



**Planning Stages for the 25th Annual Family Festival.  
We are in need of Volunteers to man the different activities and vendors for that day. Donations will be greatly appreciated.**



**Loteria Prizes needed for that day.  
Possibilities on prizes are:  
TV, Patio furniture  
Dallas Cowboy tickets, Gift cards  
A Festival Committee needs volunteers.  
Next meeting is Tuesday May 20 at 7:00 p.m.  
Bring your ideas!!!**

**THE WAYS OF LOVE**

One can feel the energy of a young, growing church in today's first reading. For Paul and Barnabas, it's smooth sailing. For the sponsoring church at Antioch, good news. The second reading—a vision— offers a picture of triumph, pure and simple. We might paraphrase God's direct words to read: "Don't you see? I make all things new!" The young church remains new and young to this day if and when it follows the command Jesus lays down in the Gospel: "Love one another." The attitude and actions of love define the disciples and identify them with their master. Every person on this earth can be a disciple. For discipleship does not depend on learning or sophistication or age or arcane knowledge of secret cults. We are asked to study and practice the ways of love, right here and right now in the company of ordinary people.

—Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

In the first sentence of today's Gospel passage from John, Jesus' address at the Last Supper, the words "glorify" or "glorified" appear five times. For John, glory has to do with honor and reputation, the primary characteristic of a person. John thus invites us to reflect upon what God's glory fully means. God is glorified when God's truest nature is revealed, as the God who loves. Today's passage is situated between two demonstrations of Jesus' love: the washing of feet and going to the cross. The capacity to glorify God extends to all of us. Like Jesus, love is revealed both in our mundane acts of service and in our acts and commitments of great sacrifice. Jesus' "new commandment," flowing from God's love within us, invites us to extend and deepen our love for others, to include everyone. We may then reveal God's truest nature to everyone, and so glorify God.

**Quinto Domingo de Pascua**

En la primera frase del pasaje del Evangelio de hoy de Juan, el discurso de Jesús en la Última Cena, las palabras "glorificar" o "glorificado" aparecen cinco veces. Para Juan, la gloria tiene que ver con el honor y la reputación, la característica principal de una persona. Así, Juan nos invita a reflexionar sobre lo que significa plenamente la gloria de Dios. Dios es glorificado cuando se revela su naturaleza más verdadera, como el Dios que ama. El pasaje de hoy se sitúa entre dos demostraciones del amor de Jesús: el lavatorio de los pies y el paso por la cruz. La capacidad de glorificar a Dios se extiende a todos nosotros. Como Jesús, el amor se revela tanto en nuestros actos mundanos de servicio como en nuestros actos y compromisos de gran sacrificio. El "mandamiento nuevo" de Jesús, que brota del amor de Dios en nosotros, nos invita a extender y profundizar nuestro amor por los demás, para incluir a todos. Así podremos revelar a todos la verdadera naturaleza de Dios y glorificar a Dios.

**GARDENING**



Kind hearts are the garden, Kind thoughts are the root,  
Kind words are the blossoms, Kind deeds are the fruit.

—Anonymous

**TREASURE STEWARDSHIP**

May 11, 2025  
St. Margaret

**Budget to Actual**

May 11, 2025	\$ 1,561.00	Envelope Receipts	\$ 841.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 2,187.50	Loose Plate	\$ 85.00
Keep Praying!!!	\$-626.50	Total	\$ 926.00

	<b>Online Report</b>	<b>\$ 635.00</b>
<b>WEEKLY RECEIPTS TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 1,561.00</b>

**Building Fund \$144**

**Thank you for your donation**

\*\*\*\*\*

**On line giving may be done by using  
smcbiglake.org/donate  
May God bless you for you generosity.  
Financial reports available in the office.**

**St. Francis of Assisi**

**Budget to Actual**

May 11, 2025	\$ 391.00	Envelope receipts	\$208.00
Weekly goal	\$ 375.00	Loose Plate	\$ 183.00
Alleluia!!!	\$ +16.00	TOTAL	\$ 391.00

**Building Fund \$**

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

**Budget to Actual**

May 11, 2025	\$ 290.00	Envelope Receipts	\$ 272.00
Weekly goal	\$ 323.00	Loose Plate	\$ 18.00
Keep Praying!!!	\$-33.00	Total	\$290.00

**Building Fund \$**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Prayer for the sick and those in need of prayer  
in our surrounding communities**

