

## **Gospel Meditation:**

I craved four things as a teenager: success in sports, food, fun and the attention of popular people. However, I noticed that as I acquired them, I was more unsatisfied than before. So, I'd strive even more energetically, achieve more, and the sense of emptiness was greater still. These four things started to feel like burdens or even curses. Soon after, I encountered Christ in my high school youth group. Experiencing his love was totally different than anything those four things previously produced. It produced a lasting happiness.

Jesus utters a kind of four-fold curse in this week's Gospel of Saint Luke's "woes": "Woe to you who are rich... who are filled now... who laugh now... who are well-spoken of" (cf. Luke 6:24-26). How marvelous that these correspond perfectly to the four things that obsessed my teenage soul: riches, food, laughter and good reputation. The "woes" the Lord speaks are warnings: when those things are the purpose of your life, you'll be miserable. He is saying, "You'll be happy, or blessed, in the measure that these things do not determine the shape of our lives, and the kingdom of God does."

To some degree, we're all spiritual teenagers, addicted to one or more of those four "woes." How splendid that the Lord wants his to bless us — that is, to satisfy us, make us laugh with joy, and in the kingdom of God, offer us what will truly satisfy us. But first let's admit what is causing our "woes."

— *Father John Muir*

## **Meditación del Evangelio:**

Anhelaba cuatro cosas cuando era adolescente: el éxito en los deportes, la comida, la diversión y la atención de la gente popular. Sin embargo, me di cuenta de que a medida que los adquiría, estaba más insatisfecho que antes. Así que me esforzaba aún más enérgicamente, lograba más, y la sensación de vacío era aún mayor. Estas cuatro cosas comenzaron a sentirse como cargas o incluso maldiciones. Poco después, me encontré con Cristo en mi grupo de jóvenes de la escuela secundaria. Experimentar su amor fue totalmente diferente a todo lo que esas cuatro cosas produjeron anteriormente. Producía una felicidad duradera.

Jesús pronuncia una especie de cuádruple maldición en el Evangelio de esta semana sobre los "aflicciones" de san Lucas: "¡Ay de vosotros, ricos... que están llenos ahora... que ahora ríen... de los que se habla bien" (cf. Lc 6, 24-26). Qué maravilloso que correspondan perfectamente a las cuatro cosas que obsesionaban mi alma adolescente: la riqueza, la comida, la risa y la buena reputación. Los "ayes" que el Señor habla son advertencias: cuando esas cosas son el propósito de tu vida, serás miserable. Él está diciendo: "Serás feliz, o bendecido, en la medida en que estas cosas no determinen la forma de nuestras vidas, y el reino de Dios sí".

Hasta cierto punto, todos somos adolescentes espirituales, adictos a uno o más de esos cuatro "males". ¡Qué espléndido que el Señor quiera que nos bendiga, es decir, que nos satisfaga, que nos haga reír de alegría y, en el reino de Dios, que nos ofrezca lo que verdaderamente nos satisfaga! Pero primero, admitamos lo que está causando nuestros "males".

— *Father John Muir*

### **YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**February 9, 2025**

Sunday Collection .....	\$ 7,691.02
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 119.43
Donations .....	\$ 12,600.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 30.00
Bulletin Ads.....	\$ 50.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$ 15.00

*Second Collection Feb 22 - 23:  
to Support our STM School*



### **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*

**Question:** Carnivale and Mardi Gras celebrations are linked to Ash Wednesday, Lent, fast and abstinence. Tell us more about the connections between these events?

**Answer:** Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the forty days known as Lent. Christians highlight this penitential season as a time of self-examination, reformation of one's life, and continued development of a deeper spiritual life. The recommended practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving become the focus of Lenten activity and ritual. Each of these spiritual practices is aimed at personal discipline as well as continued concern for others, especially the poor or alienated.

Forty days is a symbolic biblical period of time, during which personal transformation occurs and out of which people surface as more spiritual, ready to carry out God's mission. Relying on God's providence and care, no matter how difficult life becomes, is crucial to Lenten spirituality. Fasting was initially stricter, permitting only one simple meal a day without meat, fish, or other delicacies. Such things were not even allowed in the house.

