

*St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church*

**Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.**

1603 Avenue N

Huntsville, TX 77340

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Fax 936.295.3543

[www.saintthomashuntsville.org](http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org)

Fr. Fred's Year of Mercy blog [fathermickey.com](http://fathermickey.com)

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**December 27, 2015**



**Shrine of the Two Hearts Weekly Rosary** every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. throughout the year. From FM 2821, turn North onto Rosenwall Rd. Go 3.3 miles to the gate. Everyone welcome. Gate open from 9-5.

**St. Thomas Weekly Rosary** at 5:00 p.m. before the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass. **Daily Rosary** prayed following 7:15 a.m. Mass.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** Tuesdays 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Legion of Mary** meet every Tuesday, 7:15 p.m. in the Little White House.

**Eleven Threads** meet 2nd & 4th Friday of the month at 9 am. Contact Mary Ann Petrosky Cook, 295-7049.

**Knights of Columbus** meet 1st & 3rd Tuesday of month at 7pm. Contact Fred Guillory, 295-0267.

**Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly** meet on 2nd Tuesday of month at 7:00 p.m.

**Catholic Daughters** meet 2nd Monday of month. Contact Vickie Brewer at 936-291-3651.

**St. Thomas Ladies** meet 1st Thursday of month. Contact June Davis, at 291-8197.

**Parish Council** meets 4th Thursday of month, 7:00 p.m. in parish hall.

**St. Pio Secular Franciscan Fraternity** meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Little White House.

**St. Vincent de Paul** meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of month at 2:00 p.m. in parish hall. Contact Craig Hibbison, at 436-0362.

**Spanish Prayer Group** (Rios de Luz y Esperanza) Fridays at 7:00 p.m. Contact Martin Mosqueda, (936) 662-8335.

**Icon Guild** meets Wednesdays at 10 am in the parish hall. Contact Susan Garrett (936) 291-2812.

**Father Fred's Scripture Class** meets Tuesdays in the parish hall at 7:00 pm.

**Movimiento Familiar Chistiano Catolico.** Contact Alfredo Almaraz at 817-521-9198.

**St. Thomas Widows.** Meet 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m, in the Adult Education Bldg. Contact Mary Ann Petrosky Cook, 295-7049.

## MASS INTENTIONS of the WEEK

Sat	12/26	5:30 pm	Danny Ortego	†
Sun	12/27	7:45 am	Benavidez and Gomez deceased family members	†
		10:45 am	Parishioners	
		12:30 pm	Bartolo Urbina	†
Mon	12/28	No Mass		
Tues	12/29	7:15 am	Msgr. William M. Pickard	†
Wed	12/30	7:15 am	Karen and Bill McPike (55th Wedding Anniversary)	
Thurs	12/31	7:15 am	Danny Ortego and Brian Ortego	†
		5:00 pm		
Fri	1/1	10:00 am	Brian O'Connell (his intentions)	
Sat	1/2	5:30 pm	Maria Santovalla De Bombadilla	†
Sun	1/3	7:45 am	Theresa Coomes	†
		10:45 am	Betty Krause	†
		12:30 pm	Jose Alfredo Cruz	†

## Weekly Readings



Mon	12/28	1Jn.1:5—2:2;Mt.2:13-18
Tues	12/29	1Jn.2:3-11;Lk.2:22-35
Wed	12/30	1Jn.2:12-17;Lk.2:36-40
Thurs	12/31	1Jn.2:18-21;Jn.1:1-18
Fri	1/1	Num.6:22-27;Gal.4:4-7;Lk.2:16-21
Sat	1/2	1Jn.2:22-28;Jn.1:19-28
Sun	1/3	Sir.24:1-4,8-12;Eph.1:3-6.15-18;Jn1:1-18

## Year of Mercy

We should think deeply about mercy because mercy is what leads to a true and deep sense of well-being. When we understand mercy, we understand the Blessed Trinity — the community of love which is God.



### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS / RECUERDEN EN SUS ORACIONES...

Judy Adib, Steve Aguayo, Richard Almendarez, Veronica Antwi, James Aubey, Irma Avalos, Gene Barrett, Jordan Bergeron, Kathy Boscarino, Fidelis Burton, Phillip Caito, Dick Colgrove, Sunni Cook, Sabrina Coronado, Terry Corral, Melanie Davis, Margie Eglsaer, Colin Defour, Jose Luis Ecamilla, Paul Fivel, Diane Fuller, Diana Garcia, Rita Ghirardi, Winifred Grivich, Mary Gutermuth, Dorothy Laskoskie, Wilson and Naomi Lede, Andrew Leal, Sam and Marie Martinez, Becky McGaughey, Cheri McGee, Coby Meinzer, Carol Mendel, Bill Middleton, Donna Moore, Floyd and Maryann Moore, Tom Morales, Lourdes Mosqueda, Paula Phillips, Brenda Piñeda, Odell Rachal, John Raia, Lillian Rodriguez, Lydia Rodriguez, Maria Ines Rodriguez, Jack Rumfield, Ana Marie Santos, John Sarley, Jerry Seaton, Cindy Schwanke, Marilyn Shepherd, Kayden Bryn Shipley, Wanda H. Smith, Elizabeth Speck, Tim Speck, Alfredo Torres, Emily Torres, David and Dorothy Townsend, Margie Turner, Matthew Varnum, Leo Vasquez, Joe Vitela, Dell Wells, Alma Williams, Rose Youngblood.

**OFFICE MEMO:** The parish office will be closed Friday, January 1st in observance of the New Year Holiday.

**January 1st  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY  
Holy Day of Obligation**

Thursday Vigil 5:00 p.m. Bilingual  
December 31st Mass

Friday Mass 10:00 a.m. English  
January 1st

**K-6 CCE NEWS**

Maria Delgado, Elementary CCE Coordinator

**Elementary K-6 CCE** Please pray for the children in St. Thomas Parish Community who are preparing for their sacraments this upcoming spring.

**K-6 Elemental CCE** Por favor de orar por nuestros hijos en nuestra Parroquia de Sto. Tomas quines se preparan para recibir sus sacramentos en la Primavera.

**Adult Confirmation class forming**

We are currently forming the Adult Confirmation Class. Those eligible must be baptized and receive first Eucharist; 18 years of age and have graduated High School; if married, they are married in the Catholic faith or have an irregular marriage corrected before Confirmation. Please contact **Kathy Boscarino** or the church office at **936-295-8159**.

**Part-time Music Coordinator Needed**

St. Thomas is currently looking for a part-time Music Coordinator. The position will be open January 1, 2016. The successful applicant will be proficient in both piano (read and play piano music as written) and vocals. This person should have 2-3 years of experience in leading music, cantoring and accompanying in a Mass setting. This may become a fulltime position in May. Please contact the church office at **936-295-8159** if interested.

