

Catholic response to catastrophic flash floods in Texas



Cerith Gardiner-published on 07/05/25

Join us in prayer. With over 20 people killed and many still missing, here's how you can offer some spiritual help.

You'll no doubt have heard of the flash floods causing destruction and devastation in Texas' scenic Hill Country over the July 4 holiday. At latest report at time of publication, at least 27 people have been killed and many more are unaccounted for as rivers and creeks swelled in communities like Kerrville.

The catastrophic storms dumped over 10 inches of rain in some areas, causing the Guadalupe River to rise roughly 30 feet within 45 minutes. By Friday night Gov. Greg Abbott had declared multiple counties in "state of disaster" to unlock all available aid for affected residents, as shared by OSV News.

Camp Mystic and missing children

One of the worst-hit sites was Camp Mystic, a nearly century-old Christian girls' summer camp founded in 1926 on the banks of the Guadalupe River. The camp, which typically hosts hundreds of girls ages 7–17, was evacuated overnight as the floodwaters surged.

According to Catholic news reports, at least 20 campers and a few counselors remain missing following the evacuation. The Daily Mail has further reported on a number of girls who've been confirmed dead, as well as the incredible rescue of a child clinging to a tree 12 miles downstream from the camp. Texas officials continue to search the flooded woods, and teams of helicopters, drones and boats continue to comb the area.

Church leaders and community respond

Church leaders immediately called the faithful to prayer.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio asked Catholics to pray for all those affected by the historic flooding, especially those who have died as well as those who are still missing.

Its statement pledged that the Archdiocese will *stand with survivors in these challenging circumstances*, and prayed that those impacted *will find the strength to rebuild*, urging everyone to *answer Christ's call to love one another*.

On the ground, Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller and Auxiliary Bishop Michael Boulette traveled to Kerrville to offer support. **Notre Dame Church** in Kerrville opened its gym as an emergency shelter for flood evacuees, and the Catholic Charities Mobile Relief Unit arrived with food, clothing, hygiene kits and water for those in need.

The Archdiocese also announced special Masses this weekend to pray for victims and grieving families. On



Pastor Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

Deacon Deacon Bill Lovelace

Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM, Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM, Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM Fr. Victor Bartolotta

Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses, Monday - Saturday 8:00 am Weekend Masses, Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm Sunday, 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, btsp.org

Confessions will be held Saturdays 2:45-3:45 pm

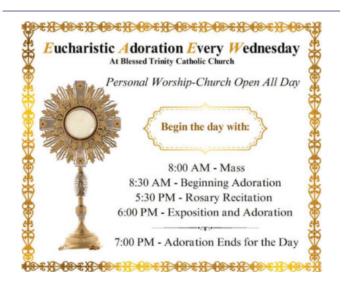
Parish Office

Monday—Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm 1600 54the Ave S St. Petersburg, Fl 33712

> **Phone,** (727) 867-3663 **FAX,** (727) 864-2679

Website, http://btsp.org

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Sunday, July 6, Archbishop García-Siller will preside at Masses in Kerrville and San Antonio dedicated to those lost and missing.

Other Texas dioceses similarly offered prayers. The Diocese of Beaumont announced a Mass *for all those affected by the Hill Country flooding*, even naming local parishioners who died, and prayed *especially for victims like Aiden, Ella, Joyce, Reese and Mary Grace.*

The **Diocese of Austin asked Catholics to join in prayer** with their Hill Country neighbors; diocesan administrator Father James Misko invoked Our Lady of Prompt Succor, patroness of those in storms, asking God to *bring to a calm the rushing rivers*, keep the missing safe and protect the rescuers.

State and federal officials also appealed for solidarity. Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick promised anxious parents that authorities would do *everything humanly possible to find your daughter*. U.S. Senator Ted Cruz took to social media urging Catholics to pray *for everyone in the Hill Country, especially Camp Mystic*, noting that *multiple helicopters are performing search & rescue* and that the White House had pledged *anything Texas needs*.

Communities across Texas have begun to rally with donations and volunteer efforts, and Catholic churches from west to east Texas continue to mobilize relief for the flood victims.

Meanwhile you can join others with this prayer shared by the Archdiocese of San Antonio:

A Special Prayer for Flood Victims

God of Mercy and Shelter, In this time of devastation and loss, we lift up our hearts to You. Be close to all who suffer from the flooding in our communities. Embrace those who mourn, shelter the displaced, strengthen the weary, and inspire all of us to offer loving assistance to those in need. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Anthony of Padua, may our Archdiocese of San Antonio be a beacon of hope and solidarity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Originally published at Aleteia.org, reprinted with permission

How to apply the Sacred Scriptures this week to your life.



