

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA

102 LORENZ RD., SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209 | 210.824.1743 | STANTHONYDEPADUA.ORG

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday 9:00 am (*Livestream on Facebook*)

Saturday 5:00 pm (*Livestream on Facebook*)

Sunday 7:00 am, 8:30 am (*Spanish - Livestream on Facebook*),
10:30 am (*Livestream on Facebook*) & 12:30 pm

Confessions (*Parlor*) – Thursdays 9:35 am & Saturdays 3:30pm

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Monday – Sunday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

210-824-1743 | STANTHONYDEPADUA.ORG | @STANTHONYDEPADUASA

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SHOWED

THEM HIS HANDS
AND HIS SIDE.

— JOHN 20:20 —

Fr. Kevin's Korner

LEARNING FROM THOMAS

We often imagine that faith came more easily to those who saw Jesus in person than it does for us today. Yet the Gospels remind us that this is not so. Many witnessed Jesus' works and still did not believe; seeing alone does not guarantee faith. Faith ultimately involves a personal decision to trust.

Even the apostles struggled. Saint Thomas the Apostle was not alone in doubting the Resurrection. The Gospels tell us that all the apostles found it difficult to believe at first. In Gospel of Mark (16:14), we hear that when Jesus appeared to them, he reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not trusted those who had seen him risen.

At times, we may feel uneasy or even guilty about our doubts, as if they signal weakness. Yet doubt is not necessarily something to fear. It can be part of a sincere and searching faith. Honest questioning can lead us to a deeper trust in God.

The example of Saint Thomas the Apostle is both honest and hopeful. He did not hide his doubts. When the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord," he responded that he needed to see and touch the wounds of Christ for himself. His struggle reflects the longing of many hearts to understand and believe more fully.

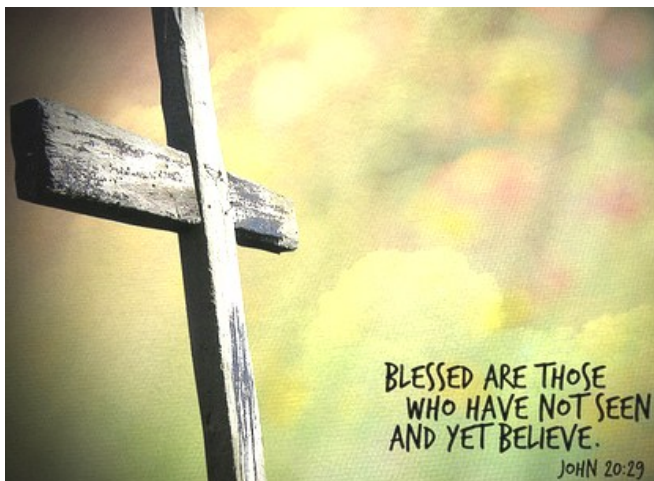
What rekindled the faith of the apostles, and of Thomas in particular, was their encounter with the risen Lord. Jesus met them where they were, in their uncertainty, and led them to faith. In response, Thomas made one of the most profound professions in all the Gospels: "My Lord and my God."

Thomas should not be remembered only for his moment of doubt. That was but one part of his journey. Strengthened in faith, he became a devoted missionary. According to tradition, he carried the Gospel far and wide, even to distant lands, giving his life in witness to Christ.

His story reminds us that doubt can become a pathway to deeper faith. On this side of heaven, we do not possess absolute certainty in all spiritual things; this is precisely why faith is needed.

Today, Jesus invites us to draw near to him in faith. Though we cannot see or touch him as the apostles did, we encounter him in prayer, in the sacraments, and in one another. We are called to make Christ present in the world by our lives.

In a world where many struggle to believe, our witness matters. Others come to know Christ when they can "see" his love and "touch" his mercy in his followers.