**THE NAME FOR GOD...** Mother is the name for God on the lips and in the hearts of little children.

—William Makepeace Thackeray

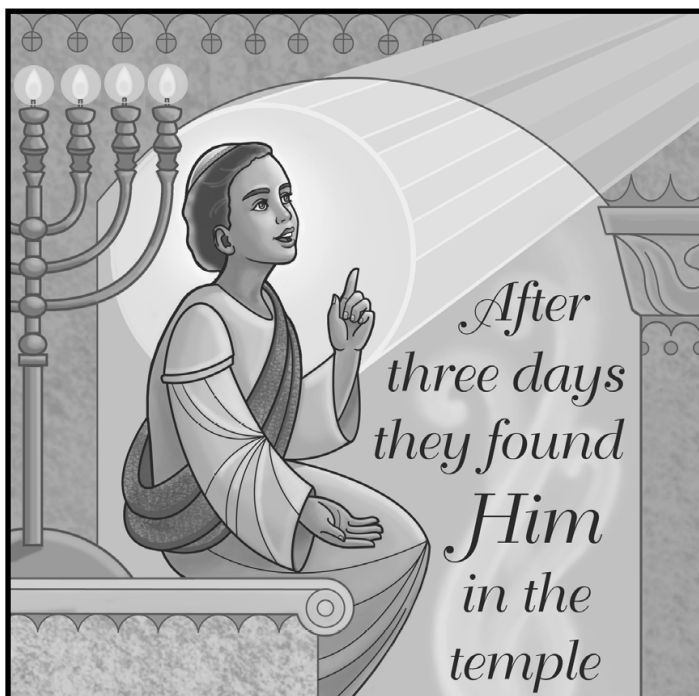
**LENTEN FAITH-SHARING SMALL GROUPS...**

If you think Christmas is right around the corner, Lent follows close behind! Lent begins on February 10th, and St. Thomas will provide several opportunities to participate in a Lenten faith-sharing small group. A good way to meet Christ is to share faith through Disciples on the Journey. Small groups provide opportunities to:

- \* deepen one's personal relationship with God
- \* enliven one's faith by personal reflection on scripture
- \* provide new insights into the Sunday readings

**Sign-ups will be held on the weekends of January 10th and 17th.**

For those interested in leading a small group, please contact **Kathy Boscarino** at **(936) 295-8159**.



**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

- Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Monday: The Holy Innocents
- Tuesday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket
- Wednesday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
- Thursday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve
- Friday: The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace; First Friday; New Year's Day
- Saturday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen; First Saturday

 <p>St. Thomas the Apostle Youth</p>	<p><b>Contact Information</b>          Kathy Boscarino, DRE/YM          kathybosc@sbcglobal.net          (936) 520-6524  <a href="http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org">http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org</a></p>	<p><i>Weekly Events</i></p> <p>Sundays CCE 9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.          Edge (7th –8th grade) Parish Hall          Lifeteen (9th– 11th) Youth Center</p> <p>Wednesdays <i>STAY</i> Youth Night          6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Yourh Center</p>
<p>But God proved His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8</p>		

*News and Events*

Sunday, December 27, 2015	No <b>Lifeteen and Edge</b> 9:15-10:30
Wed., December 30, 2015	No STAY youth night
Sunday, January 03, 2015	No Lifetteen or Edge— <i>Happy New Year</i>
Sunday, January 10, 2016	Lifeteen and Edge begins their Spring Semester—See website for more information

*Upcoming Events*


Saturday, Feb 20, 2016	<p>Archdiocesan Junior High Youth Rally—10:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m. @ St. Simon &amp; Jude.          Opened to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders. <u>Registration is due 1/17/2016 Fee: \$40.00</u>          Theme: <b>Mercy Games</b> Registration forms can be picked up during Edge, CCE,          Youth Night or online @ <a href="http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org">www.saintthomashuntsville.org</a> under Faith Formation /          Edge. Contact Kathy Boscarino, DRE/YM for more information.</p>
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*Save the Date*

*Reserva esta Fecha*

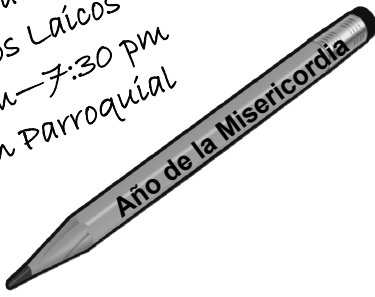
January  
**18 Monday**

Celebration for Laity  
 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
 Parish Hall



enero  
**18 lunes**

Celebración  
 para los Laicos  
 5:00 pm—7:30 pm  
 Salon parroquial



**ENGLISH BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION...** will be held on Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Education Bldg. Please pre-register in the office before attending session. A copy of the child's birth certificate should be presented at time of registration. Deadline for registration is Friday, January 8th.

