

SIXTH 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 Friends in Christ,

Two weekends ago we began to have Mass open to the public for the first time in over a month. I wouldn't say that it was the most normal of circumstances for several reasons. For starters, we are temporarily having Mass in the gym due to the new floor construction project in the church (which is coming along very well!). Crowds must be limited to 25% capacity and, judging by the numbers, people are still hesitant to interact in large groups. We also have to practice social distancing and wear masks during Mass. It might not be the most normal of circumstances, but it was great celebrating Mass with parishioners again!

Even with all these abnormal circumstances, celebrating Mass with people is always better than "Mass online." Why? The reason might be more theological than you think! While watching Mass online has helped many people stay connected to the parish during the current health crisis, technically, watching Mass is not the same as participating in Mass. Our faith is incarnational and fully embraces the dignity of what it means to be human (God became man!). By nature, humans are social beings, which means real human interaction is essential to who we are. God's grace works to perfect our human nature, and does so by working with and building upon our human nature. We receive God's grace in a unique way through the sacraments, which require our real presence. Think about the sacraments... you have to be there to receive them! There are no "virtual sacraments." Remember, the Eucharist is about the real presence, not the virtual presence.

As these abnormal circumstances continue, please remember that the obligation to attend Mass is suspended. If you are uncomfortable coming to Mass for any reason, please know that you do not have to come for the time being. Keep leaning on your faith. Keep praying. Keep reading the scriptures. On Tuesday afternoon, as I was celebrating Mass in the gym, a passage from scripture really stood out to me. During the Easter season, the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. This book gives us a glimpse on how the early Christian community lived during times of stress, and it shows us how the faith spread during times of complete uncertainty. Barnabas was a well-respected Christian disciple, and he brought a message to the early Christian Community in Antioch that might as well be said to all of us today. It's the message I would like to share with you during these times of stress and uncertainty: "When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart" (Acts 11:23). I encourage all of you to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark

The Parish Office is open during regular business hours and is fully staffed. Please call 713-729-0221 for more information. If you visit us in person, please wear a mask.

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 amigos en Cristo:

El fin de semana pasado comenzamos a tener misa abierta al público por primera vez en más de un mes. No diría que fue la más normal de las circunstancias por varias razones. Para empezar, estamos teniendo misa temporalmente en el gimnasio debido al proyecto de construcción del piso en la iglesia (¡que está yendo muy bien!). El total de personas debe limitarse al 25% de capacidad y, a juzgar por los números, las personas aún dudan en interactuar en grupos grandes. También tenemos que practicar el distanciamiento social y usar máscaras durante la misa. Puede que no sea la más normal de las circunstancias, ¡pero fue genial celebrar la misa con los feligreses nuevamente!

Incluso con todas estas circunstancias anormales, celebrar la misa con la gente siempre es mejor que la "misa en línea". ¿Por qué? ¡La razón podría ser más teológica de lo que piensan! Si bien ver la misa en línea ha ayudado a muchas personas a mantenerse conectadas con la parroquia durante la crisis de salud actual, técnicamente, ver la misa no es lo mismo que participar en la misa. Nuestra fe es encarnacional y abarca plenamente la dignidad de lo que significa ser humano (¡Dios se convirtió en hombre!) Por naturaleza, los humanos son seres sociales, lo que significa que la interacción humana real es esencial para quienes somos. La gracia de Dios trabaja para perfeccionar nuestra naturaleza humana, y lo hace trabajando y construyendo sobre nuestra naturaleza humana. Recibimos la gracia de Dios de una manera única a través de los sacramentos, que requieren nuestra presencia real. Piensa en los sacramentos ... ¡tienes que estar allí para recibirlos! No hay "sacramentos virtuales". Recuerde, la Eucaristía se trata de la presencia real, no de la presencia virtual.

A medida que estas circunstancias anormales continúen, recuerde que se suspende la obligación de asistir a misa. Si no se siente cómodo yendo a misa por algún motivo, sepa que no tiene que venir por el momento. Sigue apoyándote en tu fe. Sigue rezando. Sigue leyendo las Escrituras. El martes por la tarde, mientras celebraba misa en el gimnasio, un pasaje de las Escrituras realmente me llamó la atención. Durante la temporada de Pascua, la primera lectura se toma de los Hechos de los Apóstoles. Este libro nos da una idea de cómo vivía la comunidad cristiana primitiva en tiempos de estrés, y nos muestra cómo se extendió la fe en tiempos de completa incertidumbre. Barnabas era un discípulo cristiano muy respetado, y trajo un mensaje a la comunidad cristiana primitiva en Antioquía que bien podríamos decirnos hoy a todos. Es el mensaje que me gustaría compartir con ustedes durante estos momentos de estrés e incertidumbre: "Cuando llegé y vi la gracia de Dios, se regocijó y los alentó a todos a permanecer fieles al Señor con firmeza de corazón" (Hechos 11: 23) ¡Os animo a todos a permanecer fieles al Señor con firmeza de corazón!

