

February 21, 2021 **Mass Intentions** **1st Sunday of Lent**
 (+) = Deceased (A) = Anniversary (B) = Birthday (H) = Healing (S) = Special Intention (T) = Thanksgiving (W) = Wellbeing

- Sat. 02 / 20 3:30 PM (H) Marie Thurston (- Yerhart Family) and (H) Mary Buckley (- Family)
 (++++) Irene Bauman, Aaron Kowalik, Paul & Maggie Richter – families
- Sun 02 / 21 10:30 AM (S) Tillie Foegelle (+++) Esther R. Jarzombek, Joe & Justine Moczygemba
 (++++++) Isaac Presas, Jerome & Ben Dragon, Irene Bauman, Paul & Maggie Richter
 (++++) Aaron Kowaliki, Tyson Lambeck, Albert Pruski, Louis Kotara,
- At 6:30 AM each weekday, Deacon Ben conducts a twenty-minute Communion Service in our Quonset chapel**
- Tue. 02 / 23 12 noon (++) Chester & Esther Rita Jarzombek – Friends & Family
- Wed 02 / 24 Noon mass (++) Irene Bauman & Corbin Nicole Guzman (by Flores Family)
 (S) Shirley Swierc – family
- Thur. 02 / 25 *Our 12 noon mass this day will have to be rescheduled due to the 9:00 AM graveside burial for Mauricia Sandoval in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Fr. D will then stay in San Antonio for a 2:00 PM dentist appointment.*
- Fri. 02 / 26 12 noon (++) Irene Bauman & Beverly Heye – respective families.
- Sat. 02 / 27 3:30 PM (++++) Irene Bauman, Aaron Kowalik, Paul & Maggie Richter – families
- Sun 02 / 21 10:30 AM (S) Tillie Foegelle (+++) Henry & Lucille Kopecki (by Pat & Mike), Esther R. Jarzombek
 (++++++) Isaac Presas, Jerome & Ben Dragon, Irene Bauman, Paul & Maggie Richter
 (++++) Aaron Kowaliki, Tyson Lambeck, Albert Pruski, Louis Kotara,

LIFTED IN PRAYER: Manuel Aguilar, Mary Buckley, Cindy Burks, Angelica Bustamante, Richard Campos, Richard & Theresa Cardenas, Tracy Cook, Eddy Court, Jerry Drennan, Kevin DeValcourt, Rudy & Maria Garza, Estella Guerrero, Maritza Gutierrez, Dorothy Flores, Louise Haak, Paul Hunt, Tishie Hutt, Dolores Kappelmann, Rowan Kappelmann, Stanley Kennedy, Carmen Laijas, Felicitas Marquez, Martin Martinez, Billy Dee Martin, Rev. Tom McGahee, Mary Mendez, Joe & Victoria Mendez, Aracely Nunez, Denee Price, Marvin Quinney, Cecilia Richter, Richard Rodriguez, Robert Rodriguez, Carlos Salazar, James Trevino, Juanita Vela, Kay Yates, Chris Wyatt, Bp. John Yanta.

TWO 2ND COLLECTIONS THIS WEEKEND. (1) *is being extended from last Ash Wednesday – the collection benefits the Church in Eastern Europe. Because of the treacherous living and driving conditions due to extreme cold and winter precipitation, Archbishop Gustavo recommended the ashes and this collection be allowed for this weekend.*
 (2) *is our regularly scheduled collection benefiting Catholic Missions among Black and Native Americans. Your generosity towards both causes will be greatly appreciated.*

FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS RESUME THIS WEDNESDAY beginning at 6:30 PM. Last Wednesday's session was intentionally deleted so families could attend Ash Wednesday services together. As we know, the winter weather conditions were not expected and for many, they were overwhelmed for efforts to attend. Now, as we resume, please arrive ten minutes before class that all precautions may be practiced: (1) taking the student's temperature while still in the vehicle, (2) hand sanitizing before entering the building, (3) wearing facial mask over both nose and mouth. Each student and catechist are strongly encouraged to bring from their home a filled thermos bottle of water as well as box of Kleenex.

