

# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIocese of TYLER

## Celebration of the Mass

Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am  
**Monday 9:00 am**  
**Communion Service**  
Tuesday 9:00 am  
Wednesday 9:00 am  
Thursday 9:00 am  
Friday 9:00 am

## Adoration

Tuesday  
9:45 am - 12:30 pm  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm



## Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm  
Sunday 8:00 - 8:45 am

## Sacrament of the Sick

Offered the first Friday  
of the month after 9:00 am  
& 6:00 pm Mass.

## Marriage or Baptism

Contact the parish office  
six (6) months prior to the  
anticipated date.

1612 S FM 2869

HOLLY LAKE RANCH, TX 75765

Parochial Administrator	Fr. John Gomez		
Priest-in-residence:	Fr. Ariel Cortes	936-526-1296	TBA
Deacon:	John Erdag	949-285-5695	jerdag@hotmail.com
Office Manager:	Bridget Rich	903-769-3235	holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2024

## TODAY'S READINGS

1ST READING:  
IS 50 : 4C - 9A

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:  
PS 116 : 1 - 6; 8 - 9

2ND READING:  
JAS 2 : 14 - 18

GOSPEL:  
MK 8 : 27 - 35



Catechetical Sunday

September 15, 2024

For more information:  
<https://usccb-secretariat-of-evangelization-and-catechesis>

(see Catechists' Prayer - pg 3)

Church Organizations

Parochial Administrator  
 Financial Council  
 Pastoral Council  
 Virtus  
 Knights of Columbus  
 4th Degree Knights  
 Legion of Mary

Fr. John Gomez  
 Charlie Clymer  
 John Rigney  
 Justin Mahaffey  
 Jerry Hauck  
 Gary Laudt  
 Marge Clymer  
 Jane Bidlack  
 Bryan Todd  
 Lou Masferrer  
 Carol Szczepanski  
 Vicki Hauck  
 Anna Parker  
 Eva/Jess Corrigan

Food Pantry  
 Music Ministry  
 Rosary Makers  
 Cenacle of Life  
 Welcome  
 Bereavement  
 Altar Flowers

PARISH SUPPORT

Attendance: 9/7 SAT: 51 9/8 SUN: 102

Collections from 9/7 - 9/8:

Offertory \$ 4,158.60  
 Building & Maintenance Fund \$ 260.00

SEPTEMBER SECOND COLLECTIONS

1st & 2nd: "Building & Maintenance Fund"  
 7th & 8th: "Catholic University of America"

SEPTEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat 9/14: 5:00 pm Mass  
 Wild West Casino Tickets available

Sun 9/15: 9:00 am Mass  
 Coffee & Donut Sunday  
 Wild West Casino Tickets available

Mon 9/16: 9:00 am Communion Service

Tues 9/17: 9:00 am Mass  
 Adoration 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
 Adoration 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Wed 9/18: 9:00 am Mass  
 3:00 pm Cenacles of Life

Thurs 9/19: 9:00 am Mass

Fri 9/20: 9:00 am Mass

Sat 9/21: 9:00 am Mass  
 5:00 pm Mass  
 Wild West Casino Tickets available

Sun 9/22: 9:00 am Mass  
 Wild West Casino Tickets available

Mon 9/23: 9:00 am Communion Service

Tues 9/24: 9:00 am Mass  
 Adoration 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
 Adoration 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Wed 9/25: 9:00 am Communion Service  
 3:00 pm Cenacles of Life  
 5:00 pm Knights of Columbus -  
 Wives Appreciation Dinner

Thurs 9/26: 9:00 am Communion Service  
 9:30 am Legion of Mary Meeting

Fri 9/27: 9:00 am Mass

...autumn has arrived!



Pope's September Intention



For the cry of the earth. We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.