In order to prepare for this in an age of no refrigeration, people gathered to consume whatever was not allowed during Lent. This led to parties or celebrations originally referred to as *Carnivale*, literally meaning "*goodbye to meat*," or *Mardi Gras*, literally meaning "*Fat Tuesday*." The eating and celebrating ended on the Tuesday just before Ash Wednesday. Today we focus more on moderation in all things, as well as a strong concern the poor.

What are you doing for the poor this Lent?



Beginning Experience  
San Antonio presents

## Beginning Experience Weekend

"The Beginning Experience® Weekend program creates the time and space to delve deeply into the emotional aftermath of the loss of a spousal relationship. Through listening, writing, and sharing, the participants explore the various aspects of the grief journey in a safe and caring environment. Participants are encouraged to look in new ways at their current circumstances, reevaluate themselves, and move forward with hope.

"The Weekend is the core program and the foundation of the Beginning Experience® ministry." (website)

### Weekend Details

Arrival: Friday, March 7, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Departure: Sunday, March 9, 2025 – 4:00 PM

Cost: \$190 - Includes 2 nights / 5 meals

For more information and to register, contact  
Barbara (210) 724-9269

Beginning Experience also hosts other programs such as

- o "In the Beginning...Coping with Life Alone," a one-day workshop (online or in person)
- o "Moving Forward with Hope...Coping with Life Alone," a 10-week hourly program (online or in person)

Ask for more details when you call.

# YOU ARE INVITED!



For Electronic  
Registration Form

ACTS Missions Military  
Women's Retreat 2025



"Father, into your hands  
I commit my spirit"

Luke 23:46



For Partial or Full  
Retreat Fee Payments  
\*3% fee required

ACTS Missions Military  
Women's Retreat 2025

We invite you to join us on a special spiritual retreat for military women by military women.

The retreat is hosted by St Monica's Catholic Church and will take place **April 10 – 13, 2025** at the St Anthony de Padua Retreat Center.

The cost of the retreat is \$220. To guarantee your spot, a deposit of \$50 is required. **PLEASE NOTE:** Confidential scholarships are available because financial difficulties should not prevent anyone from attending- contact one of the leadership team for details.

#### Director:

Monica Weidner- 817.823.3612 Monica.L.Weidner@gmail.com

#### Co-Directors:

Rachel Aldaz- 210.240.7249 RchlAldaz@gmail.com

Kirsten Verkamp- 702.202.8077 KMVerkamp@gmail.com

## Catholic Men's Conference ALL MEN ARE WELCOME



"Master, I want to see." (Mark 10:51)

Don't miss a unique chance to experience  
brotherhood and time to focus on your spiritual strength.  
Take a day away to gain spiritual direction, receive  
practical insights and motivation.

**Sat, Feb 22, 2025 from 8 am- 4:30 pm**  
**Holy Trinity Banquet Hall**

(20523 Huebner Rd, San Antonio, TX 78258)

Speakers: **Mr. Jim Beckman,**  
**Fr. Stephen Dufrene, CFR, and**  
**Mr. Dave Lambert.**

**REGISTER TODAY**  
**CMCSANANTONIO.COM**

or call (210) 521-3377.



## **Jubilee and Holy Doors** *(continued from last week)*

In honor of the anniversary of the Diocese of San Antonio and the Jubilee Year, Catholics can receive a Plenary Indulgence from August 28, 2024 – January 6, 2026 by visiting at least one of the pilgrimage sites listed below and completing the following usual requirements for receiving a Plenary Indulgence:.

- Celebrate a Sacramental Confession *(if not the 'day of', at least within several days before / after)*
- Receive Holy Communion *(if not the 'day of', at least within several days before / after)*
- Pray for the Pope's intentions with one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be
- Perform works of mercy *(e.g. visiting the sick or imprisoned; helping the disabled)*
- Be free from all attachment to sin.



