



Our Parish Community

August 24, 2025

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: 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."

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."

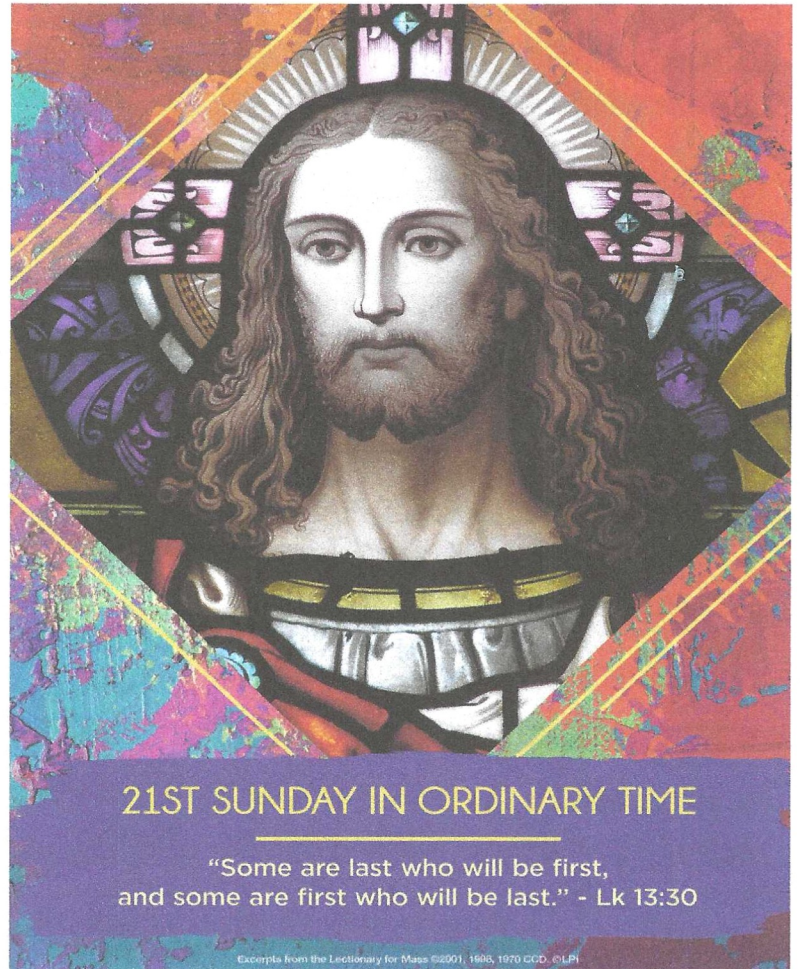
Very "you-can't-sit-with-us."

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.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



Inspiration of the Week

"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.

Observances for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest
Wednesday:	St. Monica
Wednesday:	St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Friday:	The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Next Sunday:	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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Office Address

510 Broadway, Comfort, TX 78013

Office Hours :

Monday-Thursday:

9:00am-5:00pm

Friday: 9:00am-12:00pm

Mass Schedule

Saturday:

4:00 PM

Sunday: 11:00 AM

1:00 PM (Spanish)

Daily Masses

Mon-5:30pm

Tues-5:30pm

Wed - 9:00 AM Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays: 2:30PM-3:30PM,

Mon -Tuesday 5pm, Wednesday 8:30 AM or by appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 23- AUGUST 31

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 4:00 PM: +BLANCA HILARIA CASTILLO, +FELISITAS PEREZ PATINO, +LEONARDO HERNANDEZ PEREZ, +KENT BURGESS, +THEO TROMM, SUCCESSFUL SURGERIES & RECOVERIES FOR EDITH MASKEY.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 11:00AM: +WAID FAMILY, +MUNDO MONTERO, +LEE CLARK, SUCCESSFUL SURGERIES & RECOVERIES FOR EDITH MASKEY.

