FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 **M-F 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**
(Closed from 12-1 PM for lunch)

Clergy
Rev. Clark Sample, *Pastor*
Rev. Thuc Nguyen, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Binny Philip, *Priest In Residence*
Deacon John Krugh
Deacon Danny Naranjo

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.

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.

STM PARISH SCHOOL

Saint Thomas More Parish School
5927 Wigton Drive
Houston, TX 77096
(713) 729-3434

Dear Parish Community,
Today we begin the Advent season and I would like to share with you a few Advent calendars that you can use in your homes and with your families. They are linked at the QR code below.

These are the calendars that we share with our students and families as we prepare our hearts to receive our Lord Jesus in our hearts this Advent season. I encourage our families to print the calendar that fits their style best and use the daily activities as reflection and prayer starters around the dinner table or before bedtime. This daily reminder of the Advent season might be small but can go a long way in getting us ready for Christmas. I hope you enjoy them.

Yours in Christ,

Carolina Bowman

STEWARDSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

The Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are, and they strive to live in readiness His coming.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent is upon us! The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word, "*advenire*," which means "to come to." Advent is the time of year when we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas, the anniversary of when God took on human flesh and entered the world. The Church also encourages us to use this liturgical season to prepare our souls to allow Jesus to enter our hearts. The readings for the first Sunday of Advent have an emphasis on Jesus' second coming, so this week we focus on that second coming, when Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead at the end of the world.

The readings for this week connect us to an interesting field of study in Christian theology called Eschatology. *Eschaton* means "the last things" in Greek, so Eschatology is the study of the last things. This field of study has traditionally been broken down into 4 categories: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. The following remarks are a brief overview of what the Catholic Church teaches about these last things. The Catechism of the Catholic Church has plenty more to say about them!

Death is defined as the separation of the soul from the body. Death is the result of sin, and it's the end of man's earthly pilgrimage. We die only once, and there is no reincarnation after death. Many of the saints encourage us to reflect daily about the reality of death because it helps us focus on the life to come. In the Hail Mary prayer, we say, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

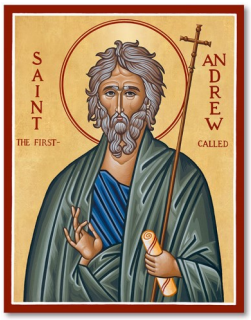
Judgment is something all of us will face. There is the Particular Judgement and the Last Judgment. The Particular Judgment happens immediately at our death, and at this moment it is determined if we go to heaven or hell. The Last Judgment occurs at Christ's second coming at the end of the world. The resurrection of all the dead, "of both the just and the unjust," will precede the Last Judgment. This will be "the hour when all who are in the tombs will hear [the Son of man's] voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgement" (CCC 1038). When it's all said and done, we will be judged according to the way we lived. Our actions matter and our actions have consequesnces.

Heaven is defined as communion with God forever. It is greater than anything we can ever imagine. We either go to heaven immediately after death, or through a "cleansing" known as Purgatory. Those who die in God's grace and friendship imperfectly purified, although they are assured of their eternal salvation, undergo a purification after death, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of God (CCC 1054).

Hell exists and it is possible to go there. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, "eternal fire." The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs (CCC 1035). I think that this technical explanation is a way of saying that hell is worse than anything we can imagine. Like any form of punishment, a healthy fear of hell can be the impetus we need to turn our lives around and live for God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Clark



St. Andrew, Apostle
November 30

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 :
Time, Death and Judgement
By
George Frederick Watts

Stewardship for November 20, 2022

Totals not available at the time of printing due to the Thanksgiving Holidays

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.

2022 Goal $127,055.00
Collected $130,387.00

Contributing Parishioners: 322

THANK YOU PARISHIONERS!
BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY, WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR DSF GOALS!

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Anton Kharoufeh
Joy Gallo
Dr. Charlene (Andie) James-Piper
Ana Morillo
Chloe Hebert

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Joseph H.B. Kahlich
Carl Alberto Hunter
Paul Bergman
Hunter Kowalski
Ryan Brogan

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 27
7:30 am *Nora C. Gomez
9:00 am †Ethel Staben
11:00 am *Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm †Carolina Sarrazola

Monday, November 28
6:30 am †Edwin & Mary Jane Coke and Family
5:30 pm †Thomas Rumford

Tuesday, November 29
6:30 am *Kristina Johannes
5:30 pm †Bill Harrell

Wednesday, November 30
6:30 am *Ron Wright
5:30 pm *Cindy & Rick Womack

Thursday, December 1
6:30 am
5:30 pm *Rick & Cindy Womack

Friday, December 2
6:30 am †Marie Singh
5:30 pm

Saturday, December 3
9:00 am †Gregory Laitkep
5:00 pm †Bertha Theriot

Sunday, December 4
7:30 am
9:00 am *Missa Pro Populo
11:00 am *Mr. Charlie Nettles
1:00 pm †Vitalina Mercado

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

Shirley Clay
Rudy Navarro
Sandra Kane
Haydee Espinosa
Simeon Nichols III
Irasema Espinosa
Michael Hirl
Mary Miller

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, November 27
8:45am Nursery Open for 9am Mass
4:00pm GSUSA Troop 147118 - Scout House

Monday, November 28
9:30am Oracion—Donovan's Den
6:300pm ACTS Women - Rehkopf Mtg Room
7:00pm BSA Troop 99—Scout House
7:30pm Danza - Prinster Hall

Tuesday, November 29
6:00am That Man Is You - Donovan's Den
6:00pm PTO - Donovan's Den
6:15pm Confessions-Church
7:00pm Adult Confirmation - Youth Media Room
7:00pm ESL - School

