

Pastoral Council Reflection

Oftentimes we look at others and ask, "How can that person have all of that fame and/or fortune?" Or, we think life is only about ourselves, and we consider ourselves as the only important person around. In today's readings, we are reminded that jealousy and selfishness have dire consequences. They destroy relationships, cause bitterness and anger toward each other and this causes some to have too much and others to have too little.

Moses told his followers that they should not be jealous. "Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!" Moses and the selected prophets might have been looked upon as the "rock stars" of their day. However, Moses knew that if he did not share the blessings he received with not just a few, but with all, a great divide among his people could occur. He possessed the foresight to encourage one of his own aides not to be jealous, because jealousy can be like an infectious disease damaging the good works and peace among all people.

In our second reading, James warns that hoarding and cheating others of their just wages (recognition, pay, rewards, etc.) will be testimony against us. Failing to share (being selfish) does not promote the spirit of our Christian beliefs.

In today's Gospel, Christ instructs us to do all that we do for the good of others in His name, and to avoid scandalous behavior. We might perform mighty deeds, but Christ tells us that even performing simple acts of kindness such as offering a cup of water to a person who is thirsty or not feeling well, will result in our being welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven. Conversely, being jealous, cheating others, being selfish, and hoarding all the fame and fortune we can get will result in our losing the rewards of Heaven.

— Rachel Phillips

STEWARDSHIP

SEPTEMBER, 2015

Anticipated Expenses \$ 37,199.18
 Sunday Collections \$ 26,078.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Upcoming 2nd collections:

- Oct 4 St. Thomas Charities
- Oct 11 Hope for the Future
Catholic Schools
- Oct 18 Pontifical Mission Societies

PRAYER and SUPPORT

Spiritual Direction is now offered at **St. Thomas** by Mary Margaret Raley 830-885-4980, hraley@gvtc.com. Spiritual Direction is a conversation with a trained director for the purpose of exploring the directee's spiritual practice and relationship with God.

Hispanic Prayer Group: Meets Wed. evening 7 to 8 p.m. For information, call Maria 210-213-6154.

Prayer Vine Requests: To add someone to the Prayer Vine, please email Belinda at birainosek@gvtc.com or call the office, 830-964-3497.

Rosary for the Unborn: Please join us at 10:30am every Sunday to pray a special rosary to end abortion. **Every bead saves a child from abortion.** If you are interested in the PRO-LIFE Ministry, call Bob Bradfield 830-885-4036.

Rachel's Journey The pain and sorrow of a past abortion need not endure for a lifetime. Call Rachel's Journey at 830-481-3546 to register or obtain more info. You are not alone!

Support Group: We are a diverse group...here to listen and reach out to all who need support in challenging, life-changing situations. We meet every 4th Monday, 5 p.m. RE building. Candace Carr 830-660-5359, Pam Hosford 830-935-3391.

Adoration: See front of bulletin for days/times. CALL JULIE at 830-964-2573 or church office.

If you want to know what God can do for you, spend time in Adoration.

Family Rosary: The image of the Blessed Mother is presented at each Sunday Mass every other weekend and taken to a parishioner's family home for two weeks for prayer and rosary.

Call Chris and Michaelene Kasper if you would like to participate in this devotion, 830-964-2865.

Family Ministry: Aaron and Kate Barta, aaron@adoreministries.com.

Guadalupe: **New!!** The **second Sunday** of every month at the 11:00 Mass we will gather as a group, and normally will have our meeting following the Mass. At these Masses we do not process in and you are welcome to sit with your family and friends wherever you like. We will be joined by Mariachis. As members, a way of answering Our Mother's call is to gather together prior to Mass at 10:30am for the rosary. Next Mass: October 11 with meeting to follow in RE building. Belinda Rainosek: birainosek@gvtc.com, 210-551-1049.

CHURCH FLOWERS

September 27

AT THE ALTAR

In Loving Memory of
 Her husband, **Gerald**,
 by Elizabeth Becker

To order flowers for the Altar, Holy Family images, or Adoration Chapel, Call Xena 830-899-4972.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Sept 27

8:30 a.m. Dorothy Wiest †

By George Wiest

11:00 a.m. Marlene' Marshall Neathery

By the Marshall Family

11:00 a.m. Trinidad Martinez †

By Deacon Bob & Julie Leibrecht

Thursday, Oct 1

8:30 a.m. Lindsey Merritt

By Anne Pedersen

Readings for the Week—Sept 27

Sunday	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43,45, 47-48
Monday	Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr; Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102; Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday	Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138; Jn 1:47-51
Wednesday	Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137; Lk 9:57-62
Thursday	Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19; Lk 10:1-12
Friday	The Holy Guardian Angels Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79; Mt 18:1-5, 10
Saturday	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69; Lk 10:17-24
Sunday	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12



Please pray for the soul of
TRINIDAD MARTINEZ, father of Rachel Phillips,
 who passed away September 14
 May he rest in Peace. †



Bulletin deadline: Friday by Noon, 1 WK PRIOR.
 Email to bookkeeper@gvtc.com

Mass Count:
 Sept 20/21: 609

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Assembly 2015 † Encountering Christ

Don't forget to register online for Assembly 2015, taking place Sat, Nov 7 on the campus of St. Mary's University. Keynote Speakers will be Dr. Scott Hahn and Archbishop Joseph William Tobin, CSSR. This will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation, formational and informative workshops, and the only Vigil Mass on this day with Archbishop Gustavo. Musical performance by Cindy De Leon from Tongues of Fire and headliner Sanctus Real will perform during the concert. Register by visiting the Archdiocese website at www.assembly.archsa.org or call 210-734-1653.

