



And so it begins — the holy and, for some, daunting, season of Lent. This is the season in our liturgical year when the Church encourages us to increase our prayer, fasting and almsgiving in order to enter more deeply into the mystery of our Lord’s Passion and Death and to celebrate more fully His Resurrection. Our outlook as Christian stewards can help us embrace this season with enthusiasm and even joy.

The First Reading, from Deuteronomy, presents a beautiful and positive way to approach Lent. The passage begins with Moses speaking to the people. He reminds them that the Lord saw their affliction and responded mercifully to their cry by delivering them from oppression in Egypt, and by bringing them to a land flowing with milk and honey. Moses teaches the people how they should respond to such a wonderful God. He instructs them to approach the Lord with these words: “Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given me.” In other words, Moses teaches the people to respond as grateful stewards for all that God has done for them.

As grateful stewards ourselves, we can look at these 40 days as “soil” that God is giving us as a gift to grow closer to Him and become more like Him. We can choose to use each of these days intentionally to make a generous response to our God, who sent His own Son to deliver us from the affliction and oppression caused by sin.

Jesus, by His own example in today’s Gospel, demonstrates the necessity of setting aside a period of time devoted especially to prayer and fasting as a means of strengthening our spiritual muscles. Just before the launch of His public ministry, He is “led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.” In imitation of Jesus, we should ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into the desert, too — the desert of our interior lives where our thoughts and desires reside.

While our Lord was strong enough to withstand the temptations of the devil on His own, we most certainly are not! We must turn to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show us where we need to grow interiorly and then rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance throughout these forty days of growth.

We may discover we are weak in our knowledge of the faith and can devote these Lenten days to spiritual reading or Bible study. We may discover our prayer life has gone by the wayside and we must discipline ourselves anew and commit to a regular, daily time for prayer. Perhaps we have given in to selfishness and comfort seeking and we can determine to give up our favorite coffee drink or social media “fix” and find a project that serves the poor in our community.

If these spiritual exercises hurt a little, that means we are doing them right! It means we will have some wonderful “first fruits” to present to our Lord at the close of this season; we will be prepared to enter into the grace-filled days of the Triduum and we will, through the power of the Holy Spirit, be resurrected as a new creation with our Lord come Easter. Let us begin!

**YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**March 3, 2019**

Vigil Lights.....	\$	117.35
Weekly Collection.....	\$	5,270.41
Facilities Improvement .....	\$	1,394.40

**Second Collection - March 16 – 17**  
**Helping Hands Fund**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**We have a several “Special Days” coming up!**

**Wed, March 13th** - Lenten Mission (Spanish)  
7 pm - *Presenter: Deacon Jose Angel*

**Tues, March 19th** - Catholic Father’s Day (St. Joseph)  
6:30 pm - Mass followed by Refreshments in Carolan Hall

**Wed, March 20th** - Lenten Mission (English)  
7 pm - *Presenter: Fr. Jim Schellenberg*

**Wed, March 27th** - Lenten Penance Service  
6:30 pm - Bi-Lingual Prep w/Examination of Conscience  
*(Presenter: Deacon Rolando Guerra)*

7 pm - Individual Confessions  
*Several priests will be available.*  
*Take advantage of this opportunity to prepare for Easter!*

**Catholic Father's Day** - St. Joseph's feast day on Tuesday, March 19 is a kind of "Catholic Father's Day," an opportunity for Catholic men - and the women who love them - to reflect on the critical role dads play in their children's faith and character development.

A recent study found that of the majority of millennials who leave the Church, 74 percent abandon Catholicism between the ages of 10 and 20. And, for the most part they found that they had been raised in households where Church was more a side thought... than a way of life. The authors of this study noted that young people unconsciously absorb parents' attitudes regarding the importance of their Catholic faith in the real world. Which brings us to the importance of Catholic fathers.

