Fr. Hai’s Corner

Happy Valentine’s Day to you! And, Be my Valentine! And many other lovely phrases & words that we express on February 14. These sayings about love and service are at the heart of what St. Paul, in his letter to the Christians of Corinth, says: “whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God.” St. Paul takes Christ as his role model and he invites us to do the same.

From Church to daily living. Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. We have mass and Ash Service at 6:30 AM; 8:15 AM for school children; 11:30 AM; 5:30 PM; and 7:30 PM in Spanish. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Why we receive the ashes? Our foreheads are marked with ashes, a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessings of the church, to humble our hearts and remind us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told: “Remember, you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.” Let us do this Lenten exercise: in my mind, the war has to cease. In my own mind, the dominating has to stop. In my own actions, the controlling has to end. I can’t change the world, or people; I can only change and control ‘myself.’

God bless you and your loved ones. Fr. Hai

2014 Tax statements have been mailed. If you did not receive yours please call the church office.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wed., 12-1 a.m., 12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.
Friday, 11-12 midnight

Our chapel remains open 24 hours a day because of the commitment made by those who take a weekly Holy Hour. Please commit!!

On another note, if you are making New Year resolutions, consider making a weekly Holy Hour. The rewards are immeasurable! Call Suzie Hamilton for info, 713-557-3036 or 713-729-0221.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEACH ESL CLASSES
(REGULAR AND SUBSTITUTE)

Our parish provides ESL (English as a Second Language) classes to the community on Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 7 - 9 pm, beginning January 27, 2015.

If you can Volunteer at least one evening a week to this worthwhile endeavor, or be a Substitute, please contact Norman Palms at 713-726-0513 or normpalms@aol.com.

You do not need to speak Spanish! A training session will be provided for new teachers at no cost.

Collection Information July 2014-June 2015

Yearly Budgeted Offertory $1,850,523.00

Weekend Collection (02/08/2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKLY</th>
<th>FISCAL YTD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Collection</td>
<td>28,748.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted Amount</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over (+)/Under(-)</td>
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Additional Collections:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children (Social Services)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Fund</td>
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</table>

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Parish Lenten Mission, given by Fr. Blaise Czaja, C.P. will begin on Sunday, March 1, 2015. Fr. Blaise will preach at all the Masses on Sunday and then the mission will be held on March 2, 3 & 4. There will be evening sessions beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the church and there will be daytime sessions, starting with Mass at 11:30 a.m.

FR. HAI HAS ASKED THAT ALL ORGANIZATIONS / MINISTRIES CANCEL ACTIVITIES DURING THE MISSION...THIS MEANS NO MEETINGS ON THE EVENINGS OF MARCH 2, 3, 4.

At the close of the mission (Wednesday, March 4) there will be a reception in Servant Hall with light refreshments. Everyone is invited to attend!

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

This process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Begins with informal question and answer sessions. Inquiry sessions are held on Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:30 p.m. For more information, just come on Wednesday evening, or talk to Deacon John Krugh on Sunday or call the church office, 713-729-0221.

Spread the Good News! St Thomas More Event Photo is free and open to all STM ministries. Ministry Heads may call Chris Moras at 713.305.4099 to schedule photography for their next parish event.

There will be a collection on Ash Wednesday for the Archdiocesan Social Ministries.

Next weekend, there will be a second collection for Black and Indian Missions.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!
Readings for the week of February 15, 2015

Sunday  Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 32;
1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45
Monday  Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday  The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday  Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2;
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday  Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1; Lk 9:22-25
Friday  Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday  Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church
Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday  First Sunday of Lent
Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

This week around STM….

Sunday, February 15
9:30 a.m.  RCIA, Adult Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m.  Sacrament of the Sick, Church
5:30 p.m.  Spanish Choir, AE-St. Mary
6:30 p.m.  Sr. High Youth, Youth Center

Monday, February 16
9:00 a.m.  Bible Study, Rectory
6:30 p.m.  Sp. Legion of Mary, Room F
7:00 p.m.  EPIC Study, Servant Hall
Taller y Oracion de la Vida, Prinster Hall
Sp. Evang. Team, AE-St. Peter
High School Girls Group, Youth Center
7:30 p.m.  Apostleship of the Cross (Sp.), AE-St. Paul

