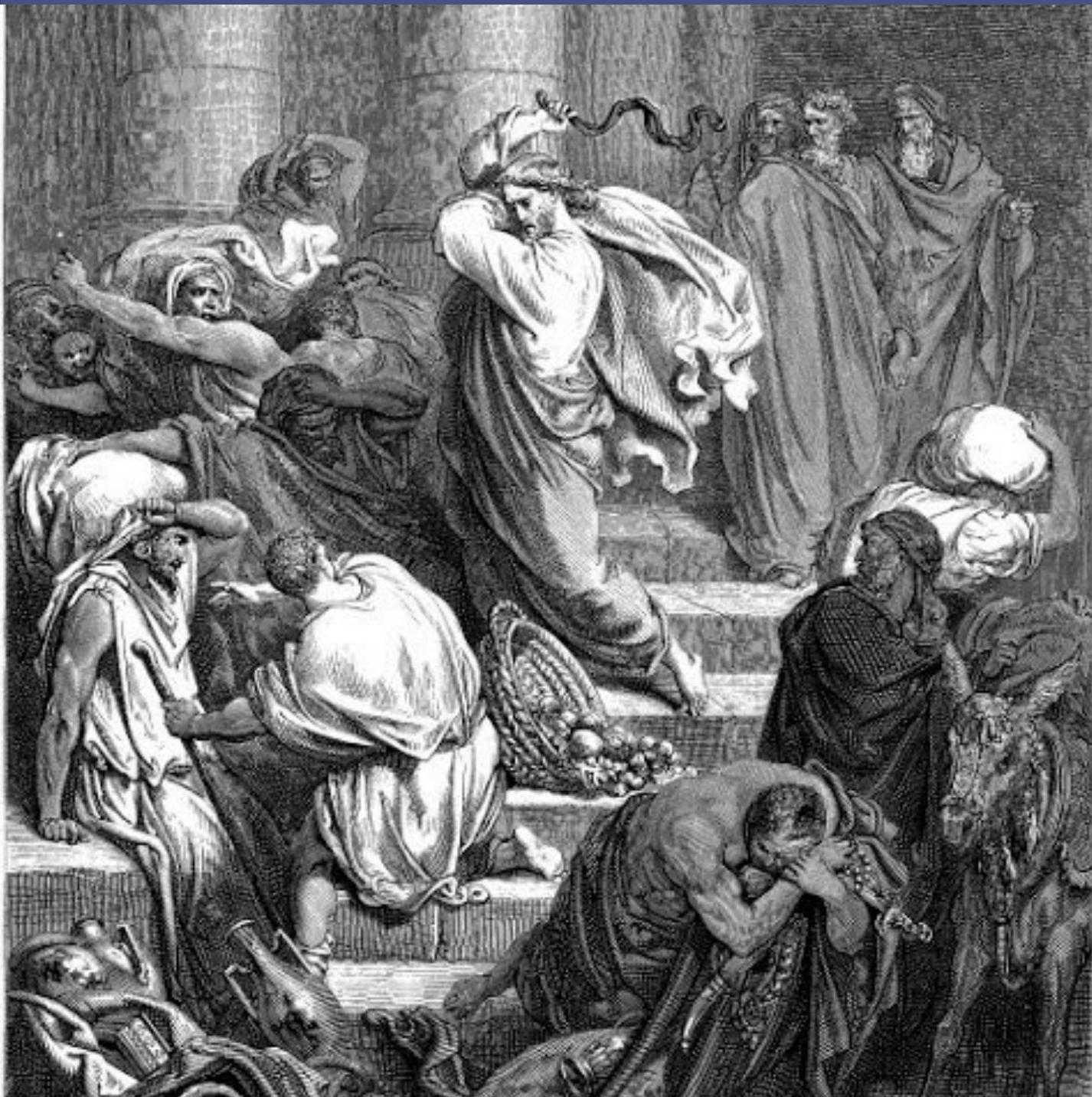


THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON—HOUSTON



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*
Xenia Avalos, *Receptionist*

Religious Education

Ryan Lambert, *Director of Faith Formation*
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*

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,

In last week's bulletin letter, I shared a part of Pope Francis' Lenten message for 2021. The following is a little bit more from the Pope's message. As we enter the third week of Lent, keep striving to enter more deeply into this penitential season!

2. *Hope as "living water" enabling us to continue our journey.*

The Samaritan woman at the well, whom Jesus asks for a drink, does not understand what he means when he says that he can offer her "living water." Naturally, she thinks that he is referring to material water, but Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit whom he will give in abundance through the paschal mystery, bestowing a hope that does not disappoint. Jesus had already spoken of this hope when, in telling of his passion and death, he said that he would "be raised on the third day." Jesus was speaking of the future opened up by the Father's mercy. Hoping with him and because of him means believing that history does not end with our mistakes, our violence and injustice, or the sin that crucifies Love. It means receiving from his open heart the Father's forgiveness.

In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated. Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: "Be reconciled to God." By receiving forgiveness in the sacrament that lies at the heart of our process of conversion, we in turn can spread forgiveness to others. Having received forgiveness ourselves, we can offer it through our willingness to enter into attentive dialogue with others and to give comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain. God's forgiveness, offered also through our words and actions, enables us to experience an Easter of fraternity.

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with "speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn." In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be "willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference."

Through recollection and silent prayer, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love.

