

Gospel Meditation:

I always feel a little sad when someone begins to speak to me with the words, "Father, I know you're so busy, but ...". It happens a lot. And I get it. He or she is trying to be respectful of my time. But it saddens me because a priest makes Jesus present to people in a special way, and Jesus always has time for us. Don't we all feel at times that God just doesn't have time for us?

Nonsense. Just look at the stunning "Road to Emmaus" story we hear this week. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. And the Risen One appears in disguise to two disciples. He walks with them, chats with them, and eventually eats with them. It could have been hours he spends with them — two unnamed persons — in the middle of nowhere. On the day he rose from the dead!

My friends, please take this to heart: The Risen Jesus is not too busy to spend time with you! He doesn't have "better things to do." You and I are members of this crucified and risen Body. He therefore has all the time in the world to be with us. So, I challenge you this week to approach him confidently in prayer and conversation. After all, being with you and me is the reason he rose from the dead

— Father John Muir

Meditación del Evangelio:

Siempre me siento un poco triste cuando alguien comienza a hablarme con las palabras: "Padre, sé que estás tan ocupado, pero..." Sucede mucho. Y lo entiendo. Él o ella está tratando de ser respetuoso con mi tiempo. Pero me entristece porque un sacerdote hace que Jesús esté presente a la gente de una manera especial, y Jesús siempre tiene tiempo para nosotros. ¿No sentimos todos a veces que Dios simplemente no tiene tiempo para nosotros?

Tontería. Basta con mirar la impresionante historia de "Camino a Emaús" que escuchamos esta semana. Es el día en que Jesús resucitó de entre los muertos. Y el Resucitado aparece disfrazado a dos discípulos. Camina con ellos, charla con ellos y, finalmente, come con ellos. Podrían haber sido horas que pasa con ellos, dos personas no identificadas, en medio de la nada. ¡El día que resucitó de entre los muertos!

Mis amigos, por favor tomen esto en serio: ¡Jesús resucitado no está demasiado ocupado para pasar tiempo con ustedes! No tiene "mejores cosas que hacer". Tú y yo somos miembros de este Cuerpo crucificado y resucitado. Por lo tanto, Él tiene todo el tiempo del mundo para estar con nosotros. Por lo tanto, los desafío esta semana a acercarse a él con confianza en oración y conversación. Después de todo, estar contigo y conmigo es la razón por la que resucitó de entre los muertos.

— Father John Muir

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

April 16, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 5,900.87
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 81.61
Facilities Improvement.....	\$ 52.00
Prayer Candles.....	\$ 12.00
STM School.....	\$ 10.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 20.00
Rice Bowl.....	\$ 130.32
Bulletin Ads.....	\$ 500.00
Easter Offering.....	\$ 72.00

Second Collection April 29 - 30:
Assumption Seminary



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

Fr. Ken Geraci, CPM
The Fathers of Mercy

SET YOUR COMPASS

Taco Music

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



I was talking with some of folks recently about how powerful a sacrament Confirmation is. I reminded them that Confirmation is not a '*graduation*' from our faith formation... that it's just the beginning of a life-long journey of learning! As I was talking with them, it dawned on me that so many of us fall into that same trap! We consider Confirmation a sort of *graduation* from years of religious study. With that in mind, I thought I'd throw that same reminder to all!

Remember your Confirmation? It was a biggie... a real special day! Maybe you didn't totally understand or appreciate what was happening... but, you were '*Sealed*' in the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit that *Sealed* the disciples on that first Pentecost... The same Holy Spirit that *Sealed* all those on whom the Apostles laid hands. The same Holy Spirit that *Sealed* the saints and millions of Catholics through the centuries.

God loves us so much... when we were Confirmed, ***He gave us presents!*** He gave us seven gifts!

- 1) **Wisdom** – to help us see and follow God's will in our lives.
- 2) **Understanding** – to open our hearts so that we can be more loving and compassionate towards others.
- 3) **Council (right judgment)** – to make choices about ways to follow Christ.
- 4) **Fortitude (strength or courage)** – to stand up for what we believe, even if it may be difficult or unpopular.
- 5) **Knowledge** – to apply what we know about the teachings of Jesus to our everyday life.
- 6) **Piety** – to become more prayerful and to respect all that God has made.
- 7) **Fear of the Lord** – to deepen our reverence for God and appreciation for the wonders of His creation
(Remember, there are 2 types of fear: *fear of punishment Vs. filial fear - fear to disappoint the one we love. The Holy Spirit gives us filial fear.*)

We've always heard that there is a war going on around us... the war between good and evil. We picture angels and demons battling it out *somewhere* out there! But, most of us don't really think we're involved in that battle. Well... that's not the case. We're right in the thick of things! We all have our *battles* that we fight daily. Our daily *crosses*... our problems... our temptations. Whether our battles are spiritual / demonic in nature or man-made (*of our own doing*) is really immaterial. ***They are our battles!*** We pray to God for His assistance. We ask our guardian angels, who are there to help us, for their assistance. We all have special Patron Saints that we pray to... asking their intercession with God for this or for that... After every Mass we recite our prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. We ask him to defend us in our battles against the *wickedness and the snares of the devil*.