Faith can sometimes feel like a lonely path, but we do not walk it alone. From the beginning, Christians have gathered as a community—praying together, worshiping together, and serving one another in love. In this shared life, we find strength, encouragement, and the living presence of the risen Lord.



Fr. Kevin's Korner

APREDIENDO DE TOMAS

A menudo imaginamos que la fe les resultó más fácil a quienes vieron a Jesús en persona que a nosotros hoy. Sin embargo, los Evangelios nos recuerdan que no es así. Muchos presenciaron las obras de Jesús y aun así no creyeron; ver solo no garantiza la fe. La fe implica, en última instancia, una decisión personal de confiar.

Incluso los apóstoles luchaban. Santo Tomás Apóstol no fue el único en dudar de la Resurrección. Los Evangelios nos dicen que a todos los apóstoles les costaba creer al principio. En el Evangelio de Marcos (16:14), escuchamos que cuando Jesús se les apareció, les reprendió su incredulidad y dureza de corazón porque no confiaron en quienes le habían visto resucitar.

A veces, podemos sentirnos incómodos o incluso culpables por nuestras dudas, como si señalaran debilidad. Sin embargo, la duda no es necesariamente algo a temer. Puede formar parte de una fe sincera y profunda. El cuestionamiento honesto puede llevarnos a una confianza más profunda en Dios.

El ejemplo de Santo Tomás Apóstol es tanto honesto como esperanzador. No ocultó sus dudas. Cuando los otros discípulos le dijeron: "Hemos visto al Señor", respondió que necesitaba ver y tocar las heridas de Cristo por sí mismo. Su lucha refleja el anhelo de muchos corazones por comprender y creer más plenamente.

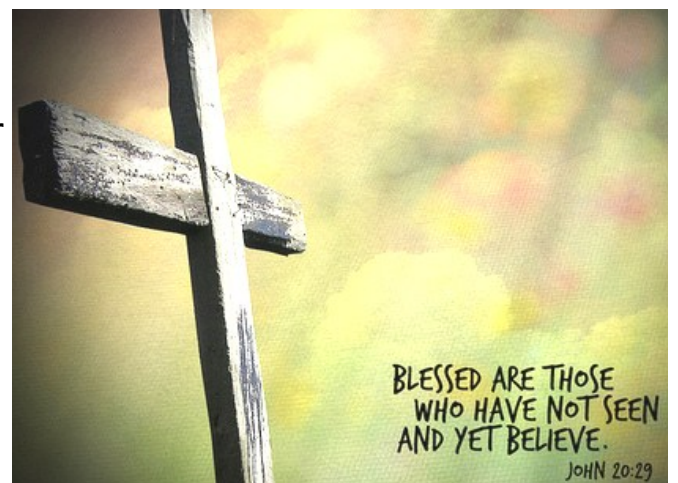
Lo que reavivó la fe de los apóstoles, y en particular de Tomás, fue su encuentro con el Señor resucitado. Jesús los encontró donde estaban, en su incertidumbre, y los condujo a la fe. En respuesta, Tomás hizo una de las profesiones más profundas de todos los Evangelios: "Señor y Dios míos."

Thomas no debería ser recordado solo por su momento de duda. Eso fue solo una parte de su camino. Fortalecido en la fe, se convirtió en un misionero devoto. Según la tradición, llevó el Evangelio por todas partes, incluso a tierras lejanas, dando su vida en testimonio a Cristo.

Su historia nos recuerda que la duda puede convertirse en un camino hacia una fe más profunda. En este lado del cielo, no poseemos certeza absoluta en todas las cosas espirituales; Por eso precisamente se necesita la fe.

Hoy, Jesús nos invita a acercarnos a él en la fe. Aunque no podemos verle ni tocarle como lo hacían los apóstoles, lo encontramos en la oración, en los sacramentos y en los demás. Estamos llamados a hacer presente a Cristo en el mundo a través de nuestras vidas.