1:00PM: +JOSE EDUARDO ALBA, +ANTONIO ROBLEDO, +JULIAN GARCIA, +MARCOS URIEL MARTINEZ GALLEGOS,, +AMELIA Y FRANCISCO BANUELOS, +ERNESTO NERI, ALMAS DEL PURGATORIO,

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 5:30 PM: CORTEZ FAMILY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 5:30 PM: +ROBERT LINDEN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 9:00AM: +JOHN O'SHEA JR., +ADA O'SHEA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 4:00PM: +BLANCA HILARIA CASTILLO, +KENT BURGESS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 11:00AM: +KENT BURGESS

1:00PM: +ERNESTOI NERI, +JOSE EDUARDO ALBA, +ANTONIO ROBLEDO, +JULIAN GARCIA, MARCOS URIEL MARTINEZ, +DORA LILIANA GALLEGOS, RAMIREZ, JUAN GERMAN GALLEGOS MARTINEZ ESCARENO, CRISTIAN GERMAN MARTINEZ GALLEGOS, Y ALMAS DEL PURGATORIO.

Mass Intentions—Offering Mass for a special Intention is a long standing tradition in the Catholic Church. It is usually considered that special graces are obtained for whom the Mass is said. Masses are offered for many reasons, for the souls in purgatory, in remembrance for someone who is deceased, or in honor of a birthday. Please call the Church Office at **(830) 995-3708** to offer a Mass Intention or for more information. Deadline is every **Tuesday by 12pm.**

OFFICE STAFF:

Rev. Rudy Carrola Jr., Pastor

Pedro Fernandez, Deacon



Nidia Godinez, Administrative Assistant:

shc.ofc@outlook.com

Linda Pina, DRE:

shc.coord@outlook.com

George Ramirez, Bookkeeper

Wednesday 10am— 5 pm

Esther Lozano: Custodian

Dan White: Webmaster

danz1052@gmail.com



God reveals to Isaiah that people from far and wide will be welcomed to the holy city, Jerusalem. The psalmist also invites people of every nation to glorify God. Centuries later, Jesus affirms that people from every point of the compass will be welcomed into the kingdom of God. That having been said, getting in is not easy and some will be sent away. May we embrace God's discipline, in the spirit in which it is explained in the second reading today, recognizing that it is offered out of God's great love for us.

Dios le revela a Isaías que gentes de lugares lejanos y remotos serán bien recibidas en Jerusalén, la ciudad santa. El salmista también invita a todos los pueblos a glorificar a Dios. Siglos más tarde, Jesús asegura que gentes de todos los rincones de la tierra serán bienvenidas en el Reino de Dios. Dicho ya esto, entrar no es fácil y algunos serán echados fuera. Aceptemos la disciplina de Dios con el espíritu que está explicada en la segunda lectura de hoy, reconociendo que esa disciplina se nos ofrece por el gran amor que Dios nos tiene.



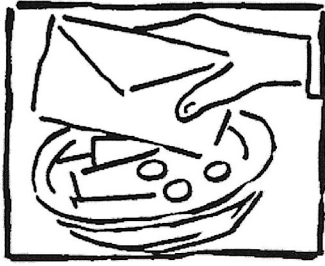
Please pray for/Rezamos por:

Edith Maskey

Elodia Garcia
Manuel Lozano
Santos Pinedo
Antonia Rosales
Javier Rosales
Caleb Allen
Ed Melcher
Angelica Arreola
Manuela Garcia
Rogelio Castro



(If you would like to add a name on the list, please email shc.ofc@outlook.com/ Si usted quiere añadir un nombre, favor de mandar un email at: shc.ofc@outlook.com)



Offering Totals

August 16 & August 17

General Offerings: \$7,916.55

Second Collections :

Online Giving : \$705.00

Children's offerings: \$80.00

Thank you for your support!

¡Gracias por su apoyo!

August 24, 2025

Stewards Follow

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

LUKE 13:30

Our cultural standards are different from God's standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, "What have you done with the gifts I have given you?" How will you respond? How have you lived **Stewardship**?



ATTENDANCE

Mass

Saturday, August 16

4:00 pm

158

Sunday, August 17

11:00 am

152

1:00 p.m.