While research tends to show that strong maternal attachment plants the early seeds of faith in children, a child's strong relationship with a faithful father is the best predictor of adult faith. It has been noted that in religious matters... having a close bond with one's father matters even more than a close relationship with the mother." Dad's unique power to help kids own their faith into adulthood may come from the father's position as "first other" in the child's life. For almost the first two years of life, the child thinks of his mother as an extension of him or her self. It takes the child a while to realize they are a distinct person.

As the mother is essential to the development of a child's internal sense of self, the father is essential for helping the child determine their relationship with the world... Where mom and child are both seen by the child as "me," the father is the first "not me" the child experiences. For the child, the father's behavior represents how "the world" (anything that is "not me") works. A mother can give a child a religious *feeling*, but she is not in as good a position to model how to live that religious sentiment in a meaningful way outside the home.

As children grow, their fathers' religious characteristics become more important than their mothers'. It has been found that as little as 4 percent of children can be expected to carry their faith into adulthood when fathers are uninvolved in faith formation.

But it isn't enough for dads simply to quote the Catechism at their kids and drag them to church. In addition to fathers being seen by their children as faith leaders in the home, children needed to have a close, loving attachment with a faithful father in order for religious lessons to stick.

The more you see young adults living their faith "out loud," the more likely it is that they had a strong attachment to a faithful father growing up... a father who modeled the idea that "the world" expected them to live their faith overtly. By contrast, the more a young adult has spiritual leanings but struggles to apply his faith in his life, the more likely it is that the child had a religious mother but a father who either failed to model how to practice the Faith in meaningful ways or who failed to form a strong relationship with his children.

Fathers play a critical role in the normal, ideal pathway that God created to allow his children to come to know, love and serve him throughout their lives. There are many pathways those who have fallen away from the Church may use to find their way back. God will not be thwarted in his efforts to call his children to him.

This feast of St. Joseph, let's pray that more Catholic dads follow their patron's example by living their faith boldly and sharing that faith by means of a strong, heart-to-heart connection with their children.

*Join us for a special "Catholic Father's Day" Mass Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm followed by refreshments in Carolan Hall.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Are you a registered member of our St. Thomas More Parish community?  
Are you sure? We are trying to 'get a handle' on *who's-who* in the Parish.

**Registration for New Parishioners and Re-Registration for Current Parishioners** will begin this weekend (March 9 - 10).

This will be an ongoing process that will take several months to ensure that all are given the opportunity to register.

Registration Forms in English and Spanish will be available at all Masses.

Completed forms may be dropped off in the box placed at the back of the church or may be dropped off at the Rectory Office.



**GUADALUPANO NEWS**

Friends and Family Members of St. Thomas More:  
You are invited to our Annual Guadalupe Retreat  
Join us for this inspiring event! (Free Admission)

There will be: DOOR PRIZES!!  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

**Saturday, March 16, 2019**

8 a.m. (Mass-in church) / Retreat 'till Noon in Carolan Hall

Theme: Presentations on St. Padre Pio and the Rosary

Speaker: Fr. Pat Martin

Questions: Contact Annabelle Garza @ (210) 655-5661



**Join us on Saturday, March 23rd for our 2019  
TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE CRUSADE!!**

**WHY?**

Traditional Marriage deserves public recognition!

To quote Pope Pius XI,

*“How great is the dignity of chaste wedlock.”*

Society’s understanding of true marriage has become blurred. A true marriage is between 1 man and 1 woman. Let us charitably remind our fellow Americans what true Marriage is.

Traditional marriage is good for the family. Healthy marriages produce healthy families.

Traditional marriage is good for America. America is simply a union of thousands of families. When marriage and the family are healthy... so is America!

Our Lady said, “Many marriages are not good and do not please our Lord.” We need to offer public prayer so that Holy and Traditional Marriage will be restored in America.

In times of evil we have an even greater duty to stand Up for the teachings and institutions of the Church.

