

SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



10330 HILLCROFT ST. | HOUSTON, TX 77096 | (713) 729-0221
WWW.STMHOUSTON.ORG

ON THE COVER:

TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED IN MY NAME

**JAMES TISSOT
(1836-1902)**

The Parish Office is open
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
Closed 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.
and is fully staffed. Please call
713-729-0221 for more information. If you
visit us in person, please wear a mask for
your safety and ours.



Bulletin announcements are due
Monday by 5:00 p.m. for the following
Sunday. Please contact Rosio Contreras at
rcontreras@stmhouston.org
to request a bulletin announcement for your
group or ministry. All requests are subject to
approval and space availability and will be
formatted to fit the overall design of the
bulletin.

Thank you.

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

(713) 729-0221
(713) 729-3294 fax
www.stmhouston.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Closed from 12:00-1:00 p.m. for lunch)

Clergy

Rev. Clark Sample, *Pastor*
Rev. Thuc Nguyen, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Binny Philip, *Priest In Residence*
Deacon John Krugh
Deacon Danny Naranjo

Parish Staff

Suzie Hamilton, *Pastoral Associate*
Eloise Starr, *Secretary*
Rosio Contreras, *Receptionist*
Ingrid Gooding, *Bookkeeper*
Ron Biba, *Facilities Manager*

Faith Formation

Ryan Lambert, *Director of Faith Formation*
Xenia Avalos, *Faith Formation, Admin Assistant*
Mary-Therese Hafernik, *Youth Confirmation Coordinator*

Office of Music

Chris Bearer, *Director*, (713) 980-3111
Jian Guang Shi, *Organist* (713) 988-9829

Saint Thomas More Catholic School

(713) 729-3434
(713) 721-5644 fax
www.stthomasmore-school.org

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Staff

Carolina Bowman, *Principal*
Kathleen Prado, *Director of Advancement*
Judy Gentempo, *Admissions*
Noel Novak, *Dean of Students*
Mary Heard, *Secretary*
Rebecka Zepeda, *Nurse*
Andrea Osborne, *School Counselor*

Current Mass and Confession Schedule

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday – Friday
6:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

MISA ENTRE SEMANA (INGLES)

Lunes-Viernes
6:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.



CONFESSION

CONFESIONES

Wednesday • Miércoles
6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday • Sábado
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.



WEEKEND MASSES

MISAS DEL FIN DE SEMANA

SATURDAY • SÁBADO

9:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY • DOMINGO

7:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m. (español)

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

On March 25, CNBC published an article entitled, "As Couples Self-Isolate Due to Coronavirus, Lawyers Expect a Rise in Divorces." This article explains that lawyers were expecting to see a rise in divorces because divorce rates tend to rise after periods of when couples spend more time together. One lawyer says, "Our peak times [of divorce] are after long exposure during the summer holiday and over Christmas... one has only to imagine what it will be like when families are sealed in a property for a long period of time." This is not to say that spending time with your spouse is a bad thing! It just goes to show that "more time spent together in self-isolation will put a strain on relationships where problems already exist."

In the five months since this article was published, we are now seeing how these predictions have become a reality. Legal Templates LLC, a large company that provides legal documents online, has seen a 34% increase in sales of divorce agreements compared to this time last year. 31% of couples say that the quarantine has been damaging to their relationship. Legal Templates also says that newlywed couples have been hit the hardest, with 58% of those seeking divorce being married within the last five years.

Statistics are just numbers. Raw data. Objectively speaking, divorce is bad because "it introduces disorder into the family and into society. This disorder brings grave harm to the deserted spouse, to children traumatized by the separation of their parents and often torn between them, and because of its contagious effect which makes it truly a plague on society" (CCC 2385). Subjectively speaking, what these statistics represent is a lot of pain, heartache, suffering and crushed expectations. No one goes into a marriage with the hopes that it will fall apart. Sometimes, depending on the gravity of the situation, the separation of spouses might be necessary for the safety of one of the spouses and/or children. The Church also teaches, "If civil divorce remains the only possible way of ensuring certain legal rights, the care of the children, or the protection of inheritance, it can be tolerated and does not constitute a moral offense" CCC 2383).

Whatever the case, the reality of divorce reveals that we live in a damaged world. It's precisely this damaged world that Jesus came to redeem. If you or someone you know has experienced the pain of divorce, please know that Jesus does not desert you. The Church does not desert you. God can take any objectively bad situation and bring good from it. This axiom applies to those who are currently facing difficulty in their marriage. If you or someone you know is currently struggling in their marriage, know that there is professional help available. If you need to speak to someone, we are here for you. There is time to work on problems before they get irreparably bad. For anyone who needs strengthening in his or her marriage, I recommend going over the vows you made at your wedding... they are still in place... and can help bring some clarity to your situation in life.