All that is good and well. But, what we sometimes fail to realize is that even though we have all this help - He (God) will never force anything on us. He, His angels and His saints, are all there to help us. They are all there to assist in our battles... but they won't do all the work for us. They can't! We have Free Will. That doesn't mean we have the right to choose between right and wrong... it means that we have the option, *the responsibility*, to choose God's will!

Bottom line- In our battle, no matter how much we pray to God, the angels and saints for help it is ultimately up to us to say "**Yes**" or "**No**." It is our responsibility to make the final choice.

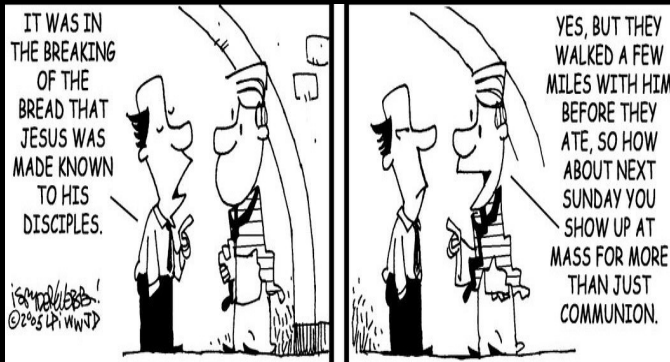
We can live a godly life... we can be holy. But, it takes our active participation to do it! If we sit back and do nothing - If we say something like, "I prayed to God... I prayed to St. *Whoever* for help but didn't get it." Guess who's at fault! Certainly not God... not His angels or saints... ***it's us!*** We have to make the choice! If we don't make that decision life goes on as usual and the problem... the battle... continues. We have the obligation to choose what is right. God will help us live with our right / tough decision. But, we have to make it... He won't make it for us. He won't force us into anything!

I guess what I'm trying to say is that with all of our struggles... whether they be with people, alcohol, drugs, over-eating, pornography or other sexual addictions... whether it be a major life-changing decision we have to make or a minor one... ***we have to decide! Only we can do it!***

Through our Baptism and especially after receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation we have the strength and will power to make those decisions! God, His angels and saints are there to assist... and they will help us live that decision! But, it's up to us to make the choice.

We received all these gifts / strengths from God in our Baptism and Confirmation. But, as with any gift – we have to *open them and Use them*... it's up to us... use them or stack in the closet some place.

Until next time... God Bless- DT



Intent to promote to Orders

This is a public announcement presented as prescribed by Canon 1051,2.

Our Deacon Candidate, **John Lee Rodriguez**, is to be promoted to the Sacred Order of Deacon on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

If anyone is aware of any reason why this individual should not be ordained, please contact the Director of the Diaconate Program at (210) 734-1658.

ASSUMPTION SEMINARY

Preparing Men for Today's Church

Sunday, April 30th, is World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also known as "**Good Shepherd Sunday**." The purpose of this day is to fulfill the Lord's instruction to publicly

"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest."

— Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2

In the Archdiocese of San Antonio, we have Assumption Seminary, which sole purpose is to faithfully form men to become priests for God's people here in the Archdiocese of San Antonio and dioceses around the country. Our seminarians are on a journey to become Good Shepherds!

We have many exciting things happening at Assumption Seminary! We invite you to learn more about Assumption Seminary and how you can be involved and support our future priest with your time, talents, and treasures.

Scan the QR code and hear a special message from Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S.

Follow us on social media and listen to our Some Seminarians Podcast. We want to get to know you too.



SCHOOL NEWS

We are NOW ENROLLING for the 2023-2024 school Year!
for 18 months - 8th Grade

Here are ways to get more info about enrolling your child:

1. Call us! (210) 655-2882
2. Visit our website at: www.st-thomas-more-school.org
3. Come by the school during normal school hours 7:30 am - 4 pm

An excellent Catholic Education is affordable!

Financial aid is available at: <https://archsa.org/hope/apply-now>
Apply As Soon As Possible!



A **Reminder** of our next meeting
"Moving Forward Together"

April 30 from 3 - 4:30 pm
at Carolan Hall.

Please RSVP by contacting Mrs. Martha Guerra by phone or email: (210) 655-5071 / mguerra.st.thomas@gmail.com

May God Bless You-

Queremos recordarles nuestra próxima reunion
"Avanzando Juntos" el 30 de abril de 3 a 4:30 pm
en Carolan Hall.

Por favor confirme su asistencia contactando a la Señora Martha Guerra por teléfono o correo electrónico: (210) 650-5070 / mguerra.st.thomas@gmail.com.

Que Dios los Bendiga-

A Woman's Haven™ **Pregnancy Crisis Center**

***"Are you passionately Pro-Life?
and looking for a job with GREAT meaning?"***

A Woman's Haven Pregnancy Crisis Center is hiring!

Counselor, LVN & Receptionist positions available.
No specific education or experience is required.
We provide all training.

Full & Part time positions available.

