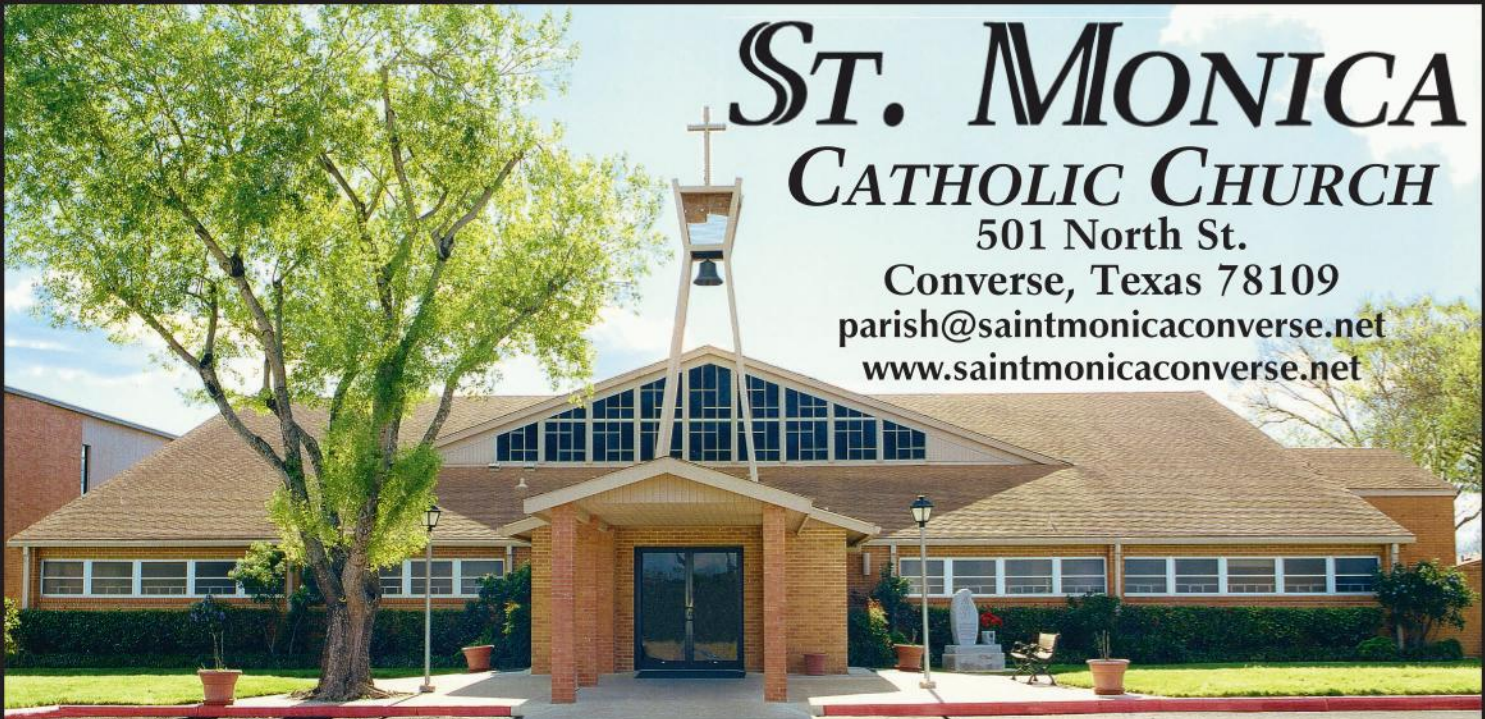




ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

501 North St.

Converse, Texas 78109

parish@saintmonicaconverse.net

www.saintmonicaconverse.net

**The Mission of St. Monica is to build a welcoming community
of faith, making God's love visible through service to others.**

STAFF

Pastor	Fr. Alejandro Del Bosque, ext. 241
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Mauricio Lopez, ext. 238
Deacon	Jacques Abat
Deacon	Sean Dooley, ext. 242
Deacon	Jack Karam
Secretary	Mrs. Sofia Flores, ext. 240
Pastoral Secretary	Mrs. Jackie Cantú, ext. 237
Dir. of Religious Ed.	Mrs. Janice Van Slambrouck, ext. 244
Housekeeper	Mrs. Limbania Reyes
RCIA Director	Mr. Paul Cassetta
Counselor	Joanne Ayala Mylacraine

MASSES

Saturday Vigil:	5:30 p.m.
Sunday:	7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.; 1:00 (Spanish), 5:00 p.m.
	7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Weekdays:	8:15 a.m.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4:00 p.m. & Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

BAPTISMS: First Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Parents and Godparents must attend class held on prior Thursday 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Family Center.