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my wife. I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

Bride: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my husband. I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark

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

Saint of the Week



Feast of:
St. Peter Claver

Feast Day:
September 9

WEEKLY READINGS

Scripture Readings for the Week of September 6 2020

Sunday	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Ez.33:7-9,Ps.95:1-2,6-7,8-9,Rom.14:8-10, Mt.18:15-20
Monday	St. Regina 1Cor.5:1-8,Ps.5:5-6,7,12,Lk.6:6-11
Tuesday	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mi.5:1-4,Ps.13:6,6,Mt.1:1-16,18-23
Wednesday	St. Peter Claver 1Cor.7:25-31,Ps.45:11-12,14-15,16-17, Lk.6:20-26
Thursday	St. Candida the Younger 1Cor.8:1-7,11-13,Ps.139:1-3,13-14,23-24, Lk.6:27-38
Friday	St. Daniel 1Cor.9:16-19,22-27,Ps.84:3-4,5-6,8,12, Lk.6:39-42
Saturday	St. Philip 1Cor.10:14-22,Ps.116:12-13,17-18,Lk.6:43-49
Sunday	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir.27:30-28:7,Ps.103:1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12, Rom.14:7-9,Mt.18:21-35

LECTURAS SEMANALES

Lecturas de las Escrituras para la Semana del 6 de septiembre 2020

Domingo	Vigésimo Tercer Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario Ez.33:7-9,Sal.95:1-2,6-7,8-9,Rom.14:8-10, Mt.18:15-20
Lunes	San Regina 1Cor.5:1-8,Sal..5:5-6,7,12,Lk.6:6-11
Martes	La Natividad de la Santísima Virgen María Mi.5:1-4,Sal.13:6,6,Mt.1:1-16,18-23
Miercoles	San Pedro Claver 1Cor.7:25-31,Sal.45:11-12,14-15,16-17, Lc.6:20-26
Jueves	Santa Candida 1Cor.8:1-7,11-13,Sal.139:1-3,13-14,23-24, Lc.6:27-38
Viernes	San Daniel 1Cor.9:16-19,22-27,Sal.84:3-4,5-6,8,12, Lc.6:39-42
Sabado	San Felipe 1Cor.10:14-22,Sal.116:12-13,17-18,Lc.6:43-49
Domingo	Vigésimo Cuarto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario Sir.27:30-28:7,Sal.103:1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12, Rom.14:7-9,Mt.18:21-35

Faith Formation

Grade School CCE

STM is proud to offer two methods of educating your children in the faith. The first *Traditional* method begins the week of Sept. 21. The second *Family* method in the beginning of October. These are at-home methods and resource will be available for pick in the RE building once your are registered.

We are looking for more volunteers to join our efforts. Please visit our website for more details regarding volunteer opportunities.

Youth



SEPTEMBER 2ND - 23RD

THE HUMAN PERSON

A small group study for teens on discovering God's Plan for Life and Love

September 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd

7-8 pm via Zoom Link

During the month of September, join STM Youth Ministry for a four-part series on the Church's teaching on human sexuality and the life of freedom God has made us for.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, September 6

7:30am * Mr. & Mrs. H.O. Nwachukwu Fam
 9:00am † Daymond Mayhall
 11:00am * Missa Pro Populo
 1:00 pm † Daniela Ramos Herrera

Monday, September 7

6:30am * Fr. John Samuel
 5:30pm † Drew Meyer

Tuesday, September 8

6:30am † David Lafferty
 5:30pm † Ugochukwu Nwachukwu

Wednesday, September 9

6:30am † John Joseph "Jack" Thompson
 5:30pm † Dorothy Flaherty

Thursday, September 10

6:30am † Ugochukwu Nwachukwu
 5:30pm † Margaret Biondi

Friday, September 11

6:30 am * Paul & Veronica Willingham
 5:30pm * Ivan & Margaret Schueler

Saturday, September 12

9:00am
 5:00pm † Molly Brown Ferris
 † (Deceased)
 * (Special Intention)

*One may request Mass Intentions by visiting
 the parish office from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm,
 Monday - Friday.*



*Uno puede solicitar Intenciones visitando la
 oficina parroquial 8:00 am - 5:00 pm,
 Lunes - Viernes*

Stewardship for August 30, 2020

Collection	\$9,698.00
Online Giving	\$9,522.25
Total	\$19,220.25

Upcoming Second Collections

**Catholic University of America/
 University of St. Thomas
 September 6, 2020**



Parish Goal: \$193,000.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$75,364.50
 Total Amount Paid: \$56,034.00
 Total Number of Participant: 208
 Total Number of Households: 4184
 Average Participant Pledge: \$362.33
 Paid Over (Under) Goal: (\$136,966.00)
 Pledged Over (Under) Goal: (\$117,635.50)
 Percent Paid: 29.03%

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 at **STMHOUSTON.ORG** for details and registration.

Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo

El 25 de marzo, CNBC publicó un artículo titulado, "A medida que las parejas se auto-aislan debido al coronavirus, los abogados esperan un aumento en los divorcios". Este artículo explica que los abogados esperaban ver un aumento en los divorcios porque las tasas de divorcio tienden a aumentar después de períodos en los que las parejas pasan más tiempo juntas. Un abogado dice: "Nuestras horas pico [de divorcio] son después de una larga exposición durante las vacaciones de verano y durante la Navidad ... uno solo tiene que imaginar cómo será cuando las familias estén selladas en una propiedad durante un largo período de tiempo. " ¡Esto no quiere decir que pasar tiempo con su cónyuge sea algo malo! Simplemente demuestra que "pasar más tiempo juntos en autoaislamiento pondrá tensión en las relaciones donde ya existen problemas".

En los cinco meses transcurridos desde la publicación de este artículo, estamos viendo cómo estas predicciones se han hecho realidad. Legal Templates LLC, una empresa que proporciona documentos legales en línea, ha visto un aumento del 34% en las ventas de acuerdos de divorcio en comparación con esta época del año pasado. El 31% de las parejas dice que la cuarentena ha sido perjudicial para su relación. Legal Templates también dice que las parejas de recién casados han sido las más afectadas, con el 58% de los que buscan divorciarse casados en los últimos cinco años.

Las estadísticas son solo números, datos. Hablando objetivamente, el divorcio es malo porque "introduce desorden en la familia y en la sociedad. Este trastorno trae un grave daño al cónyuge abandonado, a los hijos traumatizados por la separación de sus padres ya menudo desgarrados entre ellos, y por su efecto contagioso que lo convierte en una verdadera plaga en la sociedad" (CCC 2385). Subjetivamente hablando, lo que representan estas estadísticas es mucho dolor, angustia, sufrimiento y expectativas aplastadas. Nadie se casa con la esperanza de que se desmorone. A veces, dependiendo de la gravedad de la situación, la separación de los cónyuges puede ser necesaria para la seguridad de uno de los cónyuges y/o hijos. La Iglesia también enseña: "Si el divorcio civil sigue siendo la única forma posible de garantizar ciertos derechos legales, el cuidado de los hijos o la protección de la herencia, puede ser tolerado y no constituye una ofensa moral" (CCC 2383).

Cualquiera que sea el caso, la realidad del divorcio revela que vivimos en un mundo dañado. Es precisamente este mundo dañado que Jesús vino a redimir. Si usted o alguien que conoce ha experimentado el dolor del divorcio, sepa que Jesús no lo abandona. La Iglesia no te abandona. Dios puede tomar cualquier situación objetivamente mala y sacar algo bueno de ella. Este axioma se aplica a quienes actualmente enfrentan dificultades en su matrimonio. Si usted o alguien que conoce está luchando actualmente en su matrimonio, sepa que hay ayuda profesional disponible. Si necesita hablar con alguien, estamos aquí para ayudarlo. Hay tiempo para trabajar en los problemas antes de que empeoren irremediamente. Para cualquier persona que necesite fortalecerse en su matrimonio, recomiendo repasar los votos que hizo en su boda ... todavía están vigentes ... y pueden ayudar a traer algo de claridad a su situación en la vida.

Novio: Yo, (nombre), te tomo, (nombre), para que seas mi esposa. Prometo ser fiel a ti, en las buenas y en las malas, en la enfermedad y en la salud, amarte y honrarte todos los días de mi vida.

Novia: Yo, (nombre), te tomo, (nombre), para ser mi esposo. Prometo ser fiel a ti, en las buenas y en las malas, en la enfermedad y en la salud, amarte y honrarte todos los días de mi vida.

De ustedes en Cristo,

Fr. Clark

Oración de Comunión espiritual

Jesús mío, creo que estás presente en el Santísimo Sacramento.

Te amo sobre todas las cosas y deseo recibirte en mi alma.

Como no puedo recibirte en este momento sacramentalmente, entra al menos espiritualmente en mi corazón.

Te abrazo como si ya estuvieras allí.

Y me uno totalmente a ti.

Nunca permitas que me separe de ti.

Amen

Santo de la semana



Fiesta de:
San Pedro Claver
Fiesta:
9 de Septiembre