



How do I get involved in the Church, I'm new to the area?

When we move to a new place—whether for work, studies, marriage, or any other reason—one of the first things we hope to find is a sense of belonging. A place where we are not just faces in a crowd but known by name, welcomed with warmth, and embraced as family. For Catholics, that place is the parish. The parish is not just a building where Mass is celebrated. It is a living, breathing community—the Body of Christ in our neighborhood. And just as every part of a body has a role, so too each of us is meant to be involved. Today I want to speak to those who may be new in town—perhaps you've just arrived and are wondering, How do I get involved in the Church? How do I feel like I truly belong? Let me begin with an example: imagine a beautiful garden. It's filled with flowers of many kinds—roses, lilies, jasmine, and tulips. But in the corner, there is a little pot with a seed in it. That seed has not yet been planted in the soil. It gets sunlight, but it doesn't grow much, because it's not rooted. To grow, it needs to be planted among the others, connected to the earth, watered, and cared for. So too with us. If we remain on the periphery of parish life—coming to Mass but never truly connecting—we may receive sunlight, but not enough nourishment to grow spiritually. We are called to be planted in the community. But how do we do that? First, show up consistently. That sounds simple, but it matters. When people see you week after week, a bond naturally begins to form. Just like in a new neighborhood, where a wave eventually becomes a conversation, and then friendship, the same is true here. Sit in the same area, greet others, stay for a few moments after Mass. You'll be surprised how many people are waiting to say hello, but just need a little courage. Second, introduce yourself to the parish priest or one of the parish council members. Every parish has some form of leadership and volunteers. Don't be afraid to walk up and say, Father, I'm new here—I'd like to be part of the parish. I guarantee you, no priest will say, "We're full." Instead, he will probably smile and say, "Welcome! We're glad you're here. Third, find a ministry that fits your gifts. Are you someone who likes to sing? Join the choir. Good with organizing things? Help with church events. Love teaching? Be a catechist. Even something as simple as helping to clean the church, or bringing flowers for the altar, is a beautiful way of participating. In 1 Corinthians 12, St. Paul reminds us that the Body of Christ has many parts, and each one is important. The hand cannot say to the eye, "I don't need you." Every gift you have is needed. Let me give you another example. A man named Thomas had moved to a new town for a job. He was shy and didn't know anyone. But one Sunday after Mass, he noticed the ushers were short-handed. He offered to help hand out hymn books. That small act turned into a regular task. Within months, he was helping to set up for feast days, joining Bible study, and eventually leading a Rosary group. Years later, people referred to him as "Uncle Tom"—even though he had no relatives in that town. That's what the Church can do: it turns strangers into family. But you may say, "But I'm not sure where I fit." That's okay. Think of it this way: when you're invited to a wedding banquet, you don't always know the guests at your table—but you still sit, eat, and enjoy the evening. Over time, strangers become acquaintances, and acquaintances become friends. The Church is a banquet where you are not just a guest—you are part of the family that prepares the feast. So, dear friends, if you are new to this place, don't be afraid. God has brought you here for a reason. The Church is your home. Take the first step—plant yourself in this soil. Let your faith take root and bloom in love. And may we, who are already here, make space with open hearts to welcome those whom Christ sends into our midst.

Amen.
Fr. Joseph Puthen

Saturday, July 26

5:00 p.m. † Adela K. Trad by Martin Cuellar
† Petra P. Cuellar by the family
† Alfonso Garcia by Yolanda Maldonado
† Martha Olivia Castillo (1st anniv 2-27) by Alda E. Lopez & family

Sunday, July 27

8:00 a.m. PARISHIONERS
9:30 a.m.(E) † Feliberto Lopez, Jr. (birthday) by the family
† Elena Perez (7th anniv) by the family
11:15 a.m. † Abram Rolando Rodriguez (3rd anniv) by the family
† B.J. Benavides (13th anniv) by the family
For Healing, Nora Perez by the family

Monday, July 28

NO COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday, July 29

7:00 a.m. † Susana Aleman by Ricardo Hinojosa

Wednesday, July 30

7:00 a.m. † David & Esperanza Longoria by Mary Hinojosa

Thursday, July 31

7:00 a.m. † David Longoria by Al & Norma Barrera

Friday, August 1

7:00 a.m. † Alfonso Garcia by Bo Olivarez
12:05 p.m. † Johnny & Jeanette Boerjan by the family

Saturday, August 2

5:00 p.m. † Pepe Garza by the family
† Bob & Estella Howell by Jesse Howell & family
† Richard Benavides (anniv) by the family
† Fr. Mark Beard by Joyce Mauldin
† Arnulfo Requenez by Alda E. Lopez & family

