Mass and Confession Schedule

**WEEKDAY MASS**
**MISA ENTRE SEMANA**
**Monday – Friday**
6:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Saturday
8:00 a.m.

**CONFESION**
**CONFESSIONES**
**Tuesday ● Martes**
6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday ● Miércoles**
6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday ● Sábado**
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

There will be no Confessions on Wednesday, December 11th due to the Archdiocesan Priest Christmas gathering with the Cardinal.

**WEEKEND MASSES**
**MISAS DEL FIN DE SEMANA**
**SUNDAY ● DOMINGO**
7:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m. (español)
5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. (español)

**SABBATICAL MASS**
**MISSA SABBATICA**
Saturday • Sábado
5:00 p.m.

This year, since this feast day falls on the Second Sunday of Advent (Dec. 8th), the celebration of the solemnity has been transferred to Monday, December 9th. However, it is not a holy day of obligation.

Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness
by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo
1660-70, oil on canvas
The National Gallery, London

On the Cover:
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 9th - Mass Times
6:30 am & 5:30 pm

From the Pastor’s Desk
Mass Intentions
Upcoming Events
Stewardship & DSF
Faith Formation
Parish & School Staff
Parish Ministries
Required Meeting for EMHC
Christmas Giving Weekend
Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration
From the Pastor’s Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

December 1st was the First Sunday of Advent. Coincidentally, December 1st also marked my five-month anniversary here at St. Thomas More. It’s amazing to think how much has happened here since my arrival. I’ve gotten to know many of you...and it’s been quite a joy! We have had a lot of projects going on at the parish dealing with preventative maintenance and clean-up. For example, a lot of work has been done on our HVAC system (a priority in Texas!). We have received guidance on how to best preserve our building facilities. We have trimmed all the trees on the property and cleaned up the whole fenced in area by the Scout House. We have also updated the sound system in the church in order to help our experience at Mass. A lot has happened in the last several months, and some of it is easy to see. But there is a lot happening behind the scenes that’s hard to see. We are beginning to lay the foundation for implementing the vision of the parish.

St. Thomas More Catholic Church should be a place that facilitates a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and this encounter will transform lives. How will our community facilitate this experience? Fortunately, we don’t have to reinvent the wheel. The Acts of the Apostles reveals the life of the early Christian community and provides us with the blueprint of parish community life: “They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

1. The Teaching of the Apostles: Jesus taught the apostles and gave them the authority to continue teaching in his name (Mt 28:20). Faith Formation is an essential aspect of parish life and, working with parishioners, we are forming a plan for what we want our Faith Formation to look like. Essentially, we will focus on the opportunities to learn more about our Catholic faith, which is centered on Jesus Christ.

2. Communal Life: Faith is lived in community and, as our world becomes more and more secular, we need the support of each other to effectively live our faith today. Mutual support means we have to know each other. We will focus on the building up our communal life by offering the opportunities for fellowship.

3. The Breaking of the Bread: This is an unmistakable reference to the Eucharist. The Eucharist and the other sacraments "touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life: they give birth and increase, healing and mission to the Christian's life of faith" (CCC 1210). We will continue to focus on the liturgical life and strive to celebrate the Mass in accordance with the vision of the Catholic Church.

4. Prayers: St. John Damascene defines prayer as the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God. Prayer is indispensable for the Christian life. Our adoration chapel is one of our great strengths, and we will continue to look at ways to foster the prayer life of our parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark

Next Coffee & Donuts

January 5

Join us in the Servant Hall for donuts, coffee, and fellowship!

After the following Masses:

- 7:30 a.m.
- 9:00 a.m.
- 11:00 a.m.
- 1:00 p.m.

Saint of the Week

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day: December 9
**Mass Intentions**

**Sunday, December 8**
7:30am  *Jessica Joseph  
9:00am  *Missa Pro Populo  
11:00am † Eloise Singh  
1:00 pm * Ilonnie De La Cruz  
5:00pm † Ian Smith

**Monday, December 9**
6:30am † Edouard Agege  
5:30pm † Jimi Reggio

**Tuesday, December 10**
6:30am † Deceased members of Legion of Mary  
5:30pm † Mae Flynn

**Wednesday, December 11**
6:30am † Sandy Mac Phee  
5:30pm † Pat Flynn

**Thursday, December 12**
6:30am † Tom Ryan  
8:15 am † Leland Fontenot  
5:30pm † All deceased members of Knights of Columbus Council 3910

**Friday, December 13**
6:30am † Sandy Mac Phee  
8:00pm † Vincent Marifosque

**Saturday, December 14**
8:00am † Madge O’Connor  
5:00pm † Margaret Biondi  
† (Repose Soul)  
* (Special Intention)

One may request celebrant Mass intentions by visiting the parish office during regular business hours.

