

# St. Monica Catholic Church, Converse, Texas

*Joy*



**Advent**  
THIRD WEEK



**Adviento**  
TERCERA SEMANA

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© Diocesan

**Advent Message:**

Dear St. Monica Family,

As we are approaching the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we find ourselves in a world marked by present wars, corruption, conflicts, and divisions. In the midst of this turmoil, the message of Christ's birth becomes even more poignant—it is a message of Hope that shines brightly, dispelling the darkness that surrounds us.

The story of Christ's birth in Bethlehem reminds us that God entered our troubled world to bring the ultimate gift: Hope. In the face of the challenges we witness today, this season calls us to be beacons of this Hope, sharing God's Love with those in need.

The call to share God's Love is not just a suggestion; it is a mandate for Christians in a world yearning for solace and compassion. In our celebrations and traditions, let us not forget the true essence of Christianity—to extend a hand of love and kindness to those who need it most.

This season, let us be intentional about radiating God's Love to others. Whether it's a kind word, a helping hand, or a gesture of generosity, each act of love contributes to the collective effort of bringing Hope to a world in desperate need.

In the spirit of Advent, let us not only focus on our immediate circle but also extend our hearts to embrace the broader human family. The world hungers for Hope and Love, and we, as followers of Christ, have the extraordinary privilege and responsibility to be conduits of these divine gifts.

As we are preparing to exchange gifts and enjoy the company of family and friends, let us remember the profound gift of Love that was given to us in the form of a tiny babe in a manger. May that Love guide our actions, inspire our generosity, and lead us to reach out to those who may feel forgotten or alone.

In closing, let us unite in prayer for a world in need of Hope and Love. May the life of Christ resonate in our hearts and actions, bringing comfort to the afflicted and joy to the downtrodden.

Wishing you all a Blessed Advent season filled with the boundless Hope and Love that Christ's birth brings.

Yours Truly,

*Fr. Thumma Prathap*

**Mensaje de Adviento**

Querida Familia de Santa Monica,

Al irnos acercando a la celebración de el nacimiento de nuestro Señor y Salvador, Jesucristo, nos encontramos en un mundo marcado con guerras, corrupción, conflictos, y división. En medio de esta confusión, el mensaje del nacimiento de Cristo se vuelve más commovedor - es un mensaje de Esperanza que brilla fuertemente destruyendo la oscuridad que nos rodea.

La historia de el nacimiento de Cristo en Belem nos recuerda que Dios entró a nuestro problemático mundo a traernos el mejor regalo: Esperanza. Frente a los desafíos que vemos hoy, esta temporada nos llama a ser rayos de esta Esperanza, compartiendo el amor de Dios con los que lo necesitan.

La llamada a compartir el Amor de Dios no es solo una sugerencia; es un mandato para los Cristianos en un mundo necesitado de consuelo y compasión. En nuestras celebraciones y tradiciones, no nos olvidemos de la verdadera esencia de la Cristiandad - darle una mano de amor y bondad a los que más lo necesitan.

Esta temporada, hagámonos el propósito de irradiar el Amor de Dios a otros. Puede ser una palabra amable, ayudando, o un gesto de generosidad, cada acto de amor contribuye al esfuerzo colectivo de traer Esperanza a un mundo que la necesita desesperadamente.

En el espíritu de Adviento, no nos concentremos solo en nuestro círculo inmediato sino también hay que extender nuestros corazones y abrazar a la familia humana mas extensa. El mundo está hambriento de Esperanza y Amor, y nosotros, como seguidores de Cristo, tenemos el gran privilegio y responsabilidad de ser conductos de estos divinos regalos.

Al prepararnos para intercambiar regalos y disfrutar la compañía de familia y amigos, recordemos el profundo amor de Amor que nos fue dado en la forma de un pequeño bebé en un pesebre. Que el Amor guíe nuestras acciones, inspire nuestra generosidad, y nos lleve a alcanzar a aquellos que se pueden estar sintiendo olvidados o solos.

Por último, reunámonos en oración por un mundo en necesidad de Esperanza y Amor. Que la vida de Cristo resuene en nuestros corazones y acciones, trayendo consuelo a los afligidos y gozo a los oprimidos.

Deseándoles a todos una Bendecida temporada de Adviento llena de abundante Esperanza y Amor que el nacimiento de Cristo nos trae.

Sinceramente,

*Fr. Thumma Prathap*

**MINISTRIES****ACTS:** Brandon Pesquera**ALTAR SOCIETY: THRIFT STORE:** Open Wednesdays & Saturdays from 9 a.m. till Noon**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY:** Den. Sean Dooley**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS:** Meet 3rd Sat. of the month 9a.m. NO MEETINGS June or July.