FIRST COMMUNION: Two-year program required; usually received in the second grade.

CONFIRMATION: Must complete a two-year program which begins in high school years.

MARRIAGE: Six months notice required. Contact parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: Director, Mrs. Janice Van Slambrouck, (210) 701-7831. Classes - Grades K-10, Wednesday 6:30-7:30 p.m. Office hours - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

GLOW (4th-6th grade group) meets Thursday in hall 6:30-8:00 p.m.

RCIA: Adult converts or those needing sacraments are invited. Classes begin in September on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall. Call Paul Cassetta at 343-9655 for more information. Spanish RCIA contact: Sr. Esperanza Buitron 659-4242, & Josie Rodriguez (210) 988-3954

ST. MONICA SCHOOL: Early Childhood through 8th Grade. Principal, Mrs. Kristi Geyer, 658-6701. School Annex 659-5939. Inquiries to school office.

PARISH COUNCILS: Pastoral Council meets monthly.

To schedule **Quinceanera Mass:** must be registered parishioner at least one year; attend Religious Education classes at parish; have priest's permission.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Friday after Mass until 7:00 p.m.

EUCCHARIST FOR SICK & SHUT-INS: Contact church office.

ROSARY: Rosary recited Monday - Friday at 7:45 a.m. and Sunday 7 a.m.

CHOIR: 9:00 a.m., *Bill Staggs, Music Minister, 274-8847.* Adult Choir Rehearsal - Thursday, 6:30 p.m.; Children's Choir and Guitar Rehearsal - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.; Teen Musician Rehearsal after 11:00 a.m. Mass, *Michelle Hernandez, Music Minister, after 5 p.m. call (210) 215-0811.* Spanish Choir - Monday, 7:00 p.m. *Glissie Esquivel, Director, 251-2902.*

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP: Every Friday at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. Contact: Martin Sanchez, 387-3469.

ALTAR SOCIETY & THRIFT SHOP: Altar Society meets first Tuesday at 12:00 noon, September through May. Thrift Shop open Wednesday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 noon. Contact: Edna Diaz, 598-9885.

ACTS: Contact Tony Canez, 857-0789.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Meets second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Tony Canez, Grand Knight, 857-0789.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Ruben Rosas, President, (210) 818-1230. Meets second Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS: Meets third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Mary Jane Garza, 210-843-2190.

GUADALUPANOS: Meets second Monday of every month in the church cry room from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Margie Moncada, 661-7381.

LIFE TEEN (High School Youth Group): Meets Sunday, 3:00-4:30 p.m., in the parish hall. Contact Timo Zepeda, 410-7647.

EDGE (Middle School Youth Group): Meets Wednesday 6:15-7:45 p.m. Contact Lyle Pearce, 913-5585.

REGISTRATION FORMS: Located in parish office or next to the bulletin board inside of the church.

BULLETIN: Submit notices by 12:00 noon on Monday prior to issue.

YOUNG AT HEART GROUP: Meets second Thursday of the month. Call Bea Ramirez at 210-658-4439 for more information.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP: (Spanish) Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel.

FAMILY OF THE ROSARY (bilingual) Meet last Tuesday of Month in church cry room 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. contact Carmenza Barrios, 210-724-8660.

Office Hours: 9:00 to 5:00, M-F
St. Vincent De Paul: 658-8791

Parish: 658-3816
Religious Ed: 658-7920

Fax: 566-3821
School: 658-6701

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon 2/19 8:15 A.M. ✚ Laura Morlet
Tues 2/20 8:15 A.M. ✚ Ernestina Vasquez
Wed 2/21 8:15 A.M. ✚ Jose Refugio Rodriguez
Thurs 2/22 8:15 A.M. ✚ Thomas Castillo
Fri 2/23 8:15 A.M. ✚ Christopher Cook
 7:00 P.M. ✚ Maria Hernandez
Sat 2/24 5:30 P.M. Ramona David Nicholson Fam =SI
 ✚ Carmen Rosas
 Cecil Andrade = SI
Sun 2/25 7:30 A.M. ✚ Souls in purgatory
 9:00 A.M. ✚ Carmen Rosas
 11:00 A.M. Christie & Charlie Rodriguez = SI
 1:00 P.M. ✚ Arnulfo Torres Barajas
 Marta Lopez = SI
 Familia Cabrera Sanchez = SI
 5:00 P.M. Robert Rodriguez = SI
 7:00 P.M. ✚ Pedro/Jose Luis Delgado