Carpooling is encouraged—Individual Registration (began Aug 1). Fee is \$35, however all parishioners in the Archdiocese will receive the \$20 discounted fee through the generosity of Archbishops Appeal donors. (Those who cannot pay, see Father.) There will be no Saturday vigil Mass at St. Thomas on Nov 7.

FAITH FORMATION

KIDS IN CHRIST

Religious Education (Pre-K—6th grade) blends an Ad-Hoc approved curriculum *Gospel Weeklies* with a methodology called **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**, (CGS). Our goal is to foster and deepen the child's relationship with God, to encourage the formation of the personal prayer life, to help the child participate more fully in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, and to develop a deeper understanding of Catholic identity and tradition. For information contact our CRE, Beate Buescher, 830-964-3497.

TEENS IN CHRIST

This includes a 2-year program for our 7th & 8th grades and a 2-year program for our high school students. Both programs offer a comprehensive curriculum centered on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and gears our youth toward readiness for Confirmation. For more information, call Christina Fox, DRE and Youth Minister at 830-964-3497.

CONFIRMATION MEETING Confirmation class starts TODAY at 12:30—2:30 pm. All meetings are mandatory. Parents, please attend this 1st meeting with your child. Please call Christina at 830-964-3497 with questions.

BAKE SALE TODAY AFTER BOTH MASSES. Please come by and help our youth get to Poland for World Youth Day 2016!

ADULTS IN CHRIST

RCIA: Meets every Tues evening at 6:30pm, RE building. For more information, call **Deanne Wolf** 830-832-9992; or church office 830-964-3497.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible. If you registered for this 8-week study, it began on Monday Sept 14, 6:30 pm, RE bldg.

Lectionary Study: Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. This study prepares and reviews the upcoming Sunday readings from the Lectionary. led by Mary Raley, RE Bldg, meeting room.



Garden Ministry — Please join us for a Garden Ministry meeting Sunday, Oct 11 at 10 a.m. to revitalize this ministry. New ideas welcome! Meet in back of church. Any and all are welcome.

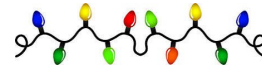
PARISH-WIDE E-MAILS: A parish wide e-mail was sent to all parishioners last week announcing Fr. Alberic's birthday. If you did not receive the email, we do not have a current e-mail for you (or you are not in our database as a registered parishioner). Please send an updated e-mail to stthomas@gvtc.com so you are included on future parish wide e-mails.

THANK YOU for being a part of the
"FEED THE HUNGRY MINISTRY".
Please keep up the good work!
◆ GOAL: One can per family



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH PLAYGROUND is being refreshed. We need the following: sand, new landscaping railroad ties, a small wooden fence to enclose the playscape, volunteers to help weed, rake and paint. If you can help, please contact Christina Fox, DRE, at 830-964-3497. Consider helping if you are looking for a ministry.



HELPING HANDS HOLIDAY HAUS BAZAAR Saturday Nov 14 (9-5) & Sunday, Nov 15 (9-1). Volunteers welcome for this fun and very beneficial fundraiser for the entire St. Thomas community, call Robbie at 830-305-3799, rfearka@gmail.com.

Please consider a donation for the Silent Auction!

Raffle: Contact Robbie 830-305-3799 or Margaret 210-215-1413

Silent Auction: Contact Belinda 210-551-1049 or Tricia 830-221-5533. We can come pick up your items if you need!

Decorating Committee: Needs volunteers, call Ruth 713-417-0536 or Cissy 713-408-8821

Vendor Booths: Need craft vendors! 10x10' outdoor booths. \$40 for both days. Contact Judy Schell 281-744-0623, jschell@gvtc.com.

Bake Sale: Baked goods will be needed for the bazaar. Please plan to deliver to RE bldg on Fri, Nov 13, 9am-3pm or Sat, Nov 14 after 9am. Pat Nun, 830-899-2406.

Helping Hands now has a storage unit available for larger donated items for the bazaar in November: Rocky Acres Storage, 5002 FM 2673 (between Startzville and Sattler). This is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Call Marilyn, 210-625-1100 or Judy, 254-541-5236.



Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner! October 10, 7:00 p.m. RE building. Tickets \$7 (adults), \$4 (12/under)—available from any Knight.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Federation will have their **Fall Retreat on Saturday, October 3** at St. Luke Catholic Church (Cafeteria), 4603 Manitou, San Antonio, TX. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the retreat will end at 12:00 noon. Sister Guadalupe Ramirez (a faculty member at the Mexican American Catholic College) will serve as retreat leader. The theme for the retreat is "Our Lady of Guadalupe - Our Companion on Our Journey of Faith." You do not want to miss this inspiring presentation. Invite your Guadalupeans, family, friends and parishioners. See flyer on church bulletin board.



Book Club Next meeting will be Mon, Nov 17, noon; RE Bldg. NEW BOOK! Reading *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World* by Henri J.M. Nouwen. Please have the book completed by then. We will be discussing and sharing.

Marriage Encounter "The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart." Let your marriage be filled with JOY! Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter help you to practice this in your marriage. The last weekend this year is coming up in San Antonio Oct 16-18. For more information, call Rob and Cris Johnson, 361-537-4997 or apply online at www.mesanantonio.org.

Wellness Program at CRRC Hati Cantu, hatican2@yahoo.com
Wednesday, 11 a.m., Friday, 12:30 p.m.