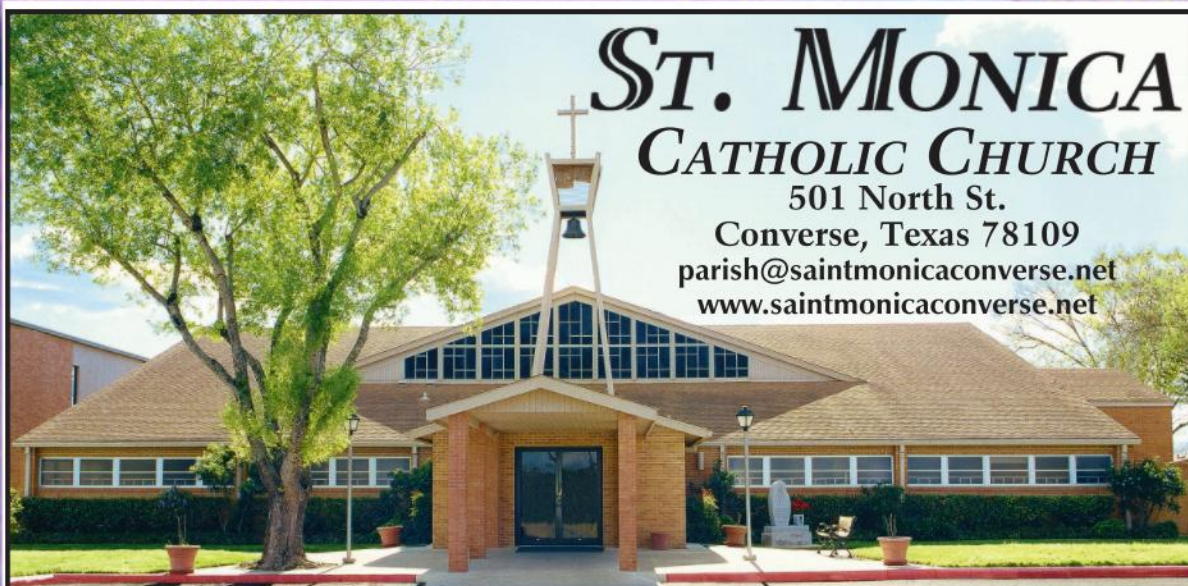


First Sunday of Advent

To you,
I lift up
my soul,
O my God.

Entrance Antiphon

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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 |
| Business Manager | Mrs. Mary Howard, ext. 235 |
| Housekeeper | Mrs. Limbania Reyes |
| RCIA Director | Mr. Paul Cassetta |

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 to 7:30 p.m. Office hours - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 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.

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

PARISH COUNCILS: Pastoral Council meets monthly

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: Gustavo Munoz, 663-5642.

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

ACTS: Contact Steve Van Slambrouck, 602-5950.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Meets second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Timo Zepeda, Grand Knight, 410-7647.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: 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., Alma Castillo, 659-0056.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Meets Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Contact Steve Van Slambrouck, 602-5950.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Meets Thursdays 6:30-8:00 p.m. Contact Annette Winfield 885-0861

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

HALL RENTAL: Contact Leroy Kruse at 560-5375.

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

YOUNG AT HEART GROUP: Meets second Thursday of the month. Call Adalene at 658-6934 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 11/28 8:15 A.M. † Carmen Rodriguez
Tues 11/29 8:15 A.M. Elvira Espiritu = SI
Wed 11/30 8:15 A.M. Beverly Robinson = SI
Melanie Hennis = SI
Thurs 12/1 8:15 A.M. † Arnold W. Koch
Fri 12/2 8:15 A.M. † Jose Luis Enriquez
Sat 12/3 9:30 A.M. Adina Cole = SI
† Souls in purgatory
5:30 P.M. † Scott Case
Richard/Marlene Chambers 60th A
Sun 12/4 7:30 A.M. † Rafael/Maria Zuluaga
9:00 A.M. † Ella Tillman
11:00 A.M. † Claudia Montoya
1:00 P.M. Gueibi De Leon = B
† Leonor Agurcia de Carbajal
5:00 P.M. † Amelia Torres
7:00 P.M. † Lorenza Gutierrez

SI = Special Intention L & D = Living and Deceased



SANCTUARY CANDLE

This week's Sanctuary Candle will burn
in loving memory of
Luis and Victoria Marco

TEEN ACTS IS FORMING THEIR TEAM!

St. Monica's Teen ACTS is now accepting applications for those interested in being part of the team conducting the 2017 retreat to be held March 17-20 at Slumber Falls Camp in New Braunfels. The only requirements are that you must be between the ages of 15 to 19 and have attended a Teen ACTS retreat previously. Applications are located at the back of the church and need to be turned in no later than December 4th to either Michelle Vaughan 823-8379 or Steve Van Slambrouck 602-5950.