Contact: Janet Swanson

**ART & ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY:** Alma Castillo,**DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP:** (Spanish) Meet Tues. 6–7:30pm & Wed. 9 to 11am in the Parish Hall contact Lupita Ruiz**DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP:** (English) Meet every 2nd & 4th Sat. at 10am & the following Mon. at 6pm contact Christine Warren**EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER, LECTOR, USHER OR ALTAR SERVER:** Contact Anita Moreno to join any of these ministries.**FAMILY OF THE ROSARY** Graciela Morgan**GUADALUPANAS:** Meets 2nd Mon. 10:00 a.m. parish hall, Joe Luera**HEALING HEART:** Elsa Lopez**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Bernardo Castellano & Lyle Pearce Beginning Wednesday October 4th at 7:45pm in the Parish Hall**HOMEBOUD:** Barbara Ward**WELCOME MINISTRY:** Eliza Reyna**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Meets 2nd Tues. at 7:00 p.m. Steve Steele, Grand Knight**LOVESTRONG:** Tony & Isabel Canez**SPANISH BIBLE STUDY:** Meet every Monday 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall: Omar Garnica**SPANISH PRAYER GROUP:** Meet every Fri. 7:00 p.m. at parish hall: Rafael & Betzy Torres**POWER POINT MINISTRY:** Claudio Corrales & Gabby Olivares**VOCATIONS:** Elvia Armenta

Contact the parish office for more information on any of the above ministries.



Glyssie Esquivel, Reynaldo Vela, Angel Cantu, Linda Duncan, Maria J., Arthur Thomas, Lisa Lee, Luis M Vega, Barbara Cantley, Suzie Littrell, Helen Arispe, Alena Quintero, Irma Mendez, Nildia Johnston, Lucy Barajas, Tim Knotts, Lisa Lee, Douglas, Bob Andrews, Tyler Acosta, Jo-Ann Case, Diane Thatcher, Joanne & Sebastian, Brenda, Jennifer Sanchez, Jose Martinez, John Cortez, Andrew, Velma Duran, Manuel M., Jan Beland, Dolores Vaquera & family, Sara Chase, Navarro, Kenia Aguilar, Ruddy Ballesteros DeLeon, Debbie Garcia, Armando Aguero, Preston Trinkle, Nicanora Rodriguez, Paul D., Angel Cantu, Barbara Garza, Evan Pesek, Laura Cynthia Peters, Bill Eastman, Catarina Garza, Olga, Felix Davila, Ernesto Sosa, Christine, Connie Martinez, Robert, Etor Castillo, Adam Thomas, Melissa, Michael Burgos, Ruben Pacheco, Rose, Christine, Pawlick family, Rhoda Hogan, Barbara Rials, Trini & Jackie Cantú, Jason Silk, Emilio Fernandez, Tony Rippy, Edwardo Guevara, Adalene, Martha Gonzalez, Janet Hillson, Pablo Martinez, Lucy Zamora, Ariel & Clara Casiano, Donny Krueger, Donelia Jimenez, Jeannie & Paul, Maria Ramos, Mildred Myles, Sandra Bell., Will Clouse, Roland Guerra, Ignacio Urabazo, Mary Kirby

Having a Mass said for a specific prayer intention is a wonderful way to glorify God. You may request a Mass to be said for a living or deceased person, or for a particular intention. Mass intentions provide opportunities for prayerful remembrance of anniversaries and birthdays, and additional prayers for a deceased loved one. A donation of \$10 is requested.



REQUEST  
A  
MASS  
INTENTION

Ofrecer una Misa para una intención específica de oración es una manera maravillosa de glorificar a Dios. Usted puede solicitar una misa para una persona viva o fallecida, o para una intención particular. Las intenciones de Misa brindan oportunidades para el recuerdo en oración de aniversarios y cumpleaños, y oraciones adicionales por un ser querido fallecido. Se solicita una donación de \$10 cuando se pide una intención.

Please call the office to add the name in the bulletin.  
Por favor hablen a la oficina para agregar nombres al boletín.

**COMMITTEES****Pastoral Council President:** Timo Zepeda**Finance Council President:** Sandra Lyssy**Building Board President:** Tony Canez**CHOIR DIRECTORS****Music Coordinator:** Jorge Castellanos

Gil Lugo, Sat.; 5:30pm &amp; Sun; 7:30am

Bill Staggs, 9:15 a.m.,

Michelle Hernandez, 11 a.m.,

Jorge Castellanos, Spanish 1p.m.

Lilli Soto, 5 pm. or Bill Staggs 5 pm

Ernesto Diaz, 7pm Sunday or Lupita Gonzalez 7pm Sunday

To join the choir, call the director of the Mass you attend.

