



# St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

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Fr. Fred's Year of Mercy blog fathermickey.com

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2016

### STAFF

**Rev. Fred Valone .... Pastor**

Felix Ramos ..... Permanent Deacon  
 Kathy Boscarino ..... DRE / Youth Minister  
 Maria Delgado ..... Elementary CCE Coordinator  
 Rick Reed ..... Dir. of Music Ministry  
 Jill Baker ..... Nursery Coordinator  
 Dell Wells ..... Bookkeeper  
 Sylvia Vitela ..... Secretary  
 Laura Puente ..... Custodian



Christ's messianic program, the program of mercy, becomes the program of His people, the program of the Church (8).

“The Church proclaims the truth of God’s mercy revealed in the crucified and risen Christ, and she professes it in various ways.

Furthermore, she seeks to practice mercy towards people through people, and she sees in this an indispensable condition for solicitude for a better and ‘more human’ world, today and tomorrow (15). Rich in Mercy”  
 by Saint John Paul II

### St. Thomas Community Lenten Project

February 14th	\$2,204
February 21st	\$3,561
February 28th	\$4,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,786</b>



**Fr. Fred's Project Goal:**  
**\$10,400**  
**(8 water systems)**

### Lenten Activities

*Stations of the Cross* Every Friday

7:00 p.m. In English

7:45 p.m. In Spanish

*Fish Fry every Friday*

Except Good Friday

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall

PRAY, FAST, ALMSGIVING

ORAR, AYUNAR, LA LIMOSNA

## MASS INTENTIONS of the WEEK

Sat	3/5	5:30 pm	Cecil Marquart (birthday) Gerald Pasket (birthday)
Sun	3/6	7:45 am	Cherie McGee <b>+</b>
		10:45 am	Parishioners
		12:30 pm	Gregorio Varela <b>+</b>
		6:00 pm	CSC Intentions
Mon	3/7	No Mass	
Tues	3/8	7:15 am	Rev. Gabre-Tinsaye Adhana <b>+</b>
Wed	3/9	7:15 am	Chad Wagamon <b>+</b>
Thurs	3/10	7:15 am	Ed Cooper <b>+</b>
Fri	3/11	7:15 am	Steve Moore <b>+</b>
Sat	3/12	5:30 pm	Charles Kalinek <b>+</b>
Sun	3/13	7:45 am	Marlene Zang (special intentions)
		10:45 am	Parishioners
		12:30 pm	Alfega Alcatraz <b>+</b>
		6:00 pm	CSC Intentions

## Weekly Readings



Mon	3/7	Is.65:17-21;Jn.4:43-54
Tues	3/8	Ez.47:1-9,12;Jn.5:1-16
Wed	3/9	Is.49:8-15;Jn.5:17-30
Thurs	3/10	Ex.32:7-14;Jn.5:31-47
Fri	3/11	Wis.2:1,12-22;Jn7:1-2,10,25-30
Sat	3/12	Jer.11:18-20;Jn.7:40-53
Sun	3/13	Is.43:16-21;Phil.3:8-14;Jn.8:1-11

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS / RECUERDEN EN SUS ORACIONES...

Judy Adib, Steve Aguayo, Richard Almendarez, Veronica Antwi, James Aubey, Irma Avalos, Gene Barrett, Jordan Bergeron, Kathy Boscarino, Fidelis Burton, Phillip Caito, Sunni Cook, Sabrina Coronado, Terry Corral, Melanie Davis, Margie Eglsaer, Colin Defour, Jose Luis Ecamilla, Paul Fivel, Diane Fuller, Diana Garcia, Winifred Grivich, Mary Gutermuth, Maria Jalifi, Kevin Kretschmar, Dorothy Laskoskie, Andrew Leal, Sam and Marie Martinez, Karen McPike, Coby Meinzer, Carol Mendel, Bill Middleton, Donna Moore, Floyd and Maryann Moore, Tom Morales, Lourdes Mosqueda, Paula Legler Phillips, Brenda Piñeda, John Raia, Lillian Rodriguez, Lydia Rodriguez, Maria Ines Rodriguez, Margaret Rozell, Jack Rumfield, Ana Marie Santos, John Sarley, Jerry Seaton, Cindy Schwanke, Marilyn Shepherd, Kayden Bryn Shipley, Wanda H. Smith, Elizabeth Speck, Tim Speck, David and Dorothy Townsend, Matthew Varnum, Maria Elena Valencia, Leo Vasquez, Bob Wessels, Alma Williams, Rose Youngblood.

## DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY

### Reflections for March 13th readings:

#### Memory Verse:

"See, I am doing something new!....do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19A)

#### Faith Sharing Question:

As I think about the times I have found it difficult to forgive, what did I do? With the help of God's grace, how have I grown in my ability to forgive?

#### Living as Disciples:

Write a note of welcome and support to those in the RCIA in your parish who will be baptized or fully initiated at the Easter Vigil.