273

At every Saturday, Sunday and Holy Day liturgy, we respectfully stand and recite the Nicene Creed. It can be a powerful thing to attune our ears and actively listen to the sound of so many voices becoming one voice, proclaiming aloud what we as Catholic Christians believe. But do we take those words for granted? Perhaps a glance at their history might bring them to life.

In this age of instant communication, it is hard to imagine three centuries of often fierce debate centered on the person of Jesus Christ – his humanity, divinity, and his relationship to God. The early Fathers of the Church successfully declared as false, most of the ideas stating that Jesus was not God. However, the teachings of Arius, a priest in Alexandria, became popular among many early Christians. Arius taught that while Jesus was “god-like” and begotten by the Father, he and the Father were not of the same substance, and therefore, Jesus was not God.

The issue became quite contentious, and in 325 AD, Emperor Constantine called all the bishops of the world to Nicaea to address the Arian controversy. In that First Council of Nicaea, Arianism was declared a heresy, and the Divinity of Jesus was confirmed. (In the Greek language, same substance is *homoousios*, and similar substance is *homoiousios*. It is said that much ink was spilled over that one letter – *i*!) And thus, the Nicene Creed took form, corroborating that Jesus is “consubstantial with the Father.” A thorough analysis of the creed was recently written by Bishop Robert Barron. His book, What Christians Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed, provides the inspiration for a look at the first paragraph of the creed, which focuses on God the Father.

I believe in one God: To believe in someone is to have faith in that person, but it is not a faith



void of reason. Barron writes that “if one wishes to know the heart of another person, he has to wait until that other *reveals* himself.” Ours is a God who, throughout salvation history, made himself known and invited his people to respond in kind. And he continues to do just that. We believe in God because we know him in the ways he has revealed himself to us, but there is much more of God beyond reason that we accept in faith. “Faith,” writes Barron, “is tantamount to a willingness to attend to a voice that transcends one’s own.”

The Father almighty: Perhaps one of the more puzzling aspects of God – all-powerful, omnipotent and ever-present – is why he would bother with us, for although made in his image, we continually behave in ways that disappoint. The answer is simple: He is our Heavenly Father and he is crazy in love with us! Creation was not a once and done event; God is continually at work on our behalf. Thomas Merton suggests “that contemplative prayer is finding the place in you where you are here and now being created by God.” St. Augustine claimed “that even as he remains higher than anything we can imagine, God is also closer to us than we are to ourselves.” There is no other being of whom that can be said.

Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible: Perhaps we can distinguish heaven from earth in what is seen and what is unseen, between the visible world and the spiritual realm. But regardless of how we sort it out in our minds, the reality is that everything – the material and nonmaterial – represents God’s existence, that the amazing diversity of his creation is Him. He is all in all, the Alpha and the Omega.

One final thought has to do with the carefully considered and precise text of the Nicene Creed. Persevering over three hundred years of debate, prayer and attending to the direction of the Holy Spirit, the early Church Fathers got it right! They succinctly crafted a document that defines what Catholic Christians believe. May we proclaim these powerful words with grateful hearts, because we, the children of God, are his beneficiaries!

Announcements/Anuncios

The second collection is for the Hermanas Josephina's. These religious sisters do a lot of good work among the poor and disadvantaged. Please be generous.

We are selling raffle tickets at the entrance of the church for our church festival that will be held on Saturday, October 4th on the new church grounds right after the 4 pm mass. Please buy or sell as many as you can. All the money from this raffle will go toward our new Parish Center.

Due to situations beyond our control the Kermes festival will be cancelled this year. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Don't forget to register your children for Religious Education. This is very important. Please see Linda Pina for more information.

Tuesday August 26th we will be having a festival meeting right after evening mass, all are welcome.

La segunda colecta es para las Hermanas Josefina's. Estas religiosas hacen mucho bien entre los pobres y desfavorecidos. Por favor, sean generosos.

