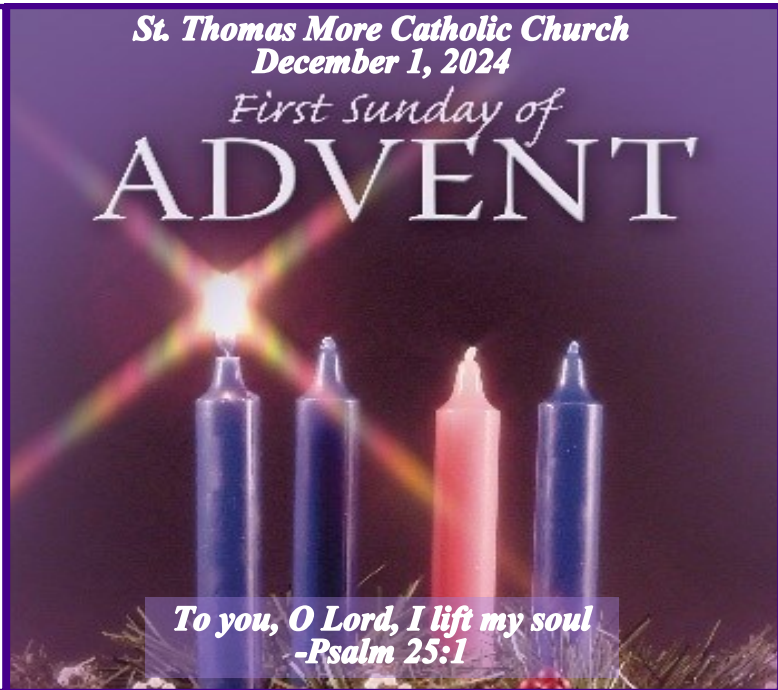


**Welcome to St. Thomas More  
Catholic Church**

*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)

Holy Days of Obligation

**Day Before Holy Day**

Vigil Mass - 6:30 p.m.

**Actual Holy Day**

8:00 a.m.

6:30 p.m.

(Español)

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

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

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.  
Please call the Rectory for more information.

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**

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

**PASTOR - REV. ED GONZALES .....**  
**EMAIL ..... [FRGONZALES.STMC@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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](mailto:STMPARISH@LIVE.COM)

WEBSITE:

[THOMASMORESATX.ORG](http://THOMASMORESATX.ORG)

## Gospel Meditation:

When I was a young priest, about one year after ordination, I was called to the hospital to anoint a dying mother of three young children. She had a painful, terminal cancer. After celebrating Last Rites with her, I said, "Don't be afraid." She looked me square in the eye from her hospital bed and said, "Oh Father, I am in a lot of pain, but I am not afraid. Something wonderful is about to happen." A few days later she died.

Christians face the ending of our personal various "worlds" in a totally unique way.

This first Sunday of Advent, Jesus says that when people see their world falling apart, they find themselves "fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world" (Luke 21:26).

In our fear, our natural response is to check out, to hide our heads in drunkenness, distraction, and false securities.

But Jesus commands us to "look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

He then compares what's coming to a lovely summer in full bloom.

That's what the cross and resurrection empower us to do, as strange as it may seem.

Advent challenge: What world in your life is collapsing? A relationship, a dream, a work opportunity?

Maybe you're troubled by a crumbling world in the political or economic sphere.

Or maybe someone you love is seriously ill or dying. Name that world or worlds.

Then pray: "Lord, help me to not faint with fear. Help me to raise my head and see your redemption coming."

— Father John Muir

## Meditación del Evangelio:

Cuando era un joven sacerdote, aproximadamente un año después de la ordenación, me llamaron al hospital para ungir a una madre moribunda de tres niños pequeños. Tenía un doloroso cáncer terminal.

Después de celebrar la extremaunción con ella, le dije: "No tengas miedo". Me miró directamente a los ojos desde su cama de hospital y dijo: "Oh, Padre, tengo mucho dolor, pero no tengo miedo.

Algo maravilloso está a punto de suceder". A los pocos días murió ella.

Los cristianos enfrentamos el final de nuestros diversos "mundos" personales de una manera totalmente única.

Este primer domingo de Adviento, Jesús dice que cuando las personas ven que su mundo se desmorona, se encuentran "desfalleciendo de miedo y de presentimiento de lo que viene sobre el mundo" (Lucas 21:26).

En nuestro miedo, nuestra respuesta natural es salir, esconder la cabeza en la embriaguez, la distracción y las falsas seguridades. Pero Jesús nos ordena: "Levanten la vista y levanten la cabeza, porque su redención se acerca".

