

FOURTEENTH 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 (Closed from 12-1 PM for lunch)

Monday to Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Study We are offering an opportunity for any adult who wants to learn the basics of the Catholic Faith. *Faith Basics* is being held on Tuesday nights, and started June 1, 7-8:30 p.m. Ryan Lambert will lead you through the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Bible Study On Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. upstairs in the Religious Education building, we will meet to learn more about Jesus through the witness of the Bible. The cost for the study guide which is used with the video series is \$10. Please see our website for more details:

<https://stmhouston.org/bible-study-1>

Next Coffee & Donuts



July 11

Join us in Servant Hall for donuts, coffee, and fellowship, after all Masses!

STM 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 (Summer)

Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Our summer office hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. We are here to give prospective families a tour of our school and to answer any questions you may have. If you are looking for summer camp opportunities for your children, consider registering them for our Kidventure camp here at STM.

In Christ,
Carolina Bowman, Principal

SACRAMENTS

Please visit our website for details about our Sacramental preparation:

<https://stmhouston.org/sacraments>

Infant Baptism Preparation & Registration

- ◆ You must be registered in the parish, or live in either of the following zip codes: **77096 or 77035**
- ◆ Infant Baptism is for children under 7 years of age.
- ◆ Children 7 years and older must attend RCIA for children.
- ◆ The preparation is personalized to the family and we hope that you will use www.formed.org and Zoom.
- ◆ Attendance is required for parents and is highly recommended for Godparents.

Please call the Faith Formation Office for access to our registration, 713-729-3435.

**THE PARISH OFFICES WILL BE
CLOSED ON MONDAY JULY 5
IN OBSERVANCE OF
THE 4TH OF JULY.**

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Sunday is the 4th of July, the day we celebrate American Independence Day. We celebrate American Independence on this day because on July 4, 1776 the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, which announced the colonies' separation from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence has three basic ideas: 1) That God created all human beings equal and that they are endowed with inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, 2) The government should protect these rights, 3) If the government fails to protect these rights, then the people are free to revolt and establish a new government.

We often hear about liberty and freedom. What does it mean to have liberty? What does it mean to be free? When people ask themselves this question, they might think that freedom simply means not to be interfered with from outside forces in personal matters. "You can't tell me what to do!" expresses this idea of freedom. Another way people might think of freedom is that it is the ability to do whatever you want to do. "I can do whatever I want!" might best express this idea of freedom.

In the Catholic perspective, these ideas of freedom – a freedom from constraints and a freedom to do whatever you want – are incomplete. Instead of thinking about a "freedom from" or a "freedom to," a Catholic perspective sees freedom as a "freedom for." Freedom for what? Freedom for excellence. Just because one is free to do whatever they want, that doesn't necessarily mean they will find happiness. Freedom for excellence is the power to be the best human beings we can be. Our faith in Christ and the teachings of the Church provide us with a guide to living our humanity perfectly. If we follow our guide, then we have the freedom to be excellent.

Below are excerpts from what the Catechism teaches on freedom and liberty:

Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude.

As long as freedom has not bound itself definitively to its ultimate good which is God, there is the possibility of choosing between good and evil, and thus of growing in perfection or of failing and sinning. This freedom characterizes properly human acts. It is the basis of praise or blame, merit or reproach.

The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. the choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to "the slavery of sin."

Freedom makes man responsible for his acts to the extent that they are voluntary. Progress in virtue, knowledge of the good, and asceticism enhance the mastery of the will over its acts.

Freedom is exercised in relationships between human beings. Every human person, created in the image of God, has the natural right to be recognized as a free and responsible being. All owe to each other this duty of respect. the right to the exercise of freedom, especially in moral and religious matters, is an inalienable requirement of the dignity of the human person. This right must be recognized and protected by civil authority within the limits of the common good and public order.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Clark



St. Maria Goretti
July 6

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday
6:30 AM & 5:30 PM
Saturday
9:00 AM

Saturday Vigil
5:00 PM
Sunday
7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM
1:00 PM (español)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tuesday & Wednesday
6:15-7:00 PM
Saturday
3:30-4:45 PM

On the cover:

"Jesus Is Rejected in His Home Town"
Jerome Nadal
1507-1580

Stewardship for June 27, 2021

Thank you for your generous donations!

