

**St. Thomas More
Catholic Church
The Epiphany of The Lord
January 5, 2025**

All kings shall fall down before
Him: all nations shall serve Him
Psalm 72:11



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

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

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 - FLOR MATA . . . 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:

Have you ever wondered why the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh?

Matthew's Gospel tells us, "*Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh*" (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their "*treasures*"? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn't that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi's gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God.

The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful.

In paying homage to Jesus with "*gold*" (i.e., *tithing*), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them?

Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— Father John Muir

Meditación del Evangelio:

¿Alguna vez te has preguntado por qué los reyes magos tenían oro, incienso y mirra? El Evangelio de Mateo nos dice: "*Entonces abrieron sus tesoros y le ofrecieron regalos de oro, incienso, y mirra*" (Mateo 2:11). ¿Por qué son estas cosas sus "*tesoros*"? Una posible respuesta es que eran magos y astrólogos, y estos tres artículos eran las herramientas de su cuestionable oficio. Al ofrecerlos a Cristo, demuestran que dejarán de usar tales artículos para predecir o controlar la vida. Colocan a este bebé-rey, el Dios de Israel, en el centro de sus vidas, y no sus propios dispositivos de control, manipulación y predicción.

¿No es eso lo que tenemos que hacer nosotros también? Consideremos, por ejemplo, el poder mágico del dinero, simbolizado por el oro de los magos. Aparentemente, cualquier cosa que le pidamos a dinero, lo hace. Ejerce un poder divino sobre el mundo. Puede predecir el futuro garantizándonos mejores resultados, por lo que es una alternativa tan tentadora a confiar en Dios. El problema es que esa confianza absoluta en el dinero nos esclaviza a las fuerzas económicas que hacen que el dinero sea tan poderoso. Al rendir homenaje a Jesús con "*oro*" (es decir, el diezmo), participamos de su autoridad sobre (y por lo tanto de la libertad de) la influencia mágica del dinero.

¿Qué cosas en tu vida usas para predecir o controlar tu futuro? ¿Qué hay en tu vida que te da poder sobre el mundo? Esos son tus tesoros. ¿Estás cansado de sentirte esclavizado por ellos? Encuentra una manera de abrirlos y dárselos a Cristo, y serás más libre.

— Father John Muir

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 29, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$ 8,105.03
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 133.00
Facilities Improvement.....	\$ 50.00
School.....	\$ 45.00
Christmas Day.....	\$ 3,404.52
Donations	\$ 100.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 100.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$ 35.00
Assumption Seminary.....	\$ 353.00

*Second Collection Jan 11 - 12:
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

TODAY
YOU WILL
BE WITH ME IN PARADISE

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE:

May God comfort the family and friends of

Josefina "Josie" Zamarippa

who passed away this past week

Our sincere sympathy and assurances of prayers
are extended to Eloy, Dina, Cathy, and
The Zamarippa Family

May she Rest in Peace.

**CMC - Catholic Men's Conference
ALL MEN ARE WELCOME**



"Master, I want to see." (Mark 10:51)

Have a powerful transformative experience
in a spiritually-charged environment

Sat, Feb 22, 2025 from 8 am- 4:30 pm

Holy Trinity Banquet Hall

(20523 Huebner Rd, San Antonio, TX 78258)

Speakers: **Mr. Jim Beckman,
Fr. Stephen Dufrene, CFR, and
Mr. Dave Lambert.**

Reserve your seat...

Invite a Brother in Christ to attend with you.

Learn More / Register today at:

CMCSanAntonio.com or
call (210) 521-3377.

SAN ANTONIO MARCH FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025

12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

12:30 - 3:30 PM PROLIFE EXHIBITORS

1:00 PM MARCH

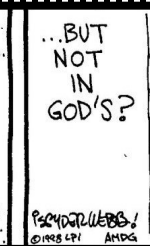
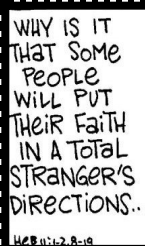
2:00 PM RALLY FOR LIFE

MAIN PLAZA
115 N MAIN AVE
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SAMFL.COM
@SAMARCHFORLIFE
#SAMFL2025



REMEMBER THE BABIES LOST AFTER
ROE V. WADE, AND REJOICE IN LIVES
SAVED AFTER DOBBS.



Question: Can a divorced Catholic receive Communion?

