



# St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office: 1603 Avenue N \* Huntsville, TX 77340

Church: 1323 16th St. \* Huntsville, TX 77340

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

"...there is no inequality of significance amongst us except holiness..."  
"No hay desigualdad de importancia entre nosotros excepto la santidad..."

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*December 24, 2017*

*May it be  
done to me  
according to  
YOUR WORD*



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## STAFF

Rev. Fred Valone.....Pastor  
Felix Ramos.....Permanent Deacon  
Kathy Boscarino.....DRE / Y M  
Maria Delgado..... Elem. CCE  
Marisol Urbina.....Administrative Asst.  
Rick Reed.....Music Coordinator  
Jill Baker.....Nursery Coordinator  
Pat Norfleet.....Bookkeeper  
Sylvia Vitela.....Secretary  
Laura Puente.....Custodian

## Mass Schedules

Saturday/ Sabado	5:30 pm English
Sunday/ Domingo	7:45 am English 10:45 am English 12:30 pm Spanish
Monday/ Lunes	No Mass
Tuesday; Martes-Friday / Viernes	7:15 am

Reconciliation  
Reconciliación

Tues/Martes 4:30-5:30 pm






Sat/Sabado 4:00-5:00 pm

Adoration/Adoracion

Tues/  
Martes After 7:15 mass.  
Until 5:30pm



## Mass Intentions Of The Week

Sat	12/23	5:30 pm	Charles F. Massey 
Sun	12/24	9:00 am	Parishioners
		11:00 am	Lucia Quintana Yépez 
		4:00 pm	James Lerma 
		6:00 pm	Catherine Gabel 
		8:00pm	
		12:00 am	For all St. Thomas Parish Staff members Intentions
Mon	12/25	10:00 am	John William Heckler 
Tues	12/26	No Mass	
Wed	12/27	No Mass	
Thur	12/28	7:15 am	Steely & Milam living and deceased family members
Fri	12/29	7:15 am	For all Fellers family Grand-children
Sat	12/30	5:30 pm	Bill & Karen McPike (57th Anniversary)
Sun	12/31	7:45 am	Parishioners
		10:45 am	Kerri Strubing (Birthday)
		12:30 pm	



December 17th: \$16,230.36  
 Christmas Project: \$251.00

*Thank you for your continued parish support!*

### Diocesan Service Fund As of December 4, 2017

<b>Parish Goal</b>	<b>\$37,000.00</b>
<b>Total amount paid</b>	<b>\$43,185.11</b>
<b>Total amount pledged</b>	<b>\$43,772.61</b>
<b>P aid over goal</b>	<b>\$6,185.11</b>



Judy Adib, Veronica Antwi, James Aubey, Irma Avalos, Brad & Carmen Bachman, Gene Barrett, Jordan Bergeron, Chelsea Brown, Fidelis Burton, Phillip Caito, Wren Colligan, Sunni Cook, Sabrina Coronado, Terry Corral, Melanie Davis, Colin Dufour, Victor Espino, Mary Gedelian, Ingrid Gonzalez, Mike Hillman, Dorothy Jordan, Sandra Kilgore, Kevin Kretschmar, Edwin Laake, Al Losack, Katy Losack, Edward Lucas, Don Marcotte, Sam and Marie Martinez, Lucy Mata, Coby Meiner, Mable Milliet, Donna Moore, Floyd & MaryAnn Moore, Susan Montoya, Lourdes Mosqueda, Mike Phillips, Brenda Piñeda, Kathy Price, John Raia, Ana Marie Santos, John Sarlay, Kenny Sechelski, Kayden Bryn Shipley, Nathan Shroyer, Linda Skains, Cheryl Smith, Kathy Stoltz, Jean Stow, Ray Townley, Dorothy Townsend, Matthew Varnum, Maria Elena Valencia, Shirley Villareal, Rusty Wallace, Bill Walton, Alma Williams, Charlotte Rose Winkler, Rose Youngblood,

