

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



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad." - Lk 16:25

26° DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

"Hijo, recuerda que en tu vida recibiste bienes y Lázaro, en cambio, males". - Lc 16, 25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Leccionario II © 1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano, CELPE)

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 am embarrassed to admit that I frequently find myself dining and socializing with people who have millions and sometimes billions of dollars. I've eaten more caviar, lobster and wagyu steak than most people on the planet. I justify it by saying it's part of my job. But I have seven pairs of nice jeans and expensive shoes.

So, it is rather uncomfortable to hear Our Lord say: "My child, remember that you received what was good in your lifetime, while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented" (Luke 16:25). Fellow rich people (and if you're American, you're rich), do we not vehemently though quietly object to this parable's karma-esque reward system? Why bless the rich man just to curse him later? And curse Lazarus just to bless him later? So, Americans go to hell, while Burundians and Afghans go to heaven? What is going on?

One clue is that the condemned rich man doesn't complain of injustice. Rather, he simply begs to help his brothers to repent. Of what? We don't know exactly. Perhaps another clue is that the rich man now seems more like the downtrodden Lazarus. He knows what it is to be hungry and thirsty, to be wounded in the gutter; that he deserved that, not fancy meals and clothes. Maybe the rich man finally understands how to receive true blessings, but it is too late for him. But not for me. Not for us.

Father John Muir... ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY

The rich man had a chance, every day of his life, to choose righteousness. But righteousness wasn't convenient for him. He discovered too late that the only time we have to follow God is now. Here. This moment. Will we take our chance? ©LPi

MEDITACIÓN EVANGÉLICA

Un abismo enorme sigue existiendo entre la línea del pobre y del rico, entre los Lázaros y los ricos de nuestro tiempo. ¿Quiénes son? ¿Dónde están? Están mezclados, porque existen ricos tan pobres que no los conocemos; ellos, de su riqueza, comparten sus bienes calladamente con quienes los necesitan. Y podemos encontrar pobres tan ricos por su modo de vivir egoístamente y por almacenar rencor en su corazón. "Además, entre ustedes y nosotros hay un abismo tremendo, de tal manera que los que quieran cruzar desde aquí hasta ustedes no pueden hacerlo, y tampoco lo pueden hacer del lado de ustedes al nuestro" (Lucas 16:26). Aquí se trata de interiorizar la Palabra de Dios y darnos cuenta de que estamos representados en los dos personajes. Y lo importante es ayudar a la gente en sus diferentes necesidades, no hacernos sordos, como si no ocurriera nada.

San Agustín, en su Sermón 33 sobre el Antiguo Testamento, dice lo siguiente: "Escucha el evangelio, mira y examina los pensamientos de los dos hombres de la parábola: Había un hombre rico que se vestía de púrpura y lino y banqueteaba espléndidamente cada día... En cambio, un mendigo llamado Lázaro yacía a la entrada de su casa. No mencionó el nombre del rico, pero sí dijo el nombre del pobre. Dios calló el nombre del que andaba en boca de todos,

mientras que mencionó el nombre del que todos callaban". ¿Crees que Dios menciona tu nombre? ¿O crees que lo calla? ©LPi

VIVIR LA LITURGIA

El hombre rico tuvo la oportunidad, todos los días de su vida, de elegir la justicia. Pero la justicia no le convenía. Descubrió demasiado tarde que el único momento en que tenemos que seguir a Dios es ahora. Aquí. En este momento. ¿Aprovecharemos nuestra oportunidad? ©LPi

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC**Snow Days and Second Chances**

Yesterday morning, my kids were playing outside in the snow, and I decided to take advantage of the quiet house to make a few important phone calls.

Fool. I forgot Murphy's Law of Parenting, which dictates that as soon as you dial a phone number, a bomb of irritation and neediness explodes within the heart of your loudest child. Sure enough, as soon as the person on the other end of the line picked up, my son was at the back door, whimpering loudly. Horror of horrors, he had snow in his boot.

I gestured to the phone. He whimpered more loudly. I mouthed and mimed threats. He threw his boot at me. I gave him The Look. He started to scream.

Well, needless to say, the phone call didn't go well, and my son's snow day was cut short. He begged for a second chance, but I explained to him that life doesn't always give you second chances. The phone call was over. Ruined. I couldn't get it back.

But that's when I remembered that moms have a superpower: creating second chances where none had existed before. So I told him that if he could be quiet while I made the rest of my calls, he could go back outside.

My son is young right now. I give him lots of second chances because second chances help him learn. Second chances are the training wheels of life.

I dread the day when the training wheels come off, and I can't save him from his bad decisions. I think every parent does.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus highlights a reality that we often wish to ignore: at some point, we will run out of chances, and it's not because God tires of giving them to us. It's because a truly endless supply of chances would strip us of our free will. It would deny us the right of being taken at our word — and God respects us too much to do that.