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**Weekly Readings**

*Scripture Readings for the Week of December 8, 2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Scripture References</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Second Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Is 11:1-10; Mt 3:1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception</td>
<td>Gn 3:9-15, 20; Lk 1:26-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Saint Damasus I, Pope</td>
<td>Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin/Martyr</td>
<td>Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Memorial of Saint John of the Cross</td>
<td>Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13</td>
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**Lecturas Semanales**

*Lecturas de las Escrituras por la Semana del 8 de Diciembre de 2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Scripture References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domingo</td>
<td>Segundo Domingo de Adviento</td>
<td>Is 11, 1-10; Mt 3, 1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunes</td>
<td>Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción</td>
<td>Gn 3, 9-15, 20; Lc 1, 26-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martes</td>
<td>Is 40, 1-11; Mt 18, 12-14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miércoles</td>
<td>San Dámaso I, Papa</td>
<td>Is 40, 25-31; Mt 11, 28-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jueves</td>
<td>Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe</td>
<td>Za 2, 14-17 o Ap 11, 19; 12, 1-6, 10; Jdt 13, 18bcde, 19; Lc 1, 26-38 o Lc 1, 39-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viernes</td>
<td>Memoria de Santa Lucia, Virgen y Mártir</td>
<td>Is 48, 17-19; Mt 11, 16-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sábado</td>
<td>Memoria de San Juan de la Cruz,</td>
<td>Sir 48, 1-4, 9-11; Mt 17, 10-13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Second Sunday of Advent

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.
Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 8**
- 9:00 am  CCE Classes-School Building
- 9:00 am  CCE Parents -Youth Prayer Room
- 9:30 am  RCIA(English)-Donovan’s Den
- 10:00 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
- 11:00 am  CCE Classes (Spanish)-Preschool & School Building
- 11:00 am  CCE Parents (Spanish)-Youth Center
- 12:30 pm  NOW meeting-Prinster Hall
- 1:30 pm  Comb Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
- 4:00 pm  Contemporary Choir Rehearsal-Church
- 6:00 pm  Spanish Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

**Monday, December 9**
- 7:30 pm  Danza Tonantzin Dance Practice-Rehkopf Gym

**Tuesday, December 10**
- 7:00 pm  English As A Second Language(ESL)-School Building
- 7:30 pm  Sounds of Faith Choir Practice-Choir Room

**Wednesday, December 11**
- 6:00 pm  Danza Tonantzin Dance Practice-Rehkopf Gym
- 7:00 pm  Confirmation 1 class-Youth Center
- 7:00 pm  Confirmation 2 class-School Building
- 7:00 pm  Our Lady of Perpetual Help Prayer Group-Adoration Chapel
- 7:00 pm  RCIA Class (Spanish)-Youth Center
- 7:00 pm  Spanish Choir Rehearsal-Church
- 7:30 pm  Knights of Columbus (KofC) Meeting-Prinster Hall
- 7:30 pm  Legion of Mary (Spanish) Meeting-Donovan’s Den
- 7:30 pm  RCIA Inquiry (English)- Donovan’s Den

**Thursday, December 12**
- 6:30 am  Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe-Church
- 8:00 am  Fellowship in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe-Servant Hall
- 9:45 am  Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting-Donovan’s Den
- 6:00 pm  Danza & apparition practice-Rehkopf Gym
- 6:30 pm  Gabriel Project Meeting-Donovan’s Den
- 7:00 pm  English As A Second Language(ESL)-School Building
- 7:30 pm  Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
- 8:00 pm  Mass in honor Our Lady of Guadalupe -Church
- 11:00 pm  Precious Blood Group Adoration-Adoration Chapel

**Friday, December 13**
- 10:30 am  Bible Study-Youth Prayer Room
- 5:00 pm  Legion of Mary (Spanish) Meeting-Donovan’s Den
- 7:30 pm  Danza Tonantzin Dance Practice-Rehkopf Gym

**Saturday, December 14**
- 11:00 am  Cookies & Wassail-Scout House
- 3:30 pm  Confessions / Confesiones-Church
- 4:00 pm  Sounds of Faith Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
- 5:00 pm  Vigil Mass -Church
- 6:00 pm  STreaMiliners Christmas Gathering-Servant Hall

