



A Note from Fr. Hoodenpyle

Rejoice and be Glad

On December 25th, we celebrated the manifestation of the light of the world, Our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem. The prophecy of Our Lord's coming in Isaiah tells us of his arrival, "*the sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory*" (Isaiah 60:19). We still await the complete fulfillment of this prophecy at Our Lord's second coming, but it

began at his first coming. Jesus is the light of the world, and we spend an entire liturgical season celebrating that fact during Christmas.

This year, Christmas lasts until January 11th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this time, each day of celebration serves as a kind of taste of that eternal light we will enjoy in the Kingdom of Heaven. I invite you to spend the whole Christmas in celebration. The worldly way of observing this time tends to put a stop to the fun immediately after Christmas day. By that time, the world has grown tired of the jubilation since it began long before it was due. Will we then grow tired of everlasting joy in heaven? Will we ask the light of God to stop shining?

Of course not! Then let us practice now by using each day of the Christmas season well. Renewing our joy and celebration as we make the light of Christ visible in our lives and our love.

Merry Christmas, Fr. Hoodenpyle



Congregation Announcements!

Congrats to our Sacred Heart parishioners who recently received Holy Sacraments for the first time!

Baptism

Chandler Jo Davis
Parents: Michael & Sydney Davis

Harrison Drew Springer
Parents: Austin & Abbey Springer

Heidi Wells Springer
Parents: Austin & Abbey Springer

Marriage Sanation

Stephen and Janet Vogel

Carmelites Establish Monastery in Muenster

A new Discalced Carmelite monastery has been formally established in Muenster following months of prayer, discernment, and strong support from the Diocese of Fort Worth and the local Catholic community. The nuns arrived in Muenster on the evening of December 6 and immediately began preparing a temporary site for the Mass of Foundation, which Bishop Michael Olson offered on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The date is historically significant for the town, as Muenster's first Mass was also celebrated on December 8, 1889.



Bishop Michael Olson celebrates the founding Mass of Carmel of Jesus Crucified. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

Editor Susan Moses of North Texas Catholic recently reported:

Six nuns and two women in formation now reside in the cloister, dedicating their lives to prayer and sacrifice “for the sake of the reparation for sins, the sanctification of God’s people, and for the salvation of souls,” Bishop Olson explained to a small congregation of families, supporters, and diocesan staff.

Permission to establish the Carmel of Jesus Crucified in the Diocese of Fort Worth was granted in late November by the Holy See through the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The monastery is affiliated with the “Christ the King” Association of Discalced

Carmelite Monasteries in the United States. Most of the nuns now residing in Muenster relocated from the Lake Elmo, Minnesota, monastery.

A Dallas man with family ties to Muenster offered his Cooke County property as a temporary residence for the sisters. The rolling, wooded hills provide “the seclusion so important to the spirituality and vocation of the Carmelite life,” Bishop Olson said.

Plans are underway for a permanent monastery on a nearby 35-acre tract of land owned by the donor’s brother. Reflecting on the decision to donate the land, the donor said, “I’ve been praying for years — three or four years at least — asking God what to do with this land to share it with people. ‘This is your land. This is not mine. How do I



Bishop Michael Olson leads a procession to bless the Carmel of Jesus Crucified. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

share it?” He later added, “It’s a wonderful thing for the community. I’m glad to play a very, very small part of it.”

The nuns may reside at the temporary site for as long as necessary while funding is secured and construction begins on the permanent monastery.

Local Catholic communities responded quickly once news of the monastery spread. Within two weeks of the sisters selecting the location in late November, donations of land, a manufactured home, funds, construction materials, and professional services were offered. Contractors also prioritized the project, pouring concrete for a common area and renovating the manufactured home to include eight cells for the nuns. An existing structure on the property serves as a shared space for worship and activities.

Support continues to grow, with faithful volunteers planning to regularly provide eggs, milk, and even freshly caught fish. Mary Del Olmo, a consecrated virgin and parishioner of Sacred Heart, is helping coordinate support between the community and the nuns and is forming a Carmelite Guild with two others to provide both practical assistance and prayer.

“I don’t think we realize how blessed we are to have this monastery in our diocese,” Del Olmo said, noting that the nuns’ life of prayer blesses both the local and global Church. Reflecting on the rapid preparations, she recalled that “so, so, so many miracles” occurred.

Mother Marie of the Incarnation, OCD shared more on the origins of the foundation, “Last summer, Our Lord called for the establishment of a new monastery in Muenster. Through friendship with our Lord and sustained prayer, this call came to fruition. Also inspired by Holy Mother Church and Bishop Michael Olson, who as a successor of the Apostles, has the charism to discern the authenticity of graces given to the faithful, we joyfully moved forward to answer the Lord’s call. All the people of Muenster and Lindsay have confirmed that call by their warm and enthusiastic reception of us, of which we are so deeply grateful. In preparation for making the foundation, we read the book of *Foundations* written by our Mother Foundress, St. Teresa of Jesus (also known as St. Teresa of Avila). We invite all the faithful to read this book as an introduction to our Monastic spirituality and history as Discalced Carmelite nuns. (*The word Discalced literally means without shoes, and this is for the sake of the poverty St. Theresa embraced. The nuns wear sandals.*)”



