Fr. Hai’s Corner

Last week, our mission presenter, Fr. Blaise Czaja, CP opened our mind to see that we are encouraged by the Holy Scripture to observe Lent through deepened prayer, more frequent fasting and a greater sharing of what we have. At the end of our Lenten life, God through his Son Jesus, has made us into a new creation. We share eternal life with Him. We see God face-to-face, at last.

From Church to daily living. ‘Laetare Sunday: Be joyful! This 4th Sunday of Lent has a joy-filled tone. We enter into the second part of Lent with a spirit of eagerness. Our celebration of the mercy and life given to us in Jesus is near. In this midpoint of Lent, whether we feel we are doing well or not doing well, let us remind ourselves that we can do all things in Christ who empowers us.

May the Lord bless us with the grace of His joyful presence as we go to share this great gift of His love with all we meet this week.

Fr. Hai

HELPERS OF GOD’S PRECIOUS INFANTS invites you to join them in a peaceful, prayerful Mass and a Rosary at an abortion facility. Saturday, March 21, 8:15 a.m. Mass at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 8825 Kempwood Dr., followed by a Rosary at Planned Parenthood, 13169 Northwest Fwy. (290), parking will be along the fence at Lyndon’s Pit Bar-B-Que, 5320 Hollister Rd. Vicky Whynott, 832-875-5126 or Viola Griselda Mendoza-Morales, 832-660-3924.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tues., 1-2 p.m.
Wed., 4-5 p.m.

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 with 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.

Participate in the 2015 Synod on the Family Survey

To help the Church prepare for the Ordinary Synod on the Family scheduled for this October, Pope Francis wishes to receive feedback from Catholics on the outcome of the Extraordinary Synod in 2014 (“The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization”).

With that goal in mind, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston invites Catholics to prayerfully consider the Relatio Synodi document derived from the 2014 Synod and participate in an online survey (www.archgh.org/survey). The responses will help inform Pope Francis and the Bishops of the Synod about the challenges faced by today’s families and enable them to discuss and develop appropriate pastoral solutions. The responses from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston will be shared with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and then incorporated into a document that will be forwarded on to the Vatican for use at the Synod.

The online survey (www.archgh.org/survey) is for Catholics in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Survey participants are welcome to answer all or only some of the questions that most interest them. The deadline for participating in the survey is March 20, 2015.

Tired of writing checks and keeping up with parish envelopes? Please check out our ONLINE GIVING at www.stmhouston.org

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

PHILADELPHIA, PA
SEPTEMBER 22-27, 2015

For more information: http://houstonwmf.weebly.com/

Collection Information July 2014-June 2015

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The Actual Collection for Fiscal YTD includes Holy Day Collection amounts.

Additional Collections:

- Children (Social Services) - $6.00
- Building Fund - $345.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Readings for the week of March 15, 2015

Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Monday
Is 65:17-21; Ps 30; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday
Saint Patrick, Bishop
Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday
Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Is 49:8-15; Ps 145; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday
Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Friday
Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday
Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

This week around STM:

Sunday, March 15
9:00 a.m. No CCE
9:30 a.m. RCIA, Adult Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m. Sacrament of the Sick, Church
11:00 a.m. No CCE
3:00 p.m. Marriage Encounter (Sp.), Prinster Hall
5:30 p.m. Spanish Choir, AE-St. Mary

Monday, March 16
9:00 a.m. Bible Study, Rectory
5:30 p.m. Sp. Legion of Mary, Room F
7:00 p.m. EPIC Study, Hall
Sp. Oracion de la Vida, Prinster Hall
Sp. Evang. Team, AE-St. Peter
7:30 p.m. Apostleship of the Cross (Sp.), AE-St. Paul

Tuesday, March 17
7:00 p.m. Convalidation Classes (Sp.), Prinster Hall
7:30 p.m. Pastoral Council, Donovan’s Den
Vocations Committee, AE-St. Peter

Wednesday, March 18
6:45 p.m. Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary
7:00 p.m. EPIC Study, Servant Hall
K of C Golf Mtg., Room F
Legion of Mary, AE-St. Paul
Apostleship of the Cross, AE-St. Paul
11:00 p.m. Precious Blood Group, Donovan’s Den

Thursday, March 19
6:45 p.m. Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary
7:00 p.m. EPIC Study, Servant Hall
K of C Golf Mtg., Room F
7:30 p.m. Word of Truth Bible Study, AE-St. Peter
Apostleship of the Cross, AE-St. Paul
11:00 p.m. Precious Blood Group, Donovan’s Den

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

Saturday, March 21
3:30 p.m. Confession, Church
6:15 p.m. Confession, Church

Sunday, March 22
9:00 a.m. No CCE
9:30 a.m. RCIA, Adult Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m. Sacrament of the Sick, Church
11:00 a.m. No CCE
12:15 p.m. Nigerian Catholic Women, Scout House
5:30 p.m. Spanish Choir, AE-St. Mary

If you need a low gluten host, please contact Deacon John Krugh: deaconjohn@stmhouston.org

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Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) in the church...6:00 p.m. English / 7:00 p.m. Spanish.

