

Gospel Meditation:

It's often said that the Catholic Church lays heavy rules on her members, rules that can almost seem impossible. Mass every Sunday? No lying ever? Sexual purity all the time? I recently said to some non-Catholic friends that more than fifty adults were baptized at my parish at the Easter Vigil. One responded spontaneously with shock, "Why would anyone do that?" In other words, why would someone willingly place themselves in a system with such demanding and rigorous rules?

Of course, no one in the history of religions is more demanding and rigorous than Jesus himself. In the Sermon on the Mount, he says you have to be holier than pharisees or you're out. He says if you call someone a fool, you go to fiery Gehenna. He says you can't even look at a woman with lust or you're guilty of adultery (*which was punishable by death*). To top it all off, he says you can't even get divorced and re-married. *Doesn't he know these are basically impossible demands? What world is he living in?*

The new one, actually. He is the new world. Jesus' words aren't meant to condemn. They are meant to signal something new, a restored humanity. Jesus doesn't just give external laws; he gives us his Holy Spirit to internalize the law through love. He wants to fill us with his love. That's what the Church exists to do. Love demands extraordinary things. The "demands" of the Church only make sense because she is filled with Jesus' love. That wildly demanding love is why we are Catholic.

— Father John Muir

Meditación del Evangelio:

A menudo se dice que la Iglesia Católica impone reglas pesadas a sus miembros, reglas que casi pueden parecer imposibles. ¿Misa todos los domingos? ¿No mentir nunca? ¿Pureza sexual todo el tiempo? Hace poco le dije a algunos amigos no católicos que más de cincuenta adultos fueron bautizados en mi parroquia en la Vigilia Pascual. Uno respondió espontáneamente con sorpresa: "¿Por qué alguien haría eso?" En otras palabras, ¿por qué alguien se colocaría voluntariamente en un sistema con reglas tan exigentes y rigurosas?

Por supuesto, nadie en la historia de las religiones es más exigente y riguroso que Jesús mismo.

En el Sermón del Monte, él dice que tienes que ser más santo que los fariseos o estarás fuera.

Él dice que si llamas tonto a alguien, vas a la ardiente Gehenna. Dice que ni siquiera puedes mirar a una mujer con lujuria o eres culpable de adulterio (*que se castigaba con la muerte*). Para colmo, dice que ni siquiera puedes divorciarte y volver a casarte. *¿No sabe que estas son demandas básicamente imposibles?*

¿En qué mundo está viviendo?

El nuevo, en realidad. Él es el nuevo mundo. Las palabras de Jesús no tienen la intención de condenar.

Están destinados a señalar algo nuevo, una humanidad restaurada. Jesús no solo da leyes externas;

nos da su Espíritu Santo para interiorizar la ley a través del amor. Él quiere llenarnos con su amor.

Para eso existe la Iglesia. El amor exige cosas extraordinarias. Las "exigencias" de la Iglesia sólo tienen sentido porque está llena del amor de Jesús. Ese amor tremendamente exigente es la razón por la que somos católicos.

— Father John Muir

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

February 5, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 5,903.80
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 114.38
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$ 20.00
Donations.....	\$ 475.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 85.00
STM School.....	\$ 20.00
Facilities Improvement Fund.....	\$ 1155.40

Second Collection - February 18-19:

Catholic Relief Services - Archbishops OS Appeal



PILGRIM CENTER of HOPE INVITES MEN of ALL FAITH JOURNEYS

CMC
CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
"Master, I want to see." - Mark 10:51
SAT., APR. 29, 2023 1/2 DAY EVENT
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 8500 Cross Mountain Trl.

Bishop Gary J. Nak, LPC-S
Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio

Fellow Men Like You

SET YOUR COMPASS

Fr. Ken Geraci, CPM
The Fathers of Mercy

Taco Mu Sic

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT TO BEGIN ANEW IN CHRIST.

Ash Wednesday

*Remember... You are dust! And, to dust you shall return!
Turn away from sin... and, Believe in the Gospel!*

Wed, February 22nd - Ash Wednesday:
(Miércoles de Ceniza)

6 am - Communion Svc w/Ashes
8 am - STM Student Mass (English)
10 am - Communion Svc w/Ashes
12-Noon - Mass (English)
6 pm - Communion Svc w/Ashes
7:30 pm - Mass (Bilingüe)

Tue, March 14th - Penance Svc:
(Servicio de Penitencia)

6:30 pm - Examination of Conscience
7:00 pm - Individual Confessions

Get closer to the God of the universe... closer to Jesus! Strengthen your relationship with God... but... how? Traditionally... we "give – or offer – up" things we tend to love too much... Things that we sometimes place before God... *sports... food... etc. making them our #1...* When we "give up" something for Lent, we're supposed to do it so that we can make more room for Jesus, not just make our lives more challenging! So what's your focus? Take a look at your Lenten resolutions... and ask yourself where they are leading you. If they're not leading to a more solid relationship with God... you may want to think about readjusting them.

