Third Sunday of Advent

Saint Thomas the Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH

180 St. Thomas Drive, Canyon Lake, TX 78133-4131 • 830-964-3497
www.stthomasatcanyonlake.org stthomas@gvtc.com

Office Hours: **Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m.**

December 17, 2017

Rev. Alberic Lazerna O.S.B., Administrator

Deacon Clifford Hall	830-964-4742
Deacon Robert Leibrecht	830-964-2573
A'Laura Vrana, Director of Religious Education	830-660-6631
Paul Lowry, Organist/Coordinator	
Brigid Ferguson, Secretary	830-964-3497
Tricia Balcom, Bookkeeper	
Rebecca Perez, Custodian	
Leslie Halm, Maintenance	
Mary Frazier, Spiritual Direction	972-742-2253

MINISTRY TO THE SICK Notify the pastor during an illness or before surgery to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Eucharist. Prayer blankets are available in the back of the church. If unable to attend Mass, call 830-964-3497 to schedule a Eucharistic Minister to bring Holy Communion to your home.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	Vigil, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday-Friday	8:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM/MATRIMONY
Please call the church office at 830-964-3497.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Before and after Mass and by appointment
Saturday 4:30 p.m.

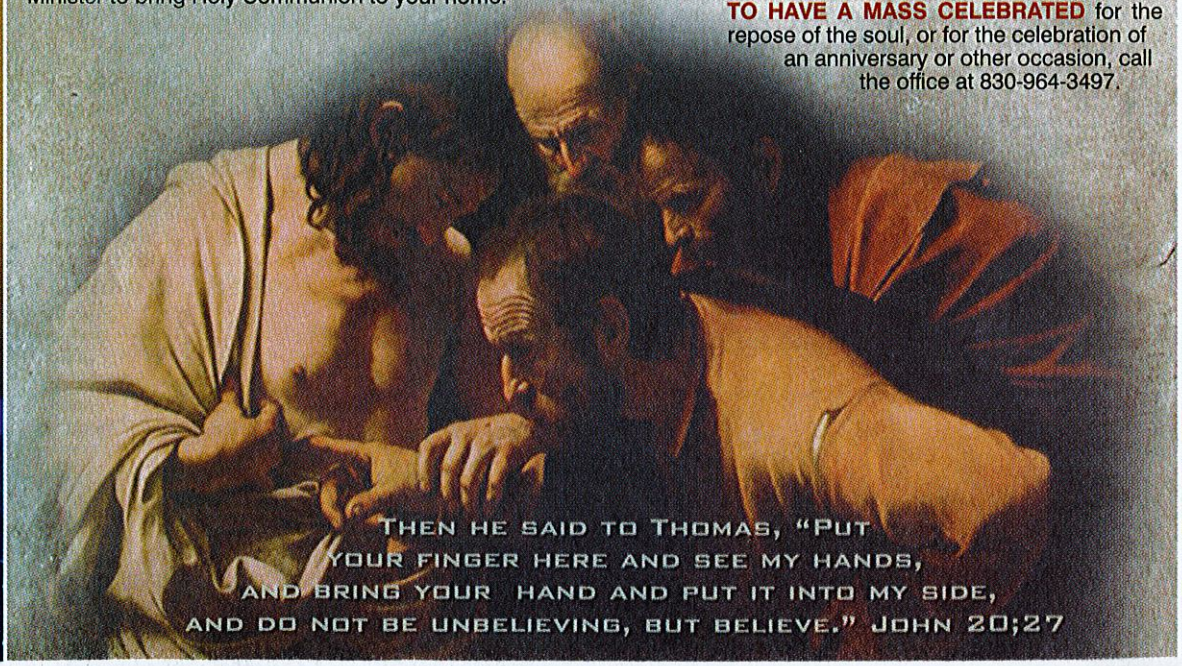
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
In the Adoration Chapel

Tuesday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Thursday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Friday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
1st Friday	9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

BENEDICTION IN THE CHURCH
First Friday After 8:30 a.m. Mass

ROSARY Thirty minutes before the daily and Sunday Masses and Tuesday 5:00 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel

TO HAVE A MASS CELEBRATED for the repose of the soul, or for the celebration of an anniversary or other occasion, call the office at 830-964-3497.