### **Pilgrimage Sites:**

Basilica of the Little Flower	El Camino de San Antonio Missions
Mission Concepción	Mission San Francisco de la Espada
Mission San José	Mission San Juan Capistrano
Our Lady of Grace - La Coste	Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine
Sacred Heart – Uvalde	San Fernando Cathedral
St. Andrew – Pleasanton	St. Helena
St. James – Seguin	St. Lawrence
St. Mary – Fredericksburg	St. Mary's University
St. Monica – Converse	St. Rose of Lima
Vietnamese Martyrs	St. Anthony Catholic Student Center - UTSA
St. James Catholic Elementary School – Seguin	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Panna Maria

### **What is an indulgence?**

An indulgence is a gift... special grace that removes the temporal punishment for sins already forgiven,  
 A **Plenary Indulgence** removes ALL punishment, cleansing the soul as if the person had just been baptized.  
 A **Partial Indulgence** removes *some* (or *part*) of the punishment.

### **Sins and Forgiveness**

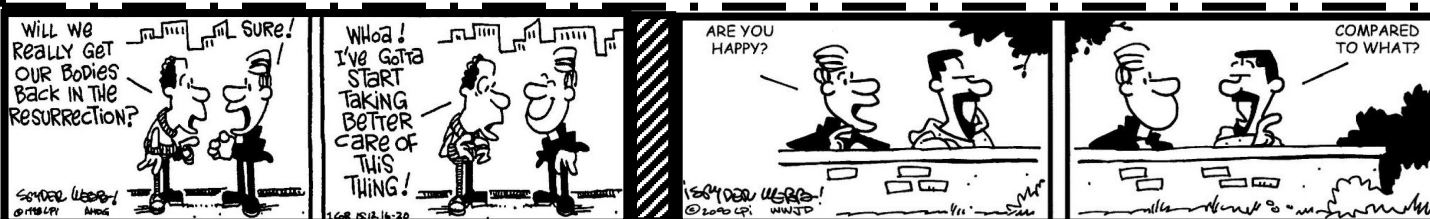
When we sin, God forgives us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Confession*).  
 After forgiveness is received, consequences or effects (*temporal punishment*) caused by the sin may remain.  
 These effects need healing.

### **Temporal Punishment**

This is the effect of sin that needs to be healed after forgiveness is granted. Spiritually, temporal punishment is a way of restoring and healing the relationship with God and others, often seen as purification that can happen in this life or in purgatory after death.

Hope you take advantage of this special gift...

Till next time... God Bless - DT



**With Lent fast approaching, I thought we might look at a Lenten-Devotion or two.**

### **Stations of the Cross. A quick / short explanation**

In the earliest years of Christianity, the locations central to the story of Holy Week — the *Garden of Gethsemane*, *Calvary*, *the Holy Sepulcher*, and *more* — were destinations for pilgrims who wanted to experience Christ's sacrificial love for us in a physical way.

In the years after the Crusades, pilgrimage to the Holy Land became impossible for most Christians. The expense, time, and danger were just too great. In response to this, the Stations of the Cross were instituted and popularized as a devotional means to pray through the passion and death of Christ.

Throughout history the number of stations has varied, with different traditions focusing on different events.

In the 18th century, the number was officially fixed at 14 by Pope Clement XII. These stations are taken from the Gospel accounts of Christ's passion and death, though there are several which are derived from tradition and apocryphal sources, such as the meeting of Mother and Son and St. Veronica wiping the face of Christ.

The faithful may obtain an indulgence (*Plenary or Partial*) - see above - by the pious exercise of this devotion.