## WEEKLY READINGS



Mon	12/25	Is 52: 7-10; HEB 1: 1-6 JN 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tues	12/26	ACTS 6:8-10, 7:54-59 MT 10: 17-22
Wed	12/27	1 JN 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thurs	12/28	1 JN 1: 5—2:2
Fri	12/29	1 JN 2:3-11; LK 2:22-35
Sat	12/30	1JN 2:12-17; JK 2:36-40
Sun	12/31	SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 or GN 15:01-6,21:1-3 COL 3:12-21 or 3:12-17or HEB 11:8,11-12,17-19; LK 2:22-40 or 2:22-39-40



**Have a Merry  
 Christmas!  
 Stay Safe and  
 Warm!  
 From everyone in the  
 Office!**



### *From Fr. Fred's Desk . . .*

On December 6, St. Nicholas would visit each home of a small town while all were asleep. He would leave a red apple and other gifts for the children. As he was leaving, he would knock on the door. Of course, by the time the family opened the door, he was no where to be seen. Of all the gifts, the most treasured was the red apple. It was a sign that the boy or girl had been good and well-behaved and that the child would be receiving many Christmas gifts. Of course, if a child got coal, it reminded the child that Christmas would be without gifts. In the village no one could remember any child ever receiving coal. Until one year. As the families opened the door on St. Nicholas's Day, the children rushed to look at their stockings only to find coal and no red apple. Each child and his or her parents wondered what they had done wrong to deserve the coal. And they wondered whether Christmas would be without gifts that year. Everyone was embarrassed to tell their friends that their children had received coal. But eventually everyone discovered that no child had received a red apple. An old woman named Mara was the reason there were no red apples that year. Her life had been difficult and painful so she withdrew into her loneliness and assumed that no one loved her. That year, Mara decided that she would follow ST. Nick around town. After he had filled the stockings with gifts and the red apple, she would remove the apple and replace it with coal. That fateful night she had gotten many apples. But the joy and love that she had expected from owning so many treasured apples did not come. As Christmas approached, everyone in the town was silent and sullen. Mara realized the mistake that she had made and tried to correct it. On Christmas Eve, as the citizens were all gathered for Christmas Mass, Mara was outside the church with her red apples. She went to the large evergreen tree in the town square and quickly hung them on the tree. EA the moonlight bounced off the snow, each apple turned a golden color. As the people left the church, everyone stood in awe at the tree decorated with golden apples. The children shouted and screamed with excitement, and neighbors were once again filled with the deep joy of Christmas as they wished one another "Merry Christmas." As the families left, each child took an apple. Finally when all had gone, Mara stood besides the tree with a joy that she had not known in a long time. She smiled to herself feeling good about the love she had witnessed. It was a most holy Christmas night. As she walked around the tree one last time, she noticed that there was one golden apple left. How strange that there was one extra, she thought. As she reached up to take the apple, her heart began to race. She too was loved. Tears streamed down her cheeks as she held the apple in her hand. She was loved not only by God but by everyone in the town. As she left for home, the only noise in town was that of a figure in flowing robes with a shepherd staff who smiled to himself and then quickly disappeared. Christmas is the celebration of Love. God came down to earth as an infant to remind us of how much we are loved. As Saint John Paul II stated that Christianity, the Good News, is amazement at our dignity and worth. As we share our Christmas gifts with one another this year, take a moment to remind yourself of the importance of the Gift that God has given to you in Jesus. Merry Christmas and many blessings for you in the new year.

