

“With great power comes great responsibility.”

So goes the iconic line from the 2002 Spider-Man film in a poignant scene with Peter Parker and his wise Uncle Ben. We have all been given “great power” by God in the form of Time, Talents, and Treasure. Today’s readings remind us that this power is meant to be used for great good. And, that failure to do so has eternal consequences.

Our First Reading is again from the book of Amos. It warns of the danger of complacency. “Thus says the Lord the God of hosts: Woe to the complacent in Zion! Lying upon beds of ivory, stretched comfortably on their couches....” The Lord says that because of the complacency of the people, “They shall be the first to go into exile, and their wanton revelry shall be done away with.”

The tendency towards complacency is perhaps an even greater danger for us in the modern age with so many conveniences (fast food, remote controls, Amazon prime to name a few) and so many possibilities for diversion and entertainment (cable tv, laptops, iPads, cell phones, and the myriad other devices we all use).

The Lord’s message could not be any clearer — we must get off the couch and put our powers (the many gifts He has given us) to work!

The Second Reading, from St. Paul’s letter to Timothy shows us how to free ourselves of this dangerous complacency we are warned of in the First Reading.

Paul instructs us to:

- “Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.
- “Compete well for the faith.”
- “Lay hold of eternal life, to which [we] were called.” And
- “Keep [God’s] commandment without stain or reproach.”

Notice how active St. Paul’s word choices are: “pursue,” “compete,” “lay hold,” and “keep” are the terms he uses to instruct us.

Our Lord Himself gives us a very clear illustration of the urgency for us to put our powers to good use in today’s Gospel Passage from Luke. He tells the rather chilling parable of the rich man who ignored poor Lazarus during their lifetimes. At the moment of the rich man’s death, he goes down to the netherworld while Lazarus is taken to the eternal joy and comfort in the bosom of Abraham.

The rich man keenly regrets his complacency towards the needs of Lazarus, but it is too late for regret. His choices have played out and now the rich man will face the consequences of his failure to use the gifts God gave him.

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

September 18, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 5,058.01
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 161.80
Helping Hands.....	\$ 85.00
Bulletin Ads.....	\$ 50.00
Festival Deposits.....	\$ 1,355.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 10.00
Donations.....	\$ 5.00
All Saints.....	\$ 5.00

Second Collection - October 1 - 2:

Hope for the Future - Catholic Schools Endowment

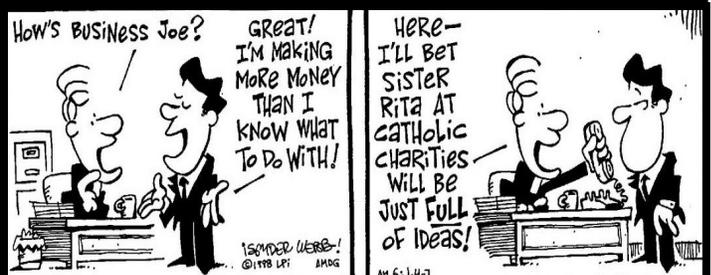


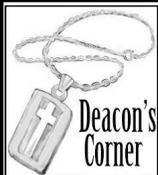
TRASH & TREASURE / ESTATE-SALE DONATIONS

PODS for the Estate Sale and Trash & Treasure are now available and accepting donations on Sundays from 11 am until 2 pm.

Weekday donation drop-off Contacts:

Estate-Sale - Mary Johnson - (210) 473-5742
Trash + Treasure: Flo Rojas - (210) 687-7895





A friend of mine once stated that he thought “*This life was for suffering.*” More recently another friend made the comment that “*This life was really hard!*” I think we’ve all heard comments like these... or maybe we’ve even made them ourselves. People are always asking the question, “*If God is such a loving God, why does he do, or allow, so many bad things to happen?*”

Well... as the people who attend RCIA have often heard... ***I’ve got a book!!***

Actually, this is a set of 3 books entitled “**Radio Replies**” written by a couple of priests who had a radio program ‘*back in the day*’ fielding questions from Catholics, Protestants, Agnostics... anyone who had a legitimate question. Some of the discipline they mention has changed... but the theology is sound! Let’s take a quick look...