✚ = Deceased A = Anniv B = Birthday
 SI = Special Intention L & D = Living and Deceased

SUNDAY COLLECTONS:

February 11th: \$10,112.00
 St. Vincent de Paul: \$4,577.00

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION

Giving is to be done cheerfully, rather than as an obligation
2 Corinthians 9:6-7 and *not for the purpose of public*
recognition Matthew 6: 1-4. With these bible verses, we
 would like to extend our gratitude to all who have given to
 the St. Monica's Church Capital Campaign especially for the
 most recent donation of \$50,000 from a generous parishioner
 who wishes to remain anonymous. May God bless each of
 you with happiness, peace and good health because you put
 your trust and hope in Him.



SANCTUARY CANDLE

This week's Sanctuary Candle will burn
 in loving memory of **Daniel Aguilar II**

RICE BOWLS AT ENTRANCE OF CHURCH

Due back Sunday, April 1st Easter Sunday

© J. S. Palach Co., Inc.



CALLING ALL TEENS!

You are invited to join us for a very
 special weekend. The 2018 St.
 Monica's Teen ACTS Retreat will
 be held March 15-18, at Slumber
 Falls Camp in New Braunfels. It
 will be a fun activity-filled three
 day retreat where you can learn
 more about God's Great Plan! The
 cost is \$170, however, financial
 assistance is available. For more
 details, contact Timo Zepeda 210-
 410-7647 or Anita Moreno 210-326-3218. Registration
 Forms are available at saintmonicaconverse.net/acts

LLAMANDO A TODOS LOS ADOLESCENTES!

Están invitados a unirse a nosotros para un fin de semana muy
 especial. El Retiro de ACTS para adolescentes de 2018 Santa
 Mónica se llevará a cabo del 15 al 18 de marzo en el
 campamento Slumber Falls en New Braunfels. ¡Será un retiro de
 tres días lleno de actividades donde podrá aprender más sobre el
 Gran Plan de Dios! El costo es de \$170, sin embargo, hay ayuda
 financiera disponible. Para obtener más información,
 comuníquese con Timo Zepeda 210-410-7647 o Anita Moreno
 210-326-3218. Los formularios de inscripción están disponibles
 en saintmonicaconverse.net/acts

NEXT HOLY HOUR

Thursday February 22nd at 7 p.m



www.dishonstock.com - 71372280

FISH FRY DURING LENT

Beginning Friday,
 February 16th and every Friday
 during Lent, the Knights of
 Columbus will be serving up
 their delicious Fish Fry in the
 school's cafeteria. Come by
 with the family from 5 to 8 pm

and try some great fried catfish made by the Knights.
 Dinner includes freshly made sides: French Fries, Cole
 Slaw, Corn, Hushpuppies, and Iced Tea. Adults are \$8
 and kids (5-13) are \$5. We will also have sodas and an
 assortment of desserts available for purchase. You
 can sit and enjoy dinner in the dining room or take it to
 go.

Message of the Holy Father for Lent 2018 on the theme: “*Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold*” (Mt 24: 12).

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in His providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a “sacramental sign of our conversion”. Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.

With this message, I would like again this year to help the entire Church experience this time of grace anew, with joy and in truth. I will take my cue from the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: “Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold” (24:12).

These words appear in Christ’s preaching about the end of time. They were spoken in Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, where the Lord’s passion would begin. In reply to a question of the disciples, Jesus foretells a great tribulation and describes a situation in which the community of believers might well find itself: amid great trials, false prophets would lead people astray and the love that is the core of the Gospel would grow cold in the hearts of many.

1) *False Profets*: Let us listen to the Gospel passage and try to understand the guise such false prophets can assume.

They can appear as “snake charmers”, who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go. How many of God’s children are mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness! How many men and women live entranced by the dream of wealth, which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests! How many go through life believing that they are sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!

