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WEST TEXAS CATHOLIC

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

February 15, 2026

Leading Off

Daylight Saving Time returns on Sunday, March 8 at 3:00am. Before going to bed the evening before, please set your clocks ahead an hour.

This is the “spring forward” part of “spring forward, fall back.”

Daylight Saving Time will end on Sunday, Nov. 1, All Saints Day.

Amarillo—Our Lady of Vietnam Church will conduct its Vietnamese 2026 Lunar New Year Celebration today (Sunday) in the Activity Center at the parish, 2001 North Grand.

This year’s celebration focuses on *The Year of the Horse*. Traditional Rites and Lion Dance is set for 11:30am, followed at 12:30pm with entertainment, a reception and a Spring Fair.

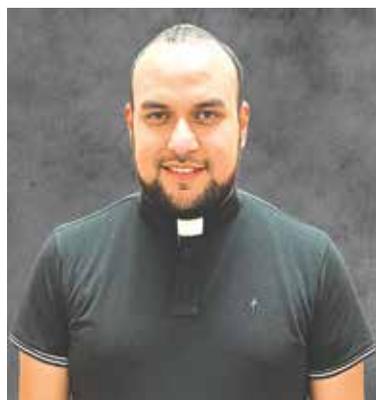
Shamrock—Knights of Columbus #12493, which consists of parishioners from four parishes—St. Patrick’s Church, Shamrock; Sacred Heart Church, Canadian; St. Mary’s Church, Wheeler; and Our Mother of Mercy Church, Wellington—will conduct a 5K Run/Walk Saturday, March 14.

The 5K Run/Walk is taking place as part of the 79th annual St. Patrick’s Celebration Thursday, March 12 through Sunday, March 15.

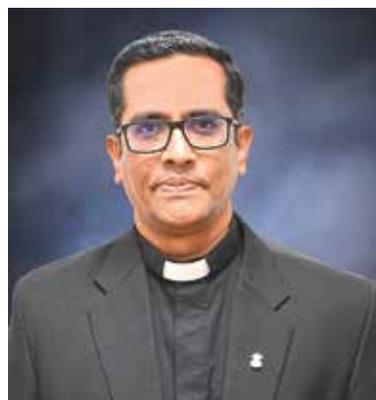
Registration begins at 7:30am, under the water tower on Main Street on the south end of downtown Shamrock, near Bartlett’s Lumber and Hardware. The race begins at 8:15am, also on the south end of Main Street.

Registration fee is \$30 per person and all participants will receive a t-shirt. For additional information, please call Vincent Koelzer at 806-216-1235.

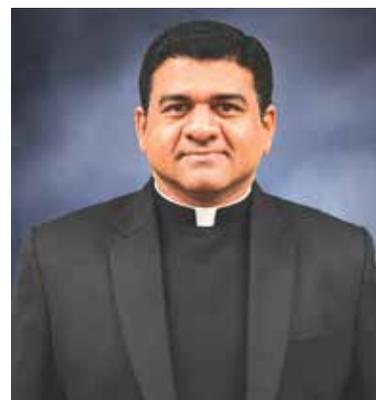
Assignments Announced For Three Priests, Eight Deacons



Father Mauricio Valadez



Father Vimal Raj Samieedi Amal



Father Praveen Mopur William

Amarillo—Assignments for three priests and eight deacons have been announced by Bishop Patrick J. Zurek.

All 11 appointments will take effect as of Monday, Feb. 16.

Father Mauricio Valadez is appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Amarillo.

Father Vimal Raj Samieedi Amal is appointed Parochial Vicar at San Jose Church and Mission, Hereford.

Father Praveen Mopur William is appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Laurence Church, Amarillo.

Father Valadez, 30, was ordained to the priesthood Jan. 31 by Bishop Zurek during a Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Amarillo. He was born in Lagos de Moreno, Jalisco, Mexico. This will be his first priestly assignment.

Father Samieedi Amal, 47, is a native of Pannur, India. He was ordained to the priesthood on Jan. 15, 2009 at Our Lady of Health Church in Pannur. This is his first priestly assignment in the United States.

Father William, 41, is a native of Reddy Palayam, Chennai, South India. He was ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 28, 2013 in the Church of St. Thomas National Cathedral Basilica in Santhome, Chennai, South India.

Bishop Zurek also announced assignments for the eight Permanent Deacons from the Diaconate Class of 2025, who were ordained Dec. 6, 2025 at St. Mary’s Cathedral:

• **Deacons Gabriel Bermúdez and Dwayne Rickwartz** are both assigned to St. Hyacinth Church, Amarillo;

Please see “Assignments,” p. 2

Lenten Mission At St. Mary’s Cathedral

Amarillo—St. Mary’s Cathedral at 1200 South Washington will offer a Lenten Mission Sunday, Feb. 22 and Monday, Feb. 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 both evenings.

Sisters of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) Sister Mary Mediatrix Patterson from Christ the King Church in Corpus Christi will be the presenter for the mission. The theme of her talks will focus on *Repent and Believe in the Gospel*. (Mark 1:15)

“The theme of evening one is *Repent*,” said Sister Mary Mediatrix. “I will focus on conversion and repentance, specifically, the turning of our hearts back toward God. We will reflect on how the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are gifts that help deepen this conversion.

“The second evening will focus on *Believe in the Gospel*. This will



Sister Mary Mediatrix Patterson, SOLT

center on our call to live the Gospel more fully. I will speak about the universal call to holiness and highlight aspects of the Beatitudes as concrete ways we are invited to live out this call in our daily lives.”

A native of Lebanon, Ohio, Sis-

ter Mary Mediatrix has been a professed sister since 2006.

“I love religious life—living with the Blessed Sacrament in my home, living in community with other women striving to be holy and continuing to grow in the path of wholeness and holiness,” she said. “I love witnessing in the habit, as it permits me to speak about my favorite topic—Jesus! The world is hungry and nothing else is satisfying but our Lord Jesus.

“I’m grateful He is my Friend and Spouse and that He calls me to participate in bringing others into relationship with Him.”

A reception will follow each presentation, in the St. Mary’s Cathedral gathering area. For more details on the Feb. 22-23 Lenten Mission, please call the parish office at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 806-376-7204.

Brisket Dinner At St. Joseph’s Church

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

Tickets are \$18.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children ages five to twelve. Children four and under eat free, according to parish spokesperson Denice Haley. Takeouts will be available.

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

Learn more online on the parish website, stjosephamarillo.com.

Franciscan Jubilee Year

Amarillo—The Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate invite the Faithful of the Diocese of Amarillo to join them throughout 2026 in celebrating the Franciscan Jubilee Year in honor of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis.

The Sisters are offering St. Francis Chapel, at 4301 NE 18th Ave. as a place of pilgrimage and prayer, according to Franciscan Sister Valentine Curry, to help everyone gain the Plenary Indulgence associated with this Extraordinary Jubilee Year. The year began on Feb. 2 and will continue until Sunday, Jan. 10, 2027.

The conditions to gain this indulgence are:

- Receive Sacramental Confession;
- Participate in the Eucharist;

- Visit a Franciscan Church or chapel;
- Pray the Creed and the Lord's Prayer; and,
- Pray for the Intentions of the Pope.

As with all Plenary indulgences, if the conditions of Sacramental Confession and participation in the Eucharist are fulfilled within two weeks of making the pilgrimage, the Indulgence may be gained.

The chapel at St. Francis Convent will be open Monday through Friday from 9:30am until 5:30pm. The Franciscan Sisters also invite everyone to join them during its Holy Hour from 4:00pm until 5:30pm, which includes the recitation of the Rosary and Vespers.

There will be various activities during the year, which will be

publicized accordingly. Scheduled activities in the next several weeks include:

- Friday, Feb. 20, 7:00pm, Franciscan Rosary with an introduction about St. Francis of Assisi and the Cross;

- Saturdays, March 7, 14 and 21, at 1:00pm, A Lenten Series about the Readings from Year A of the Gospels.

March 7, *Drinking from the Well: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman*;

March 14, *Lord, I Want to See: Healing Our Spiritual Rebirth*; and,

March 21, *Lazarus, Come Out: Spiritual Rebirth*.

"We sincerely hope and pray that you will take advantage of these opportunities to grow in your walk with God," said Sister Valentine. "All talks will have a suggested donation of \$20 to collaborate with the upkeep of our convent."

For additional information about the Franciscan Jubilee Year with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate, please call St. Francis Convent at 806-383-5769.

**Thanks for reading
The West Texas
Catholic. Please share
this newspaper
with others**

Deacons Birthdays

Deacons of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their birthdays in the month of March include:

Deacon Jesus Guerrero

March 10

Deacon David Rausch, Ph.D.

March 15

Deacon José Castañeda

March 16

Deacon Mark Seidlitz

March 19

Deacon Paul Herrera

March 23

Deacon Guillermo Estrada

March 24

Deacon Gabriel Rivas

March 24

Deacon Rene Pérez

March 27

Deacon Miguel Tovar

March 27

Faith Formation Basic Course: *Holy Trinity*

"The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian Faith and of Christian life. God alone can make it known to us by revealing Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

—*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 261*

Amarillo—The next opportunity to take the course on the *Holy Trinity* as part of the Faith Formation Basic Course will be on Saturday, Feb. 21, according to School Sister of Notre Dame Sister María Elena Ferrer, diocesan Coordinator of the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation.

All catechists in the Diocese of Amarillo are encouraged to attend one of these courses, which are being offered throughout the Diocese of Amarillo in the next several weeks. The courses, which are free of charge, will be offered in both English and Spanish and from 9:00am to noon.

The schedule for the courses on the *Holy Trinity* are:

- **Saturday, Feb. 21**, in the Central Deanery in the Conference Center at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 4512 NE 24th Ave. Sister María Elena Ferrer and School Sister of

Notre Dame Sister Beatriz Martinez will serve as instructors;

- **Saturday, March 7**, in the North Deanery in the Pastoral Center at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 915 South Maddox, Dumas. Sister María Elena will facilitate the English portion of the course and Fatima Zanetti, director of Religious Education at St. Hyacinth Church, will present the course in Spanish; and,

- **Saturday, March 14**, in the East Deanery at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 810 West 23rd Street, Pampa. Sister María Elena and Fatima Zanetti will once again serve as presenters.

"There is no charge for this course," said Sister María Elena. "All catechists in the Diocese of Amarillo are expected to attend one of these offerings. We ask that participants bring a Bible, pen and pad and choose a date that is convenient to them."

For more information, please contact your parish DRE or Sister María Elena Ferrer, SSND, coordinator of the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 806-383-2243, ext 113.

Assignments... from page 1

- **Deacon Jesús Chacón** is assigned to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo;

- **Deacons Jesús Martínez, Todd Murray and Martín Ruiz** are all assigned to San Jose Church,

Hereford;

- **Deacon Rodolfo Muñoz** is assigned to St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa; and,

- **Deacon Kevin Rickwartz** is assigned to St. Ann's Church, Canyon.

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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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Publication dates and deadlines can be found at amarillodiocese.org, under *West Texas Catholic* tab

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St. Ann's Knights of Columbus Council #7840

**Shrimp Boil 6:00pm
Tuesday Feb. 17
Parish Hall, St. Ann's
605 38th Street Canyon**

**Price by donation to help support
St. Ann's Youth Group**

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.

The theme of February and March is **Hope**, according to Father John, with these months focusing on care for the sick and the elderly.

One final Centennial Deanery Mass is planned this month, for the South Deanery, on Friday, Feb. 27 at 6:00pm at San Jose Church, 735 Brevard.

Parishes this month are also celebrating a Mass for the Sick and Elderly, which includes Anointing of the Sick, according to Father John.

The theme for April and May

is **Communion**, with numerous activities in the planning stages. June and July are focused on **Mission**, with several events also in the planning stages.

The Diocese of Amarillo will celebrate a Centennial Closing Mass on Saturday, Aug. 22 at 10:00am at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1200 South Washington.

Additional information on the Centennial Celebration for the Diocese of Amarillo will be publicized in *The West Texas Catholic*; on the diocesan website, amarillodiocese.org; *The West Texas Catholic* website, westtexasatholic.org; via Flocknote; on the diocesan Facebook page; on Catholic radio; and, in parish bulletins.

Honoring Your Grief Series

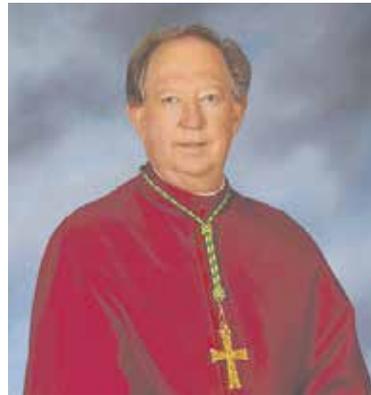
Amarillo—St. Mary's Cathedral will offer a four-week *Honoring Your Grief* series on Tuesday evenings, beginning Feb. 24 through March 17 from 6:00 to 7:30.

The Grief Support Group, which is open to anyone who has experienced a death prior to November 2025, will be offered in Classroom #2. Facilitators for the course are Davlyn

Duesterhaus and Angela Keller.

There is no cost to participate in the series and all materials will be provided. Each evening there will be prayer, a topic about grief, discussion and sharing. Deadline to register for the series is Friday, Feb. 20.

