

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. 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

Parish Office

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

10330 Hillcroft St.
Houston, TX 77096
(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*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Office of Music:

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

Parish School

Saint Thomas More Catholic School

5927 Wigton Drive
Houston, TX 77096
(713) 729-3434
(713) 721-5644 fax
www.stthomasmore-school.org

School Office Hours

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

Staff

Carolina Bowman, *Principal*
Noel Novak, *Dean of Students*
Kathleen Prado, *Director of Advancement*
Judy Gentempo, *Admissions*
Anjie Ellis-Scales, *Accountant*
Rebeka Zepeda, *Nurse*
Andrea Osborne, *School Counselor*

Parish Ministries

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Deacon John Krugh, *Director*

Respect Life Committee

Marianne Kahlich, *Director*

Building and Grounds Committee

Vince Stasio, *Chairman*

Current Mass and Confession Schedule

**WEEKDAY MASS
MISA ENTRE SEMANA**

Monday – Friday
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,

November is known as the month of the dead. While we are on the theme of death, there is a relevant topic that requires some clarity. Do you know what the Church teaches about cremation? Before we delve into this topic, it is important to first establish the basics of our belief. We believe that human beings are a unity of body and soul, thus, the body is an essential part of our identity. We also believe that we will have resurrected bodies in heaven. The Church wholeheartedly affirms that the body is good... we have to remember that Jesus Christ had a human body! Therefore, the bodies of the deceased are to be treated with dignity and respect.

As cremation has become more and more popular, the Church has had to address this topic. In 1963, in a document called *Piam et Constantem*, the Holy Office taught that we must ensure that the faithful departed are buried reverently and that cremation is not opposed per se to the fundamentals of Christian belief. In 2016, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith further addressed the topic of cremation in document entitled "Instruction *Ad resurgendum cum Christo*." Below are some highlighted teachings from this document:

- The Church continues to prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased, because this shows a greater esteem towards the deceased (it more closely reflects and symbolizes the belief of the resurrection of the body). Nevertheless, cremation is not prohibited, "unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine".
- The Church raises no doctrinal objections to the practice of cremation, since cremation of the deceased's body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased body to new life. Thus cremation, in and of itself, objectively negates neither the Christian doctrine of the soul's immortality nor that of the resurrection of the body.
- When, for legitimate motives, cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority.
- The conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted... the ashes may not be divided among various family members and due respect must be maintained regarding the circumstances of such a conservation.
- In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects.
- When the deceased notoriously has requested cremation and the scattering of their ashes for reasons contrary to the Christian faith, a Christian funeral must be denied to that person according to the norms of the law.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark

On the Cover

Parable of the Wise
and
Foolish Virgins

Artist

Friedrich Wilhelm
Schadow

(1788–1862)

Saint of the Week



Feast of
St. Frances
Xavier Cabrini

Feast Day:
November 13

Stewardship for November 1, 2020

Collection	\$14,659.26
Online Giving	\$13,836.18
Total	\$28,495.44



Parish Goal: \$193,000.00

It is not too late to make your donation to the Diocesan Services Fund.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, November 8

7:30am * Michelle Kanu
9:00am † Ray Brasher
11:00am * Missa Pro Populo
1:00pm † Teofilo Pineda

Monday, November 9

6:30am * David Eskelund & Family
5:30pm † Mary Zepeda

Tuesday, November 10

6:30am * Karen Riley
5:30pm † Paul Schueler

Wednesday, November 11

6:30am † Bryan Budgett
5:30pm † Apollonia Nwachukwu

Thursday, November 12

6:30am * Dave Eskelund
5:30pm † Margaret Biondi

Friday, November 13

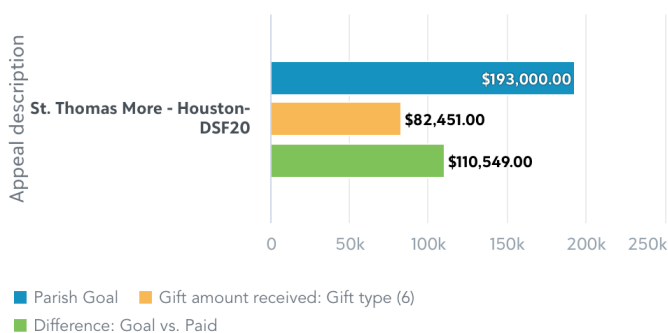
6:30am * Chavez Family Intentions
5:30pm * Ezinne Rennie

Saturday, November 14

9:00am † Ugochukwu Nwachukwu
5:00pm * Welch Family



Goal vs. Paid - Parish



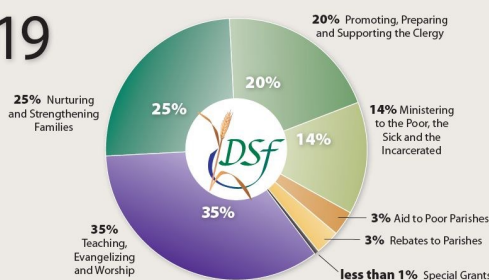
† (Deceased)
* (Special Intention)

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

DSF 2019

How Your 2019 DSF Gifts Were Distributed



“The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!”

