

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

IGLESIA CATOLICA ROMANA

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PASTOR

Rev. Ken Ducre

DEACONS

Joe Soto

Frank Segura

Ricardo Corella

MASS SCHEDULE HORARIO DE MISAS

Saturday/Sábado

Vigil/Vigilia

4:00pm, English

Sunday/Domingo

8:30am, English

10:00am, Español

12:00pm, English

Weekdays/Diaria

5:30pm

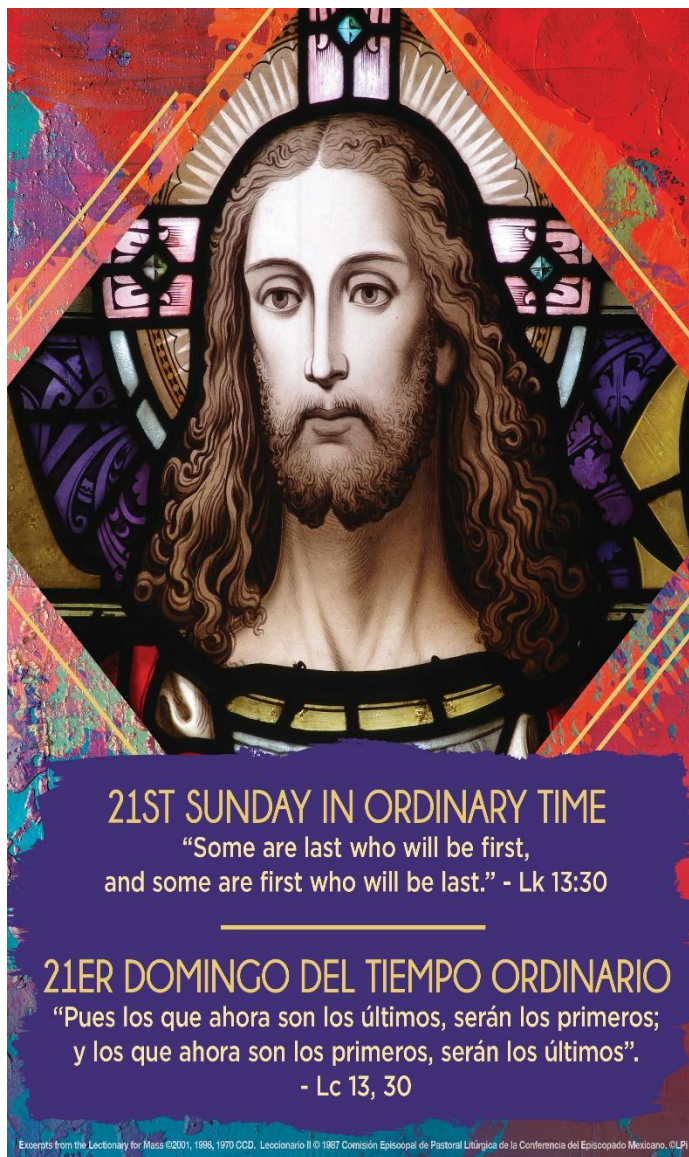
Mon. & Wed. English

Martes y Viernes Español

Thursday/Jueves

Liturgy of the Word &
Adoration

Liturgia de la Palabra y
Adoración



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Some are last who will be first,
and some are first who will be last." - Lk 13:30

21ER DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

"Pues los que ahora son los últimos, serán los primeros;
y los que ahora son los primeros, serán los últimos".
- Lc 13, 30

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1986, 1970 CCC. Leccionario II © 1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano. CILPI

RECONCILIATION

RECONCILIACIÓN

Wednesday/Miércoles

6:00 - 7:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

9:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday 2:00pm-5:00pm

Sunday 8:30am-1:00pm

Member of the
El Paso Inter-religious
Sponsoring Organization
(EPISO).

Working to end poverty
and injustice
in the Borderland.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

EDUCACION RELIGIOSA

Program for children and
adults to receive
Sacraments of Christian
Initiation.

