and her husband José, Joshua Castañeda and Jennifer Castañeda; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

**Dimmitt**—Juana Bugarin, 73,

passed away Nov. 16. Mass was celebrated Nov. 21, Immaculate Conception Church, Father David Contreras, pastor, presiding. Interment was in Castro County Memorial Park. Survivors include her husband, Engelberto Bugarin Sr.; a son, Engelberto Bugarin Jr. and his wife Gloria of Amarillo; two sisters, Maria Elena Guajardo of Dimmitt and Alice Lopez and her husband Joe of Andrews; a brother, Jessie Guajardo and his wife Cynthia of Bedford; two grandchildren, Manuel Bugarin and Marissa Lancho and her husband Luis, all of Amarillo; a great-granddaughter, Emily Lancho; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

**Silverton**—Ramon Garcia, 81, passed away Nov. 16. Survivors include his wife, Rosa Elva Garcia; four children, Soledad Garcia of Plainview, Cipriano “Cip” Garcia and his wife Amy of Amarillo, Ramon Garcia Jr. and his wife Yesenia and Hilda Rodriguez and her husband Gerardo “Jerry”, all of Canyon; a sister, Rosa Maria Beltran of Silverton; three brothers, Luis Garcia and his wife Concepcion and Martin Garcia, all of Odessa and Carlos Garcia and his wife Filomena of Silverton; ten grandchildren, Emily Garcia, Noel Bribiesca, Brewster Garcia, Sarah Bribiesca, Bianca Rodriguez, Kaylee Rodriguez, Evelyn Garcia, Livia Rodriguez, Adrian Garcia and Joaquin Rodriguez; a great-grandchild, Alysea Bribiesca; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Amarillo**—Raymond J. “Ray” Burda Jr., 75, passed away Nov. 18. Mass was celebrated Nov. 24, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Father Avitus K. Siriwa, parochial vicar, presiding. Inurnment was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Vicki Burda; three daughters, Karissa Greer, Adrea Pearson and her husband Max and Amanda Chisum and her husband Ron, all of Amarillo; two brothers, Glen Burda and his wife Suzanne and Charlie Burda and his wife Debbie; two sisters, Judy Kwong and her husband Pete and Amy Crowley and her husband Mark; six grandchildren, William Sims and his wife Alexandra, Kaitlin Downs and her husband Zac, Brenden Pearson and his wife Madison, Bryce Pearson, Kloe Anderson and Savanna Anderson; two great-grandsons, Beck Allen and Brooks Allen; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Hereford**—Celia “Duby” Pena, 55, passed away Nov. 19. Mass was celebrated Nov. 26, San Jose Church, Father Shane D. Wieck, pastor, presiding. Burial was in St. Anthony’s Cemetery. Survivors include her husband, Carlos Pena; her mother, Teresa de Hernandez Portillo of Hereford; four children,

Samantha Hernandez and her husband Benny of Amarillo, Kasandra Trammell and her husband Joshua, Carlos Josue Pena and his wife Kristen and Jacob Pena, all of Hereford; a brother, Wilfredo Portillo of El Salvador; her mother-in-law, Blanca Castillo of Hereford; and a brother-in-law, Hugo Castillo and wife Criselda of Hereford.

**Hereford**—Lewis “Bud” Fetsch, 74, the brother of Deacon Ronald Fetsch of St. Anthony’s Church, passed away Nov. 19. In addition to his brother, survivors include his fiancé, Wanda Dyke of Hereford; a son, Benjamin Fetsch of Hereford; six siblings, Mildred Birkenfeld and Judy Lange, both of Nazareth, Pauline George and her husband C.W. of Dimmitt, Regina Weeg of Canyon, David Fetsch and his wife Cindy of Hereford and Dorothy Schwertner and her husband Curtis of Dumas; a sister-in-law, Debbie Fetsch of Hereford; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