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MINISTRY LEAD REFLECTION:

We are getting close. He is coming. As we prepare for the arrival of our King of Kings which we celebrate in just eight short days, we light a different colored candle on our Advent wreath. Rose, a color of anticipation, signifies our longing to see the one whom even John the Baptist felt unworthy to tie His sandal straps. Advent: our time of preparation for this coming. Is this Advent season different? Are we preparing for this Christmas in the same way we've prepared for past Christmases? In our hearts, can we see a change? Can we remember that time is short, fleeting, and that each day is a gift more precious than any we give or receive in honor of the birthday of our Lord? As today's Liturgy of the Word reminds us, "... rejoice heartily in the Lord," and "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks..." —Tim Burkard, *Knights of Columbus, RCIA*

Stewardship

December 2017

Sunday offerings $ 17,524
Retired Religious: $ 2,722
(2nd collection)

Monthly Expenses (anticipated) $37,070

Altar Flowers

At St. Thomas Image

In Loving memory of
Regina Waldron
on her birthday
By Pat and Gene Marshall

If you would like to donate, arrange or offer flowers for any of the church altars, Call Gina 210-980-8993 or office 830-964-3497

No flowers at front altar during Advent.

Our church needs an applicant to the position of **Bookkeeper.** If you think you are qualified or have experience, please submit an application to Ms. Victoria Esparza, HR, Diocese of San Antonio, or bring to Church office.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, December 17

8:30 AM † Chris Kasper, Jr. by Chris and Michaelene Kasper

11:00 AM † Bea Nobles & Slim Morris by Suzan McDonald

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017

Sunday	**Third Sunday of Advent** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	**Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday	**Saint John of Kanty, Priest** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday	**Fourth Sunday of Advent** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38 Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

A variety of **Catholic CDs** from the Augustine Institute are now available in the back of church (Narthex). **Kindly donate $4 each,** (checks payable to St. Thomas the Apostle). Please consider sharing your CD once you've listened to it. We will feature a sample each week.

Week #7 - Building Your Life on Rock: Standing Firm in the Storm
Ralph Martin, an internationally known Catholic leader and teacher, discusses the challenges and the joys of being fully faithful to all the Church proclaims as true. Ralph provides practical advice on how to build our lives on rock and equip ourselves spiritually so that we can reach out to others with true charity. He shows how our fidelity to the Word of God will give us the strength to stand victorious in the difficult age in which we live.

Prayer and Ministry

Adoration: See front of bulletin for days/times. **Requesting more adorers at ALL HOURS.** Please call Julie Leibrecht at 830-964-2573 or the office.

Divine Mercy Ministry: Please join us in praying the Divine Mercy chaplet every Friday at 3pm in the Adoration Chapel. For further details, please contact Deacon Bob Leibrecht at (432)889-3858 or Linda Sanchez at (830)226-7057.

Ministry of Cleaning the Lord's House: Every last Friday of the month following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Please see Rebecca Perez.

Family Rosary: The image of the Blessed Mother is presented at each Sunday Mass every other weekend and taken to the parishioner's family home for two weeks for prayer and rosary. Call Chris or Michaelene Kasper if you would like to participate in this Marian devotion, 830-964-2865.

Hispanic Prayer Group: Meets Wed. evening 7 to 8 p.m. For information, call Maria 210-213-6154.

Marriage and Family Ministry: Marriage Ministry, through Gods revelation about the meaning and mystery of Marriage, seeks to inspire, inform, support, and strengthen the parish family, by offering training, assistance, and resources. Marriage Preparation, Couple Renewal Series, World Wide Marriage Encounter, RETROUVAILLE PROGRAM. Jim and Lydia Dougherty cgoycjm@gvtc.com.

