Fr. Hai’s Corner

Today’s Gospel is about God’s time. Our Lord and Savior Jesus is the one who chooses the time and way He will reveal himself. The disciples were just there in the room; they didn’t have to do anything to prepare for Jesus’ coming among them. They were just thinking about him and their minds were filled with questions. Then Jesus is there, telling them: “Peace be with you.” “See my hands and feet; it is I. Touch me; I’m not a ghost.” “Have you anything to eat?” And he eats the piece of fish they gave him. We’re told the disciples were incredulous with joy.

From Church to daily living. We all want to experience Jesus in the ‘flesh’; that will change us forever – an experience like the one in today’s Gospel. We search the books of spiritual writers, trying to find that “best” way to make this happen. And we often find ourselves frustrated – and feeling very imperfect: “I must be doing something wrong.” Of course, Our Lord Jesus knows our desires – and our limitations. He may not want to overwhelm us at a particular moment. What our Lord Jesus wants from us is this: to be in prayer with an open heart. He will fill us with his Real Presence in the way He knows we need it.

May our longing for an experience of Jesus in prayer always be tempered with confidence and trust in His loving care for us.

It’s that time of year again...Scheduling Time!!!
All ministries and organizations that use parish facilities for their meetings need to make their requests for the upcoming year...either the new school year, 2015-2016 or for the calendar year 2016, depending on your meeting schedule. There is a new form that is available on the church website, the facility request form. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call the office for a copy. Remember, a request is simply that: a request. We will do our best to accommodate everyone. Questions? Ask for Suzie.

www.stmhouston.org 713-729-0221

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tues., 1-2 p.m.
Wed., 4-5 p.m.
Thursday, 12 noon-1 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!!

Call Suzie Hamilton for info, 713-557-3036 or 713-729-0221.

Attention those interested in becoming Altar Servers...
If you are in the 5th grade or older, have received First Communion, and are currently attending CCE, Catholic School, or are receiving your Religious instruction through the Home Study Program, you are invited to become an altar server at St. Thomas More. All current and interested youth must attend a training course / refresher course to be held at STM on April 27th and 28th at 7pm.

All materials that will be used, including tests, are on the church’s website: STMHouston.org - Under Ministries- Liturgical- Altar Servers.

http://www.stmhouston.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=152

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

STM Boy Scout Troop 99 invites all parishioners to a retirement for American flags and religious articles on Saturday April 25, immediately following 5 pm Mass, on the soccer field behind Prinster Hall.

We will accept all old or damaged American flags, and broken or damaged religious articles at that time, and have a brief ceremony to properly and respectfully retire these special items. The troop will also sell "tapas" plates (small portions) of grilled wild game for a modest fee following the ceremony. This is a great opportunity to join your fellow parishioners for a unique event!

Collection Information July 2014-June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yearly Budgeted Offertory</th>
<th>$1,850,523.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekend Collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(04/12/2015)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEKLY</strong></td>
<td><strong>FISCAL YTD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Collection</td>
<td>36,401.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted Amount</td>
<td>37,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over (+)/Under(-)</td>
<td>- $598.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Additional Collections:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children (Social Services)</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Fund</td>
<td>359.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your continued generosity!
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings for the week of April 19, 2015

Sunday
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4; 1 Jn 2:1-5a;
Lk 24:35-48

Monday
Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday
Saint Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Acts 7:51—8:1a; Ps 31; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday
Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday
Saint George, Martyr; Saint Adalbert,
Bishop and Martyr
Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66; Jn 6:44-51

Friday
Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr
Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday
Saint Mark, Evangelist
1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89; Mk 16:15-20

Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:8-12; 1 Ps 118; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19…

Monday, April 20
6:30 a.m.  E. Abaya, Thanksgiving
5:30 p.m.  †Muriel Escobar

Tuesday, April 21
6:30 a.m.  †Frederick Ofordu
5:30 p.m.  †George & †Hattie Mozisek

Wednesday, April 22
6:30 a.m.  †Harry Hasenpflug
5:30 p.m.  †Bob Lee

Thursday, April 23
6:30 a.m.  †John Curry
8:15 a.m.  Andy John Scholes
5:30 p.m.  †Bob Lee

Friday, April 24
6:30 a.m.  †John Zepeda
5:30 p.m.  †Pablo Pineda

Saturday, April 25
9:00 a.m.  †Jack Valenti
5:00 p.m.  †Catherine & †Hank Hajovsky

Sunday, April 26
7:30 a.m.  For the Parish
9:00 a.m.  R. Abaya Family, Thanksgiving
11:00 a.m.  †Richard Endres
1:00 p.m.  †Maria Herminia Bonilla
5:00 p.m.  †Michael Stone
7:00 p.m.  

