

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

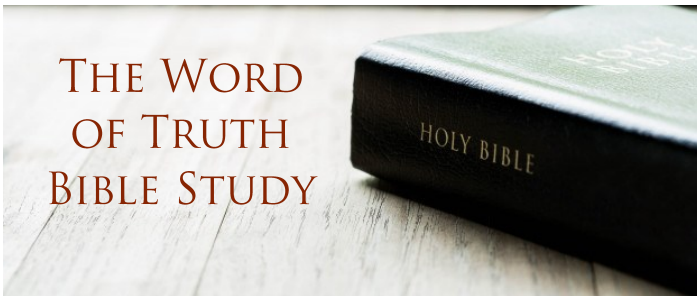
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON—HOUSTON



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

10330 HILLCROFT ST. | HOUSTON, TX 77096 | (713) 729-0221

WWW.STMHOUSTON.ORG



On January 17th, an exciting Bible study hosted by STM's The Word of Truth Bible Study group will be launching a series called: "Our Father's



Plan." This series takes as its content talks given by biblical scholars Dr. Scott Hahn of Franciscan University of Steubenville and Jeff Cavins from The Great Adventure Bible Studies.



This is a 24-week Bible and Catholic series that will help deepen your knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures and enrich your spirituality and prayer as you integrate the Scriptures into your communion with God.

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On the Cover:

The Baptism of Christ

by Domenico Tintoretto

1585, oil on canvas

Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid

Mass and Confession Schedule

WEEKDAY MASS MISA ENTRE SEMANA

Monday – Friday
6:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Saturday
8:00 a.m.

CONFESSION CONFESIONES

Tuesday • 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
5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY • DOMINGO
7:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m. (español)
5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. (español)

Excerpt from a Homily by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Today's celebration is always a cause of special joy for me. Indeed, the administration of the Sacrament of Baptism on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is one of the most expressive moments of our faith, in which we can almost see the mystery of life through the signs of the liturgy. In the first place, there is human life. It is represented here in particular by these 13 children who are the fruit of your love, dear parents, to whom I address my cordial greeting, which I extend to the godparents and the other relatives and friends present. Then comes the mystery of divine life which God gives to these little ones today through rebirth in water and the Holy Spirit. God is life, as some of the pictures that embellish this Sistine Chapel marvelously evoke.



Yet it does not seem out of place if we immediately juxtapose the experience of life with the opposite experience, that is, the reality of death. Sooner or later everything that begins on earth comes to its end, like the meadow grass that springs up in the morning and by evening has wilted. In Baptism, however, the tiny human being receives a new life, the life of grace, which enables him or her to enter into a personal relationship with the Creator for ever, for the whole of eternity. Unfortunately, human beings are capable of extinguishing this new life with their sin, reducing themselves to being in a situation which Sacred Scripture describes as "second death". Whereas for other creatures who are not called to eternity, death means solely the end of existence on earth, in us sin creates an abyss in which we risk being engulfed for ever unless the Father who is in Heaven stretches out his hand to us. This, dear brothers and sisters, is the mystery of Baptism: God desired to save us by going to the bottom of this abyss himself so that every person, even those who have fallen so low that they can no longer perceive Heaven, may find God's hand to cling to and rise from the darkness to see once again the light for which he or she was made. We all feel, we all inwardly comprehend that our existence is a desire for life which invokes fullness and salvation. This fullness is given to us in Baptism.

We have just heard the account of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. It was a different Baptism from that which these babies are about to receive but is deeply connected with it. Basically, the whole mystery of Christ in the world can be summed up in this term: "baptism", which in Greek means "immersion". The Son of God, who from eternity shares the fullness of life with the Father and the Holy Spirit, was "immersed" in our reality as sinners to make us share in his own life: he was incarnate, he was born like us, he grew up like us and, on reaching adulthood, manifested his mission which began precisely with the "baptism of conversion" administered by John the Baptist. Jesus' first public act, as we have just heard, was to go down into the Jordan, mingling among repentant sinners, in order to receive this baptism. John was naturally reluctant to baptize him, but because this was the Father's will, Jesus insisted (cf. Mt 3: 13-15).

