

SEPTEMBER
29TH
2024

26TH SUNDAY
IN
ORDINARY
TIME



THE
PRECEPTS
OF THE
LORD
GIVE JOY
TO THE
HEART.
PSALM 19

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

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS

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:

Maggots, grubs, worms. When I imagine one or many of these nasty slimy buggers living inside my body — unseen, feeding off my flesh, slowly rotting me out — I feel deeply disgusted. If I knew I had a worm, I would do anything to remove the alien invader, and fast. But what if I couldn't ever get it out?

This is precisely the image Jesus uses to describe those who cause others to sin and fail to cut out what leads them to sin. He contrasts the kingdom of God with Gehenna, "where the worm does not die."

If we can stomach it for a moment, there is much wisdom in this nauseating metaphor.

First, sin is always parasitic. It feeds on what is good like a worm in a host.

It's not symbiotic or additive, as virtue and love always are. Sin invades, devours, and damages the sinner.

Second, sin is always social. No matter how hidden, it quietly eats away at others — usually the most poor and vulnerable, the "little ones," as the Lord says. How healthy it is for us to acknowledge this! Our gossiping, greed, over-indulgence, lying, pride, laziness, lust for power and reputation, and so on ... they do not add anything to life. They are worms eating away at others and ourselves.

We cut out these filthy parasites through genuine repentance and bold action. Imagine the peace and relief that follows the removal of a sickening worm from your body. How much greater is the peace we enjoy when the spiritual worms are gone for good. We'd never wait to act against physical parasites. Neither should we with the worms of sin.

— Father John Muir

Meditación del Evangelio:

Gusanos, larvas, gusanos. Cuando me imagino a uno o varios de estos desagradables y viscosos bichos viviendo dentro de mi cuerpo, invisibles, alimentándose de mi carne, pudriéndome lentamente, me siento profundamente asqueado.

Si supiera que tengo un gusano, haría cualquier cosa para eliminar al invasor alienígena, y rápido.

Pero, ¿qué pasaría si nunca pudiera sacarlo?

Esta es precisamente la imagen que Jesús usa para describir a aquellos que hacen pecar a otros y no logran eliminar lo que los lleva a pecar. Contrasta el reino de Dios con el Gehena, "donde el gusano no muere". Si podemos soportarlo por un momento, hay mucha sabiduría en esta metáfora nauseabunda.

En primer lugar, el pecado es siempre parasitario. Se alimenta de lo que es bueno, como un gusano en un huésped.

No es simbiótico ni aditivo, como siempre lo son la virtud y el amor.

El pecado invade, devora y daña al pecador.

En segundo lugar, el pecado es siempre social. No importa cuán escondido esté, en silencio carcome a los demás, generalmente a los más pobres y vulnerables, los "pequeños", como dice el Señor.

¡Qué saludable es para nosotros reconocer esto! Nuestros chismes, codicia, indulgencia excesiva, mentiras, orgullo, pereza, ansia de poder y reputación, etc. no añaden nada a la vida. Son gusanos que carcomen a los demás y a nosotros mismos.

Eliminamos estos parásitos inmundos mediante un arrepentimiento genuino y una acción audaz. Imagínese la paz y el alivio que sigue a la eliminación de un gusano repugnante de su cuerpo. ¡Cuánto mayor es la paz que disfrutamos cuando los gusanos espirituales se han ido para siempre! Nunca esperaríamos para actuar contra los parásitos físicos. Tampoco deberíamos hacerlo con los gusanos del pecado.

— Father John Muir

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

September 22, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$ 5,515.67
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 231.00
Facilities Improvement.....	\$ 50.00
STM School.....	\$ 75.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 30.00

**Second Collection Oct 5 - 6:
to Support World Mission Sunday**



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

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE

In Honor of the 107th Anniversary of the *Miracle of the Sun* that occurred October 13, 1917.

We pray our Rosary this Month to:
 Reach fallen-away Catholics,
 End Abortion, End Same-Sex marriage,
 End division in our country, and
 to bring our Lord into all schools!

You are invited to join us as we pray:

The Holy Rosary
 at the Grotto Outside the Rectory Office
 Saturday, October 5, 2024 @ Noon
 (if inclement weather we will move into the Church)

Want More Information?
 Contact: David Barrera @ (210) 793-0794



Our Catholic Daughters
 are celebrating
10 years
 at St. Thomas More!