False prophets can also be “charlatans”, who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless. How many young people are taken in by the panacea of drugs, of disposable relationships, of easy but dishonest gains! How many more are ensnared in a thoroughly “virtual” existence, in which relationships appear quick and straightforward, only to prove meaningless! These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love. They appeal to our vanity, our trust in appearances, but in the end they only make fools of us. Nor should we be surprised. In order to confound the human heart, the devil, who is “a liar and the father of lies” (Jn 8:44), has always presented evil as good, falsehood as truth. That is why each of us is called to peer into our heart to see if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets. We must learn to look closely, beneath the surface, and to recognize what leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, because it comes from God and is truly for our benefit.

2) *A cold heart*: In his description of hell, Dante Alighieri pictures the devil seated on a throne of ice, in frozen and loveless isolation. We might well ask ourselves how it happens that charity can turn cold within us. What are the signs that indicate that our love is beginning to cool?

More than anything else, what destroys charity is greed for money, “the root of all evil” (1 Tim 6:10). The rejection of God and his peace soon follows; we prefer our own desolation rather than the comfort found in his word and the sacraments. All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own “certainties”: the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the alien among us, or our neighbor who does not live up to our expectations.

Creation itself becomes a silent witness to this cooling of charity. The earth is poisoned by refuse, discarded out of carelessness or for self-interest. The seas, themselves polluted, engulf the remains of countless shipwrecked victims of forced migration. The heavens, which in God’s plan, were created to sing His praises, are rent by engines raining down implements of death.

Love can also grow cold in our own communities. In the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, I sought to describe the most evident signs of this lack of love: selfishness and spiritual sloth, sterile pessimism, the temptation to self-absorption, constant warring among ourselves, and the worldly mentality that makes us concerned only for appearances, and thus lessens our missionary zeal.

3) *What are we to do?* Perhaps we see, deep within ourselves and all about us, the signs I have just described. But the Church, our Mother and Teacher, along with the often bitter medicine of the truth, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

By devoting more time to *prayer*, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live life well.

Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church! For this reason, I echo Saint Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. 2 Cor 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and peoples in need. Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God Himself. When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of His children. If through me God helps someone today, will He not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.

Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.

I would also like my invitation to extend beyond the bounds of the Catholic Church, and to reach all of you, men and women of good will, who are open to hearing God's voice. Perhaps, like ourselves, you are disturbed by the spread of iniquity in the world, you are concerned about the chill that paralyzes hearts and actions, and you see a weakening in our sense of being members of the one human family. Join us, then, in raising our plea to God, in fasting, and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need!

4) *The fire of Easter:* Above all, I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew.

One such moment of grace will be, again this year, the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative, which invites the entire Church community to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Eucharistic adoration. In 2018, inspired by the words of Psalm 130:4, "With you is forgiveness", this will take place from Friday, 9 March to Saturday, 10 March. In each diocese, at least one church will remain open for twenty-four consecutive hours, offering an opportunity for both Eucharistic adoration and sacramental confession.

During the Easter Vigil, we will celebrate once more the moving rite of the lighting of the Easter candle. Drawn from the "new fire", this light will slowly overcome the darkness and illuminate the liturgical assembly. "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds", and enable all of us to relive the experience of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. By listening to God's word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love.

With affection and the promise of my prayers for all of you, I send you my blessing. Please do not forget to pray for me.

Pope Francis

Mensaje del Santo Padre Francisco para la Cuaresma 2018 cuyo tema es: «Al crecer la maldad, se enfriará el amor en la mayoría» (Mt 24,12).

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Una vez más nos sale al encuentro la Pascua del Señor. Para prepararnos a recibirla, la Providencia de Dios nos ofrece cada año la Cuaresma, «signo sacramental de nuestra conversión», que anuncia y realiza la posibilidad de volver al Señor con todo el corazón y con toda la vida.

Como todos los años, con este mensaje deseo ayudar a toda la Iglesia a vivir con gozo y con verdad este tiempo de gracia; y lo hago inspirándome en una expresión de Jesús en el Evangelio de Mateo: «Al crecer la maldad, se enfriará el amor en la mayoría» (24,12).