A continuación, compara lo que se avecina con un hermoso verano en plena floración.

Eso es lo que la cruz y la resurrección nos dan poder para hacer, por extraño que parezca.

Desafío de Adviento: ¿Qué mundo en tu vida se está derrumbando? ¿Una relación, un sueño, una oportunidad de trabajo? Tal vez estés preocupado por un mundo que se desmorona en la esfera política o económica.

O tal vez alguien a quien amas está gravemente enfermo o moribundo. Nombra ese mundo o mundos.

Luego ora: "Señor, ayúdame a no desfallecer de miedo. Ayúdame a levantar mi cabeza y ver venir tu redención".

— Father John Muir

### YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

November 24, 2024

Sunday Collection .....	\$ 6,570.43
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 232.00
Facilities Improvement.....	\$ 50.00
Helping Hands.....	\$ 10.00
STM School.....	\$ 1,013.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 25.00
Donations.....	\$ 30.00

**Second Collection Dec 7 - 8:**

**In Support of Retired Men and Women Religious**



### 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*

**Question:** *What's the story behind the Advent wreath?*

**Answer:** Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.



**Pregunta:** *¿Cuál es la historia detrás de la corona de Adviento?*

**Respuesta:** Cada estación del calendario litúrgico viene con sus propios rituales locales y regionales. Durante la temporada de Adviento, las coronas adornan los santuarios de las iglesias y las mesas de los comedores familiares. Es posible que hayas rezado oraciones de la corona de Adviento en la infancia o que hayas tomado un turno para encender las velas. La corona de Adviento está llena de simbolismo sobre Cristo y su venida en Navidad. La corona está hecha de ramas de hoja perenne, recordándonos que la vida de gracia no flaquea con el cambio de estaciones. Siempre se mantiene fresco y nuevo. Del mismo modo, una corona circular nos recuerda la naturaleza eterna e interminable del amor de Dios. Las velas nos recuerdan que Cristo es la luz del mundo, Aquel que "*resplandece en las tinieblas, y las tinieblas no han prevalecido.*" Usamos cuatro velas para representar cada semana de Adviento. Tradicionalmente vienen en los colores litúrgicos de la temporada. El púrpura ha representado históricamente la penitencia y el sacrificio. Vemos el mismo color para la temporada de Cuaresma. En el tercer domingo de Adviento, sin embargo, encendemos un color rosa. El sacerdote usará vestiduras rosas en la Misa. Este es el domingo de Gaudete. *Gaudete* significa "*regocijarse*" en latín. En el tercer domingo de Adviento, estamos aproximadamente a la mitad de la temporada. ¡La Iglesia elige el punto medio para recordarnos que debemos celebrar en medio de nuestra anticipación! Sea cual sea el color y el día, la corona de Adviento es una hermosa práctica para enfocar nuestra atención a la venida de Cristo en Navidad.

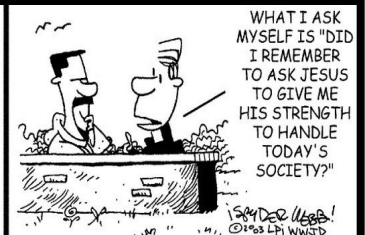
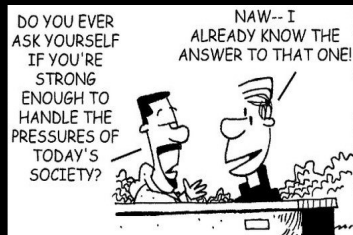
**Mark Your Calendars!!**

**Advent Morning of Reflection**  
*Jesus, Prince of Peace*

Join us after the 8 a.m. Mass for an opportunity to reflect on the Peace of Jesus in our lives and in the world as we reflect on the Scripture Readings of Advent

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 - 10 a.m.  
in the Church

Presenter: Fr. Jim Schellenberg  
*(This morning reflection will basically be in English)*



**Holy Hour**

**Thursday,**  
**December 5**  
**at 6 pm**

*Hope to see you there*



**la Hora Santa**

**VIERNES**  
**el 6 de diciembre**  
**a las 7 pm.**

*Espero verte allí*



YOU ARE INVITED TO  
**STM'S CHRISTMAS MARKET**

DECEMBER **8th** 11:00AM-3:00PM

**HANDMADE PRODUCTS & FOOD**  
Come enjoy the excitement of this year's Christmas Market. Vendors, games for the children. Knights of Columbus delicious breakfast, pictures with Santa and more!