You are invited
 for Coffee and Pastries.

Sunday, October 6, 2024
 after all Masses

Join us In Carolan Hall
 as we celebrate this milestone



Hope for the Future cordially invites
 Young Catholic High School Alumni to:

UNDER THE LIGHTS

A Young Catholic School Alumni Tailgate

Friday, October 4, 2024
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us for beer, wine, bites, music, games, and a fun night supporting Catholic Education with fellow young adult alumni! Attire is business casual.

This event is FREE!

Sign up TODAY!

St. Gerard Education & Athletic Center
 Outside on the Football Field
 521 S. New Braunfels Ave.
 San Antonio, Texas 78203

Healing Holidays
Making your Grief Count

Grief during the Holidays is always challenging. The holiday season renews memories, family ties, and traditions. We become painfully aware that our loved one is no longer present, and the pain of the loss is confused with the spirit of the season making it difficult for families to navigate.

We live with an added layer of collective grief and vulnerability. Learning to navigate a changing world combined with the sorrow of our loss causes us to grieve on many levels.

How do we allow ourselves in these difficult times, to “make our grief count” and find our grounding?

This workshop will help identify internal and external resources that contribute to self-compassion and enhance resiliency. It will help families embrace their grief while strengthening characteristics of resilience.

Participants will use the holidays to discover how their loved one can live on into their life story, using this special time to continue to heal.

When: Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 am

Where: St Thomas More Catholic Church
 (Carolan Hall)

Cost: \$0. - no charge

Presenter: Porter Loring Bereavement Minister

Please RSVP:
 Church Office (210) 655-5070



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE:

May God comfort the family and friends of

Anna Biemer

who passed away recently

Our sincere sympathy and assurances of prayers are extended to

Fabien,
 Tim, and Mark
 and the Biemer Family
May she Rest in Peace.

Observation: There seems to be a lot of division in some Christian churches over moral issues, especially abortion, contraception, ordination, and end-of-life care.

If all Christians follow the Gospel of Jesus, why is there such a difference of opinion?

Response: There is always a struggle between culture and religion, and part of that struggle is politics. To be *politically correct* means that you must embrace the secular virtue of the moment so that you are "enlightened," "sensitive," "aware," and, most importantly, "open-minded."

Unfortunately, common sense can be sacrificed in the race to be "PC."

Some factions within Christian denominations have tried to redefine tradition, history, and biblical teaching to bend it around the *politically correct* religious thinking of the day.

On the life issues mentioned above, there are those who began with their own conclusions and have tried to bend theology around their conclusions. This is possible in part because of a lack of a central teaching authority and partly because society has become apathetic to these issues.

This mentality usually results in a lot of division, factions, and schisms.

The Gospel calls *all* believers to embrace the truth, to turn from sin, and to seek holiness and justice...

No matter how hard some may try, a square peg will not fit a round hole.

The camel cannot fit through the eye of the needle... Politically Correct doesn't always work...

Being "Jesus Correct" does!

• • • • •

Observación: Parece haber mucha división en algunas iglesias cristianas sobre cuestiones morales, especialmente el aborto, la anticoncepción, la ordenación, y los cuidados al final de la vida.

Si todos los cristianos siguen el Evangelio de Jesús, ¿por qué hay tanta diferencia de opinión?

Respuesta: Siempre hay una lucha entre la cultura y la religión, y parte de esa lucha es la política.

Ser *políticamente correcto* significa que debes abrazar la virtud secular del momento para que seas "iluminado", "sensible", "consciente" y, lo que es más importante, "de mente abierta".

Desafortunadamente, el sentido común puede ser sacrificado en la carrera por ser "PC".

Algunas facciones dentro de las denominaciones cristianas han tratado de redefinir la tradición, la historia y la enseñanza bíblica para inclinarla en torno al pensamiento religioso *políticamente correcto* de la época.

En los temas de la vida mencionados anteriormente, hay quienes comenzaron con sus propias conclusiones y han tratado de torcer la teología en torno a sus conclusiones. Esto es posible en parte debido a la falta de una autoridad docente central y en parte porque la sociedad se ha vuelto apática a estos temas. Esta mentalidad suele dar lugar a muchas divisiones, facciones y cismas.