Esta frase se encuentra en el discurso que habla del fin de los tiempos y que está ambientado en Jerusalén, en el Monte de los Olivos, precisamente allí donde tendrá comienzo la pasión del Señor. Jesús, respondiendo a una pregunta de sus discípulos, anuncia una gran tribulación y describe la situación en la que podría encontrarse la comunidad de los fieles: frente a acontecimientos dolorosos, algunos falsos profetas engañarán a mucha gente hasta amenazar con apagar la caridad en los corazones, que es el centro de todo el Evangelio.

1) **Los falsos profetas.** Escuchemos este pasaje y preguntémosnos: ¿qué formas asumen los falsos profetas?

Son como «encantadores de serpientes», o sea, se aprovechan de las emociones humanas para esclavizar a las personas y llevarlas adonde ellos quieren. Cuántos hijos de Dios se dejan fascinar por las lisonjas de un placer momentáneo, al que se le confunde con la felicidad. Cuántos hombres y mujeres viven como encantados por la ilusión del dinero, que los hace en realidad esclavos del lucro o de intereses mezquinos. Cuántos viven pensando que se bastan a sí mismos y caen presa de la soledad.

Otros falsos profetas son esos «charlatanes» que ofrecen soluciones sencillas e inmediatas para los sufrimientos, remedios que sin embargo resultan ser completamente inútiles: cuántos son los jóvenes a los que se les ofrece el falso remedio de la droga, de unas relaciones de «usar y tirar», de ganancias fáciles pero deshonestas. Cuántos se dejan cautivar por una vida completamente virtual, en que las relaciones parecen más sencillas y rápidas pero que después resultan dramáticamente sin sentido. Estos estafadores no sólo ofrecen cosas sin valor sino que quitan lo más valioso, como la dignidad, la libertad y la capacidad de amar. Es el engaño de la vanidad, que nos lleva a pavonearnos... haciéndonos caer en el ridículo; y el ridículo no tiene vuelta atrás. No es una sorpresa: desde siempre el demonio, que es «mentiroso y padre de la mentira» (Jn 8,44), presenta el mal como bien y lo falso como verdadero, para confundir el corazón del hombre. Cada uno de nosotros, por tanto, está llamado a discernir y a examinar en su corazón si se siente amenazado por las mentiras de estos falsos profetas. Tenemos que aprender a no quedarnos en un nivel inmediato, superficial, sino a reconocer qué cosas son las que dejan en nuestro interior una huella buena y más duradera, porque vienen de Dios y ciertamente sirven para nuestro bien.

2) **Un corazón frío:** Dante Alighieri, en su descripción del infierno, se imagina al diablo sentado en un trono de hielo; su morada es el hielo del amor extinguido. Preguntémosnos entonces: ¿cómo se enfría en nosotros la caridad? ¿Cuáles son las señales que nos indican que el amor corre el riesgo de apagarse en nosotros?

Lo que apaga la caridad es ante todo la avaricia por el dinero, «raíz de todos los males» (1 Tm 6,10); a esta le sigue el rechazo de Dios y, por tanto, el no querer buscar consuelo en él, prefiriendo quedarnos con nuestra desolación antes que sentirnos confortados por su Palabra y sus Sacramentos.^[3] Todo esto se transforma en violencia que se dirige contra aquellos que consideramos una amenaza para nuestras «certezas»: el niño por nacer, el anciano enfermo, el huésped de paso, el extranjero, así como el prójimo que no corresponde a nuestras expectativas.

También la creación es un testigo silencioso de este enfriamiento de la caridad: la tierra está envenenada a causa de los desechos arrojados por negligencia e interés; los mares, también contaminados, tienen que recubrir por desgracia los restos de tantos naufragos de las migraciones forzadas; los cielos —que en el designio de Dios cantan su gloria— se ven surcados por máquinas que hacen llover instrumentos de muerte.

El amor se enfría también en nuestras comunidades: en la Exhortación apostólica *Evangelii gaudium* traté de describir las señales más evidentes de esta falta de amor. estas son: la acedia egoísta, el pesimismo estéril, la tentación de aislarse y

de entablar continuas guerras fratricidas, la mentalidad mundana que induce a ocuparse sólo de lo aparente, disminuyendo de este modo el entusiasmo misionero.

3) ¿Qué podemos hacer? Si vemos dentro de nosotros y a nuestro alrededor los signos que antes he descrito, la Iglesia, nuestra madre y maestra, además de la medicina a veces amarga de la verdad, nos ofrece en este tiempo de Cuaresma el dulce remedio de la oración, la limosna y el ayuno.

