

FOURTH 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*  
Kathy Muras, *Secretary*

**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](mailto:shamilton@stmhouston.org). Requests subject to approval and space availability.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

For the past two weeks, I have shared a part of Pope Francis' Lenten message for 2021. The following is the final part from the Pope's message. As we enter the fourth week of Lent, I encourage you once again, keep striving to enter more deeply into this penitential season!

*3. Love, following in the footsteps of Christ, in concern and compassion for all, is the highest expression of our faith and hope.*

*Love rejoices in seeing others grow.* Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion.

“‘Social love’ makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. With its impulse to universality, love is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone.”

*Love is a gift* that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness. Such was the case with the jar of meal and jug of oil of the widow of Zarephath, who offered a cake of bread to the prophet Elijah (cf. *1 Kings 17:7-16*); it was also the case with the loaves blessed, broken and given by Jesus to the disciples to distribute to the crowd (cf. *Mk 6:30-44*). Such is the case too with our almsgiving, whether small or large, when offered with joy and simplicity.

*To experience Lent with love* means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord's word to his Servant, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you” (*Is 43:1*). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters.

“Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognized and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society.”

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

May Mary, Mother of the Savior, ever faithful at the foot of the cross and in the heart of the Church, sustain us with her loving presence. May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Clark*

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. **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**



St. Joseph  
Spouse of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
March 19

On the cover...

**THE WATERS OF BABYLON**  
GEBHARD FUGEL (1863-1939)



## Stewardship for February 21, 2021

Thank you for your generous donation.

Collection	\$21,150.00
Online Giving	\$15,566.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,716.39</b>



2021 Goal	\$150,000.00
Collected	<u>19,231.00</u>
Remaining	\$130,769.00

## 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](http://stmhouston.weadorehim.com)

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, March 14

7:30 am \*Donald Kanu  
 9:00 am \*Missa Pro Populo  
 11:00 am \*Uzoh Family  
 1:00 pm †Freddie Perez

### Monday, March 15

6:30 am \*Nwachukwo Family  
 5:30 pm †Tim Brown

### Tuesday, March 16

6:30 am \*Cotton Starr  
 5:30 pm †Charlotte McCrate

### Wednesday, March 17

6:30 am †James Okpomesine Onyeoziri  
 5:30 pm †Molly Ferris

### Thursday, March 18

6:30 am †Martha  
 5:30 pm \*Lyzander Gonsalves

### Friday, March 19

6:30 am †Peter Vincent Lomonte, Jr.  
 5:30 pm †Mary Bernadette Foley

### Saturday, March 20

9:00 am \*Kevin & Camille Spillman  
 5:00 pm †Paul Delehanty

† (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](mailto:Hiatt@HiattIves.com) for more information.

## SACRAMENTS AND FAITH FORMATION

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.

### K— 5th Grade CCE Town Hall

To All Families of the Parish:

On March 24th at 7:00 PM in Servant Hall, I am inviting those who want to be involved and provide support for our **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION** program next year, to join with me and discuss options for moving forward. Our goal as a parish is to help your family develop in faith. This meeting will be an opportunity to learn about how we intend to accomplish that goal and how you can help us and even shape the process. Feel free to contact me for more details at [rlambert@stmhouston.org](mailto:rlambert@stmhouston.org).

Ryan Lambert, Director of Faith Formation

## 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](mailto:theresa@houstoncoalition.com) to register or for more information.

## PRAYER, FASTING, ALMSGIVING

## Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

Durante las últimas dos semanas, he compartido una parte del mensaje de Cuaresma del Papa Francisco para 2021. La siguiente es la parte final del mensaje del Papa. Al entrar en la cuarta semana de Cuaresma, los animo una vez más, ¡sigan esforzándose por entrar más profundamente en esta temporada de penitencia!

3. El amor, siguiendo las huellas de Cristo, con preocupación y compasión por todos, es la expresión más grande de nuestra fe y esperanza.

El amor se regocija al ver crecer a los demás. Por eso sufre cuando otros están angustiados, solos, enfermos, sin hogar, despreciados o necesitados. El amor es un salto del corazón; nos saca de nosotros mismos y crea lazos de compartir y comunión.

“El 'amor social' permite avanzar hacia una civilización del amor, a la que todos podemos sentirnos llamados. Con su impulso a la universalidad, el amor es capaz de construir un mundo nuevo. No es solamente un sentimiento, es el mejor medio para descubrir caminos efectivos de desarrollo para todos.”

El amor es un regalo que da sentido a nuestra vida. Nos permite ver a los necesitados como miembros de nuestra propia familia, como amigos, hermanos o hermanas. Una pequeña cantidad, si se da con amor, nunca termina, sino que se convierte en fuente de vida y felicidad. Tal fue el caso del tarro de comida y de aceite de la viuda de Sarepta, quien ofreció una torta de pan al profeta Elías (cf. 1 Reyes 17: 7-16); lo mismo ocurrió con los panes bendecidos, partidos y entregados por Jesús a los discípulos para que los distribuyeran entre la multitud (cf. Mc 6, 30-44). Tal es también el caso de nuestra limosna, ya sea pequeña o grande, cuando se ofrece con alegría y sencillez.

Vivir la Cuaresma con amor significa cuidar a quienes sufren o se sienten abandonados y temerosos por la pandemia del Covid-19. En estos días de profunda incertidumbre sobre el futuro, recordemos la palabra del Señor a su Siervo: "No temas, porque yo te he redimido" (Is 43, 1). En nuestra caridad, hablemos palabras de consuelo y ayudemos a otros a darse cuenta de que Dios los ama como hijos e hijas.

“Solo una mirada transformada por la caridad puede permitir que se reconozca la dignidad de los demás y, en consecuencia, que los pobres sean reconocidos y valorados en su dignidad, respetados en su identidad y cultura y, por tanto, verdaderamente integrados en la sociedad”.

Queridos hermanos y hermanas, cada momento de nuestra vida es un tiempo para creer, esperar y amar. La llamada a vivir la Cuaresma como un camino de conversión, oración y compartir nuestros bienes, nos ayuda, como comunidades y como individuos, a reavivar la fe que viene de Cristo vivo, la esperanza inspirada por el soplo del Espíritu Santo y la amor que fluye del corazón misericordioso del Padre.

Que María, Madre del Salvador, siempre fiel al pie de la cruz y en el corazón de la Iglesia, nos sostenga con su presencia amorosa. Que la bendición del Señor resucitado nos acompañe a todos en nuestro camino hacia la luz de la Pascua.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

*Padre Clark*

### Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma

Oh Dios, que por tu Palabra reconcilias al género humano contigo mismo en un maravillosa manera, concédenos, oramos, que con prontitud devoción y fe entusiasta, el pueblo cristiano puede apresurar hacia las celebraciones solemnes por venir.

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

amén



San José  
Esposo de la Bienaventurada Virgen María  
19 de Marzo