



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

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Fr. Fred's Year of Mercy blog fathermickey.com

Fifth Sunday of Lent

February 14, 2016

STAFF

Rev. Fred Valone Pastor
Felix RamosPermanent Deacon

Year of Mercy

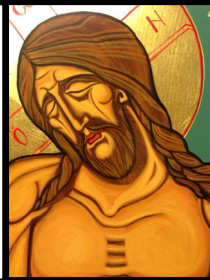


The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. (Lam.3: 22-23)



HOLY ICONS:

THEOLOGY IN COLOR
Saturday, February 20, 2016
St. Basil Hall
St. Anne's Church
on Westheimer
from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



St. THOMAS CHURCH ICON GUILD

will be represented with painted icons on display at the HOLY ICONS: THEOLOGY in COLOR Icon Exhibit while attending the seminar hosted and sponsored by St. Anne Catholic Community, St. Anne Icon Guild, and St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church. Mentor and master iconographer, **Father Elias Rafaj**, will be demonstrating the "Egg Tempura" icon painting technique. Other activities include a Panel Discussion with guest speakers: Andreean Balan, Fr. Daniel Forsythe, and Andrew J. Hayes, Ph.D. A free Lenten lunch will be served.

Suggested donations of \$20 accepted.

For more information contact:

houstonelias@gmail.com or ssalinas@saintanne.org

St. Valentine's Day February 14

S.T.A.Y

Valentine Dinner

Sunday, February 14, 2016

St. Thomas Hall

7:00-9:00 pm

\$10.00 Donation

All proceeds go to help send youth to A.Y.C., Confirmation Retreat, and other Special Events



MASS INTENTIONS of the WEEK

Sat	2/13	5:30 pm	Parishioners	
Sun	2/14	7:45 am	Ed Cooper	✝
		10:45 am	Kenneth Larson	✝
		12:30 pm	Maria Quintanilla	✝
		6:00 pm	CSC Intentions	
Mon	2/15	No Mass		
Tues	2/16	7:15 am	Fr. Nils Thompson, OFM	✝
Wed	2/17	7:15 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory	
Thurs	2/18	7:15 am	Edith M. Rogers	✝
Fri	2/19	7:15 am	Robert Stachowiak	✝
Sat	2/20	5:30 pm	Dr. Antonio Cañadas	✝
Sun	2/21	7:45 am	Chris Cooper	✝
		10:45 am	Parishioners	
		12:30 pm	Rodolfo Bravo	✝
		6:00 pm	CSC Intentions	

Weekly Readings



Mon	2/15	Lv. 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt. 25:31-46
Tues	2/16	Is. 55:10-11; Mt. 6:7-15
Wed	2/17	Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thurs	2/18	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-24; Lk 9:28b-36; Mt 7:7-12
Fri	2/19	Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Sat	2/20	Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
Sun	2/21	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17—4:1; Lk 9:28-36

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, Sunni Cook, Sabrina Coronado, Terry Corral, Melanie Davis, Margie Eglsaer, Colin Defour, Jose Luis Ecamilla, Paul Fivel, Diane Fuller, Diana Garcia, Winifred Grivich, Mary Gutermuth, Maria Jalifi, Dorothy Laskoskie, Andrew Leal, Sam and Marie Martinez, Cheri McGee, Coby Meinzer, Carol Mendel, Bill Middleton, Donna Moore, Floyd and Maryann Moore, Tom Morales, Lourdes Mosqueda, Paula Legler Phillips, Brenda Piñeda, 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, David and Dorothy Townsend, Matthew Varnum, Maria Elena Valencia, Leo Vasquez, Joe Vitela, Bob Wessels, Alma Williams, Rose Youngblood.

