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THE

WEST TEXAS CATHOLIC

westtexascatholic.org



Volume 86, No. 1

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

January 18, 2026

Leading Off

Nazareth—The third in a series of Youth Mini-Retreats will take place Saturday, Jan. 24 at Holy Family Church, 210 St. Joseph St.

The gathering for youth in the South Deanery begins at 1:30pm, according to Diocesan Youth Director Oscar Guzman. There is no admission fee for the rally.

“As we did at the gatherings in Dumas and Groom last fall, this mini-rally will focus on the truth about the truth,” he said. “This will include discussions on objective truth vs. subjective truth. We hope youths in the South Deanery of the diocese will join us in Nazareth and be enlightened by the truth.”

Those youths planning to attend must register with their parish group, according to Guzman. For more information, please contact Guzman at 806-383-2243, ext. 118 or via email, oguzman@dioama.org. Additional information can also be found online at amarillo-diocese.org/deanery-mini-retreats or by contacting your parish priest or youth leader.

Amarillo—Parishes are continuing 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.

For more information regarding the 2026 Graduation Issue, please contact the diocesan Office of Communications at 806-414-1075, or via email, westtexascatholic@gmail.com.

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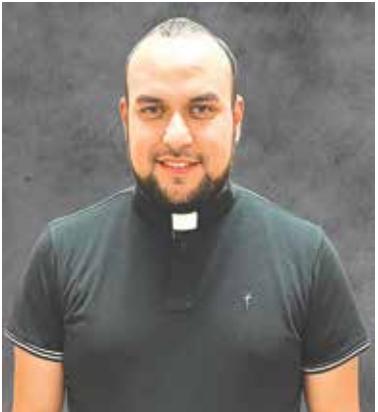
Deacon Mauricio Valadez To Be Ordained To The Priesthood

Amarillo—Deacon Mauricio Valadez, a seminarian for the Diocese of Amarillo, will be ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Patrick J. Zurek during a 10:30am Mass Saturday, Jan. 31 at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1200 South Washington.

The Ordination Mass is open to the public and the Faithful are encouraged to attend and show their support for Deacon Valadez and for vocations in the Diocese of Amarillo. The Mass is scheduled to be broadcast on the Guadalupe Radio Network, at 1010AM throughout the diocese; 94.5FM in the Amarillo/Canyon metro area and on a low power FM in Castro County in Nazareth, KHFN-LP, at 105.5FM.

The Mass will also be livestreamed on the St. Mary’s Cathedral website, stmarysamarillo.com.

The newly-ordained Father Valadez will celebrate two first Mass-



Deacon Mauricio Valadez

es on Sunday, Feb. 1 at St. Mary’s Church, 22830 Pondaseta Road in Umbarger—in English at 9:00am and in Spanish at noon.

Deacon Valadez, 30, was born in Lagos de Moreno, Jalisco, Mexico and is the son of Miguel Valadez Ramírez and Angélica Gallardo González. Deacon Valadez has

five siblings: Miguel, Elizabeth, Milagros, Mary and Maira.

In a Dec. 30 interview for *The West Texas Catholic* in Umbarger, Deacon Valadez was asked about his journey to the United States:

“I have a deep regard for immigrants,” he said. “I believe that it is very important to provide for them the evangelization that comes from God. Not only to the Latin people but to all Americans. In México I liked how I could see that Latin people had great need for Faith in Christ. All that got my attention, and that’s why I also want to be in the United States to support the Latino community and also the American community—evangelizing all—because that is my mission, to evangelize people. My vocation has been for them. I initially studied in México, but the American life got my attention, and that’s

why I made the decision to come to the United States.

“I was attracted to the Diocese of Amarillo because I met Father Gabriel (García) in México while I was in another seminary. He was promoting a seminary and that got my attention, so I visited with him, and when I made the decision to change seminaries from México to the United States, he helped me in all of that. It has been interesting because, thanks be to God, the process for me to be incardinated into the Diocese of Amarillo was quick and did not take very long. So, everything has been by the Grace of God.”

Deacon Valadez was asked what advice he would give to someone discerning a vocation to the priesthood...

“Approach the priests,” he said. “Priests are the right people who can help you direct your vocation. Don’t be afraid to serve Christ. Christ reveals Himself through many people.”

“Do not be afraid of what people are going to say about you, because God is the person who guides us at all times. He is the only one who judges us and is the only one who tells us, I am here to help you in what you need. He is going to send the right person to you, but He tells you not to be afraid because He will be with you. Follow Christ because He will always take you by the hand.”

Deacon Valadez is the first priest to be ordained for the Diocese of Amarillo since Father Ryan Winger on June 1, 2024.

For additional information about vocations in the Diocese of Amarillo, please call Father Garcia at St. Joseph’s Church, Amarillo, at 806-355-5621.

Diocese Passes 2024-2025 Safe Environment Audit

By Deacon Blaine Westlake

USCCB to oversee the implementation of the *Charter* and to ensure compliance with its mandates.

During the audit period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, there were 4,923 of the 5,077 registered minors who received Safe Environment Training at parishes and Catholic Schools, with only 25 parents opting out of the training. There are 2,295 Volunteers plus 36 Priests, 41 Deacons, 12 Candidates for Ordination, 95 Educators, 288 Diocesan, School and Parish Employees, for a total of 2,767 who are cleared to serve and minister to our children and youth.

Bishop Zurek wishes to of-

In a letter from StoneBridge dated Dec. 15, The Most Reverend Patrick J. Zurek was notified that the Diocese of Amarillo has been declared to have complied with the Data Collection Process as required by the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

The diocese underwent the Charter Safe Environment audit conducted by Stonebridge Business Partners which covered the audit period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Stonebridge is an independent auditing firm commissioned by the

fer a special thanks to all Pastors, Principals, Christian Formation Directors/Coordinators, Youth Directors, Safe Environment Coordinators, Trainers, Teachers and Volunteers who worked so hard and continue to do so, year after year, to keep our parishes, schools and Catholic institutions a safe place for everyone, and most especially our children.

Deacon Blaine Westlake, who is noting his 30th anniversary this year of his ordination to the Permanent Diaconate, is Director of Safe Environment for the Diocese of Amarillo. He can be reached at 806-383-2243, ext. 117, or via email, bwestlake@dioama.org.

Guest Column: *Respect Life Mass And Rosary*

By Karlynn Hochstein



I warmly invite all Faithful of the Diocese of Amarillo to attend the Respect Life Mass and Rosary Saturday, Jan. 24 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1200 South Washington, Amarillo. January is known as Sanctity of Human Life month since the Supreme Court decision in the Roe v. Wade case which legalized abortion on Jan. 22, 1973. While there has been encouraging progress in fostering a culture of life in recent years—not only in Amarillo, but throughout Texas and our nation—our work is far from complete. There are no longer physical facilities in our area that perform abortions and laws have made abortion more difficult to access; however, chemical abortions have been on the rise and now

account for more than half of all abortions, which reminds us that the dignity of human life remains under serious threat and is something that we as Catholics should do something about. In the face of these challenges, turning to God through the Holy Mass and the Rosary remains among the most powerful responses available to us.

Our Blessed Mother gave her courageous “yes” to God amid uncertainty and fear, trusting fully in His plan. Praying the Rosary together as a community is especially fitting, as Mary understands the worries and anxieties carried by the women we lift up in prayer. They are in need of her maternal counsel and comfort and we have

that our prayers are powerful and we are all called to help defend the most vulnerable and be their voice.

The Holy Mass stands in stark contrast to the violence of abortion as it celebrates Christ laying down His life for all humanity. In the Mass, we glorify God and unite ourselves to His victory over sin and death. God is sovereign and has already won the battle. Trusting in His promises, we turn to Him in a special way this month and ask Him to transform hearts and minds

and to strengthen a culture of life from conception to natural death in all people. As *Matthew 18* reminds us, there is power in God's Faithful coming together and praying together. We hope that all of you will join us on Jan. 24 to petition God as a community and pray for an end to abortion and healing for all of those already affected by it.

Karlynn Hochstein is a native of Umbarger residing in Nazareth. She began her duties as diocesan Family Life Director on Jan. 7.

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

“I discovered that Forsaken Jesus is the key to unity with God and I want to choose Him as my first Spouse and be prepared for when He comes.”