This week around STM….

Sunday, April 19
9:00 a.m.  CCE Parents & Students, Prinster Hall & School
3:00 p.m.  Confessions, Church
9:30 a.m.  RCIA, Adult Ed Bldg.
10:00 a.m.  Sacrament of the Sick, Church
11:00 a.m.  CCE Parents & Students, Prinster Hall & School
2:30 p.m.  Spanish Baptisms, Church
6:00 p.m.  Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary

Monday, April 20
9:00 a.m.  Bible Study, Rectory
7:00 p.m.  Convalidation Classes, Prinster Hall

Tuesday, April 21
9:30 a.m.  Sr. Citizen Bingo, Scout House
6:00 p.m.  School 1st Communion Parents, Servant Hall

Wednesday, April 22
7:00 p.m.  OMOPH Prayer Group, Chapel
6:00 p.m.  Boy Scout Flag/Religious Article Retirement &
Game Dinner

Thursday, April 23
6:45 p.m.  Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary
7:00 p.m.  Word of Truth Bible Study, AE-St. Peter

Friday, April 24
9:15 a.m.  Altar Society, Church
5:00 p.m.  Legion of Mary Jr. (Sp.), Room F
6:00 p.m.  Legion of Mary Jr. (Sp.), Room F
7:00 p.m.  Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary

Saturday, April 25
9:00 a.m.  SVDP Training, Servant Hall
3:30 p.m.  Confessions, Church
6:00 p.m.  Boy Scout Flag/Religious Article Retirement &
Game Dinner

Sunday, April 26—APOSTLESHIP OF THE CROSS BAKE SALE
9:00 a.m.  CCE Parents & Students, Prinster Hall & School
9:30 a.m.  RCIA, Adult Ed Bldg.
10:00 a.m.  Sacrament of the Sick, Church
11:00 a.m.  CCE Parents & Students, Prinster Hall & School
2:30 p.m.  Spanish Baptisms, Church
3:00 p.m.  Marriage Encounter (Sp.), Prinster Hall
6:00 p.m.  Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary

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.
For each one of us there is only one thing necessary to fulfill our own destiny according to God’s will, to be what God wants us to be. Religious orders are not formed for the purpose of gathering together perfect people, but those who have the courage to aim at perfection. It is not what you are, nor what you have been that God looks at with merciful eyes, but what you would wish to be. Consecrated life is a gift to the Church and the world.

The Parish Vocations Committee

STreamliners (Adults over 50 only) - April 2015
$15 dues for the year—Adults over 50 only.

NEW TRIP - June 18-22, 2015 DALLAS/FORT WORTH
5 DAYS 4 NITES $513.00 PP DBL $647.00 SGL
INCLUDES: INSURANCE, 4 BREAKFAST, 4 DINNERS
Dealey Plaza, Old Courthouse, JFK Memorial, West end Historic District, Thanksgiving Square, Texas School Board Depository, Geo W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, South Fork Ranch, Water Gardens, Sundance Square, Billy Bob’s, Forth Worth Stockyards and see a cattle drive. NEED DEPOSIT BY APRIL

All trips leave from the back parking area near Prinster Hall. If you are parking your car please leave at least 5 spaces open around the dumpsters and recycling bins.

STreamliner trips are open to all STM families and friends! For info, call Ed’s Tours 713-723-2035.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?
This process is known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). It 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.

The USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat

The USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat

LIFE ISSUES FORUM For Immediate Release

Joy is the Fruit of Mercy

“Joy is the Fruit of Mercy”

“I felt I’d committed the unforgiveable sin.”

So many women with abortion in their past have said things like this. They often feel deep shame, regret, loss, or despair. They may have a hard time accepting that God loves them, and so stay away from the spiritual and psychological help offered by the Church and the healing balm of the sacraments.

Pope Francis has a message for these suffering mothers—and all others who have been involved in an abortion: Great joy can be found in Christ’s unfailing mercy and love for us sinners. He recently called for the celebration of a Jubilee Year of Mercy from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016. In the announcement, he said, “I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time.”

