

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

For too many of us, Lent is a season of doom and gloom, a time to feel bad about all the ways we are not “measuring up” in our spiritual lives. But this view could not be further from the truth. Lent is a season of refreshment and love, of awakening and rebirth. In fact, the word “lent” comes from the Old English word, “lencten,” which means spring. Lent is intended to be a springtime for us in our spiritual lives where all can become new again.

St. Paul tells us in the Second Reading today, “Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ.” The Gospel Reading, too, is filled with this theme of awakening and the extravagant, life-changing love that the Father has for each one of us; it is the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son.

We are all familiar with this amazing story — the bratty younger son who has the audacity to ask his dad for his inheritance early, only to squander it sinfully away. It makes us bristle instinctively at his nerve when we read it. But isn’t that exactly what we do when we selfishly turn away from God (in big or small ways) in our own lives? We squander away the inheritance of grace He has given us.

In desperation from the mess he had made of his life, the son finally “comes to his senses” — awakening to the truth that he is a beloved son of a loving and merciful father and decides to return home. His contrition is faltering and imperfect and seems motivated in large part by his growling stomach.

But it was enough for the loving father. “While still a long way off, the father caught sight of him.” The son was still a long way off from a deep understanding of what he had lost and what he was about to gain. But that small and imperfect openness to the father’s love was enough. In fact, the father is “filled with compassion for him” and immediately sets about preparing feast and fine clothes for this son. What an extravagance of love! What a beautiful picture Jesus gives us of our Father’s love and mercy.

Oh, how this should fill us with gratitude for such a Father! Be refreshed in this love. We are new creations thanks to this reconciling love.

And what comfort this passage gives to those of us who watch with sorrowful hearts for a return to faith for our own “prodigal” loved ones. Our Father is watching and waiting for their return to Him even more eagerly and patiently than we are.

We owe God everything! But let’s start by giving him one little thing. Take even a faltering step closer to Him — go to confession, join in the Stations of the Cross, call a family member or friend you are at odds with and try to reconcile. With just the tiniest bit of spiritual “spring cleaning” we can be sure we will be swept up in our Father’s loving embrace and find ourselves feasting in His presence.

That is what lent is all about.

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

March 20, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,895.52
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 138.76
Facilities Improvement Fund.....	\$ 95.00
Helping Hands.....	\$ 969.44
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 120.00
Bulletin Ads.....	\$ 180.00
Misc. Donations.....	\$ 300.00
Black / Native American Mission...	\$ 7.00

***Second Collection - April 2 - 3:
Facilities Improvement Fund***



Thank You

The St. Thomas More Guadalupanos would like to thank the parish for supporting our Lenten Retreat this past Saturday.

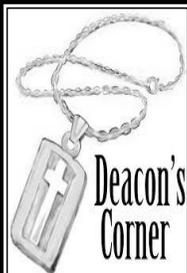
Blessings,

St. Thomas More Guadalupano Board



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1380 AM – Spanish or 89.7 FM - English**



Deacon's
Corner

I'm a good person! Will I go to heaven?

A friend was asked that question and, in turn, it was presented to me.

I think we've all been asked that, or a similar, question... or maybe have even wondered about it ourselves. I don't always think so fast *on my feet* - so to speak... I usually do better if I have a chance to think / digest it for a bit. My first thought, of course, is that it's not up to me to say if a person will go to heaven or not. It depends on a number of *'things.'*

Naturally, this wasn't the answer the person was looking for. After thinking about it for some time I decided this is one of those "**YES**" and "**NO**" answers that I love... and I thought I'd share this.

Keep in mind that I am **NOT** a theologian and definitely am **NOT** in a position of authority. *This is just my opinion.*

So... you've been a good person. Haven't done anything *really* wrong. You attend church *fairly* regularly, you contribute to the support of the Church... *sometimes*, you donate to the poor... *sometimes*... not bad.

If you are a true atheist or a profoundly practicing non-Christian it might get a "YES - you will probably go to heaven"... after all, a true atheist or non-Christian does not believe in God (*at least not the one-true God*).

A true atheist or non-Christian does not believe in Jesus Christ, the Bible or the Church.

For a true atheist or non-Christian following the "Natural Law" may be sufficient to gain eternal life.

But, you are **not** a true atheist! You are **not** a profoundly practicing non-Christian...

You are a Christian... a Catholic Christian at that! So while I can't say 'yes' or 'no' - I will say... that

Being good and all it entails, "**IS A GOOD START!**" If you truly are a Catholic Christian: you believe in God; you believe in Jesus Christ; you believe in the Holy Spirit; you believe in the Bible as the Inspired Word of God; you believe in Church. All that being said, we come to know that... **There's More!**

Look for a minute at Holy Scripture:

A young man came to Jesus and asked what he must do to be saved... Jesus told him to follow God's commands.