Danny Samaniego, Sylvia Castillo, Nicole Reyes, Stacy Ann Gonzales, Eloisa y Josafat Ramirez, Brigida Gonzalez Cortez, Jayslyn, Jaydynn, Jason Reyes, Tommie Martinez, Joe Lopez, Blanca Guajardo, Helen Martinez, Jade Faustina Castillo Hernandez, Perla, Jennifer, Mauro & Esperanza Castillo, Jose J. Castillo Hernandez, Alonzo Armendarez, Manuel Amendarez, Garcia Family, Karla Dominguez, Eleazar Dominguez, Eloisa Ramirez Moreno, Diana Palacio, Melissa Lopez, Jazmin Lopez, Horacio Sebastian, Emmalyn Grace Guevara, Yvette Gonzales, David Borrego, Benito Magaña, Henry Rodriguez, Frankie Martinez, David Castillo, Robert Galvan, Eddie Subia, Adelina Martinez, Jennifer Molina, Randall Montañez, Domingo Sedeño, Pablo Levario, Lettie Leija, Basil Ramirez, David Castillo, Reynaldo Mendoza, Mary Zapata, Alivar Sanchez, Jacob Talamantes, Tony Schillo, Christy Curry, Zachary Gonzales, Kit Rodriguez. Linda Gonzalez, Mage & Lupe Rodriguez, Jimmy Matthews, Donna O., Ray Diaz, Loretta Epperson, Juan E. Garcia, Juanita Perez, Jose A. Perez Jr.



**Saturday, May 17**

6:00 p.m. For +Lalo Soto

**Sunday, May 18, 5th Sunday of Easter**

9:00 a.m. (Iraan) Parish of St. Francis  
10:30 a.m. (Rankin) Parish of St. Thomas  
12:30 p.m. (Big Lake) For Conversion & Graduates

**Mon. May 19,**

No mass

**Tues. May 20, St. Bernardine of Siena**

6:00 p.m. Priest Intention

**Wed. May 21, St. Christopher Magallanes**

8:30 a.m. For Priest Intention

**Thur. May 22, St. Rita of Casia**

8:30 a.m. For Priest Intention

**Fri, May 23,**

8:30 a.m. For the Graduates

**Saturday, May 24,**

5:00 p.m. Confessions

6:00 p.m. For Health of Mike Lopez

**Sunday, May 25, 6th Sunday of Easter**

9:00a.m. (Iraan) For St. Francis Parishioners

10:30 a.m. (Rankin) For St. Thomas Parishioners

12:30 p.m. Birthday Blessings for Fr. Bala

**POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY**

**For working conditions**

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.



**Ministries for**

**Saturday, May 31, 2025**

Altar servers: Isaiah, Daniella, Jax

Greeter: Rose Mary Peña

Lector: Tara Graves

Choir: Cassandra DeLaRosa

**Sunday, June 1, 2025**

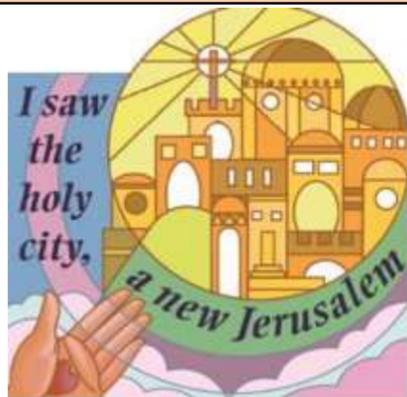
Altar servers: Daisey, Nicole, Rosalie, Juan

Greeter: Julie Flores

Lector: Caison, Joaquin, Savannah

Choir: Raquel Garcia

**Welcome Guests and Visitors:** We're so glad that you're here and invite you to join us in thanksgiving for God's action in our lives. Our goal is to provide a spiritual home where all are welcome, where the healing, reconciling, liberating love of God flows through us to all people. In this way, we believe that the Church is the sacrament of God's saving presence in the world.



