



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, Lilli Soto, *Music Minister*, 241-7666. 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 10/3 8:15 A.M. Rose Marie O'Connor = SI
Tues 10/4 8:15 A.M. Fr. Mauricio Lopez = B
Wed 10/5 8:15 A.M. † Billy R. Payton
Thurs 10/6 8:15 A.M. † Fernando Roman
Fri 10/7 8:15 A.M. † Luis Flores
Sat 10/8 5:30 P.M. † Barbara Ann Tyler
Sun 10/9 7:30 A.M. St. Monica Parishioners
9:00 A.M. † Antonia Flores
† Susana Garza
11:00 A.M. † Raul Trevino
† Arnold W. Koch
† Dave Thomas
1:00 P.M. † Johnny Campos
† Daniel Chavez
† Ubaldo Cantu
† Angel Gamez
5:00 P.M. Irma Muriel = SI
7:00 P.M. † Lorenza Gutierrez

† = Deceased A = Anniv B = Birthday

SI = Special Intention L & D = Living and Deceased



SANCTUARY CANDLE

This week's Sanctuary Candle will burn
in loving memory of
Marta Irene Ortiz

LECTORS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, SACRISTANS, USHERS & HOMEBOUND MINISTERS:

You don't want to miss this opportunity for spiritual renewal!
Join us for a spiritual retreat Saturday, October 15th from
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Guest speaker will
be Sr. Guadalupe Ramirez, from the Mexican American
Catholic College where she serves as Associate Professor of
Pastoral Theology. Sr. Guadalupe Ramirez holds a B.A. in
Religious Studies from Our Lady of the Lake University San
Antonio and an M.A. in Religious Studies from the
University of Incarnate Word San Antonio. In 2013, she
received her Doctor of Ministry degree in adult spiritual
formation from the Catholic University of America in
Washington, D.C.

40 HOURS OF ADORATION

Next 40 Hours of Adoration begins at 7 p.m. Thursday,
October 6th and continues thru Saturday, October 8th ;
10 a.m Please invite your friends and family to
participate and if you would like to share a prayer, song
or poem during this Holy Hour, please contact Christian
at (210) 725-4908.

OCTOBER MONTH OF ROSARY



♥ The Rosary will be recited before all
Sunday Masses for the whole month of
October.

♥ Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of
the Rosary on Friday, October 7th.

Confessions begin at 6 p.m.; a Rosary (bilingual) at 6:30
p.m. followed by the Holy Latin Mass at 7 p.m.

♥ Please join us later for the **outdoor Rosary** in back of
the parish hall on Friday, October 7th at 7:30 p.m.

♥ Help us honor Our Lady of Fatima on Thursday,
October 13th at the bilingual Holy Hour and Benediction
at 7 p.m. Fr. Mauricio Lopez will lead the Holy Hour.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

In celebration of St. Francis' Feast Day (Oct. 4th), we
will have the blessing of our family pets Sunday,
October 2nd at 2:30 p.m. behind the parish hall.



BAKE SALE

Baking season is here finally, like we need an
excuse ☺ Please stop by the Guadalupeanos Bake Sale
the weekend of October 15th /16th after all Masses to
buy homemade baked goods Guaranteed to satisfy that
sweet tooth no matter how big!

THIS SUNDAY IS RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY



SUNDAY COLLECTION REPORT
Sunday, September 25th ; \$11,330.50
Capitol Campaign: \$ 18,799.50

From Padre Alejandro's Desk

Faith is not something vague, uncertain, undefineable, or something which requires a leap of the imagination or worse, some kind of blind allegiance. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Faith is a response of trust and belief in what is reliable, truthful, certain, and real. To have faith is to believe and trust in someone or something. We believe in the power of electricity even though we can't visibly see it with the naked eye. We know we can tap into that power and use it to do things we could not do by our own human power. Faith in God works in a similar way.

When God reveals himself to us he gives us the "assurance" and "conviction" that his power and presence and glory is just as real, and even more real, than our experience of the natural physical world around us. Things around us change, but God never changes. He is constant, ever true to his word, and always faithful to his promises. That is why we can have the greatest assurance of his unconditional love for us and why we can hope with utter conviction that he will give us everything he has promised. Jesus is God's visible proof that his word is reliable and true, his love is unfailing and unconditional and his power is immeasurably great and unlimited.

What did Jesus mean when he said to his disciples that our faith can move trees and mountains as well? The term "mountain remover" was used for someone who could solve great problems and difficulties. Don't we often encounter challenges and difficulties which seem beyond our power to handle? What appears impossible to human power is possible to those who believe in God's power. Faith is a gift freely given by God to help us know God personally, to understand his truth, and to live in the power of his love. God expects more from us than we can simply do by ourselves. That is why Jesus gives us the gift and power of the Holy Spirit who helps us to grow strong in faith, persevere in hope, and endure in love.

Faith in God is the key for removing obstacles and difficulties which keep us from doing his will. We belong to God and our lives are no longer our own. Our joy and privilege is to follow the Lord Jesus and to serve in the power of his love and goodness. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to work in and through us by his Spirit for his glory. For our faith to be effective it must be linked with

trust and with obedience - an active submission to God and a willingness to do whatever he commands.

Perhaps we are like the laborer in Jesus' parable who expected special favor and reward for going the extra mile. How unfair for the master to compel his servant to give more than what was expected! Don't we love to assert our rights: "I will give only what is required and no more!" But who can satisfy the claims of love and loyalty? Our lives are not our own - they belong to God who has ransomed us from slavery to sin with the precious blood of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus used this parable of the dutiful servant to explain that we can never put God in our debt or make the claim that God owes us something. We must regard ourselves as God's servants, just as Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve". Service of God and of our neighbor is both a voluntary or free act and a sacred duty. One can volunteer for service or be compelled to do service for one's country or for one's family when the call and need arises. Likewise, God expects us to serve him willingly and give him the worship, praise, and honor which is his due. And he gladly accepts the free-will offering of our lives to him as our Lord and Master. What makes our offering pleasing to God is the love we express in the act of self-giving. True love is always sacrificial, generous, and selfless - it is wholly directed to the one we love.

Scripture tells us that God himself is love, author of life and the source of all true relationships of love and friendship. He created us in love for love, and he fills our hearts with the boundless love that gives all that is good for the sake of the beloved.

God honors the faithful servant who loves and serves with a generous heart. He is ever ready to work in and through each one of us by his Spirit for his glory. We must remember, however, that God can never be indebted to us. We have no claim on him. His love compels us to give him our best! And when we have done our best, we have simply done our duty. We can never outmatch God in his immeasurable merciful love, his extravagant kindness and goodness, and his ever constant and unceasing care for us. Saint Augustine of Hippo writes, "God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love."



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