

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 23, 2025**

**Psalm 103:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Bless the Lord, O  
my soul: And all that  
is within me, bless  
his holy name.  
<sup>2</sup>Bless the Lord, O  
my soul, And forget  
not all his benefits:



**Welcome to St. Thomas More Catholic Church**

*Thank you for celebrating with us today! We warmly welcome you to our humble place of worship, where we hope you have a loving experience of God. Our Lord Jesus comes to us in word and sacrament as we celebrate his life, death, and resurrection at Holy Mass. If this is your first time visiting, we hope you find a new spiritual home away from home! Founded in 1964, our parish has a long tradition of proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sustainable only by your contributions, your generosity is sincerely appreciated. We welcome you, again, and thank you for celebrating with us.*

**Mass Schedule**

Monday through Thursday	8:00 a.m.
Friday (STM School Mass)	8:00 a.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m.
	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 a.m.
	10:00 a.m.
	12:00 p.m. (Español)

**"The parish does not ask for favors either by email or text to parishioners asking to purchase gift cards of any sort."**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Maggie Briseño - Coordinator  
Gilbert Cantú, Alli Fuentes, Alicia Perez,  
Cesar Paez & Vicky Smith.

**PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL**

David Allen - Coordinator  
RoseMarie Evancho, Michele Allen &  
Rita Davis

**St. Thomas More Catholic School**

Our school offers excellent Academic opportunities for children beginning at 18 months up to 8th grade. Tuition assistance programs are available for families that qualify. For more information please call 210-655-2882 or visit our website: [www.St-Thomas-More-School.org](http://www.St-Thomas-More-School.org)

**HOME OF THE KNIGHTS**

**Holy Sacraments**

**Reconciliation**

Saturday: 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. or by Appointment

**Baptism**

Parents and God-Parents must attend class prior to the Baptism.

**Celebrated on:**

The 4th Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. (Spanish)

The 4th Saturday of the month at 5:00 p.m. (English)

**Marriage & Quinceañera's**

**CONTACT THE PASTOR AT LEAST 9 MONTHS PRIOR TO DESIRED CEREMONY DATE.**

**Anointing of the Sick**

Those facing hospitalization, surgery or have a significant illness and desire physical & spiritual healing are asked to call the office to schedule an anointing.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Friday Adoration after Mass until 5:00 p.m.

Monthly English Holy Hour is the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

La Hora Santa Mensual es el primer Viernes del mes a las 7:00 p.m.

**Religious Education Office**

We offer Religious Education (including Sacramental Preparation) in English & Spanish for children in grades 1 through 12.

**PARISH OFFICE STAFF**

**PASTOR - REV. ED GONZALES.....**  
**EMAIL..... FRGONZALES.STMC@GMAIL.COM**

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE -**

**DEACON (RET) TIMOTHY M. TATE SR..... EXT. 106**

**DEACON - ROLANDO GUERRA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-MONICA AGUIRRE.. EXT. 100**

**BOOKKEEPER - RHONDA VILLALOBOS**

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**/SACRAMENTAL RECORDS - MARTHA GUERRA... EXT. 101**

**FACILITIES MANAGER - JOSE LUIS HERNANDEZ**

**4411 Moana Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78218**

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday-Friday  
8:30 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.**

**CLOSED FOR LUNCH  
12:00 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

**1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.**

**CONTACT US**

**210.655.5070 (Office)**

**EMAIL:**

**STMPARISH@LIVE.COM**

**WEBSITE:**

**THOMASMORESATX.ORG**

## **Gospel Meditation:**

One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan.

I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darknesses.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect that perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of God's life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance.

— Father John Muir

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## **Meditación del Evangelio:**

Uno de mis nuevos cantantes y compositores favoritos es Noah Kahan.

Soy un poco parcial porque, como yo, él es originario de Vermont. En una hermosa canción titulada "Stick Season", canta sobre su esperanza de "cancelar la oscuridad que heredé de papá".

Esta letra articula su doloroso reconocimiento de una oscura "herencia" espiritual de su padre, y su esperanza de estar libre de ella. Todos heredamos algún grado de maldad de nuestros antepasados terrenales. Es fácil sentirse condenado a repetir sus tinieblas.