***"Be the change you wish to see in the world and
light up the darkness."***

Email me at: Susan.perez@awomanshaven.org

This Week at Our Parish

Sunday, April 23, 2023
 9:00 am KC Breakfast - *Carolán Hall*
 10:00 am CDA Mass - *Church*
 3:00 pm Festival Planning Mtg - *Carolán Hall*
 Recognizing the Strange Follow-up Mtg - *RMR*

Monday, April 24, 2023
 4:00 pm Finance Council Mtg - *Rectory Mtg Room*

Tuesday, April 25, 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, April 26, 2023
 6:30 pm KC 4 Degree Business Mtg - *Carolán Hall*

Thursday, April 27, 2023
 6:00 pm Charismatic Prayer Grp - *Church*
 7:00 pm RCIA - *Rectory Mtg room*

Friday, April 28, 2023
 *** Offices Closed - *Battle of Flowers* ***
 7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion - *Church*

Saturday, April 29, 2023
 10:00 am Communion / Reconciliation (English)- *Church*
 4:00 pm Reconciliation - *Church*

Sunday, April 30, 2023
 3:00 pm Moving Forward Mtg - *Carolán Hall*

**Sanctuary Light Intention:**

*Baby Dawn, Misty Dawn, Jeremy, and
 Roxanne Espinoza*

Lecturas de la Semana del 24 - 30 abril

Lunes: Hch 6:8-15; Sal 118:23-24,26-27,29-30;
 Jn 6:22-29

Martes: 1Pe 5:5-14; Sal 88:2-3,6-7,16-17;
 Mc 16:15-20

Miércoles: Hch 8:1-8; Sal 65:1-7; Jn 6:35-40

Jueves: Hch 8:26-40; Sal 65:8-9,16-17,20; Jn 6:44-51

Viernes: Hch 9:1-20; Sal 116:1,2; Jn 6:52-59

Sábado: Hch 9:31-42; Sal 115:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Domingo: Hch 2:14,36-41; Sal 22:1-6; 1Pe 2:20b-25;
 Jn 10:1-10

Readings for the week of April 24 - 30

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24,26-27,29-30;
 Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: 1Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3,6-7,16-17;
 Mk 16:15-20

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-7a; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9,16-17,20; Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc,2; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday: Acts 2:14a,36-41; Ps 23:1-6; 1Pt 2:20b-25;
 Jn 10:1-10

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 22, 2023
 8:00 am **STM Parishioners - Living and †Deceased**
 †Robert Michael Berg by Laura, Ronald, & Theresa
 †Neil DuMenil by Volpenhein Family
 †Steven Lee Waldron by Mom

Sunday, April 23, 2023
 8:00 am †Felipe Salazar by Volpenhein Family
 †Linda Fuentes by Fuentes Family
 10:00 am †Juan Urbano & Mike Urbano by Urbano Family
 †Estella Esquivel by Hector & Diana Herrera
 12:00 pm †Andrew Garza by Joe & Annabelle Garza

Monday, April 24, 2023
 8:00 am †Buddy & Jane Reilly
In Thanksgiving by Kim Nguyen

Tuesday, April 25, 2023
 8:00 am †Rafael Garza by Mrs T.S.Garza
 †Joseph J. Weich by Pat Weinert

Wednesday, April 26, 2023
 8:00 am †Andres & Olivia Flores by Stella F. Lopez
 †Rosie Reyes & Suzell Waller by Eddie Reyes

Thursday, April 27, 2023 (Communion Service)
 8:00 am **Ordained Clergy and Religious**

Friday, April 28, 2023
 8:00 am †Michael Minh by Kim Nguyen
 †Theresa Hoi

Saturday, April 29, 2023
 8:00 am †John Duong by Nguyen Family
All Souls by Kim Nguyen
 5:00 pm †Micaela F. Arispe by Her Children
 †Ralph Garza by Guadalupanos

Sunday, April 30, 2023
 8:00 am †John Zibelin by Volpenhein Family
 †Andrea & Juanita Gutierrez by Isidro Gutierrez Family
 10:00 am †Richard Ramirez by His Children
 †Jay Dotson by Volpenhein Family
 12:00 pm †Gabriel & Inez Estrada by Joe & Annabelle Garza
STM Parishioners - Living and †Deceased

CATHOLIC RADIO

Get the best in Catholic programming!
'Tune-In' to the Guadalupe Radio Network!
1380 AM – Spanish or 89.7 FM - English

Liturgical Roles**Saturday, April 29, 2023**

5 pm Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Ed, R.Saldiva, B.McQueen, (+2 Vol)
 Lector - T.Garza

Sunday, April 30, 2023

8 am Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, P.Klar, R.Davila, M.Nguyen, (+1 vol)
 Lector - P.Klar

10 am Altar Servers - A.Mata, L.McCaffrey, J.Cantu
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, H.Rodriguez, N.Rodriguez,
 P+R.Mendoza, E+M.Cantu
 Lector - M.Briseno

12 pm Altar Servers - A.Gomez, S.Obregon, Volunteer
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, DC John, R.Borrego, A.Chavez,
 H.Gomez, L.Lopez, N.Obregon
 Lector - M.Cisneros / S.Garcia