Programa de preparación
para recibir sacramentos de
iniciación cristiana.
Disponible para niños y
adultos.

WEDDINGS/BODAS

Parishioners, registered or living within
Parish boundaries, please contact pastor
six months before planned wedding
date.

Parroquianos, registrados o residentes
de nuestra área parroquial, comunicarse
con el párroco al menos seis meses antes
de la fecha en que planean casarse.

BAPTISMS/BAUTISMOS

Celebrated the second
Saturday of the month.
Please call the office for
additional information.

Se celebran el segundo
sábado de cada mes. Favor
de llamar a la oficina para
información adicional.

QUINCEAÑERAS/OS

All boys and girls enrolled in our
Religious Formation program are
welcome to celebrate their 15th birthday
at the parish.

Todos los niños y niñas inscritos en
nuestro programa de Formación
Religiosa son bienvenidos a celebrar su
cumpleaños número 15 en la parroquia.



Welcome to the community of Saint Thomas Aquinas! We are Blessed to have you with us.

We want to be living proof to you of the Love and Peace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray your time with us is a blessing for you as well! Welcome and God Bless!

¡Bienvenido a la comunidad de Santo Tomás de Aquino! Ya sea usted un vecino o un visitante que está de paso, sepa que es una bendición tenerlo con nosotros.

Queremos ser para usted una prueba viva del amor y la paz de Jesucristo nuestro Señor. ¡Oramos que su tiempo con nosotros sea una bendición para usted también! ¡Bienvenidos y Bendiciones!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five-minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; hypomone in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!

Father John Muir

LIVE THE LITURGY

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate," Jesus tells us. "Many will attempt...but will not be strong enough." So let us never be so foolish that we rely on our own strength. Narrow does not mean unpassable — not if we ask for help. ©LPI

MEDITACIÓN EVANGÉLICA

¿Has intentado alguna vez o has tenido la experiencia de entrar por alguna puerta angosta? Es incómodo y te sientes apretado si intentan entrar más de dos personas al mismo tiempo. Nos gustan las puertas anchas, altas y bonitas. La puerta angosta es para entrar de uno en uno, no más. "Esfuércense por entrar por la puerta angosta, porque yo les digo que muchos tratarán de entrar y no lo lograrán" (Lucas 13:24). La manera de hablar de Jesús es diferente a otras ocasiones. Habla claro y directo: dice "esfuércense". Nada es fácil; moldear la arcilla de lo que estamos hechos requiere de esfuerzo.

El Evangelio de hoy también nos advierte: "Unos que estaban entre los últimos son ahora los primeros, mientras que los primeros han pasado a ser los últimos" (Lucas 13:30). ¡Qué sorpresa tan grande! Dios no nos reconocerá por nuestros títulos ni por los puestos de importancia en la sociedad, mucho menos por la riqueza y las propiedades. Así que, ahora sí, se comprende el mensaje de esforzarse para entrar por la puerta angosta. "Ahora considero un deber mío explicarles por qué la puerta es angosta. Cualesquiera que desee entrar, primero, y antes que nada, tiene que poseer una fe honrada e incontaminada; en segundo lugar, una vida sin mancha, sin pecado, en la que no existan posibilidades de culpa, conforme a la medida de la justicia humana" (San Cirilo de Alejandría, 375-444, Comentario al Evangelio de San Lucas). ©LPI

VIVIR LA LITURGIA

"Esfuércense por entrar por la puerta estrecha", nos dice Jesús. "Muchos lo intentarán... pero no serán lo suficientemente fuertes". Así que nunca seamos tan tontos como para confiar en nuestras propias fuerzas. Estrecho no significa intransitable, no si pedimos ayuda. ©LPI

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC**Heaven and Regina George**

There are certain phrases that serve as a kind of shibboleth for millennials, a dog whistle that only ears formed between 1981 and 1996 can discern. "You can't sit with us!" is one of those phrases.