Pero no estamos tan condenados, gracias a Dios. El Evangelio de esta semana lo proclama.

Sea lo bueno o malo que hayamos recibido de nuestros padres, tenemos una herencia más definitiva y perfecta en Dios. Jesús nos ordena: "Sed misericordiosos como vuestro Padre es misericordioso" (Lucas 6:36). Tenemos un Padre perfecto en el cielo y estamos destinados a heredar y reflejar ese amor perfecto y misericordioso. Tenemos una herencia de luz, no de tinieblas, y por lo tanto una posibilidad completamente nueva de amor magnánimo. Como cualquier herencia, este es un regalo gratuito para nosotros.

¿Qué estamos destinados a repetir? No la oscuridad de nuestros padres terrenales.

Estamos destinados a ser un reflejo de la vida de Dios. Jesús nos libera de la inevitabilidad de repetir cualquier mal e imperfección que haya en nuestra educación familiar o cultural. Es hora de reclamar esa herencia perfecta.

— Father John Muir

## **YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**February 16, 2025**

Sunday Collection .....	\$ 5,597.60
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 123.40
Donations .....	\$ 2,004.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 165.00

**Second Collection March 1 - 2:  
No Second Collection NEXT Week**



## **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

*God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons.*

*Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call.*

*May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.*

*Amen*

### Giving Tree

Our parish is introducing a beautiful way to give back and support our church family: the *Giving Tree*.

The tree will be adorned with cards, each listing a specific item that our church needs, from liturgical essentials to practical resources that help us serve one another more effectively. This is a special opportunity for parishioners to make a direct and meaningful impact on the life of our faith community.

We are especially mindful of our liturgical needs, ensuring that our worship space reflects the sacredness of our celebrations. By participating in the Giving Tree, you can help provide for these needs, allowing us to maintain and enhance the beauty of our liturgies.

Simply select a card from the tree, take it with you, and return your donation to the parish office. For larger items, feel free to combine efforts with family and friends.

Your generosity will not only meet practical needs but will also strengthen the bonds of our parish family as we prepare our hearts and our church to welcome Christ this Christmas season.

Thank you for your kindness and for being a vital part of our community of faith.

*Father Ed*

### *el Árbol de las Donaciones* (Giving Tree)

Nuestra parroquia está introduciendo una hermosa manera de retribuir y apoyar a nuestra familia de la iglesia: el Árbol de las *Donaciones* (*Giving Tree*)

El árbol estará adornado con tarjetas, cada una con un artículo específico que nuestra iglesia necesita, desde elementos litúrgicos esenciales hasta recursos prácticos que nos ayudan a servirnos unos a otros de manera más efectiva. Esta es una oportunidad especial para que los feligreses tengan un impacto directo y significativo en la vida de nuestra comunidad de fe.

Somos especialmente conscientes de nuestras necesidades litúrgicas, asegurándonos de que nuestro espacio de culto refleje el carácter sagrado de nuestras celebraciones. Al participar en el Árbol de Donaciones, puede ayudar a satisfacer estas necesidades, lo que nos permite mantener y mejorar la belleza de nuestras liturgias.

Simplemente seleccione una tarjeta del árbol, llévela con usted y devuelva su donación a la oficina parroquial. Para artículos más grandes, siéntase libre de combinar esfuerzos con familiares y amigos.

Su generosidad no solo satisfará las necesidades prácticas, sino que también fortalecerá los lazos de nuestra familia parroquial mientras preparamos nuestros corazones y nuestra iglesia para dar la bienvenida a Cristo en esta temporada navideña.

Gracias por su amabilidad y por ser una parte vital de nuestra comunidad de fe.

*Padre Ed*

# YOU ARE INVITED!

## ACTS

"Father, into your hands  
I commit my spirit!"

Luke 23:46



For Electronic  
Registration Form



ACTS Missions Military  
Women's Retreat 2025



For Partial or Full  
Retreat Fee Payments  
\*3% fee required

ACTS Missions Military  
Women's Retreat 2025

We invite you to join us on a special spiritual retreat for military women by military women.