For further information or to register, please contact Angela Keller at 830-998-4076.



Bishop's Schedule

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18

12:15pm, Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo

5:30pm, Ash Wednesday Mass, Catholic Student Center at West Texas A&M University, Canyon

SUNDAY, FEB. 22

2:30pm, *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion*, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo

FRIDAY, FEB. 27

6:00pm, Centennial Deanery Mass for the South Deanery, St. Anthony's Church, Hereford

Annual Borger Spaghetti Dinner

Borger—The 69th Italian Meatballs and Spaghetti Dinner to benefit St. John the Evangelist Church will be served Sunday, March 22 from 11:00am to 5:00pm in the school gym at 201 St. John's Road.

Tickets for the dinner are \$16.00 per person, with children seven and under eating free, if dining in, according to parishioner Marilyn Archer. The meal will be dine-in from 11:00am to 4:00pm and takeouts will be available from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

For more details, please contact the parish office at 806-274-7064.

Ordination Anniversaries

Priests of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their ordination anniversaries in the month of March include:

Father Anthony Aakula

March 19, 1984

Father César A. Gómez

March 19, 1988

Father Luis René López

March 19, 2011

Father Mieczyslaw "Mitch"

Przepiora

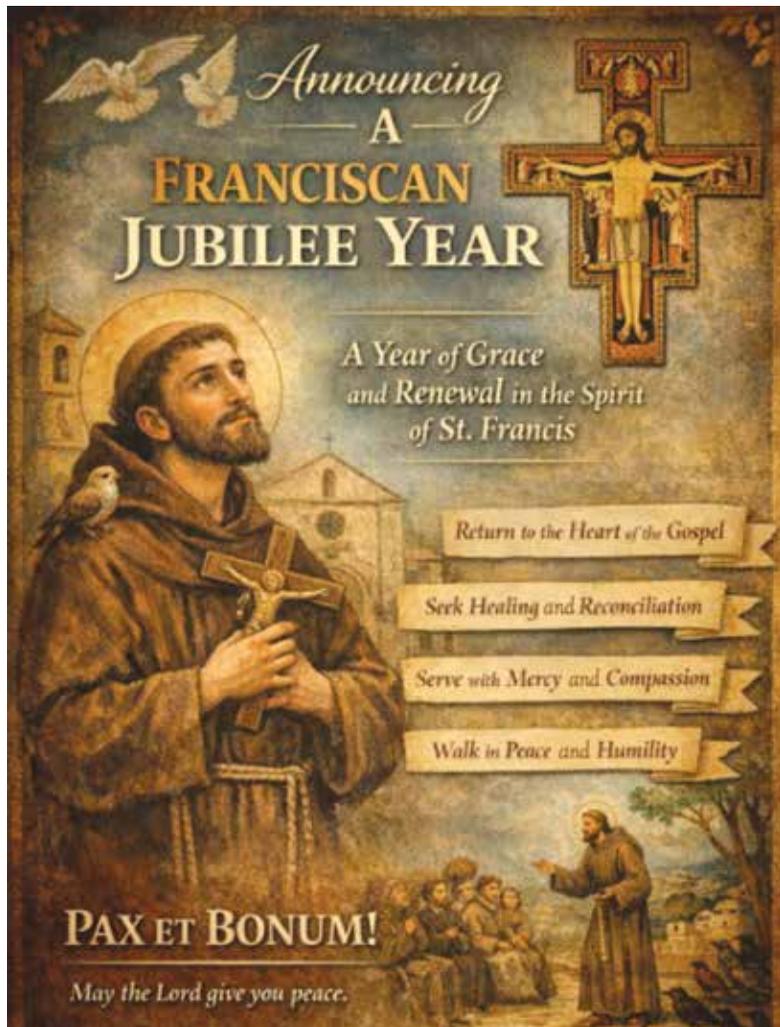
March 25, 1990

Father Hrudaya Kondamudi

March 26, 2008



Kim Weinheimer prepares skewers for appetizers for the VIP tables Jan. 30 prior to the ninth annual Calendar Party in the Holy Cross Catholic Academy, Amarillo, Event Center. The annual event is one of the primary fundraisers for the only Catholic secondary school in the Diocese of Amarillo. (WTC Photo)



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.



Amarillo—The Office of Communications for the Diocese of Amarillo has released the latest update to the 2026 diocesan calendar, listing events in the diocese, taking place between today and Saturday, March 21.

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 Jan. 18 update are in **BOLD**. Additional dates for updated versions of this calendar can be sent via email to westtexasatholic@gmail.com. This calendar can also be found on the diocesan website, amarillodiocese.org.

February

15—2025-2026 Parish/Catholic Schools Safe Environment Follow-up Reports Due

15—Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebration, Activity Center, Our Lady of Vietnam Church, Amarillo

15—Third annual Brisket Dinner to benefit St. Joseph's Church, Saint Joseph's School Gym, Amarillo

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—Franciscan Rosary with an Introduction about St. Francis of Assisi and the Cross, St. Francis Convent, Amarillo (806-383-5769)

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)

21—Faith Formation Basic Course on the Holy Trinity for the Central Deanery, Conference Center, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Amarillo (806-414-1058)

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)

22-23—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 for the 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)

2-3—Parish Mission, St. Anthony's Church, Hereford (806-364-6150)

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

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

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, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #1450, Monsignor Francis A. Smyer Activity Center, St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo (806-376-7204)

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—Faith Formation Basic Course on the Holy Trinity for the North Deanery, Pastoral Center, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas (806-383-2243, ext. 113)

7—Lenten Series on the Readings from Cycle A, St. Francis Convent, Amarillo (806-383-5769)

8—Daylight Saving Time begins at 3:00am.

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)

14—Faith Formation Basic Course on the Holy Trinity for the East Deanery, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa (806-383-2243, ext. 113)

14—Lenten Series on the Readings from Cycle A, St. Francis Convent, Amarillo (806-383-5769)

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 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 #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, to benefit the Youth at Holy Family Church, Nazareth, Community Hall (806-945-2616)

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

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 westtexasatholic@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.

DEADLINES

| Issue Date | Deadline |
|------------|----------|
| March 15 | March 5 |
| April 19 | April 9 |
| May 17 | May 7 |
| June 21 | June 11 |
| July 19 | July 9 |
| Aug. 16 | Aug. 6 |
| Sept. 20 | Sept. 10 |

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

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 westtexasatholic@gmail.com

Amarillo—Parishes in the Diocese of Amarillo have announced Mass Schedules for Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday.

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

Schedules are subject to change without notice and parishioners are asked to consult their parish bulletin or website for any last-minute changes.

Parishes planning to offer a Lenten Penance Service are listed in **BOLD**.

Parishes that provided schedules for the Way of the Cross during Lent are also listed here.

AMARILLO

St. Mary's Cathedral: Masses at 7:00am, 8:15am (School Mass), 12:15pm, 5:30pm and 7:00pm; Way of the Cross Friday evenings at 6:00pm; **Wednesday, March 25, Parish Penance Service at 6:00pm.** **Blessed Sacrament:** Masses at 8:00am and Noon (Spanish), 5:30pm (English) and 7:30pm (Spanish) Bilingual Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:00pm.

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes at 12:10pm (Bilingual), Masses at 6:00pm (English) and 7:30pm (Spanish)

Our Lady of Vietnam: Masses at 8:30am and 7:30pm. Way of the Cross on Friday afternoons during Lent at 5:30, followed by Mass. Lenten Retreat Friday, March 20 and Sunday, March 22; **Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21, 7:00 to 9:00 both evenings.**

St. Francis of Assisi: Mass at 6:30pm. **St. Hyacinth:** Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes at 7:30am; Mass at 11:15am (Bilingual); Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes at 6:30pm; Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:30pm in both English and Spanish.

St. Joseph's: Masses at 8:15am, 11:30am and 6:00pm (all in English) and 8:00pm (Spanish). Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:00pm (Bilingual), followed by a small meal.

St. Laurence: Mass at 9:00am (Bilingual); Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes at noon (English); Mass at 5:00pm (English); Mass at 6:15pm (Spanish); Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes at 8:00pm (Spanish). Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 5:30pm (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish).

St. Martin de Porres: Masses at 12:15pm and 5:15pm

St. Thomas the Apostle: Masses at 7:00am, 12:15pm and 7:00pm. Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 7:00pm.

BOOKER

St. Peter's: Mass at 6:00pm (Spanish)

BORGER

St. John the Evangelist: Masses at 8:00am (English) and 7:00pm (Bilingual); Way of the Cross on Friday evenings at 6:30 (English) and 7:00 (Spanish)

BOVINA

St. Ann's: Mass at 7:30pm (Bilingual). Way of the Cross on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 during Lent.

CACTUS

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mass at 8:30pm (Spanish)

CANADIAN

Sacred Heart: Mass at 6:00pm (Bilingual)

CANYON

St. Ann's: Mass at 7:00am; Service of the Word and Distribution of Ashes at 12:15pm; Mass at 5:30pm

Catholic Student Center at West Texas A&M University: Mass at 5:30pm.

CHILDRESS

Holy Angels: Mass at 5:15pm (Bilingual). Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 5:30pm.

CLARENDON

St. Mary's: Mass at 5:30pm

DALHART

St. Anthony of Padua: Masses at 8:15am and 6:00pm (both Bilingual)

DIMMITT

Immaculate Conception: Masses at 7:00am (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish)

DUMAS

Sts. Peter and Paul: Masses at 7:00am (English), 12:10pm (Bilingual) 5:30pm (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish)

FRIONA

St. Teresa of Jesus: Mass at 5:30pm (Bilingual). Way of the Cross at 5:30pm in English and 6:30pm in Spanish on Fridays during Lent.

GROOM

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Masses at 7:30am and 7:30pm. Way of the Cross on Friday evenings during Lent at 6:00.

GRUVER

Cristo Redentor: Mass at 6:30am (Bilingual). Way of the Cross Fridays during Lent at 5:00pm (English) and 6:00pm (Spanish).

HAPPY

Holy Name of Jesus: Mass at 12:30pm (Bilingual)

HART

St. John Nepomucene: Mass at 5:30pm (Bilingual)

HEREFORD

St. Anthony's: Masses at 8:15am (School Mass) and 7:15pm. Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 5:30pm.

San Jose: Service of the Word and Distribution of Ashes at Noon (Bilingual); Masses at 5:30pm (Bilingual) and 7:30pm (Spanish)

KRESS

St. Paul the Apostle: Mass at 5:00pm (Bilingual)

MEMPHIS

Sacred Heart: Mass at 7:30pm (Bilingual). Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 5:00pm.

NAZARETH

Holy Family: Masses at 7:00am and 6:00pm. Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:30pm.

PAMPA

St. Vincent de Paul: Masses at 12:10pm and 5:30pm (English) and 8:00pm (Spanish); Way of the Cross Friday evenings at 7:00 (English) and 8:00 (Spanish)

PANHANDLE

St. Theresa's: Mass at 5:30pm. Way of the Cross on Wednesdays during Lent, following the 5:30pm Mass.

PERRYTON

Immaculate Conception: Masses at 7:00am and 7:30pm (both Bilingual)

QUITAQUE

San Juan Diego: Mass at 7:00pm (Bilingual)

SILVERTON

Our Lady of Loreto: Mass at 5:30pm (Bilingual)

SHAMROCK

St. Patrick's: Mass at 7:30pm. Way of the Cross on alternating Fridays with Our Mother of Mercy Church, Wellington, following the 6:00pm Mass.

SPEARMAN

Sacred Heart of Jesus: Masses at 6:00pm (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish). Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:00pm.

STINNETT

St. Ann's: Masses at 8:00am (English) and 7:00pm (Bilingual), **both at St. John the Evangelist Church, Borger;** Way of the Cross Friday evenings at 6:00.

STRATFORD

St. Joseph's: Mass at 6:30pm (Bilingual)

SUNRAY

Christ the King: Mass at 6:30pm (Bilingual)

TEXLINE

St. Mary's: Mass at 12:10pm (Bilingual)

TULIA

Church of the Holy Spirit: Masses at 7:00am and 12:15pm (English) and 7:00pm (Bilingual)

TURKEY

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Mass at 8:15pm (Bilingual)

UMBARGER

St. Mary's: Mass at 7:30pm

VEGA

Immaculate Conception: Mass at 6:00pm. Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:00pm.

WELLINGTON

Our Mother of Mercy: Mass at 6:00pm (Bilingual). Way of the Cross on alternating Fridays with St. Patrick's Church, Shamrock, following Mass at 6:00pm.

WHEELER

St. Mary's: Mass at 8:00pm (Bilingual)

WHITE DEER

Sacred Heart: Mass at 7:00pm. Way of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:00pm.

Lenten Norms, Diocese of Amarillo

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

A Reflection on Lenten Fasting

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection.

Source: usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/catholic-information-on-lenten-fast-and-abstinence.cfm

“The challenge facing you, dear friends, is to increase people’s awareness of the importance of religious freedom for society; to defend that freedom against those who would take religion out of the public domain and establish secularism as America’s official Faith.”

**—St. John Paul II
Baltimore, Oct. 8, 1995**

Catholic Schools Week: A Look Back

Catholic Schools Week took place at all five Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo Jan. 25-Jan. 31. Bishop Patrick J. Zurek celebrated Masses at four of the five Catholic Schools (the Mass at St. Anthony's School, Hereford, was postponed, thanks to the winter storm of Jan. 24-25) and *The West Texas Catholic* tagged along to capture photos from the celebrations. Additional photos can be found on page 1 in the second section of this issue of *The West Texas Catholic*.



