

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS
IGLESIA CATOLICA ROMANA

10970 Bywood Dr. (& East Glen), El Paso, TX 79936 - 915-592-1313
Email: saintthomasa@sbcglobal.net, Website: www.stthomas-elpaso.com

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



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

Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: "When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you, he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table" (Luke 14:10). This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

Father John Muir

LIVE THE LITURGY

"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor," Jesus instructs. "Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." Each of us has our own banquet to offer, our own gifts to share. Who will we invite? ©LPI

VIVIR LA LITURGIA

"Cuando organicen un banquete, inviten a los pobres", instruye Jesús. "Bienaventurado serás por su inhabilidad de poder pagarte". Cada uno de nosotros tiene su propio banquete que ofrecer, nuestros propios dones que compartir. ¿A quién invitaremos? ©LPI

MEDITACIÓN EVANGÉLICA

El Reino de Dios se construye en la vida de cada día, donde cada uno de nosotros somos los protagonistas. Se debe trabajar duro y se exige perfección; sin embargo, al mismo tiempo se nos pide no aparentar, no presumir, sino, por el contrario, ser humildes y servir al que lo necesite. Porque tu Reino, Señor, se construye con dedicación, esfuerzo y amor. No se trata de prestigio ni de comodidad. "No debemos buscar por nuestra propia iniciativa la atención y consideración de los demás, sino más bien dejar que otros nos la presten. Jesús siempre nos muestra el camino de la humildad. ¡Debemos aprender el camino de la humildad! Porque es el más auténtico, lo que también nos permite tener relaciones auténticas" (Papa Francisco).

Los primeros asientos en las fiestas deben tomarse con humildad, no con protagonismo. Jesús, este domingo, nos da una lección de lo que es la humildad en los banquetes o fiestas a las que somos invitados. "Cuando alguien te invite a un banquete de bodas, no escojas el mejor lugar. Puede ocurrir que haya sido invitado otro más importante que tú, y el que los invitó a los dos venga y te diga: 'Deja tu lugar a esta persona' Y, con gran vergüenza, tendrás que ir a ocupar el último lugar" (Lucas 14:8-9). Todos los servidores del Señor debemos ocupar su lugar en el servicio que realizamos, ya sea en la familia, en el trabajo o en la comunidad. Servir implica siempre ocupar el último lugar. ©LPI



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC**What Did You Expect?**

Moms have a lot of jobs, and it's usually the case that none of them pay very well.

My work as a chef? Zero compensation, and my clientele are very rarely pleased with my efforts. My role as a teacher, a maid, a chauffeur, a therapist — same deal. Ironically, these jobs consume so much of my time that I am constricted in my work as a writer — the only sphere where I do actually garner any earnings.

It is so easy to grumble about all of this, and I do it all the time. Because despite the fact that I know better, I expect repayment for my good deeds. Deep in my soul, I expect it.

That's a huge problem.

In my defense, I don't think this is a very uncommon thing. I think, if we're being really honest, we all expect "payment" for being a good person. We want God to give us what we ask. We want people to treat us a certain way. We want our day to go smoothly. We expect these things as a matter of course; we feel entitled to them, and we become grumpy when we are denied them. I worked so hard. I gave so much. What was it all even for?

But what if we expected absolutely nothing?

When you hold a banquet, Jesus said, invite those who cannot return the favor. Give not just without the expectation of repayment, but without the possibility of it.

Think about that for a minute. What does that even look like — no possibility of payment?

I know what that looks like in my own life. It's giving more to the literal poor, yes, but it's also giving more — and more happily, more lovingly — when I cook and clean and drive and write and console. It's not lamenting that no one appreciates me — it's actually hoping no one does.

It's learning to love the lowest place at the table. Because in the lowest place, we are closest to God.

©LPi

(PRACTICANDO) CATÓLISMO**¿Qué Esperabas?**

Las mamás tienen muchos trabajos, y por lo general se da el caso de que ninguno de ellos paga muy bien. ¿Mi trabajo como chef? Cero compensaciones, y mi clientela rara vez está satisfecha con mis esfuerzos. Mi papel como maestra, sirvienta, chofer, terapeuta, es lo mismo. Irónicamente, estos trabajos consumen tanto de mi tiempo que estoy limitada en mi trabajo como escritora, la única esfera en la que realmente obtengo ganancias.

