

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON — HOUSTON



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH
10330 HILLCROFT ST. | HOUSTON, TX 77096 | (713) 729-0221
WWW.STMHOUSTON.ORG

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
GALVESTON-HOUSTON

The past several weeks have been a great trial for our world and for our communities as we cope with the hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the great suffering of the sick and dying, many have struggled with isolation, financial hardship, and other stresses. For the Catholic faithful, this hardship has been compounded by the inability to gather for the Eucharistic celebration as well as the difficulty in receiving the sacraments or at times even being able to come to the church to pray. On one hand, this closure of churches to the public has been necessary for the safeguarding of public health, and we must continue to be mindful of the advice of governmental authorities. At the same time, I have heard the continued pleas of so many of the faithful and priests for access to the spiritual strength and nourishment of the sacraments after enduring so many weeks of stay-at-home orders.

Therefore, I believe the time has arrived to look forward to how this local church can cautiously resume some of its essential activities. Following Governor Abbott's announcement on Monday of his plan to allow a phased reopening of the state beginning on Friday, May 1, I have asked all parishes to begin preparations to allow for the reopening of our churches in a controlled manner. Effective this weekend, I have asked that all parish churches be opened for at least several hours each day to allow access for private prayer. Furthermore, I ask that parishes resume provision for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis, while respecting and complying with social distancing and sanitary requirements.

Due to the demanding (yet prudent) requirements of the state, the resumption of the celebration of public Masses will be more challenging. Beginning this weekend, I will allow (but not require) parishes to resume the public celebration of Masses. In light of the Governor's guidelines for the reopening of other buildings and institutions, including the requirement that social distancing be maintained and that no more than 25% of occupancy be filled, I have requested that parishes not resume public celebration of the Mass until they have implemented policies and procedures consistent with my guidelines, which are a reflection of Governor Abbott's orders. I have suggested that each parish form a pandemic response team to assist in developing protocols to follow the guidelines. Since massive efforts for the provision of safe and sterile spaces must be undertaken, some parishes may need longer than others to be able to prudently meet this need. I ask that you be patient and cooperative with your priests and parishes as they work to provide for your spiritual needs while taking the necessary precautions to protect you and the common good. I would further ask that you be collaborative with them as they will likely need a lot of help from many volunteers to make all of this possible.

I also ask that you cooperate with your parishes in following an instruction which I have given for the whole Archdiocese. I am asking that during this time of gradual reopening, all people coming to churches, including clergy and staff, wear masks to cover their noses and mouths. This helps diminish widespread exposure if an infected person were to sneeze, cough, or in any manner spread airborne contamination, especially at a time when others are gathered.

In the meanwhile, I gently remind you that **the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended**. It is still recommended that people, especially those who are 65 and older or are vulnerable, should remain at home and participate by livestream. Even more urgently, if you have any reason to believe you might be sick or exposed to COVID-19, please remain at home as an act of charity to others! I have asked our parishes to maintain the livestreaming that they have adopted during the past several weeks. Furthermore, since it still will not be possible for all people to come to Mass on Sundays, I ask that the faithful be flexible in considering attendance on a different day of the week. We are still limited in our ability to fully congregate, but the most important consideration is the faithful have access to Eucharist and Confession.

Let us remain united in prayer for one another and especially for those on the front lines, who continue to work and put themselves in harm's way for the provision for the welfare of all of us. With Easter greetings, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

The Parish Office will be open during regular business hours with limited staff. Please call 713-729-0221 for more information. Confessions are being heard by appointment. Please contact our office or send an email to stmvicar@stmhouston.org

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You are already there.

And unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen



Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

¡Cristo ha Resucitado! ¡Aleluya!



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
GALVESTON-HOUSTON

Las últimas semanas han sido una gran prueba para nuestro mundo y para nuestras comunidades a medida que afrontamos las dificultades causadas por la pandemia del COVID-19. Además del gran sufrimiento de los enfermos y moribundos, muchos han luchado con el aislamiento, dificultades financieras y otros tipos de tensiones. Para los fieles Católicos, esta adversidad se ha visto agravada por la incapacidad de reunirse para la celebración Eucarística, así como por la dificultad de recibir los sacramentos o en ocasiones, simplemente por no poder ir a la iglesia a orar. Por una parte, el cierre de las iglesias al público ha sido necesario para salvaguardar la salud pública, y debemos continuar siendo conscientes de las indicaciones de las autoridades gubernamentales. Al mismo tiempo, he escuchado las suplicas constantes de tantos fieles y sacerdotes para tener acceso a la fortaleza espiritual y a ser alimentados por los sacramentos después de soportar tantas semanas de la orden de quedarse en casa.

