

SEVENTEENTH 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](http://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

## SACRAMENTS

Please visit our website for details about our  
Sacramental preparation:

<https://stmhouston.org/sacraments>

Come fly with us!  
**Blessed is She** invites you to join us for two nights of unique worship, engaging talks, Eucharistic Adoration and Confession. All women 18+ are invited! Monday and Tuesday, August 16-17 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church from 7-9pm. Come lean into the Father's love and learn to fly in trust and surrender. Grab your tickets and find out more info at [blessedisshenet.net/revivals](https://blessedisshenet.net/revivals).

## 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

Summer is moving by quickly and we are excitedly planning for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. We still have spaces in most grade levels and are conducting tours for our future students. We also have a couple of teaching positions open for interested educators. Currently, we are actively looking for a 4th/5th grade core teacher and a lower school teacher assistant. Call 713-329-3434 and see what wonderful opportunities STM holds for you.

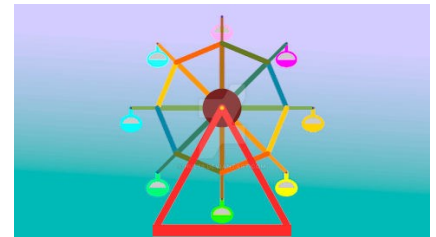
In Christ,  
Carolina Bowman, Principal

**The new schedule for our livestreamed Sunday Masses:**

**11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

## MINISTRY FAIR, ANYONE? AUGUST 28-29

Life is slowly coming back to “normal” and it is time that we reinvigorate the life of the parish. Mass attendance is on the increase and we are readying the campus and our meeting spaces to welcome back our ministries and groups.



The parish is planning a Ministry Fair for the weekend of August 28-29, after all Masses. If you were/are a leader of a ministry or group at STM, please contact us and let us know that you wish to participate in the fair. Perhaps you have an idea for a new group or ministry? Let us know. Contact Suzie Hamilton, [shamilton@stmhouston.org](mailto:shamilton@stmhouston.org) or 713-729-0221.



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last week, Pope Francis released a document that has a pretty significant impact on the Catholic world. This document is called *Traditionis custodes* (Latin for “Guardians of the Tradition”), and it restricts the use of the Traditional Latin Mass. In order for me to explain why this news is important and how it relates to us at STM, a brief review of recent history is necessary.

In 1959, Pope St. John XXIII announced that there would be an ecumenical council that would serve as a means for spiritual renewal in the Church. It was to be an “*aggiornamento*,” or a “bringing up to date,” of the Church in the modern world. This ecumenical council, known as the Second Vatican Council, took place from 1962 to 1965. The first document that Vatican II promulgated was *Sacrosanctum concilium*, also known as the Church’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. This document called for a reform of the liturgy in order to “impart an ever increasing vigor to the Christian life of the faithful and to adapt more suitably to the needs of our own times.” The updated and revised Mass went into effect on the first Sunday of Advent in 1969, and it is known as the “*Novus Ordo*” or “the Mass of Pope St. Paul VI” or “the *Missale Romanum* of 1970” or “the Missal of 1970.” This is the form of Mass we celebrate at St. Thomas More.

This new order of the Mass, or the *Novus Ordo Missae*, was noticeably different than the Mass that had been used since 1570 when the Council of Trent standardized the Mass at that time. The form of Mass that was regularly celebrated from 1570 until 1962 has several names: the Tridentine Mass, the Traditional Latin Mass, the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, etc. Because the reformed Mass of the Second Vatican Council was noticeably different than the Mass that had been celebrated since 1570, some of the faithful had trouble adapting to it. In order to help alleviate these legitimate struggles, Pope St. John Paul II approved the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass (TLM) in certain circumstances. In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI issued a document that further liberalized the use of the TLM with the condition that “if truly serious difficulties come to light, ways to remedy them can be sought.” After surveying the bishops around the world, Pope Francis has concluded that difficulties have arisen (such as disunity in the Church) and, as stated above, he has now restricted the use of the TLM (for example, priests need permission from their bishop to celebrate this form of the Mass).

Pope Francis’ decision to restrict the TLM has not been without controversy. Pope Francis says that the liberty to celebrate the TLM “was exploited to widen the gaps, reinforce the divergences, and encourage disagreements that injure the Church, block her path, and expose her to the peril of division.” At the same time, there has been an observable spiritual revival and a renewed love for the sacred liturgy by “those, including young people, who when they discover this liturgical form, feel attracted to it and find in it a form, particularly suited to them, to encounter the mystery of the most holy Eucharist.” Many people have been attracted to the TLM because they were able to experience a sense of the sacred through this type of liturgy.

We do not celebrate the TLM here at STM, so you may wonder how this Vatican document may affect us. In his letter to the bishops that accompanies *Traditionis custodes*, Pope Francis says, “I am saddened by abuses in the celebration of the liturgy on all sides. In common with Benedict XVI, I deplore the fact that ‘in many places the prescriptions of the new Missal are not observed in celebration, but indeed come to be interpreted as an authorization for or even a requirement of creativity, which leads to almost unbearable distortions.’” Additionally, he says, “I ask you to be vigilant in ensuring that every liturgy be celebrated with decorum and fidelity to the liturgical books promulgated after Vatican Council II, without the eccentricities that can easily degenerate into abuses. Seminarians and new priests should be formed in the faithful observance of the prescriptions of the Missal and liturgical books, in which is reflected the liturgical reform willed by Vatican Council II.”