Carmelite Mother Foundress, St. Teresa of Jesus

She added, “The Carmelite nuns profess the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They live a stable life in the same monastery where they make profession, until death. The only exception would be the foundation of a new monastery. The daily life of the Discalced Carmelite nuns begins before dawn and ends late in the evening. In this rhythm of life, the sisters dwell in silence and interior communion with the Lord through prayer, particularly prayer for priests. They gather seven times a day for the choral recitation of the Divine Office, the liturgical prayer of the Church. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the spiritual center of their day. The nuns also pray the Rosary daily and other prayers in common throughout the day. When not engaged in communal exercises of prayer, the nuns perform manual labor, such as cooking, cleaning, sacristy work, vestment making, rosary making, etc. They also have time of recreation each day, during which they gather to do simple handwork while conversing together. Throughout the day, the nuns’ apostolate is one of continual prayer and sacrifice for the needs of Holy Mother Church, for the salvation of souls, and for all the intentions entrusted to their prayers.

Mother Marie also emphasized the sisters’ reliance on the faithful, saying: “The nuns depend entirely on the support of the faithful. Although the Sisters work hard at manual labor, their intense schedule of prayer fills most of the day, allowing little time for earning a living.”

Monetary contributions can be sent to the address provided below, while donations of food, supplies, and other necessities of life will be coordinated through the Carmelite Guild. The nuns are praying earnestly to build their permanent monastery, which will be made possible through the generosity of the faithful. When the monastery has been built, the faithful will be able to visit the monastery for prayer, for Holy Mass, and to bring charitable items directly to the donation turn at the monastery. In the meantime, the Carmelite Guild will act as an intermediary, since the nuns live on a gated property north of town with restricted access. Vocation inquiries are welcome.

Prayer Requests and Donations

Prayer requests may be made by phone at 940-641-5564 or by mail to:

Mother Marie of the Incarnation, OCD
Carmelite Monastery
P.O. Box 308
Muenster, TX 76252

The faithful throughout our Diocese may make financial donations by check payable to “Carmelite Monastery.” Please write “for the Texas Foundation” in the memo line.

Additional means of providing support may be forthcoming.

Sacred Heart Catholic School - Muenster, Texas



SCHOOL CHOICE INFO MEETING



WED, JAN 21 ♦ 6:30 PM ♦ @HS LIBRARY 153 E. 6th St. Muenster, TX



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Join

Sacred Heart
Catholic Parish
in celebrating
**National
Catholic
Schools
Week**
coming up on
January 25 - 31



**Receive \$10,800 per child each year
— or up to \$30,000 for Students with Disabilities**
to help fund your child's faith-filled, high quality education at Sacred Heart!
Every family is eligible to apply for funding for children ages 3-18. No income limit!

**Funding covers TUITION • UNIFORMS • LUNCHES
• TUTORING • TRANSPORTATION • MORE!**



We're here to help you apply! Applications take 5 minutes or less to complete and most are done on mobile devices. Join us in the HS Library for assistance in applying on the following dates. Devices will be provided!

- > **Wednesday, February 4 (6:30–7:30pm)**
- > **Thursday, February 5 (6:30–7:30pm)**
- > **Saturday, February 7 (9:00–10:00am)**



Or, by appointment by contacting Lydia Springer at lydia.springer@shmuenster.com or 940-759-2500 (Ext *)

Learn more & apply on Feb 4 at educationfreedom.texas.gov Eligibility determined in seconds!

Applications
open
February 4, 2026
for new
Texas Education
Freedom
Accounts!

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
212 EAST 6TH STREET
MUENSTER, TEXAS 76252

POSTAL CUSTOMER
MUENSTER, TX 76252

NONPROFIT ORG.
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ECRWSS

2025 Thanksgiving Picnic Financial Report

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES
Cake Walk	\$ 1,588.80	\$ -
Sweet Shop	\$ 2,954.00	\$ -
Country Store	\$ 2,481.50	\$ -
Kid's Games	\$ 350.00	\$ 482.61
Cornhole	\$ -	\$ -
Turkey Dinner	\$ 21,758.00	\$ 3,291.53
Supper	\$ 1,515.05	\$ -
Kettle Corn	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -
Gun Raffle	\$ 7,530.00	\$ -
Main Raffle	\$ 13,690.00	\$ 4,451.67
Auction	\$ 106,400.96	\$ 75.92
Heritage Park	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Cash Donations	\$ 16,550.00	\$ -
Security	\$ -	\$ 448.00
Adv/Printing	\$ -	\$ 2,016.00
Starting Cash	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Net Results	\$ 176,068.31	\$ 30,765.73
Gross Income	\$ 176,068.31	
Expenses		\$ 30,765.73
Net Income		\$ 145,302.58

MANY BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!



714 N. Main St, Muenster, TX 76252

Pastor Austin Hoodenpyle
Deacon Gary Endres
Deacon Marty Robertson

Parish Office & Mailing Address:
212 E. 6th St, Muenster, TX 76252

Open Mon - Fri (8am - 4pm)
(940) 759-2500

Website: <https://shmuenster.com>

Upcoming Events!



**Safe Environment
Initial Training**
> Sat, January 10
> 9am - 12pm
> SH Community
Center



**Safe Environment
Renewal Training**
> Tues, January 20
> 6pm - 7:45pm
> SH Community
Center



**"Into the Deep"
Parish High School
Retreat**
> Sat, January 31
> SH Community
Center

Contact the SH Parish Office or see
website for more details & to sign up!