



Sylvia G. Castaneda

December 14, 1939 - March 5, 2025

Sylvia G. Castaneda, age 85, of San Antonio was called home to be with our Lord on March 5, 2025, on the Holy day of Ash Wednesday. Sylvia was visited by a priest who administered the anointing of the sick and prayers on that day, followed by a visit from a Eucharistic Minister who came every Thursday to offer communion, she came a day early due to being Ash Wednesday. Sylvia received communion and ashes with her daughter Monica at her side. Sylvia was a faithful servant of the Lord and she had a rosary in her hand and Dr. Tristan Castaneda's shirt, her late husband, on her shoulder – this is how she slept every night reciting prayers and imploring God to watch over her children, family, friends, St. Vincent de Paul recipients, and the homeless. This nightly ritual was a testament to the love she freely gave to all who crossed her path, reflected her trust in God, and a life lived in service to others. Sylvia is survived by her two children, her son, Tristan Antonio Castaneda, Jr (Dana Noll) and her daughter Monica Renee Castaneda (Raul Estrada). Sylvia was the daughter of Maria del Refugio Garcia Palacios and Genero Garcia, Jr of Laredo Texas. She had three siblings, Corina (deceased), Irma, and Luis Alfonso. She graduated from Texas Women's University with a degree in Elementary Education. She married her childhood sweetheart immediately after College, Dr. Tristan A. Castaneda (deceased). Sylvia became a schoolteacher and taught first grade and special education. She worked to support her family until her husband completed medical school. Sylvia became an artist and her artwork reflected the diversity of her interests.

Her art had a focus on nature, animals, and then she would mix it up with an occasional modern mixed media twist! She initiated the tradition of painting a Christmas card every year that she had printed to send to close family and friends.

Sylvia was a devout Catholic and gave her time, love and talent to volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul at St. Matthew's Catholic Church for almost 40 years. She was known to be compassionate and giving to anyone needing help. Sylvia enjoyed pulling weeds – not to be confused with gardening- as her mother liked to do. She was a loving mother to all – including the deer/goats that lost their mothers- she was taking them home, giving them a bottle, and nursing them into health! She lived simply and she gave freely her love, laughter, support, encouragement, and a listening ear. Sylvia actively sought opportunities to help others in a meaningful and kind manner. Sylvia was a beautiful light in the world and will be missed dearly by all that knew her! We take comfort that she is whole again, happy, painting, and reunited with her husband and family who preceded her, and sending blessings to us all!

SERVICES

Visitation will begin at 6:00 P.M. followed by a Vigil Service and Rosary at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday March 20, 2025 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, 3401 Cherry Ridge Drive. The Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, March 21, 2025 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 10703 Wurzbach Road followed by interment at Holy Cross Cemetery 17501 Nacogdoches Road. To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store. Charitable donations to St. Vincent de Paul and the Alzheimer's Association are welcomed.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery

17501 Nacogdoches Rd
San Antonio, TX 78266

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Rosary

MAR 20. 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Mass

MAR 21. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Matthew's Catholic Church
10703 Wurzbach Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78230

Tribute Wall

AM

“ My heartfelt condolences to Sylvia’s family. We were friends, classmates and neighbors in Laredo from L. J. Christen Jr. High, Martin High School and Texas Womans University. She was always a very caring person who I know will be remembered fondly by all close to her.

Amira E. Mejia - March 19, 2025 at 07:42 PM

SC

“ Stanley and Rose Mary Cernosek purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Sylvia G. Castaneda.



Stanley and Rose Mary Cernosek - March 19, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Sylvia G. Castaneda.



March 18, 2025 at 12:33 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Sylvia G. Castaneda.



March 16, 2025 at 04:25 PM