**Amarillo**—Manuel Pacheco Jr., 80, passed away Nov. 21. Mass was celebrated Nov. 26, St. Joseph’s Church, Father Gabriel E. Garcia, pastor, presiding. Burial was in St. Anthony’s Cemetery, Hereford. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Pacheco, a son, Jerry Pacheco and his wife, Velinda; two brothers, George Pacheco and Carlos Pacheco and his wife Mary Ann; two sisters, Mary Puente and her husband Juan and Nancy Peña and her husband Andy; four grandchildren, Alexa Dolezal and her husband Josh, Nicholas Pacheco, Holly Bryan and her husband Daniel and Jackson Pacheco; three great-grandsons, Mark Dolezal, Gideon Bryan and Ezra Bryan; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

**Amarillo**—Gloria Hernandez-Moreno, 71, passed away Nov. 21. A Memorial Service took place Dec. 5, Angel Funeral Home, Deacon Tino Frausto of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, presiding. Burial was in Llano Cemetery East. Survivors include seven children, Rosalinda Moreno, Simon Moreno III, Blanca Moreno, Ricardo Moreno, Guadalupe Moreno, Michael Moreno and Charles Moreno; a brother, Carlos Hernandez; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Amarillo**—Dr. Thomas E. Needham, 88, passed away Nov. 22. Mass was celebrated Nov. 26, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Father John Valdez, pastor, presiding. Interment was in Memory Gardens Cemetery with military honors rendered by Volleys for Veterans. Survivors include a daughter, Suzanne Needham; two sons, Thomas E. Needham Jr. and his wife Carolyn and Timothy Needham and his wife

Carrie; a sister, Mary Ellen Solliday and her husband Joel of Lewiston, Idaho; five brothers, Robert Needham of San Antonio, Richard Needham and his wife Barbara of Plano, William Needham and his wife Pat of Amarillo, Daniel Needham and his wife Carol of Huntington Beach, Calif. and David Needham of Waco; six grandchildren, Tristyn, Dena, Mary-Claire, Gretchen, Robby and Kyleigh; four great-grandchildren, Brently, Straton, Warren and Thomas, with one on the way.

**Dumas**—Estanislado “Stan” Castaneda, 62, passed away Nov. 22. Mass was celebrated Nov. 29, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Luis René López, pastor, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas, presiding. Interment was in Dumas Cemetery, Dumas. Survivors include his wife, Catalina Castaneda; his father, Estanislado Castaneda of Juarez; three daughters, Carolina Mendoza and her husband Alejandro and Claudia Rangel and her husband Jesus, all of Dumas and Karina Calderon and her husband Melvin of Colorado Springs; two brothers, Lorenzo Castaneda and his wife Genoveva of Dumas and Francisco Castaneda and his wife Catalina of El Paso; a sister, Maria Castaneda and her husband Martin Martinez of Dumas; and seven grandchildren, Brayan Rangel, Humberto Olivas, Ashley Olivas, Isaac Caro, Amely Rangel, Obed Castaneda and Jaiden Calderon.

**Hereford**—Edward John Yavornik II, 78, passed away Nov. 23. Mass was celebrated Dec. 5, St. Anthony’s Church, Father Nicholas Gerber, pastor, St. Ann’s Church, Bovina, presiding. Survivors include his wife Barbara Yavornik; a brother, two brothers-in-law; three sisters-in-law; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Amarillo**—Albert Joseph Kammerer, 94, passed away Nov. 24. A Graveside Service was conducted Nov. 28, Llano Cemetery, Deacon Blaine Westlake of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, presiding. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann Kammerer; a daughter, Denise Carthel and her husband Steve of Amarillo; a son, Joe Kammerer and his wife Teri of Hempstead; six grandchildren, Abbey Ehle and her husband Justin of Amarillo, Austin Carthel of McLean, Amy Miller and her husband Michael of Dallas, Chance Kammerer and his wife Taylor of Magnolia, Morgan Glueck of Lockhart and Kade Kammerer of Hempstead; and eight great-grandchildren, Daniel Ehle, Hannah Ehle, Noah Ehle, Peter Miller, Caleb Miller, Addy Jo Miller, Wyatt Kammerer and Kirtley Glueck.

