

FIFTH 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. Requests subject to approval and space availability.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Sunday marks the Fifth Sunday of Lent, and you might notice something a little different in the Church. The rubrics from the Roman Missal say, "In the dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

Why does the Church observe this practice? Part of the answer is historical. Up until 1959, the Fifth Sunday of Lent was known as Passion Sunday, which marked a two-week period leading up to Easter, known as Passiontide. While we no longer have a distinct liturgical season known as Passiontide, various aspects of the liturgy call to mind the Passion of Christ, and covering crosses and images throughout the church is one of the ways the liturgy does it. Msgr. Peter Elliot says, "The custom of veiling crosses and images ... has much to commend it in terms of religious psychology, because it helps us to concentrate on the great essentials of Christ's work of Redemption." The idea is that by not being able to look at various images around the church, we are able to focus more closely on the themes of the liturgy and the upcoming liturgical events ahead.

During this two-week period, one of the ways the liturgy expresses Christ's work of redemption is by the prefaces of the Eucharistic Prayer. Beginning on Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent and for the rest of that week, the priest is obliged to use Preface I of the Passion of the Lord, which says, "It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For through the saving Passion of your Son the whole world has received a heart to confess the infinite power of your majesty, since by the wondrous power of the Cross your judgment on the world is now revealed and the authority of Christ crucified. And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy..."

The Sixth Sunday of Lent is known as Palm Sunday... more specifically, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. This liturgy has its own preface that is different than the others: "It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For, though innocent, he suffered willingly for sinners and accepted unjust condemnation to save the guilty. His Death has washed away our sins, and his Resurrection has purchased our justification. And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy..."

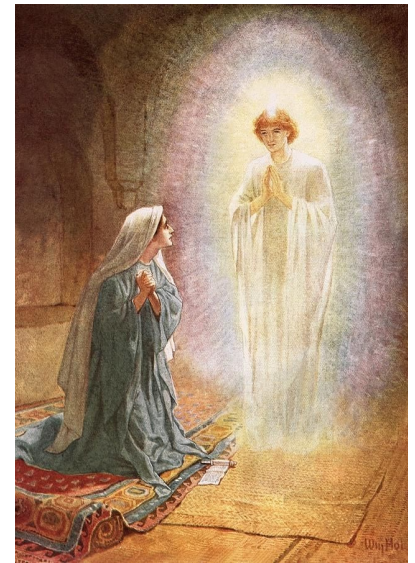
The preface of the Eucharistic Prayer is a part of the liturgy that helps us focus on Christ's work of redemption. How often do we really listen to these prefaces? How often do we actually pay attention to and reflect upon the other various parts of the Mass? It's probably less than we'd like to admit. So, over the next several weeks, as we cover some of the images in the church to help us concentrate on some of the essentials of our faith in the liturgy, what are the things that we need to "cover" in our own lives so that we can enter more deeply into the upcoming liturgical feasts?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark

Fifth Sunday of Lent

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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



Feast of The Annunciation March 25

On the cover...

CHRIST IN GLORY
MOSAIC IN SAN VITALE-
RAVENNA, UNKNOWN

Stewardship for March 14, 2021

Thank you for your generous donation.

Collection	\$8,934.72
Online Giving	\$12,109.00
Total	\$21,043.72

**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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 21

7:30 am †Francisco Gonsalves
9:00 am †James Okpomeshine Onyeoziri
11:00 am *Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm *Jiselle Villaseñor

Monday, March 22

6:30 am *Donald Kanu
5:30 pm *Ben & Kathleen Warner Family

Tuesday, March 23

6:30 am †James Okpomeshine Onyeoziri
5:30 pm *Jim & Jeanette Jeffus Family

Wednesday, March 24

6:30 am †James Okpomeshine Onyeoziri
5:30 pm *Jerry & Carol Scroggins Family

Thursday, March 25

6:30 am *Prima Nwachukwu
5:30 pm *Mike & Cecile Guarino Family

Friday, March 26

6:30 am †James Okpomeshine Onyeoziri
5:30 pm *Michelle Kanu

Saturday, March 27

9:00 am †Gregory Laitkep
5:00 pm †Pablo E. Pineda

† (Deceased)
* (Special Intention)



HOLY WEEK 2021

Monday, March 29– Regular Schedule

Tuesday, March 30–Chrism Mass 6:00 PM at the Co-Cathedral, no 5:30 PM Mass or Confessions at STM, there will still be the 7:00 PM Holy Hour

Wednesday, March 31–Regular Mass and Confession schedule.