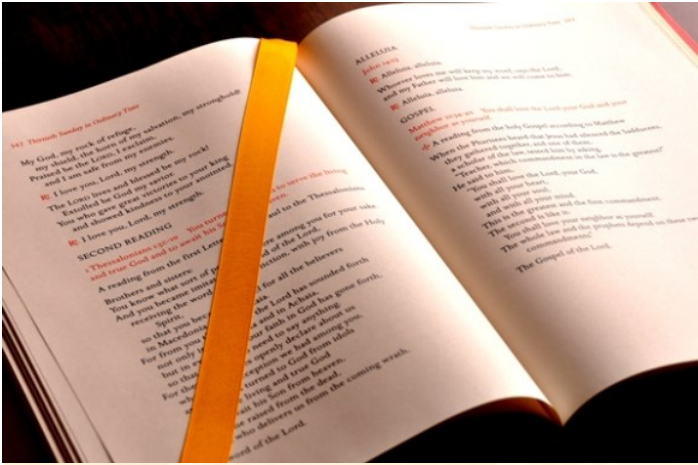
Why, therefore, did the Father desire this? Was it because he had sent his Only-Begotten Son into the world as the Lamb to take upon himself the sins of the world (cf. Jn 1: 29)? The Evangelist recounts that when Jesus emerged from the waters, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove, while the Father's voice from Heaven proclaimed him "my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3: 17). From that very moment, therefore, Jesus was revealed as the One who came to baptize humanity in the Holy Spirit: he came to give men and women life in abundance (cf. Jn 10: 10), eternal life, which brings the human being back to life and heals him entirely, in body and in spirit, restoring him to the original plan for which he was created. The purpose of Christ's existence was precisely to give humanity God's life and his Spirit of love so that every person might be able to draw from this inexhaustible source of salvation. This is why St Paul wrote to the Romans that we were baptized into the death of Christ in order to have his same life as the Risen One (cf. Rom 6: 3-4). For this reason Christian parents, such as you today, bring their children to the baptismal font as soon as possible, knowing that life which they have communicated calls for a fullness, a salvation that God alone can give. And parents thus become collaborators of God, transmitting to their children not only physical but also spiritual life.

Dear parents, I thank the Lord with you for the gift of these children and I invoke his assistance so that he may help you to raise them and incorporate them into the spiritual Body of the Church. As you offer them what they need for their growth and salvation may you always be committed, helped by their godparents, to developing in them faith, hope and charity, the theological virtues proper to the new life given to them in the Sacrament of Baptism. You will guarantee this by your presence and your affection; you will guarantee it first of all and above all by prayer, presenting them daily to God and entrusting them to him in every season of their life. If they are to grow healthy and strong, these babies will of course need both material care and many other kinds of attention; yet, what will be most necessary to them, indeed indispensable, will be to know, love and serve God faithfully in order to have eternal life. Dear parents, may you be for them the first witnesses of an authentic faith in God!

Vatican City

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

January 13, 2008



WEEKLY READINGS

Scripture Readings for the Week of January 12, 2020

Sunday	The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17
Monday	Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abed; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday	Memorial of Saint Anthony, Abbott 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-17, 18-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 2:13-17

LECTURAS SEMANALES

Lecturas de las Escrituras por la Semana del 12 de Enero de 2020

Domingo	Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor Is 42, 1-4. 6-7; Sal 28, 1a y 2. 3ac-4. 3b y 9b-10; Hch 10, 34-38; Mt 3, 13-17
Lunes	San Hilario, Obispo y Doctor de la Iglesia 1 Sm 1, 1-8; Sal 115, 12-13. 14 y 17. 18-19; Mc 1, 14-20
Martes	1 Sm 1, 9-20; 1 Sm 2, 1. 4-5. 6-7. 8abed; Mc 1, 21-28
Miércoles	1 Sm 3, 1-10. 19-20; Sal 39, 2 y 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10; Mc 1, 29-39
Jueves	1 Sm 4, 1-11; Sal 43, 10-11. 14-15. 24-25; Mc 1, 40-45
Viernes	Memoria de San Antonio, Abad 1 Sm 8, 4-7. 10-22; Sal 88, 16-17. 18-19; Mc 2, 1-12
Sábado	1 Sm 9, 1-4. 17-19. 10:1a; Sal 20, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7; Mc 2, 13-17

Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 12

7:30am
9:00am * Missa Pro Populo
11:00am
1:00 pm * Larry Balsan
5:00 pm
7:00 pm * Isidra Cedillo

Monday, January 13

6:30am
5:30pm * Mike Mc Crate Family

Tuesday, January 14

6:30am * Chris Eskelund Family
5:30pm † Sharon Guarino

Wednesday, January 15

6:30am * Greg Hamilton
5:30pm * H.O. Nwachukwu Family

Thursday, January 16

6:30am
5:30pm † Willy Roy

Friday, January 17

6:30 am † Fr. Gerard Joubert
8:15am † Leland Fontenot
5:30pm † Ruth Rudolph

Saturday, January 18

8:00am * Nnamdi & Chigozie Nwacukwu
5:00pm † Renard Roy

† (Repose Soul)
* (Special Intention)

One may request celebrant Mass intentions by visiting the parish office during regular business hours.