The young man said he did all that... but then Jesus told him **there was more!**

Look at St. James' letter... where he says if someone has nothing to wear and no food and we respond, "Go in peace, keep warm and eat well" but do not help them... He tells us that without works, our faith is dead! **There's More!**

At judgment God splits humanity... Sheep on the right, Goats on the left... based on what they DID with their life!

How they served Him... and each other! It's not enough to just be '**Good!**' **There's More!**

WE HAVE TO DO OUR PART!

If we can 'get to heaven' on our own we have to ask, "Why did Jesus come? Why did he die for us?"

If we can 'get to heaven' on our own... we, in effect, are negating God! We are putting ourselves in His place...

What PRIDE!! Oh, what a sin we commit!

God tells us to follow His commands (*there are only 10 of them!*). And, not just the LETTER as the Pharisees did... but the SPIRIT of them! **There's More!** God / Jesus gave us the Church and, through the Church, he gave us the Sacraments to help get us through this life! We have to use them! We need God in our lives!

If we want to go to heaven yes, we have to be good! Being Good is essential; a big part of it... but only a good start! But there's more to it than that! We have to do our part!



la Hora Santa

Nuestra Hora Santa (español) será
ESTE VIERNES a las 7 pm.

Ven... Pasa un rato tranquilo 'uno-a-uno'
tiempo con Nuestro Señor...
siempre presente en
el Santísimo

Espero verte allí.



MAY HE REST IN PEACE:

May God comfort the family and friends of

John Sublousky
who died recently

Our sincere sympathy and assurances of prayers
are extended to the Sublousky Family
May he Rest in Peace



Grupo de Oración

Familias compartiendo la palabra

Acompañenos para las Estaciones de la

*Cruz a las 6:45pm, los Viernes, hasta el 8 de abril. Seguido de la
reunión semanal del Grupo de Oración a las 7:15PM.*

El grupo de oración se reúne los viernes a las 7 pm.

Contacte a: Maria Isabel Hernandez (210) 843-9756



St. Thomas More English Prayer Group

The English Prayer Group will not be meeting in the church
during the Lenten Season.

**Contacts: Olga Guerrero (210) 657-1610 or
Stella Lopez: (210) 618-6977**





Please Join Us for
**Coping with Life Alone
in the Beginning**

Presented by
Beginning Experience of San Antonio

“Coping with Life Alone in the Beginning” is an in-person, one-day grief support program. It is intended for those whose loss is new, and/or for those not yet ready for a Beginning Experience Weekend. The session focuses on such topics as the grief process, changes in family and other relationships, trust, and coping with memories of the deceased spouse or dealing with the former spouse.

When
Saturday, April 23, 2022, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

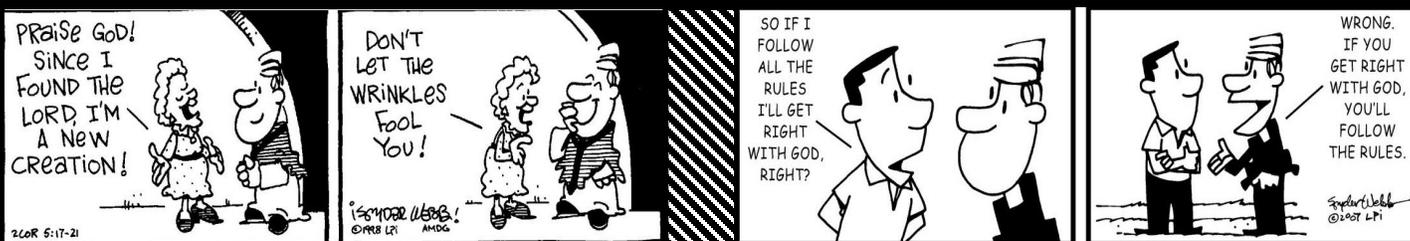
Where
St. Monica Catholic Church-Steuben Hall
501 North St., Converse, TX 78109

Cost
\$40 (includes workbook)
Please bring your own lunch. Drinks and snacks provided.

Contact
Barbara (210)256-2859
(If no answer, please leave a message)

Additional Programs Offered
(Subject to change due to Covid restrictions)
Coping with Life Alone in the Beginning (1-day program) –7/30/22
Beginning Experience Weekend at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine – 10/14-10/16/22

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Phil 4:13



PARISH AND SCHOOL CHALLENGE:

40 Cans for Lent

A small sacrifice to make a BIG DIFFERENCE in the lives of those in need.

The 40 Cans for Lent program is designed to help fight hunger in the community. The concept is simple: collect cans of food during the Lenten Season.

Donate one can of food for each day of Lent as a reminder of the penance we should be doing as we prepare for the passion of our Lord.

Needed items: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Cereal, Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Tuna, Canned Vegetables and Fruits, 1 lb bag - Pinto Beans, 1 lb bag - White Rice, Soup, Toilet Paper, Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Razors, and other non-perishable food items.