El Evangelio llama a todos los creyentes a abrazar la verdad, a apartarse del pecado y a buscar la santidad y la justicia... No importa cuánto lo intenten, una clavija cuadrada no encajará en un agujero redondo.

El camello no puede pasar por el ojo de la aguja. Lo políticamente correcto no siempre funciona...

¡Ser "Jesus Correcto" lo hace!

St. John Neumann - 2024 Woman's Retreat

We read in Scripture about Jesus retiring to a quiet place to pray... needing to get away from the crowds and the noise to spend time with His heavenly father.

In our busy and hectic lives, family and work often occupy most of our time and our relationship with God suffers as a result.

A retreat is an excellent way to remove oneself from your busy life to devote your thoughts and actions to our Lord.

Take time to be still and know He is there!

You are warmly invited to join us for a transformative experience at our upcoming *Women's Retreat*, where we will gather in a spirit of reflection, renewal, and deepening our connection with God.

Take time to spend with our heavenly Father as Jesus did.

During our time together, we will engage in prayer, meditation, insightful discussions, and spiritual exercises designed to

- nurture our souls and strengthen our faith.

- This retreat offers a sacred space for us to pause from our daily routines, listen to God's voice, and support one another on our spiritual journey.

- **Theme:** *Be Still, and Know that I am God* (Psalm 46:10)

- **Dates:** 5:30 pm on Friday, October 11th through 11:00 am Mass Sunday, October 13th

- The cost for the retreat is \$200.00 (covers meals & lodging). Applications can be found in the St. John Neumann church foyer, the SJN church office and online.

- If you have any questions or require further information, Contact Ann Coldwater at (210) 912-3956.

This Week at Our Parish

Sunday, September 29, 2024
KC Selling BBQ Plate Tickets After All Masses

Monday, September 30, 2024
 6:30 pm EMHC Mtg - Church

Tuesday, October 1, 2024
 5:30 pm Divine Mercy - *Rectory Mtg Room*
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - *Rectory Mtg Room*
 7:00 pm Grupo de Oracion Choir Practice - *Church*
 Pastoral Council Mtg - *Rectory Mtg Room-2*

Wednesday, October 2, 2024
 10:30 am Charismatic Prayer Grp Core Mtg - *Rectory Mtg Rm*

Thursday, October 3, 2024 -
 6:00 pm Holy Hour - *Church*
 7:00 pm OCIA - *Rectory Mtg Room*

Friday, October 4, 2024
 9:00 am Friday Adoration - *Church*
 11:00 am St Francis of Assisi Blessing - *Outside Church*
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria Guitar Practice - *RMR*
 7:00 pm la Hora Santa / Grupo de Oracion - *Church*

Saturday, October 5, 2024
 12:00 pm Public Square Rosary - *Rectory Grotto / Church*
 3:30 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - *RMR*

Sunday, October 6, 2024
 9:00 am CDA Open House / Reception - *Carolan Hall*
 10:00 am KoC Corporate Mass - *Church*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 28, 2024
 5:00 pm †Joaquin Bazan and Candelaria Villicana by Isela Cisneros
In Thanksgiving to St. Jude by Martha Arredondo

Sunday, September 29, 2024
 8:00 am †Theodore Willingham by Margie Murray
All Priests, Deacons, and Religious
 10:00 am †Willard & Margaret O'Connor by Evancho Family
STM Parishioners - Both Living and Deceased
 12:00 pm †Cecila Elizabeth Torres Montenegro by Gilberto Torres & Family
 †Kathryn Marie Sweet by Maria T. Sweet

Monday, September 30, 2024
 8:00 am *In Thanksgiving for Vicente Kahan* by Kim Nguyen

Tuesday, October 1, 2024
 8:00 am †Charles Jimenez, Sr by Norberto & Jeannette Pansza

Wednesday, October 2, 2024
 8:00 am *In Thanksgiving for Theresa Hoi* by Kim Nguyen

Thursday, October 3, 2024
 8:00 am †Al Weinheimer by Carolyn Weinheimer
All Ordained Clergy and Religious

Friday, October 4, 2024
 8:00 am †Baldemar Saldiva by Rosa Saldiva

Saturday, October 5, 2024
 8:00 am †Theresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen
STM Parishioners - Both Living and Deceased
 5:00 pm †Christina C. Dominguez by Dominguez Family