—Blessed Chiara Badano

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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
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.**



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**

Centennial Celebration Update

Amarillo—Additional events for the celebration of the Centennial of the Diocese of Amarillo have been announced by Father Lawrence John, JCL, Vicar General.

"On Jan. 7, Pope Leo XIV encouraged Catholics to 'rediscover the teachings of Vatican II as a guiding star,' inspiring us to live our Faith fully in the present day," said Father John. "As we celebrate the Centennial of our diocese, this milestone is not just a remembrance of the past, but a celebration of how God has guided our people for a century. During this time, the Faithful are invited to grow spiritually through indulgences, pilgrimages and diocesan events."

Faith is the focus of this month, with catechists, teachers and Catholic Schools are being honored. Each parish across all deaneries are participating in 100 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration.

The theme of February and March is *Hope*, according to Father John, with these months focusing

on care for the sick and the elderly.

Bishop Patrick J. Zurek is scheduled to celebrate deanery-level Centennial Masses in three deaneries:

- **Wednesday, Feb. 4** at 6:00pm for the North Deanery at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 915 South Mad-dox, Dumas;

- **Wednesday, Feb. 6**, at 6:00pm for the Central Deanery at St. Hyacinth Church, 4500 West Hills Trail, Amarillo; and,

- **Wednesday, Feb. 11**, at 6:00pm for the East Deanery at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 810 West 23rd Street, Pampa.

A date for a Centennial Mass in the South Deanery had yet to be set at presstime.

Parishes are also celebrating a Mass for the Sick and Elderly, which includes Anointing of the Sick, according to Father John. Parishes are also making plans to host a Luncheon of Hope on Wednesday, Feb. 11, the Day of Prayer for the Sick, he added.

Centenary Prayer

Heavenly Father,
we thank You for one hundred years
of grace in our diocese.
We praise You for the deep Faith
and the outstanding example of our founders,
for the dedicated service of our bishops,
priests, deacons, and religious,
and for the witness of countless Faithful.

Pour out Your Spirit upon us,
that we may live as one family in Christ,
proclaiming the Gospel with joy
and serving the poor with love.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and Saint Laurence, our patrons,
guide us into the next century
of faith, hope, communion, and mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Bishop's Schedule

SUNDAY, JAN. 18

8:30am, Mass, St. Laurence Church, Amarillo

MONDAY, JAN. 26

10:00am, Catholic Schools Week Mass for students, staff and supporters of St. Anthony's School, St. Anthony's Church, Hereford

TUESDAY, JAN. 27

11:00am, Catholic Schools Week Mass for students, staff and supporters of St. Anthony of Padua School, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Dalhart

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28

11:15am, Catholic Schools Week Mass for students, staff and supporters of Holy Cross Catholic Academy, St. Joseph's Church, Amarillo

THURSDAY, JAN. 29

8:15am, Catholic Schools Week Mass for students, staff and supporters of Saint Joseph's School, St. Joseph's Church, Amarillo

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

8:15am, Catholic Schools Week Mass for students, staff and supporters of St. Mary's Cathedral School, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

10:30am, Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood for Deacon Mauricio Valadez, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

6:00pm, Centennial Mass for the North Deanery, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

6:00pm, Centennial Mass for the Central Deanery, St. Hyacinth Church, Amarillo

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11

6:00pm, Centennial Mass for the East Deanery, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa

Thanks for reading
The West Texas Catholic

Blessed Sacrament Church Valentine Dinner, Dance

Amarillo—Blessed Sacrament Church will host its third annual Valentine Dinner and Dance Saturday, Feb. 14, beginning at 6:00pm at Bishop Zurek Parish Hall at 2500 South Bolton.

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

A Steak Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 8:00, followed by a dance with music from *Duetto Cor-tez and DJ Luisillo* until 1:00am.

Stratford German Sausage Dinner

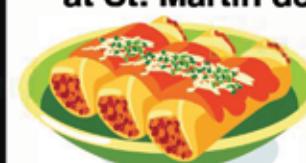
Stratford—St. Joseph's Church will serve its annual German Sausage Dinner Sunday, Feb. 22 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Sherman County Barn, 501 Maple, off Highway 287 to the east.

Dinner plates are \$17.00 each.

In addition to traditional German Sausage, sauerkraut and all the fixings, Green Chili Sausage

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.

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**

Amarillo—The Office of Communications for the Diocese of Amarillo has released the first update to the 2026 diocesan calendar, listing events in the diocese, taking place between today and Friday, March 6.

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

Dates added since the Dec. 21 update are in **BOLD**. 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

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)

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

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—Ordination Mass for Deacon Mauricio Valadez, St. Mary's Church (806-376-7204)

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

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)

4—Centennial Deanery Mass for the North Deanery, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas (806-935-5002)

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

6—Centennial Deanery Mass for the Central Deanery, St. Hyacinth Church, Amarillo (806-358-1351)

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

11—Centennial Deanery Mass for the East Deanery, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa (806-665-8933)

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—Cheers to Change 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 #1450, Monsignor Francis A. Smyer Activity Center, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo (806-376-7204)

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 of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion, 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)

22—Lenten Mission, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo (806-376-7204)

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)

Golden Jubilees Sought

If you were joined together in marriage between January 1, 1976 and March 31, 1976, *The West Texas Catholic* would like to honor you. Please send us a current photo or your wedding photo, your names, the date and location of your wedding and we will honor you in our 50th Anniversary Golden Tributes page in the Sunday, March 15 issue of *The West Texas Catholic*, free of charge. Please, no cellphone photos.

Send photos via email to westtexascatholic@gmail.com or via regular mail to: P.O. Box 5644, Amarillo, 79107.

Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with any mailed photos and we will return them after the issue date.

Please put your name, address, phone number and email address on the back of your photo.

The deadline to submit photos and information is Thursday, March 5.

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—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)



LIFE
*Our Sign
of Hope*

RESPECT LIFE

RESPECT LIFE MASS

10:00 AM | JAN. 24

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



Meet A Catholic School Teacher

Name: Cailin Webber

School: Saint Joseph's School, Amarillo

Grade You Are Teaching: Kindergarten

Degree Obtained: Bachelor's of Applied Arts and Science, Minor in Education, West Texas A&M University, Canyon

Spouse's Name: Jordan Webber

Why do you teach at a Catholic School, compared to a Public School? "I believe that teaching at a Catholic School offers a meaningful experience that not only influences a child's education, but also makes a positive impact on the child's life as a whole. I have found that the school's mission works to create a strong community of Faith, trust and compassion."



of academic success while creating a strong community for both the students and the staff."

What is your philosophy when it comes to the classroom? "I believe that every student is unique. It is important that every student should feel safe, seen and respected. My goal as a teacher is to create a classroom environment where students feel safe to discuss their thoughts, ask questions and be themselves. My goal is to help students thrive by meeting each student's individual needs, incorporating their interests into the lessons and challenge each student without overwhelming them. I hope for my students to grow not only academically but personally."

Hobbies: Running, Crocheting

Favorite Television Show: House Hunters International and America's Got Talent

Favorite Books: Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

If you had chosen another career path, what would it have been? "I would have been a Physical Therapy Assistant."

If you were Superintendent for a day, what would you do?

"I would spend time observing each classroom, communicating with parents and visiting with the students about their thoughts and feelings regarding how the school year is going."

Annual PTO Auction Sunday, March 1

Hereford—St. Anthony's School will host its annual Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Auction on Sunday, March 1.

Activities begin at 11:00am with a meal, which will be served until 2:00pm, which includes a bake sale.

The auction will begin at 1:00,

continuing until 6:00. More than 500 items will be up for bid during the live auction, according to school spokesperson Elaine McNutt. Babysitting will be available.

For more details or to donate items for the auction, please contact the school office during regular business hours at 806-364-1952.

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, 806-376-4571.

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.

Catholic Schools:
An Investment in Country and Church

Holy Cross Calendar Party

Amarillo—While the tickets for the ninth annual Calendar Party to benefit Holy Cross Catholic Academy have all been sold for the Friday, Jan. 30 event, there is still the matter of the Golden Raffle tickets, according to school spokesperson April Fetterman.

