

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
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 School

Saint Thomas More Catholic School
 5927 Wigton Drive
 Houston, TX 77096
 (713) 729-3434
 (713) 721-5644 fax
 www.stthomasmore-school.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*
 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

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.
 1:00 p.m. (español)

Bulletin announcements are due Monday, 12 noon for the following Sunday. Please email your announcement to shamilton@stmhouston.org. Requests subject to approval and space availability.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Season of Lent is upon us, the time of year we prepare ourselves for Easter. Lent applies not just to our parish... not just to our Archdiocese... not just to the Catholic Church in the USA... but rather to the universal Church! Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has given a message to the whole universal Church for Lent 2020:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus revealed to his disciples the deepest meaning of his mission when he told them of his passion, death and resurrection, in fulfilment of the Father's will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." During this season of conversion, let us renew our *faith*, draw from the "living water" of *hope*, and receive with open hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

Fasting, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus, enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (*fasting*), concern and loving care for the poor (*almsgiving*), and childlike dialogue with the Father (*prayer*) make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity.

1. Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all our brothers and sisters.

In this Lenten season, *accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ* means, first of all, opening our hearts to God's word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. This truth is not an abstract concept reserved for a chosen intelligent few. Instead, it is a message that all of us can receive and understand thanks to the wisdom of a heart open to the grandeur of God, who loves us even before we are aware of it. Christ himself is this truth. By taking on our humanity, even to its very limits, he has made himself the way – demanding, yet open to all – that leads to the fullness of life.

Fasting, experienced as a form of self-denial, helps those who undertake it in simplicity of heart to rediscover God's gift and to recognize that, created in his image and likeness, we find our fulfilment in him. In embracing the experience of poverty, those who fast make themselves poor with the poor and accumulate the treasure of a love both received and shared. In this way, fasting helps us to love God and our neighbor, inasmuch as love, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, is a movement outward that focuses our attention on others and considers them as one with ourselves.

Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to "make his dwelling" among us. Fasting involves being freed from all that weighs us down – like consumerism or an excess of information, whether true or false – in order to open the doors of our hearts to the One who comes to us, poor in all things, yet "full of grace and truth: The Son of God our Savior.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark

Second Sunday of Lent

Oh God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Amen



Sacrifice of Isaac
Juan de Valdes Léal
(1622-1690)

Stewardship for February 21, 2021

Thank you for your generous donation.

Collection	\$12,005.00
Online Giving	\$12,299.30
Total	\$24,304.30



Our DSF goal for 2021 is \$150,000.00

STM CENSUS

By now you should have received a letter from STM wanting to know your status as a parishioner. We are trying to get a better idea of how many families should actually be in our database. If you did not receive a letter, it is possible that you are not registered in the parish. Please do not hesitate to call the church office with any questions, 713-729-0221.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION & EXPOSITION

In February 1981 we began round the clock Exposition and Adoration at our parish. This has been a great blessing and we hope to revive this devotion. We will need many adorers since our hope is to fill 24 hours each day in the chapel with at least 2 people per hour. **We will reopen our chapel when we have enough people registered to fill all of the hours.** We also have a new electronic system for registering and record keeping. Go here to create an account and sign up for a Holy Hour:

www.stmhouston.weadorehim.com

Questions? Text Bob Brill, 713-598-4838 or Edna Valdez, 713-425-9506.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 28

7:30 am †James Okpomeshine Onyeoziri
 9:00 am †Joe Fogarty
 11:00 am *Missa Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Felipe Guerrero

Monday, March 1

6:30 am †Keith Winter
 5:30 pm †Vessie Peters

Tuesday, March 2

6:30 am †Joan Fintye O'Day
 5:30 pm *Ann Henry

Wednesday, March 3

6:30 am †Mary Bernadette Foley
 5:30 pm *Mike McCrate & Family

Thursday, March 4

6:30 am †Marina McCray
 5:30 pm *Nnamdi Kanu

Friday, March 5

6:30 am *Sheila Smith
 5:30 pm †Arturo Nava

Saturday, March 6

9:00 am †Joe Fogarty
 5:00 pm †Patrick Wilson

† (Deceased)

* (Special Intention)



STM MEN'S RETREAT APRIL 9-11, 2021

The annual **Men's Retreat** is being held at the Holy Name Retreat Center, 430 Bunker Hill Road (between I-10 and Memorial Drive). This is the weekend *after* Easter and the theme is "Lord it is good that we are here." Covid protocols are in place and the total allowed attendance is 45 men.

Register today at <https://holynameretreatcenter.com/catholic-men-retreat-april-9-11-2021/> or contact Hiatt Ives at 832-372-6900 or Hiatt@HiattIves.com for more information.

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.

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.

LENT 2021 AT ST. THOMAS MORE

Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 PM in the church, there will be a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. There will also be a preached reflection given by one of the clergy.

Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM in the church there will be Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Feel free to come at any hour to worship Our Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Fridays Stations of the Cross in the Church, 6:30 PM in English and 7:30 PM in Spanish.