En un mundo donde muchos luchan por creer, nuestro testimonio importa. Otros llegan a conocer a Cristo cuando pueden "ver" su amor y "tocar" su misericordia en sus seguidores. La fe a veces puede parecer un camino solitario, pero no lo recorreremos solos. Desde el principio, los cristianos se han reunido como comunidad: orando juntos, adorando juntos y sirviéndose mutuamente con amor. En esta vida compartida, encontramos fuerza, ánimo y la presencia viva del Señor resucitado.





MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 12th

7:00 AM

For all the Holy Souls in Purgatory by Kathy Beal

† Mrs. Rosa Peña by Mike Wueste

† M.J. Feder by Mike Wueste

8:30 AM

For all St. Anthony de Padua Parishioners

10:30 AM

† In Loving Memory of Niall Shanahan by his loving family

† In Loving Memory of Patrick K. Pape by his loving family

12:30 PM

For all the Holy Souls in Purgatory by Pamela Jumbo Cueva

Special Intention for Claressa Gonzalez by her loving family

† For Baby Justin Ramirez by Guadalupe Sosa

Monday, April 13th 9:00 AM

† Brian Charles by Cathy Wilmer

† Sue Wingenter by Pattie & Richard Thompson

Tuesday, April 14th, 9:00 AM

† Antonio Sanchez by Alice & Nestor Moreno

Wednesday, April 15th, 9:00 AM

† Sammy Ruiz & † Timotea Ruiz

† Ellen Pantusa

† Diane Ferrall by the Homebound Ministry

Thursday, April 16th, 9:00 AM

† Mary F. Canchola lovingly by Sylvia Cooke

† Frank Cantu by his sister Margarita Rico

Friday, April 17th, 9:00 AM

† Michelle Ann Specia by Terri & Bob Stewart

† Charles † Anna † Robert and † Lucille Klein by Sharon Linnartz

† Jesus Aguirre by Maricela Aguirre & family

Saturday, April 18th, 5:00 PM

† Kathleen Martinez by Rubio family

Sunday, April 19th

7:00 AM

† Jacob Periera by Mackson Carvalho

† Mrs. Marilyn Wueste by Mike Wueste

† Gus Wueste by Mike Wueste

8:30 AM

† Por el eterno descanso del Señor Carlos Sanchez Moreno y † Carmen Buendia de parte de su familia

† Para todas las almas olvidadas de parte de Oliva Cisneros

Intención Especial para Cerafin Cisneros en su cumpleaños y por todos los enfermos de parte de Oliva Cisneros

10:30 AM

For all St. Anthony de Padua Parishioners

12:30 PM

† Erin Popovich by Betsy & Jay Gwin

April 12, 2026

CONTRIBUTING IS EASY WITH



VISIT

stanthonypadua.org,

CLICK



And **Sign-Up TODAY!**

Or **SCAN** the

QR CODE BELOW



Offerory for April 5, 2026

TOTAL: \$29,527.00

April 6, 2025

TOTAL: \$26,179.89



THE ST. ANTHONY LAMP

WILL SHINE IN LOVING

MEMORY OF:

Matthew Mendiola

BY HIS LOVING FAMILY

THIS WEEKS 2nd COLLECTION
IS FOR:

ST. ANTHONY'S BREAD BOX

Those who wish to contribute can
do so online through



or by mail/drop-off to the
parish office.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**Sunday, April 12th**

7:00 AM Mass—Church
 7:30 AM Guadalupe Taco Breakfast—Parish Hall
 7:30 AM R.E. Sunday Classes—FFC
 8:30 AM Mass (Spanish) —Church & Livestream on Facebook
 10:30 AM Mass —Church & Livestream on Facebook
 10:30 AM R.E. Confirmation I Classes —FFC
 12:30 PM Mass —Church
 4:00 PM R.E. Impact—Parish Hall

Monday, April 13th

9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Tuesday, April 14th

9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Wednesday, April 15th

9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Thursday, April 16th

9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook
 9:30 AM Confessions—Parlor