A limited number of Golden Raffle tickets are still on sale, at \$100 each. The winning ticket holder chooses from one of these four destinations:

- A Kentucky Bourbon Tour and a gift card for airfare, which includes three nights for two adults in Lexington;
- A five-night all-inclusive stay in Cabo San Lucas/San Jose del Cabo for two adults;
- A three-night trip to Sedona, Arizona for two adults, which includes a \$1,000 travel gift card;
- A six-night Tuscany trip for two adults with wine, which includes a \$2,000 Travel Gift Card

The Calendar Party begins at 5:30pm in the HCCA Event Center at 4102 South Bonham. The evening includes a steak dinner, live and silent auctions, drawings and music by Agave Posse.

Proceeds from the evening will go into the school's General Operating Fund, which helps keep tuition affordable. Sponsors are still being sought, and more information can be found at holycrossama.org/the-calendar-party.

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

Holy Cross Basketball Schedule

with games at 11:00am and Noon.

Monday, Jan. 26, Middle School Lady Mustangs and Mustangs continue play in the fourth round of the WTCAA North Regionals at Accelerate, with games at 5:00pm and 6:00pm.

Tuesday, Jan. 27, at San Jacinto Christian. Junior Varsity Mustangs game at 5:00pm, followed by the Lady Mustangs and Mustangs varsity games.

Saturday, Jan. 31, at Midland Holy Cross. Lady Mustangs varsity game at noon, followed by the Mustangs varsity game.

Saturday, Jan. 31, Middle School Lady Mustangs and Mustangs in the WTCAA North Regionals at St. Andrew's, Amarillo.

Tuesday, Feb. 3, Senior Night vs. Christ the King, Lubbock. Junior Varsity Mustangs game at 5:00pm, followed by the Mustangs and Lady Mustangs games.

Friday, Feb. 6, vs. Southcrest. Junior Varsity Mustangs game at 5:00, followed by the Lady Mustangs and Mustangs varsity games.

Saturday, Feb. 7, Junior Varsity Mustangs in the Panhandle JV Tournament.

Saturday, Feb. 14, Bi-District Playoffs, at top seed, TBD.

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.

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo will be closed Monday, Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Catholic Schools will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Rite Of Election: *Sunday, Feb. 22*

Amarillo—The Diocese of Amarillo invites the Faithful to the celebration of the **Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion** Sunday, Feb. 22 at 2:30pm at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1200 South Washington.

All participants in the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion should be at St. Mary's Cathedral by no later than 1:30pm to receive final instructions, according to School Sister of Notre Dame Sister María Elena Ferrer, coordinator of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Amarillo.

"In the life of each diocesan Church in the United States and in many other countries, the first Sunday of Lent is very special for catechumens and candidates," said Sister María Elena. "After a period of catechesis in the *Catechumenate*

and having celebrated the liturgical rites of this period, catechumens, as well as candidates, will be ready to gather with the Bishop at the Cathedral to begin the period of the Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA) process called *Purification and Enlightenment*. This period of deep interior reflection before the celebration of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil takes place during the 40 days of Lent.

"The title of the combined rite is *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion*. This is necessary to maintain the distinction between the catechumens and the baptized candidates. Those who are baptized Catholic, or another Christian denomination are already members of the Christian community.

"The rite takes place at the Cathedral; however, each parish celebrates the *Rite of Sending Cat-*

echumens for Election and Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion at the parish church. Only the catechumens are presented to the parish community. Their catechists and sponsors give testimony about their readiness, after which they write their names in the **BOOK OF THE ELECT**. Candidates preparing for full communion and the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist may also be presented to the parish community. Since they are baptized their names have already been written in the Baptismal Registry and do not have to be entered in the Book of the Elect.

"Catechumens and their Godparents, candidates and their sponsors, parents, OCIA catechists and pastors are cordially invited to this awe-inspiring celebration at St. Mary's Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 22 at 2:30pm."

Your diocesan website: amarillodiocese.org

Open 24 hours, seven days a week

Thematic Retreat At St. Laurence Church

Amarillo—The Diocesan Youth Office will present a *Know, Love, Serve* Thematic Retreat Saturday, Jan. 31 at 9:30am in the parish hall at St. Laurence 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. Additional details can also be found at amarillodiocese.org/know-love-serve-retreat. The *Know, Love, Serve* Thematic Retreat is presented by Covenant Teen and supported by the United Catholic Appeal.

Cheers To Change

Amarillo—*Cheers to Change*, a fundraiser to benefit the Inter-Faith Hunger Project at Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle, will take place Friday, Feb. 20, beginning at 6:00pm in the Amarillo Club, 600 South Tyler, Ste. 3000.

The evening will include music, presentations and fellowship, according to Jeff Gulde, CCTXP executive director. **Black tie attire is requested.**

Sponsorships are available for

Cheers to Change. The levels include:

- Top Shelf, at \$25,000;
- Meats, at \$10,000;
- Fruits, at \$5,000;
- Veggies, at \$2,500;
- Grains, at \$1,000; and,
- Dairy, at \$500.

For additional information or to sponsor *Cheers to Change*, please contact Yara Haddad, development director at Catholic Charities at 806-376-4571, ext. 250, or via email, yhaddad@cctxp.org.

Pray The Rosary...Daily...

Save the Date

DENIM and Diamonds

Friday April 17 | 6:30pm-11:00pm
\$75 PER TICKET
Includes an opportunity to tame a \$10,000 Visa Gift Card!

Monsignor Francis A. Smyer Activity Center
1200 S. Washington | Amarillo

Catered by THE BIG TEXAN

DRAWING • SILENT AUCTION • DANCING

St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Pope: Christians Must Resist Allure Of Power, Serve Humanity

Vatican City (CNS)—The powerful and violent cannot control, suppress or commodify God's grace, friendship and will to usher in a new dawn, Pope Leo XIV said.

"Around us, a distorted economy tries to profit from everything. We see how the marketplace can turn human yearnings of seeking, traveling and beginning again into a mere business," he said, celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany, and officially closing the celebration of the Holy Year dedicated to hope.

"Let us ask ourselves: has the Jubilee taught us to flee from this type of efficiency that reduces everything to a product and human beings to consumers?" he asked. "After this year, will we be better able to recognize a pilgrim in the visitor, a seeker in the stranger, a neighbor in the foreigner and fellow travelers in those who are different?"

Before the Mass, the pope, cardinals and bishops present in Rome, gathered in the atrium of the basilica and gave thanks to God for the gifts received during the Holy Year. Dozens of the world's cardinals were in Rome to attend the pope's first extraordinary consis-

tory Jan. 7-8, to pray, support and advise the pope on the life and mission of the Church.

Pope Leo went to the threshold of the Holy Door and pulled each side shut. The door will be sealed until the next Holy Year, which is likely to be 2033, the 2,000th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

While the last of the Holy Doors in the city was closing, "the gate" of God's mercy will never be shut, Pope Leo said before shutting the door. God "will always sustain the weary, raise up those who have fallen" and offer "good things" to those who place their trust in Him.

In his homily, Pope Leo compared the millions of men and women who came to Rome on pilgrimage to modern-day Magi, "who left palace and temple behind" in search of a new "king," which they found in the baby Jesus in a humble grotto in Bethlehem.

"Yes, the Magi still exist today. They are the people who sense the need to go out and search, accepting the risks associated with their journey, especially in a troubled world like ours that may be unpleasant and dangerous in many

ways," he said.

However, Pope Leo cautioned, today's seekers must encounter in today's churches and sacred places the same humble source of life, hope and joy that the Magi encountered in Bethlehem.

"How important it is that those who pass through the doors of the church perceive therein that the Messiah has just been born, that a community gathers in which hope springs forth and that a story of life is unfolding!" he said.

"Jesus encountered and allowed himself to be approached by all people," he said, because "the Lord wants his presence to grow among us as God-with-us."

"No one can sell this to us. The child whom the Magi adore is a priceless and immeasurable good," the pope said, criticizing "a distorted economy," which even tries to exploit and commodify the human desire for freedom and true fulfillment.

God revealing Himself to humanity as man is "a gift," Pope Leo said. "He reveals Himself and lets Himself be found."

