

Twenty-Six Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 2026

A Certain Man Had Two Sons ...



In the Gospels Jesus is always challenging the boxes we like to create: like the boxes for “good” and “bad”. It is human to create such boxes, but Jesus wants us to realize that we are always called to see as God sees and not as human beings see. That is not easy, and it takes great humility and constant conversion to see every person, even those whose lives are a contradiction to our values as loved by God, and even as potential saints. Jesus was able to do this and calls us to do the same.

God's mercy remains open to anyone who turns back. It is never too late to change your mind, seek the Sacrament of Penance, and return to the Father's work.



1018 S. 7th Street, Temple TX 76504
Office: 254-773-4541
www.stmarytempletx.org
Pastor: Fr. Will Rooney
stmaryoffice@stmarytempletx.org

1019 S. 7th Street, Temple TX 76504
Office: 254-778-8141
www.stmarys-temple.org
Principal: Sean Warfield
swarfield@stmarys-temple.org

Sunday Worship

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 pm
Sunday 7:30 & 9:30 am

Daily Mass

Saturday: 8:15 am
Tuesday & Thursday: 8:15 am
Wednesday: 5:30 pm
Friday: 7:00 am

Reconciliation

Friday 7:30 am
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:45 am

At St. Mary's Catholic Church and School we provide opportunities to KNOW, LOVE and SERVE Jesus Christ.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Connect
with us!



Facebook
[@St Mary's Catholic School-Temple, Tx](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCatholicSchool-Temple-Tx)



Instagram
[@SMCSTEMPLETX](https://www.instagram.com/SMCSTEMPLETX)

Do not miss the Bulletin Deadlines!



The deadline for bulletin submissions is
Monday by 12:00 noon for the Sunday
immediately following.

Please send submissions in as soon as they
are available. Placement in the bulletin is
subject to available space.

Occasionally, there may be an early deadline,
due to a holiday or a Holy Day of Obligation.
Please contact the Parish Office if you
have any questions.



Sunday ~ Open Gym!

Join us each Sunday afternoon
from 1:00–4:00 PM.

Come out, get active, play, laugh, and enjoy
some quality time together as a family. There's
something for kids of **all ages**, and it's a great
opportunity to connect with others in our
church family.

Bring the family and join
us for an
afternoon of fun!





At the Foot of the Altar ~ by Joshua Bennett ~



My experience as an altar server has been profound in many ways, both in my understanding of the Mass and in my faith. I began altar serving the summer before my third-grade year. This year will be my eighth consecutive year of service. I can remember, as a young server, not knowing what to do. As time passed, my knowledge and understanding of the liturgy increased.

I can still remember the time when we were processing into the church, and as the thurifer, I looked up at the sanctuary while walking toward the altar, with the people standing on either side acting like walls, tunneling my sight to the lit-up sanctuary. All I could see was the cross, the tabernacle, and the altar, and a deep sense of peace filled my heart.

Being there at every Mass, witnessing the greatest sacrifice—the pinnacle of our faith—happening right before my eyes has been an incredible privilege. Now, as a senior altar server, looking back, I couldn't imagine doing anything else because of how much it has transformed my life.

The duty of an altar server is to help make the Mass beautiful and to be ever ready to serve and assist the priest. We are called to prepare the altar with care and to handle the ciborium and cruets with reverence. We bear the processional cross and the candles, lighting the way for Christ. Every movement has a purpose, and looking back over these eight years, I realize that by serving at the altar, I have been serving Christ Himself.

If you would like to become an Altar Server in either our Manus Dei or Daughters of Therese programs, please contact Susan Edwards at altarservers@stmarytempletx.org

The Power of Altar Servers

Jesus taught that true greatness comes through service, stating, *“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many”* (Mark 10:45). Serving at the altar teaches young people this selfless, humble love.