Remember the sick of our parish: Suzanne DiCarlo; Barbara Schneider; Helene Kaczowka; Mary Ott; Emly Walker; Elizabeth Egan; Cindy Sue Erdag; Emeress Aiwohi; Fr. Ariel Cortes; Joe Bonneville; Wauneta Winton; Joe Fazzio; Sharon Kroll; Jeri Garfield; Ethan Cowles; Lupe Leal; Jason McCormick; Eloise Sanchez; Linda Hedgecock; Juan & Barbara Delgado; John Buchanan; Dale Boman; Avery Boultinghouse; Bishop Joseph Strickland; Rosemary Seltzer; Elaine March; Libby Paladino; Jo & Doris Hoffman; Roy Marchak; David Borel; Verna Sloan; Mike Stephens; Kathy Bowers; John McGrane; Msgr. Ron Diegel; Chris & Dave Paape; Richard & Dottie Schuetz; John Fabitz; Jodie Woods; George Duke; Jean Hamilton; Kathleen Fleming; Jaye Anderson; Greg Mooney; Karee Haney; Charlie Parker; Jacob Stephens. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.



Remember the active military of our parish: Mitchell, LTJG Navy (Son-in-law of Stan & Terrie Evans). Ben Clymer, Air Force (Grandson of Charlie & Marge). Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike Stephens). CPI Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan). Staff Sergeant, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Lt. Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Emma). Petty Officer 2 Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).



Mass Intentions

Sat 9/14 **Hillary Moore** (Carolyn Aucoin)  
 Sun 9/15 **M/M Jerry Hauck** (Ellis Family)  
 Tues 9/17 **David & Richard Seltzer+** (Rosemary & Elaine)  
 Wed 9/18 **Spc. Michael G. Karr, Jr+** (Kim Sine)  
 Thurs 9/19 **Chris Cunningham+** (Ann Marie Vancas)  
 Fri 9/20 **Sven Sterner+** (Marie Hanson)



Special Observances

**Monday: St. Cornelius**, Pope, Martyr (Exiled in Civitavecchia; opposed Novatian and the rigorists in the lapsi controversy; buried in the cemetery at Callistus.)

**St. Cyprian**, Bishop, Martyr (Decapitated September 14, 258 in Valerian; ally of St. Cornelius; bishop of Carthage; wrote 'On the Unity of the Catholic Church'; disagreed with Pope Stephen 1 over the question of rebaptism of heretics and schismatics; first African Bishop to be martyred; patron of North Africa and of Algeria.)

**Tuesday: St. Robert Bellarmine**, Bishop, Doctor of the Church (Brilliant Jesuit scholar, preacher, writer, and systematic apologist of the Counter Reformation; most noted for his 'Catechism' and 'Disputationes de Controversiis Christianae Fidei'; involved in the Galileo affair; Cardinal Archbishop of Capua; patron of catechists and catechumens.)

**St. Hildegard of Bingen**, Virgin, Doctor of the Church (Also known as St. Hildegard and the Sybl of the Rhine, was a German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer, philosopher, poet, Christian mystic, visionary, and polymath of the High Middle Ages. Especially known as a composer of sacred monophony and is considered a patron saint of musicians and writer.)

**Thursday: St. Januarius, Bishop, Martyr** (According to his legend, he was thrown to bears at Pozzuolo under Diocletian; bishop of Benevento; as early as 1389, his blood has liquified on this and other days each year; patron of Naples.)

**Friday: St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest and Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs** (Andrew born in Seoul Korea, was a convert to the faith and was ordained Korea's first native priest. His father was a martyr. In 1846 Andrew was tortured and beheaded along with his lay associate, seminarian Paul Chong Ha-sang. Between 1839 and 1867, 103 martyrs gave their lives for the faith in Korea.)

**Saturday: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist** (According to the bishop Papias, the Church's canonical text of Matthew draws upon the Aramaic traditions associated with his name. Composed c 85, the gospel is generally arranged in an alternating pattern of narrative and discourse. Intended for a largely Jewish-Christian audience, it seeks to portray Christianity as consistent with the Jewish tradition and continuation of it. Tradition holds that Matthew preached in Judea and Ethiopia where he was martyred; symbolized by the winged human being; patron of accountants and customs officers.)