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Collection | \$13,430.25 |
| <u>Online Giving</u> | <u>\$ 9,023.22</u> |
| | \$22,453.45 |



| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 2021 Goal | \$150,000.00 |
| Collected | <u>64,858.00</u> |
| Remaining | \$ 85,142.00 |

Contributing Parishioners: 201

Online Giving

The parish website has instructions on how to register for convenient on-line giving. You will have full control of your contribution account and scheduling your donations.



You can scan the QR code here or visit our parish homepage at STMHOUSTON.ORG for details and registration.

STM ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

ANNUAL BLACK BAG COLLECTION



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be holding their Annual Black Bag Collection next weekend July 10-11, 2021. Our parish needs your help to support one of the oldest Catholic organization of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Together, our community of more than 1.7 million Catholics in our Archdiocese can strengthen human connection and support programs that provide food, clothing, furniture, and financial assistance to the struggling working-poor in our area. **Donate or learn more about the Black Bag Collection on our website:**

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 4

- 7:30 am †Deceased Scroggins Family Members
- 9:00 am *Missa Pro Populo
- 11:00 am †Maria Celine Nwachukwu
- 1:00 pm †Dorotea Macias

Monday, July 5-ONE MASS ONLY

- 9:00 am *Chavez Intentions

Tuesday, July 6

- 6:30 am †Visitacion Valamar
- 5:30 pm †Irma Andrews

Wednesday, July 7

- 6:30 am †David Cruz
- 5:30 pm †Flabio Garza

Thursday, July 8

- 6:30 am †Martin J. Gleeson, OP
- 5:30 pm †Robert Schwartz

Friday, July 9

- 6:30 am †Mr. Lee Sitting
- 5:30 pm †Deanna Stapleton

Saturday, July 10

- 9:00 am †Cruz Jose Barelas
- 5:00 pm *STM School Teachers

Sunday, July 11

- 7:30 am †Peter Vincent Lomonte, Jr.
- 9:00 am †Joe Fogarty
- 11:00 am *Missa Pro Populo
- 1:00 pm †Georgia Jacob

† (Deceased)

* (Special Intention)



Amature Men's Pickup Basketball Night

All skill levels welcome!

Come play some ball, meet other men of the parish, and enjoy some fellowship afterwards in the parking lot.

Every Wednesday this Summer, 8 pm in the Gym.

Bring your own water and fill out the waiver online prior to coming at: Stmhouston.org/pickup

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Registration for all summer activities for both middle and high school students is available on our website along with the calendar of events we are offering throughout the summer. Be sure to check it out online under <https://stmhouston.org/summer>. Email rodriguez@stmhouston.org if you have any questions.

ARE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL?

Join us at the Archdiocesan Youth Conference (AYC) 2021 this year!!! We will be taking teens 9th-12th grade to the retreat happening here in Houston at the Hilton of the Americas! July 30th-August 1st. There will be thousands of other teens from parishes across the diocese and several key note speakers including Joel Stepanek, Fr. Augustino Torres, and many more! Registration is up on our website and closes June 30th so act now! Limited spaces available. Please email rodriguez@stmhouston.org if you have any questions.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING FOR ADULTS

As our campus opens up and more activities will start taking place, we need to verify that everyone has had the **Safe Haven** training. Please make sure your Certification and Background Checks are current if you have already taken the training. If you are a new volunteer, you will need to take the training for the first time. Please refer any questions to Eloise Starr, 713-729-0221

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or a loved one is suffering from a serious illness please contact the Parish Office 713-729-0221.

Please pray for the souls of our parishioners who have recently died.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Robert Willis | Manuel de Jesus Lara |
| Rosa Cotoc Pum | Henry Krason |
| Filiberto C. Cerezo | Bill Gorton |
| Salvador Rodriguez | |

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION

Go here to create an account and sign up for a Holy Hour or as a substitute.

stmhouston.weadorehim.com

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



The Adoration Chapel is OPEN. This is the current Adoration Chapel schedule:

- Monday 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM**
- Tuesday 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM**
- Wednesday 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM**
- Thursday 7:00 AM – Sunday 11:00 PM** *(the chapel is open around the clock during these days.)*

We hope this schedule is temporary. As soon as all of our hours are filled we will start Perpetual Exposition and Adoration. Please pray that more people volunteer to be adorers.