The Baptism of the Lord

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 12

9:00 am CCE Parents (English)-Youth Prayer Room
 9:30 am RCIA (English)-Donovan's Den
 10:00 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
 11:00 am CCE Parents (Spanish)-Youth Media Room
 1:00 pm Choir Gala Practice-Servant Hall
 4:00 pm Contemporary Choir Rehearsal-Church
 6:00 pm Spanish Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

Monday, January 13

6:30 am Mass-Church
 5:30 pm Mass-Church
 7:00 pm Apostolado de la Cruz-Youth Prayer Room

Tuesday, January 14

6:30 am Mass-Church
 9:30 am Senior Citizen Bingo-Scout House
 5:30 pm Mass-Church
 6:15 pm Confession-Church /Confesiones-Iglesia
 7:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting- Rectory Conference Room
 7:30 pm Sounds of Faith Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

Wednesday, January 15

6:30 am Mass-Church
 5:30 pm Mass-Church
 6:15 pm Confession-Church/Confesiones- Iglesia
 7:00 pm Confirmation 1 Class-Youth Center
 7:00 pm Confirmation 2 Class-School Building
 7:00 pm Our Mother of Perpetual Help Prayer Group-Adoration Chapel
 7:00 pm R.C.I.A. (Spanish)-Youth Center
 7:00 pm Spanish Choir Rehearsal-Music Room
 7:30 pm Knights of Columbus (KofC) Meeting-Prinster Hall
 7:30 pm Legion of Mary Meeting-Donovan's Den
 7:30 pm R.C.I.A. Inquiry Meeting (English)-Donovan's Den

Thursday, January 16

6:30 am Mass-Church
 9:45 am Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting-Donovan's Den
 5:30 pm Mass-Church
 7:00 pm Building and Grounds Committee Meeting-Donovan's Den
 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

Friday, January 17

6:30 am Mass-Church
 10:30 am Bible Study-Youth Prayer Room
 5:00 pm Legion of Mary (Spanish) Meeting-Donovan's Den
 5:30 pm Mass-Church

Saturday, January 18

8:00 am Mass-Church
 1:00 pm Choir Gala Practice-Servant Hall
 3:30 pm Confessions / Confesiones-Church
 4:00 pm Sounds of Faith Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
 5:00 pm Vigil Mass -Church

Sunday, January 19

7:30 am Knights of Columbus (K of C) Breakfast-Servant Hall
 9:00 am CCE Parents (English)-Youth Prayer Room
 9:30 am RCIA (English)-Donovan's Den
 10:00 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
 11:00 am CCE Parents (Spanish)-Youth Media Room
 1:00 pm Choir Gala Practice-Servant Hall
 4:00 pm Contemporary Choir Rehearsal-Church
 6:00 pm Spanish Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

Stewardship for January 5, 2020

Collection	\$47,663.00
Online Giving	\$7,633.09
Total	\$55,296.09

Upcoming Second Collections

Bishop's Fund for Latin America
 January 26, 2020

Black & Indian Missions
 March 1, 2020



Parish Goal: \$193,000.00

Total Amount Paid: \$128,442.15
 Total Amount Pledged: \$129,732.15
 Total Number of Participant: 324
 Total Number of Households: 4412
 Average Participant Pledge: 400.41
 Paid Over (Under) Goal: (\$64,557.85)
 Pledged Over (Under) Goal: (\$63,267.85)
 Percent Paid: 66.55%

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. Visit our homepage for details and registration.

WWW.STMHOUSTON.ORG

FAITH FORMATION

Grade School

English Elementary and Middle CCE meets in the School on Sundays from 9:00 to 10:30 am

Spanish Elementary and Middle School CCE meets in the School on Sundays from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Teen Confirmation One (I) meets on Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Upstairs Youth Media Room.

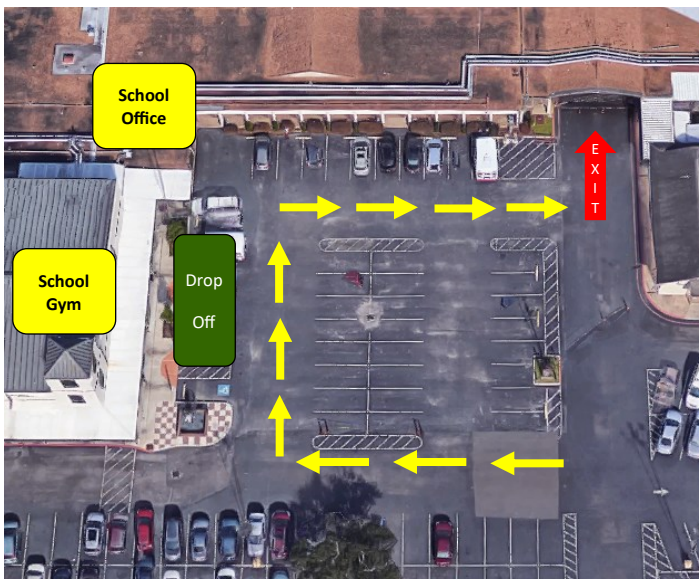
Teen Confirmation Two (II) meets on Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the School.