In his Easter Vigil homily, Pope Francis reflected on the challenge of finding joy despite the experience of sin. He described how the women who entered Jesus’ tomb that Easter morning entered into the mystery of Christ’s suffering, death, and Resurrection. They came face to face with the reality of death and of their own existence as sinners in need of God’s forgiveness. At the same time, they encountered His love, which is greater than the greatest of sins. The power of the Resurrection gives us the courage to face our sins, confess our mistakes, and then humbly receive God’s forgiveness and accept the joy that comes with new life in Christ.

Accepting God’s mercy brought happiness to “Sophia” in her healing journey from abortion. “As the mystery of God’s way unfolded, I recovered peace. That sense of peace has brought with it for me real joy and new hope for the future,” she said.

Pope Francis’ focus on mercy challenges us to not only accept Christ’s mercy ourselves like “Sophia” did, but also to be merciful to others. A beautiful way to answer his call is to be aware of and address the particular needs of those who suffer from abortion. Offer your attentive listening and non-judgmental attitude to someone you know who is suffering after abortion. Pray that you will see Christ in the mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, and others who have been affected by abortion, and tell them about God’s mercy with love and tenderness. Offer them hope for relief of their pain and suffering, and provide information on nearby help. Project Rachel, the diocesan-based post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church in the United States, offers confidential, non-judgmental help: see the “Find Help” map at www.hopeafterabortion.com (en español: www.esperanzaposaborto.com). These websites include prayers, abortion stories, research, and other helpful information.
Dr. Anthony Potoczniak joined the STM language arts faculty in 2013. He received his bachelor’s degree in music composition from Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music and later a master’s degree in ethnomusicology from the Myloka Lysenko Higher Music Institute in Lviv, Ukraine. A Fulbright recipient, Dr. Potoczniak was recently awarded his Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from Rice University. He and his wife, Michelle, have three beautiful children, two of whom currently attend St. Thomas More Parish School. His hobbies include brewing (and enjoying) craft beer, cooking, traveling, listening to beautiful music, and caring for the family pets—two (or three) dogs, a cat, and an aquarium full of fish. Dr. Potoczniak finds teaching especially rewarding: “I love working at St. Thomas More because it constantly reinforces my personal conviction of how precious and creative we all are in the eyes of the Lord.”

REGINA COELI

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia. For he, whom you did merit to bear, alleluia. Has risen as he said, alleluia. Pray for us to God, alleluia. V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia. R. For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Traditionally, this is prayed standing, often at noon, in place of another well-known prayer, the Angelus, during the Easter Season from Holy Saturday until Pentecost.

ANNUAL APOSTLESHIP OF THE CROSS BAKE SALE & MOTHER’S DAY GIFTS Saturday & Sunday April 25 & 26 After all Masses Beautiful gifts and delicious baked goods! Come see...

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.

Ministry to the Widowed...Holy Hour and Tea Time Meets Every 2nd Thursday of the Month Chapel at St. Dominic Center - 2403 Holcombe Blvd.

3:00—3:45 p.m. Adoration
3:45—4:15 p.m. Rosary / Benediction
4:15—5:15 p.m. Tea Time & Fellowship

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):

1. flocknote.com/stmhouston

or

2. Text “Hillcroft” to 84576

Are you a Catholic of Jewish origin? Are you interested in learning more about the Jewish origins of the Catholic faith? Then consider becoming part of Light to the Nations Havurah. “Havurah” is a Hebrew word for a small group of people meeting regularly for prayer, study, or fellowship. In addition to providing an orthodox spiritual community, Light To The Nations Havurah (LTTNH) seeks to provide spiritual and pastoral support to Jews who’ve come into the Catholic faith or are discerning entering the Catholic faith. LTTNH regularly meets every other Tuesday evening at 7 pm at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (6800 Buffalo Speedway, Houston, TX). For more information, contact the parish office at 713-667-9111 or email us at ltnations1.havurah@hebrewcatholic.org. Baruch Haba B’shem Adonai.