**SESIONES DE PREPARACIÓN PARA BAUTISMO...** Miercoles y jueves, el 28 y 29 de enero, 7:00p.m. en salon parroquial. Participantes deben registrarse en la oficina antes de asistir las sesiones. Una copia del certificado de nacimiento del niño/a debe ser presentada. Última fecha para inscribirse es el viernes, 8 de enero.

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN  
WORKSHOP (Virtus Training)**

Preventing child sexual abuse is the goal of the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Office. "Protecting God's Children" is the program selected by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to educate clergy, staff, and volunteers who work with children and youth about child sexual abuse and the ways to create a safe environment for children.

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP  
at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Community  
Saturday, January 9th  
8:30 am to 11:30 am**

All attendees must pre-register online at  
[www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org)

When registering you must choose a workshop date and time in order to fully register. The day of the workshop you must bring with you a current Driver's license, State issued ID Card, Passport (any Country), Mexico or Guatemala Consulate ID in order to attend the workshop.

**YOU MUST USE  
YOUR NAME and DATE OF BIRTH**  
as it appears on your chosen identification.

**NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 WILL BE ALLOWED  
INTO THE WORKSHOP.**

**KEEPING THE PROMISE ALIVE  
WORKSHOP (Virtus Refresher Course)**

"Keeping the Promise Alive" is a mandatory refresher course that went into effect 2011-2012. All employees and volunteers working with or around children are required to attend "Keeping the Promise Alive" after 5 years of attending the "Protecting God's Children" Program.

**KEEPING THE PROMISE ALIVE WORKSHOP  
at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Community  
Saturday, January 9th  
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.**

All attendees must pre-register online at  
[www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org)

When registering you must choose a workshop date and time in order to fully register. The day of the workshop you must bring with you a current Driver's license, State issued ID Card, Passport (any Country), Mexico or Guatemala Consulate ID in order to attend the workshop.

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**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION...** This New Year's Eve, at the turning of the year, you may catch a glimpse of the old year, a cartoon figure of a hunched old man with a sickle, Father Time. Where else but in this column could you learn that this is in fact a pope? December 31 was in the old calendar the feast of St. Sylvester. Legend says that Sylvester healed the Emperor Constantine of leprosy, and presided at the liturgy of baptism for the grateful emperor. In 314, he was chosen pope, and it fell to him to organize the peacetime church, free at last from persecution. He founded the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome.

In northern Europe "Sylvester Night" is a time of great parties with eating, dancing, and singing—recalling perhaps the joy of the church in the fresh air of Sylvester's papacy. In Poland, there was great fear as the year 1000 approached that an immense dragon would devour the earth and set fire to the heavens. The people prayed earnestly to St. Sylvester, trusting that the saint would not permit such suffering on his feast day. They've been celebrating ever since! —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE...** El primer domingo después de la Navidad celebramos la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia. Los latinos somos un pueblo muy unido en familia. Para nosotros es más que un pequeño grupo compuesto de padre, madre, hijos e hijas. La familia para nosotros los latinos es un conjunto grande de abuelos, abuelas, tíos, tías, primos, primas, compadres, comadres, suegros, suegras y otros más además del padre, la madre y los hijos. Para los latinos una fiesta que celebra la familia de Jesús es la cosa más natural del mundo.

Extrañamente esta fiesta no es muy antigua. En realidad es una celebración que data de comienzos de la época moderna en el siglo XVII. Antes de estas fechas la familia de Jesús casi siempre era entendida como compuesta por Jesús, María y Ana (la madre de María). Se daba por hecho que José estaba por allí. Pero en el siglo XVII muchos perdieron sus padres pues tenían que ir a las fábricas a trabajar. Por eso el magisterio instituyó la conmemoración de la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José para recordar a los padres cristianos su deber ante sus hijos y su esposa.

—Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glez, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co