PRAY, FAST, GIVE

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS... Looking for a devotional to enrich your Lenten journey? The following websites offer daily devotionals which can be delivered directly to your email Inbox, and/or available directly on their website. Visit the following websites for more information:

Catholic email subscriptions (look for newsletter or email subscription instructions):

www.guslloyd.com

www.redeemedonline.com

www.ascensionpresents.com

www.wordonfire.org

www.blessedishe.net (women's devotional)

www.livingwithchrist.us

www.salvationhistory.com

www.flocknote.com/catechism

<http://www.catholiccompany.com/subscribe-morning-offering.tr>

<http://catholicmom.com/category/daily/>
(Catholic moms)

Don't forget Father Fred's daily blog:

www.fathermickey.com

Apps available for Smartphones

EWTN	Busted Halo
iMissal	The Pope App
Laudate	CRS Rice Bowl
Mea Culpa	Verbum
My Adoration Pal	iBreviary

Word Among Us (monthly fee applies).

You can also visit www.wau.org

Stewardship for February 7th: \$10,936.72

St. Thomas Mission: \$2,350.98

Thank you for your parish support!

PIDE UN DESEO... Cuando amas a alguien, todos tus deseos guardados empiezan a salir. —Elizabeth Bowen

Father Fred writes... People love to come to church when something is given away. Think of the crowds on Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday. Today we come to church for Good News! We started the holy season of lent several days ago. Do you recall the ashes that you received? Remember you are dust and unto dust you will return. Those traditional words which were spoken as we received our ashes contain much for us to reflect upon during the next 40 days. Those words remind us that God formed us from the dust of the earth. As I mentioned several weeks ago in a homily, spiritually those words remind us that we are contingent beings, people who are radically dependent on God's life breath to give us our very existence. That truth should cause us to reject and run away from any false gods or idols that we might create. In Jesus' temptation in the desert He is tempted by the common idols that we succumb to: power, possessions, prestige. Recognizing the hold that these idols have over us we should humbly come before our God seeking His timely grace and mercy. As Psalm 51 states: *a humble, contrite heart, O Lord, you will not spurn.* That humble, contrite heart is the one that we offer to the Lord during the Eucharistic Prayer when we respond to the priest's invitation to: *Lift up your hearts.* But those same words that we heard when we received our ashes should also make us recall that we are more than people created in God's image and likeness. In the waters of baptism we became new creations in Christ. We were divinized. We share in God's very nature as members of God's family. These next 90 days (Lent and Easter) are the time to "polish" up and wear - all the time - the clothes of royalty. We are royalty (kings) after all by means of the anointing received in baptism. Paul in Romans 12 best describes what this royal lifestyle means: *I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.* My advice for all of us: let's have a joyous Lenten season as we allow God to fashion and mold us more perfectly as His children. Happy Lent. Happy New Year of Mercy.

St. THOMAS NURSING HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY... is in need of at least one more volunteer to help with our Sunday morning ministry. Time commitment is one Sunday per month and usually requires about 1 to 1.5 hours. Please contact the church office or **Charley Sanders, 295-0653**, if you have an interest in this ministry.

**Protecting God's Children Workshop
February 23, 2015 6-9 pm**

St. Thomas will be hosting a Protecting God's Children workshop, Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 6 – 9 pm in the Adult Education Bldg., next to the Church office. To attend the workshop

**YOU MUST REGISTER ONLINE at
www.virtusonline.org**

All parishioners are encouraged to attend this workshop. Seating is limited to the first 20 registrants. For more information, please contact: **Mary Wessels at 281-650-3022.**

**St. Thomas Community
Lenten Project**

What are **YOU** giving up for lent—chocolate; caffeine; Netflix? Why not let your Lenten sacrifice **bring the gift of hope?** As a member of the St. Thomas Community, consider taking a "water drop" from the back of the church and donating the amount of money (\$5, , \$20, \$50...) on the *water drop* towards a community water station. Just place your donation and *water drop* in the envelope and place in the collection basket or turn it in to the church office. Each community water station costs \$1,300.00 and is the work of CRS (Catholic Relief Services). Together, we can "give drink to the thirsty"

Visit their site at www.CRS.org

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY

Reflections for February 21st readings:

Memory Verse:

"Your presence, O Lord, I seek. Hide not your face from me." (Psalm 27:8-9)

Faith Sharing Question:

When have I felt called to leave my own comfort zone and serve the needs of others? What was my response?