El hecho de dedicar más tiempo a la *oración* hace que nuestro corazón descubra las mentiras secretas con las cuales nos engañamos a nosotros mismos, para buscar finalmente el consuelo en Dios. Él es nuestro Padre y desea para nosotros la vida.

El ejercicio de la *limosna* nos libera de la avaricia y nos ayuda a descubrir que el otro es mi hermano: nunca lo que tengo es sólo mío. Cuánto desearía que la limosna se convirtiera para todos en un auténtico estilo de vida. Al igual que, como cristianos, me gustaría que siguiésemos el ejemplo de los Apóstoles y viésemos en la posibilidad de compartir nuestros bienes con los demás un testimonio concreto de la comunión que vivimos en la Iglesia. A este propósito hago mía la exhortación de san Pablo, cuando invitaba a los corintios a participar en la colecta para la comunidad de Jerusalén: «Os conviene» (2 Co 8,10). Esto vale especialmente en Cuaresma, un tiempo en el que muchos organismos realizan colectas en favor de iglesias y poblaciones que pasan por dificultades. Y cuánto querría que también en nuestras relaciones cotidianas, ante cada hermano que nos pide ayuda, pensáramos que se trata de una llamada de la divina Providencia: cada limosna es una ocasión para participar en la Providencia de Dios hacia sus hijos; y si él hoy se sirve de mí para ayudar a un hermano, ¿no va a proveer también mañana a mis necesidades, él, que no se deja ganar por nadie en generosidad?

El *ayuno*, por último, debilita nuestra violencia, nos desarma, y constituye una importante ocasión para crecer. Por una parte, nos permite experimentar lo que sienten aquellos que carecen de lo indispensable y conocen el aguijón del hambre; por otra, expresa la condición de nuestro espíritu, hambriento de bondad y sediento de la vida de Dios. El ayuno nos despierta, nos hace estar más atentos a Dios y al prójimo, inflama nuestra voluntad de obedecer a Dios, que es el único que sacia nuestra hambre.

Querría que mi voz traspasara las fronteras de la Iglesia Católica, para que llegara a todos ustedes, hombres y mujeres de buena voluntad, dispuestos a escuchar a Dios. Si se sienten afligidos como nosotros, porque en el mundo se extiende la iniquidad, si les preocupa la frialdad que paraliza el corazón y las obras, si ven que se debilita el sentido de una misma humanidad, únense a nosotros para invocar juntos a Dios, para ayunar juntos y entregar juntos lo que podamos como ayuda para nuestros hermanos.

4) El fuego de la Pascua: Invito especialmente a los miembros de la Iglesia a emprender con celo el camino de la Cuaresma, sostenidos por la limosna, el ayuno y la oración. Si en muchos corazones a veces da la impresión de que la caridad se ha apagado, en el corazón de Dios no se apaga. Él siempre nos da una nueva oportunidad para que podamos empezar a amar de nuevo.

Una ocasión propicia será la iniciativa «24 horas para el Señor», que este año nos invita nuevamente a celebrar el Sacramento de la Reconciliación en un contexto de adoración eucarística. En el 2018 tendrá lugar el viernes 9 y el sábado 10 de marzo, inspirándose en las palabras del Salmo 130,4: «De ti procede el perdón». En cada diócesis, al menos una iglesia permanecerá abierta durante 24 horas seguidas, para permitir la oración de adoración y la confesión sacramental.

En la noche de Pascua reviviremos el sugestivo rito de encender el cirio pascual: la luz que proviene del «fuego nuevo» poco a poco disipará la oscuridad e iluminará la asamblea litúrgica. «Que la luz de Cristo, resucitado y glorioso, disipe las tinieblas de nuestro corazón y de nuestro espíritu», para que todos podamos vivir la misma experiencia de los discípulos de Emaús: después de escuchar la Palabra del Señor y de alimentarnos con el Pan eucarístico nuestro corazón volverá a arder de fe, esperanza y caridad.

Los bendigo de todo corazón y rezo por ustedes. No se olviden de rezar por mí.

