

Today's readings challenge us to reflect on the true state of our hearts as it relates to stewardship. Do we think of stewardship as something we take care of once a year, simply a matter of ticking off boxes on a commitment card — or do we choose to embrace it as a spirituality and way of life that allows us to grow in conformity to Christ every day?

Our first reading, from the book of Sirach, teaches that our good God has given us freedom to make this choice: "If you choose you can keep the commandments." "Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him." What great dignity the Father bestows on us that He does not force us to commit to Him — rather He allows us the freedom to choose Him, even though He emphatically does not want us to reject Him through selfishness and sin. (We read at the end of this passage, "No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin.")

Our second reading, from Corinthians, reminds us of the great joy that will be ours if we do choose to commit to God by the way we live our lives. "Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard... what God has prepared for those who love him." Our Heavenly Father is more eager than we can comprehend to fill us with His grace and blessings. But we must choose Him. How do we do this? By keeping His commandments as our first reading instructs — by putting the teachings of our Lord and the Church into practice every day,

The concept of stewardship helps us to live out the fundamental choice to put God first. Stewardship is not meant to be a mere external exercise in which we participate on an occasional basis. It is meant to be embraced as a way of life a life that involves a continuous conversion of heart.

In our Gospel passage, from Matthew, Jesus illustrates the difference between an external observance of the law and a true conversion of heart. He says to His disciples, "Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." The scribes and Pharisees were the spiritual heavyweights of their day. They checked all the boxes when it came to the proper exercise of the religious practices required of them. Yet our Lord says it wasn't enough.

Why? They did not allow those practices to penetrate their hearts and change them internally. Jesus explains with a further illustration saying, "You have heard that it was said... you shall not kill... But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." Our Lord is asking us not only for exterior acts, but for a true change of heart. In stewardship terms that means seeing everything as a gift from Him, to be used for His glory and the good of others.

In the week ahead let us examine the state of our hearts to ask ourselves if we have chosen to allow stewardship to become a way of life for us. Only then we will experience its true depth and heart-changing possibilities. The choice is ours.

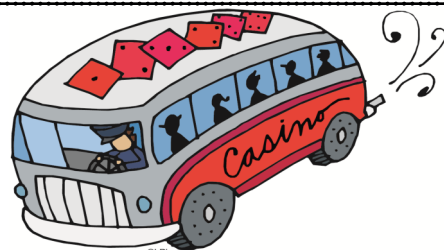
Mark your calendars!!

Monday, February 17th...

Our Guadalupanos are planning another trip to the Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino in Eagle Pass!

Come join us for a good time! Seating is limited.

For More details... Contact: Elda Garcia @ 210-421-3040 or Belinda Trevino @ 210-275-6529



YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

February 9, 2020 done

Weekly Collection.....	\$	5,594.00
Vigil Lights.....	\$	125.49
Facilities Improvement.....	\$	90.00
Helping Hands.....	\$	35.00

Second Collection: Feb 22 - 23:

No Second Collection Next Week

ASH WEDNESDAY



Remember... You are dust! And, to dust you shall return!
¡Recuerda que eres polvo! y al polvo has de Volver.
Repent... and, Believe in the Gospel!
Conviértete y cree en el Evangelio



Wed, February 26 - Ash Wednesday: 6 am - Mass (English)
El 26 de febrero - miércoles de Ceniza: 8 am - School Mass (English)
 10 am - Communion Svc w/Ashes
 12-Noon - Mass (English)
 5 pm - Communion Svc w/Ashes
 6 pm - Mass (English)
 7:30 pm - Mass (Spanish)

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday! Your Lenten Goal?

Get closer to the God of the universe... closer to Jesus! Strengthen your relationship with God... but... how? Traditionally... we “give – or offer – up” things we tend to love too much... Things that we sometimes place before God... sports... food... etc. making them our #1... When we “give up” something for Lent, we’re supposed to do it so that we can make more room for Jesus, not just make our lives more challenging! So what’s your focus? Take a look at your Lenten resolutions... and ask yourself where they are leading you. If they’re not leading to a more solid relationship with God... you may want to think about readjusting them.