Fourth grade student Liam Keeton of St. Anthony of Padua School, Dalhart, offers the Prayers of the Faithful Jan. 27 during a Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church.



Bishop Patrick J. Zurek, left, visits with St. Mary's Cathedral School, Amarillo, bookkeeper Kathy Walker, center, and Montessori student Joseline Garcia, in between Bishop Zurek and Walker, Montessori student Tamlin Huseman and his sister, first grade student Tehlin Huseman.



Monsignor Joe Bixenman, who attended Price Memorial College (one of the predecessors of Holy Cross Catholic Academy, Amarillo) from 1960 to 1962, proclaims the Gospel Jan. 28 during a Catholic Schools Week Mass for HCCA at St. Joseph's Church, Amarillo.



Father Gabriel E. Garcia, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Amarillo, holds a cross presented to Bishop Patrick J. Zurek during a Jan. 29 Catholic Schools Week Mass for Saint Joseph's School. The smaller crosses as part of the larger cross represent Prayer Intentions by Saint Joseph School students.

Please Pray For Vocations To The Priesthood

Billy Joe "Coach" Greenhouse: 1930-2026



Billy Joe Greenhouse

Bushland—Billy Joe "Coach" Greenhouse, who taught for many years at Alamo Catholic High School (now Holy Cross Catholic Academy), passed away Jan. 11. He was 95 years old.

Mr. Greenhouse was born in Vernon on Oct. 3, 1930, the son of Robert and Josephine Greenhouse and was the youngest of 12 siblings. He grew up and attended school in Vernon and Mobeetie. Mr. Greenhouse was a member of the football team in Vernon, where he earned the nickname *The Vernon Flash*. He graduated from Price Memorial College in Amarillo and served as a corporal with the United States Marine Corp in Korea in 1950 and 1951. After being honorably discharged, Mr. Greenhouse was a student at West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M University), where he was awarded a Bachelor's Degree. While there, he met Caren Myrtie Conklin. The couple was united in marriage on June 12, 1953 and would be married for 72 years until Mrs. Greenhouse's passing on Oct. 29, 2025.

According to his family and

Stratford German Sausage Dinner

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

Dinner plates are \$17.00 each.

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

former students, Mr. Greenhouse made an impact on the lives of many people during his time as an educator. In nine years at Bowie Junior High, his wrestlers won the city title twice. While coaching at Alamo Catholic High School, Mr. Greenhouse's girls basketball team won the state title, and he was honored as coach of the year. He finished his career in Bushland where he taught physical education, drivers' education and health, in addition to coaching football and girls basketball. Even after retirement, Mr. Greenhouse volunteered at the school. The middle school football field is named in his honor: Greenhouse Field.

According to his family, Mr. Greenhouse loved helping children. He started a mowing business, helping youth from broken homes and others who wanted summer work. Mr. Greenhouse taught them to maintain mowers and take care of lawns. He was always helping neighbors through paper routes, mowing and shoveling snow for the elderly. According to his family, Mr. Greenhouse also enjoyed camping, home improvements and watching football.

Survivors include three children, Janey Morgan and her husband Billy, Bill Greenhouse and his wife Debbie and Jim Greenhouse; four grandchildren, Michelle Urbanczyk and her husband Craig, Amanda Shelton and her husband Neil, Megan Greenhouse and Alec Greenhouse; and four great-grandchildren, Addie Shelton, Jack Shelton, Morgan Shelton and Beckham Urbanczyk.

will also be served, according to parish spokesperson Heather Braden. Sausage to go will also be on sale, as will cooked and uncooked sausage, sold by the pound. Cooked sausage is \$8.00 per pound and uncooked sausage will be sold for \$7.00 per pound.

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

Holy Cross Basketball Schedule

Editor's Note: This is the schedule of athletic events at Holy Cross Catholic Academy, Amarillo, as provided by the school. Dates, times and locations are scheduled to change without notice. The latest information can be found online at holycrossama.org. Dates are based on the Holy Cross Mustangs basketball team advancing in the playoffs.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, Area Playoff (at Holy Cross Catholic Academy Event Center, 4102 South Bonham)

Saturday, Feb. 21, Regional Playoff (at neutral site)

Wednesday, Feb. 25 and Thursday, Feb. 26, State Championships (location to be determined)

Annual Hereford PTO Auction

Hereford—The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at St. Anthony's School are finalizing plans for the annual PTO Auction on Sunday, March 1 in the St. Anthony's School Gym at 120 West Park Ave.

Activities begin at 11:00am with a Hamburger and Sausage Wrap Brown Bag meal, which includes a hamburger or sausage wrap, chips and a drink for \$18.00 per person. The meal will be served until 2:00pm.

The annual auction begins at 1:00pm, with over 400 items being auctioned off, with all proceeds benefiting St. Anthony's School. Items for the auction are still being accepted at the school office during regular business hours.

At 5:00, there will be a drawing for a chance to win a 2025 Madjax E4 Lifted Golf Cart. The golf cart, valued at \$9,495, is a black body with black seats, LED lighting, GTW tires and wheels, a lift kit and sound bar. Tickets for the chance to win the golf cart are \$25 each or five for \$100. Please see the ad on page 5 in the second section of this issue of *The West Texas Catholic* to scan a QR code to see an action video of the golf cart.

For additional information on the PTO Auction, to donate items for the auction or to purchase tickets for the golf cart drawing, please call the St. Anthony's School office at 806-364-1952.

Meet A Catholic School Teacher

Name: Michelle Womble

School: Saint Joseph's and Holy Cross Catholic Academy, both in Amarillo

Subjects/Grades You Are Teaching: Elementary Physical Education (PE) and seventh grade PE

Degree Obtained: Bachelor of Science in Education, Abilene Christian University

Spouse's Name: Zac Womble



Children: Jordan Womble, Hunter Ates and Chance Ates

Why do you teach at a Catholic School, compared to a Public School? "I have chosen to teach at a Catholic School because it allows me to integrate Faith into education, helping students grow academically, physically and spiritually. I can

openly share and live out my values while fostering a community rooted in respect, service and moral development."

Why are Catholic Schools important? "I believe Catholic education is essential because it nurtures not only academic excellence but also the spiritual, moral and character development of each child in the light of Christ."

What is your philosophy when it comes to the classroom? "My philosophy as a physical education teacher is to nurture the whole child—mind, body and spirit—by promoting teamwork, respect and healthy habits grounded in Faith-based values. I want every student to know that I care about them and believe in them."

Hobbies: "Spending time with my family, watching movies and travelling."

Favorite Television Show: "My husband and I enjoy binge watching different types of series, but *Family Feud* would be my daily show."

Favorite Books: *The Bible* and Christian fiction books.

If you had chosen another career path, what would it have been? "I would've been a business owner."

If you were Superintendent for a day, what would you do? "If I were the Superintendent for a day I would personally meet every teacher and student in the school. I would ask my teachers what they need to promote academic excellence, spiritual growth and a safe, welcoming environment."

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

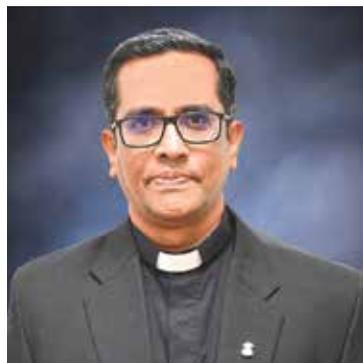
Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo will be closed Monday, Feb. 16 in observance of President's Day. Catholic Schools will reopen on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Getting To Know...**Father Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal**

West Texas Catholic: *What are some of your hobbies, Father Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal?*

Father Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal: “I like gardening, especially taking care of flowering plants. Apart from that, I enjoy playing ping pong. I don’t play many games, but ping pong is one I like.”

WTC: *Tell us what is your favorite Bible verse, and why it’s your favorite...*



Father Samineedi: “It is *Ephesians 4:1*: ‘to live a life worthy of your calling.’ That was the motto I chose on the day of my ordination. It is a call that reminds me every day that I have chosen this life and that I need to live worthy of that calling as a priest. Whenever difficulties or challenges arise, this verse reminds me to stand firm and

to focus wholeheartedly on what I have chosen.”

WTC: *Who is your favorite Saint?*

Father Samineedi: “My favorite saint is St. Francis of Assisi. As a small boy, I heard stories about him—how he grew up wanting to be a soldier, how he was converted, and how he became a great saint. What touched me most was how people see God in him, not through extraordinary things, but through simple ways of living.

“There is a story where St. Francis once said to one of his brothers, ‘Let us go and preach.’ The brother was very excited, thinking they would go into town and preach from a pulpit. Instead, they spent the whole day walking through the town and then returned. The brother said, ‘You told me we were going to preach, but you didn’t do anything.’ Francis replied, ‘We were preaching by our actions, by our gestures.’”

“That story helps me realize that in my own life, I am not preaching only in the Church. Our life itself should become our preaching. People should be able to see, through the way we live, that we are different—that we are God-centered persons.”

WTC: *The final word in this conversation belongs to you, Father Samineedi...*

Father Samineedi: “All my ministry in Northeast India—among the tribal communities—and later my ministry in a school gave me very different and enriching experiences in dealing with people. Especially in Meghalaya, which follows a matrilineal culture—it is the only state in India with such a system—it was something new for me at first. I came from a different background, and there, women take the lead in public life. They come forward to speak, while men often remain in the background, supporting and working. Over time, I came to appreciate this, and I also came to understand how strong their Faith is.

“My vocation was also strengthened during those years of study and ministry. In 2017, when I visited the United States and visited a few parishes, I saw how the Church functions here and how people respond. It was very different from my experience in India. That experience awakened a desire in me to serve here as well, to experience this life and this ministry, and to offer myself in service to the Church in the United States.”

The West Texas Catholic: *Father Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal, welcome to the Diocese of Amarillo. Let’s begin our conversation by talking about your vocation story. I have yet to hear a boring vocation story—please share yours with us.*

Father Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal: “My vocation story began when I was 10 years old. At that time, I and the rest of my classmates had the opportunity to serve in the Church. In my village, there was an ordination every year. As an altar boy serving at those ordination ceremonies, I wished that one day I would be in that place myself, being ordained as a priest. From my childhood, I decided that I wanted to become a priest.

“As I grew older and completed my initial studies, I joined the seminary with the Congregation of the Salvatorians. At that time, I did not know much about the congregation. I was familiar only with the Salesian priests in my village and the diocesan priests. However, there was a priest from my village, Father Selvaraj Malavarupu, who belonged to the Society of the Divine Saviour, known as the Salvatorians. He invited me to join the congregation. I went with him to Bangalore and joined the Salvatorians in 1997.

“This was the first time I had ever left my hometown to live in another state. It was a challenge, but I was able to overcome it. After completing my novitiate, we were asked to go to Northeast India, where the Salvatorian missionaries had been pioneers. They arrived there in 1980 as the first Catholic missionaries in the region. We were excited, but at the same time, there was fear. We often heard

through the media about underground movements and unrest in the area. Despite this, I went with enthusiasm and found a deep and fulfilling experience of my vocation while serving amid the challenges of Northeast India.

“In the year 2000, I began my philosophical studies and later continued my theological studies. After my ordination, I continued my ministry in Northeast India. After about three years, I returned to Bangalore and later continued my ministry in Meghalaya, in the Diocese of Shillong, which is also part of Northeast India.

“What helped me grow in my vocational journey were the challenges I faced during my formation. At times, people would say to me, ‘You are the only son, and you need to take care of your parents as they grow older.’ Along with that, there were also misunderstandings with companions and within the community. During one difficult moment, I called my father and shared my struggles, telling him that I felt conflicted and unsure. My father said to me, ‘The day you went to join the seminary, I was not happy, especially because you are my only son. But this is what you wanted to become, and you decided this from your childhood. So the step you took then—never turn back.’ Those words became a driving force for me to continue pursuing my religious vocation. After completing my philosophical and theological studies, I was ordained on Jan. 15, 2009.”

WTC: *Take us back to your ordination day. How excited were you?*

Father Samineedi: “I can’t fully express how I felt that day. All

the memories came rushing back—my days as an altar boy serving at ordinations, watching bishops ordain new priests. To suddenly find myself in that same place was overwhelming. It was truly an unforgettable event.”

WTC: *Hopefully, there were some young men present at your ordination who are being ordained now or have been ordained since then, and many more in the future who will remember being there on Jan. 15.*

Father Samineedi: “Yes. Unfortunately, I am the last priest of 53 priests to be ordained from my parish so far, but there will be another ordination there later this year.”

WTC: *Tell us about your family. You mentioned that you are the only son. Tell us about your sisters.*

Father Samineedi: “I have two sisters. My eldest sister, Annita Rosalyn, lives in Arkansas, and my other sister, Rexi Saminedi, lives in Bangalore, Karnataka.”

WTC: *What do they do for a living?*

Father Samineedi: “Both of them work in the Information Technology (IT) field.”

WTC: *You arrived in the Diocese of Amarillo last May, after visiting your sister in Arkansas. What is your impression of the diocese?*

Father Samineedi: “It has been very good. This is not my first visit to the United States; I visited in 2017 and spent a month of my vacation with my sister. Being here now has been exciting, and I am very grateful for the experience.”