**SACRAMENTS****ANOINTING OF SICK:** Contact the church office to setup an appointment with a priest.**INFANT BAPTISMS:** 3rd Saturday of the month in English & 4th Saturday of the month in Spanish. Please contact the parish office to register.**MARRIAGE & QUINCEANERA:** At least 6 months notice is required. Contact Deacon David at the parish office.**RCIA:** Adult converts or those needing sacraments are invited. Please contact Timo Zepeda for more information.**RECONCILIATION:** Wed. 6:00p.m. & Sat. 4:00 p.m. or by appt.**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** To include preparation for

First Communion and Confirmation Grades K– High School.

Email: RE@saintmonicaconverse.net 210-658-3816



We are here to Pray for you  
Estamos aquí para orar por ti

In our prayers let us ask the Lord for health  
for our sisters and brothers who are ill:

En nuestras oraciones pidamos al Señor por la salud  
para nuestras hermanas y nuestros hermanos enfermos:



**MASS SCHEDULE:**

**The 9:15 a.m. & 1 p.m. Sunday Masses & Mon-Sat daily Masses are live-streamed on Facebook.**

**HORARIO DE MISA: Las misas de 9:15 a.m. y 1 p.m. el domingo son transmitido en vivo en Facebook.**

**THE PRIEST SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
EL HORARIO SACERDOTE SUJETO A CAMBIO**

**Monday/Lunes, December 18th**

Mass/ Misa 8:15 a.m. Fr. Artemio

**Tuesday/Martes, December 19th**

Mass/Misa 8:15 a.m. Fr. Thumma

**Wednesday/Miércoles, December 20th**

Mass/Misa 8:15 a.m. Fr. Artemio

*Penance Service* 6:30 p.m.

**Thurs./Jueves, December 21st**

Memorial of Saint Peter Canisius, priest and doctor of the Church

Memoria Opcional de San Pedro Canisio, presbítero y doctor de la Iglesia

Mass/Misa 8:15 a.m. Fr. Thumma

Holy Hour /Hora Santa(Bilingual) 7:00 p.m.

**Friday/Viernes, December 22nd**

Mass/Misa 8:15 a.m. Fr. Thumma

**Saturday/Sábado, December 23rd**

Optional Memorial of Saint John of Kany, priest

Memoria Opcional de San Juan de Kany, presbítero

Rosary/Rosario 9:00 a.m.

Mass/Misa (Bilingual) 9:30 a.m. Fr. Artemio

Confessions/Confesiones 4:00 p.m.

Mass/Misa 5:30 p.m. Fr. Thumma

**Fourth Sunday of Advent****Cuarto Domingo de Adviento****Sunday/Domingo, December 24th**

Masses in a.m. 7:30 a.m. Fr. Thumma

Misas de la mañana 9:15 a.m. Fr. Thumma

11:00 a.m. Fr. Thumma

Masses in p.m. 1 p.m. (Español) Fr. Artemio

**Nativity of the Lord - Vigil Masses****La Natividad del Señor—Misas Vigil**

Misas de la tarde 5 p.m. (English) Fr. Artemio

7 p.m. (Español) Fr. Artemio

12 Midnight (Bilingual) Fr. Thumma & Fr. Artemio

**Christmas Day Masses****La Natividad del Señor Misas**

Masses in English 9 a.m. Fr. Thumma

11 a.m. Fr. Thumma

Misas en Español 1 p.m. Fr. Artemio

7 p.m. Fr. Artemio

This week altar flowers for the repose of the soul of:

Cecilia Urrabazo

Donated by:

Edna Gonzales

**THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS**

Mon 12/18 8:15 a.m. (SI) Luis Armando Zavala

Tue 12/19 8:15 a.m. (B) Susan Bacak

(SI) Luis Armando Zavala

† Rosalinda Diaz

† Ramona Delgado

† Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wed 12/20 8:15 a.m. (B) Aldo Eduardo Ramos