Q: *If God is almighty He could prevent earthquakes, tornados, floods, etc., which kill many innocent people!*

A: If God were not almighty there would be no earthquakes, tornados, floods... and no people to be injured or killed! These things happen according to natural laws established by God and He is not obliged to interfere because we (*people*) are surprised or upset by them. Nor does the death of such people terminate their existence! The transition from earthly conditions to our future state is as normal as the transition from infancy to adolescence. Death is a natural law for all, and God permits it to come in various ways to various people.

Q: *If God is loving, just, and all-powerful, why does He permit evil or sin?*

A: Because God is Love, He asks the freely given love of man in return, and not a compelled love. Because He is just, He will not deprive man of the free will which is in accordance with his rational nature. Man cannot be free to love and serve God, without being free to reject Him and rebel against Him. ***We cannot have it both ways.*** God, if He wants men to be free, cannot take from them the power to choose evil. If He *enforces* goodness, He takes away freedom. If He leaves freedom, He *must* permit evil, even though He forbids it. It is man’s dignity that he is master of his own destiny - instead of having to develop and grow like a tree which must obey natural law. Man misused their freedom, and sin and brutality resulted. It was impossible to give man the gift of freedom and the dignity of being master of his own destiny without risking such failures.

Q: *Is it, then, God’s will that people should suffer from such terrible diseases as Cancer?*

A: We must distinguish between God’s *positive* will, and His *permissive* will. He *positively* wills all the good that happens. Suffering He *permits* to occur, and this only when he foresees that good can result from it. He *positively* wills that I should be holy. If He foresees that I will make use of good health to sin and to lose my soul, He may mercifully *permit* my health to be ruined, and thus lead me to Him where He would otherwise lose me. There would have been no diseases had men not sinned. God did not will sin, but having made men free, He *permitted* it and its consequences. This permission was a less serious thing than would have been depriving us of our freedom. Sin is the real evil, not suffering.

Bottom line... God wants what is best for us. He wants us to be happy with Him forever! *Our Choice.* He doesn’t *cause* suffering but *permits* it. Better to suffer a little here in this life than for eternity in the next! This is a complicated topic / subject... If you’d like to talk about it some more I’d love to hear from you.

till next time... God Bless- DT

Vacaciones de Sanación - Haciendo que su dolor cuente

- El dolor durante las fiestas siempre es un desafío, y aún más en estos últimos años.
- Las fiestas renuevan recuerdos, lazos familiares y tradiciones. Nos volvemos dolorosamente conscientes de que nuestro ser querido ya no está presente, y el dolor de la pérdida se confunde con el espíritu de la temporada, lo que dificulta la navegación de las familias.
- Actualmente vivimos con una capa adicional de dolor colectivo y vulnerabilidad.
- Aprender a navegar por un mundo cambiante combinado con el dolor de nuestra pérdida nos hace llorar en muchos niveles. ¿Cómo nos permitimos, en estos tiempos, "*hacer que nuestro dolor cuente*" y encontrar nuestra base interna y resiliencia?
- Este taller ayudará a identificar los recursos internos y externos que contribuyen a la autocompasión y mejoran la resiliencia. Ayudará a las familias a aceptar su dolor mientras fortalece las características de la resiliencia.
- Los participantes usarán las vacaciones para descubrir cómo su ser querido puede vivir en su historia de vida, utilizando este tiempo especial para continuar sanando.