**Intentions for our  
TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE CRUSADE**

The restoration of traditional marriage between 1 man and 1 woman all throughout America

For the conversion of America so it may fulfill its historic mission.

That our national leaders seek to honor God’s Law and pray for the wisdom and knowledge to solve America’s complex problems.

For the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in America... and in the world.

In reparation for the countless sins committed daily against the most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the most Immaculate Heart of Mary.

For the Catholic Church... that our Lady grant it victory over its enemies, declared and undeclared.

For the end to abortion, pornography and same-sex “marriage” and all offences against God’s Law.

For our enemies... that Our Lady touch their hearts and convert them.



**Grupo de Oración  
Familias compartiendo la palabra**



- Mar 15 - Las Tentaciones de Jesus
- Mar 22 - El Reino de Dios esta Cerca
- Mar 29 - Anuncio del Reino de Dios

El grupo de oración se reúne los viernes a las 7 pm.  
Para mas informacion contacte Marisa Isabel Hernandez.

**Readings for the week of Mar 11 - 17**

- Monday:** Lv 19:1-2,11-18; Ps 19:8-10,15; Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7,16-19; Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19; Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday:** Est C:12,14-16,23-25; Ps 138:1-3,7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
- Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8; Mt 5:43-48
- Sunday:** Gn 15:5-12,17-18; Ps 27:1,7-9,13-14; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36



**St. Thomas More English  
Prayer Group**



- Mar 14 - Prayer & Reflection for STM Catholic Fathers
- Mar 21 - Lenten Discussion  
Imitation of Christ (Psalm 51:14); Speaker: Stella Lopez
- Mar 18 - Bible Study - John 3:1-21; Speaker: Tomas Guerrero  
Conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus

Prayer Group meets every Thursday in the Church at 7:00 pm  
Contacts: Olga Guerrero, 657-1610 or Stella Lopez, 618-6977

**Lecturas de la Semana del marzo 11 - 17**

- Lunes:** Lv 19:1-2,11-18; Sal 19:8-10,15; Mt 25:31-46
- Martes:** Is 55:10-11; Sal 34:4-7,16-19; Mt 6:7-15
- Miércoles:** Jon 3:1-10; Sal 51:3-4,12-13,18-19; Lc 11:29-32
- Jueves:** Est C:12:14-16:23-25; Ps 138:1-3:7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
- Viernes:** Ez 18:21-28; Sal 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
- Sábado:** Dt 26:16-19; Sal 119:1-2,4-5,7-8; Mt 5:43-48
- Domingo:** Gn 15:5-12,17-18; Sal 27:1,7-9,13-14; Flp 3:17-4:1; Lc 9:28-36

**2019- Archbishop’s Appeal  
as of March 5th**

**Parish Goal:** \$15,035.04  
**Total Pledged:** \$10,594.00 (70.46%)  
**Total Collected:** \$ 4,884.78  
**Parish Participation Level:** 6%

**¡Ándale! Capital Campaign**

**Pledge Update - as of February 28th**

**Parish Goal:** \$388,000.  
**Pledged:** \$284,493 (73%)  
**Shortfall:** \$107,567.  
**Parish Participation Level:** 16%

**This Week at our Parish**

**Sunday, March 10, 2019**  
 8:30 am KoC Breakfast - Carolan Hall  
 9:30 am RCIA-C / Faith Formation - School

**Monday, March 11, 2019**  
 1:00 pm Catholic TV - Church  
 6:30 pm KoC 3rd Degree Mtg. - Carolan Hall  
 7:00 pm Ultreya - Dining Room  
 Cenaculo - Rectory Mtg. Room  
 Guadalupano Brd Mtg. - Rectory Mtg. Room

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019**  
 5:30 pm Divine Mercy Devotion - Rectory Mtg. Room  
 6:30 pm Guadalupano Rosary - Church  
 7:00 pm Grupo Choir - Church

