



Our readings today bring to light the daily struggle between good and evil and how we can combat this struggle through wisdom and gratitude.

“Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members?”

In our Second Reading, St. James is reminding us to not become enslaved to our passions. In a moment, it might feel good to jab back at someone in an argument or selfishly do what you can to gain the upper hand in life or even overindulge in earthly pleasures. But when we step back outside of that moment, we realize we have not gained anything and lost the ability to do something great. These are moments where we must decide between good and evil.

“But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits...”

Instead, St. James encourages us to seek wisdom from above. When we seek the Lord, we will have the strength to choose good and the wisdom to properly use what we have received from Him.

In our Gospel, we see an example of how surrendering to our passions negatively affects us. Jesus was with His disciples when they began to argue amongst themselves as to who was the greatest in the group.

We can imagine the twelve apostles spent significant amounts of time together as they followed Jesus and learned from Him. The apostles were human — they had imperfections, clashing personalities, jealous and competitive natures just like we do. There were bound to be some arguments that rose among them.

If we look at our own lives, we might find many instances where we fall into the same tendencies- we constantly compare ourselves to others, out of pride we feel the need to point out another’s faults or choose to fight back in an argument. We know we should act one way but choose another.

When Jesus hears what the apostles are discussing, He has them focus on a child.
“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me.”

There is much for us to take away from the example of a child, but ultimately it is centered around gratitude.

If we reflect on the moment someone receives a child, oftentimes their hearts are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude for this gift. There is no jealousy or anger, just thanksgiving, and appreciation.

The apostles are busy bickering about who was the best. Their vision was clouded on something that really didn’t matter and because of this, they could not even stop and be grateful for the gift to be so close to our Savior Jesus Christ and were chosen to be His closest followers.

When we are caught in the raging war of jealousy, fighting, and pride, and begin to become enslaved to our passions we are ultimately being ungrateful for what we have been given. We overlook the blessing God has given us and the gifts and talents He has entrusted to us.

And gratitude doesn’t stop with the acknowledgment of our blessings. It should ultimately transform how we live our lives. In gratitude, the raging wars will subside within us, and we can begin to use the many blessings God has already given to us for His glory.

Today, let us recall that we have an infinitely loving God who cares deeply for us.

Consider all that He has blessed you with, and how you can use those blessings for His glory.

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

September 12, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$	4,175.25
Vigil Candles.....	\$	264.57
Facilities Improvement Fund.....	\$	10.00
Helping Hands.....	\$	611.44
Diocese Collection.....	\$	20.00

*Second Collection Sept 25 - 26:
NO SECOND COLLECTION*



CATHOLIC RADIO

**Get the best in Catholic programming!
'Tune-In' to the Guadalupe Radio Network!
1380 AM – Spanish or 89.7 FM - English**



40 DAYS for LIFE
September 22 - October 31



HELP SAVE LIVES IN SAN ANTONIO!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil Location: Outside the Planned Parenthood Abortion clinic - 2140 Babcock

Vigil Hours: 7 am to 7 pm, Mon - Sat

Local Contact: Kathy Nix - (210) 668-1993 -
or: info@sacfl.org

Learn More: *Get Involved* -
Sign up for prayer times.



Military Veterans for Christ

Wreaths Across America



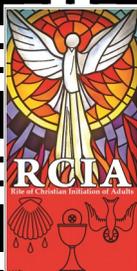
REMEMBER the Fallen. . . **HONOR** those who Serve. . .
TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

On December 18, Wreaths Across America will be at Fort Sam Houston Nat'l Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

The Military Veterans for Christ will be here at STM on Saturday, Sept 25th - in front of the Church from 4:30 pm 'till 6:30 pm... and Sunday, September 26th - next to the playground, from 7:30 am until 11:30 am

Wreaths are on sale for \$15 each

Contact info: David Gonzalez @ (210) 241-9520



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
- RCIA -

If you, or someone you know, are a non-Catholic and would like to learn more about the Catholic faith or possibly *become* a Catholic?...
(no pressure)... or -

If you are a Baptized Catholic adult... but have not made your First Holy Communion or been Confirmed... or -

Maybe you are you a practicing Catholic (or not)... and just want to learn more about our faith?

— Or maybe you know someone like this —

If so... I would like to invite you / them to our RCIA sessions.

We meet in the Rectory Meeting Room...

Thursday evenings from 7 - 8:30 pm.

Sessions are very informal...

We learn about Church, it's teachings, sacraments, and so much more!... and answer any questions you have.

For more information - call the parish office or talk to Dcn Tim... or simply come to our first meeting.

Hope to see you there.

"Phill the Box" Clothing Drive



FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

St. Thomas More School

Pickup Date: *Through the end of the School Year*

Location: St. Thomas More School, Entrance Parking 4427 Moana Dr

Contact: Principal Kimberly Gutierrez (210)-655-2882

We are raising funds by recycling our gently used clothing and shoes! Clean out your closets, help save the environment, and raise money too! Get your family, friends, and neighbors involved. Every bag counts. The more we collect, the more money we raise.