**Hereford**—Leslie Freitas, 67, passed away Nov. 25. Mass was celebrated Dec. 2, St. Anthony’s Church, Father Nicholas Gerber, pastor, St. Ann’s Church, Bovina, presiding. Burial was in St. Anthony’s Cemetery. Survivors include her husband, Joe

**Please remember in prayer the clergy of the Diocese of Amarillo who died during the month of January:**

**Father John J. Dolje, Jan. 1, 1944**

**Father Michael Sugrue, S.A., Jan. 1, 1976**

**Father Dominic Kenny, S.A., Jan. 1, 1996**

**Father George Buckley, S.A.C., Jan. 2, 1979**

**Father James J. Regan, O.P., Jan. 3, 1976**

**Monsignor Thomas D. O’Brien, Jan. 4, 1963**

**Father Gregory A. Boeckman, Jan. 5, 1952**

**Father Gilberto Aldaco, M.C.S., Jan. 6, 1985**

**Father Richard Neyer, Jan. 11, 1995**

**Father James Salvi, S.A., Jan. 12, 1991**

**Father Joseph A. Walter, Jan. 13, 1989**

**Father J. Arnold Carlson, Jan. 18, 1998**

**Father Francis L. Schneider, O.P., Jan. 21, 1976**

**Father Austin Kittridge, S.A., Jan. 21, 1995**

**Father Joe Kolodziejczyk, Jan. 22, 1996**

**Father James H. Dunn, Jan. 26, 1990**

**Monsignor Bartholomew O’Brien, Jan. 28, 1962**

**Deacon Emilio Fuentes, Jan. 29, 2016**

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Freitas; two daughters, Kathleen Bratton and her husband Joshua of White-wright and Christine Miller and her husband Jacob of Hereford; seven sib- lings, Marlene Vieira and her husband Manuel of Norco, Calif., Frank Silva and his wife Richelle of Corona, Calif., Eileen Pintado of Rhode Island, Bev- erly Silva and Desiree Silva, both of California, Betty Mendes of Roswell, NM and Nancy Carl and her husband Andy of Visalia, Calif.; two grandchil- dren, Bailey and Thomas Bratton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Amarillo**—Veronica “Ronnie” Ro- sas, 66, passed away Nov. 27. Mass was celebrated Dec. 3, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Taylor El- zner, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include two brothers, David and his wife Mi- chelle and Michael; a sister, Victoria Martinez; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Hereford**—Matilde Garcia, 86, passed away Nov. 27. Mass was cele- brated Dec. 3, San Jose Church, Father David Contreras, pastor, Immaculate Conception Church, Dimmitt, pre- siding. Burial was in St. Anthony’s Cemetery. Survivors include her hus- band, Valentin Garcia; a daughter, Armandina Lira of Hereford; two sis- ters, Tomasita Cortez of Hereford and Estella Saucedo of Brownsville; eight grandchildren, Jose Lira and his wife Jessica of Odessa, Felicita Lira of Dal- las, Oyuki Sosa and her husband Luis of Amarillo, Javier Lira Jr. and his wife Kimberly of Hereford, Eduardo Garcia and his wife Brandy of Las Cruces, NM, Christafer Rios Garcia of San Antonio, Valentin Garcia III of Juarez and Esperaza Montya of Mexico City; 28 great-grandchildren; and six great- great-grandchildren.

**Hereford**—Florina Ochoa San Miguel, 83, passed away Nov. 28. Mass was celebrated Dec. 4, San Jose Church, Monsignor Arturo Meza, pas-

tor, Our Lady of Loreto Church, Sil- verton, presiding. Burial was in West Park Cemetery. Survivors include six children, Victoria Roberson and her husband Marlon of Grand Prairie, Je- sus San Miguel and his wife Rita, Re- becca Carrasco and her husband Fer- nando and Aurelio San Miguel and his wife Olivia B., all of Hereford, Beatriz San Miguel of Yukon, Okla. and Ad- olfo San Miguel of Canyon; five sib- lings, Aurelio Ochoa of Nebraska, Rita Ochoa of Uvalde, Josefina Castro of Crystal City, Yolanda Garza of Eden and Gloria Pesina of Brownwood; 29 grandchildren; and 63 great-grandchil- dren.

