

# THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON — HOUSTON



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

[WWW.STMHOUSTON.ORG](http://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**

**Tuesdays • 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.

**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.

**Excerpt from the Angelus by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This morning I conferred the Sacrament of Baptism on 16 infants and for this reason I would like to offer a brief reflection on the fact that we are children of God. First of all, however, let us start with our being, quite simply, children: this is the fundamental condition that brings us all together. We are not all parents, but we are certainly all children.

Being born is never a choice, we are not asked first whether we wish to be born. Yet, in life, we can develop a free attitude with regard to life itself: we can regard it as a gift and, in a certain sense “become” what we are: children. This transition marks a turning point of maturity in our existence and in our relationship with our parents, which is filled with gratitude. It is a transition that also renders us capable in turn of being parents, not biologically, but morally.

Also before God we are all children. God is at the root of every created being’s life and is the Father of every human person in a special way: he has a unique and personal relationship with every human being. Each one of us is wanted and loved by God. And also in this relationship with God, we can be “reborn”, so to speak, in other words become what we are. This happens through faith, through a profound and personal “yes” to God as the origin and foundation of our existence. With this “yes” I receive life as a gift of the Father who is in Heaven, a Parent whom I do not see but in whom I believe and whom, in the depths of my heart, I feel is my Father and the Father of all my brethren in humanity, an immensely good and faithful Father.

On what is this faith in God the Father based? It is based on Jesus Christ: he himself and his history reveal the Father to us, enable us to know him as much as possible in this world. Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, makes it possible to be “born from above”, that is, from God, who is Love (cf. Jn 3:3).

Moreover, let us bear in mind once again that no individual makes him or herself a human being. We are born without doing anything ourselves, the *passivity* of being born precedes the *activity* of what we ourselves do. It is also the same at the level of being Christian: no one can become Christian solely by one’s own will, being Christian is also a gift that comes before our own action: we must be reborn in a new birth. St John says: “to all who received him... he gave power to become children of God” (Jn 1:12).

This is the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is this new birth that precedes our own action. With our faith we can go to meet Christ, but he alone can make us Christian and give to our will and to this desire of ours the response, dignity and power to become children of God, which we ourselves do not possess.

Dear friends, this Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord brings Christmas Time to an end. Let us give thanks to God for this great mystery which is a source of regeneration for the Church and for the whole world. God made himself the Son of Man so that man might become a son of God. Let us therefore renew our joy in being children, as men and women and as Christians; *born* and *reborn* to a new divine existence. Born from the love of a father and a mother and reborn from the love of God through Baptism.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and of all who believe in him, to help us to live truly as children of God, not in words, or not only in words, but with deeds. St John writes further: “this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us” (1 Jn 3:23).

*Saint Peter's Square  
Sunday, 8 January 2012*

## Stewardship for January 3, 2021

Collection	\$23,447.00
Online Giving	\$17,151.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,628.59</b>



The Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) for the 2020 year has ended we would like to thank everyone who contributed and helped us attempt to reach our goal. Contributions received by the Diocese after January 6, 2021 will be applied to your DSF 2021 contribution.

Please save the date for DSF weekend February 7, 2021. The presentation will go into detail on how more than 60 programs receive all or part of their funding from DSF and all funds are spent within Archdiocesan boundaries. The broad areas of ministry that receive DSF support include: Catholic education of children and adults; pastoral ministries for the sick, the poor and the incarcerated; the formation and education of church leadership; social service programs such as San José Clinic, St. Dominic Village and Catholic Charities.



## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, January 10

7:30am †Julie Jurica  
9:00am †Lawrence Fitzsimons  
11:00am \*Missa Pro Populo  
1:00pm \*Broda Family

### Monday, January 11

6:30am \*Nnamdi Nwachukwu  
5:30pm †Peggy Boyd Darroh

### Tuesday, January 12

6:30am \*Ezinne Rennie  
5:30pm †Julie Jurica

### Wednesday, January 13

6:30am \*Prima Nwachukwu  
5:30pm \*Michelle Kanu

### Thursday, January 14

6:30am †Apollonia Nwachukwu  
5:30pm †Patty Roznovsky

### Friday, January 15

6:30am \* H.O. Nwachukwu Family  
5:30pm †Erin Novak

### Saturday, January 16

9:00am †Beth Cannata  
5:00pm †Susan De Vault

† (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*

“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 6 years old and under
  - Children over 6 years old require RCIA for children.
  - The process is personalized to the family and we hope you will utilize [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and Zoom.
  - Attendance is required for parents and is highly recommended for godparents.
- Please call the Religious education office for access to our registration 713-729-3435.

### Elementary Faith Formation (CCE)

Materials are ready for families who have signed up for the CCE program.

### First Sacrament Preparation (CCE Only)

We have opened up the registration for First Sacraments (Reconciliation and Communion). Call the CCE office for more information regarding registration at 713-729-3435 or email [rlambert@stmhouston.org](mailto:rlambert@stmhouston.org). Your children must be completing 2 years of CCE or Catholic school to enroll. Students enrolled in the STM parish school do not need to be in this program.

