

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**ST. 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](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**

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*  
Rosio Contreras, *Receptionist*  
Ingrid Gooding, *Bookkeeper*  
Ron Biba, *Facilities Manager*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Ryan Lambert, *Director of Faith Formation*  
Xenia Avalos, *Faith Formation, Admin Assistant*  
Mary-Therese Hafernik, *Youth Confirmation Coord.*

**Office of Music:**

Chris Bearer, *Director*, (713) 980-3111  
Jian Guang Shi, *Organist* (713) 988-9829

**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**

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*

**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*

**Current Mass and Confession Schedule**

**WEEKDAY MASS**  
**MISA ENTRE SEMANA**

**Monday – Friday**  
6:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

**CONFESSION**  
**CONFESIONES**

**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)

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the First Century A.D., Judea was a province of the Roman Empire, which means that everyone who lived in that region at that time was subject to the authority of the Roman Emperor. As subjects of the Roman Emperor, Jews were expected to pay Roman taxes. The more things change, the more they stay the same... not surprisingly, this Roman tax was controversial. In the Gospel this Sunday, the Pharisees pose a question to Jesus: "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Jesus responds, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" (Matthew 22:17,21).

This line from scripture has become a common entry point into the topic about the relationship between Christianity and politics. In the U.S., how are we supposed to interact with politics? It's not uncommon to hear people say that the Church should be completely severed from public life. This mindset couldn't be further from the truth. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person" (CCC 1913). The Catechism further states, "As far as possible citizens should take an active part in *public life*" (CCC 1915). Pope Francis teaches, "We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern."

The U.S. Bishops take this topic of political responsibility very seriously. Relatively recently, they promulgated a document entitled *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. The bishops will not tell us how to vote, but they will teach us how to form our consciences in order to make informed political decisions. Our faith should inform our politics... Our politics should not inform our faith. There is no political party in the U.S. that perfectly aligns with the Catholic faith, and the bishops encourage us to work within the political realm to promote human dignity and to help pursue the common good.

This short bulletin letter cannot do justice to summarize the vast topic concerning the relationship between faith and politics. It is an important topic and one we should commit ourselves to learning more about. According to the bishops, what public policies should concern Catholics most?

- The preeminent requirement to protect human life in all its forms: to bring an end to abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide, the destruction of embryos for research, the death penalty and unjust war.
- The protection of the fundamental understanding of marriage and family.
- Comprehensive immigration reform that treats immigrants with dignity while respecting the rule of law.
- To help families overcome poverty and ensure access to good education.
- The protection of conscience and religious freedom.
- Health care that respects human life, human dignity and religious freedom.
- Moral limits on the use of military force.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Clark

### Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that  
You are present in the  
Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all  
things, and I desire to re-  
ceive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this mo-  
ment receive You sacra-  
mentally, come at least  
spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You  
are already there.

And unite myself wholly  
to You.

Never permit me to be  
separated from you.

Amen



October is the month  
of The Most  
Holy Rosary

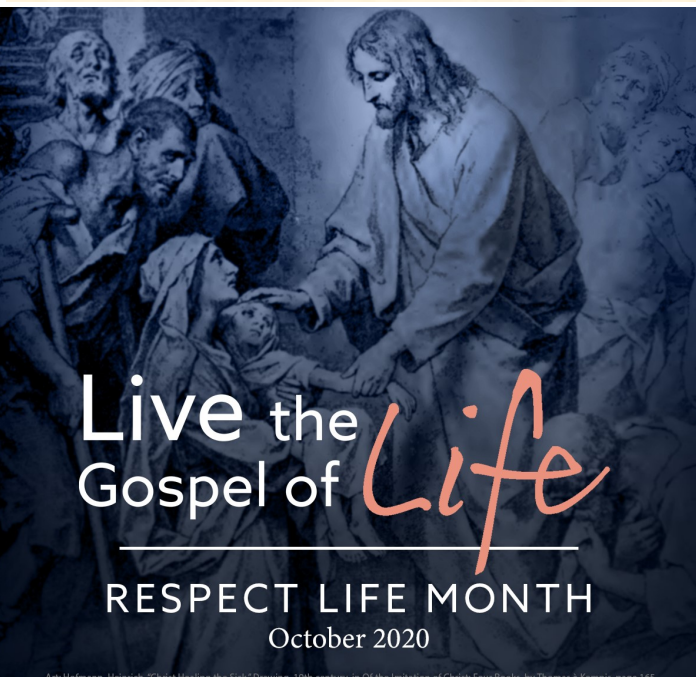
The Rosary is prayed  
every morning at  
6:00 a.m. in  
the Church, M-F