We **DO NEED** men's, women's, and children's clothing and shoes (including athletic shoes, sandals, dress shoes, casual shoes and boots), as well as purses, belts, scarves, hats, gloves, backpacks, and uniforms. Don't forget the linen closets - We also need sheets, towels, and tablecloths.

Put all items in closed plastic bags, please!

We **DO NOT NEED** books, furniture, kitchenware or housewares, or baby supplies. Please no hard goods or toys.

Clothing needs to be in wearable condition, with no holes, stains, or dampness.



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE:

May God comfort the family and friends of:
Ana Maria Castillo

Our sincere sympathy and assurances of prayers are extended to Monica... and the Castillo Family.

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

Vivimos en una sociedad llena de celos, envidia, rivalidades y un ego de superioridad y control sobre los demás. Con poquito poder que se le otorgue a la persona, le basta para mandar y ejercer poder sobre el otro, y lo triste es que muchas veces lo vemos como algo habitual y normal. Hoy, la Palabra de Dios nos habla de lo contrario. Las lecturas nos hablan de la sabiduría de Dios y de cómo aplicarla aquí en la tierra. Por sus frutos los conocerán, es decir por hacer el bien, por ser comprensivos, amantes de la paz, dóciles, sinceros y llenos de misericordia. Pero, ¿existe la misericordia?

El Evangelio nos narra, que Jesús instruía a sus discípulos de cómo iba ser su pasión, y ellos no entendían sus palabras. Ellos, en cambio, estaban enfrascados en una conversación contraria a los deseos de Jesús: ¿Quién de ellos era el más importante? La raíz del problema está en el corazón humano, pensamos y actuamos al contrario de lo que Dios nos pide. Casi siempre se impone la voluntad sobre los demás y esto puede ser sutilmente o de forma agresiva. Jesús tiene la respuesta correcta a toda inquietud mundana. Basta con escuchar su Palabra: “Si alguno quiere ser el primero, que se haga el ultimo y el servidor de todos” (Marcos 9:35). Y agrega algo más para que quede claro: “El que recibe a un niño como este en mi nombre, me recibe a mí; y el que me recibe, no me recibe a mí, sino al que me ha enviado” (Marcos 9:37). Ojalá, que la participación en la Eucaristía, ya sea personalmente o por medio del internet, tenga como fin una sola cosa: la conversión del corazón.



This year, the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday on **September 19, 2021** under the theme of

“Say the Word and My Soul Shall Be Healed.”

And, catechists are commissioned for ministry.

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that *each baptized person plays in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel.*

Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate ourselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Pray for our Catechists... and for yourselves... as the **Primary Catechist in your own “Domestic Church.”**



GOSPEL MEDITATION

There is something about being first... first in line, first to be picked for a team, or the first to finish their work, great satisfaction is achieved. Our egos love being first. It somehow sets us apart from everyone else, gives us a sense of pride and positions us to feel better than others.

When we are first, we can glory in our efforts and achievements.

We are taught from a very young age to be proficient, stay on top, be the best at what we do, and win the praise and esteem of others. This is the stuff that makes us successful and provides us with a comfortable, satisfying life.

Jesus wants none of it. All the details we anguish over mean little to the kingdom of God. You want to be first? Then, be a servant and welcome a child. This is opposite of our pursuits. If we are serious about following Jesus and living the Gospel, then we must put the needs of others before our own.

If we continue to listen only to the noise of the world, we are going to continue to believe the illusions: me before you, being on top and not the bottom, us versus them, personal security over universal harmony and peace. When are we going to learn that always striving to be the best and first is an empty pursuit in our struggle for happiness? While satisfying our ego with this momentary boost of esteem may feel good for a moment, is it what we really desire?

If we can break from the world’s noise and create a space of sacred silence in our lives, we can begin to listen and see that we are being called in another direction. What we really desire is the innocence we lost somewhere along the way. When we can be playful, joyful, and even somewhat carefree... life is good. We want our relationships to work, a place to call home, to live peaceful lives with our sisters and brothers. Only a servant can do this. The servant’s prayer seeks to detach from self-concern to be used by God. Rather than worrying about being first and coming out on top, we can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led to do good works.

Stop worrying about being first and put greater energy into feeling joy.

Why Sign up?

- Support a Catholic School of your choice.
- Participate in a lively community event which will include a 5K Fun Run, entertainment, Mass, and more!

OR

- Participate virtually from wherever you are!
- Registration is only \$15, and you get a T-shirt!