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*Recuerda... ¡Eres polvo! ¡Y al polvo volverás!
Aléjate del pecado... y, ¡Cree en el Evangelio!*



Acércate al Dios del universo... ¡más cerca de Jesús! Fortalece tu relación con Dios... pero... ¿cómo? Tradicionalmente... "Damos u ofrecemos" cosas que tendemos a amar demasiado... Cosas que a veces ponemos delante de Dios... *deportivo... víveres... etc. convirtiéndolos en nuestro #1...* Cuando "renunciamos" a algo para la Cuaresma, se supone que debemos hacerlo para que podamos hacer más espacio para Jesús, ¡no solo para hacer que nuestras vidas sean más desafiantes! Entonces, ¿cuál es tu enfoque? Echa un vistazo a tus resoluciones de Cuaresma... y pregúntate a dónde te están llevando. Si no están conduciendo a una relación más sólida con Dios... Es posible que desee pensar en reajustarlos.



Your Journey is Waiting!

Help Drive Home the Word of God for only \$25.

2023 Mercedes-Benz CLA 250 in Polar White

***Last Day to purchase tickets
February 20th**

GRNOnline.com/raffle • 210-579-9844 • Shaun@GRNOnline.com
\$25 Each or 5 Tickets for \$100 • Raffle Drawing February 24th



Celebrate the Feast Day of

St. Francisco and St. Jacinta Marto

The brother and sister who, with their cousin Lucia dos Santos, witnessed the apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal.

The two shepherd kids, age 9 and 11, were declared saints on May 13, 2017, a hundred years after the apparitions of the Virgin.

They were the youngest non-martyrs to be canonized in the history of the Church.

In observance of the Feast Day of St. Francisco and St. Jacinta Marto, Join us to Pray the Holy Rosary at the Grotto in front of the STM Rectory Saturday February 18th, at Noon.

For questions, Contact David Barrera at (210) 793-0794

St. Francisco and St. Jacinta Pray for Us!



St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus Council 7386 BBQ Plate Sale

When: March 26, 2023 (Sunday)

Where: Carolan Hall

Plate: 1/4 chicken, 1 sausage link, beans, rice, jalapeño, pickles, bread, & bottle of water

Cost: \$12/Plate (*curbside pickup only*)

Serving: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact: Noah Carrizales
(210) 459-9270



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Lent is rapidly approaching!

Question: *Is Ash Wednesday a holy day of obligation?*

Answer: Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no! Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event (*such as the birth of Christ*) or celebrate particular people (*such as Mary's Immaculate Conception or the feast of All Saints*). Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. In a sense, it focuses on a concept rather than something particular and concrete.

Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That's one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth.

St. Thomas More Charismatic Prayer Group

2/16 - Matthew 5:38-48 "Loving Those Who Hurt You"

2/23 - Matthew 4:1-11 "Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

STM Church @ 6:00 pm
Contacts: Olga Guerrero (210) 657-1610 or
Stella Lopez: (210) 618-6977



Grupo de Oración

Familias compartiendo la palabra

2/17 - Convivio en Carolan Hall

2/24 - 40 Días de Cuaresma (iglesia)

El grupo de oración se reúne los viernes a las 7 pm.
Contacte a: Maria Isabel Hernandez (210) 843-9756



The Stephen Ministry

A distinctively Christian ministry providing one-to-one encouragement for people in need.

Through these caring relationships, Stephen ministers, in love and care, meet with those who are hurting and in need of support during difficult circumstances.

Would you benefit from having a Stephen Minister?

- If you:
- Feel like life is more than you can handle right now.
 - Never thought you'd be going through something like this
 - Are struggling through grief, divorce, or job loss.
 - Feel your health, attitude, and relationships are suffering.
 - Are suffering with illness, hospitalization, or other challenges.
 - Are dealing with relocation, empty nest, or retirement.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you - usually once a week - to listen and support in a completely confidential Christian manner. Life can throw tough situations our way and God does not ask that we carry our load alone. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and provide support for you as long as your need exists.

If you are hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders at St. Pius X Catholic Church.

A Stephen Minister doesn't try to solve problems; rather, they listen, care, pray for/with, and help their care receiver find their path to healing and wholeness.

Contact: **Steve Greefkens at (210) 852-6096 or Joyce Dobrowolski at (210) 240-7388** for information.

The St. Pius X Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care into your life.