Would you like to deepen your prayer life and receive support on your journey to God? Lay Carmelites are called to be involved in the mission of the Church to sanctify the world through prayer. We are mothers, fathers, students, and single people going about our everyday life seeking to reach out to everyone in a loving way. Our role models are the Prophet Elijah for his zeal for the Lord and Mary, the Mother of Jesus, for teaching us the way of contemplative prayer. We are affiliated with the Carmelite Order. Our communities meet on a monthly basis to study, share and grow in our spiritual life. For information call/e-mail Therese Thomas -281-468-5631/ rmthomas_us@yahoo.com or Alicia Driscoll – 713-304-2117

Traditionally, this is prayed standing, often at noon, in place of another well-known prayer, the Angelus, during the Easter Season from Holy Saturday until Pentecost.
El Evangelio de hoy es sobre el tiempo e Dios. Nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesús es quien elige la forma y el tiempo en que El se revelara. Los discípulos estaban ahí en el cuarto, no tenían que hacer nada para preparar la venida de Jesús entre ellos. Estaban solamente pensando en El y sus mentes se llenaron con preguntas. Entonces Jesús está ahí, diciéndoles: “La Paz sea con ustedes.” “Vean mis manos y mis pies: soy yo, tóquenme, no soy un espíritu.” “Tienen algo para comer” Y el come el pedazo de pescado que le dieron. Nos dicen que los discípulos estaban increíbles con alegría.

De la Iglesia a la Vida Diaria. Todos queremos experimentar a Jesús en “cuerpo”; eso nos cambiaría para siempre – una experiencia como la del Evangelio de hoy. Buscamos los libros de escritores espirituales, tratando de encontrar esa “mejor” manera para que esto suceda. Y muy a menudo nos encontramos frustrados—y nos sentimos muy imperfectos: “debo estar haciendo algo mal.” Por supuesto que nuestro Señor Jesucristo sabe nuestros deseos—y nuestras limitaciones. El quizá no quiera abrumarnos en un momento particular. Lo que nuestro Señor Jesucristo quiere de nosotros es esto: Estar en oración con un corazón abierto. El nos llenara con su presencia Real de la manera que El sabe la necesitamos.

Nuestro anhelo por una experiencia de Jesús en la oración siempre será atenuada con confianza y fe en su amoroso cuidado por nosotros.

Padre Hai

Dr. Anthony Potoczniak se unió a la facultad de artes en lenguaje de STM en el 2013. Recibió su licenciatura en composición musical de la escuela de música de la Universidad de Rice y mas tarde una maestría en etnomusicología del Instituto de Alta Música Myloka Lysenko en Lviv, Ukraine. Aun receptor brillante, Dr. Potoczniak recibió recientemente su Ph.D. en antropología cultural de la Universidad de Rice. El y su esposa, Michelle, tienen tres hermosos hijos, dos de los cuales atienden actualmente la escuela de Santo Tomas More. Sus pasatiempos incluyen la elaboración (y disfrutarla) de la cerveza artesanal, cocinar, viajar, escuchar música hermosa, y cuidar de las mascotas de la familia—dos (o tres) perros, un gato y un acuario lleno de peces. Dr. Potoczniak encuentra la enseñanza especialmente gratificante: “Me gusta trabajar en San Tomas More porque constantemente refuerza mi convicción personal de cuan preciosos y creativos somos todos en los ojos del Señor.”

Es tiempo nuevamente ...para reservar salones!!!
Todos los ministerios y organizaciones que utilizan las facilidades de la Parroquia para hacer sus reuniones necesitan hacer una propuesta para el próximo año, ya sea el Nuevo año escolar, 2015-2016 o para el calendario del próximo año 2016, dependiendo de los horarios de sus reuniones. Hay una nueva forma que está disponible en la pagina de Internet de la Iglesia, el formulario para solicitar una instalación. Si usted no tiene acceso al internet, puede llamar a la oficina por una copia. Recuerde, una propuesta es simplemente una propuesta. Haremos lo mejor que podamos para ascomodar a todos. ¿Preguntas? Hable con Suzie.

www.stmhouston.org    713-729-0221

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

ENCUENTRO MATRIMONIAL
Te gustaría mejorar y enriquecer tu vida matrimonial? Te lo mereces! A todas las parejas les invitamos a vivir un fin de semana del Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial los días 1,2 y 3 de Mayo. Para mas información comunícate con: Jesús y Marisela Miron 713-261-0677 y 832-860-0712 Antonio y Raquel Morales 281-467-5378 y 713-826-7466
Visita nuestra pagina para mas detalles e inscripciones en línea www.emmseccion15.org

ADORACIÓN EUCARÍSTICA:
Martes 1 a 2 p.m.
Miércoles 4 a 5 pm
Jueves 12 del mediodía a 1:00pm
Nuestra capilla permanece abierta las 24 horas del día gracias al compromiso hecho por aquellas personas que toman una Hora Santa semanal. Suzie Hamilton, 713-729-0221.
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK / ORACION POR LOS ENFERMOS


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!