

Four white flame icons are arranged in a diamond pattern. Each flame is set within a circular background of a different color: top-left is blue, top-right is purple, bottom-left is purple, and bottom-right is blue. The background of the entire page is a dark blue gradient with various colored circles (purple, red, yellow, green) scattered throughout.

Advent

St. Monica Catholic Church

501 North St., Converse, TX 78109
(210) 658-3816 • Fax: (210) 566-3821
www.saintmonicaconverse.net
parish@saintmonicaconverse.net

School: (210) 658-6701 • St. Vincent De Paul: (210) 658-8791

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00 pm

Administrator Fr. Thumma Prathap, ext. 241
Parochial Vicar Fr. Mauricio Guerrero Chavez, ext. 238
Deacon Jacques Abat
Deacon Sean Dooley, ext. 234
Deacon Jack Karam
Deacon Rafael Lopez-Negroni
Secretary Sofia Flores, ext. 240
Pastoral Secretary Mary Kirby, ext. 242
Dir. of Religious Ed. Jan Van Slambrouck, ext. 243
Housekeeper Limbania Reyes
RCIA Director Josie Rodriguez
Pastoral Council President Timo Zepeda, 210-410-7647

CHOIR: 9:00 a.m., Bill Staggs, Music Minister, 274-8847. Adult Choir Rehearsal - Thurs. 6:30 p.m.; Children's Choir & Guitar Rehearsal - Tues., 6:30 p.m.; Michelle Hernandez, Music Minister, after 5 p.m. 215-0811. Spanish Choir - Mon. 7:00 p.m. Glissie Esquivel, Director, 251-2902.

ACTS: Ralph Diaz, 887-9721.

ALTAR SOCIETY & THRIFT SHOP: Altar Society meets 1st Tues. 12:00 noon, Sept.-May. Thrift Shop Wed. & Sat. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Edna Diaz, 598-9885.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: Deacon Sean 274-7085

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS: Meets 4th Tues. 7:00 p.m. Sylvia Benavides, 656-2609.

DECORATION COMMITTEE: Alma Castillo, 659-0056

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP: (Spanish) Meets Tues. 7:00 p.m., chapel. Juan & Patricia Ortiz 376-7126

EDGE (Middle School Youth Group): Wed. 6:25-7:35 p.m. Jan Van Slambrouck, 913-5585.

FAMILY OF THE ROSARY (bilingual) Meets first Sat. 9:00 a.m. in church. Graciela Morgan, 445-5933.

FINANCE COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Sandra Lyssy 862-0305

GUADALUPANAS: Meets 2nd Mon. 10:00 a.m. parish hall, Edna Gonzalez, 287-5761.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY: Barbara Ward 995-3989

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Meets 2nd Tues. 7:30 p.m. Tony Canez, Grand Knight, 857-0789.

LIFE TEEN (High School Youth Group): Sun. 3:00-4:30 p.m., parish hall. Lyle Pearce, 210-913-5585.

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP: Fri. 6:30 p.m. Parish Hall. Martin Sanchez, 387-3469.

WELCOME MINISTRY: Eliza Reyna, 210-273-8851

MASS SCHEDULE

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

HOLY HOUR: Thursday 7:00 p.m. (Bilingual)

40 HOURS: Thursday 7:00 p.m., prior to First Friday of month

RECONCILIATION: Wed. 6:00 p.m. & Sat. 4:00 p.m.

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

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

BAPTISMS: Saturdays & Sundays. Contact parish office.

FIRST COMMUNION: 2 year program required; usually received in 2nd grade. Contact Religious Education office.

CONFIRMATION: Must complete a 2 year program which begins in high school. Contact Religious Education office.

GLOW (4th-6th grade group) meets Thurs. in hall 6:30-8:00 p.m. Annette Winfield, 210-885-0861

MARRIAGE: 6 months notice required. Contact parish office.