(B) Enny Florian

(SI) Conversion of Sinners

† Joanne Neal

† Adela Ramos

Thurs 12/21 8:15 a.m. (B) Dylan

(A) Josselyne & Jocelyn Chery

† Cecilia Urrabazo

Fri. 12/22 8:15 a.m. (B) Wanda Arocho

(SI) Urrabazo Family

† Holy Souls in Purgatory

† Rafaela Figoria

Sat. 12/23 9:30 a.m. (B) Tony Lang

† Victoria Amador

Sat. 12/23 5:30 p.m. † Michael Mendez

† Leissa Sutton

† Isidor & Mary Camacho

Sun. 12/24 7:30 a.m. (SI) Jason Roboham & Family

† Jose L. Sauceda III

9:15 a.m. (SI) Alma Castillo

(SI) Margie Moncada

† Richard Hite

† Felix Camargo

† Dora Camargo

† Maria Luisa Sanchez

† Max & Minerva Cuellar

† Patricio Garcia

11:00 a.m. † Natividad Montoya

1:00 p.m. † Rene Ramos

† Michelle Osina Gonzales

5:00 p.m. (B) Janice Durnin

(SI) Conversion of Sinners

† Claudia Montoya

† Joanne Neal

† Yolanda Lopez

† Adelina & Luis Martinez

† Doris & John Bacak

7:00 p.m. † Gonzalo Rivera

12 Midnight

**COLLECTIONS**

**December 10th** \$ 11,898.50

Collection Online \$ 2,079.00

Collection on Immaculate Conception \$ 2,608.00

Collection for retired Priest \$ 2,819.00

Online Collection for St. Vincent de Paul Society \$ 134.00

Online Collection St. Monica School \$ 50.00

**December 25th Masses Second Collection  
Assumption Seminary**



# St. Monica Catholic School

## Dragon Tales



### Dear Families of St. Monica Parish

One of the core values we cherish at St. Monica is the gift of giving, instilled in our schoolchildren from the moment they step into our halls. I am thrilled to share with you the inspiring efforts of two of our parish & school students who are members of the BETA club, a group synonymous with the Junior Honor Society. These remarkable students, alongside many others, consistently shine on the A and A&B honor rolls, showcasing their dedication to both academic excellence and community involvement.

I am especially proud to recognize Ms. Boehme, our esteemed ELAR & SS teacher, and the dedicated sponsor of the academic club. Ms. Boehme works closely with our students, guiding them not only academically but also in cultivating essential values such as self-discipline, empathy, and a spirit of giving. Under her mentorship, our students actively engage in charity work, extending a helping hand to those less fortunate in our community.



Our second grade students with the support of their teacher Ms. Carmen Cruz are learning how to knit and are making NICU caps for new born babies. The experiences that our children learn in our Catholic school are not just academics or sports. It's the gift of charity work....God's work.



Their commitment to serving others reflects the ethos we aim to nurture at St. Monica Catholic School—commitment to not only excel academically but also to be compassionate and socially responsible members of our community. We are excited about the positive impact our students are making and encourage all families to support and celebrate their efforts.

Our 2nd graders are working on a fantastic project. This activity develops high order thinking, concentration, and fine motor skills. We can't wait to see all the beautiful scarves made!



### St Monica Academy for Children



Just a quick reminder we still have a couple of slots available for the **Academy Child Development Center**. We have taken a handful of tours and the slots are filling fast.



We would like to thank our John Paul II Catholic High School students for presenting our Advent Retreat for our 3rd thru 8th grade students. Thank you Mrs. Ortiz eight grade religion teacher for coordinating our retreat.



Saint Monica...Pray for us!  
Karmen Chavez, Principal  
Saint Monica Catholic School  
2023-2024

## December Special Masses Schedule / Horario Especial de Misas de Diciembre



### Advent Penance Service / Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento

Wednesday December 20th at 6:30pm  
Miércoles 20 de Diciembre 6:30pm

### 4th Sunday of Advent / IV Domingo de Adviento

Saturday December 23rd Vigil Mass 5:30pm - English  
Sunday December 24th 7:30, 9:15, & 11 am, Mass - English  
1:00pm Misa en Español

### Christmas Schedule / Horario de Navidad

Sunday Dec. 24th Christmas Eve / Víspera de Navidad  
5 pm Children Mass with Pageant - English  
7 pm Mass - Misa en Español  
12 Midnight Mass - Bilingual/Bilingüe

Monday Dec 25th Christmas Day / Navidad Domingo, 25 de Diciembre  
9:00 & 11 am English Mass  
1 & 7 pm Misa en Español

*Parish Office will be closing at noon on Friday December 22nd and will be  
Closed Monday December 25th and Tuesday December 26th*



*La oficina de la parroquia cerrará a mediodía el Viernes, 22 de Diciembre y  
estará cerrada el Lunes, 25 de Diciembre y Martes, 26 de Diciembre.*

**Sunday December 31, 2023 Mass Schedule as normal. If any changes will be posted in advance.**

**Monday January 1, 2024 Mary Mother of God**  
**9 & 11 am Mass in English**  
**1 & 7 pm Misa en Español**

**Beginning Saturday January 6, 2024 Spanish Vigil Mass at 7:15pm**

As we all know, St. Monica is not only a welcoming parish community but also a very generous one. As Christmas draws near, many of you would like to show your appreciation and love to our Priests. To keep in compliance with the policies of the Archdiocese, we humbly ask those who plan to give monetary Christmas gift in the form of a check to our priests, to please write

**"pay to the order of" the name of the priest  
NOT St. Monica.**

If you are giving cash, place it in an envelope with the name of the priest. Please hand the gift to the priest.