Friday, April 17th

9:00 AM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Saturday, April 18th

3:30 PM Confessions—Parlor
 5:00 PM Mass—Church & Livestream on Facebook

Sunday, April 19th

7:00 AM Mass—Church
 7:30 AM R.E. Pancake Breakfast—Parish Hall
 7:30 AM R.E. Sunday Classes—FFC
 8:30 AM Mass (Spanish) —Church & Livestream on Facebook
 10:00 AM R.E. Confirmation I Classes—FFC
 10:30 AM Mass —Church & Livestream on Facebook
 12:30 PM Mass —Church

ESTA SEMANA EN NUESTRA PARROQUIA**Domingo, 12 de abril**

7:00 AM Misa—Iglesia
 7:30 AM Guadalupe Taco Breakfast —Parish Hall
 7:30 AM R.E. Sunday Classes—FFC
 8:30 AM Misa—Iglesia y en vivo en Facebook
 10:30 AM Misa—Iglesia y en vivo en Facebook
 10:30 AM R.E. Confirmation I Clases—FFC
 12:30 PM Misa—Iglesia
 4:00 PM R.E. Impact—Salon de banquetes

Lunes, 13 de abril

9:00 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook

Martes, 14 de abril

9:00 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook

Miércoles, 15 de abril

9:00 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook

Jueves, 16 de abril

9:00 AM Misa —Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook
 9:30 AM Confesiones—Parlor (en ingles)

Viernes, 17 de abril

9:00 AM Misa—Iglesia y transmisión en vivo en Facebook

Sábado, 18 de abril

3:30 PM Confesiones—Parlor
 5:00 PM Misa—Iglesia y vivo en Facebook

Domingo, 19 de abril

7:00 AM Misa—Iglesia
 7:30 AM R.E. Pancake Breakfast—Parish Hall
 7:30 AM R.E. Sunday Clases—FFC
 8:30 AM Misa—Iglesia y en vivo en Facebook
 10:00 AM R.E. Confirmacion I Clases—FFC
 10:30 AM Misa—Iglesia y en vivo en Facebook
 12:30 PM Misa—Iglesia

Easter Blessing 2

Dear Lord,
 Your redemption has been known in every age.
 You have never stopped inviting us closer into your presence. Fill us anew this Easter season, bringing new hope, new life, and new light into our journey. Amen.

Bendición de Pascua 2

Querido Señor,
 Tu redención ha sido conocida en todas las épocas. Nunca has dejado de invitarnos a acercarnos a tu presencia. Llénanos de nuevo esta temporada de Pascua, trayendo nueva esperanza, nueva vida y nueva luz a nuestro camino. Amén.

Weekly Readings

4/12 Sun: John 20:19-31
 4/13 Mon: John 3:1-8
 4/14 Tue: John 3:7b-15
 4/15 Wed: John 3:16-21
 4/16 Thu: John 3:31-36
 4/17 Fri: John 6:1-15
 4/18 Sat: John 6:16-21

**Lecturas de los días laborables**

12 de abril, Domingo: Juan 20:19-31
 13 de abril, Lunes: Juan 3:1-8
 14 de abril, Martes: Juan 3:7b-15
 15 de abril Miércoles: Juan 3:16-21
 16 de abril Jueves: Juan 3:31-36
 17 de abril Viernes: Juan 6:1-15
 18 de abril Sábado: Juan 6:16-21

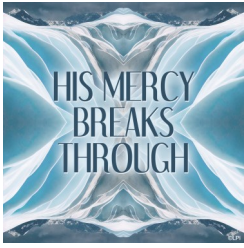
IN THE PARISH

GOSPEL MEDITATION

April 12, 2026—2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

John 20:19-31

“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.’” (John 20:27)



In my early 20s, I volunteered at a parish youth group. I witnessed teens encountering Jesus with a fresh, romantic wonder that reminded me of my own teenage conversion. But something had changed in me. I was quietly jaded and cynical. When teens shared stories of encountering Christ, I'd want to sarcastically murmur, “Well, good for you.” I had grown suspicious of the zeal I once knew.