### Catechumens (un- baptized)

Larry Lawrence  
Joan Wickersham  
John Steinke

### Candidates (baptized)

Stephen Farlow  
Mike Hodges  
Sarah Ortiz  
Alejandra Puenta  
Robert Spann  
Stacy Spann  
John White

#### Spanish Speakers

Octavio Olgin  
Rosa Beltran  
José Beltran  
Gerardo Lira

Stewardship for February 28th: \$8,254.90

Lenten Water Drop Project: \$4,020.00  
(week ending 2/28)

*Thank you for your parish support!*

*Father Fred writes...* If you follow the readings at Mass in the hymnal, you will notice that there are two options for the reading this Sunday as there were last Sunday and will be next week. The reason? When we celebrate the Scrutiny Rites with the Elect who will be baptized at the Easter vigil, the prayers that are used are based on the readings of cycle A. This year the Sundays readings are based on cycle C. I have decided to use the cycle C readings at all of the Masses this year including the 10:45 Mass where the Scrutiny Rites are celebrated. The reason? The beautiful Sunday gospels that speak of God's mercy in the cycle C readings. This is the Jubilee Year of Mercy! Last week we were reminded of the Lenten call to repentance and conversion of heart so that we can know the God who is *gracious and merciful, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.* [Joel 2:13] This week we have the parable of the Prodigal Son. Fr. Henri Nouwen wrote a wonderful book about this parable. Nouwen points out in the book, the purpose of the parable is to show us the nature of the prodigal father and remind us that the father is the one with whom we are to identify. It is the prodigal father who was rich in mercy and kindness. I share with you what he wrote concerning the generosity of the prodigal father: *Generosity is the 3rd way to become like the Father. The Father not only gives his departing son everything he asks, but also showers him with gifts on his return. And to his elder son he says, 'All I have is yours.'* This is the portrayal of God whose goodness, love, forgiveness, care, joy, and compassion have no limits at all. *In order to become like the Father, I must be as generous as the Father is generous. Just as the Father gives his very self to his children, so must I give my very self to my brothers and sisters. Jesus makes it very clear that it is precisely this self-giving that is the mark of the true disciple. This giving of self is a discipline because it is something that does not come spontaneously.* Speaking of generosity, I want to thank all those who have generously contributed to our Lenten project of providing community water systems to people living in 3rd world countries. I was hoping to provide the monies for 2 systems. But as I write this article, generous prodigal parishioners have already contributed enough to build almost 7.5 systems. Like the rejoicing in the parable after the return of the wayward younger, there will be much rejoicing in the communities that will have access to clean, healthy water.

**ENGLISH BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION...** will be held on Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Education Bldg. Please **pre-register in the office before attending session.** A copy of the child's birth certificate should be presented at time of registration. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 11th.

**BLOOD DONORS ARE DESPARATELY NEEDED:** Saturday, March 12th, 9am - 3:30 pm at GIBBS PRE-KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL. Our church is co-sponsoring this Blood Drive. We **DON'T** need food this time; we **NEED DONORS.** We realize that Spring Break is a factor here, but if at all possible, **PLEASE DONATE.** I was asked to thank the 14 donors who gave earlier this month. **SIGN UP SHEETS** are in the back of the church. For more information or an appointment, please call  
**Karen at 936-661-6540 OR  
Cheryl at 936-581-0451.**

**KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS...** will be selling scrip before and after the 5:30, 7:45 and 10:45 Masses on the weekend of March 12 & 13, 2016. Thank you for helping us support our charities!

## *Holy Week Triduum*

### *Holy Thursday*

**7:00 p.m.** Mass (bilingual)

**9:00 - 10:30 p.m.** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### *Good Friday*

**11:00 a.m.** Live Stations of the Cross  
(Spanish)

**2:00 p.m.** Stations of the Cross (English)

**3:00 p.m.** Divine Mercy Chaplet (English)

**5:00 p.m.** Good Friday Service  
Veneration of the Cross (bilingual)

### *Holy Saturday*

**8:00 p.m.** Easter Vigil (English)

### *Easter Sunday*

**7:45 a.m.** Mass (English)

**10:45 a.m.** Mass (English)

**12:30 p.m.** Mass (Spanish)

**6:00 p.m.** No Mass

 <p>St. Thomas the Apostle Youth</p>	<p><b>Contact Information</b>          Kathy Boscarino, DRE/YM          kathybosc@sbcglobal.net          (936) 520-6524  <a href="http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org">http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org</a></p>	<p><i>Weekly Events</i></p> <p>Sundays CCE 9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.          Edge (7th –8th grade) Parish Hall          Lifeteen (9th– 11th) Youth Center</p> <p>Wednesdays STAY Youth Night          6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Yourh Center</p>
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But God proved His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

### *News and Events*

Sunday, March 06, 2016 Lifeteen and Edge 9:15-10:30  
 Wednesday, March 09, 2016 STAY Youth Night 6:30-8:30  
 Sunday, March 13, 2016 No CCE—Spring Break

### *Upcoming Events*

Its time to begin registering for AYC. AYC (Archdiocesan Youth Rally) is the largest youth rally of its kind and is open to all Catholic high school youth Information will be handed out at Lifeteen, Edge and STAY youth night.