**Hereford**—Juan “Javier” Marquez, 76, passed away Nov. 28. Mass was celebrated Dec. 9, San Jose Church, Father David Contreras, pastor, Im- maculate Conception Church, Dim- mitt, presiding. Burial was in West Park Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Teresa Marquez; four daugh- ters, Norma Amalia Marquez and her husband Oscar of Denver, Ernestina Marquez Zamarripa and her husband Antonio Sr. and Norma Saenz, all of Hereford and Laura Marquez and her husband Miguel Grijalva of Albuquer- que; a son, Eladio Becerril and his wife Christian of Hereford; a sister, Soledad Marquez of Zacatecas, Mexico; 20 grandchildren, Nubia Saenz, Nohely Saenz, Noemi Saenz, Celia Domin- guez, Antonio Zamarripa Jr. and his wife Darlene, Samantha Zamarripa and her husband Adrian, John Salinas and his wife Olivia, Christopher Salinas and his wife Melissa, Alan Salinas, Iris Garcia, Marissa Garcia, Kayla Ma- rie Jacket, Nathanyel Roberto Becerril, Mia Lizette Becerril, Kain Giovanni Becerril, Eddie Eladio Becerril, Juli- ana Becerril, Leonel Becerril, Ismael Becerril and Monserrat Becerril; 14 great-grandchildren, Alexa Saenz, Joseph Iten, Neilani Zubia Godinez, Balery Godinez, Alfonso Godinez, Alianah Godinez, Hailey Garcia, Ga- briella Dominguez, Adayln Zamarripa,

Emmalene Zamarripa, Maya Salinas, Liam Salinas, Mia Salinas and Ezra Salinas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Vega**—Teresa Ann Potter, 76, passed away Dec. 1. Mass was cele- brated Dec. 9, Immaculate Conception Church, Father Mieczyslaw “Mitch” Przepiora, pastor, presiding. Interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery. Sur- vivors include a daughter, Joan Brunet and her husband Carrol of Bushland; a son, Mike Potter and his wife Jan of Amarillo; a brother, Myron Bilgri and his wife Audiene of Fritch; a sis- ter, Sam Urbanczyck of Hereford; and three granddaughters, Morgan Hooker and Meg Potter, both of Amarillo and Courtney Hartley and her husband Seth of Littlefield.

**White Deer**—Betty Rae Kotara, 80, passed away Dec. 1. Mass was cele- brated Dec. 9, Sacred Heart Church, Father Ryan Winger, parochial admin- istrator, presiding, with Father Miec- zyslaw “Mitch” Przepiora, pastor, Im- maculate Conception Church, Vega, concelebrating. Survivors include her husband, John Alden; a daughter, Heather Brown; a son, Kevin Brown and his wife Kara; John’s four children whom she considered her own, John Alden Kotara IV, Karla Kotara, Tracy Kotara and his wife Michelle and Kali- na “Daisy” Anderson and her husband Rick; a sister-in-law, Deanya Britten; five grandchildren, John Jarett V and his wife Lindsay, Haili, Alexis, Raelin and Alden; four great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Amarillo**—Roberto Mendoza, 80, passed away Dec. 2. Mass was cele- brated Dec. 5, St. Laurence Church, Father Haider Quintero, pastor, presid- ing. Interment was in Llano Cemetery East. Survivors include his wife, Jose- fina Mendoza; four daughters, Armida Mendoza and her husband Robert Gonzalez, Hilda Mendoza, Patricia Mendoza and her husband Rudy River- ra and Nidia Mendoza and her husband Vidal Ramos; ten grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Amarillo**—Esmeralda Perales Cis- neros, 65, passed away Dec. 3. Mass was celebrated Dec. 9, St. Laurence Church, Father Haider Qunitero, pas- tor, presiding. Interment was in Llano Cemetery East. Survivors include two daughters, Alexandra Rios and her husband Felix and Melinda “Freck- les” Silva; four siblings, Delfine Fox and her husband Coach, Lisa Leather- wood and her husband Joe, Margarita Castillo, Michael Perales and his wife Cynthia and Leo Perales; five grand- children, Eduardo Guardado, Christo- pher Guardado, Aidyn Rios, Felix Rios Jr. and Leonardo Rios; and numerous nieces and nephews.