Sunday, August 3

8:00 a.m. PARISHIONERS
9:30 a.m.(E) † Guadalupe Bayerena by Rey Rodriguez, Sr. & family
† Amando Rodriguez, Jr. (birthday) by the family
11:15 a.m. † Juan B. Cuellar, Sr. by the family
† Richard Garcia (birthday) by Mari Garza-Garcia & family
† Alberto Byington, Jr. (8th anniv) by the family
† Petra Trevino by the family

Adult Sacrament Class

Sacred Heart adult sacrament class will start in September at the Parish Center. Anyone over the age of 18 who has not been baptized or made their First Holy Communion or Confirmation, now is the time to sign up for class so you can prepare to receive your Sacraments! Please call the Parish Office at 361-325-3455 to sign up.

Parish Tithes and Offerings July 19 & 20

Sacred Heart Parish

Regular Collection: \$3353

Online Giving: \$543.00

Second Collection: \$164.00

St. Anne Mission

Regular Collection: \$377.00

Second Collection: \$150.00



Parish Meetings & Events

July 27 KC's Hamburger Sale: Parish Hall—starting at 11:00 am
July 27 Knights of Columbus will pray the rosary at 10:30 am
July 28 Baptism Class: Parish Center at 7:00 pm
July 30 Adoration from 8:00 am. to 7:00 pm. Schoenstatt Chapel
Aug 01 1st Friday Mass at 12:05 pm. Guadalupe Chapel
Aug 02 Baptisms: at 11:00 am
Aug 05 Knights of Columbus Officer Meeting: 7:00 pm Hall
Aug 06 Adoration from 8:00 am. to 7:00 pm. Schoenstatt Chapel
Aug 13 Adoration from 8:00 am. to 7:00 pm. Schoenstatt Chapel



**Knights of
Columbus**



Family of the Month
Homero & Lupita Garza & family

July 20-August 2

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Church** is burning for:

Salvador & Esperanza Gonzalez

By Omar & Missy Guerra

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Guadalupe Chapel** is burning for:

Odilia G. Ramirez

By Herlinda P. Cantu & family

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Schoenstatt Chapel** is burning for:

Alberto Byington, Sr.

By the family

The Sanctuary Candle in **St. Anne Mission** is burning
for:

Feliberto Lopez, Jr.

By the family

VOCATIONAL CROSS

5:00 p.m. Mass

July 26-Aug 2 Joyce Mauldin
 Aug 2-Aug 9 Melissa Escobar
 Aug 9-Aug 16 Janie Cantu

8:00 a.m. Mass

July 27-Aug 3 Lucy Flint
 Aug 3-Aug 10 Gloria Richardson
 Aug 10-Aug 17 Oralia & Rosendo Garcia

11:15 a.m. Mass

July 27-Aug 3 Rick & Cindy Salinas
 Aug 3-Aug 10 Carlos & Elvie Salinas
 Aug 10-Aug 17 Irene Escalante

St. Anne Misson

9:30 a.m. Mass

July 27-Aug 3 Laura Gutierrez
 Aug 3-Aug 10 Alma Martinez
 Aug 10-Aug 17 Alicia Cantu

Prayer Blanket Ministry

This ministry will be making blankets for people in our parish who are seriously ill. These blankets will be blessed and given to everyone on our list. Prayer is very powerful and we ask everyone in our parish to pray for these individuals on the prayer list:

07-27-25

Alicia Moreno
Patty Garza

7-20-25

Marissa Munoz Garcia
 Alfredo Alegria, Jr.
 Ricky Soliz
 Sonia Mendez
 Richard Saenz
 Ruby Lopez
 Elda Garza

7-13-25

Gilda Gutierrez
 Homer Benavidez
 Yesenia Rivas Ramirez
 Agueda A. Garza
 Nora Perez
 Ruben Trevino, Jr.

7-06-25

Grace B. Williams
 Eraclio B. Salinas
 Alberto Villarreal
 Johnny Perez
 Maria Nori Garcia
 Yolanda & Jesus M. Longoria
 Michelle Rios
 Baby Gutierrez

~Youth News~

Registration for 2025-2026

Religious Ed Classes

It's that time again to register your children for Religious Ed class! Any **NEW** students **ONLY** will register at the Parish Office and you must bring in baptismal certificate if baptized in another parish starting August 1st. Everyone else who is a returning student will register and pay online. You can scan the QR code and it will take you directly to the registration form.

Any questions please call

361-325-3455.

Registration is \$20 per family.