Papa FRANCISCO

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

LENTEN SEASON HAS BEGUN

Embrace your Catholic faith during this season of Lent. Even though we live in a secular world, there are many opportunities to be united to our merciful, loving and powerful God through our Catholic devotions. There are some suggestions below to help you along. If you're out of practice as far as confession goes, make an appointment with God to visit him at one of the times available for confession. Too many Catholics stay away from the confessional and this is how the evil one gains a foothold into our soul.

Adoration = every Thursday in the church at 7 p.m. and every Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the chapel

Bible = so many of us don't read scripture. The bible is life's manual. We have this belief that the writings don't apply to our way of life; somehow the information is outdated and more like mythology. Dedicate a few minutes, maybe while in prayer, to reading the scripture of the day. The phone app Laudate is a great way to familiarize yourself with the word of God. The parish office has bibles for sale \$5 each.

Confession = every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 4 p.m..

Penance Service = Wednesday, March 21st at 7 p.m.

Prayer = Jesus prayed alone frequently. Prayer draws us closer to God's heart. Who doesn't want to be there? Start with 10 minutes a day. Take up the Rosary. This is a beautiful way to revitalize your body and spirit. Don't be intimidated by the length of this prayer. Start off with one decade.

Stations of the Cross = every *Friday evening* in the church at 6 p.m. in English followed by the Mass. The Stations of the Cross (*The Way of the Cross*) tell the story of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ in 14 stations.

PARISH OFFICE CONTACT INFO

Phone no. (210) 658-3816 / Fax (210) 566-3821

St. Monica Parishioners, please pray for our RCIA/RICA Catechumens and Candidates as they continue their journey towards the Easter Vigil and the Lord's Table. Please pray for:

Tina & Juan Alvarez	Heather Hoffman
Amber Garza	Salvador Meza
Sandra Hennessy	Phillip Perez
Adam Lloyd	Benjamin Ramirez
Stephanie Morgan	Roger Torres
Maxine Aguilar	Cassandra Valadez
David Billingsley	Brando Vega
Jason Felix	Mario Flores
Christopher Haaland	

God our Father, look upon these your servants as they deepen their understanding of the Gospel. Grant that they may come to know and love you and always heed your will with receptive minds and generous hearts. Teach them through this time of preparation and enfold them within your Church, so that they may share your holy mysteries both on earth and in heaven. Amen.

PRÁCTICAS DE CUARESMA

Abrace su fe Católica durante esta temporada de Cuaresma. Aunque vivimos en un mundo secular, hay muchas oportunidades para unirnos a nuestro misericordioso, amoroso y poderoso Dios a través de nuestras devociones Católicas. Si esta fuera de practica en cuanto a la confesión, haga una cita con Dios para visitarlo en uno de los momentos disponibles para la confesión. Demasiados Católicos se mantienen alejados del confesionario y así es como el maligno logra establecerse en nuestra alma.

Adoración = todos los jueves en la iglesia a las 7 p.m. y todos los viernes de 9 a.m. a 5 p.m. en la capilla

Confesión = todos los miércoles a las 6 p.m. y el sábado a las 4 P.M.

Oración = Jesús oró solo con frecuencia. La oración nos acerca al corazón de Dios. ¿Quién no quiere estar allí? Comience con 10 minutos por día. Tome el Rosario. Esta es una hermosa forma de revitalizar su cuerpo y espíritu. No se deje intimidar por lo largo de esta oración. Comience con una década.

Estaciones de la Cruz = todos los viernes por la tarde a las 6 p.m. en la iglesia en inglés, seguido de la Misa. Las Estaciones de la Cruz (El Vía Crucis) cuentan la historia del sufrimiento y la muerte de Jesucristo en 14 estaciones.



600 Pat Booker Rd.
Universal City
210-659-4000

9154 FM 78, Converse
210-945-2092

Roofing Done Right M & L ROOFING INC.

Residential Reroofing Specialist - Licensed
Reasonable - References - Free Estimates

Joe Mika

659-6664

Cruz Ledesma-Jonson, EA
Income Tax and
IRS Representation
Office: **210-451-5583**
Cell: **210-219-6019**

Se Habla Español
8930 Fourwinds Dr., #205, Windcrest



Lifetime Transferrable Warranty
Engineering Services Provided
Drainage Correction Services

**Schertz Funeral Home
& Crematory**
Family Owned & Operated
Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans
www.schertzfuneralhome.com
2217 FM 3009, Schertz **210-658-9224**

\$9 T-SHIRT SALE
EVERY SHIRT! LIMITED TIME!
diocesan.com/shop

MARY KAY®

Sandra Bell
Independent
Beauty Consultant

210-666-8453

**Gregory
Bauman**
651-1444

texanrepairsystems.com

Your Church is
closer than
you think...