Parish Giving

September 20, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$	13,255.69
Parish School	\$	59.00
Building Fund	\$	38.00
Other	\$	412.00
Helping Hands	\$	49.00
Total	\$	13,813.69

*Thank you for your continuous generosity.
Your giving makes a difference!*

THE WEEK AHEAD

Date	Event	Location	Time
Tuesday - Friday	Adoration	Adoration Chapel	
Tues. Sep 29 th	Adult Bible Study	O'Reilly Building	1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
	Men of Joseph	O'Reilly Building	7:00 pm
Wed. Sep. 30 th	Religious Education	O'Reilly Building	6:15 pm
	Middle School & High School Youth Groups	O'Reilly Building & Ave Maria Building	6:00 pm
Thurs. Oct 1 st	Adult Faith Formation	O'Reilly Building	6:00 pm
Fri. Oct 2 nd	Young Adult Holy Hour	Church	7:00 pm
Sun. Sep. 27 th	Becoming Catholic Bible Study	O'Reilly Building (Upstairs)	11:15 am
	Open Gym	School Gym	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

VOCATION PRAYER MINISTRY

Open to all parishioners.
To sign-up, call Debra Hollingsworth
at (713) 586-9800.

Thank you for participating in this prayer initiative and may God richly bless you with every good gift as you pray for priestly vocations!

Oct 3rd	Debra Hollingsworth	4:30pm
Oct 11th	Theresa Medrano	9:30am
Oct 17th	Bill Keller	4:30pm
Oct 25th	SMCS Class Rotation	9:30am

Help us pray for new priests and religious sisters!

Sign up to host the Vocation Tablet in your home for one week. During your week, spend a few minutes each day in prayer, asking God to bless our Church with holy and faithful vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Individuals and families are welcome to participate.



Mass Intentions

September 28th - October 4th

Monday NO MASS

Tuesday 8:15AM Living members of the Jeff & Cynthia Baylor Family
Wednesday 5:30PM Ian Hunter
Thursday 8:15AM Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life

Friday 7:00AM † Michael Engbrock
† Frances Pechal

Saturday 8:15AM Linda Ortega-Temeyosa (Birthday)
5:30PM † Maureen Ancich
† Guessan Konan
† John & † Heather Reagan

Sunday 7:30AM † Johnny & † Lucille Maruna
9:30AM For the Parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Elementary (K-5)

Sacramental Preparation
(1st Holy Communion - Yr 2)

For children who are entering 2nd grade or older and are in their second year of preparation, and are ready to receive First Holy Communion this year.

Family Catechesis (Grades K-5)

For elementary students who are not receiving a sacrament this year, including: Kindergarten through 5th grade students
Children in Year 1 of preparation for First Holy Communion

Materials Donation

A donation to help cover the cost of supplies and materials is strongly encouraged:
\$30 per child, or \$75 per family

Middle/High School (6-12)

Youth Group

For all middle and high school students, including those in Year 1 and Year 2 of Confirmation preparation.

Confirmation Preparation (Year 2)

For students who are entering 9th grade or older and are in their second year of preparation, and are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please note: Students preparing for Confirmation must be enrolled in both Ablaze Youth Group and Confirmation Preparation.

Register Here



Those interested in leading as a catechist, please contact:
Julie Rex-Director of Faith Formation
Email: re@stmarytempletx.org



Confirmation 2027

All Sessions will be held on
Sundays, 1:30-3:30pm
at St. Mary's Catholic School Auditorium

Dates:

October-18

November 1, 8, 15

December 6, 13

Retreat 1/9-1/10

DCYC 1/29-1/31

January 17, 24

February-7, 14, 21, 28

March-7

Confirmation Date: TBA



A certificate of Baptism & First Holy Communion will need to be presented to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

For More Detailed information
contact Julie Rex
re@stmarytempletx.org



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE CREED

What do Catholics believe—and why?

5 THURSDAYS • OCTOBER 8–NOVEMBER 5

6:00–8:00 PM • O'REILLY BUILDING

REGISTER NOW • COME JOIN US

church.smttx.org/the-creed-adult-faith-formation

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

We are excited to offer you an unforgettable National Night Out, a perfect event designed to bring families together for a day filled with joy, laughter, and meaningful moments.

What We Have:

- ✓ Delicious food and refreshing beverages
- ✓ Fun Foam party for you and your kids to enjoy! So come, bring your friends and family, and of course a towel for some fun in the sun!

Tuesday, October 6th at 5:30pm
St. Marys School grounds



Month of the Rosary

Why has Mary repeatedly asked us to pray the Rosary?

Rosary Retreat

Presented by the St. Mary Altar Society
Wendy Staab, Chair of the Austin DCCW Leadership commission, will address the history and miracles of the Rosary as well as Mary's messages and promises to those who pray this powerful prayer.