ALUMNI REUNION
 Our Lady of Guadalupe School
 1321 El Paso St.; San Antonio

Saturday, March 28, 2020
 Mass of Celebration at 10 a.m.
 Reception to follow in Church Hall



To confirm attendance or for more information contact:

Gilbert Arias @ (210) 842-8424,
 Delia Arias Olivarri @ (210) 733-0690,
 Ester Camacho Sifuentes @ (210) 344-2826 or
 Rosario Hernandez Tijerina @ (210) 365-2606

SCHOOL NEWS

Our St. Thomas More Catholic School is now enrolling Students for next school year (2020-21) - 3-year-old thru 8th grade.



Tuition assistance is available thru the Hope for the Future program. (HopeForFuture.org)

Also: We are HIRING Part-Time custodian help.

Questions / more information, call (210) 655-2882 or visit the School Office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

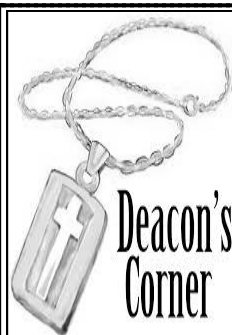
“Be Holy as my Heavenly Father is Holy”

We have a several “Special Days” coming up!

Lenten Retreats: Topic - **Conversion as a Pathway to Holiness**
Conversion como Camino a la Santidad
 Presenter - **Fr. Krikor Chahin, Professor and Spiritual Director**
martes, el 3 de marzo - en espanol - 7 - 8 pm
Wednesday, March 4th - English - 7 - 8 pm

Lenten Penance Service: **Tuesday, March 10th / martes, el 10 de marzo**
 6:30 pm - Bi-Lingual Prep w/Examination of Conscience
(Presenter: Deacon Rolando Guerra)
 7 pm - Individual Confessions *(Several priests will be available)*

Catholic Father’s Day: **Thursday, March 19th / jueves, el 19 de marzo**
 (Solomnity of the Feast of St. Joseph) 6:30 pm - Special Mass for Catholic Fathers



To continue our review of favorite Bible Verses... In no particular order -

Psalms 46:10 - "Be still and know that I am God." *How reassuring is that!!*

John 3:30 - "He must increase, I must decrease." *Good advice for all of us. Gives us direction.*

Proverbs 4:23 - "Above all else guard your heart." *Think about this one for a bit... Can we have more meaning?*

John 12:44 - "Jesus cried out and said, 'Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but in Him who sent me.'" *What more needs to be said?*

Matthew 25:29 - "For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away." *Once again as Jesus said, "... those who have ears ought to hear."*

Once again... Forgive me if I have changed a word here or there... I'm working with 3 different translations. Thanks again to all who shared their favorite passages... There are literally THOUSANDS of them (meaningful / helpful / calming passages) in the Bible.

If you *don't* have one (or several) I invite you to read and search for your 'special' verse(s).

(I'll try to put the last few next week)

'till next time... God Bless- DT

Ash Wednesday

Question: Is Ash Wednesday a Holy Day of Obligation?

Answer: Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no!

Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event (such as the birth of Christ at Christmas) or celebrate particular people (such as Mary's Immaculate Conception or the feast of All Saints).

Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent.

In a sense, it focuses on a concept rather than something particular and concrete.

Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That's one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth.

ANSWERING CHRIST'S CALL 15th Annual Catholic Men's Conference ALL MEN ARE WELCOME

Sat, March 28th from 7:30 am - 4:15 pm
St Matthew Athletic Center
(10703 Wurzbach Rd. 78230)



PILGRIM
Center of Hope
Guiding people to Christ

"Master, I want to see." (Mark 10:51)

Have a powerful transformative experience in a spiritually- charged environment

Speakers Include: **Fr. Cedric Pisegna, CP**
Fr. Clay Hunt,
Mr. Ken Hensley.

Reserve your seat... Invite a Brother in Christ to attend with you.

Gather a group of ten or more and receive \$10 off per man!

Learn More/Register today: See flyers at church entrances

Visit: CMCSanAntonio.com or call (210) 521-3377.