**Sunday, December 15**
- 8:00 am  Gift Sunday-Servant Hall
- 9:00 am  CCE Classes-School Building
- 9:00 am  CCE Parents -Youth Prayer Room
- 9:30 am  RCIA(English)-Donovan’s Den
- 10:00 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
- 11:00 am  CCE Classes (Spanish)-Preschool & School Building
- 11:00 am  CCE Parents (Spanish)-Youth Center
- 12:00 pm  Cookies & Wassail-Scout House
- 1:30 pm  Comb Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
- 4:00 pm  Contemporary Choir Rehearsal-Church
- 6:00 pm  Spanish Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

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**Stewardship for December 1, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>$29,782.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Giving</td>
<td>$4,495.09</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total (12/1 - 12/7)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$34,277.75</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Upcoming Second Collections**

**Retirement Fund for Religious Orders**

**December 8, 2019**

**Bishop’s Fund for Latin America**

**January 26, 2020**

**Parish Goal:** $193,000.00

- **Total Amount Paid:** $98,237.56
- **Total Amount Pledged:** $111,324.15
- **Total Number of Participant:** 287
- **Total Number of Households:** 4412
- **Average Participant Pledge:** 387.89
- **Paid Over (Under) Goal:** ($94,762.44)
- **Pledged Over (Under) Goal:** ($81,675.85)
- **Percent Paid:** 50.90%

**Online Giving**

The parish website has instructions on how to register for convenient on-line giving. You will have full control of your contribution account and scheduling. Visit our homepage for details and registration.

[WWW.STMHOUSTON.ORG](http://WWW.STMHOUSTON.ORG)
CCE Classes
Contact: Deacon David Johnson
dacondave@stmhouston.org
(713) 729-3435

All classes are held in the School
English Session 9:00 am to 10:30 am and
Spanish Session 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Teen Confirmation
Contact: Mary Therese Hafernik
mhafernik@stmhouston.org
(713) 729-0221, Ext. 270

Confirmation I
Meets in the Upstairs Youth Media Center
Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Confirmation II
Meets in the School Building
Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Adult Confirmation
Meets in the RE Building - Upstairs Prayer Room
Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Young Disciples
Next one: December 8th
Young Disciples is a gathering of teens on the 2nd Sunday of the month to fellowship together and learn more about the richness of the Catholic faith.
Join Danielle Luna as you learn more about how life truly looks in the eyes of teenage Catholics.
We meet in the Religious Education Building, 2nd floor Youth Room after the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Bible Study
Sunday Bible Class for Parents and Parishioners are available on Sundays during the CCE sessions in the Upstairs RE Building Prayer Room.

R.C.I.A
Interested in joining the Catholic Church?
This process is known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). It begins with informal questions and answer sessions. Inquiry sessions are held on Sunday mornings, 9:30 am - 11:00 am in Donovan’s Den and Wednesday evenings, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, RCIA inquiry. For more information, contact Deacon John Krugh at John Krugh at deacon@krugh22.com
Bulletin Announcements

Bulletin announcements are due Monday, 5:00 pm for the following Sunday. Please contact John Chambers at jchambers@stmhouston.org to add a parish ministry, group, or event in the bulletin. All requests are subject to approval and space availability and will be formatted to fit the overall design of the bulletin. Thank you.
**Parish Ministries**

**Meals and Samaritan Ministry:** If you are looking for a way to help out the parish community, please consider joining the meals ministry and/or the Samaritan ministry! These two ministries allow you to practice the corporal acts of mercy with the community. We are looking for cooks for both ministries!

**Meals Ministry** provides meals to parishioners who are unable to cook for themselves due to a short term medical situation. We are looking for cooks who will commit to cooking ONE DAY A MONTH. We also need people who are interested in being a substitute cook for the meals ministry.

**Samaritan Ministry** provides a hot meal for grieving families and their guests following a funeral. The food is provided, set up, and served by the Samaritan ministry.

Please contact Monique Close (713) 628-3323 or at mogeoclose@yahoo.com with questions or to volunteer.

**Streamliners:** STreaMliners’ Christmas Dinner Party in Servant Hall on Saturday, December 14th, 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Members $10pp and Guests $20pp. If interested call Joyce Coles (713) 774-2628.

December Day Trip, December 4th, we are going to Moody Gardens to see the Ice Sculptures and Christmas Lights - $28pp. Lunch on your own at Shrimp n’ Stuff. Bus will leave at 3pm. Call Joyce Coles @ 713-774-2628 No casino trip in the month of December. The casino trip will be January 25th. Bus leaves at 7am. Call Frances Landry @ 713-723-2035.