Following are the hours that need to be filled in order for our chapel to be open all the time (Perpetual Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration):

- Sunday: 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM**
- Monday: 2:00 AM, 3:00 AM, 11:00 PM**
- Tuesday: 1:00 AM, 3:00 AM**
- Wednesday: 1:00 AM, 2:00 AM**
- Thursday: 2:00 AM, 3:00 AM**
- Friday: 12:00 AM (Thursday at Midnight)**

ALL WE NEED ARE 12 PEOPLE TO COMMIT TO TAKE ONE OF THESE HOURS ON A WEEKLY BASIS.

IS JESUS CALLING YOU TO BE ONE OF THE TWELVE?

Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

Este domingo es el 4 de julio, el día en que celebramos el Día de la Independencia de Estados Unidos. Celebramos la Independencia de Estados Unidos en este día porque el 4 de julio de 1776 el Segundo Congreso Continental adoptó la Declaración de Independencia, que anunció la separación de las colonias de Gran Bretaña. La Declaración de Independencia tiene tres ideas básicas: 1) Que Dios creó a todos los seres humanos iguales y que están dotados de derechos inalienables, que entre estos están la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad, 2) El gobierno debe proteger estos derechos, 3) Si el gobierno no protege estos derechos, entonces la gente es libre de rebelarse y establecer un nuevo gobierno.

A menudo escuchamos sobre libertad y liberarse. ¿Qué significa tener libertad? ¿Qué significa ser libre? Cuando las personas se hacen esta pregunta, podrían pensar que la libertad simplemente significa no ser interferido por fuerzas externas en asuntos personales. "¡No puedes decirme qué hacer!" expresa esta idea de libertad. Otra forma en que la gente podría pensar que libertad es la capacidad de hacer lo que quieras hacer. "¡Puedo hacer lo que yo quiera!" podría expresar mejor esta idea de liberarse.

En la perspectiva católica, estas ideas de libertad, una libertad de las limitaciones y la libertad de hacer lo que quieras, son incompletas. En lugar de pensar en una "libertad para" o una "libertad para que", una perspectiva católica ve la libertad como una "libertad para". ¿Libertad para qué? Libertad por excelencia. El hecho de que uno sea libre de hacer lo que quiera no significa necesariamente que vaya a encontrar la felicidad. La libertad por excelencia es el poder de ser los mejores seres humanos que podamos ser. Nuestra fe en Cristo y las enseñanzas de la iglesia nos brindan una guía para vivir nuestra humanidad a la perfección. Si seguimos a nuestra guía, tendremos la libertad de ser excelentes.

A continuación, se muestran extractos de lo que enseña el Catecismo sobre la liberación y la libertad:

La libertad es el poder, arraigado en la razón y la voluntad, de actuar o no actuar, de hacer esto o aquello y, por tanto, de realizar acciones deliberadas bajo la propia responsabilidad. Mediante el libre albedrío uno da forma a su propia vida. La libertad humana es una fuerza para el crecimiento y la madurez en la verdad y la bondad; alcanza su perfección cuando se dirige hacia Dios, nuestra bienaventuranza.

Mientras la libertad no se haya ligado definitivamente a su bien último que es Dios, existe la posibilidad de elegir entre el bien y el mal y, por tanto, de crecer en la perfección o de fracasar y pecar. Esta libertad caracteriza los actos propiamente humanos. Es la base de la alabanza o la culpa, el mérito o el reproche.

Cuanto más uno hace el bien, más libre se vuelve. No hay verdadera libertad excepto al servicio de lo que es bueno y justo. la elección de desobedecer y hacer el mal es un abuso de la libertad y conduce a "la esclavitud del pecado".

La libertad responsabiliza al hombre de sus actos en la medida en que sean voluntarios. El progreso en la virtud, el conocimiento del bien y la ascesis realzan el dominio de la voluntad sobre sus actos.

La libertad se ejerce en las relaciones entre seres humanos. Toda persona humana, creada a imagen de Dios, tiene el derecho natural a ser reconocida como un ser libre y responsable. Todos debemos unos a otros este deber de respeto. El derecho al ejercicio de la libertad, especialmente en materia moral y religiosa, es un requisito irrenunciable de la dignidad de la persona humana. Este derecho debe ser reconocido y protegido por la autoridad civil dentro de los límites del bien común y el orden público.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,
P. Clark

Oh Dios, que en la humillación de tu Hijo han levantado un mundo caído, llena a tus fieles de santa alegría, porque a los que has rescatado de la esclavitud del pecado concedes alegría eterna. 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.



**Santa Isabel
de Portugal
5 de Julio**