St. Thomas More English
Prayer Group



Feb 20 - "Counsel" - the Third Gift of the Holy Spirit
and Fr. Tomy
Feb 27 - "Fortitude" - the Fourth Gift of the Holy Spirit
and Fr. Tomy

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



Grupo de Oración
Familias compartiendo la palabra



21 Feb - Maestros y lugares de Oración
28 Feb - Servidores de la Oración

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

This Week at our Parish**Sunday, February 16, 2020**

9:30 am Faith Formation (Eng) - School
Guadalupeanos Meeting - Carolan Hall

Monday, February 17, 2020

7:00 pm Finance Council Mtg. - Rectory Mtg. Room

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

5:30 pm Divine Mercy Cenacle - Rectory Mtg. Room
6:00 pm CDA Membership Mtg. - Carolan Hall
7:00 pm Grupo Choir - Church (after Mass)
Coro Alegria - Rectory Mtg. Room

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

6:00 pm KoC 4th Degree Mtg. - Church
7:00 pm Bible Study (English) - Dining Room

Thursday, February 20, 2020

7:00 pm English Prayer Grp - Church
RCIA - Rectory Mtg. Room

Friday, February 21, 2020

7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion - Church
Coro Alegria - Dining Room

Saturday, February 22, 2020

12:00 pm CDA Lenten Beading Workshop - Carolan Hall

Sunday, February 23, 2020

8:30 am KoC Breakfast - Carolan Hall
9:30 am Faith Formation (Eng) - School
3:00 pm CDA Movie - Carolan Hall

Mass Intentions**Saturday, February 15, 2020**

8:00 am †Vincent & Teresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen
5:00 pm †AnnMarie Oswald

THANKSGIVING - 50th Anniv - Poncho & Rosie

Sunday, February 16, 2020

8:00 am †Roberto Alvarado
10:00 am †Maximina Zuniga
BIRTHDAY - Gloria Zuniga Saenz
12:00 pm †Johnny Munoz

Monday, February 17, 2020

8:00 am †Lester Jenschke by Family

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

8:00 am †Vincent & Teresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen
†Ramiro Gutierrez by Daughter
The Suarez Family by Mary Suarez

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

8:00 am †Rosie & Suzell Reyes by Eddie Reyes
†Cynthia Villanueva by Family

Thursday, February 20, 2020

8:00 am †Vicente Ngheip by Kim Nguyen

Friday, February 21, 2020

8:00 am †Mary Ann Garza by Theresa Garza
For All Who Have Died

Saturday, February 22, 2020

8:00 am †Audrey Robinson
5:00 pm †Jay Dotson by Family
†Juan & Rita Segovia by Theresa Garza

Sunday, February 23, 2020

8:00 am †Aaron Michael Garza by Friends
50th Wedding Anniversary - Lorenzo & Diana Acosta
10:00 am †Margarita Sifuentes by Daughter
†Jay Dotson by Family
†Cexila Nguyen by Family
12:00 pm †Albina Robledo

Readings for the week of Feb 17 - 23

Monday: Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67,68,71,72,75,76; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-15,18-19; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-5; Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-7; Mk 8:27-33

Friday: Jas 2:14-24,26; Ps 112:1-6; Mk 8:34-9:1

Saturday: 1Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 16:13-19

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2,17-18; Ps 103:1-4,8,10,12-13;
1Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Lecturas de la Semana del febrero 17 - 23

Lunes: Sant 1:1-11; Sal 119:67,68,71,72,75,76; Mc 8:11-13

Martes: Sant 1:12-18; Sal 94:12-15,18-19; Mc 8:14-21

Miércoles: Sant 1:19-27; Sal 15:2-5; Mc 8:22-26

Jueves: Sant 2:1-9; Sal 34:2-7; Mc 8:27-33

Viernes: Sant 2:14-24,26; Sal 112:1-6; Mc 8:34-9:1

Sábado: 1Pe 5:1-4; Sal 23:1-6; Mt 16:13-19

Domingo: Lv 19:1-2,17-18; Sal 103:1-4,8,10,12-13;
1Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48



Sanctuary Light Intention:

†Paul Blea

Liturgical Roles**Saturday, February 22, 2020**

5 pm **Altar Servers** - (Volunteer)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, L.Gonzales,
L.Volpenhein, J.Hinojosa, S.Chapa
Lector - R.Ellis

Sunday, February 23, 2020

8 am **Altar Servers** - Z.Dempsey, Z+A.Hebert
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, A.Nutt,
B.McQueen, P.Klar, G.gonzalez
Lector - T.S.Garza

10 am **Altar Servers** - J.Cantu, Z.Ramirez
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, DC John,
(+5 CDA Volunteers)
Lector - CDA

12 pm **Altar Servers** - Volunteers
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, R.Borrego,
M.Guerra, M.Larios, L.Lopez, (+2 vol)
Lector - D+F.Malacara