WHEN:
Sunday, October 24
Mass: 7AM
Walk/Run: 8AM

WHERE:
Mission County Park

St. Thomas More English Prayer Group

Sept 23 I Am the Way

Contacts: Olga Guerrero: (210) 657-1610 or
Stella Lopez: (210) 618-6977

Grupo de Oración Familias compartiendo la palabra

24 de septiembre 1 de octubre

La Iglesia en el designio de Dios
Hora Santa

El grupo de oración se reúne los viernes a las 7 pm.
Contacte a: Maria Isabel Hernandez (210) 843-9756

This Week at Our Parish

Sunday, September 19, 2021
 9:00 am Guadalupano General Mtg - *Carolan Hall*

Monday, September 20, 2021
 7:00 pm Finance Council Mtg - *Rectory Mtg Rm (RMR)*

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
 5:30 pm Divine Mercy - *Rectory Mtg Rm*
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria - *Rectory Mtg Rm*
 7:00 pm CDA General Mtg - *Carolan Hall*
 Grupo Choir - *Church*

Wednesday, September 22, 2021
 7:00 pm KC 4th Degree Mtg - *Carolan Hall*

Thursday, September 23, 2021
 7:00 pm RCIA - *Rectory Mtg Rm*
 English Prayer Grp - *Church*

Friday, September 24, 2021
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria - *Rectory Mtg Room*
 7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion - *Church*

Saturday, September 25, 2021
 4:00 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - *RMR*
 Reconciliation - *Church*

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 18, 2021
 8:00 am †*Dec Mbrs Mendez/Esparza Family* by Oralia Esparza
 †All Deceased by Kim Nguyen

5:00 pm †Amelia Garcia by Loving Daughters Ceci & Rosie
 †Joe Barrera Sr and James Barrera by Martha Barrera

Sunday, September 19, 2021
 8:00 am †Annemarie Oswald by Evancho Family
 †All Deceased by Kim Nguyen

10:00 am †Fr. Gilbert Pansza & Richard Pansza, Jr
 by Maldonado & Pansza Families
 †Salome H. Briseno & Carolina B. Briseno
 by Briseno & Morales Families
 †Ana Maria Castillo
Special Intention - Daniel, Ezra & Sabella Acosta
 by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta

12:00 pm †*Dec Mbrs Mendez/Esparza Family* by Oralia Esparza
Special Intention - David Perez - Healing & Conversion

Monday, September 20, 2021
 8:00 am †Tom Schleigh by Soon Schleigh
 †*Dec Mbrs Mendez/Esparza Family* by Oralia Esparza
 †All Deceased by Kim Nguyen

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
 8:00 am †*Dec Mbrs Mendez/Esparza Family* by Oralia Esparza
 †All Deceased by Kim Nguyen

Wednesday, September 22, 2021
 8:00 am †*Dec Mbrs Mendez/Esparza Family* by Oralia Esparza
 †All Deceased by Kim Nguyen
Birthdays - Mary Margaret Segovia and Daniel G. Menchaca by Martha Menchaca

Thursday, September 23, 2021
 8:00 am *All Ordained Clergy and Religious*

Friday, September 24, 2021
 8:00 am †*Dec Mbrs Mendez/Esparza Family* by Oralia Esparza
 †All Deceased by Kim Nguyen

Saturday, September 25, 2021
 8:00 am †*Dec Mbrs Mendez/Esparza Family* by Oralia Esparza
 †All Deceased by Kim Nguyen

5:00 pm **Special Intention - Living/Deceased STM Parishioners**
Special Intention - †Isaac Garza & Lino Torres

Sunday, September 26, 2021
 8:00 am †Annemarie Oswald by Evancho Family
 †All Deceased by Kim Nguyen

10:00 am †Fr. Gilbert Pansza & Richard Pansza, Jr
 by Maldonado & Pansza Families
 †Salome H. Briseno & Carolina B. Briseno
 by Briseno & Morales Families
Special Intention - Daniel, Ezra & Sabella Acosta
 by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta

12:00 pm †*Dec Mbrs Mendez/Esparza Family* by Oralia Esparza
Special Intention - Living/Deceased STM Parishioners

3 EASY STEPS TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!



Liturgical Roles

Saturday, September 25, 2021
 5:00 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Dcn Tim, DC John
Lector - T.Garza

Sunday, September 26, 2021
 8 am **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando
Lector - S.McCarthy

10 am **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, M.Briseno, R.Davis
Lector - K.Ball

12 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, M.Larios, L.Lopez
Lector - M.Pina / M.Rivera



Sanctuary Light Intention:

†*Fr. Gilbert Pansza and Richard Pansza, Jr*

Readings for the week of Sept 20 - 26

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1-6; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7,11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb 13:2,3-4,7-8; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a,9b; Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9,14-15; Jer 31:10-13; Lk 9:43-45
Sunday: Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19:8,10,12-14; Jas 5:1-6;
 Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48

Lecturas de la Semana del Sept 20 - 26

Lunes: Esd 1:1-6; Sal 125:1-6; Lc 8:16-18
Martes: Ef 4:1-7,11-13; Sal 18:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
Miércoles: Esd 9:5-9; Tob 13:2-4,7-8; Lc 9:1-6
Jueves: Ag 1:1-8; Sal 149:1-6,9; Lc 9:7-9
Viernes: Ag 2:1-9; Sal 42:1-4; Lc 9:18-22
Sábado: Zac 2:5-9,14-15; Jr 31:10-13; Lc 9:43-45
Domingo: Nm 11:25-29; Sal 18:8,10,12-14; Sant 5:1-6;
 Mc 9:38-43,45,47-48