The retreat is hosted by St Monica's Catholic Church and will take place **April 10 – 13, 2025** at the St Anthony de Padua Retreat Center.

The cost of the retreat is \$220. To guarantee your spot, a deposit of \$50 is required. **PLEASE NOTE:** Confidential scholarships are available because financial difficulties should not prevent anyone from attending- contact one of the leadership team for details.

**Director:**

Monica Weidner- 817.823.3612

Monica.L.Weidner@gmail.com

**Co-Directors:**

Rachel Aldaz- 210.240.7249 RchlAldaz@gmail.com

Kirsten Verkamp- 702.202.8077 KMVerkamp@gmail.com

### 2025 Lenten Schedule

#### March 5th - Ash Wednesday

6 am - Liturgy of the Word

8 am - Mass (English)

12 pm - Mass (English)

6 pm - Mass (Bilingual)

#### Stations of the Cross

Every Friday: 6 pm - English

7 pm - Spanish

(Friday, April 11, the School Children will lead)

#### KC Fish Fry

Fridays, March 7, 21, and 28 @ 5 pm  
in Carolan Hall

#### Parish Penance Service

There is no Penance Service scheduled at this time.

Fr. Ed, however, will expand the times available for Individual Confessions.

More information (Holy Week) to follow



**HOLY THURSDAY PRAYER CANDLES**

Our Catholic Daughters will be selling Prayer Candles this year. Cost will be \$6 per candle and must be pre-paid. (*cash, check, or Zelle will be accepted*).

You may order your candle(s) in the Parish Office or on the following dates:

Saturday, March 8 - in front of the church for the 5 o'clock Mass

Sunday, March 9 - in Carolan Hall after the 8 and 10 am Masses; and in front of the church for the Noon Mass.

Saturday, March 22 - in front of the church for the 5 o'clock Mass

Sunday, March 23 - in Carolan Hall after the 8 and 10 am Masses; and in front of the church for the Noon Mass.

Saturday, April 12 - in front of the church for the 5 o'clock Mass

Sunday, April 13 - in Carolan Hall after the 8 and 10 am Masses; and in front of the church for the Noon Mass.

**April 13th is the last day to order candles.**

Our 2025 Archbishop's Appeal for Ministries theme is...

*Mission of Hope*



This weekend at your parish is the **official kickoff** to the **2025 Archbishop's Appeal for Ministries!**

**Lenten reflections**

Our Guadalupanos Society is hosting a Lenten Lecture Series to assist us in our Lenten Journey.

These are free events - all are invited, and encouraged to attend.

Guest Presenter will be our own Deacon Rolando

Thursdays: March 13, 20, and 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, in the Church.

**So... *Mark your calendars!*  
*You don't want to miss this!***

**With Lent / Ash Wednesday right around the corner...**

**Question:** *Is Ash Wednesday a holy day of obligation?*

**Answer:** Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no!

Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event (*such as the birth of Christ at Christmas*) or celebrate particular people (*such as Mary's Immaculate Conception or the feast of All Saints*). Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. In a sense, it focuses on a *concept* rather than something particular and concrete.

Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That's one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth.

**Lenten-Devotion (continued)****Fasting.** (*a quick / short explanation*)

The Old Testament is full of examples of righteous men and women mortifying their flesh for the purpose of making atonement or simply to grow closer to God. Jesus himself fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for the beginning of his public ministry, and we see his disciples following his example. Fasting continues to be an important part of Christian devotional life today.

Many people feel the practice of fasting enhances their prayer life and helps them fulfill St. Paul's advice to "*put to death the deeds of the body*" (*Romans 8:13*) to grow in the Spirit.

Most Catholics associate fasting with the liturgical season of Lent, which begins and ends with obligatory fasting (*Ash Wednesday and Good Friday*) for all between ages 18 and 59.

However, as with all devotions, we must use "**Common Sense**," your health comes first.

For example: If, for health reasons, you require nourishment (*e.g. you are diabetic and your glucose level is down*)...

By all means... have something to eat!