QUINCEANERA: Must be registered parishioner at least one year; attend Religious Education classes and have priest's permission.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Director, Janice Van Slambrouck, 658-7920 Grades K-5th, Wed. 6:25-7:35 p.m. Office hours: Mon, Tue, Wed & Thurs. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

RCIA: Adult converts or those needing sacraments are invited. Classes begin in Sept. on Sun. 10:30 a.m., parish hall. Josie Rodriguez 988-3954.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Paulette Richards, 210-658-8791. Meets 2nd Tues. at 12:00 noon.

YOUNG AT HEART GROUP: Meets 2nd Thurs., Sally Tokarski at 367-1118.

ST. MONICA SCHOOL: Early Childhood-8th Grade. Principal, Ms. Abby Salazar, 658-6701. School Annex 659-5939. Inquiries to school office

REGISTRATION FORMS: In parish office or next to the bulletin board inside the church.



Mon	12/16	8:15 a.m.	†Irma Muriel
Tue	12/17	8:15 a.m.	†John Greenwood
Wed	12/18	8:15 a.m.	Foster children = SI
Thurs	12/19	8:15 a.m.	†Rose Lauer
Fri	12/20	8:15 a.m.	†Anita & Henry Smierciak
Sat	12/21	5:30 p.m.	† Carmen Rosas † Cecilia Urrabazo
Sun	12/22	7:30 a.m.	Charlie & EdiWheeler = SI † Aurora Ramirez † Flora Palanca
		9:00 a.m.	† Christian Contreras † Jose Luis/ Aura Tristan Rodriguez † Ofelia/Jesus Lopez
		11:00 a.m.	John Flores (B) †Susanna Molina
		1:00 p.m.	Arturo/Ofelia Castrejon = (56A)
		5:00 p.m.	†Max/Minerva Cuellar †Flora Palanca
		7:00 p.m.	†Francisco Villa

† = Deceased SI = Special Intention
B = Birthday



A NOTE FROM ST. MONICA'S SOCCER TEAM:

We want to thank everyone who came out and supported our men's team, as we played Assumption Seminary and San Fernando Cathedral these past two weekends. We won both games, and we look forward to continue hosting these community building friendly matches again during the spring season.

Thanks in particular to Fr. Thumma for allowing us the opportunity to play representing our parish, and to Ms. Abby Salazar, our school principal, for letting us use the school field and installations. We also want to thank all those who helped make this a fun experience, especially:

- **Lyle Pearce, Rene Salazar and Deacon Rafael Lopez**, who served as commentators during our games.
- **Agustin Mendez** our referee, and **Pete Vargas P.A.** our First Aid attendant.
- **Lily Clark, Irma Baquero and Barbara Stewart** our locker room aides.
- **Yriz Salazar, Elvia Armenta, Fela Ramos, Sara Diaz, Isabel Canez, Sonia Reyes, Lorena Camarena, Graciela Velasquez, Gisella Alvarez, Araceli Roa, Betzy Torres, Ana Nieto, Marisela Barrera, Ceci Nuno and Nancy Zepeda**, for their support with concessions.

- **Tony Canez** for taking care of all our graphic design needs.
- **Manuel Morales, Rafael Torres, Gil Lugo, Felipe Ramos and Anita Moreno** for sound and logistics help.
- **All the brave St. Monica men** who signed up to have a team and enjoy this recently born brotherhood and fellowship.

THANK YOU, and we hope to share more news about our team in the very near future!

Go St. Monica's!

Sunday, December 8th: \$12,008
Retired Religious Collection: \$2,101

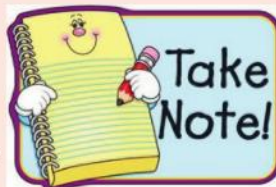
This weekend's second collection for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



The Sanctuary Candle will burn all week for the special intentions of the **Villa & Velasquez Families**



Due to a Christmas function, the parish office will be closed on Friday, December 20th beginning at 1 p.m. and will not re-open until Monday, December 23rd at 9 a.m. Thank you for your cooperation.





SPANISH BIBLE STUDY

The Spanish Bible Study will be on break because of Christmas and New Years. The last meeting of the year will be Wednesday, December 18th. The class will resume on Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the school.

