

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons.

Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call.

May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

ORACIÓN POR LAS VOCACIONES

Dios Padre nuestro, te damos gracias por llamar a hombres y mujeres a servir en el Reino de tu Hijo como sacerdotes, diáconos y personas consagradas.

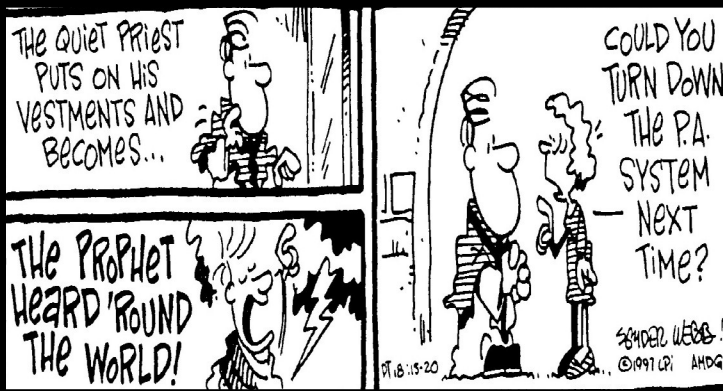
Envía tu Espíritu Santo para ayudar a otros a responder generosa y valientemente a tu llamado.

Que nuestra comunidad de fe apoye vocaciones de amor sacrificial en nuestros jóvenes y jóvenes adultos.

A través de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Amén

Pray for
VOCATIONS



YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

January 21, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,672.97
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 152.20
Helping Hands.....	\$ 33.44
Facilities Improvement.....	\$ 20.00
STM School.....	\$ 695.19
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 60.00
Bulletin Ads.....	\$ 75.00

*Second Collection Feb 3 - 4:
Facilities Improvement Fund*



SPONSOR-a-KNIGHT

The average cost to educate a child in a Catholic school is \$7,000 per year. We, at STM, charge a tuition of \$4,600.

While we educate children from a variety of backgrounds, many families share a common denominator... lower income. Many of our parents work 2 or 3 jobs to finance tuition... but half of our students still need financial aid.

We need your help so that we can continue to provide a Catholic Education to our families! STM families, parishioners, alumni, and friends have been invaluable in helping assist families touched by difficulties by making contributions to the Guardian Angel and/or Sponsor-a-Knight programs.

What better way than to provide for our own! Please consider making a **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** donation to our *Guardian Angel* or *Sponsor-a-Knight* programs.

Contact the School Office (210) 655-2882 for more information.

Gospel Meditation:

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie “*Nefarious*” features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website *Rotten Tomatoes*. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (*in this case, a man named Edward Brady*) thinks and acts like multiple persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like.

We feel fake sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, “*What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?*” Notice the plural, us. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man’s identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, “**Quiet! Come out of him!**” Jesus’ word has the power to restore the man’s singularity — him — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

— Father John Muir

Meditación del Evangelio:

Me encantan las películas sobre exorcismos. Al parecer, también lo hacen muchos otros. La película de 2023 “*Nefarious*” presenta a un recluso posiblemente poseído en el corredor de la muerte. Los críticos no quedaron impresionados, pero el público lo calificó con un 97% en el sitio web *Rotten Tomatoes*. La mayoría de la gente aprecia el reino demoníaco, incluso si las élites culturales generalmente se avergüenzan de ello. Como es habitual en las películas de exorcismos, la persona afligida (*en este caso, un hombre llamado Edward Brady*) piensa y actúa como varias personas. Es alguien además de sí mismo. Sabemos cómo es eso. A veces nos sentimos falsos, no nosotros mismos.

La misma dinámica se muestra dramáticamente esta semana en el Evangelio. Jesús el Exorcista se acerca a un hombre poseído que le dice: “*¿Qué tienes que ver con nosotros, Jesús de Nazaret?*” Fíjate en el plural, nosotros.

El efecto básico de lo demoníaco es la división. La identidad del hombre está fracturada, dividida y, por lo tanto, mucha. Jesús expulsa poderosamente el espíritu diciendo: “**¡Cállate! ¡Sal de él!**” La palabra de Jesús tiene el poder de restaurar la singularidad del hombre, él, y de hecho lo hace.