### *Del escritorio de Padre Fred . . .*

En Diciembre seis (6), San Nicolás visitaba todas las casas de un pequeño pueblo mientras la gente dormía, y les dejaba una manzana roja y otros regalitos para los niños. Al terminar, San Nicolás tocaba la puerta, pero cuando la familia abría la puerta, no lo encontraban por ninguna parte. De todos los regalos que dejaba, el más preciado era la manzana roja, ya que esta era un signo de que el niño o niña se había portado muy bien y en Navidad recibiría muchos regalos. Pero si el niño o niña recibía un pedazo de carbón, esto significaba que habría una Navidad sin regalos. En el pequeño pueblo, nadie nunca había recibido un pedazo de carbón, con excepción de un año. Al levantarse la familia y al buscar la manzana roja solo encontraron un pedazo de carbón. Ninguna de las familias dijo nada, ya que tenían vergüenza de que no hubieran recibido la manzana roja, pero muy pronto todos se dieron cuenta de que a todas las familias les había pasado lo mismo. La culpa de no haber recibido manzanas rojas ese año era de Mara, una mujer ya mayor. Su vida no había sido fácil, más bien había sido muy dura y dolorosa, así es que decidió sumirse en su soledad y pensó que nadie la quería. Ese año Mara siguió a San Nicolás y cada manzana roja que el dejaba, ella la quitaba y en su lugar dejaba un pedazo de carbón. Al hacer esto, ella esperaba sentir amor y gozo por tener tantas manzanas tan esperadas por otros, pero en realidad esa alegría nunca lleo. La Navidad ya se acercaba, sin embargo todos en el pueblo estaban callados y afligidos. Mara se dio cuenta del gran error que había hecho y trato de corregirlo. En la noche de Navidad mientras todos se encontraban en Misa, Mara colgó las manzanas rojas del pino que estaba en el centro del pueblo. Luego al caer la nieve y bajo la luz de la luna, las manzanas tomaron un color dorado. Al salir la gente de la iglesia, todos estaban admirados al ver el árbol decorado con manzanas doradas. Los niños gritaban llenos de alegría y gozo y todos los vecinos estaban llenos del espíritu Navideño que se deseaban unos a otros "Una Feliz Navidad". Al irse, cada uno de los niños tomo una manzana. Mara se quedo parada a un lado del árbol con un gozo que no había sentido hace mucho tiempo. Se sonrió para si misma al haber sido testigo de tanto amor. Esta había sido la noche da Navidad mas Santa. Al caminar alrededor del árbol antes de irse, se dio cuenta que había una última manzana. Pensó para si misma que era muy extraño que hubiera una manzana extra, y al tomar la manzana su corazón palpitaba muy rápido. Se dio cuenta que ELLA también era amada. Comenzó a llorar al tomar la manzana en sus manos, ya que no solo Dios la amaba, sino toda la gente del pueblo. Al irse a casa, solo oyó un ruido en el pueblo, era el de una figura flotante en túnicas y con un bastón en su mano, quien le sonrió y después se desvaneció. La Navidad es la celebración del amor. Dios vino a la tierra cuando era un bebé para recordarnos cuánto nos ama. Como dijo San Juan Pablo II, el cristianismo, las Buenas Nuevas, es asombro por nuestra dignidad y nuestro valor. Al compartir nuestros regalos de Navidad entre ustedes este año, tómense un momento para recordar la importancia del Regalo que Dios les ha dado en Jesús. Feliz Navidad y muchas bendiciones para ti en el nuevo año.



### Archdiocesan 2018 Junior High Youth Rally

Saturday February 24, 2018

10:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

St. Simon and Jude—Woodlands

Cost: \$40

Deadline to Register: January 14, 2018

Registrations packets can be picked up:

Junior High Edge • Parish Office • online

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

#### What's Up in Edge—December 2017

3rd (Sunday)	Edge 9:05-10:20	Parish Hall
5th (Tuesday)	NO STAY	Sacrament Prep.
10th (Sunday)	Edge 9:05-10:20	Parish Hall
12th (Tuesday)	NO STAY	Sacrament Prep. .
17th (Sunday)	<b>NO</b> Edge 9:05-10:20	Parish Hall
21st (Tuesday)	No STAY	Sacrament Prep.
24th (Sunday)	<b>NO</b> Edge <b>Merry Christmas!</b>	
31st (Sunday)	<b>NO</b> Edge 9:05-10:20	Parish Hall



*S.T.A.Y. Ministry*  
Youth 7th -12th Grade

#### Contact/Contacto:

Kathy Boscarino, DRE/Youth Minister  
kboscarino@saintthomashuntsville.org  
(936) 295-8159 (936) 520-6524

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works. Psalm 139:14



*Merry Christmas from STAY Life Teen*

¿Are you a high school youth?  
Eres un joven de secundaria?  
Come Join Us!  
¡Vengan a participar!