### *What's Up at the Catholic Student Center*

Joseph Magee, Ph.D., Director – 291-2620 – DSF Supported – <http://www.shsu-catholic.org>  
 Week of March 6, 2016



**March 7 – 11 is**

**Spring Break!**

**There will be no regular activities  
 at the CSC this week.**

**6 p.m. Student Mass & Dinner Social resumes  
 Sunday, March 13**

**MEN'S RETREAT**  
**MERCY : A GLIMPSE INTO THE HEART OF GOD**  
**APRIL 22 THRU 24**

CALL CRAIG HIBBISON AT 436 - 0362  
 TO GET MORE INFORMATION OR  
 THE HOLY NAME RETREAT CENTER  
 AT 713 - 464 -0211

**C R S COLLECTION...** Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection supports six Catholic Agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people. Next week, please give generously to The Catholic Relief Services Collection and **help Jesus in disguise.**

*Palabras del Padre Fred...* Si siguen las lecturas de la Misa en el himnario, se dará cuenta de que hay dos opciones para la lectura de este domingo, igual que el domingo pasado y también la próxima semana. ¿La razón? Cuando celebramos los ritos Escrutinio con los elegidos que serán bautizados en la Vigilia de Pascua, las oraciones que se utilizan se basan en las lecturas del ciclo A. Este año las lecturas de los domingos se basan en el ciclo C. He decidido utilizar las lecturas del ciclo C en todas las misas de este año, incluyendo la misa 10:45, donde se celebran los ritos escrutinio. ¿La razón? Las hermosas evangelios dominicales que hablan de la misericordia de Dios en las lecturas del ciclo C. Este es el Año Jubilar de la Merced! La semana pasada se nos recordó de la llamada de Cuaresma al arrepentimiento ya la conversión del corazón para que podamos conocer al Dios que *es compasivo y misericordioso, lento a la cólera, rico en amor, y ceder en el castigo.* [Joel 2:13] Esta semana tenemos la parábola del hijo pródigo. El Padre Henri Nouwen escribió un libro maravilloso de esta parábola. Nouwen señala en el libro, el propósito de la parábola es mostrarnos la naturaleza del padre pródigo y recordarnos que el padre es con el que queremos identificarnos. Es el padre pródigo que era rico en misericordia y bondad. Comparto con ustedes lo que escribió con respecto a la generosidad del padre pródigo: *La Generosidad es la tercera forma de volverse como el Padre. El Padre, no solo da al hijo que se va, todo lo que pide, sino también lo llena de regalos cuando regresa. Y a su hijo mayor le dice: Todo lo que tengo es tuyo." Este es el retrato de Dios, cuya bondad, amor, perdón, cuidado, felicidad y compasión no tiene límites. Para poder ser como el Padre, debo ser generoso como el Padre es generoso. Así como el Padre se da a sus hijos, así debo darme yo a mis hermanos y hermanas. Jesús lo dice muy claro, que es preciso éste darse a sí mismo, lo que hace un verdadero discípulo. Este darse es una disciplina porque es algo que no viene espontáneamente.* Hablando de generosidad, quiero dar las gracias a todos los que han contribuido generosamente a nuestro proyecto de Cuaresma de proporcionar sistemas comunitarios de agua a las personas que viven en los países del 3er mundo. Tenía la esperanza de proporcionar los fondos para los 2 sistemas. Sin embargo, al momento de escribir este artículo, generosos fieles pródigos ya han contribuido lo suficiente para construir casi 7.5 sistemas. Al igual que la alegría en la parábola después del regreso del hijo mas joven extraviado, habrá mucho regocijo en las comunidades que tendrán acceso a agua limpia y sana.

## LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE SERVICE PENITENCIAL de CUARESMA

Day/Dia	Date/Fecha	Time/Hora	Parish/Parroquia	Language/Idioma
Wed/Miercoles	3/9	7:00 PM	St. Matthias - Magnolia	Bilingual/Bilingue
Thurs/Jueves	3/10	7:00 PM	St. Stanislaus - Anderson	English Only/ solo Ingles
Tues/Martes	3/15	6:30 PM	St. Joseph - New Waverly	Bilingual/Bilingue
Thurs/Jueves	3/17	7:00 PM	Christ Our Light - Navasota	Bilingual/Bilingue

### SESIONES DE PREPARACIÓN PARA

**BAUTISMO...** Miercoles y jueves, el 16 y 17 de marzo, 7:00p.m. en salon parroquial. Participantes **deben registrarse en la oficina antes de asistir las sesiones.** Una copia del certificado de nacimiento del niño/a debe ser presentada. Última fecha para inscribirse es el viernes, 11 de marzo.

### Hosanna 2016

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference  
 \*Mass \*Teachings \*Praise and Worship  
 \*Eucharistic Adoration  
 Saturday, March 19th 8:30 AM—9:30 PM  
**FREE ADMISSION**

**CLOSER THAN YOU THINK....** Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. —Thomas Edison

**CHARACTER...** A simple judge of my character is how I treat a person who can do absolutely nothing for me. —Anonymous