Por lo tanto, creo que ha llegado el momento de ver cómo esta iglesia local puede cuidadosamente reanudar algunas de sus actividades esenciales. Tras el anuncio del Gobernador Abbott este lunes en su plan de permitir la reapertura del estado por fases comenzando el viernes 1º de mayo, les he pedido a todas las parroquias que comiencen los preparativos para permitir la reapertura de nuestras iglesias de manera controlada. A partir de este fin de semana, les he pedido a todas las iglesias que abran por lo menos varias horas cada día para permitir el acceso a la oración privada. Además, he pedido que las parroquias reanuden la provisión del Sacramento de Reconciliación de manera regular, siempre respetando y cumpliendo con el distanciamiento social y los requisitos sanitarios.

Debido a los requisitos exigentes (pero prudentes) del estado, la reanudación de la celebración de Misas públicas será más difícil. Comenzando este fin de semana, permitiré (pero no requeriré) que las parroquias reanuden la celebración pública de las Misas. Considerando las pautas del Gobernador para la reapertura de otros edificios e instituciones, incluyendo el requisito de mantener distanciamiento social y de no permitir más del 25% de la capacidad del lugar, he pedido que las parroquias no reanuden la celebración pública de las Misas hasta que hayan implementado políticas y procedimientos consistentes con mis normas, que son un reflejo de las órdenes del Gobernador Abbott. He sugerido que cada parroquia forme un equipo de respuesta para pandemias que ayude en el desarrollo de protocolos para cumplir las normas. Dado que se deben realizar esfuerzos masivos para la provisión de espacios seguros y esterilizados, algunas parroquias tal vez requieran más tiempo que otras para poder cumplir. Les pido que sean pacientes y que cooperen con sus sacerdotes y sus parroquias mientras trabajan para satisfacer sus necesidades espirituales, tomando las precauciones necesarias para protegerlos a ustedes y por el bien común. Además, les pido que colaboren con ellos, ya que probablemente necesitarán la ayuda de muchos voluntarios para que todo esto sea posible.

También quisiera pedir su cooperación en seguir las indicaciones que yo he dado para toda la Arquidiócesis. Les pido que, durante este tiempo de reapertura gradual, todas las personas asistiendo a las iglesias, incluyendo sacerdotes y personal, utilicen máscaras para cubrirse la nariz y la boca. Esto ayudará a disminuir el esparcimiento y contagio si una persona infectada llegase a estornudar o toser o a propagar de alguna manera la contaminación por aire, especialmente en un momento en que se encuentran otras personas reunidas.

Mientras tanto, les recuerdo que **la obligación de asistir a Misa todos los domingos y Días Festivos sigue suspendida**. Aun se recomienda que las personas especialmente mayores de 65 años y personas vulnerables permanezcan en sus hogares y participen en celebraciones transmitidas en vivo. Y a su vez más urgente, si usted tiene alguna razón para creer que puede estar enfermo o expuesto al COVID-19, ¡por favor permanezca en casa como un acto de caridad para los demás! Les he pedido a nuestras parroquias que mantengan las transmisiones en vivo que han estado haciendo durante las últimas semanas. Además, ya que aún no será posible que todas las personas asistan a Misa los domingos, les pido a los fieles que sean flexibles y consideren asistir otro día de la semana. Aún estamos limitados en nuestra capacidad de congregarnos plenamente, pero lo más importante a considerar es que los fieles tengan acceso a la Eucaristía y Confesión.

Mantengámonos unidos en oración unos por otros y especialmente por aquellos que continúan estando al frente, arriesgándose por el bienestar de todos nosotros. Con saludos de Pascua, quedo de ustedes

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Daniel Cardenal DiNardo
Arzobispo de Galveston-Houston

La Oficina Parroquial estará abierta durante el horario comercial habitual con personal limitado. Por favor llame al 713-729-0221 para más información. Las confesiones se escuchan con cita previa. Póngase en contacto con nuestra oficina o envíe un correo electrónico a stmnicar@stmhouston.org

Un Acto de Comunión Espiritual

Creo, Jesús mío, que estás real y verdaderamente en el cielo y en el Santísimo Sacramento del Altar.

Os amo sobre todas las cosas y deseo vivamente recibirte dentro de mi ama, pero no pudiendo hacerlo ahora sacramentalmente,

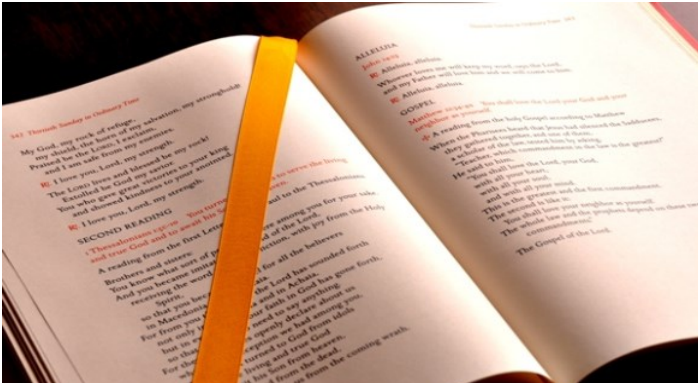
Venid al menos espiritualmente a me corazón.