July 13, 2025 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Dt 30:10-14 | Col 1:15-20 | Lk 10:25-37

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE Do you ever feel as though the concept of God's plan for your life feels too distant and abstract to perceive? If you raised your hand, just know I'm raising mine, too. The life of a Christian striving for virtue and closeness with our creator is not always simple! But Moses' words to the Israelites in today's first reading pierce my heart, even centuries after he spoke them: "For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you." Moses is talking to the Israelites about God's instructions that will lead them to the Promised Land, but it's a relevant reminder for us, too. God's command is not some vague message written in the sky, or some ancient code we need to decipher. It is written in our hearts. Our job is simply to return to the Lord our God so that we might understand it. If you ever feel as though God's ways are inscrutable, return to him, perhaps using this particular Scripture. When we call upon God, he always responds. And in his response there is great mercy and love. We are meant to share this mercy and love we receive with others.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I think it's natural, in our fallen humanity, to overcomplicate the Lord's commandments. But in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus spells it out for us in plain terms: show mercy to our neighbor. How often do we encounter someone in need? Probably daily. How often do we respond with love, generosity, and mercy? This is the question we must ask ourselves. Though the call is clear and concise, the reality is demanding. But Jesus also reminds us that our acts of mercy aren't without merit – they are precisely what will carry us onward to our eternal reward. "Do this and you will live," Jesus says.

REFLECT

Today's readings remind us of our earthly call to love and to serve, and they are also a reminder of God's radical nearness to his people. The call to mercy is challenging. The mission to love is bold. The road to eternal glory is long and narrow. But God is never far away from us on this journey. Take time this week to consider where and how the Lord is speaking to you. How is he inviting you into his mission of mercy? Where is he offering you himself?

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This Week in Worship



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4 Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm



Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office.

Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed.

For more information call: 867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 12, Weekday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. Deacon Lionel Roberts (dec)

Saturday, July 12, Vigil for Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time4:00 p.m.Tom and Ladyne Handel (liv)

Sunday, July 13, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time8:00 a.m.Paula Sue Dubinsky (dec)9:30 a.m.Mass for Parishioners11:30 a.m.Sarah Tabor Hosford (dec)

Monday, July 14, Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin 8:00 a.m. Santo Amato (dec)

Tuesday, July 15, Memorial of Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church8:00 a.m.Tabor and Hosford Families (liv)

Wednesday, July 16, Weekday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

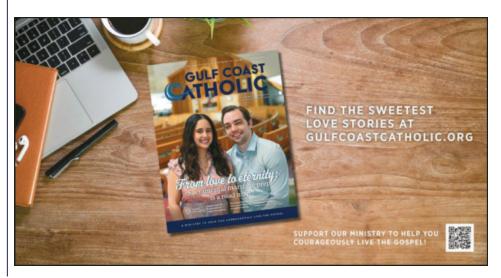
Thursday, July 17, Weekday in Ordinary Time8:00 a.m.Bill and Helen Dubinsky (dec)

Friday, July 18, Weekday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. Vince Heffern (dec)

Saturday, July 19, Weekday in Ordinary Time8:00 a.m.The Baker Family (liv)

Saturday, July 19, Vigil for Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 4:00 p.m. Grace Rideout (liv)

Sunday, July 20, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time8:00 a.m.Paula Sue Dubinsky (dec)9:30 a.m.Mass for Parishioners11:30 a.m.Gerald Hayman (dec)



The second collection this week is for Restoring the Sacred.



Prayer for Charity

Give me the grace, Lord, to truly see those around me: the overlooked, the uncomfortable, the odd and disliked.

Your kingdom is one of belonging, help us to be the types of neighbors who see and respond with Godly generosity.

Amen.

©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

What Jesus Doesn't Say

"If Jesus wanted us to (fill in the blank), he would have said so."

We hear this argument applied to every controversial topic under the sun — and even some not-so-controversial topics, too. Whenever some one is trying to make a case for a decision they have already made, they call in Jesus' scriptural silence on the matter as their expert, unimpeachable witness.

And sure, there's much Jesus doesn't talk about in the Gospels. But by this logic, we would have to assume that Jesus doesn't care, for instance, if we drive well over the speed limit (he doesn't discuss cars and highways in the Bible) or what we do online (he never mentions the Internet or websites at all!), when we know that certainly is just not the case.