Then we brought the group on a pilgrimage. I was standing in an old church in France, ignoring a long-winded tour guide. I found myself before a crucifix. In that moment, I heard something, not audibly, but unmistakably in my heart: “I came to be your friend... and you wish to be my enemy? Why do you stand far from me? I suffer gladly for you. I was pierced for you. Why do you run from me?” My heart opened. I saw how cold and cynical I had become. But Jesus had not given up on me. He had returned, and his mercy broke through.

So I can relate to the scoffing — and transformation — of Thomas when the Risen Jesus presents his wounds for inspection. Thomas is not simply doubting; he is guarded, suspicious, even cynical. But Jesus comes to him. No lecture. Just understanding and mercy. He invites Thomas to touch his wounds. This burns away his cynicism like the morning mist.

Divine Mercy Challenge: This week, rejoice with someone who is newly alive in faith. If your own heart has grown skeptical or tired, ask Jesus to help you. He will.

—Father John Muir

Mini reflection: There is a reason Christ showed his wounds as he said the words, “Peace be with you.” It was not just a means of identifying himself — it was a catechism lesson. *Here*, he was saying. *Here is the peace you will not find anywhere else.*

Within Thy Wounds

The prayer I love best in the world is the *Anima Christi*. This private, devotional litany of supplication, begins with the phrase “*anima Christi, sanctifica me*” (“soul of Christ, sanctify me”) and continues on to appeal individually to each aspect of Our Lord’s crucified flesh: “*Body of Christ, save me; blood of Christ, inebriate me; water from Christ’s side, wash me; passion of Christ, strengthen me; Oh good Jesus, hear me.*”

Then comes my favorite part: “*within thy wounds hide me.*”

The Anima Christi is a prayer traditionally said after receiving Holy Communion. The ancient Celts spoke of *liminal places*, where the veil separating this world from the next is particularly thin, and I believe the moments immediately following the reception of Holy Communion, when the Host is dissolving on my tongue, create a liminal place. When I am in that place, I am as intimately connected to God as I can be while my heart is still beating.

And when I am there, holding God within me, what are the words that I speak? It’s overwhelming to think about. What could possibly be right to say?

There is no right or wrong answer, I suppose. But the best words I can think of are these: “Within thy wounds, Lord, hide me.”

There is a reason Christ showed his wounds as he said the words, “Peace be with you.” It was not just a means of identifying himself — it was a catechism lesson. *Here*, he was saying. *Here is the peace you will not find anywhere else.*

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPI

(PRACTICING)
CATHOLIC



IN THE PARISH

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

12 de abril de 2026: II Domingo de Pascua

Juan 20:19-31

El misterio del Reino de Dios es comunicado por el evangelizador. Ese gran misterio es el que Jesús, en su vida terrena, trató de enseñar a sus discípulos, y ya resucitado, dio continuación a ese misterio. Lo demuestra el Evangelio de hoy: tres veces repite la frase tan necesitada en este tiempo que estamos viviendo: “*¡La paz esté con ustedes!*” (Juan 20:19). Jesús remarca la importancia de la paz para comunicar su enseñanza. El papa León XIV lo menciona en casi todos sus mensajes: “*La paz se construye en el corazón y desde el corazón*” y “*La paz también requiere practicar la justicia*”, por mencionar algunas frases que nos ayudan a reflexionar en su mensaje. Aunque las frases sean cortas, son profundas y nos ayudan a ver al Señor Resucitado, y así poder decir a los más cercanos, como los discípulos dijeron a Tomás: “*Hemos visto al Señor*” (Juan 20:25).