Cuándo: Miércoles, 19 de octubre de 2022

Dónde: St Thomas More Catholic Church

Hora: 10:00 - 11:30 am

Presentadora: Chaplin Harry Miller B.Div

Contacto (RSVP): Oficina de la Iglesia (210) 655-5070

Costo: \$0. - gratis

Esta será una presentación bilingüe



St. Thomas More Fall Festival 2022

Help us coordinate our biggest event of the year!
To Volunteer, Ask Questions, or make a Donation

**CONTACT: Roland and Sylvia Rodriguez at
(210)669-8161**



40 DAYS for LIFE
September 28 - November 6

HELP SAVE LIVES IN SAN ANTONIO!



You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach
40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

Over 20,000 babies saved from abortion
Over 200 abortion workers converted
Over 100 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- Vigil Location:** Outside the Planned Parenthood Clinic located at 2140 Babcock Rd.
- Vigil Hours:** 7 am to 7 pm, Mon - Sat
- Local Contact:** Cathy Nix - San Antonio Coalition for Life (210) 668-1993
- Learn More:** *Get Involved* - Sign up for prayer times.
- Visit:** 40DaysForLife.com/SanAntonio ; www.sacfl.org ; or Cathy@sacfl.org



St. Thomas More
English Prayer Group

Contacts: Olga Guerrero (210) 657-1610 or
Stella Lopez: (210) 618-6977





Grupo de Oración
Familias compartiendo la palabra

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





Mark Your Calendars!!

The St. Thomas More Guadalupanos
are sponsoring a
**Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino
Bus Trip**

\$40 per person

Monday, October 10, 2022

We will meet at Carolan Hall Parking Lot
Arrive by 6 am - Bus departs at 6:30 am

For more information contact:

Elda Garcia @ (210) 421-3040

Healing Holidays - Making your Grief Count

Grief during the Holidays is always challenging, and even more so in these past several years.

The holidays renew memories, family ties, and traditions. We become painfully aware that our loved one is no longer present, and the pain of the loss is confused with the spirit of the season making it difficult for families to navigate.

Currently we are living with an added layer of collective grief and vulnerability.

Learning to navigate a changing world combined with the sorrow of our loss causes us to grieve on many levels.

How do we allow ourselves, in these times, to "make our grief count" and find our internal grounding and resilience?

This workshop will help identify internal and external resources that contribute to self-compassion and enhance resiliency. It will help families to embrace their grief while strengthening characteristics of resilience.

Participants will use the holidays to discover how their loved one can live on into their life story, using this special time to continue to heal.

- When:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022
- Where:** St Thomas More Catholic Church
- Time:** 10:00 - 11:30 am
- Presenter:** Chaplain Harry Miller B.Div

- Contact (RSVP):** Church Office (210) 655-5070
- Cost:** \$0. - no charge

This will be a Bilingual Presentation

This Week at Our Parish

Sunday, September 25, 2022
 8:30 am KC Breakfast - *Carolán Hall*
 10:00 am CDA Mass - *Church*
 2:30 pm Installation Prep - *Church & Carolán Hall*
 6:30 pm Fr. Mike's Installation Mass - *Church*

Monday, September 26, 2022
 5:00 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - *RMR*
 7:00 pm Cuento de Navidad Practice - *Carolán Hall*

Tuesday, September 27, 2022
 5:30 pm Divine Mercy - *Rectory Mtg Rm*
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - *Rectory Mtg Rm*
 7:00 pm Cuento de Navidad Practice - *Carolán Hall*
 Grupo Choir Practice - *Church*

Wednesday, September 28, 2022
 6:00 pm KC 4th Degree Mtg - *Carolán Hall*

Thursday, September 29, 2022
 7:00 pm Cuento de Navidad Practice - *Carolán Hall*
 RCIA - *Rectory Mtg Room*

Friday, September 30, 2022
 7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion - *Church*

Saturday, October 1, 2022
 4:00 pm Reconciliation - *Church*

Sunday, October 2, 2022
 10:00 am KoC Corporate Mass - *Church*
 2:00 pm Parish Assembly Planning Mtg - (Spanish)
Carolán Hall