LET'S INTRODUCE AND CONNECT WITH OUR 2021 PARISH CATECHISTS. After touch-and-go attempts were postponed due to COVID in the community, our catechetical efforts are beginning to gel. Thus far, two evenings have been conducted with the children and teens who were initially registered in September 2020. While expectations are high that at least the remaining 10 sessions will encounter no obstacles, all staff and students are asked to comply with mitigations deterring COVID and its variances; we all have to do our part! Both your pastor and Religious Ed Director are very grateful for to our catechists ready and willing to bring their love for Christ to our Wednesday night sessions. We hope our efforts complement and support the parents and guardians who are the primary teachers of their children for understanding, appreciating, and practicing the ways of Faith.

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| 1 st g – 830-237-3333 | Anna Akin | 2 nd g – 210-275-1882 | Priscilla Soto (co-team) |
| 2 nd g – 210-878-9718 | Meghan Akin (co-team) | 3 rd g – 210-275-6373 | Marilyn J. Jendrusch |
| 4 th g – 830-534-3092 | Whitney Fey | 5 th g – | no registered students |
| 6 th g – 210-260-0630 | Lisa Wright | 7 th g – 210-979-1099 | Elizabeth Richter |
| 8 th g – 210-215-4533 | Jackie Wells | 9 th g – 830-534-1295 | Susan Bohuslav |
| 10 th g – 210-360-9355 | Blaine Akin | 11 th g – 830-734-1683 | Jimmy DeLaZerda |
| 12 th g – 830-463-9851 | Mark & Carmen Kuhlmann | | |

POPE FRANCIS NAMES STILL ANOTHER BISHOP TO MINISTER WITHIN SAN ANTONIO'S ARCHDIOCESE. Since being ordained as a priest in 1988 for the Victoria diocese, the reverend Gary Janak has ministered well in various capacities. Most recently, he has shouldered responsibilities as the vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria as well as rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For several years, Archbishop Gustavo has petitioned our Holy Father to appoint a second auxiliary bishop due to the vast territory as well as growing populations of Catholics throughout south central Texas. Let the People of God throughout San Antonio's Archdiocese rejoice!

RIGHT TO LIFE HOLY HOUR will again convene this Monday evening in our Quonset chapel beginning at 6:00 PM. It is necessary in our day and time to pray and witness on behalf of protecting the unborn when so many in our society do not even recognize the child in the womb as being a human being. Come join our group for lifting up in prayer those who are vulnerable.

WEEKLY ROSARY DEVOTION. Karen Garza accepts our Mother Mary's statue & the blessing of our parish for dedicating time in each day of this week to pray the rosary. Next week Sue & Jesse Vela will do likewise. If you and your household would like to be part of this prayer effort, please contact Yvonne (210) 275 – 6984.

Feb. 13 - 14, 2021 STEWARDSHIP {in the basket and through the mail} evidently has not yet been verified with the bank due to last week's observance of President's Day as well as inclement weather. Expect posting to be next week.

This week's Liturgical Celebrations & "Lectio Divina"		Sunday "B" Cycle / Weekday "1" Cycle		Week "1" in Psalter
02 / 21	1 st Lenten Sunday	Gn. 9: 8 – 15	Ps. 25: 4 – 9, 1 Pt. 3: 18 – 22	Mk. 1: 12 – 15
02 / 22	Chair of St. Peter	1 Pt. 5: 1 – 4	Ps. 23: 1 – 6	Mt. 16: 13 – 19
02 / 23	St. Polycarp	Is. 55: 10 – 11	Ps. 34: 4 – 7, 16 – 19	Mt. 6: 7 – 15
02 / 24	1 st Lenten Wednesday	Jon. 3: 1 – 10	Ps. 51: 3 – 4, 12 – 13, 18 – 19	Lk. 11: 29 – 32
02 / 25	1 st Lenten Thursday	Esther 12: 14–16, 23–25	Ps. 138: 1 – 3, 7 – 8	Mt. 7: 7 – 12
02 / 26	1 st Lenten Friday	Ez. 18: 21 – 28	Ps. 130: 1 – 8	Mt. 5: 20 – 26
02 / 27	1 st Lenten Saturday	Dt. 26: 16 – 19	Ps. 119: 1 – 2, 4 – 5, 7 – 8	Mt. 5: 43 – 48
02 / 28	2 nd Lenten Sunday	Gn. 22: 1–2, 9–13, 15–18	Ps. 116: 10, 15 – 19 Rom. 8: 31 – 34	Mk. 9: 2 – 10