¿Tú qué haces específicamente para tener paz en tu corazón? ¿Cómo lo demuestras en casa, en el trabajo y en la escuela? Hoy celebramos el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia, que está muy relacionado con la paz. Este domingo fue instituido por san Juan Pablo II en el año 2000. Desde entonces, nos recuerda que ninguna persona en el mundo queda excluida de aportar su granito de arena por la paz y de demostrar la misericordia que existe en su corazón, para compartirla con su familia y con la sociedad. La valentía de anunciar la paz nunca termina. Pidamos, pues, con fe, este regalo para el mundo.

Mini-reflexión: Hay una razón por la que Cristo mostró sus heridas al decir las palabras: "La paz sea con ustedes." No era solo una forma de identificarse — era una lección de catecismo. *Aquí*, decía. *Aquí está la paz que no encontrarás en ningún otro sitio.*

Dentro de Tus Llagas

(PRACTICING)
CATHOLIC

La oración que más me gusta en el mundo es el **Anima Christi**. Esta letanía privada y devocional de súplica comienza con la frase "*anima Christi, sanctifica me*" ("alma de Cristo, santifícame") y continúa apelando individualmente a cada aspecto de la carne crucificada de Nuestro Señor: "*Cuerpo de Cristo, sálvame; sangre de Cristo, embriágame; agua del costado de Cristo, lávame; pasión de Cristo, confortarme; Oh, buen Jesús, óyeme.*"

Luego viene mi parte favorita: "*Dentro de tus llagas escóndeme.*"

El Anima Christi es una oración que tradicionalmente se dice después de recibir la Sagrada Comunión. Los antiguos celtas hablaban de *lugares liminales*, donde el velo que separa este mundo del siguiente es especialmente fino, y creo que los momentos inmediatamente posteriores a la recepción de la Sagrada Comunión, cuando la Hostia se disuelve en mi lengua, crean un lugar liminal. Cuando estoy en ese lugar, estoy tan íntimamente conectada con Dios como puedo mientras mi corazón sigue latiendo.

Y cuando estoy allí, sosteniendo a Dios dentro de mí, ¿cuáles son las palabras que digo? Es abrumador pensarlo. ¿Qué podría ser correcto decir?

Supongo que no hay una respuesta correcta o incorrecta. Pero las mejores palabras que se me ocurren son estas: "Dentro de Tus llagas, Señor, escóndeme."

Hay una razón por la que Cristo mostró sus heridas al decir las palabras: "La paz sea con ustedes." No era solo una forma de identificarse — era una lección de catecismo. *Aquí*, decía. *Aquí está la paz que no encontrarás en ningún otro sitio.*

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

IN THE PARISH

MEDITATION GARDEN

©LPI

In joyful anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the St. Anthony de Padua Adoration Chapel in June of 2027, we are pleased to announce the planning and construction of the **St. Anthony de Padua Meditation Garden**. The meditation garden will be located at the church property at the corner of **Lorenz and Everest**.

The preliminary plans call for a **St. Anthony Grotto with water feature**, a **walking Rosary path**, and **memorial** area all enhanced with plants, trees, shrubs, ground cover and potential religious art pieces. Shaded areas for reflection and prayer will be abundant.

This is a significant and meaningful project that will only come to fruition through the prayerful support and generosity of our entire parish community. In the coming weeks, we will share information about various **sponsorship opportunities** to help bring this vision to life.

A **preliminary rendering** of the Meditation Garden is available for viewing in the **Banquet Hall Foyer**. More details coming soon—please stay tuned!



ST. ANTHONY'S BREAD BOX REPORT FOR

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

HELPED: 15 FAMILIES (36 TOTAL PEOPLE)

GAVE: \$750.00 HEB GIFT CARDS FOR PERISHABLE FOOD

TUESDAY APRIL 7, 2026

HELPED: 33 FAMILIES (90 TOTAL PEOPLE)

GAVE: \$1,650.00 HEB GIFT CARDS FOR PERISHABLE FOOD

**FOOD WE CAN USE: CANNED CORN • CANNED FRUIT • DRY PINTO BEANS (2LB)
PEANUT BUTTER • RICE • TUNA**

-Thank you for your continued support!