Missionaries Needed For 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* mis-

sonary 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.”

Those interested in applying to be a *Totus Tuus* missionary can find applications online at amarillovacations.org/totustuus. Questions can be addressed to Heinen at 806-290-1698.



Lenten Mission

“Repent, and believe in the Gospel.”
(Mark 1:15)

Sunday, Feb. 22 - Monday, Feb. 23
6:30pm-7:30pm
1200 S. Washington, Amarillo



The Day One theme is “Repent”. I will focus on conversion and repentance, specifically, the turning of our hearts back toward God. We will reflect on how the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are gifts that help deepen this conversion.

Day Two is “Believe in the Gospel”. This will center on our call to live the Gospel more fully. I will speak about the universal call to holiness and highlight aspects of the Beatitudes as concrete ways we are invited to live out this call in our daily lives.

Reception to Follow



Sister Mary Mediatrix
Sisters of the Society of Our Lady
of the Most Holy Trinity, (SOLT)

M St. Mary's
Catholic Cathedral

THE MISSION WILL BE LIVE STREAMED FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

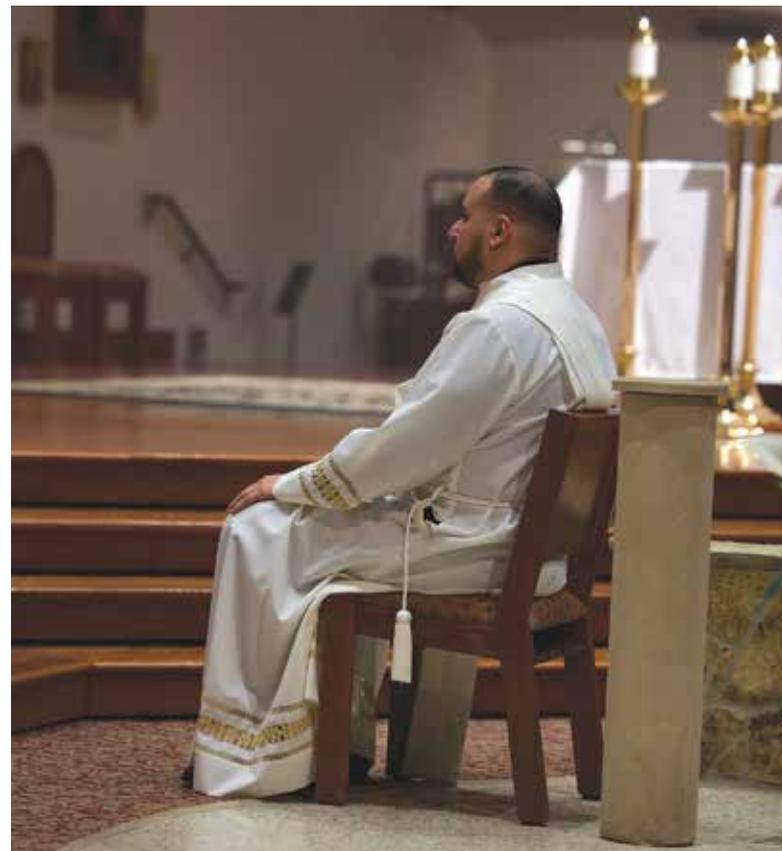
Deacon Mauricio Valadez Ordained To The Priesthood



Bishop Patrick J. Zurek lays his hands on Father Mauricio Valadez Jan. 31 during Father Valadez's Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo. This solemn action signed Father Valadez as a presbyter. In the background is Deacon Robert Aranda of St. Mary's Cathedral.



Deacon Mauricio Valadez makes his way up the aisle Jan. 31 at the beginning of his Ordination Mass to the Priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo.



Deacon Mauricio Valadez listens to Bishop Patrick J. Zurek's homily Jan. 31 during his Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo.



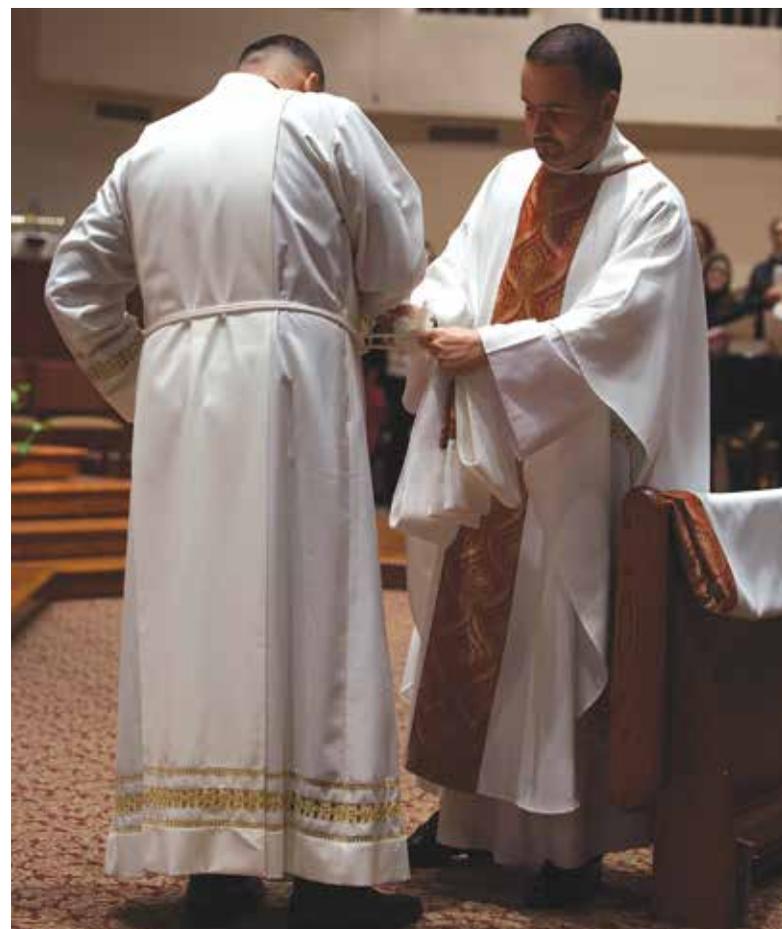
Bishop Patrick J. Zurek anoints Father Mauricio Valadez's hands with Sacred Chrism Jan. 31 during his Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo. The ancient anointing is a reminder that the priest is set apart from the People of God to perform sacred duties. To the left of Bishop Zurek is Deacon Robert Aranda of St. Mary's Cathedral.

Amarillo—Deacon Mauricio Valadez was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Patrick J. Zurek during a Jan. 31 Ordination Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Father Valadez was the 12th priest ordained by Bishop Zurek, who is now in his 19th year as the eighth Bishop of Amarillo.

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.

Father Valadez has been appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Amarillo. His appointment takes effect Monday, Feb. 16 (see related stories, pages 1 and 17; in Spanish on pages 12 and 15 in this section and page 11 in the second section) in this issue.



Father Gabriel E. Garcia, right, pastor at St. Joseph's Church, Amarillo and Vocations Director for the Diocese of Amarillo, assists the newly-ordained Father Mauricio Valadez with his priestly vestments during his Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood Jan. 31 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo.



Monsignor Joe Bixenman offers newly-ordained Father Mauricio Valadez a Sign of Peace Jan. 31 during Father Valadez's Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo.



Father Mauricio Valadez kneels as Father Ryan Winger, parochial administrator at St. Theresa's Church, Panhandle and Sacred Heart Church, White Deer, lays hands on him Jan 31 during Father Valadez's Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral.



Bishop Patrick J. Zurek, right, receives a blessing from newly-ordained priest Father Mauricio Valadez Jan. 31 during Father Valadez's Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo.

“O how great is a priest! The priest will not understand the greatness of his office until he is in Heaven.”
—St. John Marie Vianney

Ordination Anniversaries

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

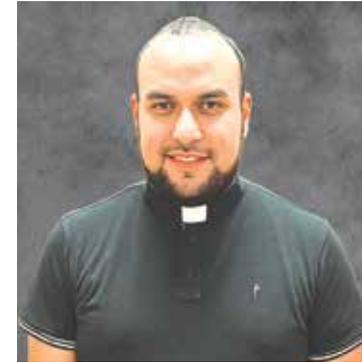
- Father Arokiaraj “Raj” Malapady
Feb. 6, 2000
- Father Ron Mathews
Feb. 7, 1975

Getting To Know...

Father Mauricio Valadez

West Texas Catholic: Everyone has a vocation story, Father Valadez. Please share your story with us...

Father Mauricio Valadez: “First of all, I come from a very Catholic family. In Los Altos de Jalisco people are very close to the Church. My father used to work for a seminary in my hometown, and I would go with my father to see what he did in his work at the seminary. I was very impressed with the demeanor of the seminarians toward everyone. That’s when I saw that I liked what they did because they were very courteous and very helpful toward everyone.



“When I finished high school, I had to make the decision whether I wanted to take a career or go to the seminary. Initially, I was going to study industrial engineering in México, but then I was presented with the opportunity to enter the seminary in the Diocese of San Juan de Los Lagos. I entered the pre-seminary in Arandas, Jalisco. I was accepted and so began my vocation.

“I began studying in the Diocese of San Juan. I studied introductory courses and then I studied First and Second years of Philosophy in San Juan de Los Lagos. It was in the Second year of Philosophy that I made the decision to change to the seminary for the Diocese of Amarillo. When I changed seminaries for the Diocese of Amarillo, I began studying at the Seminary in Mexico City, the Hispanic Seminary of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There I took the training that I still needed—I studied a year and a half of Philosophy, then a year of Theology. From there I came to the United States to study English for a year at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio. Then I returned to finish my studies in México. I studied three more years of Theology and when I finished my theological formation, I returned to the United States, as a deacon.”

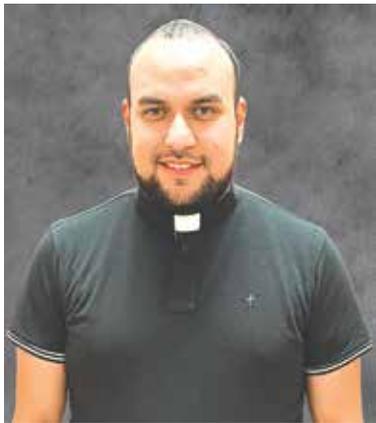
WTC: If you had not pursued the vocation of priesthood, what do you think you would have done with your life?

Father Valadez: “If that had not been the path, I would have sought a career in Industrial Engineering. I also like Interior Design. That would have been the work I would have decided to do. Perhaps I would have started a family since the family is also the base for personal growth and is another important sacrament. That is probably what I would have done if I had not followed my priestly vocation.”

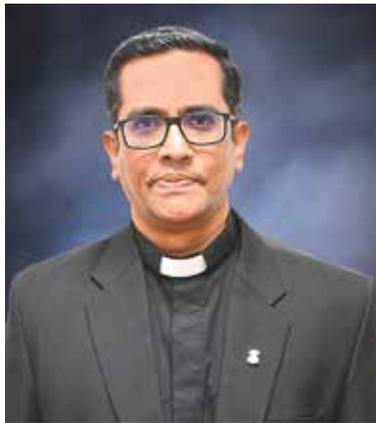
WTC: What do you hope that you get out of your priesthood, and do you have any goals or aspirations as you begin your priesthood?

Father Valadez: “I would like above all to use what I have learned, which is to evangelize people and to be with people. One of the most important things when you are a priest is to speak to people of the word of God, but also to accompany people. I believe that if you don’t accompany people, that doesn’t speak very well of you. You have to be a priest who accompanies them, as long as they are also willing to be accompanied. I consider that I am a person who likes to be with people, who likes to evangelize with the word of God and who also likes to give example of what I say. That is what I aspire to do as a priest, God willing.”

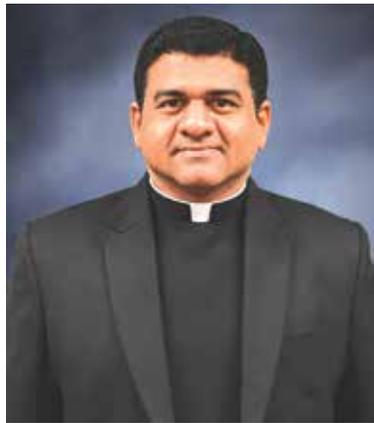
Nombramientos de Tres Sacerdotes y Ocho Diáconos



Padre Mauricio Valadez



Padre Vimal Raj Samineedi



Padre Praveen Mopur William

Amarillo—El Obispo Patrick J. Zurek anuncia el nombramiento de tres sacerdotes y ocho diáconos.

Los once nombramientos serán efectivos el lunes, 16 de febrero.

El **Padre Mauricio Valadez** será Vicario Parroquial en la Iglesia Saint Thomas the Apostle en Amarillo.

El **Padre Vimal Raj Samineedi** será Vicario Parroquial en la Iglesia y Misión de San José en Hereford.

El **Padre Praveen Mopur William** será Vicario Parroquial en la Iglesia de San Lorenzo en Amarillo.

El Padre Valadez, de 30 años, fue ordenado sacerdote el 31 de enero por el Obispo Zurek durante una Misa en la Catedral de Santa María en Amarillo. Nació en Lagos de Moreno, Jalisco, México. Este será su primer puesto sacerdotal.