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**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

We celebrate this Feast each year on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

*It is a Holy Day of Obligation*

This year, however, December 8<sup>th</sup> falls on Sunday so the Feast Day Celebration is moved to Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>... as does the obligation to participate at Mass.

*No Vigil Mass on Sunday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>*

Mass Schedule for Monday, Dec 9th:

8 am - English

Noon - English

6:30 pm - Spanish

**Advent Penance Opportunities**

As we enter the Advent season... in preparation for Christmas... We offer the following opportunities for you to reconcile to God, Church, and each other.

In addition to our normal Penance opportunities, (Saturday afternoons from 3:30 - 4:45 pm),

Fr. Ed is offering the following:

Mon, Dec 2, from 2:30 - 4 pm  
6:30 - 7:30 pm

Mon, Dec 16, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Mon, Dec 23, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm

**Take advantage of this opportunity!**



Mark Your Calendars...

**You are Invited to Christmas Around the World!**

Come! Experience Christmas customs that are celebrated around the world!

Visit and take pictures with Mr and Mrs Claus...

**Buy goodies at our Mini Market**

**This is a Free Free Free Event!**

Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America

Sunday, December 15, 2024

From 2 - 5 pm in Carolan Hall

**Hope to see you there!!**

**In the Beginning... Coping with Life Alone**

A one-day introductory program designed to help those who are grieving the loss of a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation.

The program helps participants begin to deal with the loss and focus on what lies ahead.

It is a day of support for those who are seeking hope and healing.

While it is intended to assist those newly grieving, all are welcome to attend.

This is an online session scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2024, 8:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The cost is \$40.

For more information and to register, contact Barbara at (210)724-9269

(If no answer, leave a message).



**Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Please join the Guadalupanos in our Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 3 to December 11

at 6:15 pm in the Church

(by the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe)

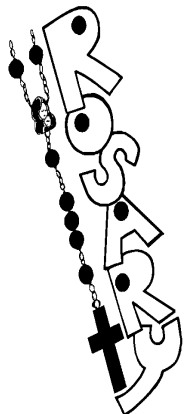
**EXCEPTION:** December 5th and 9th

(when we have Holy Hour and celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception) **When the Novena will be begin at 5:15 pm**

**December 12** - Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mass at 6:30 pm with - Reception to follow in Carolan Hall

**Hope to see you there!!**



**This Week at Our Parish**

**Sunday, December 1, 2024 - 1st Sunday of Advent**  
10:00 am KoC Mass – Church

**Monday, December 2, 2024**  
2:30 pm Advent Confessions & Adoration (\*till 4pm) - Church  
5:30 pm Guadalupanos Board Mtg - Rectory Mtg Room  
6:30 pm Advent Confessions & Adoration (\*till 7:30 pm) - Church

**Tuesday, December 3, 2024 -St. Francis Xavier, Priest**  
5:30 pm Divine Mercy - Rectory Mtg Room  
6:15 pm Guadalupanos Novena / 1 - Church  
6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - Rectory Mtg Room  
7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion Choir Practice - Church

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024 -St. John Damascene, Priest**  
9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration Study Grp – Rectory Mtg Room  
10:30 am Charismatic Prayer Grp Core Mtg - Rectory Mtg Room 2  
6:00 pm KC 3Degree Officers Mtg - Carolan Hall  
6:15 pm Guadalupanos Novena / 2 - Church  
7:00 pm Guadalupanos Choir Practice - Cancelled

**Thursday, December 5, 2024**  
5:00 pm Charismatic Prayer Grp - Church  
5:00 pm Guadalupanos Novena / 3 - Church  
6:00 pm Holy Hour - Church  
7:00 pm OCIA - Rectory Mtg Room

**Friday, December 6, 2024**  
9:00 am Friday Adoration - Church  
6:00 pm KC Breakfast prep - Carolan Hall  
6:15 pm Guadalupanos Novena / 4 - Church  
6:30 pm Coro Alegria Guitar Practice - Rectory Mtg Room  
7:00 pm la Hora Santa / Grupo de Oracion - Church

**Saturday, December 7, 2024 -St. Ambrose, Bishop**  
2:00 pm KC 3Degree Christmas Party – Carolan Hall  
3:30 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - Rectory Mtg Room  
6:15 pm Guadalupanos Novena / 5 - Church

**Sunday, December 8, 2024 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
8:00 am KC 3rd Degree Breakfast - Carolan Hall  
11:00 am School Christmas Market - Carolan Hall  
6:15 pm Guadalupanos Novena / 6 - Church

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, November 30, 2024 -**  
5:00 pm †Guadalupe t. Mendoza by Mendoza Family  
†Sylvia Charles by Dorothy & Richard Perez