Bible Study for CCE Parents is available on Sundays during the CCE sessions in the Upstairs RE Building Prayer Room.

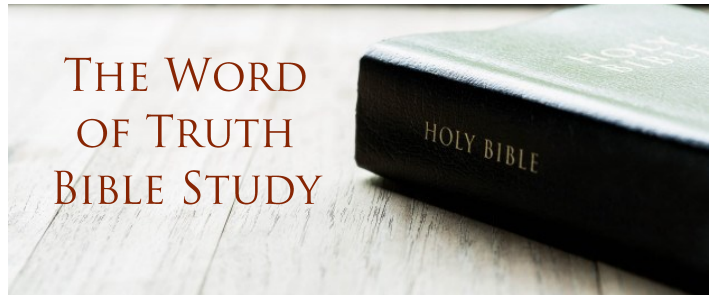
* Drop Off Notice for CCE Parents *

Beginning January 26th, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., drop off for CCE will occur in the following manner:

- The entrance of the drop will be in front of the new gym, turning into the parking lot, parallel to the gym, while exiting to the drive parallel to the school library. Flow of traffic is shown below:



Adults



The Word of Truth Bible Study for adults meets on Fridays from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm in the Upstairs Prayer Room. Starting on January 17th, an exciting Bible study series called: "Our Father's Plan," will be launched. This series takes as its content talks given biblical scholars Dr. Scott Hahn of Franciscan University of Steubenville and Jeff Cavins from The Great Adventure Bible Studies. This is a 24-week Bible and Catholic study that will help deepen your knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures and enrich your spirituality and prayer as you integrate the Scriptures into your communion with God. Join us!

Adult Confirmation takes place on Wednesdays, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Upstairs Prayer Room in the RE Building.

Youth

Next gathering is on January 12, 2020.

Young Disciples is a gathering of teens on the 2nd Sunday of the month to fellowship together and learn more about the wonders and richness of the Catholic faith.

Join Danielle Luna as you learn more about how life truly looks in the eyes of teenage Catholics. We meet in the Religious Education Building, 2nd floor Youth Room after the 5:00 p.m. Mass.



CONTACTS



Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

10330 Hillcroft St.
Houston, TX 77096
(713) 729-0221
(713) 729-3294 fax
www.stmhouston.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, *Parochial Administrator*
Rev. Joseph Methanath, O.S.H., *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Micheal Carmody, *In Residence*
Rev. Binny Philip, *In Residence*
Deacon David Johnson
Deacon John Krugh

Parish Staff

John P. Chambers, Jr., *Pastoral Associate*
Eloise Starr, *Secretary*
Rosio Contreras, *Receptionist*
Ingrid Gooding, *Bookkeeper*
Gabriel Villarreal, *Maintenance*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Deacon David Johnson, *Interim Director*
Mary-Therese Hafernik, *Confirmation*

Office of Music:

Sabrina Nguyen, Ed.D., *Director*, (713) 980-3111
Jian Guang Shi, *Organist* (713) 988-9829
Rommys Orozco (1:00 p.m.)
Lisa Veneralla (5:00 p.m.)
Rogelio Mendoza, Spanish (7:00 p.m.)



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

Monday to Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Staff

Kristen Thome, *Principal*
Nina Coltharp, *Director of Preschool*
Kathleen Prado, *Director of Advancement*
Judy Gentempo, *Admissions*
Noel Novak, *Dean of Students*
Linda Fox, *Business Manager*
Mary Heard, *Secretary*
Rebeka Zepeda, *Nurse*
Andrea Osborne, *School Counselor*

Bulletin Announcements

Bulletin announcements are due Monday, 5:00 pm for the following Sunday. Please contact John Chambers at jchambers@stmhouston.org to add a parish ministry, group, or event in the bulletin. All requests are subject to approval and space availability and will be formatted to fit the overall design of the bulletin. Thank you.

PARISH MINISTRIES

Meals and Samaritan Ministry: If you are looking for a way to help out the parish community, please consider joining the meals ministry and/or the Samaritan ministry! These two ministries allow you to practice the corporal acts of mercy with the community. We are looking for cooks for both ministries!

Please contact Monique Close (713) 628-3323 or at good-samaritans@stmhouston.org with questions or to volunteer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: For more information, visit: www.stmhouston.org or contact Margaret Schueler at (713) 666-1311 or via email at meschueler2@gmail.com

STreaMliners: Second Saturday of the month on Jan 11th STreaMliners' Mtg 10:00am in we are back in Prinster Hall. Adults 50 and over!!!!