ESTUDIO DE BIBLIA EN ESPANOL

El estudio de biblia en español estará en descanso debido a la Navidad y el Año Nuevo. La última reunión del año será el miércoles 18 de diciembre. La clase se reanudará el miércoles 8 de enero a las 6:30 p.m. en la escuela.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

We invite you to the Advent Penance Service Wednesday, December 18, at 7 p.m. There will be several priests to help us with confessions on this evening.

SERVICIO DE PENITENCIA

El miércoles 18 de diciembre, tendremos nuestro Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento a las 7 p.m. Habrá varios sacerdotes para ayudarnos con las confesiones esta noche.



Want to be part of the greatest story in history? Become a participant in the Christmas Pageant! The Pageant will be held at 5 PM Mass on Christmas Eve – December 24th.

We ask that participants be 3rd Grade – High School.

Practices will be held:

Wednesday, December 18; 6 PM in parish hall

Saturday, December 21; 9:30 AM in church

Participants will need to be at church by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, December 24th ; Christmas Eve

If interested in participating, please contact Janice Van Slambrouck at (210) 416-2018 or

Jan@saintmonicaconverse.net



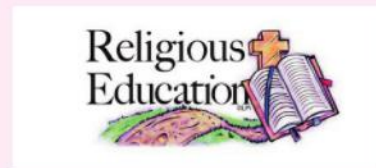
**THE MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS
EL HORARIO DE MISAS PARA LA NAVIDAD**

Tuesday, December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

3 p.m. (English)	Fr. Thumma
5 p.m. (English)	Fr. Thumma (Childrens Mass)
7 p.m. (Spanish)	Fr. Mauricio
12 a.m Bilingual	Fr. Thumma/Fr. Mauricio

Tuesday, December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY:

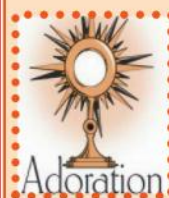
9 a.m. (English)	Fr. Thumma
11 a.m. (English)	Fr. Thumma
1 p.m. (Spanish)	Fr. Mauricio



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday Classes 6:25 – 7:25 PM:
 Dec 18, 25 & Jan 1 - Holidays - NO CLASS
 Jan 8 - CLASSES RESUME

Teen Life – Sundays: 3:00 – 4:30 PM
 Dec 8 & 15 - Teen Life
 Dec 22, 29 & Jan 5 - NO Life Teen
 Jan 12 - Teen Life Resumes



COULD YOU NOT SPEND ONE HOUR?
 The next Holy Hour is Thursday, December 19th at 7 p.m. Holy Hour is bilingual..

Por favor únase a nosotros en la próxima Hora Santa el jueves 19 de diciembre a las 7 p.m. La hora santa es bilingüe.



THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday, December 16

Mass 8:15 a.m. Fr. Thumma
Bible Study (English) in hall at 7 p.m.
Teen ACTS in hall from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Liturgical Ministry in hall 6:30—8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17

Mass 8:15 a.m. Fr. Thumma
Divine Mercy Group in church 7 p.m.
Christmas Concert with school in church 5:15 p.m.
Catholic Daughters in hall at 6 p.m.
ACTS Core meet in hall at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18

Mass 8:15 a.m. Fr. Thumma
 Penance Service 7:00 p.m. Several priests
Spanish Bible Study at school Rm 103; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 19

Mass 8:15 a.m. Fr. Thumma
 Holy Hour 7:00 p.m. Fr. Thumma
Children's Catechumen at school 6pm—8 pm
GLOW on holiday break
9 Mass Choir Practice in hall 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 20

Mass 8:15 a.m. Fr. Thumma
Spanish Prayer Group meets in hall at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 21, St. Peter Canisius

Confessions 4:00 p.m. Fr. Thumma
 Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m. Fr. Thumma

Sunday, December 22

Masses in a.m. 7:30, 9 & 11:00 Fr. Thumma
 Masses in p.m. 1 (Spanish) Fr. Thumma
 5 Fr. Thumma
 7 (Spanish) Fr. Heliodoro Lucatero
RCIA (English) Holiday Break
Children's Catechumen Holiday Break
Life Teen Holiday Break

ESTA SEMANA EN LA IGLESIA

Lunes, 16 de Diciembre

Misa 8:15 a.m. Padre Thumma
Estudio de Biblia en Ingles en el salon a las 7 p.m.
Los coordinadores de ACTS de jóvenes en salon 6—9 p.m.
El Ministerio de la Liturgia en salon 6:30—8:30 p.m.