**Sunday, December 1, 2024**  
8:00 am †Diane Aguillon Ramirez by Family  
†Veronica Jimenez by Norbert & Jeannette Pansza  
10:00 am †Charles Oswald by Oswald Family  
†Medardo E. Morales & Evangelina G. Morales by Morales / Briseno Family

12:00 pm †Maria Salinas

**Monday, December 2, 2024 -**  
8:00 am **Special Intention for Miguel Alcala** by Alcala Family

**Tuesday, December 3, 2024 -**  
8:00 am **Special Intention for Evelia Alcala** by Alcala Family

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024**  
8:00 am †Baldemar Saldiva by Rosa Saldiva

**Thursday, December 5, 2024**  
8:00 am †Michael Boudreaux by Boudreaux & Perez Family  
**All Ordained Clergy and Religious**

**Friday, December 6, 2024**  
8:00 am **Special Intention for Lisania Alcala** by Alcala Family

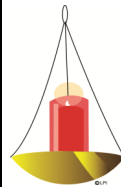
**Saturday, December 7, 2024 -**  
8:00 am †Theresa Schleigh by Guadalupanos Society  
**STM Parishioners - Living and †Deceased**  
5:00 pm †Christina C. Dominguez by Dominguez Family  
**Birthday - Vicky Smith** by Catholic Committee

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**  
8:00 am **STM Parishioners - Living and †Deceased**  
10:00 am †Steven Lee Waldron by Mom  
†Salome H. Briseno & Carolina B. Briseno by Morales / Briseno Family  
12:00 pm †Kathryn Marie Sweet by Maria T. Sweet  
†Don Rand by Rand Family



**Lecturas de la Semana del 2 - 8 Dic**

**Lunes:** Is 2:1-5; Sal 121:1-9; Mt 8:5-11  
**Martes:** Is 11:1-10; Sal 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17;  
Lc 10:21-24  
**Miércoles:** Is 25:6-10; Sal 22:1-6; Mt 15:29-37  
**Jueves:** Is 26:1-6; Sal 117:1,8-9,19-21,25-27;  
Mt 7:21,24-27  
**Viernes:** Is 29:17-24; Sal 26:1,4,13-14; Mt 9:27-31  
**Sábado:** Is 30:19-21,23-26; Sal 146:1-6;  
Mt 9:35-10:1,5,6-8  
**Domingo:** Bar 5:1-9; Sal 125:1-6; Flp 1:4-6,8-11;  
Lc 3:1-6



**Sanctuary Light Intention:**  
**Michael McDonald**

**Liturgical Roles**

**Saturday, December 7, 2024**  
5:00 pm **Altar Servers** - Volunteers  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Jim, S.Trimm, T.Guerrero, L.Adams, M.Fisher  
**Lector** - L.Trimm

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**  
8 am **Altar Servers** - Mem.Planchon, Max.Planchon  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Tim, Y.Cione, E.Garcia, P.Klar  
**Lector** - Y.Cione

10 am **Altar Servers** - M.Pereida, C.Lawson, A.McCaffery  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Jim, Abi.Perez, V.Smith, Ali.Perez, Sr. Faustina, Sr.Eucharia, A.Fuentes  
**Lector** - Ali.Perez

12 pm **Altar Servers** - S.Obregon, A.Gomez, A.Llanas  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Rolando, C.Hernandez, I.Hernandez, D.Llanas, E.Obregon, M.Pina, (+1 vol)  
**Lector** - A.Chavez / F.Tobar

**Readings for the week of Dec 2 - 8**

**Monday:** Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11  
**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17;  
Lk 10:21-24  
**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37  
**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27;  
Mt 7:21,24-27  
**Friday:** Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1,4,13-14; Mt 9:27-31  
**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21,23-26; Ps 147:1-6;  
Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8  
**Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6,8-11;  
Lk 3:1-6



### 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

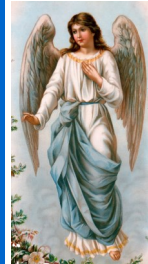
**PRAY FOR THE 3 MOST  
FORGOTTEN SOULS IN  
PURGATORY**



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



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



In Loving Memory of  
Medardo E. Morales &  
Evangelina G. Morales  
on behalf of  
The Morales &  
Briseño Families

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210-342-4673

rachel@anewchoice.com

**PROJECT RACHEL**

Peace Starts Here



In Memory  
of  
Jose (Joe) Galvan,  
Joseph (Joe) 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](mailto: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.

**Space Available Now!**  
**Call 210-655-5070**



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