PRAY FOR OUR SICK!

Remember in your prayers the members of our parish who are seriously ill. *If you know a parishioner who is sick, in need of prayer, or bedridden and needs Eucharist, contact the parish office.*

After 4 weeks, names will be removed.

DEACON JOE BORREGO, JACKSON, DANE URBAN,
MARGARET COLLAZO, DAVID JUDE, SCARLETT,
MICHAEL PENA, MICHAEL CRAWFORD, WAYNE KYRISH,
PAT GARZA, ARNULFO RUIZ JR., MARIA E. OLIVAREZ,
JENNIFER BLOHM, MEGHAN LOGEAIS, MITCH LOGEAIS,
ROSALINDA CROSBY, MEGAN CORPUS, STAN BONEWITZ

PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED!

Please remember those who are deployed in your daily prayers. Call the parish office if you would like someone added to this list or if you have a loved one who has returned home.

After 9 months, names will be removed.

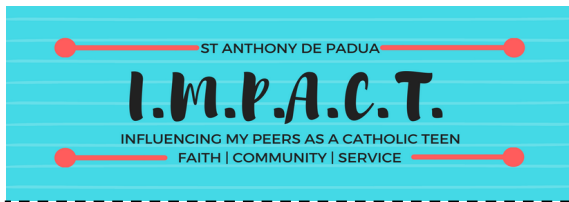
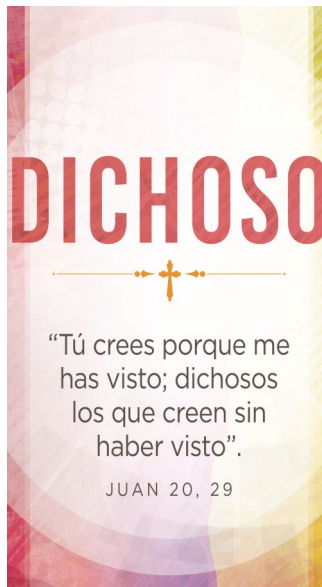
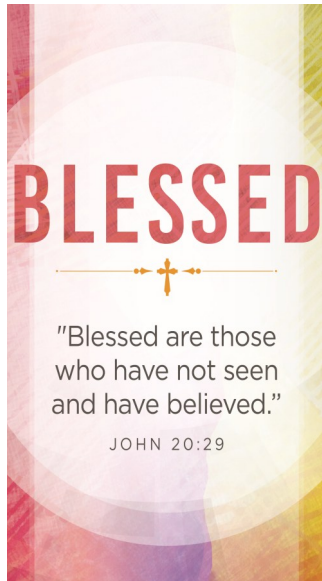
ADAM SIFUENTES, ALLEN ESCOBEDO, CHRISTIAN CHÁVEZ,
CODY GRANBY, CODY SWIERC, CONNOR HALLORAN,
DAVID RAMIREZ, ISABEL ESCOBEDO, JAMES LOWE,
JOHN BOUCHARD, JOHN L. QUINLAN IV, JOSHUA PALOS,
JUAN CARLOS RIVERA CEDEÑO, LARRY WILLIAM JR.,
ROGER GONZALES, WILLIAM PALOS, &
PATRICK YZNAGA JR., LUKE SIMERLY

EN LA PARROQUIA



CONTINUING OUR SPIRITUALITY
AFF presents:
Therese of Lisieux:

Saint & Doctor of the Church
Life, Spirituality, Model for Youth
Time: Tuesday April 14, 2026
9:40 to 10:50 a.m. (after daily Mass)
Place: St. Anthony de Padua Parlor
Bishop Barron Video;
Colleen O'Connor:
How to Present to Youth