This Week at Our Parish

Sunday, February 12, 2023
***** KC BBQ Plate Ticket Sales *****
 8:00 am KC Breakfast - *Carolán Hall*
 6:15 pm Guadalupanos Rosary - *Church*

Monday, February 13, 2023
 7:00 pm KC 3rd Degree Council Mtg - *Carolán Hall*

Tuesday, February 14, 2023
 5:30 pm Divine Mercy - *Rectory Mtg Room*
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - *Rectory Mtg Room*
 7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion Choir Practice - *Church*

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
 7:00 pm Guadalupanos Choir Practice - *Church*

Thursday, February 16, 2023
 6:00 pm Charismatic Pray Grp - *Church*
 7:00 pm Guadalupanos Retreat Committee Mtg - *RDR*
 RCIA - *Rectory Mtg Room*

Friday, February 17, 2023
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria Guitar Practice - *Rectory Mtg Room*
 7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion Convivio - *Carolán Hall*

Saturday, February 18, 2023
 12:00 pm St. Francisco/St. Jacinta Marto Rosary - *Rectory Grotto*
 4:00 pm Reconciliation - *Church*
 Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - *RMR*

Sunday, February 19, 2023
***** KC BBQ Plate Ticket Sales *****
 8:00 am Guadalupanos Mass - *Church*
 9:00 am Guadalupanos General Mtg - *Carolán Hall*

Sanctuary Light Intention:
Kathryn Marie Sweet

Lecturas de la Semana del 13 - 19 febrero

Lunes: Gn 4:1-15,25; Sal 49:1,8,16-17,20-21; Mc 8:11-13
Martes: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5,10; Sal 28:1-4,3,9-10; Mc 8:14-21
Miércoles: Gn 8:6-13,20-22; Sal 115:12-15,18-19;
 Mc 8:22-26
Jueves: Gn 9:1-13; Sal 101:16-21,29,22-23; Mc 8:27-33
Viernes: Gn 11:1-9; Sal 32:10-15; Mc 8:34-9:1
Sábado: Heb 11:1-7; Sal 144:2-5,10-11; Mc 9:2-13
Domingo: Lv 19:1-2,17-18; Sal 102:1-4,8,10,12-13;
 1Co 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Readings for the week of Feb 13 - 19

Monday: Gn 4:1-15,25; Ps 50:1,8,16-17,20-21; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5,10; Ps 29:1-4,3,9-10; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13,20-22; Ps 116:12-15,18-19;
 Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-21,29,22-23;
 Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Gn 11:1-9; Ps 33:10-15; Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday: Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145: 2-5,10-11; Mk 9:2-13
Sunday: Lv 19:1-2,17-18; Ps 103:1-4,8,10,12-13;
 1Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 11, 2023
 8:00 am **For Recovery - Agnes Thomas** by Joyce
 5:00 pm †Roxanne Espinoza
 by Sons, Daughters-in-Law & Grandson
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased

Sunday, February 12, 2023
 8:00 am †Charleen Petsch by Klar Family
 †Virginia Moan by Evancho Family
 10:00 am †Juan Urbano & †Mike Urbano by Urbano Family
 †Salome H. Briseno & †Carolina B. Briseno
 By Morales & Briseno Families
 12:00 pm †Humberto Valentin Hernandez by Familia Hernandez
 † Miguel Raul Rojas Leyva by Roberto & Maria Rojas

Monday, February 13, 2023
 8:00 am †Paul Nguyen by Nguyen Family

Tuesday, February 14, 2023
 8:00 am †Ed McCarthy
 †Hipolito and Soledad Lopez by Jose & Stella Lopez

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
 8:00 am †Joseph John Weich by Olga Weich

Thursday, February 16, 2023
 8:00 am **All Ordained Clergy and Religious**

Friday, February 17, 2023
 8:00 am †Joe Robles by Family
 †Eugenia Aguillon by Diana Ramirez

Saturday, February 18, 2023
 8:00 am **STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased**
 5:00 pm †Ann Bonge by Volpenhein Family

Sunday, February 19, 2023
 8:00 am †Diana Aguillon by Guadalupanos
 †Ralph Garcia by Guadalupanos
 10:00 am †Ramon Mata Sr. by Mata Family
 †David Krause by Volpenhein Family
 12:00 pm †Kathryn Marie Sweet by Maria T. Sweet
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased

Liturgical Roles**Saturday, February 18, 2023**

5 pm Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - J+B Hernandez, R. Saldiva, B. McQueen
 Lector - R. Alvarado

Sunday, February 19, 2023

8 am Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - DC John, M.Nguyen, T.S. Garza, P. Klar,
 E. Garcia
 Lector - O. Weich
 10 am Altar Servers - Atticus Mata, J.Cantu, L. McCarthy
 Eucharistic Ministers - J+And. Perez, Y. Aguillar, H. Rodriguez,
 N.Rodriguez, Sr.Eucharía,
 Lector - Ali. Perez
 12 pm Altar Servers - A.Gomez, S.Obregon, Volunteer
 Eucharistic Ministers - A. Chavez, D+F Malacara, R. Borrego,
 (+2 vol)
 Lector - M. Cisneros/S.Garcia