

# St. Margaret of Cortona Parish



<p><b>St. Thomas Church</b> 110 HWY 67 Rankin, TX 79778</p>	<p><b>St. Margaret of Cortona Church</b> 107 E 1<sup>st</sup> St, Big Lake, TX 76932 Ph.: 325-884-3221; Fax: 325-307-0491 Email: biglake@sanangelodiocese.org Facebook: Saint Margaret of Cortona Web site smcbiglake.org/donate</p>	<p><b>St. Francis of Assisi Church</b> 201 W. 5th Iraan, TX 79744</p>
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## Mission Statement

<p>We, the people of God, are called by the Sacrament of Baptism, to proclaim the Good News, to minister to others and to be united as a family.</p> <p>We are committed to proclaim the Good news of Jesus Christ to all, that we attain the Kingdom of God.</p>	<p>Nosotros, la gente de Dios, somos llamados con el Sacramento del Bautismo, proclamar la Buena Nueva, servir a otros y ser unidos como una familia.</p> <p>Somos sometidos a proclamar la palabra a todos de Cristo Jesus para que todos podamos obtener el Reino de Dios.</p>
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**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**  
Fr. Balachandra Nagipogu  
**432-212-2729**

**Secretary**  
Rose Mary Peña

**Business Manager**  
Julie Flores

**Adult Ministry**  
Mari Garces

**CRE / Youth Ministry**  
Sarah Rodriguez  
Christy Row

**OCIA Coordinator**  
Julie Flores  
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**CRE for Iraan**  
Debbie Ramirez  
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**CCD Rankin**  
Elizabeth Mendez  
Paige Skehan

**Parish Office Hours**  
**Tuesday thru Thursday**  
**9:00 am. to 12:00 pm.**  
**Office 325-884-3221**

**St. Margaret, Big Lake**

**Saturday: Confession 5 p.m.**

Vigil Mass 6:00 PM (English)

Sunday: 12:30 PM (Spanish)

**Tuesday at 6:30 During**

**St. Thomas Rankin**

Sunday 10:30 AM

**Confessions before mass**

**St. Francis Iraan**

Sunday 9:00 AM

**Confessions Before mass**

**Community Outreach**

**Care Center Ministry in Big Lake 2nd Thursday of the month 10:15**

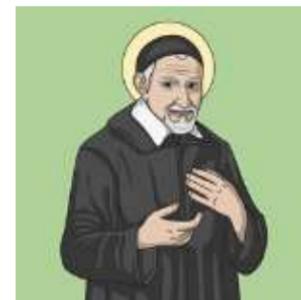
## MINISTRY CONTACTS

**BIG LAKE**

Council Chair  
Finance Council Chair  
Altar Servers:  
Baptismal Prep:  
Homebound Communion:  
Adult Ministry  
Lectors:  
CCD Coordinator  
Business Office  
Ushers:  
  
Choir Ministry:  
Hall Contact

**Iraan Rankin**

Jose Rodriguez 325-213-5165  
Amanda Esquivel 325-450-4575  
Noel Quiñones 432-553-6023  
Rose Mary Pena: 325-450-3495  
Please contact Fr. Bala  
Mari Garces 432-301-5982  
Brenda Schneeman 325-650-9161  
Sarah Rodriguez 325-226-4743  
Julie Flores 325-812-6264  
Marcos Sosa 915-490-6763  
Edgar Sosa 432-661-5076  
Raquel Garcia: 432-301-0435  
Aurelia Hernandez 325-277-4046  
Debbie Ramirez: 432-202-0391  
Gloria Sifuentes 432-208-5222



St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store

**304 3rd Street**  
**Big Lake, Texas**

**St. Vincent is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday**

**“Christianity is not about ideas, but about deeds inspired by love.”**

—Blessed Frederic Ozanam (1813–1853)

lay founder of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, servant of the poor.

**NO ES SUFICIENTE**

**No es suficiente que yo ame a Dios,  
si mi prójimo no ama a Dios.—San Vicente de Paúl**

**NOT ENOUGH**  
**It is not enough for me to love God,  
if my neighbor does not love God.—St. Vincent de Paul**

**The 3rd Sunday of Lent Year C** helps us reflect on God’s call, repentance, and growth. The readings from Exodus, Corinthians, and Luke guide us to understand our faith journey better.