El Padre Saminedi, de 47 años, nació en Pannur, India. Fue

ordenado sacerdote el 15 de enero de 2009 en la Iglesia Our Lady of Health en Pannur, India. Este será su primer puesto sacerdotal en los Estados Unidos.

El Padre William, de 41 años, nació en Reddy Palayam, Chennai, India del Sur. Fue ordenado sacerdote el 28 de Agosto de 2013 en la Basílica Catedral Nacional en Santhome, Chennai, India del Sur.

El Obispo Zurek anunció nombramientos de los ocho Diáconos Permanentes de la Clase Diaconal de 2025 que fueron ordenados el 6 de diciembre de 2025 en la Catedral de Santa María:

- Los Diáconos Gabriel Bermúdez y Dwayne Rickwartz servirán en la Iglesia de San Jacinto en Amarillo;

- El Diácono Jesús Chacón servirá en la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Amarillo;

- Los Diáconos Jesús Martínez, Todd Murray y Martín Ruiz

servirán en la Iglesia de San José en Hereford;

- El Diácono Rodolfo Muñoz servirá en la Iglesia de San Vicente de Paúl en Pampa; y,

- El Diácono Kevin Rickwartz servirá en la Iglesia de Saint Ann en Canyon.

Enchiladas de las Hijas Católicas

Amarillo—La Corte #2472 de Hijas Católicas de América en la Iglesia de San Martín de Porres invita al público a su Comida de Enchiladas el domingo, 22 de febrero. Servirán de 10:00am a 2:00pm en el salón parroquial, esquina de las calles 16 Noroeste y Adams.

Adultos \$12.00 y niños de doce años y menores \$6.00. La ganancia de la comida beneficia las múltiples caridades de la Corte #2472, informa Patti Lineman, portavoz.

También habrá subasta en silencio durante la comida. Para más información sobre la comida o acerca de las Hijas Católicas de América, Corte #2472, favor de llamar a Lineman, 806-676-7973.

Salchicha Alemana en Stratford

Stratford—La Comida Anual de Salchicha Alemana a beneficio de la Iglesia de Saint Joseph se servirá el domingo, 22 de febrero de 11:00am a 1:00pm en el granero Sherman County Barn, calle Maple 501, por la carretera 287 al Este.

El platillo cuesta \$17.00. Habrá Salchicha Alemana tradicional con chucrut y todos los complementos además de Salchicha de Chile Verde, informa Heather Braden, portavoz parroquial. También venderán la salchicha para llevar: cocida por \$8.00 la libra y cruda por \$7.00.

Para más detalles, llame a la oficina parroquial, 806-310-0438.

Brisket de la Iglesia San José

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

El boleto individual cuesta \$10.00 por adulto y \$9.00 por niño de cinco a doce años. Niños de cuatro años y menores comerán gratis, informa Denice Haley, portavoz. Pueden adquirir boletos

por adelantado en la oficina parroquial de San José o el día del evento.

“Podrán disfrutar su comida allí o pueden ordenar platillos para llevar”, dijo Haley. “Invitamos a todos a visitar nuestra boutique de la Sociedad del Altar durante el evento”.

Pueden indagar más detalles de la Comida de Brisket en el sitio web de la parroquia de San José, stjosephamarillo.com.

Retiro Matrimonial en Español en Pampa

Pampa—El Grupo Matrimonio, Vida y Familia de la Iglesia de San Vicente de Paúl tendrá un Retiro Matrimonial en español el viernes 10 y sábado 11 de abril en el Centro Parroquial Educativo (PEC), Avenida 23 Oeste #810.

El retiro será de 7:00pm a 9:00pm el viernes 10 y de 8:00am a 8:30pm el sábado 11.

“El retiro se ofrece a todas las

Cursillo Para Mujeres

Amarillo—Habrá Cursillo para Mujeres del jueves 5 al domingo 8 de marzo en el Convento Franciscano, Avenida 18 Noreste #4301.

El Cursillo, completamente

parejas católicas de la Diócesis de Amarillo’, dijo Amy Foster, integrante del Grupo Matrimonio, Vida y Familia. “Vengan a conocer juntos la bendición de nuestra vocación al matrimonio”.

No habrá cuidado de niños. El costo del retiro será un donativo según su buena voluntad. Para pedir información o para inscribirse, favor de llamar a Foster, 806-664-1979.

en español costará \$150 por persona. Para más información o para registrarse, hagan el favor de contactar al representante de Ultreya en sus parroquias.

Normas Cuaresmales, Diócesis de Amarillo

El Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días obligatorios de ayuno y abstinencia para los católicos. Además, los viernes durante la Cuaresma son días obligatorios de abstinencia.

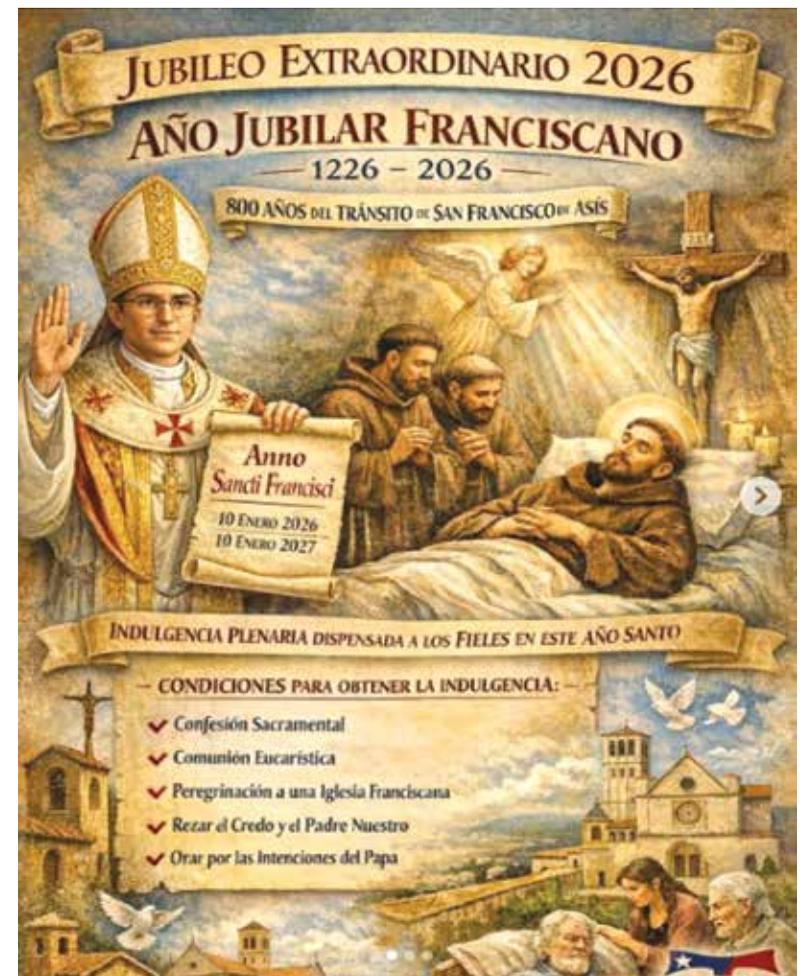
Para los miembros de la Iglesia del Rito Latino, las normas son obligatorias desde la edad de 18 años hasta los 59. Cuando se ayuna, se le permite a la persona comer una comida completa, así como dos comidas más pequeñas que juntas no equivalgan a una comida completa. Las normas sobre la abstinencia de carne son obligatorias para los miembros de la Iglesia Católica de Rito Latino desde los 14 años en adelante.

Reflexión sobre el Ayuno Cuaresmal

Si es posible, el ayuno del Viernes Santo se continúa hasta la Vigilia Pascual (la noche del Sábado Santo) como el “ayuno pascual” para honrar el sufrimiento y la muerte del Señor Jesús y prepararnos para compartir más plenamente y celebrar más apropiadamente su Resurrección.

Tomado de:

usccb.org/es/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/lent/catholic-information-on-lenten-fast-and-abstinence



Curso Básico de Formación en la Fe: *La Santísima Trinidad*

“El misterio de la Santísima Trinidad es el misterio central de la fe y de la vida cristiana. Sólo Dios puede darnoslo a conocer revelándose como Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo”.

—*Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, 261*

Amarillo—El sábado febrero 21 será la siguiente oportunidad para tomar el curso sobre la *Santísima Trinidad* como parte del Curso Básico de Formación en la Fe, informa Sor María Elena Ferrer, Hermana Educadora de Nuestra Señora y coordinadora de Formación de Fe en la Diócesis de Amarillo.

Instamos a todo catequista en la Diócesis de Amarillo a asistir a estos cursos que se ofrecerán por toda la Diócesis de Amarillo en semanas próximas. Todos estos cursos se ofrecen en forma gratuita en español y en inglés de 9:00am hasta el mediodía

El calendario de cursos sobre la *Santísima Trinidad* es este:

• **Sábado, 21 de febrero** para el Decanato Central en el Centro de Conferencias del Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Avenida 24 Noreste 4512 en Amarillo. Sor María Elena

Ferrer y Sor Beatriz Martínez, Hermanas Educadoras de Nuestra Señora, serán las instructoras;

• **Sábado, 7 de marzo** para el Decanato Norte en el Centro Pastoral de la Iglesia de San Pedro y San Pablo, calle Maddox 915 en Dumas. Fátima Zanetti, Directora de Educación Religiosa en la Iglesia de San Jacinto facilitará el curso en español y Sor María Elena guiará el curso en inglés;

• **Sábado, 14 de marzo** para el Decanato Este en la Iglesia de San Vicente de Paúl, calle 23 Oeste 810 en Pampa. Fátima Zanetti y Sor María Elena nuevamente harán las presentaciones.

“No se cobra por este curso,” dijo Sor María Elena. “Todos los catequistas en la Diócesis de Amarillo debieran asistir a una de estas seis sesiones. Favor de elegir el curso que les sea conveniente y lleven sus Biblias, plumas y cuadernos”.

Para más información, en su parroquia llamen a sus Directores de Educación Religiosa; en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano llamen a la Hna. María Elena Ferrer, SSND, coordinadora de la Oficina Diocesana de Formación de Fe, 806-383-2243, ext. 113.

Calendario de Jamaicas

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

ESTE 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

Frióna—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 **DOMINGO, ABRIL 12**

Clarendon—Barbacoa de la Iglesia Saint Mary en su Salón Parroquial **SÁBADO, ABRIL 12**

Dumas—Recaudación Noche de Nueva Orleans por el Consejo #5061 de Caballeros de Colón en Hacienda García Event Center **DOMINGO, MAYO 3**

Dumas—Celebración/Festival del Cinco de Mayo a beneficio de la Iglesia de San Pedro y San Pablo en el parque McDade **SÁBADO, MAYO 9**

Amarillo—Fiesta Parroquial de la Iglesia San José

Año Jubilar Franciscano

Amarillo—Las Hermanas Franciscanas de María Inmaculada invitan a los fieles de la Diócesis de Amarillo a unirse a ellas a lo largo del año 2026 para celebrar el Año Jubilar Franciscano en honor del 800° Aniversario de la muerte de San Francisco de Asís.

La Hermana Valentine Curry informa que las Hermanas ofrecen la Capilla de San Francisco, en la Avenida 18 Noreste 4301, como lugar de peregrinación y oración para ayudar a todos a obtener la Indulgencia Plenaria asociada con este Año Jubilar Extraordinario. El año empezó el 2 de febrero y continuará hasta el domingo, 10 de enero del año 2027.

Las condiciones para obtener esta indulgencia son las siguientes:

- Recibir la Reconciliación Sacramental;
- Participar en la Eucaristía;
- Visitar una iglesia o capilla franciscana;
- Rezar el Credo y el Padrenuestro; y
- Orar por las Intenciones del Papa.

Como con todas las Indulgencias Plenarias, se puede obtener la indulgencia si se cumplen las condiciones de la Reconciliación Sacramental y la participación en la Eucaristía dentro de las dos semanas posteriores a la peregrinación.

La capilla del Convento de San Francisco está abierta Lunes a

Regresa el Tiempo Daylight Saving

El Tiempo Daylight Saving se reanudará el domingo, 8 de marzo a las 3:00am.

Antes de dormirse la noche anterior, procuren adelantar sus

viernes de 9:30am a 5:30pm. Las Hermanas Franciscanas también les invitan a acompañarlas durante su Hora Santa diaria de 4:00pm a 5:30pm, que incluye el rezo del Santo Rosario y las Vísperas.

Durante el año habrá diversas actividades que se anunciarán periódicamente. Las actividades en las próximas semanas incluyen:

• Viernes, 20 de febrero a las 7:00pm, Rosario Franciscano con introducción sobre San Francisco y la Cruz;

• Sábados 7, 14 y 21 de marzo a la 1:00 pm – Ciclo Cuaresmal sobre las Lecturas del Año A de los Evangelios;

7 de marzo, *Bebiendo del Pozo: Jesús y la Samaritana*;

14 de marzo, *Señor, quiero ver: Sanando nuestra ceguera espiritual*; y,

21 de marzo, *Lázaro, sal: Renacimiento espiritual*.

Sinceramente esperamos y oramos para que ustedes puedan aprovechar estas oportunidades para crecer en su caminar con Dios,” dijo La Hermana Valentine. “Por cada charla sugerimos una donación de \$20 para contribuir al mantenimiento de nuestro convento.”