Fasting is defined as 1 main (*sensible - not an "all you can eat buffet"*) meal with 2 lesser meals / snacks... the sum of which should be less than your main meal.

**This Week at Our Parish**

\*\*\* KCs selling BBQ Tickets After All Masses This Weekend \*\*\*

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**8:00 am KC Breakfast - *Carolán Hall*  
10:00 am CDA Mass - *Church***Monday, February 24, 2024**5:30 pm Guadalupanos Retreat Planning Mtg - *Rectory Mtg Room***Tuesday, February 25, 2024**5:30 pm Divine Mercy - *Rectory Mtg Room*  
6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - *Rectory Mtg Room-1*  
CDA General Mtg - *Carolán Hall*  
7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion Choir Practice - *Church***Wednesday, February 26, 2025**6:00 pm KC 4th Degree Mtg - *Carolán Hall***Thursday, February 27, 2025**6:00 pm Charismatic Prayer Grp - *Church*  
7:00 pm OCIA - *Rectory Mtg Room***Friday, February 28, 2025**9:00 am Friday Adoration - *Church*  
7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion - *Church***Saturday, March 1, 2025**3:30 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - *Rectory Mtg Rm*

\*\*\* KCs selling BBQ Tickets After Masses \*\*\*

**Sunday, March 2, 2025**10:00 am KoC Mass - *Church***Sanctuary Light Intention:***Isidro & Dolores Martinez***Lecturas de la Semana del 24 feb - 1 mar**

**Lunes:** Eclo 1:1-10; Sal 92:1-2,5; Mc 9:14-29  
**Martes:** Eclo 2:1-13; Sal 36:3-4,18-19,27-28,39-40;  
 Mc 9:30-37  
**Miércoles:** Eclo 4:12-22; Sal 118:165,168,171-175;  
 Mc 9:38-40  
**Jueves:** Eclo 5:1-10; Sal 1:1-4,6; Mc 9:41-50  
**Viernes:** Eclo 6:5-17; Sal 118:12,16,18,27,34,35;  
 Mc 10:1-12  
**Sábado:** Eclo 17:1-13; Sal 102:13-18; Mc 10:13-16  
**Domingo:** Eclo 27:4-7; Sal 91:2-3,13-16;  
 1Co 15:54-58; Lc 6:39-45

**Readings for the week of Feb 24 - Mar 1**

**Monday:** Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2,5; Mk 9:14-29  
**Tuesday:** Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4,18-19,27-28,39-40;  
 Mk 9:30-37  
**Wednesday:** Sir 4:11-19; Ps 119:165,168,171-175;  
 Mk 9:38-40  
**Thursday:** Sir 5:1-8; Ps 1:1-4,6; Mk 9:41-50  
**Friday:** Sir 6:5-17; Ps 119:12,16,18,27,34,35;  
 Mk 10:1-12  
**Saturday:** Sir 17:1-15; Ps 103:13-18; Mk 10:13-16  
**Sunday:** Sir 27:4-7; Ps 92:2-3,13-16;  
 1Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

**Mass Intentions****Saturday, February 22, 2025** - *The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*5:00 pm †Elisa S. Rodriguez by Family  
†Efrain Garza**Sunday, February 23, 2025** - *7th Sunday in Ordinary Time*8:00 am †Cecilia Nguyen by Thuy Nguyen  
10:00 am **STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased**  
12:00 pm †Jose Alcantar**Monday, February 24, 2024** - *Monday in the 7th Week of Ordinary Time*

8:00 am †Ann Bonge

**Tuesday, February 25, 2024** - *Tuesday in the 7th Week of Ordinary Time*

8:00 am †Sonia Hernandez by Family

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025** - *Wednesday in the 7th Week of Ordinary Time*