Answer: Unfortunately, too many people today believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Holy Communion. However, as the Church has communicated a number of times and in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was married **within the Church**, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, we are reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have "endured separation, divorce, or abandonment... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life in the Eucharist." Moreover, "the local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty."

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect," but "a powerful medicine and nourishment" (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.



Epiphany Blessing

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition. It's a beautiful way to observe the coming of the magi while invoking God's blessing on your home and all who enter it. All that is needed is chalk and a prayerful heart!

There are a few different formulas for blessings, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest, deacon, or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the *(first two digits of the year)* + C + M + B + the *(last two digits of the year)* (20+C+M+B+25). The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi - Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house."

The Blessing: Lord God almighty, Bless + this home, and under its shelter let there be health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to your commandments, and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

May Your blessing remain always in this home and on those who live here; through Christ, our Lord. Amen,.

*Each room of the house may then be sprinkled with Holy Water –
(this is not necessary for the blessing but should be done if Holy Water is available.)
(Any chalk will suffice...
but you may find a small piece of blessed chalk on the table at the main entrance)*

.....

Bendición de la Epifanía

La bendición del hogar de la Epifanía es una tradición centenaria que invoca la bendición de Dios sobre todos los que entran en su hogar. Es una hermosa manera de observar la venida de los Reyes Magos mientras invocas la bendición de Dios sobre tu hogar y todos los que entran en él. ¡Todo lo que se necesita es tiza y un corazón lleno de oración!

Hay algunas fórmulas diferentes para las bendiciones, pero la esencia del ritual es siempre la misma: un sacerdote, un diácono o el cabeza de familia invoca la bendición de Dios sobre la casa y todos los que entran en ella, y se hace una inscripción sobre la puerta con tiza.

La inscripción dice: *(los dos primeros dígitos del año)* + C + M + B + *(los dos últimos dígitos del año)* (20 + C + M + B + 25). Las iniciales C, M y B representan los nombres de los magos: Gaspar, Melchor y Baltasar, y también significan la frase latina *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*: "Que Cristo bendiga la casa".

La Bendición: Señor Dios todopoderoso, Bendice + este hogar, y bajo su abrigo haya salud, castidad, conquista propia, humildad, bondad, apacibilidad, obediencia a tus mandamientos y acción de gracias a Dios el Padre, el Hijo y el Espíritu Santo.

Que Tu bendición permanezca siempre en este hogar y en los que viven aquí; por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

*Cada cuarto de la casa puede ser rociada con agua bendita:
(Esto no es necesario para la bendición, pero debe hacerse si hay agua bendita disponible).
(Cualquier tiza será suficiente...
pero es posible que encuentres un pequeño trozo de tiza bendita en la mesa de la entrada principal)*

"Are you passionately Pro-Life"

A Woman's Haven Pregnancy Crisis Center needs you!
We are busier than ever!

Workers are needed to serve women and their babies.
Counselor, Nurse, & Receptionist positions are available.

We provide all training.

For more information, Email: Susan.perez@awomanshaven.org

"Be the change you wish to see in the world and light up the darkness."

A Woman's Haven™
Pregnancy Crisis Center

This Week at Our Parish

Sunday, January 5, 2025
10:00 am KoC Mass - Church

Monday, January 6, 2024
5:30 pm STMG Board Mtg - Rectory Mtg Room 1

Tuesday, January 7, 2024
5:30 pm Divine Mercy - Rectory Mtg Room 1
6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - Rectory Mtg Room 1
7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion Choir Practice - Church

Wednesday, January 8, 2025
9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration Study Group - RMR 1
6:00 pm KC 3rd Degree Officers Mtg - Carolan Hall
6:30 pm Pastoral Council Mtg = Rectory Mtg Room 1

Thursday, January 9, 2025
5:00 pm Charismatic Prayer Grp - Church
6:30 pm CDA Board Mtg - Rectory Meeting Room 2
7:00 pm OCIA - Rectory Meeting Room 1

Friday, January 10, 2025
9:00 am Friday Adoration - Church
6:00 pm KC Breakfast Prep - Carolan Hall
7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion - Church

Saturday, January 11, 2025
3:30 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - Rectory Mtg Rm 1

Sunday, January 12, 2025
8:00 am KoC Breakfast - Carolan Hall
6:15 pm STMG Monthly Rosary - Church