"His ways are not our ways, and the violent do not succeed in controlling them, nor can the powers of the world block them," he said, recalling the great joy the Magi felt upon finding the Messiah and despite Herod's efforts to destroy what had been promised. The fear and violence unleashed by King Herod "make us think of the many conflicts by which people resist and even damage the new things that God has in store for everyone," he said. "Loving and seeking peace means protecting what is holy and, consequently, that which is newly born like a small, vulnerable, fragile baby."

Deacons Birthdays

Deacons of the Diocese of Amarillo celebrating birthdays during the month of February include:

- Deacon Alfredo Alarcón
Feb. 1
- Deacon Pablo Morales
Feb. 7
- Deacon Todd Murray
Feb. 16
- Deacon Terry Pevehouse
Feb. 20

"God challenges the existing order," the pope said. "God is determined to rescue us from both old and new forms of slavery. He involves young and old, poor and rich, men and women, saints and sinners in his works of mercy and in the wonders of his justice."

"Let us ask ourselves: is there life in our Church? Is there space for something new to be born? Do we love and proclaim a God who sets us on a journey?" Pope Leo asked.

"Fear does indeed blind us. Conversely, the joy of the Gospel liberates us. It makes us prudent, yes, but also bold, attentive and

creative; it beckons us along ways that are different from those already traveled," he said.

"It is wonderful to become pilgrims of hope," who journey together and are amazed by God's Faithfulness, he said.

"If we do not reduce our churches to monuments, if our communities are homes, if we stand united and resist the flattery and seduction of those in power, then we will be the generation of a new dawn," he said. In Jesus, "we will contemplate and serve an extraordinary humanity, transformed not by the delusions of the all-powerful, but by God who became flesh out of love."

"The poor are not there by chance or by blind and cruel fate. Nor, for most of them, is poverty a choice. Yet, there are those who still presume to make this claim, thus revealing their own blindness and cruelty."

—Pope Leo XIV
Dilexi Te

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.



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.



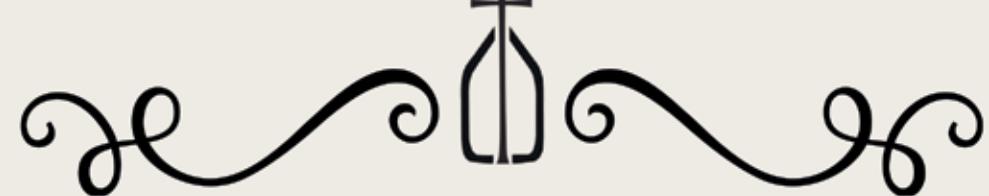
DIOCESE
OF
AMARILLO

UNITED CATHOLICS



SAVE THE DATE

Cheers to
CHANGE



PRESENTED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE
TEXAS PANHANDLE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

| 6:00 PM |

THE AMARILLO CLUB



Black Tie Attire Requested



He numbers the stars, and gives to all of them their names.

- Psalm 147:4

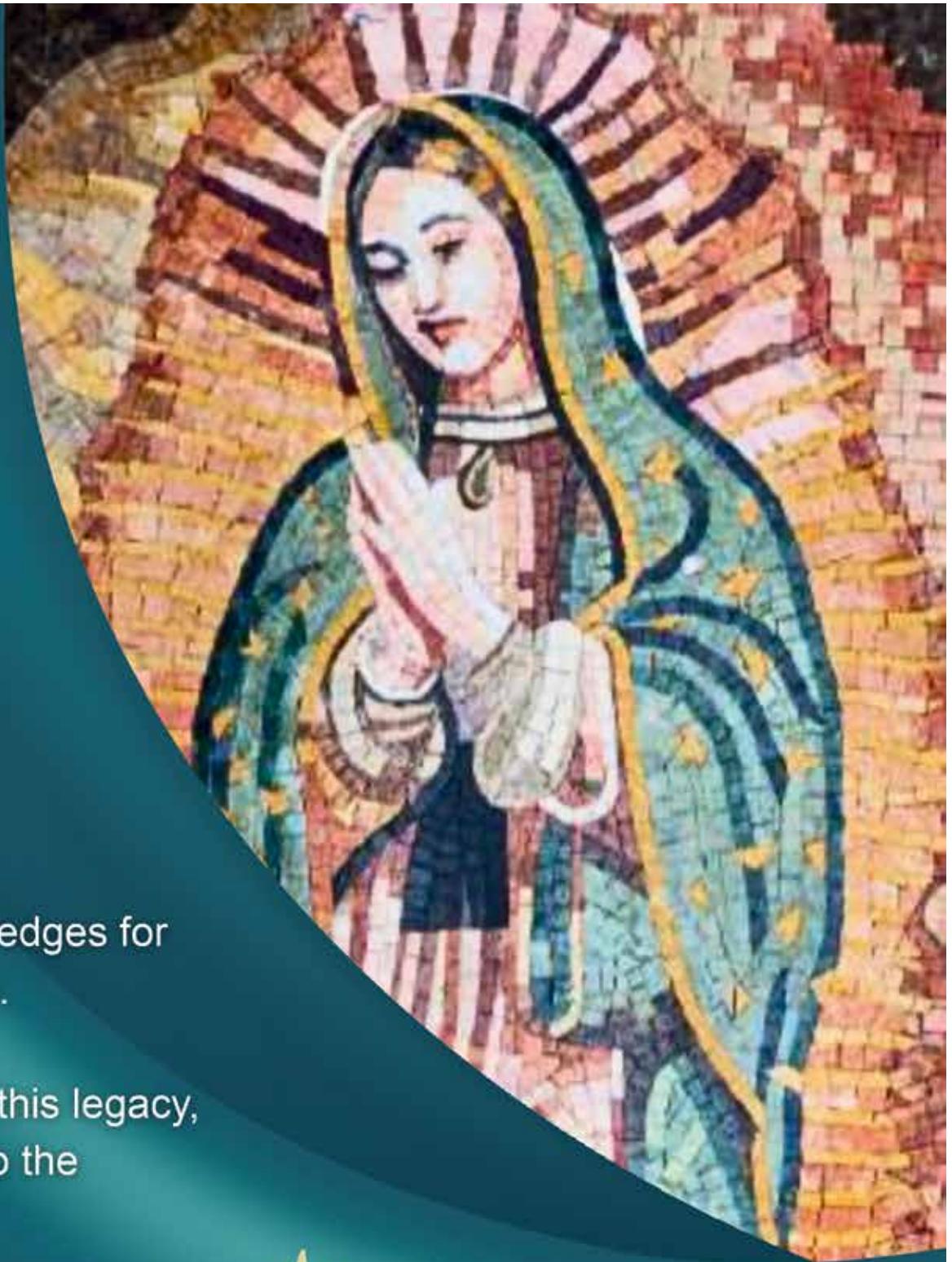
THE Compostela SOCIETY

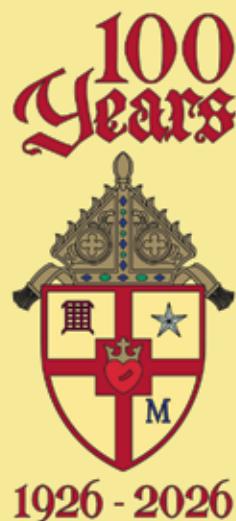
Goal Surpassed - Thank You!

We have reached **\$235,000** in pledges for The Compostela Society initiative.

If you would still like to be part of this legacy, stars may continue to be added to the installation.

All pledges must be paid by Sunday, May 31
Contact: (806) 376-7204 x3035
cantrell@stmarysamarillo.com





With Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God
The Diocese of Amarillo

Joyfully announces and
 invites you to attend

The ordination of
DEACON MAURICIO DANIEL VALADEZ GALLARDO
 to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ

The Sacrament of Holy Orders
 will be conferred through the imposition of Hands
 and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by
His Excellency Patrick J. Zurek
Eighth Bishop of Amarillo

Saturday, the thirty-first of January
 Two Thousand and Twenty Six
 at ten thirty in the morning.