My son saved his snow day. It's a good reminder: take the second (and third and fourth) chance. Don't wait for the next one. ©LPI

**(PRACTICANDO) CATÓLISMO****Días de Nieve y Segundas Oportunidades**

Ayer por la mañana, mis hijos estaban jugando afuera en la nieve y decidí aprovechar la tranquilidad de la casa para hacer algunas llamadas telefónicas importantes.

Tonta. Olvidé la Ley de Murphy de la Crianza de los Hijos, que dicta que tan pronto como marques un número de teléfono, una bomba de irritación y necesidad explotara dentro del corazón de tu hijo más ruidoso. Efectivamente, tan pronto como la persona al otro lado de la línea contestó, mi hijo estaba en la puerta trasera, gimiendo fuertemente. Horror de horrores, tenía nieve en la bota.

Hice un gesto hacia el teléfono. Gimió más fuerte. Murmuraba y emitía amenazas. Me tiró la bota. Le dirigí La Mirada. Empezó a gritar.

Bueno, no hace falta decir que la llamada telefónica no salió bien y el día de nieve de mi hijo se interrumpió. Me rogó que le diera una segunda oportunidad, pero le expliqué que la vida no siempre te da segundas oportunidades. La llamada telefónica había terminado. Arruinada. No pude recuperarla.

Pero fue entonces cuando recordé que las mamás tienen un superpoder: crear segundas oportunidades donde antes no existían. Así que le dije que si podía quedarse callado mientras yo hacía el resto de mis llamadas, podía volver a salir.

Mi hijo es pequeño en este momento. Le doy muchas segundas oportunidades porque las segundas oportunidades le ayudan a aprender. Las segundas oportunidades son las ruedas de entrenamiento de la vida.

Temo el día en que se desprendan las ruedas de entrenamiento y no pueda salvarlo de sus malas decisiones. Creo que todos los padres lo hacen.

La parábola del rico y Lázaro pone de relieve una realidad que a menudo queremos ignorar: en algún momento nos quedaremos sin oportunidades, y no es porque Dios se canse de darnoslas. Es porque un suministro verdaderamente interminable de oportunidades nos despojaría de nuestro libre albedrío. Nos negaría el derecho de ser tomados en nuestra palabra, y Dios nos respeta demasiado como para hacer eso.

Mi hijo salvó su día de nieve. Es un buen recordatorio: aprovecha la segunda (y tercera y cuarta) oportunidad. No esperes a la próxima. ©LPI

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Competing Like a Steward

Picture it: family game night. What are you playing? Monopoly? Clue? Chess? Poker?

Whatever your game of choice, I'll bet the night is a lot more fun when everyone tries their best to win. Sure, no one likes an obnoxiously competitive opponent — but if we're being honest with ourselves, it's actually more annoying to face off with someone who just doesn't care. A little competition gives the activity a pulse. It keeps everyone interested. It speaks to the worthiness of the endeavor.

We are told to "compete well for the faith." These are confusing words, perhaps, since cutthroat competition doesn't jive with the spiritual ideals of submission and humility. So why is God asking this of us? He isn't setting up some kind of cosmic contest to reward the smartest, strongest, and fastest among us with His mercy and grace.

Competition doesn't have to mean aggressive self-interest. It doesn't have to mean ferocity and lack of principle. Competition can — and should — mean witness. Think of the Olympics. There's a competition that isn't a conquest or a performance but rather a testimony — a feat of strength! A celebration of ability, hard work, and effort. Does anything glorify God more than that?

Let's strive to be competitive, but with the competitive nature of an everyday steward: that which seeks the good of all running the race.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

For those in pain and in sorrow, God be their comfort. For caretakers and medical staff, God give them grace. Surround those afflicted with Your love, care, and mercy, you who are our healing and hope.

Amen. ©LPI

ORACION POR LOS ENFERMOS

Para los que están en dolor y tristeza, Dios se su consuelo.

Para los cuidadores y el personal médico, Dios dales la gracia.

Rodea a los afligidos con Tu amor, cuidado y misericordia, Tú que eres nuestra sanación y esperanza. Amén.

MAYORDOMÍA COTIDIANA

Compitiendo como un administrador

Imagina esto: noche de juegos en familia. ¿Qué estás jugando? ¿Monopoly? ¿Clue? ¿Ajedrez? ¿Póker?

Cualquiera que sea tu juego favorito, apuesto a que la noche es mucho más divertida cuando todos intentan dar lo mejor de sí para ganar. Claro, a nadie le gusta un oponente ridículamente competitivo, pero si somos honestos con nosotros mismos, en realidad es más molesto enfrentarse a alguien que simplemente no le importa. Un poco de competencia le da vida a la actividad. Mantiene a todos interesados. Habla del valor del esfuerzo.