Tuesday, February 17
7:00 p.m.  ESL, School
Pastoral Council, Donovan’s Den

Wednesday, February 18-ASH WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m.  EPIC Study, Servant Hall
7:00 p.m.  OMOPH Prayer Group, Chapel
RICA (Sp. RCIA), Youth Prayer Room
7:30 p.m.  RCIA Inquiry, AE-St. Peter
Legion of Mary, AE-St. Paul
Sp. Choir, Church

Thursday, February 19
6:45 p.m.  Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary
7:00 p.m.  K of C Golf Committee, Room F
ESL, School
EPIC Study, Servant Hall
High School Guys Group, Youth Center
7:30 p.m.  Word of Truth Bible Study, AE-St. Peter
Apostleship of the Cross, AE-St. Paul
Combined Choir, Church

Friday, February 20
9:15 a.m.  Altar Society, Church
5:00 p.m.  K of C Fish Dinner, Prinster Hall
6:00 p.m.  Legion of Mary Jr. (Sp.), Room F
7:00 p.m.  Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary

Saturday, February 21
9:00 a.m.  Adult Confirmation Retreat, Servant Hall
3:30 p.m.  Confession, Church
6:15 p.m.  Confession, Church

Sunday, February 22
9:30 a.m.  RCIA, Adult Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m.  Sacrament of the Sick, Church
5:30 p.m.  Spanish Choir, AE-St. Mary
6:30 p.m.  Sr. High Youth, Youth Center

Tired of writing checks and keeping up with parish envelopes? Please check out our ONLINE GIVING at www.stmhouston.org If you don’t know your ID#, you will need to call the parish office first to get it.

HELPERS OF GOD’S PRECIOUS INFANTS

Respect Life Mass and Rosary
Join the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants in a Peaceful, prayerful Mass and Rosary on Saturday, February 21. Mass will be held at 8:30 a.m. at Christ the Good Shepherd, 18511 Klein Church Rd, Spring, TX 77379. A Rosary procession to Planned Parenthood, 4747 Louetta, will follow.
STM YOUTH GROUP
Youth Office: 713-729-2111 For more info: stmhoustong.org
High School Youth... Join us after the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sundays in the Youth Center.

STM Youth Ministry is GROWING! We are looking for vibrant and energetic volunteers who have a desire to help spread the teachings of the Church to our young people. Please contact Matthew Hughey if you are interested 713-729-2111.

This Sunday we will be talking about being young and reckless. We’ll be asking the question of why it’s so easy to fall into new fads and always be looking for the next big thing! Why are we not satisfied? Come find out how we become satisfied in our lives! Meet us in the youth room this Sunday from 6:30-8:30pm. See everyone then!

This week guys group will be about sacrifice. Join us for sports, food, and virtues! 7-9pm on Thursdays in the youth room.

Girls group will continue going through Crystalina Evert’s Pure Womanhood book. Come out to learn what God’s plan for you as a woman is and to enjoy delicious baked goods! 7-9pm on Mondays in the youth room.

The next Junior High youth night will be February 27.

STM girls group is still going strong! It is for high school aged girls and is located in the youth room. The schedule of girls group is changing so check the STM website for more details.

Girls Group is on Mondays from 7-9pm in the youth room.
Guys Group is on Thursdays from 7-9pm in the youth room.

Want the youth minister to come bring you and your friends pizza for lunch?! Call the youth office and we will set up lunch for you and your friends at school. 713-729-2111

On Saturday, February 7, members of our parish youth choir attended the Pueri Cantores (Young Singers) Choral Festival. It was held at Sacred Heart Co- Cathedral. Fourth through eighth grade students from all over Texas and Louisiana enjoyed a full day of learning and singing. The day ended with the choir of 200 students singing for the 5:00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart. The Mass was absolutely beautiful. I congratulate and thank our kids for participating and doing such a great job.

Mary Endres  Music Director

One of our own Boy Scouts, Nathan Lopez, will receive the Bishop Morkovsky award this Sunday, Feb. 15. The Bishop Morkovsky Award is an award for youth, presented to a Catholic Scout or Venturer who is at least 14 years old and has not yet reached his/her 21st birthday. The award is presented on the basis of the Scout’s contributions to the Catholic Scouting Program of this Archdiocese, particularly by participation and collaboration in DCCS events, as well as his/her having filled other offices or posts in the Scouting Program.