St. Mary's Cathedral
 1200 South Washington
 □ Amarillo



Con alabanza y gratitud al Dios Todopoderoso
La Diócesis de Amarillo

Comunica con alegría y
 le hace la más cordial invitación

A la Ordenación del
DIÁCONO MAURICIO DANIEL VALADEZ GALLARDO
 al Orden Sagrado del Sacerdocio de Jesucristo

El Sacramento de las Órdenes Sagradas
 será conferido mediante la imposición de manos
 y la invocación del Espíritu Santo de
Su Excelencia Monseñor Patrick J. Zurek
Octavo Obispo de Amarillo

El día Sábado treinta y Uno de Enero
 del Año dos mil Veintiséis
 a las diez y treinta de la mañana

en la Catedral de Santa María
 Calle Washington 1200 Sur
 Amarillo □

El Diácono Mauricio Valadez Será Ordenado al Sacerdocio

Amarillo—El Diácono Mauricio Valadez, seminarista para la Diócesis de Amarillo, será ordenado al Sacerdocio por el Obispo Patrick J. Zurek en Misa a las 10:00am el sábado, 31 de enero en la Catedral de Santa María, calle Washington 1200 Sur.

Se invita al público a la Misa de Ordenación y animamos a los fieles a ir y mostrar su apoyo por el Diácono Valadez y por las vocaciones en la Diócesis de Amarillo. La Misa se transmitirá a toda la diócesis por la Red de Radio Guadalupe: 1010AM y 94.5FM para Amarillo y Canyon y la estación de baja potencia KHFN-LP, 105.5FM en Nazareth para el Condado de Castro.

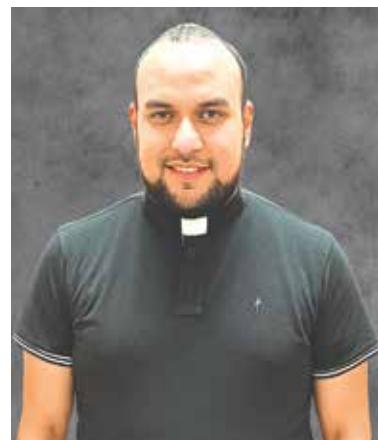
La Misa también se transmitirá en vivo en el sitio web de la Catedral de Santa María, stmarysamarillo.com.

El recién ordenado Padre Valadez va a celebrar sus primeras dos Misas el domingo, 1 de febrero en la Iglesia de Saint Mary, ubicada en Pondaseta Road 22830 en Umbarger—en inglés a las 9:00am y en español al mediodía.

El Diácono Valadez tiene 30 años. Nació en Lagos de Moreno, Jalisco, México y es uno de seis hijos de Miguel Valadez Ramírez y Angélica Gallardo González. Tiene un hermano, Miguel y cuatro hermanas: Elizabeth, Milagros, Mary y Maira.

En entrevista el 30 de diciembre, el *West Texas Catholic* le preguntó al Diácono Valadez acerca de su jornada a los Estados Unidos.

“Tengo un profundo respeto



Diácono Mauricio Valadez

por los inmigrantes”, dijo. “Creo que es muy importante dar la evangelización que viene de Dios, no sólo a los latinos sino a toda la gente americana. En México me llamó la atención que la gente latina tiene gran necesidad de una gran Fe en Cristo. Es por eso que también quiero servir en los Estados Unidos no sólo a la comunidad latina, sino también a la comunidad americana—evangelizar a todos—porque esa es mi misión, evangelizar a la gente. Mi vocación ha sido por ellos. Inicialmente estudié en México, pero la vida americana me llamó la atención y fue así como decidí venir a los Estados Unidos”.

“La Diócesis de Amarillo me atrajo cuando conocí al Padre Gabriel García en México al estar yo en otro seminario. Él promovía un seminario que me llamó la atención, fui con él a visitarlo y cuando decidí cambiar seminarios

de México a los Estados Unidos, él me ayudó mucho en todos esos detalles. Ha sido interesante porque, gracias a Dios el proceso para que me incardinaran en la Diócesis de Amarillo fue rápido y no tomó mucho tiempo. Así que todo ha sido por la Gracia de Dios”.

Al preguntarle qué consejo daría él a alguien que esté considerando la vocación sacerdotal, él respondió...

“Acércate a los sacerdotes”, dijo. “Los sacerdotes son las personas correctas que te pueden ayudar a encaminar tu vocación. No tengas miedo de servir a Cristo. Cristo se revela por medio de muchas personas.

No tengas miedo de lo que la gente va a hablar de ti, porque Dios es la persona que nos encamina en todo momento. Él es el único que nos juzga y es el único que nos dice: aquí estoy para ayudarte en lo que necesitas. Por lo tanto, Él te va a poner a la persona indicada, pero Él te dice que no temas porque Él estará contigo. Sigue a Cristo porque Él siempre te va a tomar de la mano”.

Para información adicional sobre las vocaciones en la Diócesis de Amarillo, favor de llamar al Padre García en la Iglesia de San José en Amarillo, 806-355-5621.

Salchicha en Bovina

Bovina—La primera comida del año en la Diócesis de Amarillo se servirá a fines de este mes.

La Iglesia de Saint Ann tendrá 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 Salchicha Alemana Casera con chucrut y todos los complementos por sus donativos de \$18.00 por adulto y \$6.00 por niño. Habrá platillos para llevar sin costo extra.

Ofrecerán variedad de salchicha en cuatro sabores: 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.

Intenciones del Papa León XIV para 2026

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.

Enero:

• **Por la oración con la Palabra de Dios:** Oremos para que la oración con la Palabra de Dios sea alimento en nuestras vidas y fuente de esperanza en nuestras comunidades, ayudándonos a construir una Iglesia más fraterna y misionera.

Cena y Baile de San Valentín de la Iglesia Blessed Sacrament

Amarillo—La Iglesia Blessed Sacrament tendrá su tercera Cena y Baile de San Valentín el sábado, 14 de febrero a partir de las 6:00pm en el Salón Parroquial Bishop Zurek, calle Bolton 2500 Sur.

El boleto para el evento cuesta \$75 por persona y toda la ganancia se aplicará a la renovación de los sanitarios de la iglesia, informa el Padre César A. Gómez, párroco de Blessed Sacrament.

Servirán Cena de Bistec de 6:00 a 8:00 y después habrá baile con la música del *Duetto Cortez y DJ Luisillo* hasta la 1:00am.

Diganos de sus Comidas de Cuaresma y Pescado Frito

Amarillo—El 18 de febrero, Miércoles de Ceniza, empieza la Cuaresma. La Oficina Diocesana de Comunicaciones les pide la información del Pescado Frito y Comidas que ustedes van a servir.

A personas a cargo de planear

Roguemos por lluvia favorable y provechosa.

Oración por las Vocaciones Sacerdotales en la Diócesis de Amarillo

¡Oh Jesús, Pastor Eterno

de las almas!

Dignate Mirar con ojos de misericordia a esta porción de tu grey amada. Señor, necesitamos mayor número de sacerdotes.

Multiplica las vocaciones y santifica más y más a nuestros sacerdotes. Te lo pedimos por la intercesión de la Inmaculada Virgen María de Guadalupe, tu dulce y santa Madre.

¡Oh Jesús, danos sacerdotes, según tu Corazón!

Amén.



La Diócesis Pasa la Auditoría de Ambientes Seguros 2024-2025

Por el Diácono Blaine Westlake

En carta de Stonebridge con fecha 15 de diciembre se notifica al Rvmo. Patrick J. Zurek que la Diócesis de Amarillo cumplió el Proceso de Colección de Datos que requiere la Conferencia del Episcopado Católico Estadounidense (USCCB) para el *Estatuto Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes*. La compañía Stonebridge Business Partners condujo la auditoría de datos diocesanos de Ambientes Seguros del 1º de julio de 2024 al 30 de junio de 2025.

Stonebridge es una firma de auditoría independiente comisionada por la USCCB para supervisar la implementación del Estatuto y garantizar el cumplimiento de sus mandatos.

Entre el 1º de julio de 2024 y el 30 de junio de 2025 se impartió Entrenamiento en Ambientes Seguros a 4,923 de los 5,077 menores de edad registrados en parroquias y escuelas católicas; solamente 25 padres optaron

no tomar el entrenamiento. Se entrenaron 2,295 Voluntarios, 36 Sacerdotes, 41 Diáconos, 12 Candidatos para Ordenación, 95 Educadores, 288 Empleados de Escuelas y Parroquias Diocesanas. Se autorizaron 2,767 personas en total para servir y prestar ministerio a nuestros niños y jóvenes.