Y como si ya os hubiese recibido, os abrazo y me uno del todo a Ti.

Señor, no permitas que jamás me aparte de Ti.

Amén





Mass Intentions

All scheduled weekday Mass intentions are being fulfilled. You will be notified if it is necessary to reschedule your requested intention for a Saturday or Sunday Mass.

On The Cover

Le Bon Pasteur / The Good Shepherd
 Attributed to Philippe de Champaigne
 (1602—1674)

Spiritual Tools While Being Unable to Attend Mass

- **Pray...**the Divine Office, the official prayer of the Church. (Resource: divineoffice.org)
- **Pray...**the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Resource: [How to Pray the Rosary](#))
- **Pray...**the Scriptures or *Lectio Divina* (Resource: what is and how to do, [Lectio Divina](#))
- **Pray...**The Divine Mercy Chaplet (Resource: [How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet](#))
- **Pray...**to make an Act of Spiritual Communion (Resource: [explanation and how to](#))
- **Pray...**as a family, the domestic church.
- **Pray...**in silent meditation, to seek the Lord in the caverns of our hearts, as we give praise and thanksgiving to him and listen to His words as guides us on our earthly pilgrimage of faith.

WEEKLY READINGS

Scripture Readings for the Week of May 3 2020

Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10
Monday	Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; Ps 43:3-4; Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday	Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday	Acts 12:24—13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8; Jn 12:44-50
Thursday	Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; Jn 13:16-20
Friday	Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday	Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

LECTURAS SEMANALES

Lecturas por la Semana del 3 de Mayo de 2020

Domingo	Cuarto Domingo de Pascua He 2, 14a. 36-41; Sal 22, 1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6; 1 Pe 2, 20b-25; Jn 10, 1-10
Lunes	He 11, 1-18; Sal 41, 2-3; Sal 42, 3. 4; Jn 10, 11-18
Martes	He 11, 19-26; Sal 86, 1-3. 4-5. 6-7; Jn 10, 22-30
Miércoles	He 12, 24—13, 5; Sal 66, 2-3. 5. 6 y 8; Jn 12, 44-50
Jueves	He 13, 13-25; Sal 88, 2-3. 21-22. 25 y 27; Jn 13, 16-20
Viernes	He 13, 26-33; Sal 2, 6-7. 8-9. 10-11; Jn 14, 1-6
Sábado	He 13, 44-52; Sal 97, 1-2ab. 2cd-3ab. 3cd-4; Jn 14, 7-14
Domingo	Quinto Domingo de Pascua He 6, 1-7; Sal 32, 1-2. 4-5. 18-19; 1 Pe 2, 4-9; Jn 14, 1-12

Upcoming Events

Café Catholica: Summer 2020

The Café Catholica summer series is open to all young adults (ages 18-39+) and features dynamic speakers, prayer, dinner, and socializing. Café Catholica is held on four Mondays in July starting on July 6. Each night will include confession at 5:15 p.m., Mass at 6:15 p.m., dinner at 7:15 p.m., and talk at 8:15 p.m. Come for all or part of the evening! No registration is needed to attend; donations are accepted. All sessions will be held at the University of St. Thomas*. Free parking will be available in the Moran Center Parking Garage (3807 Graustark St.). *Location may change to online format, depending on situation with COVID-19.

For more information, contact the Office for Young Adult and Campus Ministry at www.yacm@archgh.org or www.archgh.org/cafecatholica or or 713-741-8778. Flyer attached [here](#).

This year's theme is *Fully Alive*. Dates and speakers are listed below:

July 6, 2020: *Loving Fully: Complicated, Simple, Possible*
Matt and Stephanie Regitz, Survive and Thrive Ministry

July 13, 2020: *Full Life for All*

Jennifer Carr Allmon, Executive Director of Texas Catholic Conference

July 20, 2020: *Fully Alive in the Eucharist*

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

July 27, 2020: SPIRIT NIGHT: *Full of Joy: Missionary Discipleship*

Bob Rice, Professor from Franciscan University of Steubenville

STM Online

[STM Homepage](#)

[STM Facebook](#)

[STM YouTube Channel](#)

Stewardship for April 26, 2020

Collection	\$11,200.00
Online Giving	\$12,264.62
Total	\$23,464.62

Upcoming Special Collections

Catholic Communications
May 24, 2020



Parish Goal: \$193,000.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$61,142.50

Total Amount Paid: \$43,655.50

Total Number of Participant: 184

Total Number of Households: 4184

Average Participant Pledge: \$332.30

Paid Over (Under) Goal: (\$149,344.50)

Pledged Over (Under) Goal: (\$131,857.50)

Percent Paid: 22.62%

Online Giving

Please remember **STM** while away from the parish. Our church's 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 at STMHOUSTON.ORG for details and registration.