Note: We will begin collecting dues for 2020 which will be \$20 per member and for our Christmas project "Crime Stopper". Please make checks out to St. Thomas More Church.

"Don't forget to bring "Can Corn" for the STM Food Pantry and Toiletries for the LBJ Hospital.
Entertainment: Guitarist, Jon Ingram

Tuesday, January 14th – Museum of Fine Art to see the Norman Rockwell Collection \$20pp. Lunch on your own at Cleburne Cafeteria". Bus leaves sharply at 11:00am from the rear parking area near Prinster Hall. For more info, Call Joyce Coles at 6206 Yarwell Dr. h. 713-774-2628 Email: jcoles8433@sbcglobal.net

Friday, January 24th – Coughatta Casino w/ Frances Landry. 1st Class Bus Coach – \$15 pp cash includes (\$10 food voucher) Coffee, Donuts at 6:30am. Must have 40 people. Bus leaves sharply at 7:00am from the rear parking area near Prinster Hall. Returns abt. 7:30pm. STM parishioners and friends are invited to join us! Call Frances Landry – 713-723-2035. Bus leaves sharply at 7:00am from the rear parking area near Prinster Hall.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Registration

Tuesday January 14 and Thursday January 16 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Registration is held in the Parish School. Fee: \$30.00

Classes are Tuesday and Thursday nights, 7:00 pm, and begin **January 21, 2020**.

Building and Grounds Committee: If you are interested in using your talents to help the maintenance of the parish properties and grounds, please contact Vince Stasio for more details at vcstasio@gmail.com

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul: The Society at STM is committed to helping those less fortunate in our immediate area. Due to the generous donations of food and funds from the parish, the Society is able to operate a food pantry and to make home visits to those requesting financial assistance. If further needs are identified upon a home visit, appropriate referrals to resources at the parish or in the community will be made.

Pantry Hours are Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-11:00 am & 1:00-3:00 pm, and the third Saturday of the month 10:00 am-12:00 pm. For more information on this outreach ministry call the office at (713) 980-3113.

Interested in joining the Catholic Church?

This process is known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). It begins with informal questions and answer sessions. Inquiry sessions are held on Sunday mornings, 9:30 am - 11:00 am in Donovan's Den and Wednesday evenings, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, RCIA inquiry. For more information, contact Deacon John Krugh at deacon@krugh22.com

Keys for meetings and events need to be picked up at the parish office during office hours. Keys can be dropped off after your meeting through the key slot after hours or during business hours.

Announcing a New Lecture Series Coming in March!

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



THE MASS

SOURCE & SUMMIT

Four Part Lecture Series
on the Spirituality, Beauty, and
Rituals of the Holy Mass.

Presented By

Fr. Clark Sample

7:00 p.m. | Servant Hall

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

No RSVP Required



SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick:

Please call the parish office to make an appointment with a priest.

Marriage Preparations:

Engaged couples, please contact the parish office at least 6 months to a year ahead of the wedding to begin the church reservation process and marriage preparation.

Funerals:

In the event of the death of a loved one, call the parish office at (713) 729-0221.

Visiting the Sick and Homebound:

If you are unable to come to church and would like to receive Holy Communion, or if you know of anyone who is home-bound and would like to receive communion, please call the parish office at (713) 729-0221.

Baptism Preparation and Classes

(0 months - 6 years old):

Baptismal Class for parents interested in having their infant (or child) baptized is offered every third Saturday of the month. English classes meet at 9:00 a.m. in the RE Building Upstairs Media Room and Spanish classes meet at 10:00 a.m. in the RE Building Upstairs Prayer Room.

Attendance is required of both parents and godparents. St. Thomas More ONLY accepts active registered members of the parish, and living in zip codes 77096 and 77035. It is recommended that parents attend this prior to the arrival of their infant for the convenience of the family.

If godparents are married, they must be married by the Catholic Church and bring proof. Single godparents must have received all three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion) and bring proof. Pre-registration is required, please contact the parish office for the English class at (713) 729-0221.



JANUARY 21-29, 2020

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com!



4 WAYS TO JOIN



9DaysforLife.com

Image: A mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe decorates a side altar in the Church of Santa Maria della Famiglia at the Vatican, Dec. 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring.)



KC's Dine-in or Take-out

On Sunday, January 19, 2020, the Knights of Columbus are serving breakfast and lunch in Servant Hall.

Dine-in or Take-out. Menu is below.