8:00 am †Michael Gutierrez by Rita Davis

**Thursday, February 27, 2025** - *St Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church*

8:00 am †Henry Kalinek

**Friday, February 28, 2025** - *Friday in the 7th Week of Ordinary Time*

8:00 am †Charles &amp; Genevieve Oswald by Evancho Family

**Saturday, March 1, 2025** - *Saturday in the 7th Week of Ordinary Time*8:00 am †John & Bobby Zibelin  
5:00 pm †Macario & Juanita Palomo by Family**Sunday, March 2, 2025** - *8th Sunday in Ordinary Time*8:00 am †Anna Belle Biemer by Biemer Family  
†Rafael Garza by Theresa Garza  
10:00 am **Special Intention - Hector Manuel Roman** by Sylvia Roman  
by STM Family  
†Rebecca Hartsfield  
†Medardo E Morales & Evangelina G Morales  
By Morales / Briseno Family  
†Carl & Anny Oswald by Evancho Family  
†Fred Sanchez by Perez Family  
St. Jude by Martha Arredondo  
12:00 pm **STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased****GUADALUPANO NEWS*****Friends and Family Members of St. Thomas More:***

You are invited to our Annual Guadalupano Retreat  
*Join us for this inspiring event!*

***Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> - 8 am - Noon***

We begin with Mass at 8 a.m  
 Followed by a Continental breakfast  
 and  
 Retreat in Carolán Hall  
*(this is a free event!!)*

**Guest Speaker:** Transitional Deacon Jim Craig  
***Hope to See You There!!***  
*(more information to follow)*

**Liturgical Roles****Saturday, March 1, 2025**5:00 pm **Altar Servers** - Volunteers**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Jim, R.Saldiva, T.Garza,  
C.Lange, R.Alvarado**Lector** - T.Garza**Sunday, March 2, 2025**8 am **Altar Servers** - Mem.Planchon, Max.Planchon**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Rolando, E.Garcia, R.Davila,  
P.Klar, m.Nguyen**Lector** - Y.Cione10 am **Altar Servers** - M.Lawson, A.McCaffery, A.Hartsfield**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Rolando, KC's**Lector** - KoC12 pm **Altar Servers** - S.Obregon, A.Gomez, A.Llanas**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Tim, C.Hernandez, D.Llanas,  
D+F.Malacara, C.Martinez, M.Pina**Lector** - M.Pina / M.Rivera



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**ST. THOMAS MORE**  
Knights of Columbus Council # 7386  
meets 2nd Monday of each month  
at 7:00 p.m. For more information call  
Rick Briseño at 210-834-7017

**Catholic Daughters of America #2683**



**Monthly Meeting:**

**3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m**

**Contact Regent**

**Belinda Treviño at 210-275-6529**

**In Memory of  
The Leo Oswald &  
The Fred Lansing  
Families**



**IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF REX A. BRIEN  
&  
MR. & MRS.  
HILDO CASTELLÓN**

**PRAY FOR THE 3 MOST  
FORGOTTEN SOULS IN  
PURGATORY**

**In Memory of  
Christina C. Dominguez  
on behalf of  
The Dominguez Family**



**In Memory of  
Dr. Steven D. Sprague  
on behalf of  
The Sprague Family**



**In Memory  
of  
Jose (Joe) Galvan,  
Joseph (Jge) Galvan  
&  
Billy Sheridan  
on behalf of  
The Family**

**St. Thomas More Guadalupanos Society**

Invite all men & women to our group.  
Out Monthly Meeting & Fellowship Meets  
The 3rd Sunday of the month, after the  
8:00 a.m. Mass. For more information call  
**Will Torres at 210.620.2745**

**Archdiocese of San Antonio  
Procedures for Reporting Abuse**

If you or someone you know has been a  
victim of sexual abuse by a priest,  
deacon, or other church personnel and  
you wish to file a complaint:  
**Contact the Office of Victim**

**Assistance & Safe Environment at  
(210) 734-7786 OR (877) 700-1888  
or email: ovase@archsa.org.**

**You have the right to contact law  
enforcement or CPS at any time.**



**In Loving Memory  
of Joe Canales  
On behalf of  
The Canales Family  
Love Always**



**In Loving Memory  
Of  
Florencio Baiza,  
Louise Baiza Garza,  
Robert Garza  
&  
Ruben Sr. & Beatrice  
Rodriguez**

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**In Loving Memory  
of  
Santiago G. Garcia Sr.  
on behalf of  
The Garcia Family**

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