Holy Thursday, April 1– **Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:00 PM** (this is the only Mass today)

Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion, April 2–

10:00 AM Living Stations of the Cross, 12 Noon Opening of Divine Mercy Novena, 3:00 PM English Service, 7:00 PM Spanish Service

Holy Saturday, April 3– Easter Vigil, 8:30 PM (this is the only Mass today)

Easter Sunday, April 4– Regular Mass schedule: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM in English and 1:00 PM in Spanish.

PARISH OFFICES WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON HOLY THURSDAY AND REOPEN ON THE TUESDAY AFTER EASTER

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 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. You can also join us on ZOOM: **Meeting ID: 915 9555 9141**

Passcode: 986658

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 to register or for more information.

PRAYER, FASTING, ALMSGIVING

Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

Este domingo marca el quinto domingo de Cuaresma, y es posible que notes algo un poco diferente en la Iglesia. Las rúbricas del Misal Romano dicen: "En las diócesis de los Estados Unidos, se puede observar la práctica de cubrir cruces e imágenes en toda la iglesia a partir de este domingo. Las cruces permanecen cubiertas hasta el final de la Celebración de la Pasión del Señor el Viernes Santo, pero las imágenes permanecen cubiertas hasta el comienzo de la Vigilia Pascual".

¿Por qué la Iglesia observa esta práctica? Parte de la respuesta es histórica. Hasta 1959, el Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma se conocía como Domingo de la Pasión, que marcaba un período de dos semanas previo a la Pascua, conocido como "Passiontide". Si bien ya no tenemos una temporada litúrgica distinta conocida como "Passiontide", varios aspectos de la liturgia recuerdan la Pasión de Cristo, y cubrir cruces e imágenes en toda la iglesia es una de las formas en que la liturgia lo hace. Mons. Peter Elliot dice: "La costumbre de velar cruces e imágenes ... tiene mucho que elogiar en términos de psicología religiosa, porque nos ayuda a concentrarnos en los grandes elementos esenciales de la obra de redención de Cristo". La idea es que al no poder mirar varias imágenes alrededor de la iglesia, podemos enfocarnos más de cerca en los temas de la liturgia y los próximos eventos litúrgicos que se avecinan.

Durante este período de dos semanas, una de las formas en que la liturgia expresa la obra de redención de Cristo es mediante los prefacios de la Plegaria Eucarística. A partir del lunes de la Quinta Semana de Cuaresma y durante el resto de esa semana, el sacerdote está obligado a utilizar el Prefacio I de la Pasión del Señor, que dice: "En verdad es justo y necesario, es nuestro deber y salvación darte gracias siempre y en todo lugar, Señor, Padre santo, Dios todopoderoso y eterno. Porque en la pasión salvadora de tu Hijo el universo aprende a proclamar tu grandeza y, por la fuerza inefable de la cruz, se hace patente el juicio del mundo y el poder del Crucificado. Por eso, Señor, nosotros, llenos de alegría, te aclamamos con los ángeles y con todos los santos, diciendo: Santo, Santo, Santo ..."

El Sexto Domingo de Cuaresma se conoce como Domingo de Ramos ... más específicamente, Domingo de Ramos de la Pasión del Señor. Esta liturgia tiene un prefacio propio que es diferente a las demás: "En verdad es justo y necesario, es nuestro deber y salvación darte gracias siempre y en todo lugar, Señor, Padre Santo, Dios todopoderoso y eterno, por Cristo, Señor nuestro. El cual siendo inocente, se dignó padecer por los pecadores y fue injustamente condenado por salvar a los culpables; con su muerte borró nuestros delitos y, resucitando, conquistó nuestra justificación. Por eso, te alabamos con todos los ángeles y te aclamamos con voces de júbilo, diciendo: Santo, Santo, Santo..."

El prefacio de la Plegaria Eucarística es parte de la liturgia que nos ayuda a enfocarnos en la obra de redención de Cristo. ¿Con qué frecuencia escuchamos realmente estos prefacios? ¿Con qué frecuencia prestamos atención y reflexionamos sobre las otras partes de la Misa? Probablemente sea menos de lo que nos gustaría admitir. Entonces, durante las próximas semanas, mientras cubrimos algunas de las imágenes en la iglesia para ayudarnos a concentrarnos en algunos de los aspectos esenciales de nuestra fe en la liturgia, ¿cuáles son las cosas que debemos "cubrir" en nuestras propias vidas? que podemos adentrarnos más profundamente en las próximas fiestas litúrgicas?

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

Padre Clark

Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma

Con tu ayuda te suplicamos, Señor Dios nuestro, que caminemos ansiosos en esa misma Caridad con la que, por amor al mundo, tu Hijo se entregó a la muerte.

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



Fiesta de la Anunciación
25 de Marzo