The Rosary is prayed every weekday morning at 6:00 AM, right before the 6:30 AM Mass.

Confessions are heard every Tuesday and Wednesday, 6:15-7:00 PM and every Saturday, 3:30-4:45 PM.

Knights of Columbus Drive Thru Lenten Fish Fry, Fridays during Lent (except Good Friday), 4:30-6:30 PM.

Lenten Food Drive, the SVdP Food Pantry at STM will be accepting food donations during pantry hours each Tuesday from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. A list of suggested food items is available on the STM website <https://www.stmhouston.org/st-vincent-de-paul-society>

40 Days For Life, February 18-March 25, co-sponsored by Houston Coalition for Life and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Sign up for one hour and put prayer into action! Pray for life outside Planned Parenthood (4600 Gulf Fwy....the largest abortion facility in the Western Hemisphere) as a powerful witness for the sanctity of life. Call or email Theresa at Coalition for Life, 713-741-8728 or theresa@houstoncoalition.com to register or for more information.

PRAYER, FASTING, ALMSGIVING

Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

Se acerca el tiempo de la Cuaresma, la época del año que nos preparamos para la Pascua. La Cuaresma no solo se aplica a nuestra parroquia... no solo a nuestra Arquidiócesis... no solo a la iglesia Católica en Los Estados Unidos... si no a la Iglesia Universal! Nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco ha dado un mensaje para toda la iglesia universal para la Cuaresma 2020:

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Jesús reveló a sus discípulos el significado más profundo de su misión cuando les habló de su pasión, muerte y resurrección, en el cumplimiento de la voluntad de el padre. Luego llamo a los discípulos a compartir esta misión para la salvación del mundo.

En nuestro camino de Cuaresma hacia la Pascua, recordemos a Aquel que “se humilló y se hizo obediente hasta la muerte, muerte de cruz.” Durante este tiempo de conversión, renovemos nuestra fe, saquemos de el “agua viva) de la esperanza y recibamos con el corazón abierto el amor de Dios, quien nos hace hermanos y hermanas en Cristo. En la vigilia de la Pascua, renovemos nuestra promesa bautismal y experimentemos el renacimiento como nuevos hombre y mujeres por la obra del Espíritu Santo. Este camino Cuaresmal como todo el peregrinaje de la vida Cristiana, esta iluminada ahora por la luz de la resurrección que inspira los pensamientos, actitudes y decisiones de los seguidores de Cristo.

El ayuno, la oración y la limosna, como los predica Jesús posibilitan y expresan nuestra conversión. El camino a la pobreza y abnegación (ayuno), la preocupación y el cuidado amoroso por los pobres (limosna) y el dialogo infantil con el padre(oración) no permite vivir vidas de fe sincera, esperanza y caridad efectiva.

1. La fe nos llama a aceptar la verdad y dar testimonio de ella ante Dios y todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas.

En este tiempo de Cuaresma, aceptar y vivir la verdad revelada en Cristo significa, primero que todo. Abrir nuestros corazones a la palabra de Dios, que la iglesia transmite de generación en generación. Esta verdad no es un concepto abstracto reservado para unos pocos inteligentes elegidos. En cambio, este mensaje que todos podemos recibir y comprender gracias a la sabiduría de un corazón abierto a la grandeza de Dios, que nos ama incluso antes que nos demos cuenta. Cristo mismo es la verdad. Al asumir nuestra humanidad incluso hasta sus límites. Se ha hecho camino – exigente, pero abierto a todos – que conduce a la plenitud de la vida.

El Ayuno, vivido en una forma de abnegación, ayuda a quien lo emprende con sencillez de corazón a redescubrir el don de Dios y a reconocer que, creado a su imagen y semejanza, en el encontraremos nuestra plenitud. Al abrazar la experiencia de la pobreza, los que ayunan se empobrecen con los pobres, y acumula el tesoro de un amor recibido y compartido. De esta manera, el ayuno nos ayuda a amar a Dios y al prójimo, en la medida en que el amor, como enseña Santo Tomas de Aquino, es un movimiento hace el exterior que centra nuestra atención en otros y los considera uno como nosotros mismos.

La cuaresma es un tiempo para creer, para acoger a Dios en nuestras vidas y permitirle “hacer su morada” entre nosotros. El ayuno implica ser liberados de todo lo que nos agobia – como el consumismo o el acceso de información, ya sea verdad o falsa – para abrir las puertas de nuestros corazones a Aquel que viene a nosotros, pobre en todo, pero “lleno de gracia y verdad: El Hijo de Dios nuestro Salvador.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

Padre Clark

Segundo Domingo de Cuaresma

Oh Dios, que nos has mandado escuchar a tu amado Hijo, complace, te rogamos, en nutrirnos interiormente con tu palabra, para que, con la vista espiritual purificada, podamos regocijarnos al contemplar tu gloria. Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo, en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Amen



Sacrificio de Isaac
Juan de Valdez Léal
(1622-1690)