- Pope Paul VI

Sacraments

Please visit our website for more details regarding all of our Faith Formation programs at:

<https://stmhouston.org/faith-formation>

Infant Baptism Preparation

- You must be a registered parishioner or live in zip codes 77096 and 77035 to register
- Infants are children under 6 years old
- Children over 6 years old require RCIA for children.
- The process is personalize to the family and we hope you will utilize www.formed.org and Zoom.
- Attendance is required for parents and is highly recommended for godparents.

Please call the Parish office for access to our registration 713-729-0221.

Elementary Faith Formation (CCE)

Materials are ready for families who have signed up for either program.

Registration for First Reconciliation and First Communion will open the last Friday of November.

Youth Ministry & Confirmation

Middle School: Registration is still open. It will be in person as long as we can stay within our Covid-19 restrictions. Otherwise, we will make adjustments.

High School: Youth ministry is separate from our Confirmation program. Confirmation registration is closed at this time. High School Youth Ministry is in person and online, but will also follow Covid-19 restrictions.

RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or do you know someone who is? Consider joining our RCIA program. You can go to our website for more information, www.stmhouston.org Fill out the registration form and our office will be notified of your interest. Currently, programs are being conducted online via Zoom.

Anointing of the Sick

If you or a loved one is suffering form a serious illness please call the parish office to request this sacrament, 713-729-0221



K of C Homemade Italian Sausage Fundraiser Pre-Sale

Still only \$6.00/lb. (4 links/pound)

Pre-Sale Orders taken after Mass on Nov. 1st, 7th and Nov. 8th

Order deadline is Sunday November 8, 2020.

All Orders to be paid in advance.

Sausage pick-up after

Saturday 5:00pm Mass on Nov 14th and

after all Sunday Masses on Nov. 15th

NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE

Food drive donations will be collected by SVdP volunteers at all masses next weekend Nov. 14 & 15. Please see STM's website for the Thanksgiving shopping list. Donations can also be dropped off during pantry hours on Tuesdays between 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. You may contact us at (713) 980-3113 or e-mail svdp.district3stm@gmail.com with any questions.

REMINDER

Prayer Shawls & Blankets are available at the Rectory Office for you to share with your loved ones or for those who are sick or mourning. The items are a reminder that one is surrounded by the prayers of others.

"He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed"

Proverbs 11:25

Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo

Noviembre es conocido como el mes de los muertos. Mientras estamos en el tema de la muerte, hay un tema relevante que requiere cierta claridad. ¿Sabes lo que enseña la Iglesia sobre la cremación? Antes de profundizar en este tema, es importante establecer primero los conceptos básicos de nuestra creencia. Creemos que los seres humanos son una unidad de cuerpo y alma, por lo tanto, el cuerpo es una parte esencial de nuestra identidad. También creemos que tendremos cuerpos resucitados en el cielo. La Iglesia afirma que el cuerpo es bueno ... ¡debemos recordar que Jesucristo tuvo un cuerpo humano! Por lo tanto, los cuerpos de los fallecidos deben ser tratados con dignidad y respeto.

A medida que la cremación se ha vuelto cada vez más popular, la Iglesia ha tenido que abordar este tema. En 1963, en un documento llamado *Piam et Constantem*, la Santa Oficina enseñó que debemos asegurarnos de que los fieles difuntos sean enterrados con reverencia y que la cremación no se opone per se a los fundamentos de la creencia cristiana. En 2016, la Congregación para la Doctrina de la Fe abordó el tema de la cremación en el documento titulado "Instrucción ad resurgendum cum Christo". A continuación, se presentan algunas enseñanzas destacadas de este documento:

- La Iglesia continúa prefiriendo la práctica de enterrar los cuerpos de los fallecidos, ya que esto muestra una mayor estima hacia los fallecidos (refleja y simboliza la creencia de la resurrección del cuerpo). Sin embargo, la cremación no está prohibida, "a menos que se haya elegido por razones contrarias a la doctrina cristiana."
- La Iglesia no plantea objeciones doctrinales a la práctica de la cremación, ya que la cremación del cuerpo del difunto no afecta su alma, ni impide que Dios, en su omnipotencia, levante el cuerpo del difunto a una nueva vida. Así, la cremación, en sí misma, objetivamente no niega ni la doctrina cristiana de la inmortalidad del alma ni la de la resurrección del cuerpo.
- Cuando, por motivos legítimos, se ha elegido la cremación del cuerpo, las cenizas de los fieles deben depositarse en un lugar sagrado, es decir, en un cementerio o, en ciertos casos, en una iglesia o un área que ha sido reservado para este propósito, y dedicado por la autoridad eclesial competente.
- No se permite la conservación de las cenizas de los difuntos en una residencia doméstica ... las cenizas no se pueden dividir entre varios miembros de la familia y se debe mantener el debido respeto a las circunstancias de tal conservación.
- Para evitar cualquier apariencia de panteísmo, naturalismo o nihilismo, no está permitido esparcir las cenizas de los fieles difuntos en el aire, en la tierra, en el mar o de alguna otra manera, ni pueden conservarse en piezas de joyería u otros objetos.
- Cuando el fallecido ha solicitado notoriamente la cremación y la dispersión de sus cenizas por razones contrarias a la fe cristiana, un funeral cristiano debe ser negado a esa persona según

De Ustedes in Cristo

Padre Clark

En La Portada

Parábola de las
Diez Vírgenes

Artista

Friedrich Wilhelm
Schadow

(1788–1862)

Santo de la semana



Fiesta de:
San Frances
Xavier Cabrini
Dia de Fiesta:
13 de noviembre