# Fundraising



Howdy Partner! Holy Spirit's 12th Annual Dinner & Casino Night is quickly coming upon us. Our *Wild Wild West* themed evening is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th.

Event tickets on sale this weekend after each Mass inside the Church Office. The cost is \$50 per person (or \$400 for a table of eight cowpokes). No tickets will be sold at the door and capacity seating is 160.

Each partner will receive dinner and \$1,500 in casino chips. Tickets are nonrefundable.

**TICKETS ARE GOING FAST—GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**

*So saddle 'em up, Cowboys and Cowgirls!!!!*

## Homework Answers

1. **Spiritual Works of Mercy:**  
Catechism of the Catholic Church #2447
2. **Corporal Works of Mercy:**  
Matthew 25: 31- 46

★ ★ ★ REGISTER ★ ★ ★

**TO VOTE**  
*and then* **VOTE**



Anyone involved in any Ministry at our Parish, must be compliant on your Ethics and Integrity training with VIRTUS.

To sign up for training, please notify Holy Spirit's contact person:

Justin Mahaffey 903-714-3649 or  
email him at: [justin.mahaffey@icloud.com](mailto:justin.mahaffey@icloud.com)

In honor of Catechetical Sunday:

A Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.

Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen

**HELP  
WANTED**

## for Fundraiser

Fundraising committee needs your help. In order to make our Casino Night a success, we need volunteers in a variety of capacities—we need sponsors, prize donations, and “hands-on” volunteers.

Monetary sponsors: Funds donated in this way will offset ticket printing costs, advertising costs, table rental costs, food costs, etc. No amount of money is too small.

Prize donations: At the end of the night, prizes are awarded to the top thirty “money” (casino voucher) winners. Prize donations can include gift certificates, spa baskets, wine baskets, event tickets, or any fun family activities (ie Santaland Christmas Light Parade).

Hands-on volunteers: Food servers, ticket takers, raffle ticket sellers, etc.

Stop by the sign-up board in the Narthex.

**Being Holy Spirit's main yearly fundraiser, we hope to obtain \$25,000 to contribute to the maintenance of our beautiful church complex. The largest donations come from our raffle tickets. It depends on your selling the “raffle” tickets (which you received two weeks ago) or by acquiring money donations.**

St. Blandina [https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=339](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=339) (162-177) Feast: June 2

St. Blandina was a slave in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and patroness of young girls. ... After the miraculous victory obtained by the prayers of the Christians under Marcus Aurelius, in 174, the Church enjoyed a kind of peace, though it was often disturbed in particular places by popular commotions, or by the superstitious fury of certain governors. This appears from the violent persecution which was raised 3 years after the aforesaid victory, at Vienne and Lyons, in 177, while St. Pothinus was bishop of Lyons, and St. Irenaeus, who had been sent there by St. Polycarp out of Asia, was a priest of that city. Many of the principal Christians were brought before the Roman governor. Among them was a slave, Blandina; and her mistress, also a Christian, feared that Blandina lacked strength to brave the torture. She was tormented a whole day through, but she bore it all with joy till the executioners gave up, confessing themselves outdone. ... Meantime, many confessors were kept in prison, and with them were some who had been terrified into apostasy. Even the heathens marked the joy of martyrdom in the Christians who were decked for their eternal espousals, and the misery of the apostate. But the faithful confessors brought back those who had fallen, and the Church, "that Virgin Mother," rejoiced when she saw her children live again in Christ. Some died in prison, the rest were martyred one by one, St. Blandina last of all, after seeing her younger brother put to a cruel death and encouraging him to victory. ...