El Obispo Zurek agradece en especial a cada Párroco; Director de Escuela o de Formación Cristiana y Juvenil; a todo Coordinador, Instructor y Entrenador en Ambientes Seguros; a Voluntarios y padres de familia que han laborado tanto y siguen haciéndolo cada año para mantener la seguridad de todos en nuestras escuelas e instituciones católicas, especialmente la seguridad de nuestros niños.

El Diácono Blaine Westlake es el Director de Ambientes Seguros en la Diócesis de Amarillo. Le pueden llamar al 806-383-2243, ext. 117, o enviarle email a bwestlake@dioama.org.

Oración del Centenario

Padre Celestial,
Te damos gracias por cien años de bendiciones
en nuestra diócesis de Amarillo.
Te alabamos por la fe profunda de nuestros fundadores,
por el servicio generoso de nuestros obispos,
sacerdotes, diáconos, y religiosos,
y el testimonio de tantos fieles.

Derrama Tu Santo Espíritu sobre nosotros,
Para que vivamos como una sola familia en Cristo,
Proclamando el Evangelio con gozo
Y sirviendo a los pobres con amor.

Por las oraciones de la Santísima Virgen María
y San Lorenzo, nuestros intercesores,
llénanos de fe, esperanza y caridad
y guíanos en la comunión y misión
durante el próximo siglo.
Amén.



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

Rito de Elección: Domingo, Feb. 22

Amarillo—La Diócesis de Amarillo invita a los feligreses 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.

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, dijo Sor María Elena Ferrer, Hermana Educadora de Nuestra Señora y 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 *Catecumeno* 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”.

“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 el Primer Domingo de Cuaresma, 22 de febrero a las 2:30pm”.

Se Necesitan Ministros de Comunión

Amarillo—Necesitamos voluntarios para llevar la comunión al Hospital BSA. Este compromiso no requiere mucho tiempo y ofrece

“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 ocurre 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 la Eucaristía también pueden presentarse a la comunidad parroquial. Porque 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 el Primer Domingo de Cuaresma, 22 de febrero a las 2:30pm”.

Buscamos Bodas de Oro

Si ustedes contrajeron matrimonio entre el 1º de enero de 1976 y 31 de marzo de 1976, *El West Texas Catholic* desea felicitarlos.

Favor de enviarnos una foto reciente o una foto de su casamiento, sus nombres, la fecha y el lugar de su boda y los publicaremos en la página de Tributos a los Aniversarios Dorados en la edición del 15 de marzo del *West Texas Catholic*, sin costo alguno.

Envíen las fotos por email a westtexascatholic@gmail.com o por correo postal a P.O. Box 5644, Amarillo, 79107.

Favor de enviar un sobre con su nombre, dirección y estampillas con sus fotografías para poder regresárselas después de la fecha de publicación.

Por favor escriban sus nombres, dirección postal, número de teléfono y su dirección de email al reverso de sus fotos.

Se aceptarán fotos hasta el jueves, 5 de marzo al mediodía.

Artículo Invitado: Misa y Rosario por el Respeto a la Vida

Por Karlynn Hochstein

Invito cordialmente a todos los fieles de la Diócesis de Amarillo a la Misa y Rosario por el Respeto a la Vida el sábado, 24 de enero en la Catedral de Santa María, calle Washington 1200 Sur en Amarillo. El mes de enero se conoce como mes de la Santidad de la Vida Humana desde que la Suprema Corte legalizó el aborto en la decisión Roe vs Wade el 22 de enero de 1973. En años recientes el progreso en apoyo a la cultura de la vida ha sido alentador—no sólo en Amarillo, sino en Texas y la nación—pero nuestra labor no está completa. Ya no hay centros de abortos en nuestra área y las leyes han hecho más difícil conseguirlos; pero los abortos químicos han aumentado y ahora constituyen más de la mitad de los abortos. Es señá que la dignidad de la vida humana aún tiene amenazas serias y es algo que debemos afrontar como católicos. Ante estos retos, acudir a Dios por medio de la Santa Misa y el Rosario sigue siendo una de las respuestas más poderosas a nuestro alcance.

Nuestra Santa Madre dijo “sí” a Dios con entereza ante la incertidumbre y el temor, con Fe completa en el plan divino. Cabe pues rezar juntos el Rosario en comunidad; María comprende las preocupaciones y ansiedades de las mujeres por quienes oramos. Ellas necesitan su consejo y confort materno y nosotros tenemos la oportunidad de orar por ellas. Cada mujer que considera el aborto tiene su historia particular y pesadas razones por las cuales considera



el aborto como una opción. Quizá jamás comprenderemos según su perspectiva, pero debemos confiar que Dios puede alcanzarla y que Él tiene el poder para transformar corazones. Al embarcarnos en el Año Centenario de nuestra diócesis con enfoque en la Fe, esperanza, comunidad y misión, durante este mes tenemos muy en mente la Fe. Debemos tener Fe en que Dios puede usar todo para Su gloria, aún algo tan terrible como el aborto. También debemos tener Fe en que nuestras oraciones son poderosas y que somos llamados a defender a los más vulnerables y a ser su voz.

La Santa Misa hace fuerte contraste a la violencia del aborto pues celebra a Cristo entregando su vida por toda la humanidad. En la Misa, glorificamos a Dios y nos unimos a Su victoria sobre el pecado y la muerte. Dios es soberano y ya ha ganado la batalla. Confiamos en Sus promesas, este mes nos dirigimos a Él en forma especial; le pedimos transformar corazones y mentes y

La Oficina de la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas en la Diócesis de Amarillo

Para expresar sospechas, indagar, o reportar abuso sexual respecto a Personal de la Iglesia, inclusive el Clero, Religiosos(as), Empleados y Voluntarios de cualquier Institución Católica, diríjanse a:

Sharyn Delgado
Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas
719 South Austin
Amarillo, TX 79106
Tel: 806-671-4830
FAX: 806-373-4662
Email: skdelgado@aol.com

fortalecer la cultura de vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural de toda persona. Mateo 18 nos recuerda que hay poder en la unión y oración comunitaria de los fieles de Dios. Esperamos que todos ustedes nos acompañen el 24 de enero para rogar a Dios como comunidad y orar por el fin del aborto y por la sanación de quienes ya están afectados por el aborto.

Karlynn Hochstein es originaria de Umbarger y reside en Nazareth. Ella inició sus labores como Directora Diocesana de Vida Familiar el día 7 de enero.

Descanse en Paz

La Sra. Silvia Bunyan, madre del Padre Gregory Bunyan, quien sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo en años recientes, falleció en diciembre en Nicaragua.

Se celebró Misa el 16 de diciembre en la Funeraria Monte de los Olivos en Managua. El sepelio fue en el Cementerio Sierras de Paz.

Atención:

El Obispo Patrick J. Zurek ha dispuesto que el sábado, 24 de enero de 2026

no haya actividades diocesanas o parroquiales en la Diócesis de Amarillo antes de la 1:00pm

para que todos los católicos de la diócesis tengan la oportunidad de participar en la

Misa por el Respeto a la Vida

para conmemorar el 53º aniversario de la trágica decisión Roe v Wade de la Suprema Corte

Brisket de la Iglesia San José

Amarillo—La tercera Comida Anual de Brisket de la Sociedad del Altar de la Iglesia de San José tendrá lugar el domingo, 15 de febrero de 11:00am a 3:00pm en el Gimnasio de la Escuela Saint Joseph, calle Bonham 4114 Sur.

Los boletos cuestan \$18.00 por adulto y \$9.00 por niño de cinco a doce años. Niños de cuatro años y menores comerán gratis, informa Denice Haley. Pueden adquirir sus boletos de antemano en la oficina

parroquial de San José o el día de la comida. Habrá platillos para llevar.

“Podrán comer allí o llevar sus platillos”, dijo Haley. “Invitamos a todos a visitar nuestra boutique de la Sociedad del Altar durante la comida”.

Para más información sobre la Comida de Brisket, llamen a la Iglesia San José, 806-355-5621. También hay detalles en el sitio web de la parroquia de San José, stjosephamarillo.com.