Breakfast Tacos (after the 7:30 am & 9:00 am Mass)
Potato and Egg or Sausage and Egg = \$2.00 each

Lunch (after the 11:00 am Mass)
Pulled Pork Sandwich, Lays Chips and pickles, onions, bbq sauce = \$8.00 each

All profits designated for KC Charities.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest



All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2020 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest. The competition will take place on **Jan. 26th at 1:00 PM** in the Gym. Winners will progress through local district and state competitions. International champions are announced by the Knights of Columbus headquarters based upon scores from the state-level competitions. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in this event.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age with written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information contact: Mike Wark at (713) 515-1929.



Join us for the
1st Annual

**St. Thomas More Parish
Community Chili Cook-off**

benefiting Steps For Students

January 18, 2020

@ 6:00pm

See back for team entry details.

Join in the fun with the STM
Community. Chili samples will be
available for purchase - 3 for \$10.00.



ST. THOMAS MORE
PARISH SCHOOL



When will they do another Choir Gala?

You might be asking yourself this very question. Well, wonder no more. Those zany choir folk are at it again, prepping for Gala XI, *Music from the Movies*. This one will be on February 21 & 22.

Tickets are still \$20 per person (\$200 for table of 10) for fun & food (courtesy of the K of C). Sales will begin next weekend. Proceeds will benefit improvements to the STM Church audio system.

Mark the dates & stay tuned!

Texas Rally for Life

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020

January 2020, marks 47 years since Roe v. Wade
Join thousands of Texans to march in support of each human life!

Archdiocesan send-off Mass at 8:30am
St. Bartholomew the Apostle
5356 Eleventh Street
Katy, TX 77493

Depart for Austin following Mass
March and Rally for Life begins at 1 pm
Cost: \$25.00/person (lunch not provided)
Buses stop to and from Austin

Texas Rally for Life
★ www.TexasRallyforLife.org

Buses departing from multiple parishes
Contact the Office of Pro-Life Activities to find the parish nearest you at (713)741-8728
Register at <https://archgh.cvent.com/d/wyqbym/>

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
GALVESTON, TEXAS

Extracto de una Homilía de Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



La celebración de hoy es siempre para mí motivo de especial alegría. En efecto, administrar el sacramento del bautismo en el día de la fiesta del Bautismo del Señor es, en realidad, uno de los momentos más expresivos de nuestra fe, en la que podemos ver de algún modo, a través de los signos de la liturgia, el misterio de la vida. En primer lugar, la vida humana, representada aquí en particular por estos trece niños que son el fruto de vuestro amor, queridos padres, a los cuales dirijo mi saludo cordial, extendiéndolo a los padrinos, a las madrinan y a los demás parientes y amigos presentes. Está, luego, el misterio de la vida divina, que hoy Dios dona a estos pequeños mediante el renacimiento por el agua y el Espíritu Santo.

Dios es vida, como está representado estupendamente también en algunas pinturas que embellecen esta Capilla Sixtina. Sin embargo, no debe parecernos fuera de lugar comparar inmediatamente la experiencia de la vida con la experiencia opuesta, es decir, con la realidad de la muerte. Todo lo que comienza en la tierra, antes o después termina, como la hierba del campo, que brota por la mañana y se marchita al atardecer. Pero en el bautismo el pequeño ser humano recibe una vida nueva, la vida de la gracia, que lo capacita para entrar en relación personal con el Creador, y esto para siempre, para toda la eternidad.

Por desgracia, el hombre es capaz de apagar esta nueva vida con su pecado, reduciéndose a una situación que la sagrada Escritura llama "segunda muerte". Mientras que en las demás criaturas, que no están llamadas a la eternidad, la muerte significa solamente el fin de la existencia en la tierra, en nosotros el pecado crea una vorágine que amenaza con tragarnos para siempre, si el Padre que está en los cielos no nos tiende su mano.

Este es, queridos hermanos, el misterio del bautismo: Dios ha querido salvarnos yendo él mismo hasta el fondo del abismo de la muerte, con el fin de que todo hombre, incluso el que ha caído tan bajo que ya no ve el cielo, pueda encontrar la mano de Dios a la cual asirse a fin de subir desde las tinieblas y volver a ver la luz para la que ha sido creado. Todos sentimos, todos percibimos interiormente que nuestra existencia es un deseo de vida que invoca una plenitud, una salvación. Esta plenitud de vida se nos da en el bautismo.

Acabamos de oír el relato del bautismo de Jesús en el Jordán. Fue un bautismo diverso del que estos niños van a recibir, pero tiene una profunda relación con él. En el fondo, todo el misterio de Cristo en el mundo se puede resumir con esta palabra: "bautismo", que en griego significa "inmersión". El Hijo de Dios, que desde la eternidad comparte con el Padre y con el Espíritu Santo la plenitud de la vida, se "sumergió" en nuestra realidad de pecadores para hacernos participar en su misma vida: se encarnó, nació como nosotros, creció como nosotros y, al llegar a la edad adulta, manifestó su misión iniciándola precisamente con el "bautismo de conversión", que recibió de Juan el Bautista. Su primer acto público, como acabamos de escuchar, fue bajar al Jordán, entre los pecadores penitentes, para recibir aquel bautismo. Naturalmente, Juan no quería, pero Jesús insistió, porque esa era la voluntad del Padre (cf. Mt 3, 13-15).