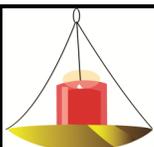
**Wednesday, March 13, 2019**  
 6:00 pm Pastoral Council - Rectory Mtg. Room  
 7:00 pm Lenten Mission (Span) - Church

**Thursday, March 14, 2019**  
 7:00 pm English Prayer Grp - Church  
 RCIA - Rectory Meeting Room  
 CDA Board Mtg. - Dining Room

**Friday, March 15, 2019**  
 7:00 pm Coro Alegria - Dining Room  
 Grupo de Oracion - Church

**Saturday, March 16, 2019**  
 8:00 am Guadalupanos Retreat - Carolan Hall

**Sunday, March 17, 2019**  
 8:30 am Guadalupano General Mtg - Carolan Hall  
 9:30 am RCIA-C / Faith Formation - School



**Sanctuary Light Intention:**

†Cristina Gerkin

**Liturgical Roles**

**Saturday, March 16, 2019**  
 5 pm **Altar Servers** - Volunteer  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Tim, E.Guerrero,  
 W+G.Larson, M.Fisher  
**Lector** - M.Fisher

**Sunday, March 17, 2019**  
 8 am **Altar Servers** - Z.Dempsey  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Rolando, T.S.Garza,  
 E.Garcia, A.Garza, A.Silvas  
**Lector** - O.Weich

10 am **Altar Servers** - J.Cantu, T.Gutierrez, +Volunteers  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Tim, H.Rodriguez,  
 N.Rodriguez, A+S.Perez, M+S.Briseno  
**Lector** - M.Briseno

12 pm **Altar Servers** - Volunteers  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Rolando, Gil.Torres,  
 Quad.Torres, D+F.Malacara  
**Lector** - A.Martinez / M.Pina

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, March 9, 2019**  
 8:00 am †Joseph Weich  
 †Frances Reyes by Rita Davis  
 5:00 pm †Joe Trevino by Trevino Family  
 †Gilbert Cantu, Jr by Juanita Cantu  
 †The Rodriguez Family by Juanita Cantu  
 †The Cantu Family by Juanita Cantu  
**BIRTHDAY** - Daniel S. Menchaca, Jr by Family

**Sunday, March 10, 2019**  
 8:00 am †Guadalupe Sanchez by Family  
 †Alicia D. Mora by Frances Botello  
 †the Soul of Cecilia by Family  
 10:00 am RCIA / RCIA-C Catechumen and Candidates  
 12:00 pm †Diana Castellon  
 †Ivan Alejandro Pacheco by Family  
 †Arturo Franco by Family

**Monday, March 11, 2019**  
 8:00 am †Cristina Gerkin by Grandparents  
 †Shirley Nieberding by a Friend  
 †For all who have died

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019**  
 8:00 am †Wilda Sanders

**Wednesday, March 13, 2019**  
 8:00 am †Cristina Gerkin by Grandparents  
 †Juanita Cruz Mireles by Family  
 †For all who have died

**Thursday, March 14, 2019**  
 8:00 am †Geri and Ray Wiater

**Friday, March 15, 2019**  
 8:00 am STM School Staff and Students

**Saturday, March 16, 2019**  
 8:00 am †For all who have died  
 5:00 pm †Lydia Granado

**Sunday, March 17, 2019**  
 8:00 am †Hilda Valdez by Elda Garcia  
 †Lilia Espinoza by Daughter Ida & Espinoza Family  
 †Andrea Oralia Guerrero by Guadalupanos  
 †Margarita Garcia by Espinoza  
 10:00 am †Eileen and †Paul Przybylski  
 12:00 pm †Maria Guadalupe Morales by Family



**MAY SHE REST IN PEACE:**

May God comfort the families and friends of  
**Wilda Sanders**  
 who died during the past week.

Our sincere sympathy and assurances of prayers are extended to Maxine, the Sanders and Sumner Families