"New Life Ministry" Support Group: A support group for families of the incarcerated meets every Thurs. 7-8:30pm at Sts. Peter & Paul's St. Joseph Center on 315 N. Seguin Ave next to Thrift Store in New Braunfels. Those dealing with addiction, domestic violence, returning from prison, or on parole or probation are encouraged to attend. Open dialogue to listen and share; all is held in strict confidence. For more details, please call Deacon Bob Leibrecht at 432-889-3858.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Society (Guadalupanos) General Meetings **(NEW TIME)** are the **3rd Wed** of the month, **9:30AM,** RE bldg. Our designated Mass is the **2nd Sunday** at 11AM; rosary at 10:30AM. Please wear your medals and vests and join us as a Marian group. You are invited to sign up for FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION noon to 10pm. Next 1st Friday: **JANUARY 5.**
Belinda Rainosek: birainosek@gvtc.com, 210-551-1049.

Prayer Blanket Ministry: Help yourself to a blanket in the back of church in basket—for prayers of spiritual/physical healing by our church. Made prayerfully by the Helping Hands ministry. Judy Schell, 281-744-0623.

Prayer Vine Ministry: *Request prayers* or *Be a Prayer Warrior!* Please email Belinda at birainosek@gvtc.com or call the office, 830-964-3497. Remember to let us know about updates for the prayer vine.

Respect Life Ministry: The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. (USCCB) The Respect Life Ministry provides opportunities for parishioners to support this vision through prayer, peaceful activism, and providing assistance to the Bulverde/Spring Branch Pregnancy Care and the families it serves. Please join us for the Rosary for the Unborn each Sunday at 10:30am and 'like' our page on Facebook: Respect Life at St. Thomas the Apostle. For more information, contact Bob Bradfield at 830-885-4036 or Nicole Dupuy at 830-885-6075.

Spiritual Direction at St. Thomas by Mary Frazier, (972)742-2253 or email mary.frazier1045@gmail.com. Spiritual Direction is a conversation with a trained director for the purpose of exploring the directees' spiritual practice and relationship with God.

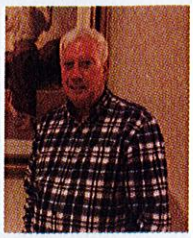
Support Group: We are a diverse group...here to listen and reach out to all who need support in challenging, life-changing situations. We meet every 4th Monday, 5 p.m. RE building. Candace Carr 830-660-5359, Pam Hosford 830-935-3391

Parish Data Base:
Please call or inform the office if there are changes in your home address, phone number, email or other demographic update. Thank you!

Mass count Dec 10 **579**

Please support our Bulletin Sponsors!

Congratulations **Chuck Bouboulis, Lumen Gentium 2018 Recipient**



Chuck has been chairman of the parish Finance Council for the past 5 years. He was a member of the Exploratory Building Committee which reviewed the facility needs of St. Thomas. He serves as the intermediary with the Archdiocese regarding capital projects which have included parking lot resurfacing and St. Anthony building construction. He currently and for the past four years, serves as member of the parish team for the annual Archbishop's Appeal, which significantly exceeds the parish goals. Also, he is a member of the Archbishop's Capital Campaign committee. He has served as the head of the annual parish festival's Finance Committee and serves as an Extraordinary Minister and a money counter team member. Chuck also loves to serve the 5:30pm Mass as Sacristan.

The parish Lumen Gentium award is bestowed upon an individual Catholic layperson from each parish who has demonstrated participation in the Catholic Church's mission to bring Christ's light to all.

Archbishop Gustavo presents this award to 150 volunteers from parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

FAITH FORMATION

We welcome A'Laura Vrana as the new DRE. She has a big role to perform especially with the kids and teens of our parish, St. Thomas. The mission she has to fulfill is very significant. Let us show her our love and support.