Para obtener información adicional acerca del Año Jubilar Franciscano con las Hermanas Franciscanas de María Inmaculada, favor de llamar al Convento Franciscano, 806-383-5769.

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.



Buscamos Bodas de Oro

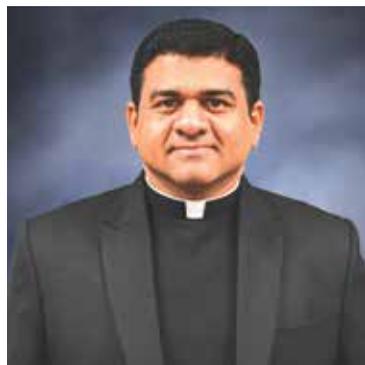
Si ustedes contrajeron matrimonio entre el 1° de enero de 1976 y 31 de marzo de 1976, *El West Texas Catholic* desea felicitarlos. Favor de enviarnos una foto reciente o una foto de su casamiento, sus nombres, la fecha y el lugar de su boda y los publicaremos en la página de Tributos a los Aniversarios 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.

Conozcan al

Padre Praveen Mopur William

El West Texas Catholic: ¿Qué pasatiempos tiene, Padre William?

Padre Praveen Mopur William: “Soy deportista. Juego baloncesto y volibol. Estuve en el equipo Universitario. Me gusta leer libros y escuchar mi música favorita. En India siempre escuchaba la música del cantante americano Don Moen. Hasta lo conocí cuando fue a cantar en la India. Escucho cantos Góspel y me gusta mucho la música Western. También disfruto la jardinería”.



WTC: ¿Cuál es su verso favorito en la Biblia y por qué lo es?

Padre William: “Tengo dos versos favoritos. El primero es el lema que he escogido para mi sacerdocio, *Mateo 5:14*, ‘Ustedes son la luz del mundo’. El segundo es *Mateo 7:7*, ‘Pidan y se les dará; busquen y hallarán; llamen y se les abrirá la

puerta’. Cada vez que le he pedido a Dios, Él me ha respondido. Mi vida misma es testimonio de esa verdad. Cuando lo buscas, es seguro que lo hallarás. Cuando llamas, Dios ya está al otro lado, listo para abrirte la puerta. Mi lema sacerdotal es ‘Eres la luz del mundo’. Mi oración diaria es ‘Señor, deja que tu luz brille a través de mí, para que otros te puedan ver’”.

WTC: Su santo o santos favoritos y ¿por qué son sus favoritos?

Padre William: “Mis santos favoritos son María Madre y San Antonio de Padua. Yo vengo de un pueblo en donde mi iglesia lleva el nombre de San Antonio de Padua. Toda mi familia tiene gran cariño por San Antonio y siempre ruega por su intercesión. San Antonio de Padua ha estado en mi mente y mi corazón desde mi niñez. Cuando yo tenía cinco años y me puse gravemente enfermo, mis padres me confiaron a San Antonio y gracias a su intercesión fui sanado milagrosamente. Desde mi niñez, yo tuve gran deseo de ir a Padua y Dios me concedió esa gracia por la intercesión de San Antonio”.

“Vengo de Chennai en India del Sur en donde hay una bella y profunda devoción a María Madre. Esta devoción no se limita a los católicos ni a los cristianos solamente. Gente de toda creencia—cristianos, indúes, musulmanes y de diversas religiones—acuden a María Madre con Fe y reverencia. Cuando vienen se puede ver lo profundo de su devoción y confianza en su cuidado maternal. Hay muchos testimonios poderosos allí. Ya sea que la gente de otras religiones no la llamen ‘María Madre’, pero con cariño le dicen ‘Ammā’, que significa mamá—la misma palabra que usamos para nuestra propia madre. Sí, María Madre es también mi madre. El ver este profundo amor y reverencia ha fortalecido mi propia devoción a María; debido a esto, María Madre y San Antonio de Padua siempre han tenido un lugar especial en mi mente y mi corazón y son parte de mi oración diaria”.

WTC: ¿Hay algo más que usted desee añadir a esta conversación?

Padre William: “Me siento muy feliz de estar aquí en los Estados Unidos y siento profunda gratitud por la oportunidad de servir en la Diócesis de Amarillo, una diócesis rica en la Fe y bendecida con 100 años de historia. Me da un gozo especial venir aquí durante su Año Centenario. Pido que siempre pueda caminar con Dios, ser un verdadero hombre de Dios y con fidelidad llevar a cabo las responsabilidades que se me han confiado en la Diócesis de Amarillo. Prometo hacer lo mejor que pueda en este ministerio”.

El West Texas Catholic: Bienvenido a la Diócesis de Amarillo, Padre William. Cuéntenos la historia de su vocación...

Padre Praveen Mopur William: “Mi vocación al sacerdocio empezó cuando era niño. A la edad de cinco años, me enfermé gravemente. Durante casi una semana estuve en cama sin poder levantarme. Mis padres me llevaron al hospital de un pueblo cercano, donde los médicos les dijeron que nunca volvería a andar y que pasaría mi vida en silla de ruedas. Mi madre como gran devota de la Virgen María y de San Antonio de Padua me confió a ellos con profunda fe y oró con vehemencia por su intercesión. Los médicos aconsejaron a mis padres que me llevaran a un hospital en la ciudad de Chennai, y se estaban preparando para hacerlo. Pero antes de que pudieran llevarme, ocurrió algo extraordinario: después de haber estado una semana en cama, me levanté, caminé hacia mis padres y los saludé. Ellos se asombraron e inmediatamente me llevaron de nuevo al hospital cercano en donde el médico me examinó y dijo: ‘Está perfectamente bien. No hace falta llevarlo al hospital de la ciudad’”.

“Desde ese momento, mi madre me recordaba con frecuencia este gran milagro. Ella decía: ‘Fue Dios quien te tocó y te sanó. Quién eres hoy y lo que eres hoy es un don de Dios.’ Estas palabras, pronunciadas repetidamente a lo largo de mi infancia, moldearon profundamente mi Fe y mi relación con Dios. Fui creciendo y me hice monaguillo y lector. Pasé gran parte de mi tiempo en la Iglesia, ayudando con gran gusto a los sacerdotes. Desde pequeño, mis párrocos inspiraron y fomentaron mi vocación al sacerdocio—especialmente el Padre Antonymsamy, el Padre Cyriac, el Padre Dominic Savio, el Padre Francis Xavier y el Padre John Maria Joseph. Gracias a su guía y ánimo, entré a la escuela apostólica y, más tarde, ingresé al seminario”.

WTC: ¿Cuál es la fecha de su ordenación y en dónde fue ordenado?

Padre William: “Fui ordenado sacerdote el 28 de agosto de 2013 para la Arquidiócesis de Madrás y Mylapore, Chennai. Me ordenó el Arzobispo George Antonymsamy en

la Basílica Catedral Nacional de Santo Tomás, Santhome, Chennai, en India del Sur.”

WTC: Entiendo que mucha gente asistió a esa Misa...

Padre William: “Mi ordenación fue una celebración sumamente bendecida, con 350 sacerdotes, 200 religiosas y casi 30,000 personas presentes”.

WTC: Imagino que usted no fue el único sacerdote ordenado ese día.

Padre William: “En total, fuimos siete sacerdotes ordenados ese día”.

WTC: ¿Cuál es el recuerdo más preciado del día de su ordenación?

Padre William: “Los recuerdos más preciados de mi ordenación sacerdotal se centran en momentos de profunda entrega y gracia. La postración durante la *Letanía de los Santos* marcó una ofrenda total de mi vida a Dios y mi muerte a mi antiguo yo. La imposición de manos por parte del obispo y los hermanos sacerdotes fue el momento más solemne y alegre, dándome la bienvenida a la fraternidad sacerdotal. La unción de mis manos y la celebración de mi primera Misa revelaron la sagrada responsabilidad confiada a mí. Dar mi primera bendición a mis padres y recibir los abrazos de paz completaron la experiencia con gratitud, gozo y una sensación de volver a casa”.

WTC: Al ordenar a siete sacerdotes, la imposición de manos ha de haber durado una hora por sí misma.

Padre William: “La ordenación fue una ceremonia hermosa que duró unas dos horas y media; la imposición de manos por sí misma duró casi una hora”.

WTC: Díganos de su formación y su ministerio sacerdotal.

Padre William: “He sido sacerdote por 12 años. Completé mis estudios de Filosofía en el Seminario Pontificio de Pune (en India Occidental) y mis estudios de Teología en el Seminario del Sagrado Corazón en Chennai (en India del Sur). Tengo además Bachillerato en Historia y Bachillerato en Educación. También tengo Maestría en Filosofía, Maestría en Labor Social con especialidad en Gestión de Recursos Humanos y Maestría

en Administración de Empresas con especialización en Gestión de Recursos Humanos”.

“Como sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de Madrás–Mylapore, he realizado diversas funciones pastorales y académicas. Fui párroco asociado en dos parroquias, fui vicerrector del seminario menor y después fui párroco en dos parroquias. A nivel universitario, he sido maestro en el Departamento de Labor Social. Antes de llegar a la Diócesis de Amarillo, fui rector de nuestro Seminario Propedéutico (introductorio) regional al mismo tiempo que impartía Filosofía en el Seminario Mayor del Sagrado Corazón”.

WTC: Díganos acerca de su familia. Usted mencionó la gran devoción de su madre a la Santísima Virgen y a San Antonio de Padua. Hablemos de sus padres.

Padre William: “Mi padre, Patrick, ya falleció. Mi madre se llama Theresa y vive en India con mis hermanos. No tengo hermanas, pero sí dos hermanos mayores, Louis Mathias y Richard Sebastian. Los dos están casados y viven en Chennai, en India del Sur. Mis hermanos y cuñadas tienen sus propias profesiones. Mi hermano Louis Mathias trabaja en una empresa como diseñador de informática, y su esposa es profesora. Mi hermano Richard Sebastian trabaja en una facultad de medicina como jefe del Departamento de Educación Física, y su esposa, que tiene Doctorado en Enfermería Pediátrica, trabaja como profesora en una facultad de enfermería. Tienen hijos, viven felices y cuidan muy bien de nuestra madre”.

WTC: ¿Cuánto tiempo ha estado en los Estados Unidos? ¿Ya había estado en los EEUU antes de venir a la Diócesis de Amarillo?

Padre William: “Esta es mi primera vez en los Estados Unidos. Llegué el 20 de diciembre de 2025 y estoy muy contento de estar aquí. Aunque es mi primera visita, estoy muy a gusto y me encanta la cultura y la gente. Estoy agradecido de haber conocido ya a tanta gente tan buena. Desde que llegué, he concelebrado y celebrado Misas en la Catedral de Santa María y he celebrado Misa en las Iglesias de San Martín de Porres y San Jacinto”.

Comidas de Cuaresma y Pescado Frito

Información dada a la Oficina Diocesana de Comunicaciones. Los grupos que deseen anunciar Comidas de Cuaresma y Pescado Frito pueden enviarnos detalles a westtexascatholic@gmail.com.

Las comidas que se servirán los viernes 20 y 27 de marzo se anunciarán en la edición del 15 de marzo del *West Texas Catholic*. Los eventos que se anuncian aquí pueden cambiar sin previo aviso.

MARTES, 17 de FEBRERO

Canyon—Caballeros de Colón del Consejo #7840 de la Iglesia Saint Ann servirán Camarón Hervido de Martes de Carnaval en el Salón Parroquial, Avenida 38 #605. Aceptarán sus donativos que ayudarán al Consejo #7840 a realizar múltiples caridades. Para información, llamen a la Iglesia de Saint Ann, 806-655-3302.

VIERNES, 20 DE FEBRERO

Amarillo—Pescado Frito de los Caballeros de Colón del Consejo #12563 de la Iglesia Saint Francis of Assisi en el Salón Parroquial, Klinke Road 5005; diez millas al Este de Amarillo, al lado Norte de la Carretera 60. Empezarán a servir a las 5:30pm. Adultos, \$15.00; niños de 7 a 12 años, \$7.00. Para más detalles, favor de llamar a Phil Houlihan, 806-220-9281; o enviar email a bphoulihan5@gmail.com.

Canyon—Los Caballeros de Colón del Consejo #7840 de la Iglesia de Saint Ann servirán Pescado Frito en el Salón Parroquial, calle 38 #605, a las 6:30pm después del Viacrucis. Adultos \$15.00; niños de seis a doce años, \$6.00 y los niños de cinco años y menores comerán gratis. Para indagar más detalles, favor de llamar a la oficina parroquial, 806-655-3302.

Clarendon—Pescado Frito para beneficio del Fondo de Construcción de la Iglesia Saint Mary se servirá de 5:30pm a 7:30pm en el Salón Parroquial, calle Montgomery 510 Este.

Adultos \$18.00 y niños de doce años y menores \$10.00. Durante la comida venderán boletos por \$1.00 para el sorteo del 20 de marzo en el que el ganador recibirá la mitad del ingreso de los boletos. Pida detalles a la oficina parroquial, 806-874-3910.