Sunday – April 12, 2026
4:00 pm – Parish Hall



ESPIRITUALIDAD FRANCISCANA

Un recorrido por la historia de la familia franciscana, el corazón que sostiene este movimiento, y la relevancia de esta espiritualidad en el mundo actual

DIA: MIÉRCOLES ABRIL 15 A LAS 7:00 PM

LUGAR: SAN ANTONY DE PADUA PARLOR

PRESENTADOR: FRIAR PAUL SCHLOEMER

Se graduó de la Universidad de Notre Dame, sirvió durante cinco años en la Marina, y más tarde se unió a los franciscanos. Obtuvo títulos en teología y psicología de la Universidad Old Dominion, la Universidad Católica de América y la Universidad de Würzburg en Alemania. Actualmente se desempeña como responsable de la formación post noviciado en San Antonio



Everyday Stewardship/La corresponsabilidad diaria

Give Yourself Completely

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly. Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © Liturgical Publications Inc

Regálate Completamente

Los primeros días de la primera comunidad cristiana no fueron fáciles en ninguna medida. Jesús había sido ejecutado, y sus discípulos tenían que ser discretos para no encontrarse con un destino similar. Jesús había resucitado, pero la verdad de su resurrección no era aceptada por todos. Sin embargo, la representación de esa comunidad primitiva en Hechos 2: 42-47 llevaría a alguien a creer que era la situación opuesta. Se nos habla de la vida comunitaria donde las personas se apoyan mutuamente y comparten un gran gozo. Comieron y oraron juntos, y muchas maravillas y señales estaban ocurriendo para levantar a la comunidad y dar testimonio del poder de Jesucristo. Eran discípulos que vivían su fe, y fue su fuerte sentido de corresponsabilidad lo que hizo posible todo esto ante la amenaza de los poderes romanos y judíos.

El día de hoy, encontramos a la Iglesia en un nuevo tumulto. El creciente secularismo, los escándalos de abuso y la falta de verdadera fidelidad nos ubican nuevamente en un momento que no es fácil. Un amigo mío le gusta decir que cualquier desafío de pecado que encontremos en la Iglesia tiene su origen en la falta o la incomprensión de la forma de vida de corresponsabilidad. Creamos nuestras cargas al no usar nuestros dones sabiamente y al volvernos egoístamente hacia adentro.

¿Podríamos usar la historia de la Iglesia primitiva en Hechos para ayudarnos hoy? Si comenzamos con la decisión de entregarnos por completo a Dios y a su pueblo, ¿nos convertiremos en agentes de cambio? Solo hay una manera de descubrirlo.

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Fr. Kevin Shanahan MSC, *Pastor*

secretary@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1002

OFFICE STAFF

Louis Lecoche, *Director of Parish Operations*

louis@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1030

Valerie Arenas, *Sacramental Scheduling & Records*

valerie@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1007

Belinda Arredondo, *Donations/Offertory Specialist*

barredondo@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1006

Jose Castillo, *Music Director*

josecastillo@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1012

Norma Garcia, *Facility Reservations/Admin. Assistant*

norma@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1019

Teresa Gomez, *Receptionist/Mass Intentions/Flowers*

teresag@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1001

Stephanie Guerrero, *Property/Communications Coord.*

stephanies@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1005

Philip Weidner, *Parish Finances/Liturgical Director*

philip@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1003

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Sonya Sanchez, *Director of Religious Education*

sonyas@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1010

Yvonne Fierro, *RE Program Assistant*

yvonne@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1024

Gracie Taylor, *RE Program Assistant*

gracie@stanthonydepadua.org or 210-824-1743 Ext. 1011

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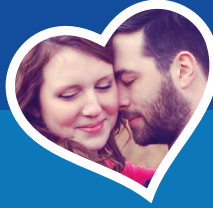


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