- **God’s Call to Moses:** In Exodus, God calls Moses from the burning bush. This shows that God reaches out to guide and lead His people.
  - **God’s Promise of Freedom:** God promises to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. This reminds us that God is always working to free us from our own sins and struggles.
  - **Warnings Against Idolatry:** In Corinthians, Paul warns against idol worship and turning away from God. This teaches us to stay faithful and avoid things that take us away from God.
  - **Importance of Repentance:** Jesus in Luke speaks about the need to repent. He warns that without repentance, we will perish, showing the importance of turning back to God.
  - **God’s Patience:** The parable of the fig tree in Luke highlights God’s patience. He gives us time to change and grow in faith, but we must respond.
  - **Fruitfulness in Faith:** The fig tree parable also teaches about bearing fruit. We are called to live fruitful lives, showing our faith through actions.
  - **God’s Presence in Hard Times:** The readings remind us that God is with us in difficult times. Like He was with the Israelites, He supports and guides us through our challenges.
  - **Community and Accountability:** Paul speaks to the Corinthians about learning from their ancestors’ mistakes. This shows the importance of community and holding each other accountable in our faith.
- Reflecting on these themes during the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year C helps deepen our understanding of God’s presence and our need for repentance. The readings guide us to live more faithfully and trust in God’s promises

**Have you considered belonging to our parish community? Please register.**

**Please register in your parish and receive your offering envelopes for 2024**

**TREASURE STEWARDSHIP**

**We will be having a Fish Fry**

**ON FRIDAY, March 28th.**

**We invite you to donate of your time, talent and treasure.**

**Time:** to help with preparation or delivery  
**Talent:** to handle posting signs, managing phone calls, etc.

**Treasure:** give to help with the cost of food supplies



**St. Francis, Iraan News**

Covered Dish Luncheon will be held after mass on Sunday, March 30 at the community center.

**Kickball Tournament on April 12th.**

Please help with donations for the concession stand donations for snacks and help during the tournament. Contact Debbie 432-202-0391.

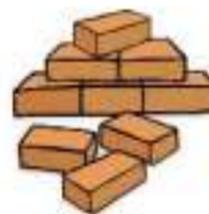
**St. Thomas, Rankin News**

Prayers for Justin Steele and his family as he prepares to receive the Sacraments of initiation at Easter Vigil. Also, for the First Communion and Confirmation candidates and their sponsors.

Safe Environment class for parents will be scheduled soon.

If you are interested in ordering a brick for your family, a loved on or in memory of someone who has passed, please come by the office.

**THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF ROOM** by the Grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Bricks are \$50 for a 4"x 8" and 8" X 8" Brick for \$75 can be engraved with up to 21 characters. Call or come by the office. 5 more orders needed



**ORDER SOON!!!**

**Office Business Hours:**

Tuesday - Thursday: 9 am - 12 pm

**Mass Schedule**

**Weekend Schedule**

Saturday: 6:00 pm - English  
Sunday: 9:00 am – Bilingual Iraan  
10:30 am - English Rankin  
12:30 pm - Bilingual Big Lake

**Weekday Schedule**

Monday: no mass  
Tues: 6:00 pm  
Wed-Fri: 8:30 am

**Holy Days to be announced.**

**Eucharistic Adoration**

First Friday: after 8:30 am mass

**Sacramental Life**

**Reconciliation**

Saturday - 5:00 to 5:45 pm (Big Lake)  
15 minutes before weekday Mass or by appointment

**Baptism**

**Contact the parish office one month prior to scheduling.**

**Marriage**

Contact the Pastor at least six months prior to the intended date of marriage.

**For Funeral Needs:**

In the event of a death in the family, please contact Fr. Bala 432-212-2729 or the parish 325-884-3221

**Sick and Homebound**

**(Anointing of the Sick)**

Contact the parish office to receive a visit from Fr. Bala.

**Quinceañeros Celebrations**

Please contact the office 6 months before the celebration/  
must be attending CCD 2 years prior and attending mass regularly.