How does this Vatican document affect us here at our parish? It gives us the opportunity to explore the Second Vatican Council’s vision of the Sacred Liturgy and how it is to be celebrated in line with the tradition of the Church. As your pastor and having been well-trained in the Sacred Liturgy, I am fully committed to following the Pope’s directive to celebrate the Mass with decorum and fidelity to the liturgical books promulgated after Vatican Council II without the eccentricities that easily degenerate into abuses. I firmly believe that if we follow the Council’s vision and keep it in line with the tradition of the Church, we will experience the “ever increasing vigor to the Christian life” that Vatican II wanted to impart.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Clark*

**Stewardship for July 18, 2021**

**Thank you for your generous donations!**

Collection	\$14,532.00
<u>Online Giving</u>	<u>\$11,778.04</u>
	\$26,310.04



2021 Goal	\$150,000.00
Collected	<u>84,259.00</u>
Remaining	\$ 65,741.00

Contributing Parishioners: 257

**DSF Spotlight:** Apostleship of the Sea. The Apostleship of the Sea is responsible for the sacramental care of Catholic seafarers and pastoral care of all seafarers that come into the ports of Houston, Kemah, Galveston, and La Porte. The Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) supports 60+ programs benefiting 1.7 million Catholics in our Archdiocese.

**MISSION APPEAL, NEXT WEEKEND**

At the invitation of His Eminence, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Mission Office, the Basilian Fathers Missions are grateful to Father Clark Sample and the parishioners of St. Thomas More for hosting Rev. Paul English CSB Saturday, July 31st and Sunday August 1st, 2021. Please visit to hear Father English's appeal in support of the Basilian Fathers' ministry in Mexico and Colombia! The Basilian Fathers Missions began in the 1930s serving migrant workers in the Southwest of Houston, TX. In 1961 the ministry was expanded into Mexico; and to Colombia in 1987. Your support helps to deliver the Sacraments and the Gospel, along with food, clothing, and medical services to the impoverished people of San Lorenzo in Tehuacán, Mexico, as well as Bogota and Medellin in Colombia.

The Youth Group was overwhelmed by the generosity of STM parishioners...over \$1600.00 was raised by our bake sale last weekend. Thank you for such an amazing response from our parish community!

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Sunday, July 25**

- 7:30 am †Stanford Dupaty
- 9:00 am \*Madelene
- 11:00 am \*Missa Pro Populo
- 1:00 pm †Manuel Mecias Lliguicota

**Monday, July 26**

- 6:30 am \*Fr. Gary Schexneyder
- 5:30 pm †Patrick New

**Tuesday, July 27**

- 6:30 am †Ugochukwu Nwachukwu
- 5:30 pm †Leticia Fernandez

**Wednesday, July 28**

- 6:30 am †Anna & Bill Tucker
- 5:30 pm †Robert Schwartz

**Thursday, July 29**

- 6:30 am †Rodolfo Dumayas
- 5:30 pm †Keith Winter

**Friday, July 30**

- 6:30 am \*Prima Nwachukwu
- 5:30 pm †Maurice Hendrix

**Saturday, July 31**

- 9:00 am †Dr. Nelson Fernandez
- 5:00 pm †Maurine Costa

**Sunday, August 1**

- 7:30 am †Richard Gramar
- 9:00 am \*Missa Pro Populo
- 11:00 am †John Luke Hughston
- 1:00 pm †Jose Francisco Guerrero Mata

† (Deceased)

\* (Special Intention)

**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](http://STMHOUSTON.ORG) for details and registration.

### 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 [lrdriguez@stmhouston.org](mailto:lrdriguez@stmhouston.org) if you have any questions.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you or a loved one is suffering from a serious illness and needs to be anointed or is unable to make it to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, 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  | Stanford Dupaty      |

### PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION

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

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

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



#### 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):

- Monday: 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 3:00 AM

**ALL WE NEED ARE 3 PEOPLE TO COMMIT TO TAKE ONE OF THESE HOURS ON A WEEKLY BASIS AND OUR ADORATION CHAPEL CAN REMAIN OPEN AROUND THE CLOCK.**

**GRANTED, THESE ARE HARD HOURS, BUT IS JESUS CALLING YOU TO BE ONE OF THE THREE?**

Stop your tax dollars from going to abortion.

**NoTaxpayerAbortion.com**

Models used for illustrative purposes only. iStock.com/FG Trade. All rights reserved. © 2021, USCCB, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

## Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

La semana pasada, el Papa Francisco publicó un documento que tiene un impacto bastante significativo en el mundo católico. Este documento se llama *Traditionis custodes* (en latín, “Guardianes de la Tradición”), y restringe el uso de la Misa en Latín Tradicional. Para poder explicar por qué esta noticia es importante y cómo se relaciona con nosotros en STM, es necesaria una breve revisión de la historia reciente.

