

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON—HOUSTON



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**

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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Out of all of the comments I heard during the past several weeks, there are several that have stood out to me. Someone told me that during Christmas, they thought the church was as beautiful as it's ever been. Someone else told me that they were moved to tears upon hearing some of the sacred music at Mass. One person even told me that they enjoyed my homily! Now, of course, these comments are personal opinions that various people shared with me, but it does bring up an important question: What is the role of beauty in the sacred liturgy?

Our faith is about believing in and encountering God. The Mass is the source and summit of our faith. This means that the Mass is ultimately about God and that we encounter God in Mass. Without delving into the field of aesthetic philosophy, suffice to say that beauty is a transcendental. That is to say that, just like goodness and truth, beauty lifts us up to the spiritual, non-physical world. This means that beauty can help us experience God more profoundly during Mass. Beauty and liturgy go hand-in-hand, and the Church has a vision of how liturgy should be done beautifully. As the pastor of our parish, it is my goal to have our liturgical celebrations be performed as beautifully as possible. It affects our faith! With this theme in mind, I would like to share with you a segment from a Church document entitled, *Liturgy and Beauty*:

We began by speaking of the sacramental nature of the Church in order to emphasize the importance of movements or gestures in the liturgy, and particularly the movement of God: in the liturgy Christ himself becomes the gesture of the Church. This movement has a natural beauty of its own, the beauty of simplicity and love, which must always be respected. In her liturgy the Church makes use of the beauty of other signs such as images and elements of creation. The beauty of the liturgy is therefore first and foremost the beauty of Christ's own movement in all its simplicity and love, but it is also the beauty of our movements and the beauty proper to the signs and elements of creation which the liturgy puts in harmonious order in time and space. The beauty of the liturgy is the order it creates within us and in our relationships with our brothers and sisters, it is the order it creates in our personal relationship with God. The beauty of the liturgy is something which transcends us. It is not a beauty which catches the eye immediately; it is not revealed by the gestures, signs or material elements, but rather shines through them. It is in fact a beauty which is sensed rather than seen. If we want a beautiful liturgy, we must let ourselves be led by the liturgy, by its spirit and by its rules.

Beauty in the liturgy always calls for some renunciation on our part: we must renounce banality, over-imagination, extravagance. Moreover, the liturgy must be given the time and space it needs. We must not be in a hurry. Rather than taking the initiative, we must allow God the freedom to speak to us and reach us through his Word, through prayer, gestures, music, song, light, incense, fragrances. Like a musical composition, the liturgy needs space, time, silence, detachment from ourselves, so that words, gestures and signs may speak to us of God.

"In his presence are splendor and majesty, in his sanctuary power and beauty" (Psalm 96:6). What other reality of the Church is called to harmonize and express beauty in the same way as her liturgical space and her liturgical action? Not only the place but also the action, that is, gesture, posture, movement, clothing, ought to speak of harmony and beauty. Every liturgical gesture, being a gesture of Christ, is called to express beauty. In this way the liturgy, thanks also to its beauty, will continue to be the source and summit, and the school and norm of Christian life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading
of your people and bestow
your peace on our times.

Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son, who lives
and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Saint of the Week



Feast of
Saint Agnes

Feast Day
January 21st

Stewardship for January 10, 2021

Collection	\$24,887.63
Online Giving	\$16,429.83
Total	\$41,317.46



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 17

7:30am †Fr. Gerard Joubert
9:00am *Aury Robleto
11:00am *Missa Pro Populo
1:00pm †Kendra Soto

Monday, January 18

6:30am †Juliana Garcia
5:30pm †Senen Ebio

Tuesday, January 19

6:30am *Donald Kanu
5:30pm †Ugochukwu Nwachukwu

Wednesday, January 20

6:30am *Nnamdi Nwachukwu
5:30pm †Patty Roznovksy

Thursday, January 21

6:30am *Chavez Family Intentions
5:30pm †Apollonia Nwachukwu

Friday, January 22

6:30am *Michelle Kanu
5:30pm *H.O. Nwachukwu Family

Saturday, January 23

9:00am *Ezinne Rennie
5:00pm †Erin Novak

† (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 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.

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. 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.

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 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.

We are so grateful for you, the parishioners of STM. Not only have you been very careful and considerate in the way you are keeping the church clean and germ free, you have also been very generous by donating cleaning supplies. As you may or may not know, the company that makes the wooden pews **recommends that we use Clorox Disinfecting Wipes** on our wooden pews. We need to be careful and **avoid using wipes with bleach, alcohol or hydrogen peroxide**, as all of these ingredients are harmful to the finish on the pews. Many of you have been donating wipes for our use and we are very happy to receive them. Just make sure that the wipes you bring us do not contain any of the above mentioned ingredients because we will not be able to use them on the wood.

Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo

De todos los comentarios que escuché durante las últimas semanas, hay varios que me han llamado la atención. Alguien me dijo que durante la Navidad, pensaban que la iglesia era tan hermosa como siempre. Alguien más me dijo que se conmovieron hasta las lágrimas al escuchar algo de la música sacra en la Misa. ¡Una persona incluso me dijo que había disfrutado de mi homilía! Ahora, por supuesto, estos comentarios son opiniones personales que varias personas compartieron conmigo, pero plantea una pregunta importante: ¿Cuál es el papel de la belleza en la sagrada liturgia?

Nuestra fe se trata de creer en Dios y encontrarnos con él. La Misa es la fuente y la cumbre de nuestra fe. Esto quiere decir que la Misa trata en última instancia de Dios y que nos encontramos con Dios en la Misa. Sin ahondar en el campo de la filosofía estética, basta decir que la belleza es una trascendencia. Es decir que, al igual que la bondad y la verdad, la belleza nos eleva al mundo espiritual, no físico. Esto significa que la belleza puede ayudarnos a experimentar a Dios más profundamente durante la Misa. La belleza y la liturgia van de la mano, y la Iglesia tiene una visión de cómo la liturgia debe hacerse bellamente. Como párroco de nuestra parroquia, mi objetivo es que nuestras celebraciones litúrgicas se realicen de la manera más hermosa posible. ¡Afecta nuestra fe! Con este tema en mente, me gustaría compartir con ustedes un segmento de un documento de la Iglesia titulado Liturgia y Belleza:

Empezamos hablando de la naturaleza sacramental de la Iglesia para enfatizar la importancia de los movimientos o gestos en la liturgia, y en particular del movimiento de Dios: en la liturgia Cristo mismo se convierte en el gesto de la Iglesia. Este movimiento tiene una belleza natural propia, la belleza de la sencillez y el amor, que siempre hay que respetar. En su liturgia, la Iglesia hace uso de la belleza de otros signos como imágenes y elementos de la creación. La belleza de la liturgia es, por tanto, ante todo la belleza del propio movimiento de Cristo en toda su sencillez y amor, pero también es la belleza de nuestros movimientos y la belleza propia de los signos y elementos de la creación que la liturgia pone en orden armonioso. en tiempo y espacio. La belleza de la liturgia es el orden que crea dentro de nosotros y en nuestras relaciones con nuestros hermanos y hermanas, es el orden que crea en nuestra relación personal con Dios. La belleza de la liturgia es algo que nos trasciende. No es una belleza que llame la atención de inmediato; no se revela por los gestos, signos o elementos materiales, sino que brilla a través de ellos. De hecho, es una belleza que se siente más que se ve. Si queremos una hermosa liturgia, debemos dejarnos llevar por la liturgia, por su espíritu y por sus reglas.

La belleza en la liturgia siempre exige alguna renuncia de nuestra parte: debemos renunciar a la banalidad, la imaginación excesiva, la extravagancia. Además, se debe dar a la liturgia el tiempo y el espacio que necesita. No debemos tener prisa. Más que tomar la iniciativa, debemos permitirle a Dios la libertad de hablarnos y alcanzarnos a través de su Palabra, a través de la oración, los gestos, la música, el canto, la luz, el incienso, las fragancias. Como una composición musical, la liturgia necesita espacio, tiempo, silencio, desprendimiento de nosotros mismos, para que las palabras, los gestos y los signos nos hablen de Dios.

“En su presencia hay esplendor y majestad, en su santuario poder y hermosura” (Salmo 96: 6). ¿Qué otra realidad de la Iglesia está llamada a armonizar y expresar la belleza de la misma manera que su espacio litúrgico y su acción litúrgica? No sólo el lugar sino también la acción, es decir, el gesto, la postura, el movimiento, la vestimenta, deben hablar de armonía y belleza. Todo gesto litúrgico, siendo un gesto de Cristo, está llamado a expresar belleza. De esta manera la liturgia, gracias también a su belleza, seguirá siendo fuente y cumbre, escuela y norma de la vida cristiana.

De Ustedes in Cristo

Padre Clark

Segundo domingo de Tiempo ordinario

Dios todopoderoso y eterno, que gobierna todas las cosas, tanto en el cielo como en la tierra, escucha misericordiosamente la súplica de tu pueblo y concede tu paz en nuestros tiempos.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Amen

Santo de la Semana



Fiesta de
Santa Agnes

Día de Fiesta
21 de Enero