CONGRATULATIONS, NATHAN!

Silent Lenten Retreat for Women
Rev. Louis Arceneaux, CM
February 20 – 22, 2015
Cenacle Retreat House
For registration or more information contact Serena Flanagan 281-497-3131, ext.112
sflanagan@cenacleretreathouse.org
Overnight accommodations and 5 meals- $185
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:

TUITION UPDATE
Thank you to all the families who have paid their tuition for the 2014-2015 CCE year. However, as of this month we still have a fair amount of tuition that is still outstanding. We are dedicated to providing the best possible religious education program at St. Thomas More; however, this can only be done with your support. If at all possible, please pay your outstanding balance at your earliest convenience, payment plans are available. Thank you for your co-operation.

Adult Confirmation (18 years of age or older)
Beginning with a Retreat on Saturday February 21, 2015, from 9am to 4pm.
For registration please contact Ana Luisa Garcia: analuisa@stmhouston.org Office Phone: 713-729-3435

CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 2015
TIME: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Meet the STM Saintly Staff

For the past twenty-four years Connie and Herb Espinosa have been feeding the students of St. Thomas More Parish School. They provide the school meals for our staff and students. In December, they will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. They have eight children and eleven grandchildren. Their son, Armando, took over the family business four years ago. Additionally, their daughter, Iris, is a teacher at STM. Connie and Herb still enjoy coming in to see the kids and baking them cookies.

RAYS OF ENLIGHTENMENT
Divine Mercy Conference
Families Rebuilding
The Temple of the Lord
March 21st 9-5pm
SPEAKERS
Steve Pokorny- Fr. Roy Oggero
Don & Sherry Burns, Sally Flowers
Fr. Christopher Plant
GRACE FILLED DAY- Music/
Refreshments/Teachings/Power Point Presentations/3:00 Chaplet of Divine Mercy Adoration / 5pm Mass
Registration is required – No Charge
Call 281-469-5533 (Seating is limited)
Jack Alexander jalexander@ctrcc.com.

Flocknote is a way for the parish to communicate with you! If you don't have time to read the bulletin but want to know what's going on, sign up for this service. There are 2 easy ways to register for Flocknote (pick one):

Visit our network at
flocknote.com/stmhouston or

Text “Hillcroft” to 84576

It’s Golden! Gala and Auction
St. Thomas More School
Golden Opportunities for Everyone

J. J. Watt Autographed Football! Chance Drawing
$20 a Chance. You do not have to be present to “win”. One lucky winner will be drawn before dinner at the It’s Golden! Gala on February 28th. The Football may be picked up by the winner the night of the Gala or the next week in the STM school office. There is no limit to the amount of chances you may purchase, and anyone may participate! “Come on take a “sWatt”!” at Winning the Football Signed by the Defensive Player of the Year!

Adult Sign Up Parties
Pop a cork as a sommelier takes you on a Wine Tasting journey perfectly paired with heavy hors d’oeuvres on Saturday, April 11. Limited to 20 Adults; $100.00 per couple.

It’s a Crawfish Boil! Sign Up Party on Saturday, April 18. Limited to 50 Adults only; $45.00 per person.

Don’t miss your chance to participate now, please contact Kathy Prado in the STM School Office at 713-729-3434.

Loving Embrace Infertility Support Group
Meets 3rd Thursday, each month, 7:30-9pm, monthly meeting rotation: Couples Dinner, Ladies Dinner, and Couples Discussion. Loving Embrace is a Catholic educational support group for couples who have endured or are presently enduring the pain and suffering of infertility. The group provides support for coping with infertility and explores resources, methods, and options that are morally faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. For rotation information contact Shannon Lassen at 832-978-6716 or infertilitysupporthouston@gmail.com.

Please, pay attention to the "NO PARKING" zones around the campus. If you see a red curb it means no parking. It is a safety violation to park in these zones. It is very hard to maneuver in the parking lot with so many vehicles parked illegally during Sunday Mass times. Please be a good neighbor.
¡Feliz día de San Valentín! ¡Se mi Valentín! Y muchas otras adorables frases y palabras que expresamos el 14 de Febrero. Estas palabras sobre el amor y el servicio son el corazón de lo que San Pablo, en su carta a los Cristianos de Corintios, dice: “lo que comes, lo que bebes, hagas lo que hagas, hazlo por la gloria de Dios.” San Pablo toma a Cristo como su modelo a seguir y nos invita a hacer lo mismo.