**A NEW WORLD BUILT ON LOVE**

by Jess P. Balon y Jess P. Balon

We Christians have something wonderful to look forward to: a totally "new world." This will consist in a condition of perfect happiness, characterized by the absence of any form of suffering and by the deepest experience of God's saving presence. (See today's Second Reading, especially vv. 3-4.) Such a world, so different from the present one, will not be the product of man's ingenuity, planning or efforts. By ourselves we are incapable of creating our own heaven. We are even unable to conceive it in our imagination, for we do not know what is really fulfilling for us. The "new world" we

so eagerly await is the creation of God's love for us. He alone knows what can make us really happy forever. He alone can make this plan a reality. Yet, such a new world – the new Jerusalem – will not be simply a priceless gift distributed indiscriminately to all men, including those who persistently reject it. God treats us as adults. He respects our freedom and values our cooperation. He actually solicits it, gently and constantly. He wants us to be the ones who supply the labor, while He supplies the planning, the bricks, the mortar and the stones needed to build the "world" in which alone we will feel at home. In this way, the world without tears, death, mourning . . . will be not only a gift from God, but also the fruit of our loyalty and perseverance, as well as of the pain we endured with love. In practice, then, the "new world" will be the result of two loves: God's love for us, and our love for Him and our neighbor. This is quite an uneven partnership, for there is no comparison between God's role and ours. Yet, it is God Himself who has chosen us as His "partners." It is His love which transforms our suffering and feeble efforts into the splendor of the "house of love" that we call "heaven." That final result will be like a splendid flower blossoming out of a dark, small, unattractive seed – the seed of our life on earth . . . The vital force that makes our poor efforts produce such a disproportioned result is our Christ-like love, the self-sacrificing love of God and neighbor which Jesus taught his disciples with his example, even more than with his words. A love patterned after that of Jesus for his disciples is the only valid passport that will enable us to enter the "new Jerusalem," our true homeland. Without a Christ-like love, we would feel total strangers and out of place in God's Kingdom. With it, we shall feel perfectly at home, and enjoy the fruit of even the tiniest acts of brotherly/sisterly love done in imitation of Jesus, "the Teacher of love."

\*\*\*\*\*

Love is man's first and constant vocation. Love is the summary of the whole Bible. Love is the secret of the saints, the necessary way to God. It is the means to reveal God's heart to other men. But the beauty of God's love must show itself fresh and new in every Christian; for beauty, to delight and attract, must be fresh as the morning. Every deed of vital love, performed by us in our personality which nature and grace have fashioned, is like the morning of time itself. "God is love" in its mysterious fullness and infinite freshness. Utterly King and Lord, He unites the baptized of every nation in the one Mystical Body of Christ, by the one Holy Spirit, under the one Mother Mary.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Frequent fliers today have many ways to accrue air miles, so one doesn't always have to endure long hours in cramped seats to earn free hours in cramped seats. In St. Paul's day, there were no such perks, nor would there have been any legal system for him to protest the shipwrecks he endured. He had other rewards in mind. The churches that he established in the catalogue of cities from today's first reading must have been very different from one another. Language, culture, customs, religious history, obstacles to community, social challenges, the places where they met, their clothing, their bread and wine, all distinct, particular to the area. There were social customs as well: in a Christian household, the only place where a slave would be able to stand legally as an equal with the master would be at the table of the Lord, because at that table a new world of reconciliation was imaged. While Paul revered local customs, he was relentless about challenging the ways that people lived their Christian lives and how their worship reflected them. It is much the same today, as a global Catholic Church seeks to respect local customs and culture, allowing for differences in many things, yet always giving expression to the underlying presence of Christ, who binds us all together into his body.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE**

El primer día de mayo es reconocido como el día mundial del trabajo y conmemora seis mártires de Chicago, quienes fueron fusilados en 1886 cuando la policía trató de impedir una pelea campal durante una huelga de obreros. Curiosamente esta fecha no es reconocida por los Estados Unidos pero sí por muchos países latinoamericanos. En 1954, el Papa Pío XII apoyó los derechos del obrero incluyendo a san José Obrero en el calendario cristiano. Esta fiesta celebra y recuerda la doctrina social de la Iglesia católica, una doctrina que insiste que: "El mensaje cristiano no aparta a las personas de la edificación del mundo, ni les lleva a despreocuparse del bien de sus semejantes, sino que les impone esta colaboración como deber" (Gaudium et Spes 34). Es justo conmemorar a san José como obrero en el día mundial del trabajador, porque este santo varón nos recuerda que al trabajar uno colabora con Dios en la creación continua del mundo y de la humanidad. El trabajo no sólo es derecho humano es una responsabilidad que se debe tomar con amor al prójimo.

—Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**St. Francis/St. Thomas News**

Confirmation will be held on June 1, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in Rankin.

**Graduation Mass**

Sunday, May 18th for Rankin, St. Thomas at 10:30 a.m. and Big Lake, St. Margaret at 12:30 p.m.

**Please wear your gowns.**