Eucharistic Adoration several hours need coverage. You can volunteer just for Lent or for the rest of your life! God will not be outdone in generosity.

There will be a Lenten Reconciliation Service here at STM on Tuesday, March 24 starting at 7:00 p.m. It will begin with a short penance service followed by individual confessions. Several priests will be on hand.

Check out our website for a daily Lenten meditation from Fr. Robert Barron.

If you need a low gluten host, please contact Deacon John Krugh: deaconjohn@stmhouston.org

STM Men’s Retreat is April 17-19, 2015 at the Holy Name Retreat Center on Bunker Hill Road. This is a great opportunity for Parish men of all ages to strengthen their faith in a serene retreat environment. Make plans today to join some 20 of your fellow parishioners. To learn more and to make your reservation, go to www.Passionist.org/HolyName or contact STM Coordinator Hiett Ives at 832-372-6900.
There continues to be a shortage of priests and sisters. To encourage young men and women to embrace a religious vocation is difficult due to a number of reasons, some valid, some not. We need your ideas and suggestions as to how we can best approach this important need. Please plan to join us Tuesday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Peter’s Room, Adult Education Building. St. Pat will be pleased if you attend.

The Parish Vocations Committee

The Cardinal’s Circle is a giving circle of people & parishes who understand the important role Inner City Catholic Schools play in forming and educating children from our Archdiocese. The mission of the circle is two-fold: to make it possible for any economically disadvantaged family to send their children to these schools and to ensure the schools maintain a standard of excellence. The Inner City Catholic Schools have been educating children since 1912 and today, more than 2,000 students are enrolled in the 13 schools in our Archdiocese.

Members of this circle invest in the lives of the students in the 13 Inner City Catholic Schools through an annual commitment of $5,000. Each gift is an investment in the future of these students and the Cardinal is most grateful for all support given. St. Thomas More Church and School have been members of The Cardinal’s Circle since its inception, 2010-2011 school year.

For more information please contact the Archdiocesan Development Office at 713.652.4417 or visit us online at www.choosecatholicschools.org.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

Eradicating Poverty Through Education

The John Paul II Technical Institute, Inc. Houston Chapter invites you to join us at our

Bella Notte International Dinner Fundraiser
At Saint Thomas More Church – Servant Hall Saturday, 18 April 2015 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Three Course Dinner and Hors D’oeuvre
Price: $45 per person

Music! Raffle! Bazaar! Door Prizes…and more!
The purpose and mission of the Institute is to give impoverished and destitute children and youth in Nicaragua the opportunity to build a future through education. We ask you to join our efforts to help these children on their journey to realizing their dreams, giving them an opportunity of an unbound future. Today they dream; tomorrow, with our generosity, they build a better future for themselves and their country!

Help us in this Labor of Love!
For tickets and information please call Brenda Maymi-Luna: 281-658-1634 bmaymiluna@cs.com

The John Paul II Technical Institute, Inc. is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

Drive-by Adoration!
Have you noticed that the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance in our adoration chapel is visible from the parking lot? Every time you drive through the STM parking lot, you can make a visit to Jesus- a brief moment of adoration without ever leaving your car! We are so blessed to have 24 hour adoration of Our Lord and possibly the only drive-by adoration chapel in the world.