Es muy fácil quejarse de todo esto, y lo hago todo el tiempo. Porque a pesar de que sé que no es así, espero que me paguen mis buenas acciones. En el fondo de mi alma, lo espero.

Ese es un gran problema.

En mi defensa, no creo que esto sea algo poco común. Creo que, si somos realmente honestos, todos esperamos un "pago" por ser una buena persona. Queremos que Dios nos dé lo que pedimos. Queremos que la gente nos trate de cierta manera. Queremos que nuestro día transcurra sin problemas. Esperamos que estas cosas sean algo natural; Nos sentimos con derecho a ello, y nos volvemos gruñones cuando se nos niega. Trabajé muy duro. Di tanto. ¿Y todo para qué?

Pero ¿y si no esperaríamos absolutamente nada?

Cuando celebres un banquete, dijo Jesús, invita a aquellos que no pueden devolver el favor. Dar no solo sin la expectativa de reembolso, sino sin la posibilidad de ello.

Piensa en eso por un minuto. ¿Cómo se ve eso, sin posibilidad de pago?

Sé cómo se ve eso en mi propia vida. Es dar más a los literalmente pobres, sí, pero también es dar más, y más felizmente, más amorosamente, cuando cocino y limpio y conduzco y escribo y consuelo. No es lamentar que nadie me aprecie, sino esperar que nadie lo haga.

Es aprender a amar el lugar más bajo de la mesa. Porque en el lugar más bajo, estamos más cerca de Dios.

©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Humility and Stewardship

Some people have "the rich relation" in their family tree. Aunt Cindy, who is always traveling somewhere new and exciting. Cousin Richard and his lake house. Your sister and brother-in-law who buy a new car every year.

Oftentimes these relatives take great happiness in sharing their wealth. You can usually count on an exotic gift from Aunt Cindy's latest adventure or an invitation to go out on Richard's pontoon boat at the end of the summer.

Yet sometimes, that person wants something in return. Not money, of course, but something else. Attention. Flattery. Gratitude. Cindy wants you to ask her where she got the priceless artifact in Istanbul, so she can talk about the many antiquities dealers she visited. Richard wants you to ask about his new boat, so he can talk about how well business has been this year. Maybe the person just wants to know you like the gift or that the experience offered is pleasing to you.

This is a natural inclination that we all possess. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be the person people count on. There is nothing wrong with wanting to offer worthy gifts. There is nothing wrong with hoping that maybe, just a little, we might be appreciated.

What matters is the spirit we carry within our hearts when we do it. What matters is our destination as we approach that proverbial table. Are we headed for the place of honor, expecting it to be waiting for us? Or are we making our way to the lowest place, simply thankful to be invited to the meal? Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

Prayer for Humility

Dear God, Mold my heart after Yours. Help me to see myself as You see me: surrounded by Your love. Help me to see others as You see them as well. Give me knowledge of your ways, today and always. Amen ©LPI

Oración por la Humildad

Dios mío,
Moldea mi corazón según el tuyo. Ayúdame a verme a mí misma como Tú me ves: rodeada de Tu amor. Ayúdame a ver a los demás como Tú también los ves. Dame conocimiento de tus caminos, hoy y siempre. Amén. ©LPI

MAYORDOMÍA COTIDIANA

Humildad y administración

Algunas personas tienen a "un pariente rico" en su árbol genealógico. La tía Cindy, que siempre está viajando a lugares nuevos y emocionantes. El primo Richard y su casa del lago. Tu hermana y tu cuñado, que compran un auto nuevo cada año.

A menudo, estos familiares disfrutan enormemente compartiendo su riqueza. Normalmente, puedes contar con un regalo exótico de la última aventura de la tía Cindy o una invitación para salir en el pontón de Richard al final del verano.

