

# St. Margaret of Cortona Parish



**St. Thomas Church**  
110 HWY 67  
Rankin, TX 79778

**St. Margaret of Cortona Church**  
107 E 1<sup>st</sup> St, Big Lake, TX 76932  
Ph.: 325-884-3221; Fax: 325-307-0491  
Email: [biglake@sanangelodiocese.org](mailto:biglake@sanangelodiocese.org)  
Facebook: Saint Margaret of Cortona  
Web site [smcbiglake.org/donate](http://smcbiglake.org/donate)

**St. Francis of Assisi Church**  
201 W. 5th  
Iraan, TX 79744

## Mission Statement

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.

We are committed to proclaim the Good news of Jesus Christ to all, that we attain the Kingdom of God.

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.

Somos sometidos a proclamar la palabra a todos de Cristo Jesus para que todos podamos obtener el Reino de Dios.

## 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 6:00 p.m.**  
Wednesday- Friday: 8:30 a.m.

**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 3rd 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  
St. Vincent

**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  
Sandra Huerta 325-226-4952  
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.

## Colored eggs, and Easter egg hunts

What’s the background for some of the popular traditions Catholics observe during the Easter season, including Easter egg hunts and the blessing of colored eggs?

The Catholic Encyclopedia explains the following: Because the use of eggs was [once] forbidden during Lent, they were brought to the table on Easter Day, colored red to symbolize the Easter joy. This custom is found not only in the Latin but also in the Oriental Churches. The symbolic meaning of a new creation of mankind by Jesus risen from the dead was probably an invention of later times. The custom may have its origin in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring, gravitated to Easter. The egg is the emblem of the germinating life of early spring. Easter eggs, the children are told, come from Rome with the bells which on Thursday go to Rome and return Saturday morning. The sponsors in some countries give Easter eggs to their god-children. Colored eggs are used by children at Easter in a sort of game which consists in testing the strength of the shells. Both colored and uncolored eggs are used in some parts of the United States for this game, known as “egg-picking”. Another practice is the “egg-rolling” by children on Easter Monday on the lawn of the White House in Washington.

## What is the significance of Easter in the Catholic faith, especially in 2025?

The annual celebration of Easter holds profound significance for Catholics as it commemorates Christ’s victory over sin, death, and the devil. It celebrates once again the paschal sacrifice of Calvary, which culminated in the everlasting glory in the heavenly sanctuary.

In addition, catechumens (converts under instruction) transition from death to new life in Christ through the sacrament of baptism, “the gateway to the Christian life,” while they and others are welcomed into full communion with the Church, partaking as one Christ’s body and blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist (1 Cor. 10:14–22; see John 6:51–58).

Easter in the Catholic faith offers renewed hope for Catholics and those receiving the sacrament of baptism, aligning with Easter’s theme of resurrection and spiritual rebirth. Converts are baptized and welcomed into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil mass.



*Happy Easter!!! ¡¡¡Felices Pascuas Floridas de Resurreccion!!!*

--- Here in this Holy place ---

Love of God and love of neighbor, are the core of Jesus' teachings. We show our love of God and love of neighbor at church by creating an environment of prayer and reverence for them to connect with God.

It is a good thing to arrive early and prepare for mass with prayer and reflection on the readings in your pew (if you have not done so at home).

Our noisy world has too few places of silence and reflection. We should be quiet in the Nave of the church (the main area). Conversations should take place in the Narthex of the church (the foyer).

Please turn off cell phones, pagers, watches that beep, etc. so as not to disturb the prayer of those around us.

Please do not bring noisy toys into the church. Little children like to tear paper. Please protect our missals and songbooks. If children get "fussy", please use the cry room.

Please do not bring food or gum into the church (it makes a mess for the people following you).

Please do not arrive late; it is a distraction to those around you. God is present to us when His Word is proclaimed. Arriving late is disrespectful to the Word of God.

Please dress appropriately for church.

In God's Kingdom we do not seek to please others, but to glorify God and serve the good of our neighbor. (Romans 15:2)

If we draw attention to ourselves, we draw attention away from Christ.

Ladies: please be covered from Neck to Knees, modestly.

Gentlemen: a nice shirt and nice pants, please.

(See; 1 Chronicles 16:29, 1 Timothy 2:9-10, Catholic Catechism #1387)

Please wait for the final blessing at the end of mass before leaving.

It is good to spend a few minutes in silent prayer before leaving the church.

Returning books carefully to their racks, picking up any litter, and lifting the kneeler out of the way is a thoughtful gesture. Please keep your shoes off the kneeler to preserve it.

Who may receive Communion in the Catholic Church?

A person must be a Catholic by Baptism or formal Profession of Faith.

A Catholic who is in the State of Grace (having no unconfessed serious sin).