**De la Iglesia a la Vida Diaria.** El miércoles de Ceniza es el miércoles 18 de Febrero, 2015. Tenemos Misa y Servicios de ceniza a las 6:30 AM; 8:15 AM para los niños de la escuela; 11:30 AM; 5:30 PM; y 7:30 PM en español. El miércoles de ceniza marca el comienzo de la cuaresma. Es una época de penitencia, reflexión y ayuno que nos prepara para la resurrección de Cristo en el Domingo de Pascua, a través del cual alcanzamos la redención.

**Porque recibimos las cenizas?** Nuestras frentes están marcadas con las cenizas, un símbolo de la penitencia hecha sacramental por las bendiciones de la Iglesia, para que nuestros corazones sean humildes y nos recuerden que la vida pasa en la tierra. Recordamos esto cuando nos dicen: “Recuerda que polvo eres y que en polvo te convertirás.”

Hagamos este ejercicio de cuaresma: en mi mente, la guerra que cesar, en mi propia mente, la dominación que parar. En mis propias acciones, el control que terminar. No puedo cambiar al mundo o a las personas; solo puedo cambiar y controlarme a “mi mismo”.

Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus seres queridos, el Padre Hai

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**Adoración Eucarística:**

Miércoles, 12-1 a.m., 12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.
Viernes, 5-6 a.m. & 11-12 a la medianoche

Nuestra capilla permanece abierta las 24 horas del día gracias al compromiso hecho por aquellas personas que toman una Hora Santa Semanal. Por favor haga un compromiso!!

En otra nota, si usted esta haciendo resoluciones del nuevo año, considere tomar una Hora Santa Semanal. Los beneficios son inmensurables! Llama a la oficina de la Iglesia para mas información 713-729-0221.

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**Educación Religiosa:**

**Actualización de Matrícula:** ¡Gracias a todas las familias que han pagado su cuota para el año de doctrina 2014-2015. Sin embargo, a partir de este mes todavía tenemos una buena cantidad de la matrícula que todavía está pendiente. Estamos dedicados a proveer el programa de educación religiosa lo mejor posible en Santo Tomas More, sin embargo, esto sólo se puede hacer con su apoyo. Si es posible, por favor pague el saldo pendiente lo antes posible, hay planes de pago disponibles. Gracias por su cooperación.

**Confirmación Para Adultos**

(mayores de 18 años)

Comenzando con un retiro el sábado, 21 de Febrero del 2015 de 9:00am a 4pm
Para inscribirse para la preparación llame a Ana Luisa al 713-729-3435 analuisa@stmhouston.org

**CONVALIDACIÓN DE MATRIMONIOS.** Las parejas que deseen convalidar su matrimonio, es decir que están casadas civilmente, o en unión libre, y quieren casarse por la Iglesia, por favor llamen a Ana Luisa al 713-729-3435. Las Clases darán comienzo el martes 17 de marzo a las 7:00pm en el Prinster Hall.

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**INICIO DE LAS CLASES MIERCOLES 4 DE MARZO DEL 2015**

HORARIO: 7:00PM a 9:00PM
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK / ORACIÓN POR LOS ENFERMOS


PRAY FOR ALL SERVING IN THE MILITARY, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN OUR PARISH FAMILY


Please patronize our advertisers. It is through their support that our bulletin is provided at no cost to the parish. Thank you!

Austin Bennett Tice is a home schooled, Eagle Scout, National Merit Finalist, graduate of Georgetown University, former Captain in the United States Marine Corps and recipient of the 2012 George Polk Award for War Reporting. He is the eldest of seven children, and was born and raised in Texas.

In May of 2012, the summer before his final year at Georgetown Law School, he chose to go to Syria as a Freelance Journalist to report on the conflict there. Two days after his 31st birthday, on August 13, 2012, his editors, family and friends lost contact with Austin, as he was preparing to travel from Daraya, near Damascus, to Beirut, Lebanon.

Please continue to pray for the safe return of Austin to his family.