Dignity Memorial & NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY invites you...to a free guided tour of the exhibit plus lunch “Celebrating the Lives and Deaths of the Popes”
Located at the National Museum of Funeral History, the permanent exhibit, “Celebrating the Lives and Deaths of the Popes” is a product of three years of intense collaboration between the Vatican and the National Museum of Funeral History. The exhibit includes a full-scale replica of Pope John Paul II’s crypt, an exact reproduction of the coffin used in the funerals of three previous Popes as well as replicas of other Papal vestments by the tailor shop that has made the vestments of the last seven Popes.
Please contact Deacon Ed Gosline to RSVP for the group tour (no charge)
Dates: Wednesday, March 25 or Saturday, March 28
Where: meet at the church parking lot and we will depart from there at 9:00 AM, return at 2:00 PM
RSVP: deaconed@stmhouston.org or 713-729-0221

Meet the STM Saintly Staff

Kathy Prado. Development Director. Kathy Prado started at STM 20 years ago. She is married to Nic and has two sons, both STM alumni. Adam (STM Class of 1995) is a math teacher in New York City, and Matthew (STM Class of 1997) is currently a student majoring in Engineering. Kathy loves to travel and see new places. Her hobbies include baking and experimenting with new cake flavors and sharing these cakes with the STM faculty and staff. Kathy says she loves working at STM because “One of the best parts of my job is coordinating Oktoberfest and Auction. I love seeing all the parish and school families come out for Oktoberfest. What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon! I am always amazed at the ways Rehkopf and Servant Hall are transformed into such magical venues for the auction. These two events bring everyone together to celebrate STM’s achievements and hopes for the future! This wonderful community is my favorite thing about working at STM.”
La semana pasada, nuestro presentador de la misión, el Padre Blaise Czaja, CP abrió nuestras mentes para que nosotros viéramos que somos alentados por las Sagradas Escrituras para observar la cuadraesa a través de profunda oración, ayunos más frecuentes y compartir mucho más lo que tenemos. Al final de nuestra vía cuaresmal, Dios a través de Su hijo Jesucristo, nos ha convertido en una nueva creación. Compartimos una vida eterna con él. Por fin, vemos a dios cara a cara.

**De la Iglesia a la vida Diaria.** \(\text{‘Domingo de Laetare:}\)

Se feliz!

Este cuarto domingo de Cuaresma tiene un tono lleno de alegría. Entramos en la segunda parte de la cuadraesa con un espíritu de entusiasmo. Nuestra celebración de la misericordia y la vida que nos han dado en Jesús esta cerca. En este punto medio de la cuadraesa, si sentimos que estamos haciendo bien o que no estamos haciendo bien, recordemos que podemos hacer todas las cosas en Cristo, quien nos capacita.

Que el Señor nos bendiga con la gracia de Su presencia alegre al compartir este día con el gran regalo de Su amor con todas las personas que veamos esta semana.

Fr. Hai

**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.

**BENDICIONES PARA LA PRESENTACION AL TEMPLO DE NIÑOS DE TRES AÑOS Y QUINCEAÑERAS**

Para que sus hijos reciban la bendición se necesita registrarse en la Oficina de Religión al 713-729-3435

**Educación Religiosa:**

Actualización de Matricula- ¡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.

**Adoración Eucarística:**

**Martes, 1 a 2 p.m.**

**Miércoles, 12 a 1 p.m. & 4 a 5 pm**

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!** Llame al 713-729-0221
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK / ORACION POR LOS ENFERMOS

John Amato, Pedro Apigo, Bobby Baker, Elisa Baker, Cristine Banks, Lontondra Banks, Lisa Bivins, Julia Brown, James Caffrey, Mary Jane Coke, Bernice Condon, Ellen Cooper, Heather Deeton, Alice Fahy, Bonifacio Figueroa, Frank Garcia, Gonzales Family, John Gorman, Barbara Graham, David Graham, Leticia Grieve, Ofelia Herrera, Ken Jarzombek, Maurice Korkmas, David Lafferty, Diane Lewis, Bob Little, Mary & Sabin Marshall, Margaret Martin, John R. Martin, Joyce Mercurio, Carol Montello, Mary Jane Morgan, Margaret Morris, Marcy Lowry Moses, Catherine Mourey, Emma Newhouse, Fr. Bill Oliver, Freddie Perez, Joanne Richards, Cherry Ronan, June Shumake, Al Suhor, Theresa Steen, Brian Steiner, Jan Tennert, Bertha Thenot, Beverly Thomas, Patricia Trejo, John Upton, Rich Vachris, Bertie Vargas, Alan Wedin, Clair Wise

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

SFC Paul Bergman, Col. David Eskelund, Megan Godsey, Traci Godsey, SPC Bryant Gradney, Sgt. Billy Janca, SSgt Bradley Louis, Mike McIntosh, Ebenezer E. Ohaegbulem, Charles U. Oparnozie, LCDR Russell Thiem, PFC Cristina Teresa Villegas

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.

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