Salchicha Polaca en Pampa

Pampa—El Consejo #2767 de Caballeros de Colón de la Iglesia de San Vicente de Paúl tendrá su 74^a Comida de Salchicha Polaca el domingo, 8 de marzo de 11:00am a 2:00pm en el Centro Pastoral Educativo (PEC) de la parroquia, Avenida 23 Oeste 810.

Adquiridos por adelantado, los boletos cuestan \$15.00; el día de la comida costarán \$18.00 a la puerta. Puede adquirir su boleto de cualquier miembro del Consejo

#2767 de Caballeros de Colón.

Servirán Salchicha Polaca, frijoles, ensalada de papas, ensalada de col y postre.

“Vengan todos a disfrutar esta gran comida y convivencia con nosotros el domingo, 8 de marzo”, dijo Adolfo Reséndiz, Gran Caballero del Consejo #2767.

Para más detalles de la comida, hagan el favor de llamar a Reséndiz, 806-802-9084 o al Dr. Jack Albracht, 806-663-1950.



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

VIDA

*nuestro signo
de esperanza*

RESPETEMOS LA VIDA

MISA POR EL RESPETO A LA VIDA

10:00 AM | ENERO 24

Catedral de Santa María

1200 Sur Washington en Amarillo



Seminary Burse Report Diocese of Amarillo

Contributions: thru December 23, 2025

Donations in Honor/Memory of

John Casasanta	\$ 100.00
Sam Albracht	\$ 150.00
Serra Club of Amarillo Burse No. 5	\$ 2,000.00

Open Burses

Amarillo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women No. 2	\$ 2,915.33
Anthony and Katherine Paschel	\$ 1,700.00
Arnold Husmann	\$ 2,900.00
Benjamin Seago	\$ 800.00
Bishop John W. Yanta	\$ 2,050.00
Bishop Leroy T. Matthiesen	\$ 1,050.00
Bishop Patrick J. Zurek	\$ 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
Deacon Mauricio Valadez	\$ 575.00
Deacon Richard Riley	\$ 225.00
Debby Pope	\$ 250.00
Diocesan Committee of 2000	\$ 2,558.50
Ellen Neusch	\$ 4,225.00
Emily Diller/Jim and Emily Pavlicek	\$ 4,000.00
Eric Walterscheid	\$ 1,075.00
Father Francisco Perez, JCL	\$ 1,500.00
Father Gary Sides No. 2	\$ 985.00
Father Grant Spinhirne	\$ 1,100.00
Father J. Arnold Carlson	\$ 100.00
Father Ken Keller	\$ 1,200.00
Father Raphael Chen	\$ 3,000.00
Father Richard Neyer	\$ 3,010.00
Father Ryan Winger	\$ 1,350.00
Father Scott L. Raef	\$ 250.00
Father Shane Wieck	\$ 1,750.00
Father Taylor Elzner	\$ 480.00
Father Victor Hugo Andrade	\$ 100.00
Francis and Hilda Neusch	\$ 500.00
Gerald Brandt	\$ 1,250.00
Gregorio Lopez	\$ 900.00
Grove Family	\$ 500.00
Guy D. Raef	\$ 700.00
John Casasanta	\$ 1,250.00
Jose and Epifana Vega	\$ 400.00
Josephine Lange Burse No. 2	\$ 233.56
Knights of Columbus	\$ 32.00
Martha Huseman	\$ 809.00
Marvin Batenhorst	\$ 500.00
Monsignor Fred Hyland	\$ 1,500.00
Monsignor Harold Waldow	\$ 10.00
Monsignor Joseph Tash	\$ 4,733.00
Monsignor Kevin Hand	\$ 2,250.00
Monsignor Mario Stortz	\$ 100.00
Monsignor Monroe J. Matthiesen	\$ 300.00
Monsignor Norbert Kuehler	\$ 50.00
Monsignor Peter Morsch	\$ 4,373.18
Monsignor Raymond Crosier	\$ 450.00
Monsignor Rex Nicholl	\$ 200.00
Monsignor Richard Vaughn	\$ 180.00
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Betzen	\$ 1,000.00
Owen Seamans	\$ 4,020.00
Richard Escalante	\$ 400.00
Ruth Bednorz	\$ 50.00
Sammy Gonzales Sr.	\$ 1,405.00
Sam Albracht	\$ 175.00
Serra Club of Amarillo Burse No. 5	\$ 5,010.00
Sidney Birkenfeld	\$ 100.00
Sisters of the Sacred Heart Amarillo	\$ 100.00
St. Anthony's Church - Hereford	\$ 4,500.00
St. John the Evangelist - 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 Brorman	\$ 50.00
Tonya Taylor	\$ 25.00
Undesignated and Miscellaneous	\$ 4,621.94
 Total Open Burses	\$ 95,858.71
Closed Burses	\$ 989,066.55
Total Original Burses	\$ 1,084,925.26

Market Value of Investments as of November 30, 2025

Bank of America \$ 1,120,722.02

Society

Canyon—Caleigh Marie Wood and Dalton Scott Britt were united in marriage Dec. 27, St. Ann's Church, Father Scott L. Raef, pastor, presiding. The bride is the daughter of Sherrie and Matt Wood of Groom. The groom is the son of Kathy and Scott Britt of Clovis, NM.

Hereford—Maddie Brown and Logan Paetzold were united in marriage Dec. 27, St. Anthony's Church, Father Grant Spinhirne, pastor, presiding. The bride is the daughter of Amy and David Brown of Amarillo. The groom is the son of Laurie and Walter Paetzold of Hereford.

Amarillo—Kathleen “Katie” Johnson and Cody Toothaker were united in marriage Jan. 2, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Father Vijay Kumar Bonagiri, pastor, St. Augustine Church, Kit Carson, Colo., presiding. The bride is the daughter of Samantha and Richard Johnson of Kit Carson. The groom is the son of Lori Toothaker of Cimarron, Kan. and Lisa and Joey Toothaker of Mayetta, Kan.

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 this year, 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.

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

Please pray for rain!

DEADLINES

Issue Date	Deadline
Feb. 15	Feb. 5
March 15	March 5
April 19	April 9
May 17	May 7
June 21	June 11
July 19	July 9
Aug. 16	Aug. 6

The deadline for photos, story ideas and advertisements is noon on deadline day.

DCYC 2026 Registration Underway

Amarillo—Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God (Isaiah 41:10)

is the theme of the annual Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) for youth in grades seven through twelve. The conference is scheduled Friday, April 24 through Sunday, April 26 at the Amarillo Civic Center, 401 South Buchanan.

Registration is now open for DCYC 2026. Early-bird registration is \$55 per person, but to get the early-bird price, registrations must be postmarked by **Monday, Feb. 23**. The registration fee includes two meals, a t-shirt and gifts.

Regular registration is \$65 per person and must be postmarked by **Friday, April 3**. The fee includes two meals, but no t-shirt and gifts.

For those registering at the door, cost is \$75 per person, according to Diocesan Youth Director Oscar Guzman. The registration fee includes two meals.

Registration can be done at the parish level and any additional costs depends on the cost of transporta-

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, followed by the recitation of the Ro-

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.

February:

• **For children with incurable diseases.** Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

tion, lodging and additional meals.

For those planning to go to Wonderland Park on Sunday, April 26, tickets are \$24 per person. Guzman said those planning to go to Wonderland Park are welcome to order for family as well, but that Wonderland Park is optional.

Scheduled to participate at DCYC 2026 are:

- Bishop Patrick J. Zurek;
- Donovan Moses;
- Genesis Pirolo;
- Franciscan Sister of Christ the Light Sister Maria Irina Teiner; and,
- Brad Farmer.

Youth interested in attending DCYC 2026 are asked to contact their parish youth minister or priest for additional parish delegation details. For more information about DCYC 2026, please go online to amarillodiocese.org/dcyc-aka-youth-rally or contact Guzman at 806-383-2243, ext. 118.

Guzman added that the Youth Scholarship Deadline is Friday, Feb. 6.

sary at 11:30 and Contemplative Prayer at noon.

There is no charge and those attending are encouraged to stay for the entire time or for a portion. For more details please call the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center at 806-383-1811.

Volunteers Needed For Childress Kolbe Retreat

Amarillo—Volunteers are still needed for the first Kolbe Prison Retreat of the year, 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 are underway, taking place Tuesday evenings through Feb. 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 in the parlor at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4100 South Coulter, Amarillo.