### 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.

### Anointing of the Sick

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

## Adult Confirmation

If you or someone you know are above the age of 18 and desire to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, now is the time to act! Sessions will be offered in English for the Spring semester of 2021 starting January 12th from 7pm-8:30pm. Please call 713-729-3435 or email [rlambert@stmhouston.org](mailto:rlambert@stmhouston.org) for more information.



**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**  
FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN

JANUARY 22, 2021  
7:30AM-4:30PM  
CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

Join us for a day of Eucharistic Adoration offered on the 48th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

Pray with us live or follow online at <https://www.archgh.org/live>

 THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

January 22: National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (7:30am-4:30pm) join us as we unite in Eucharistic Adoration to pray for the legal protection of the unborn. Groups and parishes around the Archdiocese will be leading prayer and reflections over the course of the day. This event will be open to the public, you can attend in person at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart downtown or join us virtually. St. Thomas More is sponsoring the hour from 11 am until the daily Mass at noon. Please join us and stay for Mass if you can. If you plan to attend or need more information, please reach out to Marianne and Henry Kahlich at 713-728-4955 or email [hekahlich@aol.com](mailto:hekahlich@aol.com).

The parish office will be closed on Monday January 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. day the office will reopen on Tuesday January 19, 2021. La oficina parroquial estara cerrada el lunes 18 de enero en honor del dia festivo de Martin Luther King Jr. la oficina reabrirá el martes 19 de enero.

**Extracto del Ángelus del Papa emérito Benedicto XVI**

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Hoy celebramos la fiesta del Bautismo del Señor. Esta mañana he conferido el sacramento del Bautismo a dieciséis niños, y por este motivo quiero proponer una breve reflexión sobre el hecho de que somos hijos de Dios. Ahora bien, ante todo partamos del hecho de que somos simplemente hijos: esta es la condición fundamental, común a todos. No todos somos padres, pero ciertamente todos somos hijos. Venir al mundo nunca es una decisión personal, no se nos pregunta antes si queremos nacer. Pero, durante la vida, podemos madurar una actitud libre con respecto a la vida misma: podemos acogerla como un don y, en cierto sentido, «llegar a ser» lo que ya somos: llegar a ser hijos. Este paso marca un viraje de madurez en nuestro ser y en la relación con nuestros padres, que nos impulsa a la gratitud. Es un paso que nos hace capaces de ser, también nosotros, padres, no biológica sino moralmente.

Del mismo modo, con respecto a Dios todos somos hijos. Dios está en el origen de la existencia de toda criatura, y es Padre de modo singular de cada ser humano: con él o con ella tiene una relación única, personal. Cada uno de nosotros es querido, es amado por Dios. Y también en esta relación con Dios podemos, por decirlo así, «renacer», es decir, llegar a ser lo que somos. Esto acontece mediante la fe, mediante un «sí» profundo y personal a Dios como origen y fundamento de nuestra existencia. Con este «sí» yo acojo la vida como don del Padre que está en el cielo, un Padre a quien no veo, pero en el cual creo y a quien siento en lo más profundo del corazón, que es Padre mío y de todos mis hermanos en la humanidad, un Padre inmensamente bueno y fiel. ¿En qué se basa esta fe en Dios Padre? Se basa en Jesucristo: su persona y su historia nos revelan al Padre, nos lo dan a conocer, en la medida de lo posible, en este mundo. Creer que Jesús es el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios, permite «renacer de lo alto», es decir, de Dios, que es Amor (cf. Jn 3, 3). Y tengamos presente, una vez más, que nadie se hace a sí mismo hombre: nacimos sin haber hecho nada nosotros; el pasivo de haber nacido precede al activo de nuestro hacer. Lo mismo sucede en el nivel de ser cristianos: nadie puede hacerse cristiano sólo por su propia voluntad; también el ser cristiano es un don que precede a nuestro hacer: debemos renacer con un nuevo nacimiento. San Juan dice: «A cuantos lo recibieron, les dio poder de ser hijos de Dios» (Jn 1, 12). Este es el sentido del sacramento del Bautismo; el Bautismo es este nuevo nacimiento, que precede a nuestro hacer. Con nuestra fe podemos salir al encuentro de Cristo, pero sólo él mismo puede hacernos cristianos y dar a esta voluntad nuestra, a este deseo nuestro, la respuesta, la dignidad, el poder de llegar a ser hijos de Dios, que por nosotros mismos no tenemos.

Queridos amigos, este domingo del Bautismo del Señor concluye el tiempo de Navidad. Demos gracias a Dios por este gran misterio, que es fuente de regeneración para la Iglesia y para todo el mundo. Dios se hizo hijo del hombre, para que el hombre llegara a ser hijo de Dios. Renovemos, por tanto, la alegría de ser hijos: como hombres y como cristianos; nacidos y renacidos a una nueva existencia divina. Nacidos por el amor de un padre y de una madre, y renacidos por el amor de Dios, mediante el Bautismo.

A la Virgen María, Madre de Cristo y de todos los que creen en él, pidámosle que nos ayude a vivir realmente como hijos de Dios, no de palabra, o no sólo de palabra, sino con obras. San Juan escribe también: «Este es su mandamiento: que creamos en el nombre de su Hijo, Jesucristo, y que nos amemos unos a otros, tal como nos lo mandó» (1 Jn 3, 23)

*Plaza de San Pedro  
Domingo 8 de enero de 2012*