

THIRD 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,

The theme for the readings at Mass this Sunday is about calling. In the first reading from the Old Testament we hear about Jonah's calling: "The word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying: 'Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you.'" In the Gospel we hear about the calling of Simon, Andrew, James and John: "As [Jesus] passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him."

Calling is synonymous with vocation (*vocatio* is a Latin word that means call). The Catholic Church defines vocation as "a call from God to a distinctive state of life, in which the person can reach holiness." Whether you are a bishop, priest, religious sister, husband, wife, mother, father, son, daughter, etc., you are all called to be holy. To be holy means to be like God... which means to be like Jesus. If we follow Jesus, we will all find our true calling in life.

With all that being said, when we speak about vocation, we often speak about the vocation to the priesthood. And, lately, when we speak about the priesthood, we often speak about the shortage of priests. According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), the number of priests in the U.S. has fallen by 9,770 since 2000 (-22%). The number of parishes without a resident priest pastor has increased by 729 to 3,572 (+26%). Although ordinations have been up and/or stabilized, these remain insufficient to maintain the population of priests due to retirements and deaths.

We need priests. We all know that we need priests. We all know we need good priests. But how do we increase our number of good priests? That's the million-dollar question. I hear all kinds of proposed answers to this question. "We need to do this... we need to do that..." Everyone is looking for a silver bullet to fix the vocation crisis. There is no silver bullet. There is no solution that will instantly solve our problem. The problem isn't simply a crisis of vocation to the priesthood... it's a crisis of vocation to holiness. Statistics show that many Catholics neither know nor live their faith (for example, just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that "during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus").

All of these statistics can be discouraging. But a crisis can be a great opportunity. According to CARA, vocations to the priesthood come from holy families and holy parishes. We have a great opportunity at STM. I know that if we all strive to do our part and to follow Jesus – that if we all strive to live lives of holiness – we will all help produce many more vocations to the priesthood!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark

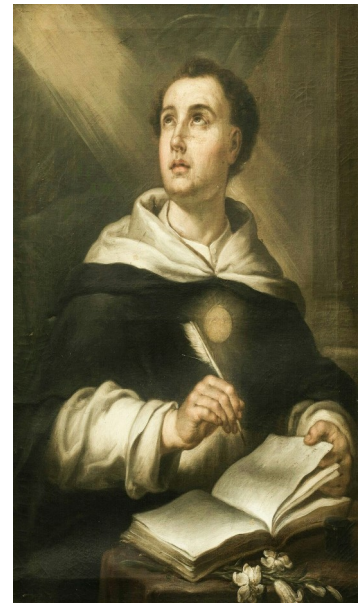
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works.

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 Thomas Aquinas

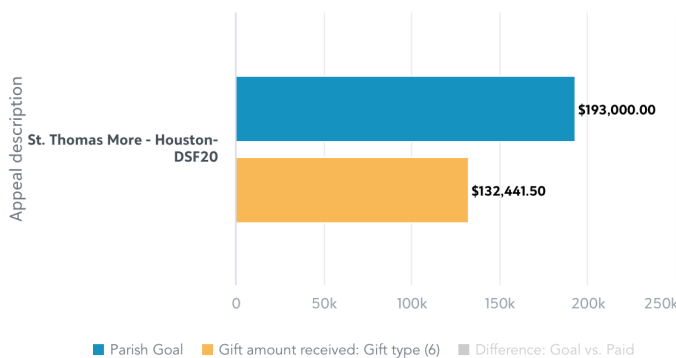
Feast Day
January 28th

Stewardship for January 17, 2021

Collection	\$13,810.38
Online Giving	\$11,453.64
Total	\$25,264.02



Goal vs. Paid - Parish



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 24

7:30am *John Waddell
9:00am *Jim & Janie Mc Neille
11:00am *Missa Pro Populo
1:00pm †Santa Lopez

Monday, January 25

6:30am †Oscar & Anastacia Alvarez
5:30pm *Donald Kanu

Tuesday, January 26

6:30am *Ezinne Rennie
5:30pm *Vincent & Jeffrey Osmena

Wednesday, January 27

6:30am †Ugochukwu Nwachukwu
5:30pm *John & Suzanne Karman

Thursday, January 28

6:30am *Nnamdi Nwachukwu
5:30pm †Apollonia Nwachukwu

Friday, January 29

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

Saturday, January 30

9:00am *Prima Nwachukwu
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.

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

PERPETUAL ADORATION

St. Thomas More Parish has a long history of Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration. Like many other aspects of parish life, the pandemic has put a halt to this practice. We are going to bring it back and we pray that it will be stronger than it ever was. We will need to build our framework of adorers all over again, so the process could be slow. At this time we ask you to prayerfully consider whether you could give one hour a week in adoration of Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. More information to come...