Living as Disciples:

Leave your comfort zone and serve someone in need.



**On Monday,
February 15th,
the Church Office
will be open
normal office hours:
11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

STAY



Contact Information

Kathy Boscarino, DRE/YM
kathybosc@sbcglobal.net
(936) 520-6524

<http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org>

Weekly Events

Sundays CCE 9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Edge (7th –8th grade) Parish Hall
Lifeteen (9th– 11th) Youth Center

Wednesdays STAY Youth Night

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Yourh Center

But God proved His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

News and Events

Sunday, February 14, 2015

Lifeteen and Edge 9:15-10:30

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Valentines Day Fundraiser—Come set up, serve and/or clean up

Friday, 19, 2016

STAY Youth Night

Station of the Cross 7:00 English and 7:45 Spanish

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Parish wide Reconciliation Service

“The Church is a unique kind of community, the union of those baptized into Christ, formed by His Word—gathered around the table where we share Christ’s body in order to become his body for the world” Sister Sandra Schneiders

What’s Up at the Catholic Student Center

Joseph Magee, Ph.D., Director – 291-2620 – DSF Supported – <http://www.shsu-catholic.org>

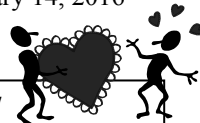
Week of February 14, 2016

Sunday 4 pm – Choir Practice

6 pm – Student Mass



7 pm – Valentine’s Day Dinner and Party
— Guest Chefs: Gladys Lara and Virginia Quinteros



Monday 4 pm – Rosary in the CSC

7 pm – Game/Social Night

8 pm – Men’s Small Group
– Women’s Small Group



Tuesday 5 pm – Catholic Movie Night

8 pm – Catholic Bible Study

Wednesday 4 pm – Rosary in the CSC

7 pm – Alive! Praise and Worship Music

Thursday 6:15 pm – Mass in CSC Chapel

7 pm – Café Catholica → Dinner and discussion
of all things Catholic.



Friday 4 pm – Rosary in the CSC

The DOOR of Mercy

Young Adult & Campus Ministry
Conference

**Workshops - Fun - Music - Prayer
- Eucharist**

Come and join hundreds of young
adults ages 18-35 celebrate the
Jubilee of Mercy

Saturday, February 27, 2016

8:30 am - 5:30 pm

St. Pius X High School

Charis

An overnight retreat for young
adults (18-35) centering on the
question: **Who do you say
that I am?**

March 11-12, 2016 - Camp Kappe

For more information on either
event, visit www.archgh.org/yacm

SERVE THE POOR.... Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor, honor them as you would Christ himself. —St. Louise de Marillac

SERVIR AL POBRE... Sé diligente en servir al pobre. Ama a los pobres, hónralos igual que honrarías al mismo Cristo. —Santa Louisa de Marillac

