

# WITTE MUSEUM

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## Story of the First Christmas Comes Alive at the Witte Museum

SAN ANTONIO— *Los Pastores*, the story of the shepherds' journey to see the Baby Jesus, is filled with songs and dialogue telling of the cold, hunger and devilish temptations the shepherds must face on their way. Cheer on the Archangel Michael as she triumphs over the devils in a family-friendly short version of *Los Pastores* performed by the Guadalupe Players at the **Witte Museum at 1 p.m. on Sunday, December 2.**

The play is always performed in Spanish but the classic tale of good triumphing over evil is easily understood in any language. "The Shepherds' Play is the often-touching, often-humorous story of the shepherds' journey to see the Baby Jesus," said Michael Haynes, curator at the Witte. It has been performed in San Antonio by different groups since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Guadalupe Players from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Antonio have presented the play since the 1930s in churches, backyards and at Mission San Jose. Most of the players in the Guadalupe troupe have devoted 20 years or more to the re-telling of this folk tradition. Many follow in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents in taking the roles of devils and shepherds. "The performers all do this out of religious faith and a belief in the importance of continuing a cultural tradition," Haynes added.

. The Witte Museum sponsored these performances in 1924 and throughout the 1930s, and welcomed back this tradition in 1994 after an absence of almost 60 years.

Hands-on activities, hot chocolate and Christmas cookies accompany this hour-long performance. *Los Pastores* is free with museum admission. For more information call 210.357.1900 or visit

[www.wittemuseum.org](http://www.wittemuseum.org).

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