In the first 2 centuries of the Christian era, local Roman officials were largely responsible for the persecution of Christians. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, the emperors treated Christianity as a local problem to be dealt with by their subordinates. The number and severity of persecutions of Christians in various locations of the empire seemingly increased during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. The extent to which Aurelius himself directed, encouraged, or was aware of these persecutions is unclear and much debated by historians. Traditional history - The traditional account regarding Blandina is reported by Eusebius in his *Historia Ecclesiastica*. Blandina belonged to the band of martyrs of Lyon who, after some of their number had endured frightful tortures, suffered martyrdom in 177 in the reign of Marcus Aurelius. Almost all we know of Blandina comes from a letter sent from the Church of Lyon to the Churches of Asia Minor. Eusebius gives significant space for her life and death in his book as he quotes from the aforementioned epistle to Asia Minor. The Roman populace in Lyon had been excited against the Christians so that the latter, when they ventured to show themselves publicly, were harassed and ill-treated.

While the imperial legate was away, the chiliarch, a military commander, and the duumvir, a civil magistrate, threw a number of Christians, who confessed their faith, into prison. When the legate returned, the imprisoned believers were brought to trial. Among these Christians was Blandina, a slave, who had been taken into custody along with her master, also a Christian. Her companions greatly feared that on account of her bodily frailty she might not remain steadfast under torture. But although the legate caused her to be tortured in a horrible manner, so that even the executioners became exhausted "as they did not know what more they could do to her", still she remained faithful and repeated to every question "I am a Christian, and we commit no wrongdoing."

Due to fear of being tortured, slaves had testified against their masters that the Christians committed cannibalism and incest when assembled, which was a common rumor about Christians during this and later centuries. The legate desired to wring confession of this misconduct from the Christian prisoners. In his report to the emperor the legate stated that those who held to their Christian belief were to be executed and those who denied their faith were to be released, and the legate received instructions from the Emperor Marcus Aurelius allowing the Roman citizens who persisted in the faith to be executed by beheading, but those without citizenship were to be tortured. Blandina was therefore subjected to new tortures with a number of companions in the town's amphitheater (known as the Amphitheatre of the 3 Gauls) at the time of the public games. One such companion was Ponticus, a 15-year-old boy and the youngest of the martyrs, who was encouraged by Blandina to have faith in Christ which gave Ponticus the strength to continue. She was bound to a stake, mirroring the image of a cross, and wild beasts were set on her. While being restrained on the stake, Blandina began to pray passionately for both her companions and her captors. According to legend, the beasts never touched her and she was removed from the stake and thrown back in jail. After enduring this for a number of days, in an effort to persuade her to recant, she was led into the arena to see the sufferings of her companions. Finally, as the last of the martyrs, she was scourged, placed on a red-hot grate, enclosed in a net and thrown before a wild steer, which tossed her into the air with his horns. In the end, she was killed with a dagger.

Of all the martyrs of Lyon, Blandina is the only female to receive attention throughout the narrative and appears significant through her representations as a mother and an athlete. Blandina also holds significance through her allusions to Christ. Throughout the story of the martyrs of Lyon, Blandina is portrayed as mother who sends her children to become martyrs for God before becoming a martyr herself, "Blandina herself passed through all the ordeals of her children." Blandina's relationship to the youngest of the martyrs, Ponticus, is also compared to the mother in 4 Maccabees. Through these sections Blandina is given a maternal role and serves as one example of motherhood for other Christian women to look to. Blandina, as with many early Christian martyrs, is also represented as an athlete for Christ. Athletes in this sense were Christians who were willing to "compete" through martyrdom and die for Christ. Despite being referred to as frail, small, and weak, Blandina is able to endure a full day's worth of torture and outlasts her tortures. Blandina prevails once more against her persecutors within the town's amphitheater as she prays for herself and her companions, posed as though she were being crucified. Blandina's companions witness this, see Christ within her, and get inspired as she takes on the "crooked serpent." Blandina is able to defeat her adversaries time and time again because she clothed herself in Christ and, "won the crown of immortality."