De ustedes en Cristo,

Fr. Clark

La Oficina Parroquial está abierta durante el horario comercial habitual y cuenta con personal completo. Por favor llame al 713-729-0221 para más información. Si nos visita en persona, use una máscara.

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,

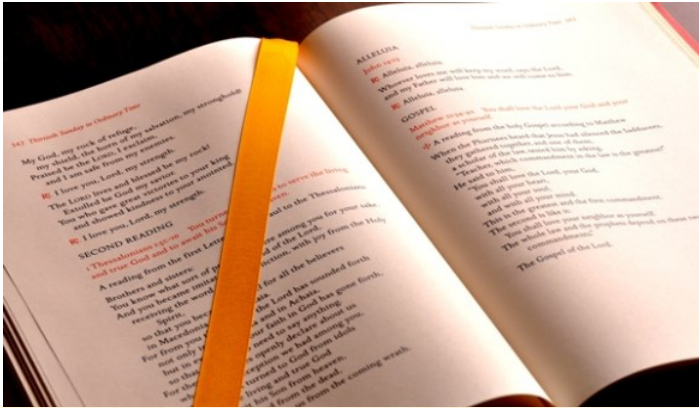
Venid al menos espiritualmente a me corazón.

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

The Baptism of the Eunuch
Rembrandt van Rijn, 1626
Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht

WEEKLY READINGS

Scripture Readings for the Week of May 17 2020

Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21
Monday	Saint John I, Pope and Martyr Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday	Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday	Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday	Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 16:16-20
Friday	Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday	Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; Jn 16:23b-28
Sunday	Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

LECTURAS SEMANALES

Lecturas por la Semana del 17 de Mayo de 2020

Domingo	Sexto Domingo de Pascua He 8, 5-8. 14-17; Sal 65, 1-3a. 4-5. 6-7a. 16 y 20; 1 Pe 3, 15-18; Jn 14, 15-21
Lunes	San Juan I, Papa y Mártir He 16, 11-15; Sal 149, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6a y 9b; Jn 15, 26—16, 4a
Martes	He 16, 22-34; Sal 137, 1-2a. 2bc y 3. 7c-8; Jn 16, 5-11
Miércoles	San Bernardino de Siena, Presbítero He 17, 15. 22—18, 1; Sal 148, 1-2. 11-12. 13. 14; Jn 16, 12-15
Jueves	San Cristóbal Magallanes, Presbítero y 24 Compañeros, Mártires He 18, 1-8; Jn 16, 16-20
Viernes	Santa Rita de Cascia, Religiosa He 18, 9-18; Sal 46, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7; Jn 16, 20-23a
Sábado	He 18, 23-28; Sal 46, 2-3. 8-9. 10; Jn 16, 23b-28
Domingo	Solemnidad de la Ascension del Señor He 1, 1-11; Sal 46, 2-3. 6-7. 8-9; Ef 1, 17-23; Mt 28, 16-20

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 mediation, 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.

Upcoming Events

Bible Conference

With Dr. John Bergsma

Bible Scholar & Professor of Theology at
Franciscan University

July 31-Aug. 2, 2020



Focusing on the Psalms

Begins Friday @ 5:30 pm

Ends Sunday @ 11:00 am (after Mass)

Choose: Commuter, Shared or Private Rooms

Register by June 30th to
avoid the late registration fee



View all upcoming CRC events at
www.retreatcentercrc.org

1515 Hughes Rd., Dickinson
281-337-1312

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Wednesday Good News for Young Adults: Join us every Wednesday for a short webinar (30 minutes) to enrich young adults in the Houston area. These webinars are designed to give us hope and help us rise during these times. We will cover topics such as relationships, tips to stay mentally healthy, grieving, decision making, resume building, prayer ideas while at home, etc. We start with a great national speaker Fr. Agustino Torres on May 13. Every Wednesday we will have different speakers. Register for FREE at

<http://Tinyurl.com/GoodNewsYoungAdults>

STM Online

[STM Homepage](#)

[STM Facebook](#)

[STM YouTube Channel](#)

Stewardship for May 10, 2020

Collection	\$30,163.00
Online Giving	\$11,643.24
Total	\$41,806.24

Upcoming Special Collections

Catholic Communications
May 24, 2020



Parish Goal: \$193,000.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$65,609.50

Total Amount Paid: \$46,070.50

Total Number of Participant: 190

Total Number of Households: 4184

Average Participant Pledge: \$345.31

Paid Over (Under) Goal: (\$146,929.50)

Pledged Over (Under) Goal: (\$127,390.50)

Percent Paid: 23.87%

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.