**Altar Server Practice**

**Announced by Coordinators**

**TREASURE STEWARDSHIP**

**March 16, 2025 St. Margaret**

**Budget to Actual**

Mar.16, 2025 \$ 2,141.00 Envelope Receipts \$ 883.00  
Weekly Goal \$2,187.50 Loose Plate \$ 498.00  
Keep Praying \$ -46.00 Total \$ 1,381.00

**Online Report \$ 760.00**

WEEKLY RECEIPTS TOTAL \$2,141.00

**Building Fund \$144**

**Thank you for your donation**

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**On line giving may be done by using smcbiglake.org/donate**

**May God bless you for you generosity. Financial reports available in the office.**

**St. Francis of Assisi**

**Budget to Actual**

Mar. 16, 2025 \$ 410.00 Envelope receipts \$343.00  
Weekly goal \$ 375.00 Loose Plate \$ 67.00  
Alleluia!!! \$ +35.00 TOTAL \$ 410.00

**Building Fund \$**

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

**Budget to Actual**

Mar. 16, 2024 \$ 441.00 Envelope Receipts \$ 394.00  
Weekly goal \$ 323.00 Loose Plate \$ 47.00  
Alleluia!!! \$ +118.00 Total \$ 441.00

**Building Fund \$5**

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**Prayer for the sick and those in need of prayer in our surrounding communities**

Danny Samaniego, Sylvia Castillo, Nicole Reyes, Stacy Ann Gonzales, Eloisa y Josafat Ramirez, Brigida Gonzalez Cortez, Jayslyn, Jaydynn, Jason Reyes, Tommie Martinez, Joe Lopez, Blanca Guajardo, Helen Martinez, Jade Faustina Castillo Hernandez, Perla, Jennifer, Mauro & Esperanza Castillo, Jose J. Castillo Hernandez, Alonzo Armendarez, Manuel Amendarez, Garcia Family, Karla Dominguez, Eleazar Dominguez, Eloisa Ramirez Moreno, Diana Palacio, Melissa Lopez, Jazmin Lopez, Horacio Sebastian E, Emmalyn Grace Guevara, Yvette Gonzales, David Borrego, Benito Magaña, Henry Rodriguez, Frankie Martinez, David Castillo, Robert Galvan, Eddie Subia, Adelina Martinez, Jennifer Molina, Randall Montañez, Domingo Sedeño, Pablo Levario, Lettie Leija, Basil Ramirez, David Castillo, Reynaldo Mendoza, Mary Zapata, Alivar Sanchez, Jacob Talamantes, Tony Schillo, Christy Curry, Zachary Gonzales, Kit Rodriguez.

**Please pray for those in need.**



**Saturday, March 22,**

5:00 p.m. Confession  
6:00 p.m. +Lori Jenkins

**Sunday, March 23, Third Sunday of Lent C**

9:00 a.m. (Iraan) Parish of St. Francis  
10:30 a.m. (Rankin) Parish of St. Thomas  
12:30 p.m. +Juanita Camarillo

**Mon. March 24,**

No mass

**Tues. March 25, Annunciation of the Lord**

6:00 p.m. +Lalo Soto

**Wed., March 26,**

8:30 a.m. Birthday blessing T.J. Peña

**Thur., March 27,**

8:30 a.m. For +Jane Gay

**Fri, March 28,**

6:00 p.m. Stations

6:30 p.m. Birthday Blessing Maria F. Rodriguez

**Saturday. March 29,**

5:00 p.m. Confessions

6:00 p.m. + Walter Saner

**Sunday, March 30, Fourth Sunday of Lent**

9:00a.m. (Iraan) For St. Francis Parishioners  
10:30 a.m. (Rankin) For St. Thomas Parishioners  
12:30 p.m. +Juanita Camarillo

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**POPE'S INTENTIONS For families in crisis**

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

**Ministries for March 29,**

**Altar servers: Tinley, Jax, Joseph**

**Greeter: Rose Mary Peña**

**Lector: Tara Graves**

**Choir: Rose Mary Peña**

**Ministries for March 30,**

**Altar servers: Daisey, Nicole, Jocelyn**

**Greeter: Blanca Lopez**

**Lector: Zaira Martinez**

**Choir: Gabriella Torres**

**If you are not able to serve please ask someone to fill in for you.**

**Welcome Guests and Visitors:** We're so glad that you're here and invite you to join us in thanksgiving for God's ation in our lives. Our goal is to provide a spiritual home where all are welcome, where the healing, reconciling, liberating love of God flows through us to all people. In this way, we believe that the Church is the sacrament of God's saving presence in the world.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Grotto on the South East corner of the church is still being completed. Many plans are in the works to make that corner a beautiful place to sit and visit Our Lady.**

The more than 495-year-old Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is more than simply a picture. It contains symbols - in a sense, hieroglyphics, or a story in pictures - that reveals part of the message of the Blessed Mother brought through St. Juan Diego to the Natives of Mexico and to all the people of the Americas. But the symbols had a special meaning to the Natives, who because of their culture could decipher the code in the Image.