Religious Education: Classes: Sunday, 9:40—10:50am Wednesday, 4:30-6pm. **Pre-K– 12th grade**

Christmas break for students: NO CLASS Dec 24 and 31. Return to class on Jan 7, 2018.

All are invited to come share the birth of Christ at the Christmas Vigil Mass with the children's pageant beginning at 6 pm.

Lectionary Study: Thursdays 9:30-10:30 AM, following Mass. This study prepares and reviews the upcoming Sunday readings from the Lectionary. RE Bldg, meeting room. All are welcome!

RCIA: RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION of ADULTS. Meets every Tuesday at 6:30pm. (No class Dec 26th) Religious Education Building—main meeting room. This week's topic: *The People of God,* Presenter, Mary Frazier. Coordinators: Tim/C J Burkard (210)710-1593.

Are you a Catholic married out of the Church and want to return to full union with the sacraments? Call Deanne Wolf, annulment advocate, at 830-832-9992 if you would like to schedule an appointment.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, Dec 24 Mass—8:30am & 11am

Christmas Vigil, Sunday, Dec 24—

Children's pageant 6pm Mass 6:30pm

Christmas Day, Monday, Dec 25—8:30am and 11am

New Years' Day, Solemnity of Mary

Monday, Jan 1—8:30am and 11am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUADALUPANOS: Thank you to all who helped make the Feast of Our Lady a beautiful celebration. Our Lady: Linda Hernandez, Juan Diego: Raul Espinosa, Bishop: Chris Kasper, Friar: Art Avant, Narrators: Rich Schell and Del Rainosek. Special thanks to our leader, Belinda Rainosek, and to all who helped with the reception—decorations, meal preparations, serving and cleanup. ***Que viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!!***

Meetings have been moved to the 3rd Wed/month in the RE bldg at **9:30AM. Next: Jan. 17.** (NO MEETING IN DECEMBER).

MARRIED COUPLES' 4-week Renewal Series: Beginning Sunday, Jan. 7th through Jan. 28th, from 9:45 to 10:45am, between the Sunday Masses. Contact Jim and Lydia Dougherty for more information (830)302-0531 or cgoycjm@gvtc.com.

Divine Mercy Ministry: The Diary of St. Faustina is studied on First Fridays ONLY, after the 3-4pm adoration hour.

Helping Hands Ministry: Newly elected Board for 2017: Pres: Barb Jenkins, V Pres: Ginny Wisor, Treasurer/Parliamentarian: Cathy Bouboulis, Secretary: Kathy H. Newell. Next meeting WED, JAN 10th.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

Canyon Lake Rotary's Project Warmth - This time of year, CRRC is grateful for *Canyon Lake Rotary's Project Warmth* program. Every year this organization collects gently used jackets, sweaters and coats. They are placed on a coat rack in the CRRC Main Office. Folks coming into the office for the Food Pantry are offered one for free. We ask you to check your closets to find some warm outerwear that you might not be using, and drop it by the CRRC. Thank you!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me", Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend with your spouse. Weekends are in San Antonio, Oblate Retreat Center. For more information call Larry or Jane Zimmermann 210-951-9963.

The Christmas Thanksgiving was a success. I personally thank Father Alberic, the organizers and all the volunteers. I appreciate you all!!! We all did it. —Hati Cantu / Event Director and Coordinator

Tamale Sales Dec 16-17. $10/dozen, After Masses, back of church Contact Hati 830-822-5888

Thank You for continued donations of CANNED GOOD items TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN CANYON LAKE! (please leave in back of church at large basket) **CRRC 830-964-2324**

Wellness & Exercise Program Church Ministry at CRRC: Hati, 830-822-5888
WELLNESS & Body Conditioning: Stretch and Tone
Silver Sneakers Line Dancing - Tues and Thurs 9-10am
Silver Sneakers - Tues and Thurs, 10:30-11:30am
Weight Watchers at CRRC (small building) 7:45 am every Tuesday

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May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, & the love of God, & the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14)
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