**DO NOT place in the offertory basket.**

Please do not feel it is necessary to give a monetary gift or any gift to Father. A thank you for his serving St. Monica goes a long way. As always thank you St. Monica family for your generosity.



Como sabemos, nuestra comunidad de Santa Mónica no sólo es muy acogedora, sino también muy generosa. Al acercarse la Navidad, es posible que muchos de ustedes deseen manifestar su gratitud y afecto a nuestros sacerdotes. Para cumplir con las

disposiciones de la Arquidiócesis, si desean ofrecerles algún regalo navideño en cheque o dinero en efectivo, les pedimos que por favor lo coloquen en un sobre cerrado

***con el nombre del sacerdote NO a St. Mónica***

y lo entreguen personalmente al sacerdote o a través de la oficina parroquial. Nos permitimos recordarles que, si se trata de un cheque, deberá llevar el nombre del sacerdote, no de la parroquia.

***NO LO coloque en la canasta de ofertorio.***

Por favor, no sienta que es necesario dar un regalo monetario o cualquier regalo al Padre. Un agradecimiento por su servicio a Santa Mónica es de gran ayuda. Como siempre, gracias familia de Santa Mónica por su generosidad.

*St. Monica, pray for us.*



*Santa Mónica. ruega por nosotros.*

**Thrift Store Holiday Hours****NO Donations will be accepted****December 17, 2023 until January 7, 2024**

Closed Saturday December 23, 2023

Closed Wednesday December 27, 2023

Closed Saturday December 30, 2023

**Consider joining the St. Monica Welcome Ministry!**

We are in search of many smiling, friendly faces to help greet newcomers to our parish. We want to help them to feel welcome and comfortable in our place of worship.

**What does the Welcome Ministry do?**

Our members will greet new parishioners and welcome guests to our church before each Sunday Mass. Provide general information at our welcome desk.

We are also planning Welcome Socials to introduce them to members of our parish, let them know about opportunities to serve, and activities for spiritual growth and social interaction in our community. We will contact newly registered parishioners to update them on what is happening in our parish and to ensure that they feel included in our community.

**How can you serve the Welcome Ministry?**

Can you offer a few minutes before and/or after each Mass to greet newcomers to our church?

Can you help organize a regular meeting to provide information about St. Monica to new members?

Can you be a smiling face and a friendly voice to bring new parishioners into our community?

Please contact Tony Canez with any questions. (210) 857-0789 or tewildcat1992@gmail.com

**Horario de la Tienda de Segunda****NO se aceptarán donaciones del 17 de Diciembre, 2023 hasta el 7 de Enero del 2024**

Cerrada el Sábado 23 de Diciembre, 2023

Cerrada el Miércoles 27 de diciembre, 2023

Cerrada el Sábado 30 de Diciembre, 2023

**Por favor, considere unirse al Ministerio de Bienvenida!**

Estamos en busca de muchas caras sonrientes y amigables para ayudar a saludar a los recién llegados a nuestra parroquia. Queremos ayudarlos ellos a sentirse bienvenidos y cómodos en nuestro iglesia.

**¿Qué hace el Ministerio de Bienvenida?**

Nuestros miembros saludarán a los nuevos feligreses y darán la bienvenida a los invitados a nuestra iglesia antes de cada misa dominical. Proporcionar información general en nuestro mostrador de bienvenida. También estamos planeando eventos sociales para presentar a los miembros de nuestra parroquia, informarles sobre oportunidades de servicio y actividades para el crecimiento espiritual y la interacción social en nuestra comunidad. Nos comunicaremos con los feligreses recién registrados para actualizarlos sobre lo que está sucediendo en nuestra parroquia y asegurarnos de que se sientan incluidos en nuestra comunidad.

**¿Cómo puedes servir al Ministerio de Bienvenida?**

¿Puede ofrecer unos minutos antes y después de cada Misa para saludar a los recién llegados a nuestra iglesia?

¿Puede ayudar a organizar una reunión periódica para brindar información sobre Santa Mónica a los nuevos miembros?

¿Puedes ser una cara sonriente y una voz amigable para atraer nuevos feligreses a nuestra comunidad?