**The Eyes**

The eyes of the Image are looking down, a position of humility, revealing that, as great as she is, she is not a god. Native gods never looked down; they looked straight ahead.

**The Face**

The woman's face shows great compassion. The Natives felt that the face was the window of the inner person, a means by which one could read who a person was - the way a person would act. A good woman to the Natives was one whose femininity showed in her face. The head of the woman in the Image shows her with dark skin and dark hair like that of Natives.

**The Hands**

Her hands are not poised in the traditional Western style of prayer, but in an indigenous manner of listening, indicating that help is being offered, that something is to come from her.

**The Maternity Band**

The maternity band around the woman's waist is the sign of a pregnant woman, a mother who is about to give birth; it was a sign to the Natives that someone is yet to come.

**The Four-Petal Flower**

The four-petal flower on her womb is the symbol of a new era; of a new being. This being is Jesus.

**The stars**

The position of the stars in the mantle gives the exact time and day of the apparition marked by the constellations above Mexico City's sky on that moment.

**The Sun Rays**

The rays of the sun in the Image recalled for the Natives that the sun played a key role in their civilization. But the woman in the Image is greater than even the sun. She hides the sun but does not extinguish it.

**The Mantle**

The predominant color in the Image's mantle is turquoise, the blue-green color reserved for the great god Omecihuatl. Although the Natives had many "intermediary gods," Omecihuatl was considered the supreme god, a mother-father god who sometimes was represented as a man and sometimes as a woman. It was a source of unity for everything that exists.

**The moon**

The woman is standing on the moon, indicating that she has overcome evil, expressed by a black moon.

**The Angel**

The "angel" at the bottom of the Image was seen by the Natives as an "intermediary god" carrying in a new era, the beginning of a new civilization. One era was at an end - had died - and a new one was beginning, was being born.



**MAKING THE MOST OF LENT**  
Perhaps in no church season is the community as important as it is during Lent. In looking into ourselves and seeing our own brokenness, we need to be around people who are doing the same. Jesus himself recognized that he shouldn't be alone in his most difficult hour - and desperately asked his disciples not to leave him by falling asleep. This Lent, be part of your faith community's Lenten gatherings....Weekly Mass, Stations of the Cross, Reconciliation, Holy Thursday & Good Friday services, etc. Lent can be an opportunity to reconnect ourselves to our parish, and grow in our relationship with God by clearing our lives of some things that stand between God and us. How is your Lent going? .....It's not too late....join us!

**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks to the Lord always. For this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus**

**Reconciliation Service (Penance)  
Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

**On the first Fridays of Lent, we will have Adoration, April 4th  
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. continuing with mass at 6:30 p.m.**

**Schedule for Fridays during Lent**

**March 28-6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross  
6:30 p.m. Mass**

**April 4- 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross  
6:30 p.m. Mass**

**April 11- 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross  
6:30 p.m. Mass**

**April 2, 2025-Penance Service (Priests will attend)**

**April 13-Palm Sunday  
Palm Sunday will be regular schedule except for Iraan, St. Francis who will be at 8:30 to receive palms.**



**Holy Week**

**April 17-Holy Thursday-7:00 p.m.**

**April 18-Good Friday-Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m./  
Stations 3:00 p.m./ Veneration 7:00 p.m.**

**April 19-Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) 8:30 p.m.**

**April 20-Easter Sunday Regular Schedule**



**Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) April 2, 2025**

On the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year C, the Gospel reading emphasizes repentance. Consider going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a family or with your youth group to receive God's grace. Afterward, celebrate this special moment together by sharing a meal or enjoying an activity.

This practice helps us respond to Jesus' call for repentance and strengthens our bond with God and each other.

**Each man should give what he has decided in his heart, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

**Have you considered belonging to our parish community? Come by the office.**