It's from the movie *Mean Girls*, (which, I hear from my younger family members, has now become cool with the kids again, so maybe my point about it being niche is incorrect). The character Regina George, merciless ruler of the cool kids, is rejected from the ultra-exclusive lunch table she herself formed when her minions, tired of her cruelty, serve her the most devastating words a teenager can hear in public: "You can't sit with us."

So passes earthly glory, as they say.

At first blush, this Gospel gives "Mean Girls" vibes. We have an image of the unlucky masses clamoring for entry into the kingdom of heaven as God locks the door against them, saying, "I do not know where you are from."

Very "you-can't-sit-with-us."

But we need to remember that the people pounding on the door of heaven in today's Gospel aren't people who wanted a seat at God's lunch table — at least, not until it was the only lunch table left, because they had Regina George'd their way out of all the other ones.

Jesus' whole thing was that you can sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like." It's not always an easy table to sit at, especially when there are so many other options. We have to choose heaven before heaven becomes our only choice

**(PRACTICANDO) CATÓLISMO****El Cielo y Regina George**

Hay ciertas frases que sirven como una especie de contraseña para los Millennials, un silbato para perros que solo los oídos formados entre 1981 y 1996 pueden discernir. "¡No puedes sentarte con nosotros!" es una de esas frases.

Es de la película *Chicas Pesadas*, (que, según escuché de mis familiares más jóvenes, ahora se ha vuelto genial con los niños nuevamente, así que tal vez mi punto sobre que es de nicho sea incorrecto). El personaje de Regina George, gobernante despiadada de los chicos "cool," es rechazada de la mesa de almuerzo ultra exclusiva que ella misma formó cuando sus secuaces, cansados de su crueldad, le sirven las palabras más devastadoras que un adolescente puede escuchar en público: "No puedes sentarte con nosotros".

Así pasa la gloria terrenal, como dicen.

A primera vista, este Evangelio da vibras de "Chicas Pesadas". Tenemos una imagen de las masas desafortunadas clamando por entrar en el reino de los cielos mientras Dios les cierra la puerta, diciendo: "No sé de dónde son".

Muy "no-puedes-sentarte-con-nosotros".

Pero debemos recordar que las personas que golpean la puerta del cielo en el Evangelio de hoy no son personas que querían un asiento en la mesa del almuerzo de Dios, al menos, no hasta que fuera la única mesa de almuerzo que quedaba, porque habían sido echados de todas las demás.

Todo Jesús decía puedes sentarte con nosotros, seas quien seas, seas de donde seas y hayas hecho lo que hayas hecho. Pero hay muchas mesas de almuerzo en el mundo, y no todos quieren estar de acuerdo con reglas como "arrepíentete" y "sé bueno con esa persona que realmente no te cae bien". No siempre es una mesa fácil en donde sentarse, especialmente. Tenemos que elegir el cielo antes de que el cielo se convierta en nuestra única opción cuando hay tantas otras opciones. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Get to Know Jesus

When I speak and write, I mention my family quite often. Those of you who have been reading these reflections for the past 5+ years — or who have read my books — may think you know them. When I travel, I do get asked about my family by those who have entered my life through the words on a page. My hope is that by sharing stories about my family and life the reader gets a chance to see himself or herself in the story as well. Then the point being made in the article or reflection can take on stronger meaning because it hits home. However, no matter how much I write about my family and how much you read about them, you will only have a glimpse as to the real people. It will take an actual relationship with one of them to get you to the point where you can say you know them.

That is the same way with Jesus. First, more Catholics need to read more and learn more about Jesus. Bible studies should be the norm and not the exception in our lives. Second, too many of us in the Church can explain who Jesus is from our past formation classes and reading, but we do not actually know him. Jesus is not a topic, a theological term, or simply a historical figure. He is a real being who is alive! He is not dead, but alive! He calls us to do more than read about him. He calls us into an intimate relationship with him. We grow in relationship with Jesus by worshipping at the Mass, spending time with him in adoration, resting in him in the quiet, and by having the Jesus in us meet the Jesus in others. If you do not know him personally, get to know him. I would love for you all to meet my family in person someday, but I would much rather you get to know Jesus instead.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Prayer for Holiness

Good Shepherd,
Guide me through the narrow gate. Remove from me anything that distracts me from You, Your love, Your invitation, Your mission. Keep me close to You, familiar at every step.