Yet sometimes, that person wants something in return. Not money, of course, but something else. Attention. Flattery. Gratitude. Cindy wants you to ask her where she got the priceless artifact in Istanbul, so she can talk about the many antiquities dealers she visited. Richard wants you to ask about his new boat, so he can talk about how well business has been this year. Maybe the person just wants to know you like the gift or that the experience offered is pleasing to you.

Esta es una inclinación natural que todos poseemos. No tiene nada de malo querer ser la persona con la que la gente cuenta. No tiene nada de malo querer ofrecer regalos valiosos. No tiene nada de malo esperar que, aunque sea un poco, seamos apreciados.

What matters is the spirit we carry within our hearts when we do it. What matters is our destination as we approach that proverbial table. Are we headed for the place of honor, expecting it to be waiting for us? Or are we making our way to the lowest place, simply thankful to be invited to the meal?



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

1st Reading Question:

Sirach speaks of the virtue of humility and the wisdom of knowing one's limits. Can you think of a time when you needed to depend on others?

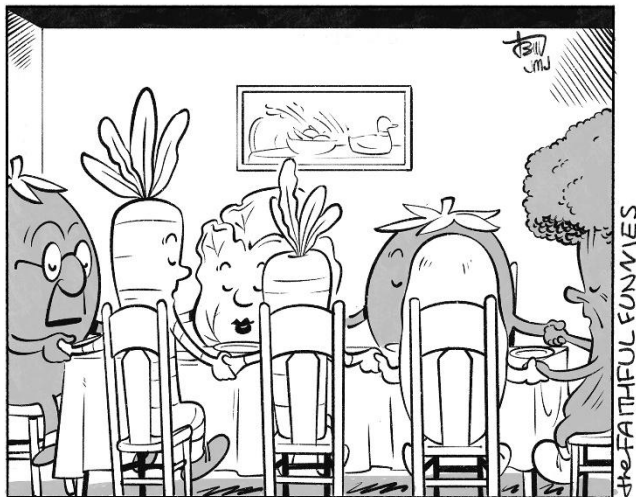
2nd Reading Question:

The author of Hebrews speaks of our direct access to God through the new covenant established by Jesus. How might we take advantage of such a gift?

Gospel Question:

With the parable of the wedding banquet, Jesus teaches the Pharisees to be open and even inviting to the poor and marginalized. How might you exercise this virtue in the coming week?

"What did the vegetables say before they started praying?"



"Lettuce pray."



Praying together is a beautiful part of Christian life. We can pray to thank God for His blessings, ask for His guidance in our lives, or just to spend time with Him.

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PREGUNTAS DE LA SEMANA

Pregunta de la 1ª Lectura:

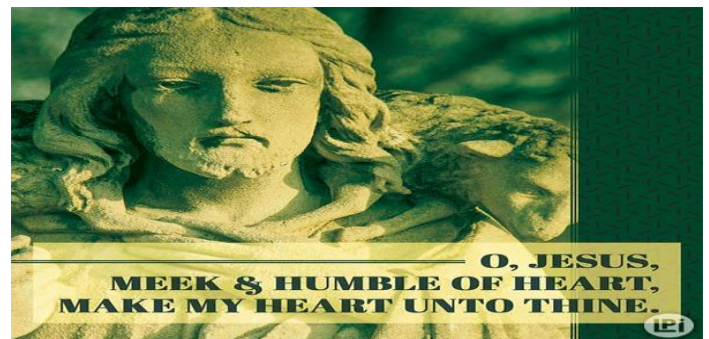
El Eclesiástico habla de la virtud de la humildad y de la sabiduría de conocer los propios límites. ¿Puedes pensar en un momento en el que hayas necesitado depender de los demás?

Pregunta de la 2ª Lectura:

El autor de Hebreos habla de nuestro acceso directo a Dios a través del nuevo pacto establecido por Jesús. ¿Cómo podríamos aprovechar ese don?

Pregunta del Evangelio:

Con la parábola del banquete de bodas, Jesús enseña a los fariseos a ser abiertos e incluso acogedores con los pobres y marginados. ¿Cómo podrías ejercer esa virtud en la próxima semana? ©LPI



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**



EL PASO CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW! Rev 21:5

Fri., Oct. 10th 7PM-10PM and Saturday, Oct. 11th 9AM-10PM.