Comuníquese con Tony Canez si tiene alguna pregunta. (210) 857-0789 or tewildcat1992@gmail.com

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

J	V	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	O	G	J	O	Y
I	I	S	R	E	J	U	S	T	N	I	R	R	L
D	N	S	P	O	O	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	A
P	D	T	H	N	D	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	M
A	I	R	U	N	N	B	L	I	N	D	I	E	
T	C	A	N	S	M	F	E	I	K	D	E	A	D
I	A	N	G	P	S	U	A	L	G	L	O	R	Y
E	T	G	R	I	D	E	T	E	P	R	P	J	R
N	I	E	Y	R	O	P	N	E	D	S	E	C	P
C	O	R	T	I	R	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	T
E	N	S	E	T	O	A	A	G	S	E	E	K	S
E	M	O	O	L	B	R	A	N	S	O	M	E	D
E	T	S	I	T	P	A	B	I	U	O	S	S	L
C	F	I	G	R	M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R

GLORY  
SPLENDOR  
BLOOM  
PATIENCE  
HUNGRY  
SPIRIT  
SEEK  
BAPTIST  
MESSENGER  
JOY  
LAME  
BLIND  
KINGDOM  
HEAVEN  
DEAF  
JUST  
MUTE  
STRANGERS  
DEAD  
VINDICATION  
REJOICE  
SING  
RANSOMED  
FLOWERS

## SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES (SCCs)

So, what exactly is SCC, and how can you join? It's quite simple. SCC is a small group that gathers monthly to discuss faith and strengthen our connection with God. You can start your own group with 6, 10, or more individuals – parishioners, family, or friends. Meetings can take place in someone's home, and you have the option of organizing a potluck or providing a meal. You can even invite our priest to join one of your gatherings.

The heart of SCC lies in sharing and discussing the 1st and 2nd readings, the Psalm, and the Gospel. It's a chance for us to reflect on how the Word of God impacts our lives.

Visit our website: [www.saintmonicaconverse.net/scc](http://www.saintmonicaconverse.net/scc) and complete the online form to express your interest in joining a Small Christian Community. Alternatively, you can reach out to the parish office during business hours at (210) 658-3816 to share your contact information. We are here to assist you in finding a group that suits your schedule and provide resources for your meetings.

If you have already established a group, feel free and encouraged to commence meetings at any time. If your SCC has available space, please email [scc@saintmonicaconverse.net](mailto:scc@saintmonicaconverse.net) to allow us to assist in placing individuals seeking a group.

## Small Christian Communities



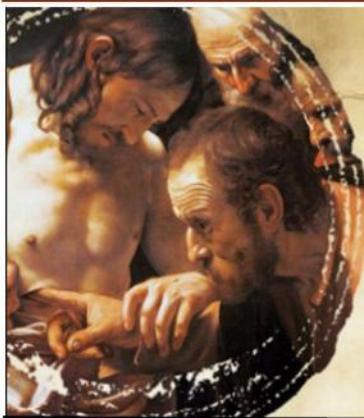
## PEQUEÑA COMUNIDAD CRISTIANA (SCCs)

Entonces, ¿qué es exactamente SCC y cómo puede unirse? Es muy simple. SCC es un grupo pequeño que se reúne mensualmente para discutir la fe y fortalecer nuestra conexión con Dios. Puede iniciar su propio grupo con 6, 10 o más personas: feligreses, familiares o amigos. Las reuniones pueden tener lugar en la casa de alguien y usted tiene la opción de organizar una comida compartida o ofrecer una comida. Incluso pueden invitar a nuestro sacerdote a unirse a una de sus reuniones.

El corazón de SCC radica en compartir y discutir la primera y segunda lecturas, el Salmo y el Evangelio. Es una oportunidad para que reflexionemos sobre cómo la Palabra de Dios impacta nuestras vidas.

Visite nuestro sitio web: [www.saintmonicaconverse.net/scc](http://www.saintmonicaconverse.net/scc) y complete el formulario en línea para expresar su interés en unirse a una Pequeña Comunidad Cristiana. Alternativamente, puede comunicarse con la oficina parroquial durante el horario usual al (210) 658-3816 para compartir su información de contacto. Estamos aquí para ayudarlo a encontrar un grupo que se adapte a su horario y brindarle recursos para sus reuniones.

Si ya ha establecido un grupo, síntase libre y alentado a comenzar las reuniones en cualquier momento. Si su SCC tiene espacio disponible, envíe un correo electrónico a [scc@saintmonicaconverse.net](mailto:scc@saintmonicaconverse.net) para permitirnos ayudarlo a ubicar a las personas que buscan un grupo.