Amen ©LPi

Oración por la Santidad

Buen Pastor, Guíame a través de la puerta estrecha. Aleja de mí todo lo que me distraiga de Ti, de Tu amor, de Tu invitación, de Tu misión. Mantenme cerca de Ti, familiar a cada paso.

Amén. ©LPi

MAYORDOMÍA COTIDIANA

Conozca a Jesús

Cuando hablo y escribo, menciono a mi familia con bastante frecuencia. Quienes hayan leído estas reflexiones durante los últimos cinco años o más, o mis libros, quizá crean conocerlos. Cuando viajo, quienes han entrado en mi vida a través de las palabras de una página me preguntan sobre mi familia. Mi esperanza es que, al compartir historias sobre mi familia y mi vida, el lector tenga la oportunidad de verse reflejado en ellas. Entonces, el mensaje del artículo o la reflexión puede adquirir un significado más profundo porque llega al corazón. Sin embargo, por mucho que escriba sobre mi familia y por mucho que ustedes lean sobre ella, solo tendrán una visión fugaz de la gente real. Se necesitará una relación real con alguno de ellos para llegar al punto de poder decir que los conoce.

Lo mismo ocurre con Jesús. Primero, más católicos necesitan leer más y aprender más sobre Jesús. Los estudios bíblicos deberían ser la norma y no la excepción en nuestras vidas. Segundo, muchos en la Iglesia podemos explicar quién es Jesús con nuestras clases de formación y lecturas anteriores, pero en realidad no lo conocemos. Jesús no es un tema, un término teológico ni una simple figura histórica. ¡Es un ser real y vivo! ¡No está muerto, sino vivo! Nos llama a hacer más que leer sobre él. Nos llama a una relación íntima con él. Crecemos en nuestra relación con Jesús al adorar en la misa, pasar tiempo con él en adoración, descansar en él en silencio y al encontrar el Jesús en nosotros con el Jesús en los demás. Si no lo conoces personalmente, conócelo. Me encantaría que todos conocieran a mi familia en persona algún día, pero preferiría que conocieran a Jesús.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CANDLE VELA DEL SANTISIMO SACRAMENTO

This week the Blessed Sacrament perpetual candle is lit in honor of:

Esta semana la vela perpetua al Santísimo estará encendida en honor de:

**Robert & Teresa
Cardwell's
27th Anniversary**



Parish Financial Report			
Month of June 2025			
Fiscal Year Beginning July 2024			
Income		Jun 30, 2025	Fiscal Year 24-25
	Sunday & Holiday Collections	\$33,478.48	\$383,903.93
	Building Fund	\$6,559.00	\$76,810.00
	Other Contributions	\$-	\$711.01
	Fees	\$85.00	\$2,909.00
	Projects	\$1,441.85	\$36,919.54
	Religious Education	\$415.00	\$12,894.64
	Total Income	\$41,979.33	\$514,148.12
Expenses			
	Admin, Salaries, Supplies, etc	\$24,334.02	\$252,228.74
	Plant and Maintenance	\$10,515.63	\$133,644.05
	Religious Education	\$2,410.74	\$41,213.19
	Liturgical	\$3,232.01	\$36,786.54
	Total Expenses	\$40,492.40	\$463,872.52
Income -Expense		\$1,486.93	\$50,275.60
Notes:			
This Report Reflects parish Income and Expenses. The First column of amounts is for June 2025; the second column is for our Fiscal Year which begin July 1, 2024 and ends on June 30, 2025.			