At Region XIX Convention Complex at 11670 Chito Samaniego,

Solid Catholic teaching by powerful & renowned speakers,

Jesse Romero and Sister Linda Koontz!

Praise & worship, healing prayer & fellowship: a do not miss event!

Buy Tickets: \$20 at Open Arms, 8210 N. Loop (T-F, 10AM-3PM),

Call 915-217-0853 to pre-pay by Credit Card (T-F, 10AM-3PM).

pre-paid tickets can be picked up at Open Arms or arrival at Venue.

Tickets also on sale: Holy Spirit Christian Store & Madonna Shop!

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Ann Chacon

Conference Coordinator

Questions? Mary Ann Chacon 915-276-4164

Joanne Ivey 915-820-2692

CRAFT FAIR PLANNING MEETING

We're celebrating the **5 GOLDEN YEARS** of the STA Crafty Christmas Fair!

All parishioners are invited to help **plan and execute** this year's fair. Please join our **kickoff planning meeting** on **Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 6:30 pm in the Guadalupe Room.**

Mark your calendars — the fair will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, November 22nd and 23rd, 2025.**

REUNIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN DE LA FERIA DE ARTESANÍA

¡Celebramos el **quinto aniversario** de nuestra Feria Navideña Artesanal de Santo Tomás de Aquino — **5 AÑOS DORADOS!**

Invitamos a todos a participar en la **planeación y ejecución** de la feria. Acompáñenos a la **reunión de arranque el martes 2 de septiembre de 2025 a las 6:30 p. m. en el Salón Guadalupe.**

Reserve la fecha — la feria será el **sábado 22 y domingo 23 de noviembre de 2025.**

VIRTUS CLASS

A virtue class in English will be offered to all our ministers.

Saturday September 13, 2025 at 9:30-11:30am.
At the Guadalupe room.

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.

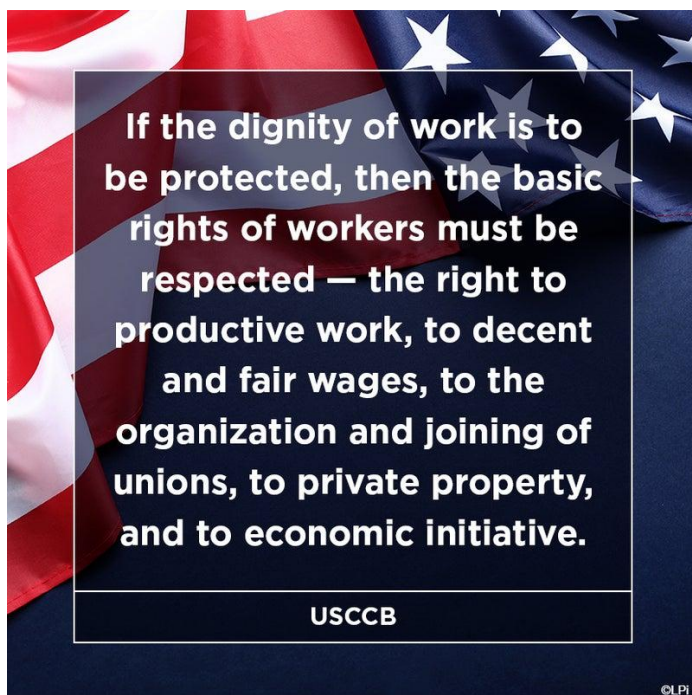
CAN WE CHEW GUM AT MASS?

Does chewing gum break the fast before Communion?

If you look in Canon Law or in the Catechism, there is no mention of chewing gum. I guess it does not rate the attention of the universal church! The Church requires us to fast for one hour before we receive the Eucharist. Basically, we are to refrain from food and drink, not including water or medicine.

There are also exceptions for people who are ill. Overall, the fast is intended for us to prepare ourselves to receive the Eucharist and in some small way to literally as well as spiritually hunger for what we are about to receive.