STM SCHOOL 1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

A very successful start to a new annual event! Much fun and camaraderie was enjoyed at Quail Valley Golf Course this past Monday. God blessed us with a beautiful day and a full complement of golfers. It was very gratifying to see so many parishioners supporting our school and having a great time together while raising money for such a worthy cause. This will be the first of many.

LENT 2021

Ash Wednesday is February 17; not that far away. It is a good time for us to consider how we will spend our Lent this year.....



Dear STM family,

The SVdP Society of STM is pleased to partner with the Houston Food Bank (HFB) to hold a "food fair" on Friday, January 29 from 8am to 12pm at Tinsley Elementary School, 11035 Bob White. This outreach, within walking distance of many of our friends, will enable us to better serve families in need, in particular those who cannot make it to the SVdP pantry at STM on Tuesdays.

We are in need of volunteers who will help with various tasks, such as bagging groceries, completing intake forms, and loading groceries into vehicles, all outside and while maintaining social distance. Please contact Debbie at debie.caperton@prodigy.net if you can help with this event.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo

El tema de las lecturas de la Misa de este domingo es el llamado. En la primera lectura del Antiguo Testamento escuchamos sobre el llamamiento de Jonás: En aquellos días, el Señor volvió a hablar a Jonás, diciendo: “Levántate y vete a Nínive, la gran capital, para anunciar ahí el mensaje que te voy a indicar”. En el Evangelio escuchamos sobre el llamamiento de Simón, Andrés, Santiago y Juan: “Caminaba Jesús por la orilla del lago de Galilea, cuando vio a Simón ya su hermano Andrés, echando las redes en el lago, pues eran pescadores. Jesús les dijo: “Síguenme, y haré de ustedes pescadores de hombres”. Inmediatamente dejaron las redes y lo siguieron. Un poco más adelante, vio a Santiago y a Juan, hijos de Zebedeo, que estaban en un barca, remendando sus redes. Los llamó, y ellos, dejando en la barca a su padre con los trabajadores, se fueron con Jesús ”.

Llamar es sinónimo de vocación (vocatio es una palabra latina que significa llamar). La Iglesia Católica define la vocación como "un llamado de Dios a un estado de vida distintivo, en el que la persona puede alcanzar la santidad". Ya seas obispo, sacerdote, hermana religiosa, esposo, esposa, madre, padre, hijo, hija, etc., todos están llamados a ser santos. Ser santo significa ser como Dios ... lo que significa ser como Jesús. Si seguimos a Jesús, todos encontraremos nuestro verdadero llamado en la vida.

Dicho esto, cuando hablamos de vocación, a menudo hablamos de vocación al sacerdocio. Y, últimamente, cuando hablamos del sacerdocio, a menudo hablamos de la escasez de sacerdotes. Según el Centro de Investigación Aplicada en el Apostolado (CARA), el número de sacerdotes en los Estados Unidos ha disminuido en 9,770 desde 2000 (-22%). El número de parroquias sin un párroco sacerdote residente ha aumentado en 729 a 3.572 (+ 26%). Aunque las ordenaciones se han elevado y / o estabilizado, estas siguen siendo insuficientes para mantener la población de sacerdotes debido a jubilaciones y muertes.

Necesitamos sacerdotes. Todos sabemos que necesitamos sacerdotes. Todos sabemos que necesitamos buenos sacerdotes. Pero, ¿cómo aumentamos nuestro número de buenos sacerdotes? Esa es la pregunta del millón de dólares. Escucho todo tipo de propuestas de respuestas a esta pregunta. “Necesitamos hacer esto ... tenemos que hacer aquello ...” Todo el mundo está buscando una solución milagrosa para solucionar la crisis vocacional. No hay bala de plata. No hay solución que resuelva instantáneamente nuestro problema. El problema no es simplemente una crisis de vocación al sacerdocio ... es una crisis de vocación a la santidad. Las estadísticas muestran que muchos católicos ni conocen ni viven su fe (por ejemplo, solo un tercio de los católicos estadounidenses (31%) dicen que creen que “durante la misa católica, el pan y el vino se convierten en el cuerpo y la sangre de Jesús”).

Todas estas estadísticas pueden ser desalentadoras. Pero una crisis puede ser una gran oportunidad. Según CARA, las vocaciones al sacerdocio provienen de familias santas y parroquias santas . Tenemos una gran oportunidad en STM. Sé que si todos nos esforzamos por hacer nuestra parte y seguir a Jesús, que si todos nos esforzamos por vivir vidas de santidad, ¡todos ayudaremos a producir muchas más vocaciones al sacerdocio!

De Ustedes in Cristo

Padre Clark

Tercer Domingo de Tiempo ordinario

Dios todopoderoso y eterno,
Dirige nuestras acciones según tu beneplácito, para que en el nombre de tu amado Hijo abundemos en buenas obras.

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 Santo Tomas de Aquinas

Dia de Fiesta
28 de Enero