VIERNES, 27 DE FEBRERO

Amarillo—Los Caballeros de Colón del Consejo #4621 servirán la primera de dos Comidas de Pescado Frito de 5:00pm a 7:00pm en el gimnasio de la Iglesia Saint Thomas the Apostle, calle Coulter 4100 Sur. Adultos, \$15.00; niños de seis a once años, \$9.00 y niños de 5 años y menos comerán gratis. Aceptarán pago en efectivo, cheques y tarjetas de crédito o de débito. Para más información, llamen a la oficina parroquial de la Iglesia Saint Thomas, 806-358-2461.

Dalhart—Pescado Frito de los Caballeros de Colón del Consejo #2776 en el Centro Familiar de la Iglesia de San Antonio de Padua, Texas Boulevard 411. Servirán de 5:00pm a 6:30. Aceptarán sus donativos por el costo de la comida. Pidan detalles a la oficina parroquial, 806-244-4128.

Hereford—Pescado Frito por el Consejo #2778 de Caballeros de Colón de la Iglesia Saint Anthony en el Gimnasio de la Escuela de Saint Anthony, Park Avenue 120 Oeste. Empezarán a servir a las 6:00pm. Adultos, \$15.00; niños de doce años y menores, \$10.00. Podrán comer allí o recoger platillos para llevar entre los edificios de la escuela. Para más detalles, favor de llamar a la oficina parroquial de Saint Anthony, 806-364-6150.

VIERNES, 6 DE MARZO

Amarillo—Los Caballeros de Colón del Consejo #1450 de la Catedral de Santa María servirán Pescado Frito de 5:30pm a 7:00pm en el salón de actividades Monseñor Francis A. Smyer. Adultos \$18.00; adultos de la tercera edad y jóvenes de seis a diecisiete años, \$15.00;

niños de cinco años y menores comerán gratis. Para más detalles, llamen a la oficina parroquial de la catedral, 806-376-7204.

Clarendon—Pescado Frito de 5:30pm a 7:30pm a beneficio del Fondo de Construcción de la Iglesia Saint Mary, en el Salón Parroquial, calle Montgomery 510 Este. Adultos \$18.00 y niños de doce años y menores \$10.00. Durante la comida venderán boletos de \$1.00 para un sorteo el 20 de marzo en el que el ganador recibirá la mitad del ingreso de los boletos. Pida informes a la oficina parroquial, 806-874-3910.

Hereford—Pescado Frito por el Consejo #2778 de Caballeros de Colón de la Iglesia de Saint Anthony en el Gimnasio de la Escuela Saint Anthony, Park Avenue 120 Oeste. Empezarán a servir a las 6:00pm. Adultos, \$15.00; niños de 12 años y menores, \$10.00. Podrán comer allí o recibir los platillos en su auto entre los edificios de la escuela. Para más detalles, favor de llamar a la oficina parroquial de Saint Anthony, 806-364-6150.

VIERNES, FEBRERO 20 y 27; VIERNES, MARZO 6 y 13

Dimmitt—Pescado Frito por el Grupo de Hombres de la Santa Cruz de la Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción en el Salón Parroquial, calle Halsell 1001 Oeste. Servirán de 5:00pm a 8:00pm para comer en el salón o para llevar. \$12.00 por platillo; niños de cinco años y menores, \$6.00. También pueden ordenar por adelantado. Para más detalles, llamen a la oficina parroquial, 806-647-4219.

Hereford—Pescado Frito del Consejo #8938 de Caballeros de Colón en el salón parroquial de la Iglesia San José, calle Brevard 725; de 5:00pm a 7:30pm. El platillo cuesta \$12.00. Además de pescado, habrá sándwiches de queso flameado por \$5.00. Para más información, favor de llamar a Edward Fuentes, 806-340-8657.

Comida Mexicana en Friona

Friona—La Sociedad de Damas de la Iglesia de Santa Teresa de Jesús servirá su Comida Mexicana Anual el domingo, 1 de marzo en el salón parroquial junto

a la iglesia, calle 17 #401 Oeste. Disfruten sus platillos con enchiladas, un taco, frijoles, arroz, postre, chips, salsa y té por \$15.00 por adulto y \$8.00 por niño de 10

años y menores. Para más detalles, hagan el favor de llamar a Lina Padilla al teléfono 806-265-7163, o a María Loya al número 806-346-2758.

Domingo, 22 de Febrero: Rito de Elección

Amarillo—El Rito de Elección de Catecúmenos y el Llamado a la Conversión Continua de Candidatos será el domingo, 22 de febrero en la Catedral de Santa María, calle Washington 1200 Sur.

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

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

“El título del rito combinado,

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

“El rito se celebra en la Catedral y cada parroquia celebra el *Rito de Envío de Catecúmenos para la Elección y de Candidatos al Llamado a la Conversión Continua* en su propia iglesia. 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 se pueden presentar a la comunidad parroquial, pero como ya están bautizados, sus nombres ya están escritos en el Registro Bautismal y no tienen que ser apuntados en el Libro de los Elegidos”.

“Invitamos muy cordialmente a los catecúmenos y a los 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”.

Rogemos por lluvia favorable y provechosa.

Intenciones del Papa León XIV para 2026

Por favor únense 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.

Febrero:

• **Por los niños con enfermedades incurables:** Oremos para que los niños que padecen enfermedades incurables y sus familias reciban la atención médica y el apoyo necesario, sin perder nunca la fuerza y la esperanza.



Oscar Rivera of Grant Construction, Amarillo, knocks down a portion of the former Capuchin Monastery in Amarillo on Jan. 12. According to diocesan records, the building originally was the Bishop's Home, which was constructed in 1932 and served as the Bishop's Home until 1980. (WTC Photo)

Denim And Diamonds

Amarillo—Tickets for *Demin and Diamonds*, a fundraiser to benefit the youth at St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Mary's Cathedral School, are still available.

Denim and Diamonds is scheduled Friday, April 17 from 6:30pm to 11:30pm in the Monsignor Francis A. Smyer Activity Center at 1200 South Washington.

Tickets for the evening are \$75

each, which includes an opportunity to win a \$5,000 VISA Gift Card.

The Big Texan Steak Ranch will cater an evening meal. There will also be a drawing, a silent auction and dancing.

For additional information about *Denim and Diamonds*, please call St. Mary's Cathedral at 806-376-7204 or St. Mary's Cathedral School at 806-376-9112.

Pray The Rosary...daily!

Catholic Daughters Enchilada Dinner

Amarillo—Catholic Daughters of America Court #2472 at St. Martin de Porres Church invite the public to an Enchilada Dinner Sunday, Feb. 22 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the parish hall on the corner of Northwest 16th and Adams.

Adult meal tickets are \$12.00 and children ages twelve and under will be served for \$6.00. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit the many charitable efforts of Court #2472, according to spokesperson Patti Lineman.

There will also be a silent auction during the dinner. For more details about the dinner or Catholic Daughters of America Court #2472, please contact Lineman at 806-676-7973.

Thanks for reading
The West Texas Catholic

"Call my Daddy!"



- Will
- Financial Power of Attorney
- Medical Power of Attorney
- Probate, Guardianship
- House Calls Available

Robert Hands
Attorney-at-Law

678-0688
83 N. Avondale
Amarillo, Texas 79106

Passover Seder Meal At Retreat Center

Amarillo—Friday, March 20 is the deadline to make reservations to attend a Passover Seder Meal, hosted by the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center Thursday, March 26, beginning at 6:00pm at 2100 North Spring.

Individual tickets are \$50 per person.

"Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to be at The Last Supper?" said Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ Sister Elizabeth Ann Dockery. "Perhaps you've watched *The Passion of Christ* or meditated on the scripture passag-

es which describe those impactful events. Come journey with us as we walk through that night, beginning with a Seder Meal and spiritually setting our hearts and minds towards Calvary for a transformational Holy Week."

This year's Seder Meal will include the option of wearing costumes from that period, according to Sister Elizabeth Ann.

For more information, please call the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center at 806-383-1811 or go online to bdrc.org/Passover-seder-dinner.

29th St. Mary's Day Barbecue Dinner

Clarendon—The 29th St. Mary's Day Barbecue Dinner, sponsored by St. Mary's Church, is set for Sunday, April 12 from 11:30am to 1:00pm in the Parish Hall at 510 East Montgomery.

Tickets for the all-you-can-eat meal at the door are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children.

Proceeds from the dinner will

benefit the St. Mary's Church building fund. Takeouts will be available and there will be entertainment, a silent auction and a country store.

Barbecue beef and ribs will also be sold.

For more information on the dinner, please call Jacob Fangman at 806-206-5737.



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



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

Authentic Femininity Mini-Retreat

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

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

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

“Besides getting to spend time with other young ladies that want to grow in their Faith and learning some beautiful tools and having some prayer experiences, the participants will be able to spend some time with the Franciscan Sisters of

Christ the Light,” said Sister Mary Michael.

When asked the question what stands out most from an *Authentic Femininity Mini-Retreat*, these comments were offered by some who attended previous retreats:

- “Getting to sit and speak with others about their life and journey with Christ as well as advice from the sisters and their wisdom. They always have open arms and a welcoming warmth that it’s always a home away from home filled with love, joy and laughter.”

- “The sisters are always welcoming and loving. Their generosity is truly helping women become beautiful and free women of God.”

- “I never cease to be amazed by the love and care that goes into all of these retreats and visits. The sisters don’t just talk the ‘ministry’ of presence, they live it.”

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



Official

The following appointments have been announced by Bishop Patrick J. Zurek and are effective Monday, February 16, 2026:

REV. MAURICIO VALADEZ GALLARDO is appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Amarillo.

REV. VIMAL RAJ SAMIEEDI AMAL is appointed Parochial Vicar at San Jose Church and Mission, Hereford.

REV. PRAVEEN MOPUR WILLIAM is appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Laurence Church, Amarillo.

Effective Monday, February 16, 2026, Bishop Zurek appoints these men to diaconal service:

DEACON GABRIEL BERMUDEZ to St. Hyacinth Church, Amarillo.

DEACON JESÚS CHACÓN to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo.

DEACON JESÚS MARTINEZ to San Jose Church, Hereford.

DEACON RODOLFO MUÑOZ to St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa.

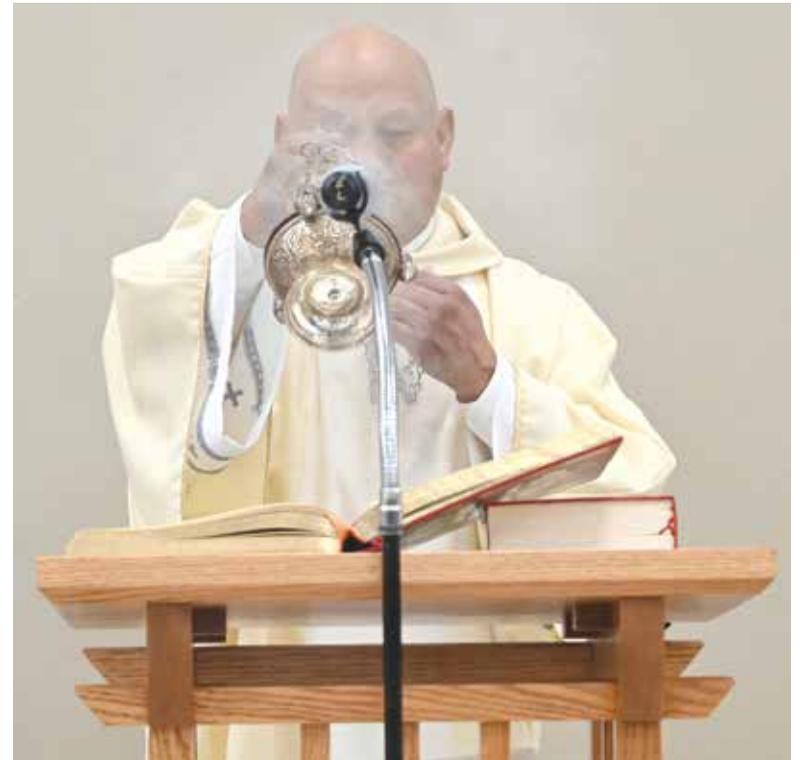
DEACON TODD MURRAY to San Jose Church, Hereford.

DEACON DWAYNE RICKWARTZ to St. Hyacinth Church, Amarillo.

DEACON KEVIN RICKWARTZ to St. Ann’s Church, Canyon.

DEACON MARTÍN RUIZ to San Jose Church, Hereford.

By Order of the Bishop
 Father Lawrence John, JCL
 Vicar General
 Diocese of Amarillo



Deacon Ricky Delarosa of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas, reverences the Book of Gospels Feb. 4 during a Centennial Deanery Mass for the North Deanery at the church. The Mass was the first of four Centennial Deanery Masses being celebrated this month, with the final Mass scheduled Friday, Feb. 27 at 6:00pm at San Jose Church, Hereford. (WTC Photo)

Pampa Polish Sausage Dinner

Pampa—The 74th annual Polish Sausage Dinner, hosted by Knights of Columbus Council #2767 at St. Vincent de Paul Church, will be served Sunday, March 8 from 11:00am to 2:00pm in the Pastoral Education Center (PEC) at the parish, 810 West 23rd Ave.

Advance tickets are available at \$15.00 each, or \$18.00 at the door the

day of the meal. Tickets can be purchased from any member of Knights of Columbus Council #2767.

The meal will include Polish Sausage, beans, potato salad, coleslaw and dessert.