#### What's Up in Life Teen—December 2017

3rd (Sunday)	<b>Confirmation 2018</b>	Youth Center
5th (Tuesday)	No STAY	Sacrament Prep
6th (Wednesday)	Life Teen 6:30-8:30	Parish Hall
10th (Sunday)	<b>Homeschool meeting</b>	9:15-10:30
12th (Tuesday)	No STAY	Sacrament Prep. Returns 1/9/18
13th (Wednesday)	Life Teen 6:30-8:30	Parish Hall
19th (Tuesday)	Sacrament Prep returns	1/9/18
20th (Wednesday)	No Life Teen 6:30-8:30	Returns 1/10/18
26th (Tuesday)	No STAY	Sacrament <b>Returns 1/9/2017</b>
27th (Wednesday)	No Life Teen 6:30-8:30	<b>Returns 1/10/18</b>

## “Words to Ponder”

“Baby Jesus did not need the riches of the Wise Men, or the drumming of a little boy. He wanted them. He still wants them. He is filled with great joy at the offerings of God’s children. And that little boy needed to offer to his King the only thing he possessed. He needed to feel His love and know that he belonged to Him...” – from *Everyday Stewardship*. What do you have to offer Jesus this Christmas and next year?



## Office Memo

The Office will be closed, Monday, the 25th and Tuesday, the 26th in observance of the Christmas Holidays.

No Morning masses on Tuesday the 26th and Wednesday the 27th.

NO Adoration Tuesday the 26th.

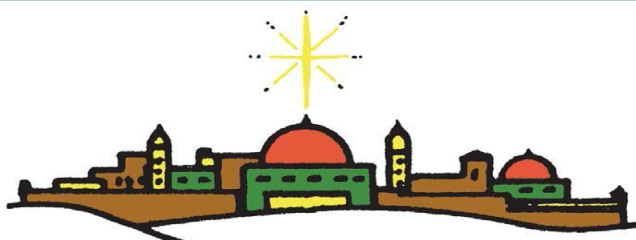
English Baptism preparation sessions  
Tuesday, January 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Please register in the office prior to attending sessions. Birth certificate should be presented at time of registration.

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Sesiones de preparación para Bautismos  
Miércoles, 10 y jueves 11 de enero, 7:00 p.m.

Por favor regístrese en la oficina parroquial antes de asistir las sesiones. El certificado de nacimiento debe ser presentado al tiempo de la inscripción.



# FELIZ NAVIDAD

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## St. Thomas the Apostle now has a Discipleship Committee!

The members of this committee are:

Deacon Felix Ramos, Stephen Farlow, Judy Sower, Lois Brown, and Mary Gedelian

The **PURPOSE** of the Discipleship Committee is to fulfill Christ’s desire to draw all people to himself as he is lifted up. (John 12:32)

Its **MISSION** is to foster a spirit of intentional discipleship as a way of life flowing from each individual’s personal relationship with God.

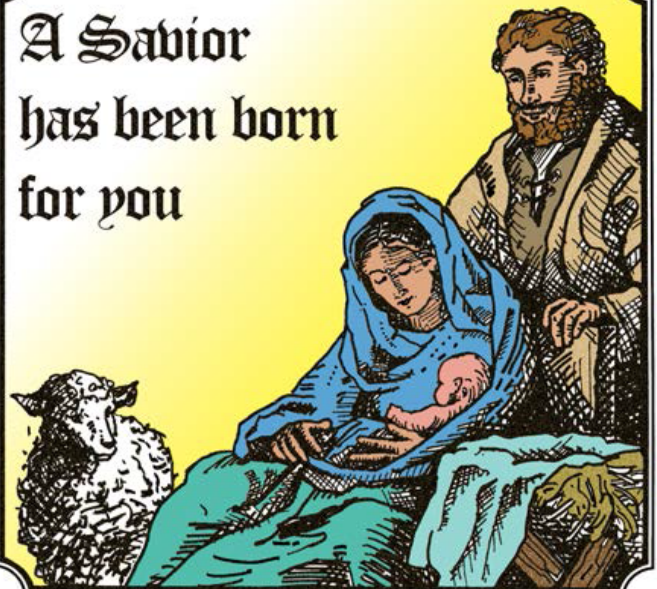
If you are interested in working on this important ministry please contact one of the above members or any parish pastoral council representative.