A person must fast one hour before receiving communion (no food unless they have a health condition)

If you are not able to receive or do not wish to receive communion:

Remain seated in your pew for those few minutes.

You may approach the minister to receive a blessing (rather than communion).

Please cross your arms in front of your chest to signal the desire for a blessing.

*We invite you to participate in our liturgy by praying, singing and receiving the Body and Blood by expressing your love for Jesus.*

**TREASURE STEWARDSHIP**

**April 13, 2025**

**St. Margaret**

**Budget to Actual**

April 13, 2025 \$ 1,594.00 Envelope Receipts \$ 718.00

Weekly Goal \$ 2,187.50 Loose Plate \$ 241.00

Keep Praying \$ 638.50 Total \$ 959.00

**Online Report \$ 635.00**

WEEKLY RECEIPTS TOTAL \$1,594.00

**Building Fund \$**

**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**

April 13, 2025 \$ 450.00 Envelope receipts \$ 357.00

Weekly goal \$ 375.00 Loose Plate \$ 93.00

Alleluia!!! \$ +75.00 TOTAL \$ 450.00

**Building Fund \$**

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

**Budget to Actual**

April 13, 2025 \$519.00 Envelope Receipts \$ 441.00

Weekly goal \$ 323.00 Loose Plate \$ 78.00

Alleluia!!! \$196.00 Total \$ 519.00

**Building Fund \$**

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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, 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. Linda Gonzalez, Mage & Lupe Rodriguez, Jimmy Matthews.

**Please pray for those in need.**

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**Saturday, April 19, Holy Saturday**

8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

**Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday**

9:00 a.m. (Iraan) Parish of St. Francis

10:30 a.m. (Rankin) Parish of St. Thomas

12:30 p.m. (Big Lake) Parishioners

**Mon. April 21, Octave of Easter**

No mass

**Tues. April 22, Octave of Easter**

6:00 p.m. Para los que sufren de cancer del ceno

**Wed. April 23, Octave of Easter**

8:30 a.m. to Enliven St. Margaret Parishioners

**Thur. April 24, Octave of Easter**

8:30 a.m. Seminarians and vocations to

religious life

**Fri, April 25, Octave of Easter**

8:30 a.m. For First Communion Candidates

**Saturday, April 26, Octave of Easter**

5:00 p.m. Confessions

6:00 p.m. + Lalo Soto

**Sunday, April 27, Divine Mercy Sunday**

9:00a.m. (Iraan) For St. Francis Parishioners

10:30 a.m. (Rankin) For St. Thomas Parishioners

12:30 p.m. +Juan Ramirez

*Happy Easter!!! iii Felices Pascuas*

*Floridas de Resurreccion!!!*

**POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR APRIL**

**For the use of the new technologies**

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

**Ministries for**

**Saturday, April 26**

Altar servers: Isaiah, Daniella, Jax, Joseph

Greeter: Virginia Martinez

Lector: Brenda Schneeman

Choir: Cassandra DeLaRosa

**Sunday, April 27**

Altar servers: Jocelyn, Ava, Aubrey, Jason

Greeter: Blanca Lopez

Lector: Zayra Martinez

Choir: Raquel Garcia

**Welcome Guests and Visitors:** We're so glad that you're here and invite you to join us in thanksgiving for God's action 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.

### ***Aqui en este Lugar Sagrado - - -***

El Amor a Dios y el Amor al Projimo son el nucleo de las enseñanzas de Jesus. (Mateo 22:37-40) Nosotros mostramos nuestro Amor a Dios y nuestro Amor al Projimo en la iglesia, al crear un ambiente de oracion y reverencia para que ellos se conecten con Dios.

Es una buena costumbre el llegar temprano y tambien el prepararse para la misa mediante la oracion y reflexion de las lecturas de la misa del dia que se encuentran en su banca (si es que no lo ha hecho en casa).

Debemos mantenernos en silencio en el Nave de la iglesia (el area principal). Cualesquier conversaciones deberan realizarse en el Natex de la iglesia (el salon de entrada).

Nuestro Ruidoso mundo tiene muy pocos lugares de silencio y reflexion. Por favor apague sus telefonos celulares, pagers, relojes con sonidos, etc., para no perturbar la oracion de aquellos que se encuentran a nuestro alrededor.

Favor de no traer juguetes ruidosos a la iglesia. A los niños pequeños les gusta romper papel. Entonces proteja nuestros libros de himnos y misales. Si sus niños se "inquietan" favor de llevarlos al salon de niños.

Por favor, no introduzca ni comida ni chicle a la iglesia (esto solo colabora a ensuciar la iglesia para los demas).

Por favor no llegue tarde; esta es una distraccion para aquellos que lo rodean. Dios se nos hace presente cuando se proclama Su Palabra. Llegar tarde es irrespetuoso a la Palabra de Dios.