## WEEKLY READINGS

*Scripture Readings for the Week of October 18, 2020*

|                  |                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10;<br>1Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21 |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>Saints John de Brebeuf &amp; Isaac Jogues</b><br>Eph.2:1-10,Ps.100:2,3,4,5,Lk.12:13-21                             |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>St. Paul of the Cross</b><br>Eph.2:12-22,Ps.85:9-10,11-12,13-14,<br>Lk.12:35-38                                    |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>St. Laura of Saint Catherine of Sienna</b><br>Eph.3:2-12,Ps.Is.12:2-3,4,5-6,Lk.12:39-48                            |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>St. John Paul II, Pope</b><br>Eph.3:14-21,Ps.33:1-2,4-5,11-12,18-19,<br>Lk.12:49-53                                |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>St. John of Capistrano</b><br>Eph.4:1-6,Ps.24:1-2,3-4,5-6,Lk.12:54-59                                              |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>St. Anthony Mary Claret</b><br>Eph.4:7-16,Ps.122:1-2,3-4,4-5,Lk.13:1-9                                             |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>Ex.22:20-26,Ps.18:2-3,3-4,47,51,<br>1Thes.1:5c-10,Mt.22:34-40             |



## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, October 18

7:30am † Carlos Uresti  
9:00am \* Janet Hafernack  
11:00am \* Missa Pro Populo  
1:00 pm † Jean Marie Womack

### Monday, October 19

6:30am \* Deacon John Krugh  
5:30pm † Peter Nhiem Nguyen

### Tuesday, October 20

6:30am \* Ezinne Rennue  
5:30pm \* Lenczycki Family

### Wednesday, October 21

6:30am \* Souls in Purgatory  
5:30pm \* Fontenont Family

### Thursday, October 22

6:30am \* Prima Nwachukwu  
5:30pm † Irvin Meyer

### Friday, October 23

6:30am † John Joseph Jack Thompson  
5:30pm \* Mike Mc Crate Family

### Saturday, October 24

9:00am \* Lavone Ebersole  
5:00pm † Bill & Ann Tucker

† (Deceased)

\* (Special Intention)



*One may request Mass Intentions by visiting  
the parish office from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm,  
Monday - Friday.*

*Uno puede solicitar Intenciones visitando la  
oficina parroquial 8:00 am - 5:00 pm,  
Lunes - Viernes*

## Sacraments

### Baptism Preparation and Classes

#### Infants and children under 7 years old:

Baptismal Preparation Class for parents wishing to have their infant or child (up to 6 years of age) baptized is currently offered online via Zoom.

**Attendance is required for parents and is highly recommended for godparents.**

If possible class should be attended prior to the birth of your child. Please call the Parish office to register, 713-729-0221. More information can be found on our website [www.stmhouston.org](http://www.stmhouston.org)

When choosing godparents for your child, keep the following in mind:

- ♦ A godparent must be 16 years of age or older and have received the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. They must be an active practicing Catholic.
- ♦ If married the godparents must be married by the Catholic Church.
- ♦ Only one godparent is required, male or female.

#### Children over 6 years old:

Please contact the Office of Faith Formation at 713-729-3435 for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation adapted for children.

### RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or do you know someone who is? Consider joining our RCIA program. You can go to our website for more information, [www.stmhouston.org](http://www.stmhouston.org) Fill out the registration form and our office will be notified of your interest. Currently, programs are being conducted online via Zoom.

### First Holy Communion

Second grade students must be baptized and in their 2nd year of Faith Formation at STM or in their second year of religion classes in a Catholic school. Preparation for these sacraments will be separate programs and will commence in the Spring. You may call the Office of Faith Formation with any questions, 713-729-3435.

## Stewardship for October 11, 2020

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Collection    | \$17,459.00        |
| Online Giving | \$8,936.23         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$26,395.23</b> |



**Parish Goal: \$193,000.00**

It is not too late to make your donation to the Diocesan Services Fund.