## LECTIO THE CASE FOR JESUS



Choose Classes on Mon evenings 6:30-8:30 or Tues mornings 9:30-11:30 Parish Hall (Stuebben room)

No cost for Registration

Lectio The Case for Jesus Study guides may be purchased at <https://catholic.market/programs/lectio-the-case-for-jesus>

Classes begin 22/23 January 2024

11 Classes Total

Please register by phone or at Parish Website

For More Information:  
Annette Winfield  
(210) 885-0861



### TRIP INCLUDES (\$4,599 PER PERSON)

- Round-Trip Air
- First-Class Hotels
- Land Transportation
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The Archdiocese of San Antonio has appointed Deacon Rafael Lopez-Negrón to Saint Monica for his Diaconate Ministry. Let us wish him all the best. Deacon Rafael will be ordained as a priest on May 18th, 2024. Please keep him in your prayers.



La Arquidiócesis de San Antonio ha nombrado al diácono Rafael López-Negrón a Santa Mónica para su diaconado Ministerio. Le deseamos todo lo mejor. El diácono Rafael será ordenado como sacerdote el 18 de Mayo de 2024. Por favor manténgalo en sus oraciones.

Attention High School students in 9th to 12th grade: You are invited to our

### ST. MONICA'S HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Even if you have already received all your sacraments, there is still more connection to make with **Jesús**.

*We meet on Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall.*



Atención Estudiantes en Escuela Secundaria en el 9-12 grados: están invitados a nuestro **GRUPO DE JÓVENES DE ESCUELA SECUNDARIA EN SANTA MÓNICA**

Aunque ya recibió todos sus sacramentos, todavía hay más conexiones que hacer con **Jesús**.

*Nos reunimos los Miércoles a las 7:30 pm en el Salón de la Parroquia.*

*There will be  
NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
to include Edge on Thursday night and  
High School Youth Group*

*Wednesday Dec. 20th, 27th & Jan. 3, 2024*

*Thursday Dec. 21st, 28th & Jan. 4, 2024*

*Class will resume on:*

*Wednesday January 10, 2024 and*

*Edge Thursday January 11, 2024*



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*Miércoles 20, 27 de Dic y 3 de Enero 2024*

*Jueves 21 y 28 de Dic & 4 de Enero 2024*

*Clases se reanudaran:*

*Miércoles, 10 de Enero, 2024 y*

*Edge el Jueves, 11 de Enero, 2024*

### "2023 Archbishop's Appeal for Ministries,"

in receiving the Eucharist, we are called to serve," is now halfway from the goal. Thank you! With your effort and generosity, we are making possible vital ministries for the present and future of our overarching mission: to spread God's Word and Love.

#### The Mission & Purpose

With support from all faithful, the Archbishop's Appeal for Ministries provides the material, faith formation, and spiritual needs of God's people across the 19 counties that make up the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The Archbishop's Appeal for Ministries enables all faithful to support essential resources that help the Church learn and share the Good News while also loving and serving those trusted to our care.

Thank you to those who have sent in their donation and for your generosity to the Archbishop Ministry Appeal. It is not too late to still participate. Feel free to use the URL code to send in your donation.

#### No amount is too small or too large.

As we pointed out before, if each of our parishioners would provide 20 cents a day, that's \$5 a month or \$60 a year. We as a parish would send \$90,000 to the appeal, which will help to ensure those services are provided to those who need financial, spiritual and physical help they need. Again, we're asking for each family to provide \$60 for the year...if that is too much for your family, provide what you can, for those for whom \$60 for the year is not hard...we also ask you to provide what you can. It is important to note that any amount we provide over our goal of \$50,000 comes back to us and could be used to help with the building our rectory.



### "Campaña de Petición para Ministerios del Arzobispo 2023"

al recibir la Eucaristía, somos llamados a servir," va a la mitad de su objetivo. Gracias! Con su esfuerzo y generosidad, hacemos posible ministerios vitales para el presente y futuro de nuestra misión global: difundir la Palabra y el Amor de Dios.

#### La Misión y el Propósito

Con el apoyo de los feligreses, la Campaña de Petición del Arzobispo para los Ministerios provee el material, formación de la fe y necesidades espirituales de el pueblo de Dios en todos los 19 condados que forman la arquidiócesis de San Antonio. Esta Campaña permite al feligrés apoyar recursos esenciales que ayudan a la Iglesia a aprender y compartir las Buenas Nuevas y al mismo tiempo amando y sirviendo a esos que han sido confiados a nuestro cuidado.

Gracias a los que han mandado su donación a esta Campaña de Petición del Arzobispo. No es muy tarde para participar. Use con confianza el código URL para mandar su donación.