Palabras del Padre Fred... La gente le encanta venir a la iglesia cuando algo se regala. Piensa en las multitudes el Miércoles de Ceniza y el Domingo de Ramos. Hoy venimos a la iglesia para la Buena Nueva !? Empezamos la temporada santa de cuaresma varios días atrás. ¿Recuerdas las cenizas que has recibido? Recuerda que eres polvo y al polvo volverás. Esas palabras tradicionales que escuchamos al recibir nuestras cenizas contienen mucho para reflexionar sobre durante los próximos 40 días. Estas palabras nos recuerdan que Dios nos formó del polvo de la tierra. Como ya he mencionado hace varias semanas en una homilía, espiritualmente esas palabras nos recuerdan que somos seres contingentes, gente personas que somos radicalmente dependiente de aliento vital de Dios para darnos nuestra propia existencia. Esa verdad debe llevarnos a rechazar y correr lejos de cualquier falsos dioses o ídolos que podamos crear. En la tentación de Jesús en el desierto Él es tentado por los ídolos comunes que sucumbimos a: poder, posesiones, prestigio. Reconociendo la influencia que estos ídolos tienen sobre nosotros deberíamos venir humildemente delante de nuestro Dios buscando Su gracia y misericordia oportuna. Como Salmo 51 dice: *un corazón contrito y humilde, Señor, no lo desprecias.* Esa humilde, corazón contrito es el que ofrecemos al Señor durante la oración eucarística cuando respondemos a la invitación del sacerdote a: *Levantemos el corazón.* Pero esas mismas palabras que oímos cuando recibimos nuestras cenizas también deben hacernos recordar que somos más que personas creadas a imagen y semejanza de Dios. En las aguas del bautismo nos convertimos en nuevas criaturas en Cristo. Estamos divinizados. Compartimos en la naturaleza misma de Dios como miembros de la familia de Dios. Estos próximos 90 días (Cuaresma y Pascua) son el tiempo para "pulir" y usar - todo el tiempo - la ropa de la realeza. Somos regalías (reyes), después de todo por medio de la unción recibida en el bautismo. Pablo en Romanos 12 describe mejor lo que significa este estilo de vida real: *Yo los exhorto, por lo tanto, hermanos, por la misericordia de Dios, que ofrezcan sus cuerpos como sacrificio vivo, santo y agradable a Dios, tu culto espiritual. No sigan la corriente de este mundo, sino sean transformados mediante la renovación de nuestra mente, para que puedan discernir cuál es la voluntad de Dios, lo que es bueno, agradable y perfecta.* Mi consejo para todos nosotros: que tengamos un tiempo de Cuaresma alegre permitiendo que Dios nos moldee más perfectamente como Sus hijos. Feliz Cuaresma. Feliz Año Nuevo de la Merced.

Lenten Activities

Stations of the Cross Every Friday

7:00 p.m. In English

7:45 p.m. In Spanish

Fish Fry every Friday

Except Good Friday

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall

Actividades de Cuaresma

Via Cruzes todos los viernes

7:00 p.m. en Inglés

7:45 p.m. en Español

Comida de Pescado todos los viernes

(excepto Viernes Santo)

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. en el salon parroquial

JESUS AND THE DEVIL... The devil tempted Jesus by quoting scripture, as today's Gospel reminds us. Try a self-serving miracle. Try selling out. Try dazzling the audience; people are gullible, after all. Try all these easy ways. The tempter tries to urge Jesus onto the slippery slope, attempts the old soft-soap, the snake-oil solutions that are always readily at hand. The devil knows better, but is powerless to do better, much less be better. The devil is evil personified, who senses in Jesus the stronger, truly attractive presence of holiness. Evil is exposed and engaged, we are reminded in this Sunday's Gospel. Evil knows the jig is up. The undoing of lies begins with Jesus, who takes up the work of soul-healing and world-healing. This Lent, the Church invites us to enter into this renewing, re-creative work and be made whole again.

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EL AMOR CONQUISTA TODO... El amor conquista todas las cosas; démosle paso al amor. —Virgilo

JESÚS Y EL DEMONIO... Como nos recuerda el Evangelio de hoy, el demonio tentó a Jesús con citas de la Sagrada Escritura: haz un milagro que te convenga. Véndete. Deslumbra a tus oyentes; el pueblo es ingenuo y novelero. Camina por estas sendas fáciles. El tentador trata de llevar a Jesús por la senda fácil pero resbalosa, ofreciéndole las soluciones fáciles pero falsas que siempre están a la mano. El demonio sabe lo que es bueno, pero no tiene la capacidad de hacer lo que es bueno, y menos aún de *ser* bueno. El demonio es la personificación del Mal, e intuye en Jesús la presencia más fuerte, y más genuinamente atractiva, de la santidad. El Evangelio de este domingo nos muestra al Mal expuesto y desenmascarado. Satanás sabe que se le ha acabado el juego. Hoy Jesús comienza a deshacer su tejido de mentiras, y a sanar a las almas, y al mundo entero. Y en este tiempo de Cuaresma, la Iglesia nos invita a participar en esta labor de renovación, de nueva creación, y a dejar que Cristo nos sane. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.