Por favor vistase apropiadamente para la iglesia.

En el Reino de Dios no buscamos nuestro propio agrado, sino el glorificar a Dios y el agradecer al projimo para su bien (Romanos 15:2).

Si llamamos la atencion hacia nuestra persona, quitamos la atencion a Cristo.

Damas: Por favor cubranse de cuello a rodillas, modestamente.

Caballeros: una Linda camisa y lindos pantalones, por favor.

( vea: 1 Cron. 16:29, 1 Tim. 2:9-10, Rom. 12:2, El Catecismo Catolico #1387)

Por favor espere la bendicion final al terminar la misa antes de salir.

Es bueno pasar uno cuantos minutos en oracion silenciosa antes de salir de la iglesia.

El regresar los libros cuidadosamente a sus estantes, el recoger cualquier basura, y el levantar los reclinatorios para dejar paso libre es un gesto de consideracion hacia otras personas. Favor de no poner sus zapatos sobre los reclinatorios para asi preservarlos.

¿Quienes pueden recibir la comunión en la Iglesia Católica?

La persona debe ser bautizado o por Profesion de Fe formal.

El Catolico debe estar en Estado de Gracia y no tener pecados serios que no hayan sido confesados.

Se debe ayunar por una hora antes de comulgar (no comer, fuera de que sea una condicion medica).

Si usted no puede o no desea recibir la comunión, usted puede;

Permanecer sentado en su banca en oracion por estos cuantos momentos.

Aproximarse al ministro para recibir una bendicion (en lugar de la comunión). Por favor cruce sus brazos sobre su pecho para indicar que desea una bendicion.

### **The Symbolism of Easter: Celebrating the Season of Renewal**

The arrival of spring, the blooming of flowers, and the celebration of life all harmonize with the spirit of Easter, one of the most important holidays in Christianity, which commemorates the miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ, bringing with it a sense of renewal, hope, and profound joy.

The celebration of Easter is accompanied by many significant symbols. Elements from nature, shapes that recall historical events, and creative characters are all part of what makes Easter both incredibly meaningful and fun for everyone.

In this article, we explore the meanings behind various religious symbols, food traditions, and elements from nature associated with this sacred day.

#### **What Do We Celebrate?**

Easter marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ after His brutal crucifixion, a pivotal event in the Christian faith that symbolizes victory over sin and death. Easter Sunday is observed with great devotion and festivity, highlighting themes of rebirth, renewal, and eternal life.

Over the weekend, Churches hold special services, including sunrise services that symbolize the empty tomb discovered at dawn. These services are often followed by communal meals and various activities to celebrate the joyous occasion.

The holiday presents a wonderful opportunity to come together with loved ones and reflect on a new season leading with sacred intentions of forgiveness and redemption.

#### **Religious Symbols**



**The cross** stands as the most recognized and revered symbol of Christianity, representing the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It serves as a potent reminder of His sacrifice for humanity's sins and the promise of eternal life through his resurrection. Many Christians wear jewelry featuring crosses or display a cross in their homes year-round as a sign of their faith and as a constant reminder of Jesus' love and sacrifice.



**The dove** is a symbol of peace and purity. It signifies the presence of the Holy Spirit and His role in guiding and comforting believers. In Christian art, the dove is often depicted descending from heaven, representing divine inspiration and the promise of God's presence. The dove also symbolizes the hope and peace that come with the resurrection.



**The crown** of thorns, placed on Jesus' head by soldiers mocking Him as the "King of the Jews," symbolizes the suffering and humiliation He endured. It reminds believers of the pain and sacrifice that preceded the triumph of the resurrection.



**The Paschal Candle** is a large, white candle lit during the Easter Vigil that represents Jesus as the "Light of the World," dispelling the darkness of sin and death. Made of pure beeswax, the body of the candle symbolizes the pure and sinless Christ while the wick signifies His humanity, and the flame, His divinity. The candle is lit each day throughout the Easter season, serving as a continual reminder of His light and divine guidance.

#### **Food Symbols**

**Easter eggs** are a universal symbol of new life. The tradition of decorating eggs dates back to early Christians of Mesopotamia, who stained eggs red in memory of the blood Christ shed during His crucifixion. The egg, with its hard shell and the potential for life within, also mirrors the tomb from which Jesus emerged alive. Today, Easter egg hunts and egg decorating have developed into creative and fun activities enjoyed by everyone.

**The Easter Bunny**, a beloved character for children, represents fertility and new life. Originating from pagan traditions, the bunny has become an emblem of springtime and the joyful spirit of the holiday. In many cultures, the Easter Bunny is said to deliver eggs and treats to children, much like Santa Claus does at Christmas. This whimsical character adds excitement and anticipation to Easter celebrations, for the little ones.