Estamos vendiendo boletos de rifa en la entrada de la iglesia para nuestro festival parroquial que se llevará a cabo el sábado 4 de octubre en el nuevo terreno de la iglesia justo después de la misa de las 4 pm. Por favor, compren o vendan tantos como puedan. Todo el dinero de esta rifa se destinará a nuestro nuevo Centro Parroquial.

Debido a situaciones fuera de nuestro control, el festival de Kermés será cancelado este año. Nos disculpamos por cualquier inconveniente que esto pueda haber causado.

No olvides registrar a tus hijos para la Educación Religiosa. Esto es muy importante. Por favor, ve a hablar con Linda Pina para más información.

Parish Fall Festival

Live Auction

We are gathering some exciting items for the Fall Festival Live Auction. Soon there will be flyers to show you just what they are.

There will be an original water color painting of the Old Church by Edith Maskey. Two or three dinner packages are being planned, and again we will have the clay shoot at Joshua Creek Ranch.

An intricate handmade wooden jewelry box and a queen-size quilt, both created by parishioners, will be offered. And an exquisite figurine of wild horses is included.

Stay tuned for more information and mark your calendars to attend the Festival on Saturday, October 4th!

THANK YOU!

Festival de Otoño de la Parroquia Subasta en Vivo

Estamos reuniendo algunos artículos emocionantes para la Subasta en Vivo del Festival de Otoño. Pronto habrá folletos para mostrarte exactamente cuáles son.

Habrà una pintura al óleo original de la Vieja Iglesia por Edith Maskey. Se están planeando dos o tres paquetes de cena, y una vez más tendremos la tirada de arcilla en Joshua Creek Ranch.

Se ofrecerá una intrincada caja de joyería de madera hecha a mano y una colcha tamaño queen, ambas creadas por los feligreses. Además, se incluye una exquisita figura de caballos salvajes.

¡Estén atentos para más información y marquen sus calendarios para asistir al Festival el sábado 4 de octubre!

¡GRACIAS!



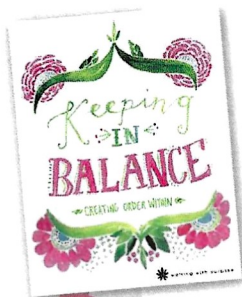
Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women
Refuel and refresh | Learn more about God

Feeling pulled in many directions? Do you find it hard to balance the demands placed on your time? God wants to support and help us so that we can be our best in every season of our lives.

In ***Keeping in Balance***, we'll explore Biblical ideas for managing life's pace and pressure while living with calm and steadiness. Come along on a journey throughout Scripture as we discover the relevance of Old and New Testament wisdom to our current daily challenges. Your lifestyle of health and holiness awaits.



LOCATION/ADDRESS: Hilscher Hall (old church grounds)

DATE: September 23, 2025

TIME: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

COST: \$45

Questions? Contact Alma at 830-765-1086



walking with purpose

www.walkingwithpurpose.com



Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

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:

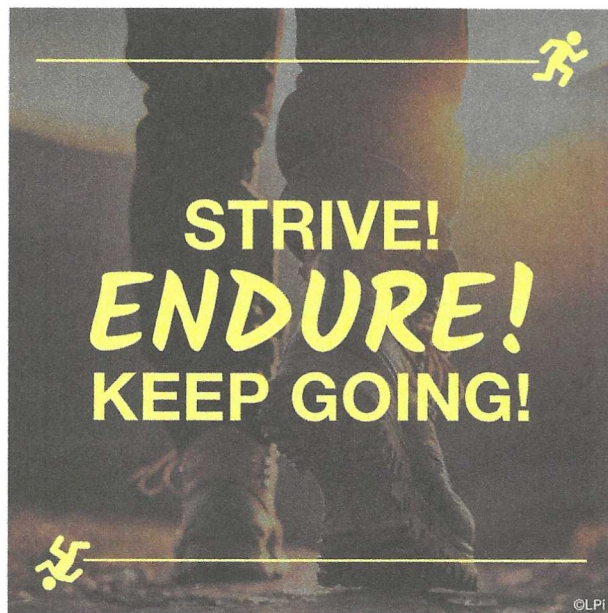
1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30

Next 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



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

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