## GOD’S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God’s promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God’s name, poetically turns around David’s plan to build a house for God, and announces God’s plan to build a “house,” that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it’s amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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## A Savior has been born for you



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### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the Christkind in Austria and Belgium, El Niño Jesús in Columbia, and Le Petit Jesus in France, where he shares his duties with Père Noël. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but Ježíšek, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### NOT TOO MUCH

If you have too many things to do, with God's help you will find the time to do it all.  
—San Pedro Canisio

### TESOROS DE NUESTRA TRADICIÓN

Los niños de la parroquia están enfocados en Santa Claus en estos días, quien está vigilando quién es malo y quién es bueno. Santa Claus, con su patrón celestial San Nicolás, ha estado más o menos a cargo de dar regalos a los niños estadounidenses durante cien años más o menos. En otros lugares, tal vez más atentos a nuestra tradición cristiana, hay diferentes portadores de regalos. En Grecia, San Basilio entrega los regalos en su día de fiesta, el 31 de diciembre, y se asegura de que todos estén salpicados de agua bendita. El Niño Jesús está a cargo en otro lugar, llamado el Christkind en Austria y Bélgica, El Niño Jesús en Colombia, y Le Petit Jesus en Francia, donde comparte sus deberes con Père Noël. En la República Checa casi todos son ateos, pero Ježíšek, el niño Jesús, trae regalos para todos. En Polonia, se dice que el "Hombre de las Estrellas" trae los regalos, aunque a menudo resulta ser el cura del pueblo disfrazado. San Nicolás, no su primo americanizado, es el dador en Holanda, donde viste una mitra de obispo, y en Rusia, donde lleva una corona de obispo. La Rusia soviética trató de destronar a San Nicolás y promover al abuelo Escarcha, pero nadie fue engañado por este intento de sacar a la religión del nacimiento de Cristo. Un país tiene una mujer santa a cargo de los regalos, Santa Lucía, honrada en Suecia el 13 de diciembre, cuando los niños sirven el desayuno a sus padres en la cama, y otros despiertan a las noticias de que han sido nominados para un Premio Nobel. Algunos niños tienen una segunda ronda de regalos en Epiphany, cuando los magos asumen los deberes de obsequios. En general, los regalos de Navidad son placeres simples, no grandes cantidades de tesoros. Érase una vez, un nuevo par de calcetines o una naranja fue suficiente para nosotros. No importa qué regalos recibamos, todos ellos nos señalan el verdadero regalo y el verdadero dador.

—Rdo. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### NO DEMASIADO

Si tienes demasiadas cosas que hacer, con la ayuda de Dios encontrarás el tiempo para hacerlo todo.  
—San Pedro Canisio

### *Living as Disciples* – “whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did it for me.”

**The St. Thomas Meals on Wheels ministry delivers hot meals prepared by the Walker County Senior Center to seniors on two routes every Tuesday. We always deliver in pairs and usually are scheduled to deliver about once every 3-4 weeks. We schedule in two-month blocks based on constraints provided to the scheduler. Delivery times vary but average about 1 to 1.5 hours.**

**The people you meet as you deliver will touch your heart in many ways and make you glad that you are being God's hands in feeding His hungry. After just a few deliveries you will find that you think of many of our seniors as friends rather than clients. We are a collection of caring individuals with no leader—just a schedule coordinator. We have no meetings—just go about our Tuesday deliveries. While we are mostly comprised of members of St. Thomas, we do have a few members of other faiths. If you would like more information, or would like to join our group, email Vic Sower at [sowerv@shsu.edu](mailto:sowerv@shsu.edu) or call Vic or Judy Sower at 936-294-9993. New members of our group are always scheduled with “veterans” for their first delivery. Our next 2 month schedule for January and February will be planned in the middle of December, so come join us now.**