### Confirmation

**High School Students:** You may visit our website for more information [www.stmhouston.org](http://www.stmhouston.org) about the 2 year program.

**Adult Confirmation:** Classes will begin in the Spring. Registration information will be available later in the year.

### Anointing of the Sick

If you or a loved one is suffering from a serious illness please call the parish office to request this sacrament, 713-729-0221



## Outreach Ministry Social Services

Consider volunteering for our St. Vincent de Paul Society which runs our food bank. For more information, please contact us at 713-980-3113 or email [svdp.district3stm@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.district3stm@gmail.com).

## Del escritorio del P. Clark

### Queridos amigos en Cristo

En el primer siglo A.D., Judea era una provincia del Imperio Romano, lo que significa que todos los que vivían en esa región en ese momento estaban sujetos a la autoridad del Emperador Romano. Como súbditos del emperador romano, se esperaba que los judíos pagaran impuestos romanos. Cuanto más cambian las cosas, más permanecen igual ... como era de esperar, este impuesto romano fue controvertido. En el Evangelio de este domingo, los fariseos le hacen una pregunta a Jesús: "¿Es lícito pagar el impuesto del censo al César o no?" Jesús responde: "Paga al César lo que es del César y a Dios lo que es de Dios" (Mateo 22: 17,21).

Esta línea de las Escrituras se ha convertido en un punto de entrada común al tema de la relación entre el cristianismo y la política. En Estados Unidos, ¿cómo se supone que interactuaremos con la política? No es raro escuchar a la gente decir que la Iglesia debería estar completamente separada de la vida pública. Esta mentalidad no podría estar más lejos de la verdad. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica enseña: "Es necesario que todos participen, cada uno según su posición y función, en la promoción del bien común. Esta obligación es inherente a la dignidad de la persona humana" (CCC 1913). El Catecismo dice, además: "En la medida de lo posible, los ciudadanos deben participar activamente en la vida pública" (CCC 1915). El Papa Francisco enseña: "Necesitamos participar por el bien común. A veces escuchamos: a un buen católico no le interesa la política. Esto no es cierto: los buenos católicos se sumergen en la política ofreciendo lo mejor de sí mismos para que el líder pueda gobernar".

Los obispos estadounidenses se toman muy en serio este tema de la responsabilidad política. Hace relativamente poco tiempo, promulgaron un documento titulado Formando conciencias para una ciudadanía fiel. Los obispos no nos dirán cómo votar, pero sí nos enseñarán cómo formar nuestra conciencia para tomar decisiones políticas informadas. Nuestra fe debería informar nuestra política ... Nuestra política no debería informar nuestra fe. No hay ningún partido político en los Estados Unidos que se alinee perfectamente con la fe católica, y los obispos nos animan a trabajar dentro del ámbito político para promover la dignidad humana y ayudar a perseguir el bien común.

Esta breve carta no puede hacer justicia para resumir el vasto tema relativo a la relación entre fe y política. Es un tema importante y debemos comprometernos a aprender más. Según los obispos, ¿qué políticas deberían preocupar más a los católicos?

- La exigencia preeminente de proteger la vida humana en todas sus formas: poner fin al aborto, la eutanasia y el suicidio asistido, la destrucción de embriones para investigación, la pena de muerte y la guerra injusta.
- La protección de la comprensión fundamental del matrimonio y la familia.
- Una reforma migratoria integral que trate a los inmigrantes con dignidad y respete el estado de derecho.
- Ayudar a las familias a superar la pobreza y garantizar el acceso a una buena educación.
- La protección de la conciencia y la libertad religiosa.
- Atención médica que respete la vida humana, la dignidad humana y la libertad religiosa.
- Límites morales al uso de la fuerza militar.

De Ustedes in Cristo,

*Padre Clark*

### Oración de Comunión espiritual

Jesús mío, creo que estás presente en el Santísimo Sacramento.

Te amo sobre todas las cosas y deseo recibirte en mi alma.

Como no puedo recibirte en este momento sacramentalmente, entra al menos espiritualmente en mi corazón.

Te abrazo como si ya estuvieras allí.

Y me uno totalmente a ti.

Nunca permitas que me separe de ti.

Amen



Octubre  
es el mes del  
Santísimo Rosario.

El Rosario se reza  
Cada mañana a las  
6:00 a.m. en  
La Iglesia