Todo esto nos ayuda a descartar las imágenes infantiles de demonios luciendo colas de cabra rojas. Igualmente, supera el distanciamiento culto de que los sueños y los demonios son meras metáforas del mal. Vemos, en cambio, que los ángeles caídos son seres conscientes e inteligentes que orientan su albedrío hacia la división. Provocan cismas donde debería haber unidad, por ejemplo, en las personas, las familias, las comunidades, la política, etc.

Afortunadamente, Jesús ordena a los demonios que huyan de todos estos lugares para restaurar la integridad y la paz. ¿Qué pasaría si hiciéramos espacio para su palabra donde la necesitamos?

— Father John Muir



A number of parishioners have been asking for information regarding services for Alfredo (Fred) Sanchez.

Services are as follows:

Visitation: Tuesday, January 30th from 6 - 9 pm
Sunset Funeral Home on Austin Hwy
with/Rosary at 7 pm

Funeral Mass: Wednesday, January 31st at 9 am
here at St. Thomas More
with/Committal to follow at
Ft. Sam Houston Nat'l Cemetery

HOLY HOUR PARKING

If you attend our Friday adoration...
Please park near the rectory and enter the
church on rectory side
as the parking lot behind church will be
closed for the safety of our
school children.

Thank you for your cooperation.



**PRAY FOR PEACE
IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AND
IN THE WORLD!**



***** FROM OUR PASTOR - FR ED *****

January 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

I am excited to observe National Catholic Schools Week! This is my first parish assignment with a school, and I am overjoyed with the experience so far! As a parish, we recognize the value of Catholic education and support our families and school in educating our young people so they can reach their full potential. We acknowledge the vital role of the school faculty, staff, and volunteers in this effort. We also celebrate our students as they learn about their faith and gain needed skills in the 21st century.

The week's theme, "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community," focuses on the core of Catholic education. Schools are not only communities themselves; they are also part of larger communities, including St. Thomas More, the Archdiocese of San Antonio, and our nation. As a parish, we support our school through prayer and resources, and the school, in turn, collaborates with families to develop our children into future model leaders and citizens. The theme also highlights key elements of Catholic education: academic excellence, leadership, and dedication to service. These elements are what set Catholic schools apart from other educational options.

Our Catholic schools are part of our future as a Church and a nation. May God bless them and all who contribute to the important work they do on behalf of the children of our parish and parishes across the country.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

*Fr. Ed Gonzales****** De NUESTRO PASTOR, PADRE ED *****

Enero 2024

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Jesucristo:

¡Estoy emocionado de celebrar la Semana Nacional de las Escuelas Católicas! Esta es mi primera asignación parroquial con una escuela, ¡y estoy muy contento con la experiencia hasta ahora! Como parroquia, reconocemos el valor de la educación católica y apoyamos a nuestras familias y escuelas en la educación de nuestros jóvenes para que puedan alcanzar su máximo potencial. Reconocemos el papel vital de la facultad, el personal, y los voluntarios de la escuela en este esfuerzo. También celebramos a nuestros estudiantes a medida que aprenden sobre su fe y adquieren las habilidades necesarias en el siglo 21.

El tema de la semana, "Escuelas Católicas: Unidas en la Fe y en la Comunidad", se centra en el núcleo de la educación católica. Las escuelas no son sólo comunidades en sí mismas; también son parte de comunidades más grandes, incluyendo Santo Tomás Moro, la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio, y nuestra nación. Como parroquia, apoyamos a nuestra escuela a través de la oración y los recursos, y la escuela, a su vez, colabora con las familias para desarrollar a nuestros hijos en futuros líderes y ciudadanos modelo. El tema también destaca los elementos clave de la educación católica: excelencia académica, liderazgo y dedicación al servicio. Estos elementos son los que diferencian a las escuelas católicas de otras opciones educativas.

Nuestras escuelas católicas son parte de nuestro futuro como Iglesia y como nación. Que Dios los bendiga a ellos y a todos los que contribuyen al importante trabajo que hacen en nombre de los niños de nuestra parroquia y parroquias en todo el país.