**Respect Life Committee:** Please join Respect Life the second Sunday of every month from 9:00 - 9:40 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel. We will pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for the protection of life from conception to natural death, and for the protection of traditional marriage and religious liberty.

For more information please contact Marianne Kahlich at hekahlich@aol.com or (713) 728-4955

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul:** The Society at STM is committed to helping those less fortunate in our immediate area. Due to the generous donations of food and funds from the parish, the Society is able to operate a food pantry and to make home visits to those requesting financial assistance. If further needs are identified upon a home visit, appropriate referrals to resources at the parish or in the community will be made.

During the month of October 743 individuals were fed with 195 bags of groceries, and 14 families were provided with $2,634 in rent or utility assistance. Thank for your continued support and prayers for our friends who come to us for assistance.

Pantry Hours are Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-11:00 am & 1:00-3:00 pm, and the third Saturday of the month 10:00 am-1:00 pm. For more information on this outreach ministry call the office at (713) 980-3113.

“Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another . . .”

**Knights of Columbus Southwest Council #3910:** Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in Prinster Hall.

If you’re interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, growing in faith or obtaining exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. For more information, visit www.kofc.org or www.kc3910.org or contact Membership Director Reynolds Contreras at (713) 417-6180.

**Keys** for meetings and events need to be picked up at the parish office during office hours. Keys can be dropped off after your meeting through the key slot after hours or during business hours.
**Wassail / Cookie Weekend**

The annual long time tradition is back. Cookies and Wassail for all on Gift Giving Weekend! We are in need of bakers and hostesses for the weekend of **December 14th and 15th**. We will be serving cookies and wassail after all Masses this weekend. Cookies will be accepted from 11am to 2pm on Saturday, December 14th in the Scout House. Cookies do not have to be homemade. Store bought are perfectly fine.

Please label if your cookies are nut free. Along with needing volunteers to serve cookies at each Mass we need a couple of men to help move the thermoses. We look forward to spending time and enjoying sweet treats with fellow parishioners during this holiday season. Thank you.

For more information contact Kathy Warner at kemsw@hotmail.com or (713) 591-7982.

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**Required Meeting**

for all current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Thursday, December 5th at 7:30 p.m.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Option 2</td>
<td>Saturday, December 7th at 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Option 3</td>
<td>Saturday, December 14th at 9:30 a.m.</td>
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</table>

This meeting is required to fulfill archdiocesan requirements. Fr. Clark would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your dedication. **Please attend one of those dates & times listed above in the Church.**

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The year is winding down, but you still have time to make your contribution to the Diocesan Services Fund. Our parish goal this year is $193,000.

“The Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) is the annual appeal that provides funding for essential ministries and programs that serve the religious, spiritual and human needs of thousands of people from every parish. Catechetical programs, hospital and prison ministries, programs for the aging and youth and many more are made possible by the annual DSF. **The campaign ends December 31st.**” - The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Help us reach our goal! To make your contribution online visit [https://www.archgh.org/dsf](https://www.archgh.org/dsf) and click on the icon “Donate to DSF” icon. Make sure to select our parish (7676 - St. Thomas More-Houston)
Anointing of the Sick:
Please call the parish office to make an appointment with a priest.

Marriage Preparations:
Engaged couples, please contact the parish office at least 6 months to a year ahead of the wedding to begin the church reservation process and marriage preparation.

Funerals:
In the event of the death of a loved one, call the parish office at (713) 729-0221.

Visiting the Sick and Homebound:
If you are unable to come to church and would like to receive Holy Communion, or if you know of anyone who is home-bound and would like to receive communion, please call the parish office at (713) 729-0221.

Baptism Preparation and Classes (0 months - 6 years old):
Baptismal Class for parents interested in having their infant (or child) baptized is offered every third Saturday of the month. English classes meet at 9:00 a.m. in the RE Building Upstairs Media Room and Spanish classes meet at 10:00 a.m. in the RE Building Upstairs Prayer Room.

Attendance is required of both parents and godparents. St. Thomas More ONLY accepts active registered members of the parish, and living in zip codes 77096 and 77035. It is recommended that parents attend this prior to the arrival of their infant for the convenience of the family.

If godparents are married, they must be married by the Catholic Church and bring proof. Single godparents must have received all three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion) and bring proof.

STM School is a ministry of St. Thomas More Catholic Church that fosters academic excellence, rooted in the Catholic faith and Christian values.