¿Por qué el Padre quiso eso? ¿Por qué mandó a su Hijo unigénito al mundo como Cordero para que tomara sobre sí el pecado del mundo? (cf. Jn 1, 29). El evangelista narra que, cuando Jesús salió del agua, se posó sobre él el Espíritu Santo en forma de paloma, mientras la voz del Padre desde el cielo lo proclamaba "Hijo predilecto" (Mt 3, 17). Por tanto, desde aquel momento Jesús fue revelado como aquel que venía para bautizar a la humanidad en el Espíritu Santo: venía a traer a los hombres la vida en abundancia (cf. Jn 10, 10), la vida eterna, que resucita al ser humano y lo sana en su totalidad, cuerpo y espíritu, restituyéndolo al proyecto originario para el cual fue creado.

El fin de la existencia de Cristo fue precisamente dar a la humanidad la vida de Dios, su Espíritu de amor, para que todo hombre pueda acudir a este manantial inagotable de salvación. Por eso san Pablo escribe a los Romanos que hemos sido bautizados en la muerte de Cristo para tener su misma vida de resucitado (cf. Rm 6, 3-4). Y por eso mismo los padres cristianos, como hoy vosotros, tan pronto como les es posible, llevan a sus hijos a la pila bautismal, sabiendo que la vida que les han transmitido invoca una plenitud, una salvación que sólo Dios puede dar. De este modo los padres se convierten en colaboradores de Dios no sólo en la transmisión de la vida física sino también de la vida espiritual a sus hijos.

Queridos padres, juntamente con vosotros doy gracias al Señor por el don de estos niños e invoco su asistencia para que os ayude a educarlos y a insertarlos en el Cuerpo espiritual de la Iglesia. A la vez que les ofrecéis lo que es necesario para el crecimiento y para la salud, vosotros, con la ayuda de los padrinos, os habéis comprometido a desarrollar en ellos la fe, la esperanza y la caridad, las virtudes teológicas que son propias de la vida nueva que han recibido con el sacramento del bautismo.

Aseguraréis esto con vuestra presencia, con vuestro afecto; y lo aseguraréis, ante todo y sobre todo, con la oración, presentándolos diariamente a Dios, encomendándolos a él en cada etapa de su existencia. Ciertamente, para crecer sanos y fuertes, estos niños y niñas necesitarán cuidados materiales y muchas atenciones; pero lo que les será más necesario, más aún indispensable, es conocer, amar y servir fielmente a Dios, para tener la vida eterna. Queridos padres, sed para ellos los primeros testigos de una fe auténtica en Dios.

*Ciudad del Vaticano
Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor
Domingo 13 de enero de 2008*

Rito de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos: El Rito de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos, conocido por la siglas (R.I.C.A.) es un proceso comunitario de formación catequética, espiritual y educativa para los adultos que buscan convertirse en miembros plenos de la Iglesia Católica Romana a través de una conversión de la mente y el corazón.

EL PROGRAMA DE R.I.C.A. ES PARA:

1. Cualquier persona que nunca ha sido bautizado.
2. Cualquier persona que ha sido bautizado en otra fe cristiana y le gustaría convertirse a la fe católica romana.
3. Cualquier persona que fue bautizado católico pero nunca recibió los sacramentos de la primera comunión y/o confirmación.
4. Cualquier católico que ha recibido todos los sacramentos pero que le gustaría profundizar en su fe asistiendo a las sesiones de R.I.C.A. Te invitamos a unírte también a esta jornada de fe. Las inscripciones para el 2019-2020 se abrirán el 15 de Julio de Lunes a Viernes de 11am a 5pm en la Oficina de Catecismo. Para mayor información comunicarse al (713) 729-3435.

Se busca Voluntarios para el Comité de construcción y mantenimiento: Descripción general bajo la dirección del Pastor, el comité de construcción y mantenimiento supervisa el mantenimiento y la reparación de los edificios y jardines de la Parroquia. El comité se asegura que el edificio de la Iglesia y sus alrededores estén en buen estado y que sean un entorno seguro para los empleados de la parroquia, los parroquianos y aquellos que visitan la parroquia. Si le interesa ser parte del comité, comunicarse con el Sr. Vince Stacio por correo electrónico, vstasio@gmail.com.