Martes, 17 de Diciembre

Misa 8:15 a.m. Padre Thumma
Grupo de la Divina Misericordia en la iglesia; 7:00 p.m.
Concierto con los niños del escuela en la iglesia 5:15 p.m.
Hijas Catolicas en el salon a las 6 p.m.
Directores de ACTS en el salon a las 6 p.m.

Miercoles, 18 de Diciembre

Misa 8:15 a.m. Padre Thumma
 7:00 p.m. Varios sacerdotes
Clases de biblia en Español en la escuela; 6:30—7:30 p.m.

Jueves, 19 de Diciembre

Misa 8:15 a.m. Padre Thumma
 Hora Santa 7:00 p.m. Padre Thumma
Clases de catecúmeno para niños en la escuela 6—8pm
GLOW cancelado por las vacaciones
Practica con el coro de misa de 9 a.m. en salon 6:30 p.m.

Viernes, 20 de Diciembre

Misa 8:15 a.m. Padre Thumma
Grupo de Oración en Espanol en el salón a las 7 p.m.

Sabado, 21 de Diciembre, San Pedro Canisio

Confesiones 4:00 p.m. Padre Thumma
 Misa de vigilia 5:30 p.m. Padre Thumma

Sunday, 22 de Diciembre

Misas de mañana 7:30, 9 & 11:00 Padre Thumma
 Misas de la tarde 1 (Espanol) Padre Thumma
 5 Padre Thumma
 7 (Espanol) Padre Heliodoro Lucatero
RICA en Ingles cancelado por las vacaciones navidenas
Catecúmen cancelado
Life Teen cancelado

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form
St. Monica Catholic Church

Purchase a Christmas poinsettia to be placed on the altar in honor of a loved one

Your name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____



Poinsettias are \$10 each

Purchased in Honor/Memory of: _____ \$10 ea

Purchased in Honor/Memory of: _____ \$10 ea

Purchased in Honor/Memory of: _____ \$10 ea

Purchased in Honor/Memory of: _____ \$10 ea

Total # of Poinsettias purchased _____ x \$10 = **TOTAL** \$ _____

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Purchased in Honor/Memory of: _____ \$10 ea

Total # of Poinsettias purchased _____ x \$10 = **TOTAL** \$ _____

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ALLOW YOURSELF TO FEEL LIKE A KID

The children of St. Monica will put you in the spirit at their Christmas Concert in the church Tuesday, December 17th at 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. (pre-k to 2nd grade) and again at 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (3rd to 8th grade). Come show them your support!

DEJE QUE LOS NIÑOS SAQUEN AL NIÑO EN TODOS NOSOTROS

Los niños de la escuela tendrán un Concierto Navideño en la iglesia el martes 17 de diciembre a las 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. (pre-k a segundo grado) y a las 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (tercer grado hasta octavo) ¡Únase a nosotros para apoyarlos y sentir el espíritu navideño!

POINSETTIAS FOR SALE

Remember your loved ones by purchasing a Poinsettia. The Poinsettias will adorn our altar for the Christmas season. The cost per plant is 10.00. Please make checks payable to St. Monica Catholic Church. You may fill out the order form included with bulletin and turn it into parish office. Deadline is *December 22*.



Recuerde a sus seres queridos comprando una Poinsettia. Las Poinsettias adornarán nuestro altar para la temporada navideña. El costo por planta es de \$10.00. Por favor haga los cheques a nombre de la iglesia católica de Santa Mónica. Puede completar el formulario de pedido, y llevarlo a la oficina parroquial con su dinero. La fecha límite es el *22 de diciembre*.

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