Limited openings available – Preschool through 8th Grade
Call School Office for Private Tour at (713) 729-3434

For additional information, visit our website at
www.stthomasmore-school.org

Let’s Go Tigers!
Christmas Giving Weekend
SVDP Winter Food Drive
Saturday & Sunday – December 14th & 15th

As we approach the Christmas season we ask you to prayerfully consider adopting an Angel from our Christmas Giving Tree so we can bring joy to the families in our community during this season of Hope.

The Christmas giving tree will be set up in the Narthex from December 1st through December 8th. Please take as many gifts tags as you want, but be prepared to buy those gifts.

Our giving weekend is also a Food Drive. Please share your blessings in the form of food or cash donations for our SVdP Food Pantry in addition to your gifts.

The gifts collected will be distributed immediately. If you will be out of town, please drop off your gifts before Dec. 14th. Otherwise, your gift will not reach the intended person. You may drop off your gift early in the drop box located in the church Narthex and rectory. Please deliver gift cards and small gifts directly to the rectory office receptionist.

On gift giving weekend of Dec. 14th-15th, we bring our wrapped and labeled gifts to Mass with us and carry them forward during the offertory procession. It is important to securely attach the gift tag to the outside of the package.

Following the 5pm Mass on Sunday, Dec. 15th (around 6:15) all of the gifts are carried from the church to Servant Hall where they are sorted for the distribution. Moving the gifts to the hall is the easy part. Please consider staying a little longer to help sort the gifts. Remember, many hands make light work.

Recipients we bless with our gift collection:

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Clients – Gabriel Project Families – STM CCE Families – Blessed Sacrament Church – St. Philip Neri Church – St. Peter Claver Church – Casa de Esperanza – Casa Juan Diego – Catholic Charities – HISD Young Parents

Please be generous!

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

**December 17**
O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

**December 18**
O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

**December 19**
O Root of Jesse’s stem,
sign of God’s love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

**December 20**
O Key of David,
opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

**December 21**
O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**December 22**
O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

**December 23**
O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!
Queridos amigos en Cristo:

El 1 de diciembre fue el primer domingo de Adviento. Casualmente, el 1 de diciembre también marcó mi aniversario aquí en St. Thomas More cinco meses. Es sorprendente pensar cuánto ha sucedido aquí desde mi llegada. He conocido a muchos de ustedes ... ¡y ha sido una gran alegría! Hemos tenido muchos proyectos en la parroquia relacionados con el mantenimiento preventivo y la limpieza. Por ejemplo, se ha realizado mucho trabajo en nuestro sistema HVAC (¡una prioridad en Texas!). Hemos recibido orientación sobre cómo preservar mejor nuestras instalaciones. Hemos podado todos los árboles en la propiedad y limpiado toda el área cercada por la Casa de los Scout. También hemos actualizado el sistema de sonido en la iglesia para ayudarnos con nuestra experiencia en la misa. Han sucedido muchas cosas en los últimos meses, y algunas de ellas son fáciles de ver. Pero están sucediendo muchas cosas detrás de escena que son difíciles de ver. Estamos comenzando a sentir las bases para implementar la visión de la parroquia.

La Iglesia Católica St. Thomas More debería ser un lugar que facilite un encuentro personal con Jesucristo, y este encuentro transformará vidas. ¿Cómo facilitará nuestra comunidad esta experiencia? Afortunadamente, no tenemos que reinventar. Los Hechos de los Apóstoles revela la vida de la comunidad cristiana primitiva y nos proporciona el plan de vida de la comunidad parroquial: "Se dedicaron a la enseñanza de los apóstoles y a la vida comunitaria, a partir el pan y a las oraciones." (Hechos 2:42).

1. La enseñanza de los apóstoles: Jesús enseñó a los apóstoles y les dio la autoridad para continuar enseñando en su nombre (Mt 28:20). La Formación de Fe es un aspecto esencial de la vida parroquial y, trabajando con los feligreses, estamos formando un plan para cómo queremos que sea nuestra Formación de Fe. Esencialmente, nos enfocaremos en las oportunidades para aprender más sobre nuestra fe católica, que se centra en Jesucristo.

2. Vida comunitaria: la fe se vive en comunidad y, a medida que nuestro mundo se vuelve cada vez más secular, necesitamos el apoyo mutuo para vivir efectivamente nuestra fe hoy. El apoyo mutuo significa que tenemos que conocernos. Nos enfocaremos en la construcción de nuestra vida comunitaria al ofrecer oportunidades de compañerismo.