PRAYERS & CONDOLENCES are extended to the children and families of parishioner Mauricia Sandoval. In her quiet, humble, respectful way, Mauricia was a powerful witness of a missionary disciple for our Lord. Picnics, Guadalupana celebrations, funeral receptions, Eucharistic adorer, team member for cleaning our church, and so much more. For all of Fr. Dennis' tenure as pastor in our parish, she – and her husband 'Juan' of happy memory – have been such a delight to know. Like it or not, she even took on that 'motherly care' always reminding Fr. Dennis "to be careful out there because our parish needs you!"

Recently, at age 90, her family needed for her to enter rehabilitation at LaVernia's Country Care Nursing Home. There was some progress but then sudden decline. Mauricia was put into Hospice care and Fr. Dennis felt honored to administer the Anointing of the Sick. She died the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 17th.

Arrangements are with Finch in LaVernia, TX. There will be public visitation on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday afternoon, Mauricia will lie in state in St. Mary's church beginning at 1:00 PM. At 1:30, the rosary will be prayed for the repose of her soul followed immediately by the funeral mass. On Thursday, Feb. 25th, her body is to arrive at Fort Sam Houston's National Cemetery for burial with only immediate family present.

RESILIENT IN FAITH AND SERVICE: is the 2021 theme for our Archbishop's Appeal. For parishioners who have financially supported this special cause in years past, you have no doubt already received our Archbishop's letter in the mail. The mailout was a few weeks ago. For parishioners who have thus far not signed up for part of their stewardship to support this effort for training and on-going education to local ministers, please give special consideration for this year. Literature and pledge envelopes are available through our parish office. For ways big and small, so many area households are challenged by various situations and circumstances related to the Pandemic. Nonetheless, let it please God that many will also strongly identify their belonging to the Church and prayerfully, generously demonstrate their support.

\$10 PLATES OF FISH – OR SHRIMP – SERVED THE FRIDAYS OF LENT FROM 4 to 7 PM. Only DRIVE THRU. Our menu consists of: either a single plank of fish or shrimp (an extra plank of fish costs an extra \$5.00), fries, coleslaw, and breadsticks. Contact Tony Osborn at his parish office telephone for inquiries to volunteer with preparations, cooking, or serving.

NO 2021 LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE; only extra hours. If St. Mary's Saturday schedules for confession are inconvenient, consider:

Sunday, March 14 th	from 2:00 -> 2:50	3:00 -> 3:50	4:00 -> 4:50 PM
Tuesday, March 16	from 4:00 -> 4:50	5:00 -> 5:50	7:00 -> 7:50 PM
Thursday, March 18	from 4:00 -> 4:50	5:00 -> 5:50	7:00 -> 7:50 PM

FOR BROTHER SCOTT JONES, THE LORD IS CALLING to shepherd a Baptist congregation in Rosenberg, Texas. Pastor Jones delivered his last message to Stockdale's congregation a couple of weeks ago and received many well-wishes. Events began to unfold already last March when a delegation from the Rosenberg church attended services here so as to evaluate Scott's preaching. The church outside Houston, TX could be described as 'urban', 250 families with a good mix of Anglo, Hispanic, Black American, and Asian. Approximately 100 regularly attend Bible Studies.

Brother Scott truly believes the change will be a healthy and realistic challenge for his ministerial and pastoral skills. Of course, there are many cherished memories of being pastorally present to the people here – for his own congregation as well as for Stockdale's Ministerial Alliance. Upon his absence, an interim pastor – probably someone retired – will come to their local pulpit until their committee scouts and invites another pastor. Meanwhile, pastor Keith at Church of Christ has been entrusted with the Alliance's checkbook and distribution of funds. Brother Scott, his wife and family have had their belongings packed into a U-Haul truck for about a week and given expected good weather, will be heading east come the morning of Saturday, February 20th. Be blessed in your new challenges!

PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES are extended to the family and friends of Mr. Jorge Dolores Villegas Vasquez, a 49 year-old resident of Austin, TX who died there February 6th. He was born in Guanajuato, Mexico and has next-of-kin here in Stockdale, TX. Funeral arrangements were made through Finch funeral home in Stockdale, TX. Due to Friday morning preparations for the Fish Fry, visitation will be in our Quonset chapel (32 capacity) on Friday, February 26th beginning at 9:00 AM followed by a 10 AM funeral mass. Burial will be immediately thereafter in St. Mary's parish cemetery.

ST. BONIFACE "SPRING SOCIAL" @ FALLS CITY DINER will be Sunday, March 14th beginning at 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM. The event is Drive thru only; plate of BBQ chicken dinner with all the trimmings served for \$10.00. There will also be opportunities to purchase desserts from a Bake Sale and buy chances for a Raffle. See you in line!

WAY OF THE CROSS DEVOTION: During this pandemic, let parishioners desiring to practice this cherished Lenten devotion, choose their venue of (1) within their home, (2) out-of-doors (their yard or on parish grounds) or (3) in the church. Moreover, choose the time that best suits your family schedule.

Some people already have in their possession a devotional book in their dresser drawer. Another alternative is to utilize the Lenten devotion found in the missalette {get the one with an orange cover and turn to page 250 / 251: both English and Spanish are presented}. Remember though: any booklet / missalette you take, **DO NOT RETURN IT!** Once touched; it's yours to keep and use through Holy Week. As soon as the frigid weather warms up, our large plank crosses used on Good Friday will be displayed on the parish property along the parking lot. For the comfort and convenience of being in your residence, place a crucifix on the family table (kindled tea-candles are optional) and stay seated for the meditations. Still other folks prefer the traditional scenes on the walls of our church which depict Jesus carrying his cross to Calvary.

Generations of Catholics world-wide are accustomed to St. Alphonsus Liguori's perspective which is ideal for congregational use – groups of people reading aloud and singing. Emphasized for each station is recognition of our personal sins for which Jesus endures his sufferings. Around 1965, an alternative presented itself for the American Church – still a liturgical format of public prayer, meditation and hymns but incorporating more biblical responses. For a couple of decades, liturgical companies who provide our missallettes created a much briefer version for Catholics having limited time for the devotion (maybe using a few minutes after daily mass or while on lunch-break) for their Lenten discipline. In 1994, when Pope St. John Paul II composed his version, 8 of 14 meditations changed which was not meant for confusion but to expand our empathy for the kinds of suffering Our Lord experienced already the night of Holy Thursday through the crucifixion. Now, just last year, Pope Francis permitted publication from his papal audiences and homilies but his version is not appropriate for a group liturgy because each meditation concludes with a probing, personal question to ponder within one's soul. Pope Francis definitely wants the Faithful to mature as Christ-like disciples.

RICE BOWL CONTAINERS are available at the church entrance. Every household is asked to place the paper container on their table for the duration of Lent; a tangible reminder (1) to pray for the needs of the Poor. (2) dedicate the grocery savings to benefit the Poor. As is custom, the accumulation of rice bowl money is offered on Easter Sunday.

LESS WE FORGET, Lent is a joyful, expectant time for much of the Universal Church. God's Holy Spirit started to stir unsuspecting hearts and souls months – if not years – ago; creating a spiritual void / curiosity / desire for something more. Some of these hearts and souls were never baptized in any denomination. Others may have approached the waters of Baptism in another denomination yet something about "being fed by the church" was lacking. That "something more" was to be living one's faith in Jesus Christ as a Catholic (embracing the sacraments, doctrine, magisterium, liturgy, and life style). Individuals came to inquire for their immediate questions. The step thereafter was to engage with catechesis and some limited experiences of community and worship. Hopefully bonds began to be created through parish ministries and organizations and teams of sponsors. Simultaneously, affirmation and confidence were becoming rooted all the more.

Thus, on the first Sunday of Lent, the pastor, catechetical team, and sponsors celebrate a Rite of Sending; for the individual(s) to be presented to the head shepherd (archbishop) as "Elected" or Called for Continued Conversion. The formal recognition exhorted all throughout the local archdiocese to pray for these souls during the 40 days before being fully initiated into the life of the Church during the Easter Vigil.

May part of our Lenten prayers and sacrifices be for up-lifting timid souls to the love of Christ and His Church.