Sunday, October 6, 2024
 8:00 am †Homer Jimenez by Norberto & Jeannette Pansza
 †Gilda Waters by Acosta Family
 10:00 am †Steven Lee Waldron by Mom
 †Medardo E. Morales & Evangelina G. Morales by Morales / Briseno Families
 12:00 pm †Baldemar Gutierrez & Floretina Gutierrez by Isela Gutierrez



 **Sanctuary Light Intention:**
Health - Deacon Rolando Guerra

Lecturas de la Semana del 30 Sept - 6 Oct

Lunes: Job 1:6-22; Sal 16:1-3,6-7; Lc 9:46-50
Martes: Job 3:1-3,11-17,20-23; Sal 87:2-8;
 Lc 9:51-56
Miércoles: Job 9:1-12,14-16; Sal 87:10-15;
 Mt 18:1-5,10
Jueves: Job 19:21-27; Sal 26:7-9,13-14; Lc 10:1-12
Viernes: Job 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5;
 Sal 138:1-3,7-10,13-14; Lc 10:13-16
Sábado: Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-16;
 Sal 118:66,71,75,91,125,130; Lc 10:17-24
Domingo: Gn 2:18-24; Sal 127:1-6; Heb 2:9-11;
 Mc 10, 2-16

Readings for the week of Sept 30 - Oct 6

Monday: Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1-3,6-7; Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday: Jb 3:1-3,11-17,20-23; Ps 88:2-8;
 Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12,14-16; Ps 88:10-15;
 Mt 18:1-5,10
Thursday: Jb 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-9,13-14; Lk 10:1-12
Friday: Jb 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5;
 Ps 139:1-3,7-10,13-14; Lk 10:13-16
Saturday: Jb 42:1-3,5-6,12-17;
 Ps 119:66,71,75,91,125,130; Lk 10:17-24
Sunday: Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128:1-6; Heb 2:9-11;
 Mk 10:2-16


Fall Bazaar & Craft Show
Saturday, October 12, 2024

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, October 5, 2024
 5:00 pm **Altar Servers** - Volunteers
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, S.Chapa, C.Lang,
 E.Guerrero, T.Guerrero
Lector - T.Garza

Sunday, October 6, 2024
 8 am **Altar Servers** - Mem.Planchon, Max.Planchon
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, M.Nguyen, R.Saldiva,
 E.Garcia, R.Davila
Lector - O.Weich

10 am **Altar Servers** - M.Lawson, A.McCaffery, L.McCaffery
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, M.Aguirre, D.Bernal,
 N.Rodriguez, V.Smith, N.Lawson
Lector - S.Trimm

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ST. THOMAS MORE

Knights of Columbus Council # 7388 meets 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

For more information call Rick Briseno at 210-834-7017

Catholic Daughters of America #2683

Monthly Meeting:

3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m

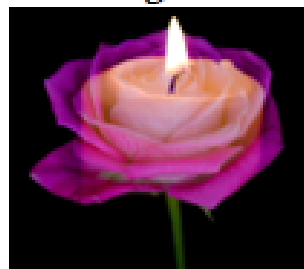
Contact Regent

Belinda Treviño at 210-275-6529

In Memory of
The Leo Oswald &
The Fred Lansing
Families



In 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
The Family

St. Thomas More Guadalupanos Society
Invite all men & women to our group.
Our Monthly Meeting & Fellowship Meets
The 3rd Sunday of the month, after the
8:00 a.m. Mass. For more information call
WV Torres at 210.620.2745

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

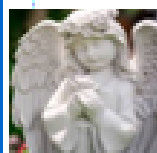


Archdiocese of San Antonio
Procedures for Reporting Abuse
If you or someone you know has been a
victim of sexual abuse by a priest,
deacon, or other church personnel and
you wish to file a complaint:

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.

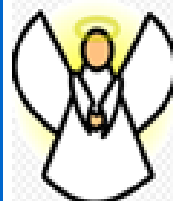


IN LOVING MEMORY
OF REX A. BRIEN
&
MR. & MRS.
HILDO CASTELLON

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



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

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PROJECT RACHEL

Peace Starts Here



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

Space Available Now!
Call 210-655-5070