Parish Financial Report			
Month of July 2025			
Fiscal Year Beginning July 2025			
Income		Jul 31, 2025	Fiscal Year 25-26
	Sunday & Holiday Collections	\$ 30,773.04	\$ 30,773.04
	Building Fund	\$ 6,675.00	\$ 6,675.00
	Other Contributions		
	Fees	\$ 160.00	\$ 160.00
	Projects	\$ 1,652.97	\$ 1,652.97
	Religious Education	\$ 2,695.00	\$ 2,695.00
	Total Income	\$ 41,956.01	\$ 41,956.01
Expenses			
	Admin, Salaries, Supplies, etc	\$ 21,036.34	\$ 21,036.34
	Plant and Maintenance	\$ 20,419.79	\$ 20,419.79
	Religious Education	\$ 2,455.73	\$ 2,455.73
	Liturgical	\$ 2,464.13	\$ 2,464.13
	Total Expenses	\$ 46,375.99	\$ 46,375.99
Income -Expense		\$ (4,419.98)	\$ (4,419.98)
Notes:			
This Report Reflects parish Income and Expenses. The First column of amounts is for July 2025; the second column is for our Fiscal Year which begin July 1, 2025 and ends on June 30, 2026			

“LET US REDISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF PRAYING THE ROSARY”

Come and join the Guadalupanos in praying the Holy Rosary. Through the Rosary, we ask Our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe to intercede for us before her Son and before God the Father.

Tuesday, August 26, 2025
Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel
6:00 p.m. Bilingual



“REDESCUBRAMOS LA BELLEZA DE REZAR EL ROSARIO”

Ven y acompaña a Los Guadalupanos al rezo del Santo Rosario. A través del Rosario, le solicitamos su intercession a Nuestra Madre Santísima de Guadalupe por nosotros ante su Hijo y ante Dios Padre.

Martes, agosto 26, 2025
Capilla Virgen de Guadalupe
6 :00 p.m. Bilingue

EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

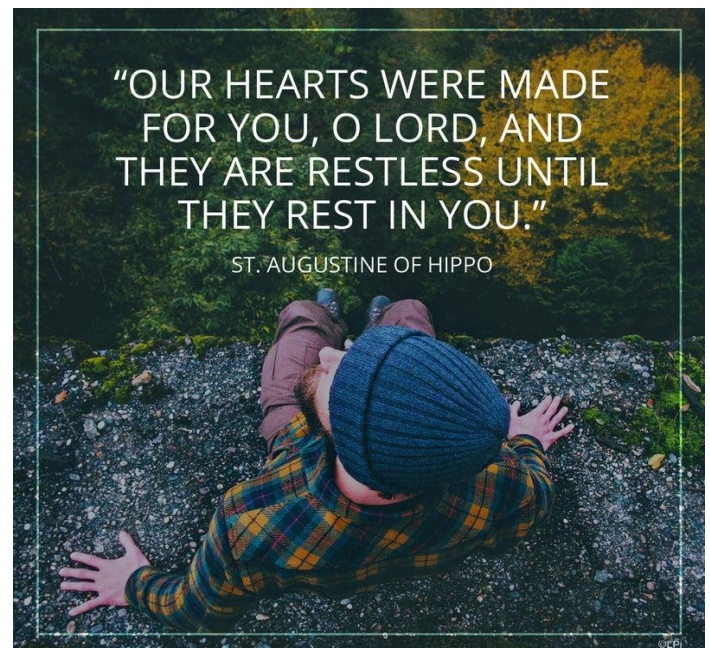
MCH Family Outreach is pleased to offer bilingual Empowerment Workshops this fall at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church. These workshops are for all parents or grandparents, whether a part of the Parish or of the greater community. The series will provide families with tools to strengthen relationships, build resilience, and create a nurturing connection between parents and children. Join us on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:45 am starting September 7, 2025, through November 9, 2025.