Like the scholar of the Jewish law who challenges Jesus to define who exactly his "neighbor" is, we can argue semantics all we want. But if we rest in prayer and look deep into our hearts, we know what path we need to take, and it's usually not the easy one.

I find that I do this plenty in ways that are far more subtle. I lament that the situation facing me is not sufficiently "black and white." I become frustrated by the shades of moral grey and toss up my hands, claiming I don't know what the right answer is, insisting that I can't be blamed for the ramifications of whatever decision I make.

What I need to be doing in these situations is asking God for His guidance, even if it makes me nervous. I need to be like the scholar. He was brave enough to ask, even though I think he knew he wouldn't particularly like the answer. Let's strive for that same courage.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

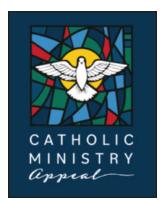


Weekly Offering

Weekly Giving 07/06/25

Offertory	\$ 8	8,658
Other Donations	\$ 1	1,232
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	461
National Collections	\$	30

Thank you for your generosity!



Catholic Ministry Appeal



Thank you for your prayerful giving!

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Pray for Someone New Everyday

Upcoming Events Sunday, July 13 Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC Monday, July 14 Life in the Spirit CYH 6:30 pm Wednesday, July 16 Adoration 8:30 am Church open all day for prayer CH 5:30 pm Rosary 6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation 7:00 pm Benediction Sunday, July 20 Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC Monday, July 21 Life in the Spirit 6:30 pm CYH Wednesday, July 23 Adoration 8:30 am Church open all day for prayer CH 5:30 pm Rosarv 6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation Benediction 7:00 pm Thursday, July 24 **SVDP** Meeting 4:00 pm Sunday, July 27 Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC Monday, July 28 Life in the Spirit 6:30 pm CYH Wednesday, July 30 Adoration 8:30 am CH Church open all day for prayer 5:30 pm Rosary 6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation Benediction 7:00 pm

Key for Events

PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church, CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1, CR=Choir Room, FF=Faith Formation Room, PL=Parking Lot

Prayer for Protection from Hurricanes

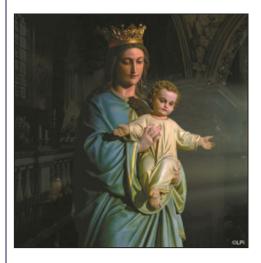
God, Our Father, Creator and Lord of the universe, you have set the earth on its foundation and all the elements of nature obey your command. We humbly beseech you to keep us safe from all dangers and calm the storm that threatens us. May we be secure in your loving protection and serve you always with grateful hearts. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



ST. JOSEPH'S FOOD COLLECTION

Please continue to bring food for our St. Joseph's Food Collection.

The basket is located in the Narthex of the church.





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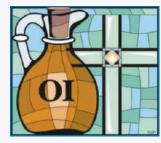
Please Pray for Our Sick and Homebound

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Arnold, Barbara Baker Family Barhorst, Brady Becker, Mary Brown, Bob & Beverly Cameron, Christopher Cameron, Kalyn Calamita, John Christ, Kathryn Connor, Kathryn Cisek, Marilyn Clark, Christine and Henry Clark, Brittany Noel Comeau, Teresa Coughlin, Bernadette Curcio, Louis Daniels, Joshua D'Azzo, Lina DeLong, Judy DeLong, Todd Feltes, Lauren Fitzgerald, Dan Gawlik, Frank

Gawlik, Sofia Genereux, Carol Grace, Kelly Grimberg, Carol Gueli, Connie Hawkins, Ashlyn Hawkins, Barbara Helbig, Len Hoffman, Bette Hoskins, Kevin Huff, Walt Hunnefeld, Sarah Joyal, Christina Kirchgessner, Marie Klima, Sue Kraynak, Gary Lague, Norbert Lanigan, John Lashley, Diana LeVan, George Lewis, Cynthia Lowe, Marie Matthews, Dan Mattingly, Pamela

Mays, Hank Membreno, Mary & Gus Newcomb, Jeff O'Connor, Mary Parillo, Ceil Parillo, Dave Parmigiani, Valerie Pilcher, Joel Preeper, Helen Riley, Marie Romani, Angelo Shelby, Montez Smith, Elizabeth Stankiewicz, Cy Thompson, Susan E. Vanderbeck, Cindy Vanderbeck, Jay Walsh, Thomas Watson, Linda Youngman, Ruth Zajac, Leslie



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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