USCCB SPECIAL COLLECTIONS		
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION		
PARISH	As Of Date	FY 6/30/25 5/31/25
BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH, AMARILLO		\$ 893.00
CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, SUNRAY		
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TULIA	\$	460.00
CRISTO REDENTOR, GRUVER	\$	76.00
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH, CHILDRESS	\$	83.00
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, NAZARETH		
HOLY NAME CHURCH, HAPPY		
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, DIMMITT	\$	373.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, PERRYTON	\$	415.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, VEGA	\$	352.00
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH, GROOM	\$	331.00
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH, AMARILLO	\$	1,223.86
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, CACTUS	\$	1,675.00
OUR LADY OF LORETO CHURCH, SILVERTON		
OUR LADY OF VIETNAM, AMARILLO		
OUR MOTHER OF MERCY CHURCH, WELLINGTON	\$	149.00
SACRED HEART CHURCH, CANADIAN	\$	314.22
SACRED HEART CHURCH, MEMPHIS		
SACRED HEART CHURCH, WHITE DEER	\$	46.00
SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, SPEARMAN	\$	451.00
SAN JOSE CHURCH, HEREFORD	\$	1,263.26
SAN JOSE MISSION		
SAN JUAN DIEGO, QUITAQUE		
ST ANN'S CHURCH, BOVINA		
ST ANN'S CHURCH, CANYON	\$	5,541.30
ST ANN'S CHURCH, STINNETT		
ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, DALHART	\$	1,184.00
ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, HEREFORD	\$	946.00
ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON MISSION, TURKEY		
ST FRANCIS CHURCH, AMARILLO	\$	78.00
ST HYACINTH'S CHURCH, AMARILLO	\$	25.00
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, BORGER	\$	1,326.00
ST JOHN NEPOMUCENE CHURCH, HART	\$	153.00
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, AMARILLO	\$	660.00
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, STRATFORD	\$	1,307.69
ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH, AMARILLO	\$	325.00
ST MARTIN DE PORRES CHURCH, AMARILLO	\$	501.46
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, AMARILLO	\$	2,505.94
ST MARY'S CHURCH, CLARENDON	\$	37.00
ST MARY'S CHURCH, TEXLINE	\$	72.00
ST MARY'S CHURCH, UMBARGER	\$	358.00
ST MARY'S CHURCH, WHEELER	\$	144.00
ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, SHAMROCK	\$	208.00
ST PAUL'S CHURCH, KRESS		
ST PETER'S CHURCH, BOOKER	\$	57.00
ST TERESA'S CHURCH, FRIONA		
ST THERESA'S CHURCH, PANHANDLE	\$	204.00
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH, AMARILLO	\$	12,252.00
ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH, PAMPA	\$	1,728.00
STS PETER & PAUL CHURCH, DUMAS	\$	275.00
LESS 5% ACCOUNTING FEE	\$	(1,899.69)
NET	\$	36,094.04

The Office of the Victim’s Assistance  
Coordinator for the Diocese of Amarillo

Please direct concerns, questions, or to report sexual abuse  
involving Church Personnel, to include Clergy, Religious,  
Employees, and Volunteers in any Catholic Institution to:

Sharyn Delgado  
Victim Assistance Coordinator  
719 South Austin  
Amarillo, TX 79106

Phone: 806-671-4830  
FAX: 806-373-4662  
Email: skdelgado@aol.com

**With deep appreciation  
for all your support,  
you and your loved ones will be  
remembered in prayer.**

**May the Blessings of  
Our Lord, Jesus Christ  
be yours this Christmas  
and enrich your life  
in the New Year.**

*The Staff of the Diocese of Amarillo*

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**Con profundo aprecio y gratitud  
por todo su apoyo,  
los recordaremos a usted y  
a sus seres queridos en oración.**

**Que las bendiciones de  
Nuestro Señor Jesucristo  
sean tuyas esta Navidad  
y enriquezcan su vida  
en el Año Nuevo.**

*El Personal de la Diócesis de Amarillo*