En 1959, el Papa San Juan XXIII anunció que habría un concilio ecuménico que serviría como medio de renovación espiritual en la Iglesia. Sería un “aggiornamento” o una “actualización” de la Iglesia en el mundo moderno. Este concilio ecuménico, conocido como Concilio Vaticano II, tuvo lugar entre 1962 y 1965. El primer documento que el Vaticano II promulgó fue *Sacrosanctum concilium*, también conocido como la Constitución de la Iglesia sobre la Sagrada Liturgia. Este documento pedía una reforma de la liturgia con el fin de “impartir un vigor cada vez mayor a la vida cristiana de los fieles y adaptarse más adecuadamente a las necesidades de nuestro propio tiempo”. La Misa actualizada y revisada entró en vigor el primer domingo de Adviento en 1969, y se conoce como el “Novus Ordo” o como “la Misa del Papa San Pablo VI” o como “el Misale Romanum de 1970” o como “El Misal de 1970”. Esta es la forma de misa que celebramos en St. Thomas More

Este nuevo orden de la Misa, o *Novus Ordo Missae*, era notablemente diferente de la Misa que se había utilizado desde 1570 cuando el Concilio de Trento estandarizó la Misa en ese momento. La forma de la Misa que se celebró regularmente desde 1570 hasta 1962 tiene varios nombres: la Misa Tridentina, la Misa Tradicional Latina, la Forma Extraordinaria de la Misa, etc. Porque la Misa reformada del Concilio Vaticano II fue notablemente diferente a la Misa que se celebraba desde 1570, algunos fieles tuvieron problemas para adaptarse. Para ayudar a aliviar estas luchas legítimas, el Papa San Juan Pablo II aprobó la celebración de la Misa Tradicional Latina (TLM) en ciertas circunstancias. En 2007, el Papa Benedicto XVI emitió un documento que liberalizó aún más el uso del TLM con la condición de que “si salen a la luz dificultades verdaderamente serias, se pueden buscar formas de remediarlas”. Después de encuestar a los obispos de todo el mundo, el Papa Francisco ha llegado a la conclusión de que han surgido dificultades (como la desunión en la Iglesia) y, como se indicó anteriormente, ahora ha restringido el uso del TLM (por ejemplo, los sacerdotes necesitan permiso de su obispo para celebrar esta forma de la Misa).

La decisión del Papa Francisco de restringir el TLM no ha estado libre de controversias. El Papa Francisco dice que la libertad de celebrar el TLM “se aprovechó para ampliar las brechas, reforzar las divergencias y alentar los desacuerdos que dañan a la Iglesia, bloquean su camino y la exponen al peligro de la división”. Al mismo tiempo, se ha observado un avivamiento espiritual y un amor renovado por la sagrada liturgia por parte de “aquellos, incluidos los jóvenes, que cuando descubren esta forma litúrgica, se sienten atraídos por ella y encuentran en ella una forma particularmente adecuada para ellos, para encontrar el misterio de la santísima Eucaristía”. Muchas personas se han sentido atraídas por el TLM porque pudieron experimentar un sentido de lo sagrado a través de este tipo de liturgia.

No celebramos el TLM aquí en STM, por lo que puede que se pregunte cómo puede afectarnos este documento del Vaticano. En su carta a los obispos que acompaña a *Traditionis custodes*, el Papa Francisco dice: “Me entristecen los abusos en la celebración de la liturgia por todos lados. Al igual que Benedicto XVI, deploro el hecho de que en muchos lugares las prescripciones del nuevo Misal no se observan en la celebración, sino que se llegan a interpretar como una autorización o incluso una exigencia de la creatividad, lo que conduce a distorsiones casi insoportables. . .” Además, dice: “Les pido que estén atentos para que cada liturgia se celebre con decoro y fidelidad a los libros litúrgicos promulgados después del Concilio Vaticano II, sin las excentricidades que fácilmente pueden degenerar en abusos. Los seminaristas y los nuevos sacerdotes deben formarse en la fiel observancia de las prescripciones del Misal y de los libros litúrgicos, en los que se refleja la reforma litúrgica querida por el Concilio Vaticano II”

¿Cómo nos afecta este documento del Vaticano aquí en nuestra parroquia? Nos da la oportunidad de explorar la visión del Concilio Vaticano II de la Sagrada Liturgia y cómo debe celebrarse de acuerdo con la tradición de la Iglesia. Como su pastor y habiendo sido bien formado en la Sagrada Liturgia, estoy totalmente comprometido a seguir la directiva del Papa de celebrar la Misa con decoro y fidelidad a los libros litúrgicos promulgados después del Concilio Vaticano II sin las excentricidades que fácilmente degeneran en abusos. Creo firmemente que si seguimos la visión del Concilio y la mantenemos en línea con la tradición de la Iglesia, experimentaremos el “vigor cada vez mayor de la vida cristiana” que el Vaticano II quiso impartir.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

*P. Clark*