TALLERES DE EMPODERAMIENTO

MCH Family Outreach ofrecerá Talleres de Empoderamiento este otoño en la Iglesia de Santo Tomas de Aquino. Los talleres son para todos los padres de familia o abuelos(as), sean de la parroquia o de la comunidad. La serie está diseñada para fortalecer las relaciones en familia, construir resiliencia y crear un ambiente de conexión entre padres e hijos.

Acompáñenos los domingos de 10:30 a 11:45 am empezando el 7 de septiembre 2025 hasta el 9 de noviembre 2025.



This Week

Tuesday; August 26

6:00pm Rosary w/ The Guadalupanas

Wednesday; August 27

6:00pm Virtus para padres en español (Salon Parroquial)

Thursday, August 28

5:30pm Liturgy of the word w/Deacon Frank Segura
Virtus Parent Class (English/ Parish Hall)

OBSERVANCES/ CONMEMORACIONES

Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest

Wednesday: St. Monica

Thursday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist



SUNDAY READINGS/ LECTURAS DOMINICALES

First Reading (Is 66:18)

I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory.

Yo vendré para reunir a las naciones de toda lengua.

Vendrán y verán mi gloria.

Psalms: (Ps 117)

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Vayan por todo el mundo y prediquen el Evangelio.

Second Reading (Heb 12:12-13)

So, strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

Por eso robustezcan sus manos cansadas y sus rodillas vacilantes; caminen por un camino plano, para que el cojo ya no tropiece, sino más bien se alivie.

Gospel: (Lk 13:30)

For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Pues los que ahora son los últimos, serán los primeros; y los que ahora son los primeros, serán los últimos.

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 24, 2025

READINGS/ LECTURAS

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/
Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and
9b/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt
23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-
12/Mk 6:17-29

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Saturday, August 23

4:00pm +Ignacio Lujan by Dolores Hernández
+Vinny Meza by Adriana Martinez
+Monta Wilson by Cindy Franco
+Joaquina Rubio by Tina Morales
+Victor Rubio by Tina Morales

Sunday, August 24

8:30am +Rosa de Haro (1st Anniv) by Maria Serafin
Mariaelena Mendoza (Health) by Carol & Bertha
+Stella Martinez by Ricardo Martinez
+Delia De Haro (+Bday) by Family
10:00am For the Parishioners
12:00pm +Victor Natividad by Natividad Family
+Elizabeth Ramos by Natividad Family
+Jose Perez by Natividad Family
+Cruz y Paula by Ana Fonseca

Monday, August 25

5:30pm Liturgy w/ Deacon Frank Segura

Tuesday, August 26

5:30pm Liturgy w/ Deacon Frank Segura

Wednesday, August 27

5:30pm Liturgy w/ Deacon Frank Segura

Thursday, August 28

5:30pm Liturgy of the Word & Adoration w/
Deacon Ricardo Corella

Friday, August 29

5:30pm Liturgy w/ Deacon Ricardo Corella

Presented by the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso

19TH ANNUAL FOUNDATION OF FAITH EVENT

Let Your Hope Shine

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

STARLIGHT EVENT CENTER

5-9 PM



Scan For
More Info



SPEAKER

Sister Josephine Garrett



TEPEYACINSTITUTE

TEPEYACINSTITUTE

BE FORMED TO BRING CHRIST TO OTHERS

Our mission is to form lay people to serve in a variety of parish ministries, helping them become missionary disciples rooted in faith and service.

OUR FALL CLASSES ARE NOW OPEN!



REGISTER
TODAY

• MCH Family Outreach Presents: Empowerment Workshops at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church

Join us for Supportive and engaging series designed to strengthen family relationships, improve communication, and promote a healthy connection between parents and children.

• Sundays •

September 7-November 9, 2025

• 10:30 am-11:45 am •

By attending these workshops, parents will gain valuable skills that empower their role at home and in the community. As an added benefit:

- If your child is attending confirmation class your child will receive one hour of volunteer credit per class attended by a parent.
- Parents who attend all 8 sessions will be entered into a raffle for a special prize!
- All members of the community are invited to attend.

 MCH Family Outreach
Offering Hope Since 1976