MARY'S THE NEW EVE

Do you think you know enough about Our Blessed Mother? Don't miss this opportunity to hear Deacon Harold Burke-Silvers speak about how to engage your whole heart, mind and soul into knowing Christ better through the heart of His Mother. December 2-3, 2016 at Santa Cruz Catholic Church, 1100 Main Street, Buda, Texas. 78610



milk canned and paper grocery bags.

The *St. Vincent de Paul* is putting together *Christmas baskets* for the needy in our area. Please bring the following items to church to put into the donation box: Canned pumpkin or pie mix, French fried onions, chicken broth, canned soups, boxed mashed potato flakes, canned or dry gravy, canned yams, stuffing, Carnation



SPECIAL MARIAN CELEBRATIONS

The month of December honors our Blessed Mother for bringing Our Savior to the world. There will be special Masses and celebrations beginning with *The Immaculate Conception Masses* (holy day of obligation) that will be :
Wednesday, December 7th at 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass and Thursday, December 8th at 8:15 a.m., 12 Noon, 3 p.m. No Mass; Solemn Divine Mercy Prayer and 7 p.m. Mass (bilingual).

VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

Our Lady of Guadalupe's Feast Day is December 12th.

The following is the schedule of events in her honor:
Novena beginning Saturday, December 3rd at 5 p.m. before the 5:30 p.m. Mass. The novena will continue every day thru Sunday, December 11th. More info on times of novena being posted soon!

Vigil Mass, Sunday, December 11th at 5 p.m.

Procession 9 p.m. thru 12 Midnight in the church parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes and warm clothing. Procession will conclude with **Las Mananitas at 12 a.m.** in the parish hall.

Monday, December 12th. Masses are 6:30 a.m. ; 8:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. Spanish Mass with Matachines Dance.

Las Mananitas at 6 a.m. Breakfast tacos and refreshments for everyone in the parish hall after the morning Masses. Sponsored by The Guadalupanas.

Spanish Mass at 7 p.m. will be followed by reception in parish hall.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

November 20th: \$9,285.00

Human Development: \$1,450.00

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ANGEL TREE SIGN UP

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is taking registrations for the *Angel Tree Program*. Applicants must live in the boundaries of St. Monica's Church or be a registered parishioner. You may call (210) 658-8791 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to apply. Proof of residency will be required, such as,

current utility bill or photo I.D. Children must reside at eligible household location. Last day to register is Friday, December 2nd.



LAS POSADAS

We invite the entire parish family to this beautiful Christmas tradition, Las Posadas. It's a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in

Bethlehem, performed by our very own youth. Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 18th at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall. This parish event will need many volunteers to help make it enjoyable and memorable! We are looking for:

- *Team members to put together and lead the Posada planning efforts.*
- *Volunteers to bring cookies, pastries, make hot chocolate and/or perhaps even donate other foods (buñuelos or tamales).*
- *Donors of piñatas and candies.*

Please contact Bertha at 210-862-5549 or berthacastellanos4@gmail.com for questions, to donate or to volunteer.

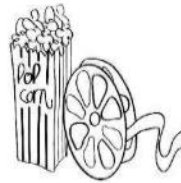
OUR LADY OF GRACE & MIRACULOUS MEDAL
On Saturday, December 3, 2016 in Lavernia, Texas at St. Ann's Catholic Church, 14151 Hwy 87 West, 78121, the 6th Annual Women's FIAT Retreat will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **free of charge**. Come hear speakers, Mrs. Sally Gomez-Jung and St. Mary Teresa Cullen to prepare our souls for Jesus' coming into our hearts and minds. Continental breakfast, light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Contact Mary Mainz (830) 253-8905 to register or for more info.



DON'T MISS THE SUNDAY MOVIE!

This Sunday, November 27th in the parish hall, the Knights of Columbus will be having the Sunday Matinee Movie, *Finding Dory*, free of charge. Bring your comfies, pillows and blankets.

There will be free popcorn and refreshments. Doors open at 2 p.m. Movie will begin at 2:30 p.m.



BUY YOUR POINSETTIAS HERE

Buy a poinsettia at any Mass this weekend or next weekend in memory of someone or to honor someone you love. The cost is \$12 each. The name of your loved one will be placed on the altar for prayer throughout the

Christmas season. The poinsettia will be used to decorate the altar for Christmas.



40 HOURS OF ADORATION

The son of man knew how important it was to find a quiet place to pray. He spent many hours praying especially in a place called Gethsemane. Come spend time with Jesus next Thursday, December 1st at 7 p.m. The 40 hours of adoration concludes Saturday morning December 3rd at 9:30 a.m. Call Christian Zunino to sign up or if you have any questions (210) 725-4908.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

The Latin Mass on first Friday of December (December 2nd) is devoted to the Sacred Heart and to the Precious Blood of Jesus. Please join us at 7 p.m. Confessions will be at 6 p.m.

FIRST SATURDAY MASS

Saturday, December 3rd at 9:30 a.m. Mass is to honor the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Rosary is recited at 9 a.m.



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