Que la paz de nuestro Señor Jesucristo esté con todos ustedes,

Padre Ed Gonzales

This Week at Our Parish

*** Catholic School's Week 'Kick-Off' ***

Sunday, January 28, 2024
 8:00 am KC 3 Degree Breakfast - Carolan Hall
 10:00 am CDA Mass - Church

Monday, January 29 2024

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
 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, January 31, 2024

Thursday, February 1, 2024
 6:00 pm Holy Hour - Church
 7:00 pm RCIA - Rectory Mtg Room

Friday, February 2, 2024
 9:00 am Friday Adoration - Church
 7:00 pm La Hora Santa / Grupo de Oracion - Church

*** St Blaise / Blessing of Throats ***
 *** After All Masses This Weekend ***

Saturday, February 3, 2024
 3:30 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - Rectory Mtg Rm

Sunday, February 4, 2024
 10:00 am KC Mass - Church



Sanctuary Light Intention:
Steven Lee Waldron

Lecturas de la Semana del 29 enero - 4 febrero

Lunes: 2Sm 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13; Sal 3:2-7; Mc 5:1-20

Martes: 2Sm 18:9-10,14,24-25,30-19:3; Sal 85:1-6; Mc 5:21-43

Miércoles: 2Sm 24:2,9-17; Sal 31:1-2,5-7; Mc 6:1-6

Jueves: 1Re 2:1-4,10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mc 6:7-13

Viernes: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Sal 23:7-10; Lc 2:22-40

Sábado: 1Re 3:4-13; Sal 118:9-14; Mc 6:30-34

Domingo: Job 7:1-4,6-7; Sal 146:1-6; 1Cor 9:16-19,22-23; Mc 1:29-39

Readings for the week of 29 Jan - 4 Feb

Monday: 2Sm 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2Sm 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30-19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2Sm 24:2,9-17; Ps 32:1-2,5-7; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1Kgs 2:1-4,10-12; 1Chr 29:10,11-12; Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Ps 24:7-10; Lk 2:22-40

Saturday: 1Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4,6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1Cor 9:16-19,22-23; Mk 1:29-39

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 27, 2024
 8:00 am **STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased**
 †Alfredo Sanchez
 5:00 pm †Albina Vahalik by Richard & Dorothy Perez
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased

Sunday, January 28, 2024
 8:00 am †Felipe Gonzales, Jr. by Nora, Lorraine & Mateo
 10:00 am †Joe Robles & Lupe Villa by Family
 †Annemarie Oswald by Evancho Family
 12:00 pm †Juan Nieto Galvan by Maria Nieto
†Souls in Purgatory by Rosa Maria Reyes

Monday, January 29, 2024
 8:00 am †Alfredo Sanchez

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
 8:00 am †William Thomas

Wednesday, January 31, 2024
 8:00 am **Health and Continued Healing of Deacon Rolando and Ramon Mata, Jr**

Thursday, February 1, 2024
 8:00 am **In Thanksgiving** by Theresa Garza
All Ordained Clergy and Religious

Friday, February 2, 2024
 8:00 am **Toreros Family - Living and †Deceased** by Ramona Yglesias
 †Stevie & Gilda Flores by Jose & Stella Lopez

Saturday, February 3, 2024
 8:00 am **STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased**
 5:00 pm †Al Weinheimer by Carolyn Weinheimer
 †Christina C. Dominguez by Dominguez Family

Sunday, February 4, 2024
 8:00 am †Tiodulo Sanchez. by Alfredo & Irma Sanchez
 †Viola de la Rosa by Sylvia Roman
 10:00 am †Steven Lee Waldron by Mom
 †Medardo E. Morales & Evangelina G. Morales by Morales / Briseno Families
 by Morales / Briseno Families
 12:00 pm †Kathryn Marie Sweet by Maria T. Sweet
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased

THROAT BLESSING

We Celebrate the Feast of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr
NEXT weekend
 (Saturday, February 3rd)
 We will bless throats after each Mass



Liturgical Roles

Saturday, February 3, 2024
 5 pm Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, R.Alvarado, S.Chapa, M.Fisher, T.Guerrero
 Lector - K.Ball

Sunday, February 4, 2024
 8 am Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, R.Davila, M.Aguirre, P.Klar, M.Nguyen
 Lector - S.Castaneda

10 am Altar Servers - J.Cantu, M.Pereida, B.Pereida
 Eucharistic Ministers – Dcn Tim, N.Rodriguez, J+And.Perez, Ali.Perez, Abi.Perez, M.Briseno
 Lector - S.Trimm

12 pm Altar Servers - A.Gomez, S.Obregon, Volunteer
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, C.Hernandez, R.Gomez, F.Hernandez, A.Chavez, I.Hernandez, R.Borrego
 Lector - M.Pina / N.Obregon