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 Roach 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 Pris-



on Retreats this year 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 Dalhart Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

The Kolbe Retreats are named after St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Patron Saint of Prisoners, accord-

ing to Deacon Dixon. St. Maximilian 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.

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 prayerfully 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 totustuus@diocesearm.org.

Thanks for reading

The West Texas Catholic. Please share this newspaper with others

Natural Family Planning Calendar

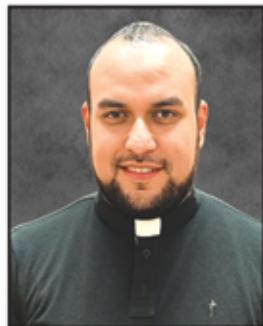
Amarillo—A Marquette Method session in English will be offered Saturday, March 14, at 1:00pm at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 4512 NE 24th Ave., Amarillo. For

more information or to register for the session, please contact Dr. Faye Usala at 806-683-5561 or via email, fayebrienusala@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 ap-

proximately two months, according to Jennifer Wagner.

For additional information about the course, please call Wagner at 806-433-9561.



Deacon Mauricio Valadez



Mr. Richard Escalante



Mr. Benjamin Seago

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"It was not you who chose Me, But I Who Chose you....." ~ John 15:16

Pope Leo XIV Calls On Catholics To Rediscover Vatican II Teachings

Vatican City (CNS)—The teachings of the Second Vatican Council are still “the guiding star” the Catholic Church is meant to follow, Pope Leo XIV said.

Rereading all of its teachings “is a valuable opportunity to rediscover the beauty and the importance of this ecclesial event,” he said Jan. 7, and because its work remains “a guiding principle for us today.”

“We have yet to achieve ecclesial reform more fully in a ministerial sense and, in the face of today’s challenges, we are called to continue to be vigilant interpreters of the signs of the times, joyful proclaimers of the Gospel, courageous witnesses of justice and peace,” he said.

Speaking to visitors gathered in the Paul VI Audience Hall for his weekly general audience, the pope said that with the conclusion of the Holy Year Jan. 6, he was beginning a new series of talks dedicated to the Second Vatican Council.

The council, which convened for four sessions from 1962 to 1965, produced 16 documents, addressing everything from liturgy to Scripture, missionary activity to ecumenism and interfaith relationships and the functions of clergy and laity to religious freedom.

“Vatican Council II rediscovered the face of God as the Father who, in Christ, calls us to be His children,” he said in his talk.

The council looked at the Catholic Church “as a mystery of communion and sacrament of unity between God and His people; it initiated important liturgical reform, placing at its center the mystery of salvation and the active and conscious participation of the entire people of God,” he said.

“At the same time, it helped us to open up to the world and to embrace the changes and challenges of the modern age in dialogue and co-responsibility, as a Church that wishes to open Her arms to humanity, to echo the hopes and anxieties of peoples, and to collaborate in building a more just and fraternal society,” he said.

For the past six decades, the popes have repeatedly underlined the importance of Vatican II, its teachings and its fuller implementation.

However, since the council was held so long ago, that means that “the generation of bishops, theologians and believers of Vatican II is no longer with us,” said the pope, who would have been 10 years old when the council ended in December of 1965.

“It will be important to get to know it again closely, and to do so not through ‘hearsay’ or interpretations that have been given, but by rereading its documents and reflecting on their content” directly, he said.

“Indeed, it is the Magisterium that still constitutes the guiding star of the Church’s journey today,” he said.

Ordination Anniversaries

Deacons of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their ordination anniversaries in January include:

Deacon Jose Correa

Jan. 6, 2001

Deacon Jose Garcia

Jan. 26, 2008

Thanks for reading The West Texas Catholic

“Call my Daddy!”



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Robert Hands

Attorney-at-Law

678-0688

83 N. Avondale
Amarillo, Texas 79106

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.

Let Us Help Promote Your Events

The West Texas Catholic and the diocesan Office of Communications wishes to help your parish, Catholic School or organization get the word out about upcoming events.

Please email us the relevant information (i.e., the who, what,

“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.

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.

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.

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*

Vatican Sees Record Number Of Visitors

Vatican City (CNS)—An estimated 33 million visitors and pilgrims came to the Vatican to celebrate the Jubilee Year, exceeding early forecasts, officials said at a news conference at the Vatican Jan. 5.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization's section for new evangelization and chief organizer of the 2025 Holy Year, said the figure is based on estimates from a study by Roma Tre University, online registrations for the Holy Year, and the number of people who passed through the Holy Doors of Rome's major basilicas and attended papal events.

By the time the Holy Year ended, at least 33 million people will have taken part, which breaks down to more than 90,000 people a day. The period with the most pilgrims in Rome was during the Jubilee of Young People from July 21 to Aug. 10, which registered more than 13 million people.

Early estimates had expected that the Jubilee Year would bring 30 million to 35 million visitors to the Vatican. The city saw about 22 million people come to Rome in 2024, Roberto Gualtieri, mayor of Rome, said during the news conference.

Based on data collected solely from registered pilgrims, visitors from the United States ranked second only to Italy, accounting for nearly 13% of the total number of registered visitors, Archbishop Fisichella said. Pilgrims from more than 185 countries participated in the Jubilee Year.

“It is inevitable that such a milestone also brings with it an assessment of this year, which in many respects has been extraordi-

nary. Begun under Pope Francis, the Jubilee concludes under Pope Leo XIV,” the archbishop said in Italian. “The funeral and the new election were added to the entire Jubilee program, showing the whole world the ability to act with determination and confidence amid an exceptional series of events.”

Archbishop Fisichella thanked Rome's officials for their hard work in supporting the inflow of visitors, and said that the increase also led to increased visitor rates across the city's tourist sites.

Gualtieri agreed, saying it was a year of unprecedented tourism across the city. To accommodate the Jubilee Year and the influx of visitors, construction crews completed 110 projects across Rome, including the restoration of historic squares, monuments and holy sites.

Lamberto Giannini, Rome's prefect, who coordinates maintaining law and order in the city, said that city and Vatican teams worked together to complete the many construction projects “without serious accidents or workplace injuries and with extensive oversight to prevent mafia infiltration—something clearly possible given the scale of the investments.”

Vatican leaders have already begun planning the next Jubilee Year, which will take place in 2033 to commemorate the 2,000th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

“The journey, therefore, is not finished,” Archbishop Fisichella said. “This was only a significant step, preparing the way for another event of grace that must be planned with foresight and a strong awareness of an upcoming global event.”

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

U.S. Bishops' Collection For The Church In Latin America

Washington, DC (USCCB)—On the weekend of Saturday, Jan. 24 and Sunday, Jan. 25, many Catholic dioceses in the United States will take up the annual Collection for the Church in Latin America, which supports ministries among the poor in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

“This annual collection exemplifies the spiritual journey of Pope Leo XIV, who was born in Chicago but spent most of his ministry serving the poor in Peru,” said Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, SDV, of the Diocese of Fall River, and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America, which oversees this annual collection and the grants it funds.

During the decade that then-Bishop Robert Prevost was Bishop of Chiclayo, his diocese received

several grants from the Collection for the Church in Latin America. With this support, the diocese improved youth ministry in impoverished parishes, promoted care for the environment and educated thousands of parents, teachers and catechists in the prevention of child abuse.

“The Second Vatican Council, which ended a dozen years before Robert Prevost entered the Augustinian order, encouraged Catholics to reach out in love across all national borders, especially those between the wealthy global north and the developing global south,” said Bishop da Cunha, a Brazilian whose diocese includes Portuguese and Spanish-speaking Catholics. “Pope Leo XIV's faith journey embodies the spirit of why the bishops of the United States created the Church in Latin America program

six decades ago to make an impact in Latin America.”

The online giving platform iGiveCatholic also accepts funds to support this work.

In 2024, gifts to the Collection for the Church in Latin America provided more than \$8 million for 344 projects.

More information is at usccb.org/latin-america.

Ordination Anniversaries

Permanent Deacons of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their ordination anniversaries in the month of February include:

Deacon Terry Pevhouse
Feb. 22, 1981
Deacon Pete Valdez
Feb. 22, 1981



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