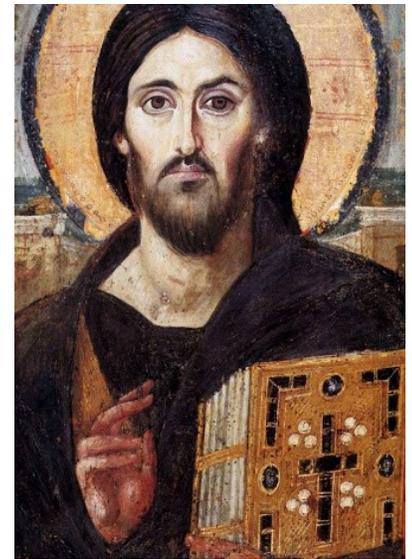
To experience Lent in hope entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is "making all things new." It means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave his life on the cross and was raised by God on the third day, and always being "prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls [us] to account for the hope that is in [us]."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark

Third Sunday of Lent

O 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



Christ the Saviour
(Pantokrater)
Unknown
6th Century

On the cover...
**THE BUYERS AND SELLERS
DRIVEN OUT OF THE TEMPLE**
GUSTAVE DORÉ (1832-1883)
DORÉ BIBLE

Stewardship for February 21, 2021

Thank you for your generous donation.

Collection	\$21,505.00
Online Giving	\$13,154.26
Total	\$34,659.26



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:

stmhouston.weadorehim.com

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 7

7:30 am *Gayle Lieman
 9:00 am *Chavez Family Intentions
 11:00 am *Missa Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Eva Escot

Monday, March 8

6:30 am *Michelle Kanu
 5:30 pm †Rosie Amendolare

Tuesday, March 9

6:30 am †John Andrzejewski
 5:30 pm *Ezinne Rennie

Wednesday, March 10

6:30 am †James Okpomesine Onyeoziri
 5:30 pm †Margaret Biondi

Thursday, March 11

6:30 am †Apollonia Nwachukwu
 5:30 pm †Arturo Nava

Friday, March 12

6:30 am †James Okpomesine Onyeoziri
 5:30 pm *Mary Anne & Jerry Scroggins

Saturday, March 13

9:00 am †James Okpomesine Onyeoziri
 5:00 pm †James Okpomesine Onyeoziri

† (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,

En la carta del boletín de la semana pasada, compartí una parte del mensaje de Cuaresma del Papa Francisco para 2021. Lo siguiente es un poco más del mensaje del Papa. Al entrar en la tercera semana de Cuaresma, ¡siga esforzándose por entrar más profundamente en esta temporada de penitencia!

2. La esperanza como “agua viva” que nos permite continuar nuestro camino.

La mujer samaritana junto al pozo, a quien Jesús pide de beber, no comprende lo que quiere decir cuando dice que puede ofrecerle “agua viva”. Naturalmente, ella piensa que se refiere al agua material, pero Jesús habla del Espíritu Santo que dará en abundancia a través del misterio pascual, otorgando una esperanza que no defrauda. Jesús ya había hablado de esta esperanza cuando, al relatar su pasión y muerte, dijo que “resucitaría al tercer día”. Jesús hablaba del futuro abierto por la misericordia del Padre. Esperar con él y por él significa creer que la historia no termina con nuestros errores, nuestra violencia e injusticia, o el pecado que crucifica al Amor. Significa recibir de su corazón abierto el perdón del Padre.

En estos tiempos de problemas, cuando todo parece frágil e incierto, puede parecer un desafío hablar de esperanza. Sin embargo, la Cuaresma es precisamente el tiempo de la esperanza, cuando nos volvemos a Dios, que sigue con paciencia cuidando de su creación, que muchas veces hemos maltratado. San Pablo nos urge a poner nuestra esperanza en la reconciliación: “Reconciliados con Dios”. Al recibir el perdón en el sacramento que está en el corazón de nuestro proceso de conversión, nosotros a su vez podemos difundir el perdón a los demás. Habiendo recibido el perdón nosotros mismos, podemos ofrecerlo a través de nuestra voluntad de entablar un diálogo atento con los demás y brindar consuelo a quienes experimentan pena y dolor. El perdón de Dios, ofrecido también a través de nuestras palabras y acciones, nos permite vivir una Pascua de fraternidad.

En Cuaresma, podemos estar cada vez más preocupados por “hablar palabras de alivio, fortaleza, consuelo y aliento, y no palabras que degraden, entristezcan, enojen o muestren desprecio”. Para dar esperanza a los demás, a veces basta simplemente con ser amable, estar “dispuesto a dejar todo lo demás a un lado para mostrar interés, regalar una sonrisa, decir una palabra de aliento, escuchar en medio de indiferencia general”.

A través del recogimiento y la oración silenciosa, se nos da la esperanza como inspiración y luz interior, iluminando los desafíos y las opciones que enfrentamos en nuestra misión. De ahí la necesidad de rezar y, en secreto, encontrar al Padre amoroso.

Vivir la Cuaresma con esperanza implica crecer en la conciencia de que, en Jesucristo, somos testigos de nuevos tiempos, en los que Dios está “haciendo nuevas todas las cosas”. Significa recibir la esperanza de Cristo, que dio su vida en la cruz y fue resucitado por Dios al tercer día, y estar siempre “preparado para hacer una defensa ante todo aquel que [nos] llame a dar cuenta de la esperanza que hay en [nosotros].”

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)