#### No hay cantidad muy pequeña o muy grande.

Como señalamos anteriormente, si cada feligrés dona 20 centavos al día, eso es \$5 al mes o \$60 al año. Como parroquia, mandaremos \$90,000 a la campana, que ayudara asegurar proporcionar los servicios financieros, espiritual y físico a ellos que lo necesitan. Recuerde, pedimos que cada familia done \$60 al año....si es mucho para su familia, done lo que pueda, para los que no es difícil donar \$60...pedimos que donen lo que pueden. Es importante anotar que cualquier cantidad que proporcionamos de mas de nuestra meta de \$50,000, se regresara a nosotros y se puede utilizar para ayudar con la construcción de la rectoría.



## Report Misconduct

The Archdiocese of San Antonio is committed to Safe Environments for everyone. If you know of or suspect misconduct, whether sexual or nonsexual, we encourage you to report it to us. The Archdiocese of San Antonio wants you to feel comfortable when reporting misconduct and has contracted with NavexGlobal to provide a third party reporting system called EthicsPoint. Your report to EthicsPoint will be completely confidential and the report will only be distributed via secure portal to those within the Archdiocese responsible for investigating such matters. You can make a report by calling (844) 709-1169 or online at <http://archsa.ethicspoint.com>.

## Reporten Mala Conducta

La Arquidiócesis de San Antonio esta comprometida a proveer un Ambiente Salvo para todos. Si alguien sabe o sospecha conducta inapropiada, sexual o no sexual, les pedimos que nos lo reporten. La Arquidiócesis de San Antonio quiere que se sientan cómodos reportando conductas inapropiadas y ha hecho un contrato con NavexGlobal para proveer un sistema de una tercera persona reportando llamado EthicsPoint. El reporte a EthicsPoint será completamente confidencial y solo será distribuido a través de un portal seguro a las personas de la Arquidiócesis responsables de investigar esos asuntos. Puedes hacer un reporte hablando al (844)709-1169 o hacerlo en línea en: <http://archisabido.ethicspoint.com>.



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Todavía estamos inscribiéndose para los grados Pre K 3 - 8º del año escolar 2023-2024, así como para nuestra academia para niños de dos años.

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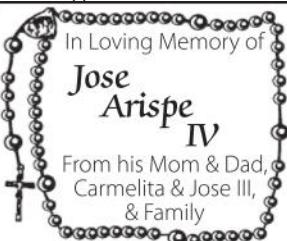
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# St Monica Catholic Church

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**Phone Number:** (210)658-3816**Website:** [www.saintmonicaconverse.net](http://www.saintmonicaconverse.net)**Email:** [parish@saintmonicaconverse.net](mailto:parish@saintmonicaconverse.net)**Working Hours:** Mon., Tue., Thur., & Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm & Wed. 9 am-7pm**For an emergency:** Call the office and follow the instructions.

## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Fr. Thumma Prathap ext. 242  
*Email:* [pastor@saintmonicaconverse.net](mailto:pastor@saintmonicaconverse.net)**Parochial Vicar:** Fr. Artemio Ortiz ext 238  
*Email:* [fr.ortiz1958@saintmonicaconverse.net](mailto:fr.ortiz1958@saintmonicaconverse.net)**Deacon** Sean Dooley**Deacon** Rafael Lopez-Negroni**Deacon** Jose Joel Castellanos**Deacon** David Espinoza**Deacon** Jacques Abat**Pastoral Administrative Assistant:** Mary Kirby ext.242**Administrative Assistant:** Delia Medrano-Finch ext. 240**Part-time Administrative Assistant:**

Martha Gonzalez ext. 240

**Dir. of Religious Ed.** Toni Espinoza ext. 243*Email:* [RE@saintmonicaconverse.net](mailto:RE@saintmonicaconverse.net)**Bookkeeper:** Christine Pacheco ext. 235*Email:* [bookkeeper@saintmonicaconverse.net](mailto:bookkeeper@saintmonicaconverse.net)**RCIA Coordinator:** Timo Zepeda*Email:* [RCIA@saintmonicaconverse.net](mailto:RCIA@saintmonicaconverse.net)**Liturgy Coordinator:** Deacon David Espinoza ext. 237*Email:* [liturgy@saintmonicaconverse.net](mailto:liturgy@saintmonicaconverse.net)**Housekeeper** Limbania Reyes**Groundskeeper** Gilbert LaFuente**Custodian** Maria Elena Avalos

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday Vigil:** 5:30 p.m. (English)**Sunday:** 7:30 & 9:15, 11 am & 5 pm  
(English)

1:00 &amp; 7:00 pm (Spanish)

**Weekdays:** 8:15 a.m. (Mon-Fri)**Saturday:** 9 am Holy Rosary &  
Mass at 9:30 a.m. Bilingual/bilingüe**HOLY HOUR:** Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Live-Streamed (Bilingual)

**1st FRIDAY MASS:**

8:15 am English &amp; 7 pm Spanish

## PERPETUAL ADORATION

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Please come by the office to get your entry code.

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