For more information about the dinner, please contact Adolfo Reséndiz at 806-802-9084 or Dr. Jack Albracht at 806-663-1950.

Diocese of Amarillo

Job Opening: Youth Ministry Assistant

The Diocese of Amarillo is accepting applications for the part-time position of Youth Ministry Assistant. The purpose of this position is to assist the the Youth Director in the operation of the Youth Office. A priority is to maintain and update mailing lists. This position is also responsible for preparing documents for meetings, establishing records of activity, note taking at meetings and bulk mailings. As Youth Ministry Assistant you will correspond with priests and parish youth ministers, organize the department’s calendar, keep on top of scheduled events and deadlines. Other duties might include helping lower department costs, maintain websites and social media, making travel arrangements, filing and arranging activities for retreats and conferences.

Qualifications Required:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Computer skills including Microsoft Office
- Knowledge and ability to use office equipment
- Eagerness to learn and to assist other when needed
- Ability to work alone and be a team player
- Understanding of confidentiality is a must
- A working knowledge of the Catholic Faith is an advantage
- Verbal and written skills in both English and Spanish is an advantage
- Other skills like web and video editing skills is an advantage



Resumes will be accepted until position is filled or Friday, March 13 and should be mailed to:
 Oscar Guzman **Diocese of Amarillo**
 P.O. Box 5644
 Amarillo, TX 79117-5644
 Or emailed to: oguzman@dioama.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.



Deacon Dwayne Rickwartz, left, listens as Deacon Gabriel Bermudez offers the Prayers of the Faithful Feb. 6 during a Centennial Deanery Mass for the Central Deanery at St. Hyacinth Church, Amarillo. Both Deacons Bermudez and Rickwartz, who were ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Amarillo on Dec. 6, were assigned to St. Hyacinth Church. Please see the related story on page 1 in this section of *The West Texas Catholic*. (WTC Photo)

Canyon Czech Sausage Dinner

Canyon—St. Ann's Church will serve its 35th annual Czech Sausage Dinner Sunday, March 1 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Parish Family Center, 605 38th Street.

This year's meal is drive-through or dine-in. Adult meal tickets are \$18.00 each and children meal tickets are \$10.00 each. The meal consists of Czech Sausage with sauer-

kraut, bread, parsley potatoes, green beans and cobbler.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle drawing, religious articles and a country store with baked goods and kolaches.

For further details about the dinner, please call the parish office during regular business hours at 806-655-3302.

"When you are totally consumed by the Eucharistic fire, then you will be able more consciously to thank God, who has called you to become part of His family."

—St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

Women's Cursillo

Amarillo—A Women's Cursillo will be offered Thursday, March 5 through Sunday, March 8 at St. Francis Convent, 4301 NE 18th St.

Cost of the Cursillo, which will be conducted entirely in Spanish, is \$150 per person. Please contact your parish Ultreya representative for additional information or to sign up.

Spanish Marriage Retreat In Pampa

Pampa—The Marriage, Life and Family Group at St. Vincent de Paul Church will host a Spanish Marriage Retreat Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11 in the Parish Education Center (PEC) at 810 West 23rd Ave.

The retreat will be offered April 10 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm and April 11 from 8:00am to 8:30pm.

"This retreat is open for Catholic couples in the Diocese of Amarillo," said Amy Foster, a member of the Marriage, Life and Family Group. "Please join us to learn about our vocation: marriage."

No childcare will be offered. Cost of the retreat is a good will offering. For more information or to register, please call Foster at 806-664-1979.

English As A Second Language

Amarillo—The English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle need volunteers. The program needs volunteers willing to tutor students in a class setting or individually. For more details about the ESL program, please contact Ashlee Pallares, program coordinator, at 806-376-4571, or via email, akieth@cctxp.org.

Priests Birthdays

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

Father Richard Zanetti, JCL
Feb. 1

Father Avitus K. Siriwa
Feb. 5

Father Jim Schmitmeyer
Feb. 10

Father Balaswamy Poliseti
Feb. 10

Last Call For Golden Jubilees

Amarillo—Calling married couples celebrating 50th wedding anniversaries...

The West Texas Catholic is seeking couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries that were joined in marriage between Jan. 1, 1976 and March 31, 1976.

"We would like to honor these couples in our next issue, dated Sunday, March 15," said WTC editor Chris Albracht. "Couples can send us a current photo or their wedding photo, along with their names and the date and location of their wedding. We will honor those couples, free of charge in our next issue. **Please, no cellphone camera photos.**"

2026 Bach Lunch Series

Amarillo/Canyon—St. Thomas the Apostle Church and St. Ann's Church will take part in the 31st annual Bach Lunch Series, sponsored by the Amarillo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

This year, the Bach Lunch Series will be extended into the first two Fridays after Easter, with eight recitals scheduled at churches throughout the Amarillo/Canyon metro area.

The Bach Lunch begins with a 25-minute organ recital at 12:05pm, followed by lunch at 12:30. Those attending are encouraged to bring a box lunch to the recitals. Parishes will provide tea, coffee and a place to eat. Attendees will have plenty of time to get (*Bach*) to work.

Photos can be sent via email to westtexasatholic@gmail.com or via regular mail to: P.O. Box 5644, Amarillo, 79117. Couples mailing their photos are asked to include a self-addressed stamped envelope so the photos can be returned after the issue date. Couples are also asked to write on a Post-It-Note their name, address, phone number and email address on the back of their photo.

The deadline to submit photos and information is at **noon** on Thursday, March 5. For additional information, please call the Office of Communications at the Diocesan Pastoral Center at 806-414-1075.

St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4100 South Coulter will host the first Bach Lunch Series recital on Friday, Feb. 20, which will be led by Jim Garner, former Director of Music Ministries at St. Thomas.

St. Ann's Church at 605 38th Ave., will be the site for the Bach Lunch Series on Friday, March 13, led by Dr. Elizabeth Gotlund McKee, DMA, Director of Music at St. Ann's Church.

For more information, please call Dr. Michael Johnson at 806-654-3239 or visit the Amarillo Chapter American Guild of Organist Facebook page. The 341st birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach is Tuesday, March 31.

St. Ann's Knights of Columbus Council #7840

**Fish Fry 6:30pm
Friday Feb. 20
Parish Hall, St. Ann's
605 38th Street Canyon**

**\$15.00 Adult
\$6.00 Children 6 to 12
Kids Under 5 Eat Free!**

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.

March:

• **For disarmament and peace.** Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Lenten Meals, Fish Fries

The following information was received by the diocesan Office of Communications. Those wishing to add Lenten Meals or Fish Fries are asked to email all pertinent information to: westtexascatholic@gmail.com. A list of meals to be served on Friday, March 20 and Friday, March 27 will be published in the Sunday, March 15 issue of *The West Texas Catholic*. Events listed here are subject to change without notice.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Canyon—Shrove Tuesday Shrimp Boil, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #7840 at St. Ann's Church, in the Parish Hall at 605 38th Ave. Donations will be accepted, with proceeds to benefit the numerous charities of Council #7840. For more details, please call St. Ann's Church at 806-655-3302.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Amarillo—Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #12563 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, in the Parish Hall at 5005 Klinke Road, located 10 miles east of Amarillo, just north of Highway 60. The meal will be served at 5:30pm. Adult plates are \$15.00 each and plates are \$7.00 for youth seven to twelve years old. For further information, please contact Phil Houlihan at 806-220-9281 or via email, bphoulihan5@gmail.com.

Canyon—Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #7840, in the Parish Hall at St. Ann's Church, 605 38th St. The meal will be served at 6:30pm, following the Way of the Cross. Adult plates are \$15.00 each and children six to twelve eat for \$6.00 each. Children under five eat free. Find out more about the meal by calling the parish office at St. Ann's Church, 806-655-3302.

Clarendon—Fish Fry, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, to benefit the Building Fund at St. Mary's Church, in the Parish Hall at 510 East Montgomery. Adult plates are \$18.00 each and \$10.00 each for children 12 and under. Tickets will also be sold during the meal for a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$1.00 each and the drawing will take

place on Friday, March 20. Learn more by contacting Rodney Ehlert at 281-635-1189.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Amarillo—Knights of Columbus Council #4621 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church will host the first of two Lenten Fish Fries from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the parish gym at 4100 South Coulter. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children ages six to eleven. All children five and under eat free. Cash, check, debit and credit cards will be accepted for payment. Learn more by calling the parish office at St. Thomas the Apostle Church at 806-358-2461.

Dalhart—Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #2776 at St. Anthony of Padua Church, in the Parish Family Center at 411 Texas Blvd. Serving time is 5:00pm to 6:30pm. Cost of the meal is by donation. Additional details can be obtained by calling the St. Anthony of Padua parish office at 806-244-4128.

Hereford—Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #2778 at St. Anthony's Church, in the St. Anthony's School Gym at 120 West Park Ave. The meal will be served beginning at 6:00pm and plates are \$15.00 each for adults and \$10.00 each for children 12 and under. The meal will be dine-in or drive-through between the school buildings. Please call the parish office at St. Anthony's Church at 806-364-6150 for more details.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Amarillo—Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #1450 at St. Mary's Cathedral, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the Monsignor Francis A. Smyer Activity Center. Plates are \$18.00 for adults, \$15.00 for seniors and children ages six to seventeen. Kids under five eat free. For additional information, please call St. Mary's Cathedral at 806-376-7204.

Clarendon—Fish Fry, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, to benefit the Building Fund at St. Mary's Church, in the Parish Hall at 510 East Montgomery. Adult plates are \$18.00 each and \$10.00 each for

children 12 and under. Tickets will also be sold during the meal for a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$1.00 each and the drawing will take place on Friday, March 20. Learn more by contacting Rodney Ehlert at 281-635-1189.

Hereford—Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #2778 at St. Anthony's Church, in the St. Anthony's School Gym at 120 West Park Ave.

The meal will be served beginning at 6:00pm and plates are \$15.00 each for adults and \$10.00 each for children 12 and under. The meal will be dine-in or drive-through between the school buildings. Please call the parish office at St. Anthony's Church at 806-364-6150 for more details.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, FEBRUARY 27, MARCH 6 and MARCH 13

Dimmitt—Fish Fry, sponsored by the Holy Cross Men's Group at

Immaculate Conception Church, in the parish hall at 1001 West Halsell. The dinner will be served from 5:00pm to 8:00pm and will be drive-in and takeout.

Adult plates are \$12.00 each and children five and under are served for \$6.00 each. Orders will be accepted in advance. Find out more by calling the parish office at 806-647-4219.

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, fayeobrienusala@gmail.com.

Hereford—Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8938 in the parish hall at San Jose Church, 725 Brevard. Serving time is 5:00pm to 7:30pm. All plates are \$12.00 each. For those not preferring fish, a grilled cheese sandwich dinner is an option, at \$5.00 per person. For additional information, please call Edward Fuentes at 806-340-8657.

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 calling Wagner at 806-433-9561.

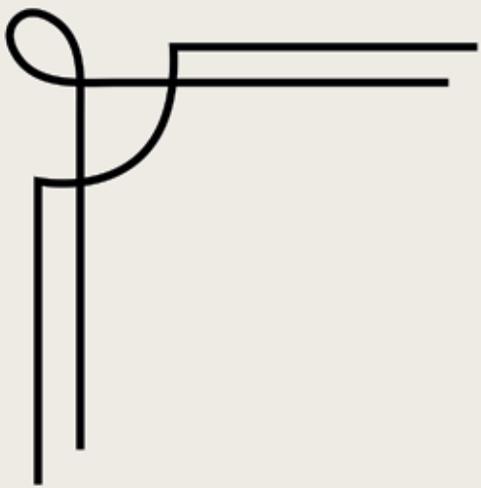
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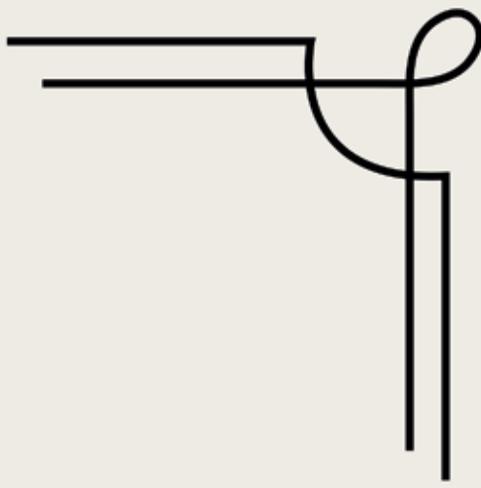
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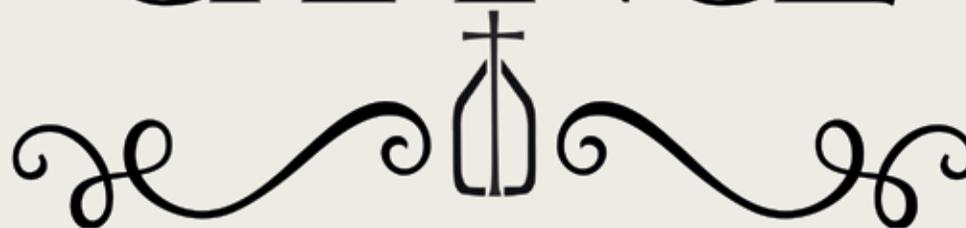
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

| 6:00 PM |

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