Sanctuary Light Intention:
Michael Skeldon

Lecturas de la Semana del 26 Septiembre - 2 Octubre

Lunes: Job 1:6-22; Sal 16:1-3,6-7; Lc 9:46-50
Martes: Job 3:1-3,11-17,20-23; Sal 87:2-8; Lc 9:51-56
Miércoles: Job 9:1-12,14-16; Sal 87:10-15; Lc 9:57-62
Jueves: Dan 7:9-10,13-14; Sal 137:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
Viernes: Job 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5;
 Sal 138:1-3,7-10,13-14; Lc 10:13-16
Sábado: Job 42:1-6,12-17; Sal 118:66,71,75,91,125,130;
 Lc 10:17-24
Domingo: Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Sal 94:1-2,6-9;
 2Tim 1:6-8,13-14; Lc 17:5-1

Readings for the week of Sept 26 - Oct 2

Monday: Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1b-3,6-7; Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday: Jb 3:1-3,11-17,20-23; Ps 88:2-8; Lc 9:51-56
Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12,14-16; Ps 88:10b-15; Lc 9:57-62
Thursday: Dan 7:9-10,13-14; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
Friday: Jb 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5;
 Ps 139:1-3,7-10,13-14; Lc 10:13-16
Saturday: Jb 42:1-6,12-17; Ps 119:66,71,75,91,125,130;
 Lc 10:17-24
Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2,6-9;
 2Tm 1:6-8,13-14; Lk 17:5-10

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 24, 2022
 8:00 am †Vicente Khanh by Kim Nguyen
 †Timotea Borja by Andresina Borja
 5:00 pm †Antonio Cortez & †Frances Gutierrez
 by Debra Cortez
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased

Sunday, September 25, 2022
 8:00 am †Willard & Margaret O'Connor by Oswald Family
 †Tom Schleigh by Soon Schleigh
 10:00 am †Juan Urbano & Mike Urbano by Teresa Clark
 †Ray & Nell DuMenil by Rand Family
 12:00 pm †Roberto Gonzalez & Ambrosio Villarreal
 by Gonzalez Family
 by Family
Health - Maria Elena Mena

Monday, September 26, 2022
 8:00 am †John & Katy Shortner, and Vernon Fenner
 by Fabian & Anna Biemer
 †Joe Gimesky by David & Michelle Allen

Tuesday, September 27, 2022
 8:00 am †Mary Laux by Oliver & Rosemarie Evancho
All Souls by Kim Nguyen

Wednesday, September 28, 2022
 8:00 am †Mary Monteverdi by Parish Friends
 †Rosie Reyes & Suzell Waller by Eddie Reyes

Thursday, September 29, 2022 (Communion Service)
 8:00 am **All Ordained Clergy and Religious**

Friday, September 30, 2022
 8:00 am **In Thanksgiving** by Kim Nguyen

Saturday, October 1, 2022
 8:00 am †Esperanza Hernandez by Flor Mata
 †Deceased Mbrs - Nguyen Family by Thuy Nguyen
 5:00 pm †Baby Dawn Espinoza by Mom & Dad
 †Lucy Cardoza Jackson
 by Espinoza Family & Grand Child

Sunday, October 2, 2022
 8:00 am †Rosie Reyes & Suzell Waller by Eddie Reyes
 †Theresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen
 10:00 am †Juan Urbano & Mike Urbano by Urbano Family
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased
 12:00 pm †Ulysses Francisco Cortez by Cortez Family
Health - Maria Elena Mena by Family

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, October 1, 2022
 5 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, Dcn Ed, DC John
Lector - M.Fisher

Sunday, October 2, 2022
 8 am **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, Dcn Ed, (+1 Vol - IN)
Lector - T.Garza

10 am **Altar Servers** - (Volunteers)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, A.Garza, W.Torres
Lector - Abi.Perez

12 pm **Altar Servers** - (Volunteers)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, I.Hernandez, M.Larios
Lector - H.Gomez / L.Lopez