Open to Men & Women

Saturday, October 3, 2026

9:30 AM - Lunch

Doors open at 9:00 AM

St. Mary Catholic Church

1018 South 7th St., Temple, TX 76504

Register by September 28, 2026

Use QR Code to Register - Payment Due at the Door

>OR<

Cost: \$10 per person

includes lunch & handouts

Make checks payable and mail to:

St. Mary Altar Society

c/o Pam Engbrock

1018 South 7th St., Temple, TX 76504

Questions: Contact Pam Engbrock 254-541-6120

Rosary Need Repair?

Jim Staab will repair it on site for you free of charge.



"PARISH MINISTRY TRAINING WORKSHOP"



LECTOR AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC)



DATE: Saturday, October 10, 2026



TIME: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM



LOCATION: St. Mary's Catholic - Main Church

ABOUT THE TRAINING

- **For Lectors:** Proclaiming the Word of God with clarity and reverence.
- **For EMHCs:** Assisting with the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ.
- **Roles, Responsibilities, and Liturgical Guidelines.**
- Hands-on practice session.

ALL CURRENT & NEW MINISTERS ARE INVITED. MANDATORY FOR NEW MINISTERS.

We look forward to seeing you there!

CONTACT: music@stmarytempletx.org | 254.773.4541

"Seasons of Hope" ~ Grief Program

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church will continue "Seasons of Hope (Season Two), a bereavement program which looks at grief and mourning through scripture, prayer, reflection and faith sharing to bring about comfort and healing following the loss of a loved one. Classes begin October 6, and run through November 10, 2026. Classes will be held in the St. Padre Pio Room A-8 in the Family Center. Class will run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A fee of \$20 covers material costs.

Registration information may be obtained by calling or texting the "Seasons of Hope Coordinator at 254-760-5644.



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"Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves."

Sheepish Question:

When have I been humbled by serving someone in need? How?



This is the final weekend under our former Saturday schedule.

Beginning next Saturday, Oct 3rd

Confessions will begin at 3:00 PM and the anticipated Mass will begin at 4:30 PM. Sunday Masses remain at 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM.

*Join Us for
BBQ, Cocktails,
& Texas Tunes!*

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 14**

Doors Open at 6:00 PM
Christ The King Parish Hall

**LEARN MUSIC
FUNDAMENTALS!**

OPEN TO EVERYONE!
NO NEED TO BE A CHOIR MEMBER!

**Discover the
building blocks
of music!**

**All ages & skill
levels welcome.**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:00pm

DATES: AUGUST 19 & 26	OCTOBER 7 & 21
SEPTEMBER 9 & 23	NOVEMBER 4 & 11

A Message from Bishop Garcia

My dear brothers and sisters,

I am deeply saddened and disturbed by the shooting of a man involving an ICE officer in the city of Austin. We find ourselves in a time in this country and city, when people are living in terror and fear because of the increased activity of ICE agents on our streets. Many people are often being detained only due to the color of their skin or the language they speak. Today the credibility of a federal agency that is supposed to protect us has been weakened by incidences such as the one that took place today.

I ask the faithful of the Diocese of Austin to pray for this man who was shot, his family, for all those who have been affected, all who have been involved and for our entire community. As an investigation begins, let us pray that the Federal, State and City authorities will be transparent and honest about what occurred this afternoon, so that confidence in our governmental entities may be strengthened, not weakened.

The Church continues to cry out for comprehensive immigration reform. We need not forget that regardless of a person's immigration status, every person is created in the image and likeness of God and possesses an inherent dignity that must always be respected and protected. May God assist us in finding resolve and peace during these troubling times.

We are reminded, during this National Migrant Week of an essential truth of our faith: we are all brothers and sisters. When one person is harmed, all of us are affected. We cannot allow differences of citizenship to diminish our recognition of the dignity that belongs to every human being.

We continue to call for a viable immigration policy that respects the rule of law while recognizing the dignity of every person.

May God bring healing to those who are suffering, wisdom to those entrusted with responsibility, and peace to all who are affected. May our Lord Jesus calm our hearts and guide us toward a response worthy of our shared humanity. And may God lead us all toward the peace that only Christ provides.

Bishop Daniel E. Garcia