3. La Partida del Pan: Esta es una referencia inconfundible a la Eucaristía. La Eucaristía y los otros sacramentos "tocan todas las etapas y todos los momentos importantes de la vida cristiana: dan a luz y aumentan, sanan y misionan la vida de fe del cristiano" (CCC 1210). Continuaremos enfocándonos en la vida litúrgica y nos esforzaremos por celebrar la Misa de acuerdo con la visión de la Iglesia Católica.

4. Oraciones: San Juan Damasceno define la oración como la elevación de la mente y el corazón de uno a Dios o la solicitud de cosas buenas de Dios. La oración es indispensable para la vida cristiana. Nuestra capilla de adoración es una de nuestras grandes fortalezas, y continuaremos buscando maneras de fomentar la vida de oración de nuestra parroquia.

De ustedes en Cristo,

Fr. Clark
Estan invitados al gran homenaje a la Santísima Virgen de Guadalupe
You're invited to attend the celebration of Our Blessed Lady of Guadalupe

HORARIO DEL PROGRAMA:
• 5:00am -- Las mananitas a la Virgen de Guadalupe en la iglesia
• 6:00am -- El Santo Rosario (bilingüe)
• 6:30am -- La Santa Misa (en inglés), después de la misa Convivencia en Servant Hall

Continuación de los festejos:
• 6:15pm -- Apariciones de la Virgen de Guadalupe en el gimnasio antiguo
• 7:00pm -- Procesión hacia la Iglesia rezando el Santo Rosario, acompañados de la Danza Tonantzin
• 8:00pm -- Misa en honor a la Santísima Virgen de Guadalupe y después de la misa Convivencia en el gimnasio antiguo con Danza Tonantzin

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:
• 5:00am -- Mañanitas in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Church
• 6:00am -- The Holy Rosary (bilingual)
• 6:30am -- Mass (English), with fellowship afterwards in Servant Hall

Festivities Continue:
• 6:15pm -- Apparitions play in the old gym
• 7:00pm -- Procession to the Church while praying the Holy Rosary, with the Danza Tonantzin
• 8:00pm -- Mass in honor of our Lady of Guadalupe, with fellowship afterwards in the Old Gym with Danza Tonantzin
**Bautizo infantil:**

Niños/as de 0 meses a 6 años. La próxima clase de preparación Bautismal para Padres y Padrinos será el 21, de Diciembre 2019, de 10:00am a 1:00 pm, (registración inicia a las 9:30am) en el 2do. Piso del edificio de Educación Religiosa. **Necesitamos toda su atención durante la clase, no se permiten niños en la clase.**

**Requisitos:**

1. Los Papás: deben ser miembros activos y estar registrados en la parroquia de St. Thomas More, 6 meses antes de solicitar el Bautismo o vivir en el código postal 77096 y 77035.
2. Los Padrinos: deben ser suficientemente maduros y mayores de 16 años de edad, haber recibido los sacramentos de Bautismo, Confirmación y Eucaristía y ser miembros activos de la Iglesia Católica y canonicalmente libres de llevar a cabo sus tareas. Si son casados, deben de ser casados en la Iglesia.
3. Inscribirse en la Oficina parroquial para la Clase de Preparación Bautismal
4. Asistir a la Clase de preparación Bautismal el tercer sábado del mes, ambos Papás y Padrinos

**DESPUÉS DE LA CLASE DE PREPARACIÓN BAUTISMAL**

5. Entregar a la oficina la forma de registro de papas y acta de nacimiento del niño/a
6. Entregar a la oficina la forma de registro de padrinos y acta de matrimonio

**Para más información llamar al (713) 729-0221**

**Quinceañera:**

Acción de Gracias de Quince Años
Para Señoritas y Jóvenes
Si te gustaría recibir la bendición de Dios en este día tan especial para ti. Te invitamos a que vengas y reserves tu día de acción de Gracias

**Requisitos:**

- Los papás deben de ser miembros activos y estar registrados en la parroquia por lo menos 6 meses antes de solicitar la celebración o vivir en la zona postal 77035 0 77096.
- Haber recibido los sacramentos del Bautismo y Primera Comunión.
- Estar en el programa de educación religiosa el año anterior a la celebración y estar en el proceso de recibir la confirmación.

Asistir al día de formación de Quince Años, el Sábado 25 de Enero, 2020, de 7:30am a 3:30pm. Para mas información llamar a la oficina al 713-729-0221