**This Week at Our Parish****\*\*\* KCs selling BBQ Tickets After All Masses This Weekend \*\*\*****Sunday, February 16, 2025**  
8:00 am Guadalupanos Mass / Meeting - Church / Carolan Hall**Monday, February 17, 2024**  
**\*\*\* Guadalupanos Kickapoo Trip \*\*\***  
6:00 pm KC 3Degree Mtg - Carolan Hall**Tuesday, February 18, 2024**  
5:30 pm Divine Mercy - Rectory Mtg Room  
6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - Rectory Mtg Room-1  
7:00 pm CDA General Mtg - Carolan Hall  
Grupo de Oracion Choir Practice - Church**Wednesday, February 19, 2025****Thursday, February 20, 2025**  
6:00 pm Charismatic Prayer Grp - Church  
7:00 pm OCIA - Rectory Mtg Room**Friday, February 21, 2025**  
9:00 am Friday Adoration - Church  
6:00 pm KC Breakfast Prep - Carolan Hall  
7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion - Church**Saturday, February 22, 2025**  
12:00 pm Pastoral Council BINGO - Carolan Hall  
3:30 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - Rectory Mtg Rm**Sunday, February 23, 2025**  
**\*\*\* KCs selling BBQ Tickets \*\*\***  
8:00 am KC Breakfast - Carolan Hall  
10:00 am CDA Mass - Church**Sanctuary Light Intention:**  
**Isidro & Dolores Martinez****Lecturas de la Semana del 17 - 23 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:** 1Pe 5:1-4; Sal 22:1-6; Mt 16:13-19  
**Domingo:** 1Sm 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23; 1Co 15:45-49;  
Lc 6:27-38**Readings for the week of Feb 17 - 23****Monday:** Gn 4:1-15,25; Ps 50:1,8,16bc-17,20-21;  
Mk 8:11-13  
**Tuesday:** Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5,10; Ps 29:1-4,3b,9c-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:** 1Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 16:13-19  
**Sunday:** 1Sm 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23; 1Cor 15:45-49;  
Lk 6:27-38**Mass Intentions****Saturday, February 15, 2025** - Saturday in the 5th Week of Ordinary Time  
5:00 pm †Rafael Garza by Theresa Garza  
†Maria Zapata**Sunday, February 16, 2025** - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:00 am **STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased**  
10:00 am †Amanda Vasquez by Perez Family  
†Rodolfo De La Garza by Family  
†Eugenia Aguillon by Family  
12:00 pm †Deacon Bobby Stein**Monday, February 17, 2024** - The 7 Holy Founders of the Servite Order; Presidents' Day  
8:00 am †Michael Gutierrez by Rita Davis**Tuesday, February 18, 2024** - Tuesday in the 6th Week of Ordinary Time  
8:00 am †Bud & Eileen Brenner**Wednesday, February 19, 2025** - Wednesday in the 6th Week of Ordinary Time  
8:00 am †Paul & Rebecca Becker**Thursday, February 20, 2025** - Thursday in the 6th Week of Ordinary Time  
8:00 am †Jeffrey Chimese**Friday, February 21, 2025** - St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
8:00 am †James & Elizabeth Browning**Saturday, February 22, 2025** - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle  
8:00 am †Ray & Alvinell DuMenil  
5:00 pm †Elisa S. Rodriguez by Family  
†Efrain Garza**Sunday, February 23, 2025** - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:00 am †Cecilia Nguyen by Thuy Nguyen  
10:00 am **STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased**  
12:00 pm †Jose Alcantar**GUADALUPANO NEWS****Friends and Family Members of St. Thomas More:**You are invited to our Annual Guadalupano Retreat  
*Join us for this inspiring event!***Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> - 8 am - Noon**We begin with Mass at 8 a.m  
Followed by a Continental breakfast  
and  
Retreat in Carolan Hall**Guest Speaker:** Transitional Deacon Jim Craig  
**Hope to See You There!!**  
(more information to follow)**Liturgical Roles****Saturday, February 22, 2025**5:00 pm **Altar Servers** - Volunteers**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Tim, L.Adams, R.Alvarado,  
S.Trimm, E.Guerrero**Lector** - L.Trimm**Sunday, February 23, 2025**8 am **Altar Servers** - Mem.Planchon, Max.Planchon**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Tim, R.Saldiva, M.Aguirre,  
N.Carrizales, R.Cantaneda**Lector** - S.Castaneda10 am **Altar Servers** - L.McCaffery, M.Pereida, B.Pereida**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Rolando, CDA**Lector** - CDA12 pm **Altar Servers** - S.Obregon, A.Gomez, A.Llanas**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Rolando, C.Hernandez, M.Pina,  
A.Chavez, H.Gomez, R.Gomez, F.Hernandez**Lector** - E.Licon / E.Obregon