There is a collection bin in the back of the church as well as in the foyer of the school. Your donations will benefit the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!.. and... God Bless-

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

-Proverbs 22:9



This Week at Our Parish

Sunday, March 27, 2022
 10:00 am CDA Mass - *Church*
 11:00 am KC BBQ Plate Drive Thru - Carolan Hall

Monday, March 28, 2021
 12:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration - *Church*
 5:00 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - *RMR*
 6:00 pm Finance Council Mtg - Dining Room

Tuesday, March 29, 2021
 12:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration - *Church*
 5:30 pm Divine Mercy - *Rectory Mtg Room*
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - *Rectory Mtg Rm*
 7:00 pm Grupo Choir Practice - *Church*

Wednesday, March 30, 2021
 12:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration - *Church*
 6:30 pm Synod House Mtg - *Carolan Hall*

Thursday, March 31, 2021
 12:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration - *Church*
 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study - *Carolan Hall*
 7:00 pm RCIA - *Rectory Mtg. Room*
 Grupo Via Crucis Practice - *School Playground*

Friday, April 1, 2021
 12:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration - *Church*
 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross - *Church*
 6:45 pm Camino de la Cruz / la Hora Santa - *Church*

Saturday, April 2, 2022
 4:00 pm Reconciliation - *Church*

Sunday, April 3, 2022
 8:00 am Confirmation Mini Retreat - *Carolan Hall*



Sanctuary Light Intention:
 †Fr. Gilbert Pansza and
 †Richard Pansza, Jr

Lecturas de la Semana del 28 marzo - 3 abril

Lunes: Is 65:17-21; Sal 29:2,4-6,11-13; Jn 4:43-54
Martes: Ez 47:1-9,12; Sal 45:2-3,5-6,8-9; Jn 5:1-3,5-16
Miércoles: Is 49:8-15; Sal 144:8-9,13-14,17-18;
 Jn 5:17-30
Jueves: Ex 32:7-14; Sal 105:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Viernes: Sab 2:1,12-22; Sal 33:17-21,23;
 Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30
Sábado: Jr 11:18-20; Sal 7:2-3,9-12; Jn 7:40-53
Domingo: Is 43:16-21; Sal 125:1-6; Flp 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Readings for the week of Mar 28 - Apr 3

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2,4-6,11-12,13; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9,12; Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9,13-14,17-18;
 Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a,12-22; Ps 34:17-21,23;
 Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3,9-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14;
 Jn 8:1-11

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 26, 2022
 8:00 am *In Thanksgiving* by Thuy T.
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased
 5:00 pm †Fr. Joe Uvietta by Melba Fisher
 †Al Weinheimer by Richard & Dorothy Perez

Sunday, March 27, 2022
 8:00 am †Donald Dotson by Bill & Linda Volpenhein
 †Al Weinheimer by Richard & Dorothy Perez
 10:00 am †Rodolfo Trevino, Sr and Rodolfo Trevino Jr
 by Ralph and Elda Garcia
 †Yolanda Faz by Jesse Perez
 12:00 pm †Kathryn Sweet by Maria T. Sweet
 †Ulysses Francisco Cortez by Cortez Family

Monday, March 28, 2021
 8:00 am †Seminarian Edwin Chipangura by Sr. Gomba
In Thanksgiving by Kim Nguyen

Tuesday, March 29, 2021
 8:00 am †All Unborn Souls by Kim Nguyen
In Thanksgiving for Grandchildren by Barrera Family

Wednesday, March 30, 2021
 8:00 am †Sylvia Hernandez by Flor Mata
 †All Souls by Kim Nguyen

Thursday, March 31, 2021 (Communion Service)
 8:00 am *All Ordained Clergy and Religious*
 †Phyllis and †Tom Stensland

Friday, April 1, 2021
 8:00 am †John TV Duong by Thuy Nguyen
 †Virginia Moan by Evancho Family

Saturday, April 2, 2022
 8:00 am *All Souls* by Kim Nguyen
For Orphans by Kim Nguyen
 5:00 pm †Fr. Joe Uvietta by Melba Fisher
 †Christina Dominguez by Dominguez Family

Sunday, April 3, 2022
 8:00 am †Fr. Joseph Tran by Kim Nguyen
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased
 10:00 am †Ignacio Perez, Sr by Jesse Perez
 †Homer Byington by Phyllis Byington
 12:00 pm †Kathryn Sweet by Maria T. Sweet
 †Those Who Have Been Aborted by Kim Nguyen

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, April 2, 2021

5:00 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, (+ 2 Vol-If Needed)
Lector - R.Davis

Sunday, April 3, 2022

8:00 am **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, (+2 Vol - If Needed)
Lector - T.Garza

10:00 am **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, DC John, N.Rodriguez
Lector - R.Ellis

12:00 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, Guad.Torres, Gil.Torres
Lector - C.Torres / T.Sweet