Legion de Maria (Español)

Si desean servir a Dios, por medio de la Virgen Maria, nuestro ministerio, se reúne todos los viernes a las 7:00pm en Donavon's Den. Tenemos como misión la devoción al santísimo rosario, peregrinar la Virgen Maria en los hogares, visitar enfermos, etc. Si tienes ese llamado en tu corazón para servir o recibir la Virgen Maria, no tardes, la Virgen Maria te espera. Para más información llame: Gricelda Sanchez al (713) 550-3608.



21 al 29 de enero de 2020

9 Días por la Vida es una novena por la protección de la vida humana. La intención de cada día va acompañada de una breve reflexión y una sugerencia para la acción que ayuden a construir la cultura de la vida. Únete hoy en www.9DaysforLife.com.



Anuncios en el Boletín

Los anuncios en el boletín deben entregarse el lunes a las 5:00 p.m. para incluirlos en el boletín del domingo siguiente. Comuníquese con John Chambers a jchambers@stmhouston.org para agregar el ministerio parroquial, grupo o evento en el boletín. Todas las solicitudes están sujetas a aprobación y disponibilidad de espacio y serán formateadas para ajustarse al diseño general del boletín.

Bautizo infantil:

Niños/as de 0 meses a 6 años. La próxima clase de preparación Bautismal para Padres y Padrinos será el **Enero 18, 2020**, de 10:00am a 1:00 pm, (registración inicia a las 9:30am) en el 2do. Piso del edificio de Educación Religiosa. **Necesitamos toda su atención durante la clase, no se permiten niños en la clase.**

Requisitos:

1. Los Papás: deben ser miembros activos y estar registrados en la parroquia de St. Thomas More, 6 meses antes de solicitar el Bautismo o vivir en el código postal 77096 y 77035.
2. Los Padrinos: deben ser suficientemente maduros y mayores de 16 años de edad, haber recibido los sacramentos de Bautismo, Confirmación y Eucaristía y ser miembros activos de la Iglesia Católica y canónicamente libres de llevar a cabo sus tareas. Si son casados, deben de ser casados en la Iglesia.
3. Inscribirse en la Oficina parroquial para la Clase de Preparación Bautismal
4. Asistir a la Clase de preparación Bautismal el tercer sábado del mes, ambos Papás y Padrinos

DESPUÉS DE LA CLASE DE
PREPARACIÓN BAUTISMAL

5. Entregar a la oficina la forma de registro de papas y acta de nacimiento del niño/a
6. Entregar a la oficina la forma de registro de padrinos y acta de matrimonio

Para más información llamar al (713) 729-0221

Inglés como segundo idioma (ESL)**Registro**

Martes 14 de enero y Jueves 16 de enero
7:00 pm a 8:30 pm

La inscripción se lleva a cabo en la escuela parroquial.
Tarifa: \$ 30.00

Las clases son los martes y jueves por la noche, a las 7:00 p.m., y comienzan el **21 de enero de 2020**

Celebración de Quince Años Acción de Gracias de Quince Años:

Para Señoritas y Jóvenes

Si te gustaría recibir la bendición de Dios en este día tan especial para ti. Te invitamos a que vengas y reserves tu día de acción de Gracias

Requisitos:

- Los papás deben de ser miembros activos y estar registrados en la parroquia por lo menos 6 meses antes de solicitar la celebración o vivir en la zona postal 77035 o 77096.
- Haber recibido los sacramentos del Bautismo y Primera Comunión.
- Estar en el programa de educación religiosa el año anterior a la celebración y estar en el proceso de recibir la confirmación.

Asistir al día de formación de Quince Años, el **Sábado 25 de Enero, 2020**, de 7:30am a 3:30pm.
Para más información llamar a la oficina al **713-729-0221**

MINISTERIO DE COMIDAS Y MINISTERIO SAMARITANO:

Si está buscando una manera de ayudar a la comunidad parroquial, ¡considere unirse al ministerio de comidas y / o al ministerio samaritano! Estos dos ministerios le permiten practicar los actos corporales de misericordia con la comunidad. ¡Estamos buscando cocineros para ambos ministerios!

El Ministerio de Comidas proporciona comidas a los feligreses que no pueden cocinar por sí mismos debido a una situación médica a corto plazo. Estamos buscando cocineros que se comprometan a cocinar **UN DÍA AL MES**. También necesitamos personas que estén interesadas en ser un cocinero sustituto para el ministerio de comidas.

El Ministerio Samaritano ofrece una comida caliente para las familias en duelo y sus invitados después de un funeral. La comida será proporcionada, al igual la organización del salón y servida por el ministerio samaritano.

Ambos ministerios fueron partes activas importantes de nuestra comunidad parroquial durante décadas. ¡Estamos emocionados de ponerlos en funcionamiento nuevamente! Póngase en contacto con Monique Close (713) 628-3323 o mogeoclose@yahoo.com si tiene preguntas o para ser voluntario.