Bulletins
Directions
Mass Times
Local Businesses

Visit
DISCOVERMASS
.com

**Blue Bonnet Palace
Dance Hall**
21 Yrs. and up
Private Parties
Fri., Sat. 8-2
210-651-6702

**SS PLUMBING
Contractors**
210.658.7100

**10% off for
Parishioners with ad**

New Construction • Camera Inspections
Commercial & Residential • Sewer & Drain Service
Water Heaters • Backflow Testing & Repairs

Steven & Sherill Stanush
210-658-7100
www.ss-plumbing.com
TSBPE Lic #M36596

EST. 1971

North East
AIR CONDITIONING, HEATING & PLUMBING
CONVERSE, TEXAS

210-658-0111
HVAC Lic. #TACLB002131C -- James Haynes MPL #M15937

Golden Hammer
Remodeling
Interior & Exterior
Painting
210-659-8483

**Pro-Life
sacfl.org**
Put your FAITH
in action
Catholic Radio
89.7FM EWTN
grnonline.com

Puente & Sons
FUNERAL CHAPELS
www.puenteandsons.com

San Antonio - Northeast 14315 Judson Road • 210-653-6536
San Antonio - South 3520 S. Flores • 210-533-5300

Out of Area: 888-533-5331
"FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED"

WELLMED
New Location
1739 Schertz Pkwy.
Schertz, TX
210-491-8179

Thet Aung, MD John Lim, MD

**GARDEN RIDGE
ANIMAL HOSPITAL**
210-651-0808

KEVIN T. TEMPLEMAN, DVM
ELIZABETH C. TEMPLEMAN, DVM
19121 FM 2252, GARDEN RIDGE

NIKO'S TIRE SHOP
AUTO & MUFFLER REPAIR

Tires • Suspension • Alternators • Tune Ups
Oil Change • Lawn Mower Repair • Lift Kits • Brakes
& more!

11 Gibbs Sprawl Rd. 8539 FM 78
210-943-5212 210-769-4362

DR. JAMES F. ANDERSON
Therapeutic Optometrist

Tricare • VSP • Eye MED
Most Insurances Accepted

210-653-LOOK (5665)
2921 PAT BOOKER RD., STE. 112 • UNIVERSAL CITY, TX

**Knights of Columbus
Council 9681**

Serving
St. Monica's
Since 1987

www.KofC-9681.org

Ram's
Automotive Service & Repair

Ramiro H. Guevara
9056 FM 78 • **658-4797**

E & L Cleaning Services, Inc.
Ed & Lilli Soto
Window Cleaning, Pressure Washing,
Construction Cleaning & Office Cleaning
The Cleaning Company That Cares!

edlillisoto@gvec.net
210-241-7769

Buying?...Selling?
¡Déjeme Ayudarle!
Jesús Navarro
Broker/Owner
(210) 896-9990

REFA PROFESSIONALS
Residential Real Estate
Lic #: 0559447

In Loving Memory of
Bill Daniels
from His Wife, Janie
And Family

COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME
Funerals • Cremations
Advance Planning

625 Kitty Hawk - Universal City • **658-7037**
www.colonialuniversal.com

CHAPEL HILL
Funeral Home & Crematory
JACQUES ABAT
Parishioner
(210) 599-2035
7735 Gibbs Sprawl Rd
Chapel Hill Funeral Home San Antonio TX.com

**SCHERTZ
BANK & TRUST**
Member FDIC

Schertz 519 Main St. • 16852 IH 35 N.
Kirby • 5020 FM 78
San Marcos 1917 Dutton Dr., Ste. 205
Seguin 203 Hwy. 123 Bypass N.

schertzbank.com
210-945-7400

The Pink Poodle
Grooming & Daycare
Andrea Sleeper ~ Owner/Groomer
210-996-3236
102 Toepperwein Rd.
pinkpoodleconverse.com
pinkpoodlesa@gmail.com

\$5 off
with ad

**catholicmatch®
Texas**

CatholicMatch.com/goTX