Sanctuary Light Intention:
Deacon Rolando Guerra

Lecturas de la Semana del 6 - 12 enero

Lunes: 1Jn 3:22-4:6; Sal 2:7-8,10-12;
Mt 4:12-17,23-25

Martes: 1Jn 4:7-10; Sal 71:1-4,7-8; Mc 6:34-44

Miércoles: 1Jn 4:11-18; Sal 71:1-2,10,12-13;
Mc 6:45-52

Jueves: 1Jn 4:19-5:4; Sal 71:1-2,14,15,17; Lc 4:14-22

Viernes: 1Jn 5:5-13; Sal 147:12-15,19-20; Lc 5:12-16

Sábado: 1Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6,9; Jn 3:22-30

Domingo: Is 40:1-5,9-11; Sal 103:1-4,24-25,27-30;
Tit 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lc 3:15-16,21-22

Readings for the week of Jan 6 - 12

Monday: 1Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7-8,10-12a;
Mt 4:12-17,23-25

Tuesday: 1Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4,7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2,10,12-13;
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2,14,15,17;
Lk 4:14-22

Friday: 1Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15,19-20;
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a,9b; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday: Is 40:1-5,9-11; Ps 104:1b-4,24-25,27-30;
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16,21-22

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 4, 2025 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
5:00 pm †Baldemar Saldiva by Rosa Saldiva

Sunday, January 5, 2025 - the Epiphany of the Lord
8:00 am †Alicia D. Mora by Rosa Saldiva
†Kevin McCarthy
†Louis & Mary Biemer by Biemer Family
†Rebecca Hartsfield
In Thanksgiving by Thuy Nguyen
10:00 am †Glenn Schiflett by Guadalupanos
†Alejandro Hernandez
†Medardo E. & Evangelina G. Morales by Briseno/Morales Family
†Fred Sanchez
Special Intention: Birthday- Olivia Grace Mata by Mata Family
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased

Monday, January 6, 2024 - St. André Bessette, Religious
8:00 am †Martha Rivera by Rosas Family

Tuesday, January 7, 2024 - St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
8:00 am †Edward & Lorena Shortner by Biemer Family

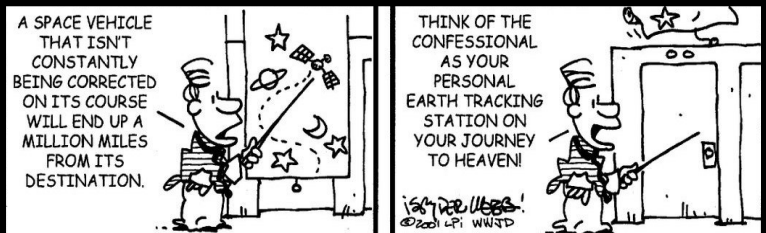
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
8:00 am †Marguerite McCoy

Thursday, January 9, 2025
8:00 am †Roberto Rosas, Sr by Rosas Family

Friday, January 10, 2025
8:00 am †Eva Quinones

Saturday, January 11, 2025
8:00 am †Catarina Rosas by Rosas Family
5:00 pm **STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased**

Sunday, January 12, 2025 - the Baptism of the Lord
8:00 am †Paul Nguyen by Thuy Nguyen
10:00 am †Lauro & Lupe Vargas by Vargas Family
†Catarina Rosas by Rosas Family
†Salome H. & Carolina B. Biseno by Briseno/Morales Family
†Genevieve Oswald by Evancho Family
12:00 pm †Bernardo Hernandez by Hernandez Family

**Liturgical Roles**

Saturday, January 11, 2025
5:00 pm **Altar Servers** - Volunteers
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, L.Adams, T.Garza, E.Guerrero, R.Alvarado
Lector - R.Alvarado

Sunday, January 12, 2025
8 am **Altar Servers** - Mem.Planchon, Max.Planchon
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, M.Aguirre, N.Carrizales, Y.Cione, R.Davila
Lector - Y.Cione

10 am **Altar Servers** - B.Pereida, C.Lawson, A.Mata
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, A.Garza, P+R.Mendoza, J+And.Perez
Lector - S.Trimm

12 pm **Altar Servers** - S.Obregon, A.Gomez,A.Llanas
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, C.Hernandez, H.Gomez, R.Gomez, F.Hernandez, I.Hernandez, D.Llanas
Lector - A.Chavez / F.Tobar

**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

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



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

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

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



**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.
All calls or emails will be
responded to within 48 hours.



**MEMORY
OF REX A. BRIEN
&
MR. & MRS.
HILDO CASTELLON**

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



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



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

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

Space Available Now!

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