Se nos dice que "compitamos bien por la fe." Estas son palabras confusas, quizás, ya que la competencia desmedida no concuerda con los ideales espirituales de sumisión y humildad. Entonces, ¿por qué Dios nos está pidiendo esto? No está estableciendo algún tipo de concurso cósmico para recompensar a los más inteligentes, fuertes y rápidos entre nosotros con Su misericordia y gracia.

La competencia no tiene que significar un interés propio agresivo. No tiene que significar ferocidad y falta de principios. La competencia puede — y debe — significar testimonio. Piensa en los Juegos Olímpicos. Hay una competencia que no es una conquista o una actuación, sino más bien un testimonio — ¡una hazaña de fuerza! Una celebración de la habilidad, el trabajo duro y el esfuerzo. ¿Hay algo que glorifique más a Dios que eso?

Esforcémonos por ser competitivos, pero con la naturaleza competitiva de un mayordomo cotidiano: aquel que busca el bien de todos los que corren la carrera.





Catholic Engaged Encounter of El Paso Las Cruces, Inc
Website & Online Registration: elpasolascruces.engagedencounter.com
Call 915-633-9968 for any questions

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER: Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) of El Paso Las-Cruces serves the Diocese of Las Cruces and El Paso. It is under the direction of the El Paso Diocese Office of Marriage and Family Life Ministry. It is an **ALL-ENGLISH** retreat for a man and woman (couple) in preparation for their Sacramental Marriage based on the teachings and values of the Roman Catholic Church Law. While CEE is Catholic in nature, it is open to all faith couples preparing for a sacramental marriage. The retreat provides couples with an atmosphere where they can concentrate exclusively on one another, free of the tensions, pressures, and interruptions of the world. It is specifically designed to give couples planning their sacrament, an opportunity to write and dialogue honestly and intensely and having Christ at the center of marriage. The couple dialogue about their strengths, weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals and attitudes about many topics to include money, sex, children, family, their roles in the church and society. The weekend also fulfills one of the pre-marriage requirements in the El Paso Diocese and Las Cruces Dioceses. For all marriage prep requirements, please contact your parish.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A CEE RETREAT? Through a series of presentations, given by Catholic married presenters, the engaged couple is invited to privately reflect on many aspects of married life; the retreat truly can be a time of discovery. Presentations are followed by private reflection and discussion among the engaged couple. The retreat is not a group therapy; instead, it provides private one-on-one time for the couple to learn more deeply about each other. The retreat is based on 5 major themes: The Family We Grew Up In, Sacramental Marriage, Communication, Intimacy, and Catholic Values. You can foster a deeper growth in your relationship with God, with each other in keeping a lifelong sacramental marriage.

ONLINE REGISTRATION GO TO: <https://elpasolascruces.engagedencounter.com>

COST: The cost is \$275.00 per couple. Payment is made online with credit or debit card. Please call for a payment plan or if you qualify for financial assistance due to an emergency. ALL materials and 4 meals will be provided. (Meals on Saturday - Lunch & Dinner and Sunday - Breakfast & Lunch)

LOCATION: Las Hermanas Dominicas Retreat Center at 634 Hampton Rd. El Paso, TX 79907

WEEKEND OVERNIGHT RETREAT: This is a 2-day overnight weekend retreat from Saturday 7:30 am to Sunday 5pm.

MASS: There will be a mass scheduled on the weekend. There will be no time for confessions during the retreat.

CANCELLATION POLICY: There is a \$25.00 processing fee for all cancellations. There are no refunds for No Shows. There is no cost for a one time reschedule

2026 CEE RETREATS: There are only six retreats for 2026.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. January 17-18 | 2. March 28-29 | 3. May 30-31 |
| 4. July 25-26 | 5. September 12-13 | 6. November 14-15 |

For a Spanish Catholic Engaged Encounter please call: 915-222-4321 or 915-239-1197 or for more information visit the Spanish online at: <http://www.eelpasoespanol.com>

BLESSED SACRAMENT CANDLE VELA DEL SANTISIMO SACRAMENTO

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

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

+Carmen Montoya



Crafty Christmas Fair 5 Years of Tradition

Raffle tickets for the **5 Golden Baskets** are on sale after all Masses this weekend by the Crafty Christmas Fair Team. Tickets are **\$5 each or 5 for \$20**. This fundraiser supports our parish building improvements — please buy your tickets before they run out!

Basket Themes:

-  Cozy Christmas Cheer
-  Santa's Surprise
-  Morning Brew Bliss
-  Blessings & Devotion
-  Family Movie Night

Mark your calendars!

The Crafty Christmas Fair will be held **Saturday, November 22 (12–6 pm) and Sunday, November 23 (9 am–3 pm)** in the Parish Hall.