Chewing gum, while not really food, does at least break the spirit of the fast. Besides that, it is a distraction and rude. What do you do with the gum when it is time to receive Communion? People have actually come to the altar chewing away, oblivious to what they were doing or Who they were receiving. At best, it is distracting and irreverent. At worst, it adds a barrier to giving our best to receiving God's best. ©LPI



¿PODEMOS MASTICAR CHICLE EN LA MISA?

¿Masticar chicle rompe el ayuno antes de comulgar?

Si buscas en el Derecho Canónico o en el Catecismo, no se menciona el chicle. ¡Supongo que no merece la atención de la Iglesia universal! La Iglesia nos exige ayunar una hora antes de recibir la Eucaristía. Básicamente, debemos abstenernos de comer y beber, excepto agua o medicamentos.

También hay excepciones para las personas enfermas. En general, el ayuno tiene como objetivo prepararnos para recibir la Eucaristía y, de alguna manera, sentir hambre, tanto literal como espiritual, de lo que estamos a punto de recibir.

Masticar chicle, aunque no es realmente un alimento, al menos rompe el espíritu del ayuno. Además, es una distracción y una falta de respeto. ¿Qué se hace con el chicle a la hora de comulgar? De hecho, hay gente que ha venido al altar masticando, sin darse cuenta de lo que hacían ni de a quién recibían. En el mejor de los casos, distrae y es irreverente. En el peor, impide dar lo mejor de nosotros y recibir lo mejor de Dios.



This Week

Monday; September 01

No Mass/ Office Closed

Tuesday; September 02

12-3pm Office Closed for Staff Meeting

6:30-8:30pm Craft Fair Prep Meeting

Wednesday; September 03

6:00pm Baptism Team Meeting
Confessions

Thursday, September 04

5-8pm EPI SO (Parish Hall)

5:30pm Liturgy of the word w/Deacon Frank Segura

OBSERVANCES/ CONMEMORACIONES

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Labor Day

Wednesday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church



SUNDAY READINGS/ LECTURAS DOMINICALES

First Reading (Sir 3:18)

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God.

Hazte tanto mas pequeño cuanto mas grande seas y hallaras gracia ante el Señor.

Psalms: (Ps 68)

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Dios da Libertad y riqueza a los cautivos.

Second Reading (Heb 12:18)

You have not approached that which could be touched and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness.

Cuando ustedes se acercaron a Dios, encontraron nada material, como en Sinai, ni fuego ardiente, ni oscuridad, ni tinieblas.

Gospel: (Lk 14:11)

"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Porque el que se engrandece a si mismo, será humillado; y el que se humilla, será engandecido.

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.

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 31, 2025

READINGS/ LECTURAS

Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/
Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11

Friday: Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Saturday, August 30

4:00pm +Felix & Norma Apodaca 50th Anniversary
+Florinda Calderon by Calderon Family
+Esther Morales by Richard Morales

Sunday, August 31

8:30am Mariaelena Mendoza (Health) by Bertha & Carol
+Stella Martinez by Richard Martinez
+Luz & Vicente Meza by Adriana Martinez
10:00am +Irma Perez by STA Family
+Jesus Muro by Maria Betts
+Vinny Meza by Adriana Martinez
+Jorgo Portillo by Rosa Portillo

12:00pm For the Parishioners

Monday, September 01

5:30pm **NO MASS**

Tuesday, September 02

5:30pm +Enrique Valdez by Lupe Bujanda
Respect of life by Grace Martinez
+Imelda Jimenez by Maggie Enriquez
+Jorge Portillo by Rosa Portillo
+Alfredo Mendez

Wednesday, September 03

5:30pm +Maria Montoya by Mari Cruz Montoya
Maggie Enriquez
+William Barrera by Ana Barrera
+Leticia Robles by Rosalinda Robles

Thursday, September 04

5:30pm Liturgy of the Word & Adoration w/
Deacon Frank Segura

Friday, September 05

5:30pm +William Barrera by Ana Barrera
Librado Lara (Health) by Elvia Muñoz
Guadalupe Clark