 **Thank you to all our vendors!** Booths are officially sold out. If you are still interested, please contact the parish office to be placed on the waiting list.

MCH FAMILY OUTREACH EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

Join us for supportive and engaging series designed to strengthen family relationships, improve communication, and promote a healthy connection between parents and children. Every Sunday until November 9, 2025 from 10:30 -11:45am.

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

Feria Navideña 5 años de Tradición

Los boletos de rifa para las **5 Canastas de Oro** están a la venta después de todas las misas este fin de semana por el equipo de la Feria Navideña. Los boletos cuestan **\$5 cada uno o 5 por \$20**. Esta recaudación apoya las mejoras de nuestro edificio parroquial — ¡compre sus boletos antes de que se agoten!

Temas de las Canastas:

-  Alegría Navideña
-  Sorpresa de Santa
-  Aroma de Café
-  Bendiciones y Devoción
-  Cine Familiar

Reserve la fecha!

La Feria Navideña se llevará a cabo el **sábado 22 de noviembre (12–6 pm) y domingo 23 de noviembre (9 am–3 pm)** en el Salón Parroquial.

 **¡Gracias a todos nuestros vendedores!** Todos los puestos están agotados. Si aún está interesado, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial para ser agregado a la lista de espera.



DAILY HAPPENINGS

GLPI

Sunday, Sept. 28

10:30am Empowerment Workshop

Wednesday, Oct 01

6:00pm Confessions

Thursday, Oct 02

5:00pm EPISO (Parish Hall)

5:30pm Liturgy of the Word w/ Dcn Frank Segura

Saturday; Oct 03

9:00am SVDP

OBSERVANCES/ CONMEMORACIONES

Sunday: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Priesthood Sunday

Monday: Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

Tuesday: St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: The Holy Guardian Angels

Saturday: St. Francis of Assisi

SUNDAY READINGS/ LECTURAS DOMINICALES

First Reading (Am 6:7)

Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile,
and their wanton revelry shall be done away with.

Por eso irán al destierro a la cabeza de los cautivos y
se acabara la orgia de los disolutos.

Psalm: (Ps 146)

Praise the Lord, my soul!

Alabemos al Señor, que viene a salvarnos

Second Reading (1 Tm 6:11)

But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion,
faith, love, patience, and gentleness.

Tu como hombre de Dios, lleva una vida de rectitud,
piedad, fe, amor, paciencia y mansedumbre.

Gospel: (Lk 16:31)

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses
and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if
someone should rise from the dead.'

Abraham repuso: Si no escuchan a Moises y a los
profetas, no harán caso, ni, aunque resucite un
muerto.

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.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 28, 2025

READINGS/ LECTURAS

Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

Monday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 (458)/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/
Mt 18:1-5, 10

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24



Saturday, September 27

4:00pm +Eddie Herrera Jr. Anniv by Family

+Eva Castro Anniv by Family

Enriqueta Stevens, (Health) by Luz Lira

Sunday, September 28

8:30am Respect for life

+Stella Martinez by Richard Martinez

+Hector Reyes Saldaña by Beft

10:00am +Luis Mora by Martha Mora

+Alicia & Natividad Prado by Elba Rizo

+Maria G. Cuevas

12:00pm For the Pashioners

Monday, September 29

5:30pm +Alphonso Quiñonez by Sheila Grant

Tuesday, September 30

5:30pm Thanksgiving by Gloria Hernandez

+Lupe Marquez by Family

+Manuel Figeroua by Family

Wednesday, October 01

5:30pm Angel Escobar (Bday) Jesusita Flores

Thursday, October 02

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

Friday, October 03

5:30pm +Richard Granger by Marisa Robles



GLPI

Priesthood Sunday
Domingo del Sacerdocio

"What kind of pasta did the chef add to the menu for September?"



THE FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"Angel Hair!"



On September 29, we remember the archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael — heavenly messengers who share God's insight with us.

©LPI

"What does the tiger say to his friends before they go hunting for food?"



THE FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"Let us prey."



The Bible tells us to pray in every circumstance; don't forget that God is always here, listening, and loving!

©LPI

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WHEN YOU'RE DRIVING DO YOU EVER NOTICE ALL THOSE SPEED LIMIT SIGNS AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND WARNING SIGNS?



WELL, THERE ARE CERTAIN INDICATORS IN HERE THAT YOU ALSO NEED TO BE PAYING ATTENTION TO FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY...



ISYNDER WEBB! ©2001 LPI WWJD

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

How's BUSINESS Joe?

GREAT! I'M MAKING MORE MONEY THAN I KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH!



ISYNDER WEBB! ©1998 LPI AMDG

HERE—I'LL BET SISTER RITA AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES WILL BE JUST FULL OF IDEAS!



AM 6:1,4-7