Wednesday, November 30
6:00pm Cub Scouts (Wolf/Bear) - Scout House
6:00pm High School Youth Grp Life Teen - Youth Room
6:15pm Confession - Church
7:00pm OMOPH Prayer Group - Rehkopf Conf. Rm.
7:00pm Discussions with the Deacon - Donovan's Den
7:30pm Legion of Mary - RE Conference Room
8:00pm Men's Basketball - Gym

Thursday, December 1
10:00am Bible Study - Youth Center
6:00pm Cub Scouts (Webelos/AOL) - Scout House
6:00pm Middle School Youth Group Edge - Youth Room
6:30pm Gabriel Project - Donovan's Den
7:00pm Choir Practice—Church
7:00pm ESL - School

Friday, December 2
4:00pm GSUSA - 5th Grade - Scout House
6:00pm Legion of Mary Spanish - Donovan's Den Loft

Saturday, December 3
8:30am Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa - Servant
11:30am Confirmation Class - Prinster Hall
3:30pm Confessions - Church
4:30pm BSA Wreath Sale - Church Plaza
6:00pm KofC Christmas Party - Servant Hall

Sunday, December 4
COFFEE & DONUTS AFTER ALL MASSES
8:45am Nursery Open for 9am Mass
8:00am BSA Wreath Sales after all Masses
9:30am RCIA - Donovan's Den
10:30am BSA AAD - Scout House
11:30am RCIA Spanish - Donovan's Den
4:00pm GSUSA Troop 147118 - Scout House
4:00pm Cub Scout Leaders - Donovan's Den

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.

We currently need people to commit to the following hours:
SUNDAY: ***Blessed to have full coverage Sundays***
MONDAY: 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM,
TUESDAY: 12:00 PM, 4:00 PM
WEDNESDAY: 5:00 AM
THURSDAY: 4:00 AM, 10:00 AM
FRIDAY: 2:00 PM
SATURDAY: ***Blessed to have full coverage Saturdays***

Reparation for Disbelief
Avignon, France

On November 30th of each year, the Confraternity of the Grey Penitents celebrate a special liturgy in memory of a great Eucharistic miracle that happened on that day in 1433 in Avignon, France, when the flood waters parted before the Blessed Sacrament.

The story of this Eucharistic miracle started over two hundred years earlier in 1226 when the Albigensian heresy, which denied the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, had spread its errors especially in southern France. The French King Louis VIII, who had a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, decided to make a solemn act of reparation to Jesus in the city of Avignon, in the south of France. A new chapel, called the Chapel of the Holy Cross, was built on orders of the king to honor the Blessed Sacrament. On the day of reparation, King Louis stood at the entrance of the chapel wearing sackcloth, a rope around his waist, and held a candle in his hand while Bishop Corbie carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession throughout the entire city to the chapel where the king awaited. The Most Blessed Sacrament was exposed all night in the chapel and adoration by the faithful continued for days until the bishop decided that the Blessed Sacrament should be perpetually exposed, with the approval of the pope. The practice of perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament did not become more widespread in the Church until centuries later so to have had perpetual adoration during this time was extraordinary. The order of the Grey Penitents was placed in charge of the chapel where perpetual adoration had continued for two hundred and seven years when the great miracle occurred. The details of the Eucharistic miracle will be described next week.

WORK AT STM!

Join us in bringing families closer to Christ through Catholic education.

As enrollment & interest continue to grow, we are seeking teachers to guide our children in their educational journey.

Please contact Principal Bowman directly if you are interested or know of a phenomenal teacher who would like to join our team:
cbowman@stmorenews.com or
713-729-3434

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH SCHOOL • ESTABLISHED 1965 •

Continuing 57 years of stellar Catholic Education

Two-time
National Blue Ribbon School

www.stthomasmore-school.org

FIRST COMMUNION REGISTRATION IS OPEN

You can register your child by scanning the QR Code.

1) To be eligible for First Communion the child has to be in at least 2nd grade and have participated 1 year in a CCE program or attend a Catholic school
2) 2) This registration page is password protected - that password is: FS2023

Discussions with the Deacon

Discussions with the Deacon every Wednesday Night at 7pm in Donovan's Den!

Here's your chance to ask questions regarding the liturgy, church teachings, morality, the sacraments, etc…

No need to register -
just show up and join the discussion.

The Feast Of OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Monday, December 12th

Morning Celebration

5:00am Mañanitas with Mariachi
5:45am Bilingual Rosary
6:30am Mass
7:00 am Join us for Refreshments in Servant Hall after mass

Evening Celebration

7:00pm Rosary Procession accompanied by Danza Tonantzin in the parking lot
8:00pm Mass in Spanish
9:00pm Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe
9:30pm Danza Tonantzin and Refreshments

MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH,
PRAY FOR US!

Breakfast with Santa

The Knights of Columbus would like to invite everyone to a visit from Santa Claus on Saturday, December 3 from 8:30 to 10:00am in Servant Hall. This is a great opportunity for pictures and getting Christmas present wish lists early. This is a free event for the entire St Thomas More family.

COFFEE & DONUTS

Next Sunday

AFTER ALL MASSES!

"RELIGIOUS ARTICLES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN SERVANT HALL"

TMIY

THAT MAN IS YOU!

BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

JOIN US!

We meet each Tuesday at 6am in Servant Hall.

Join us! Open to all men of the parish.

Please contact Ryan Lambert for more information, rlambert@stmhouiston.org

Support STM's Scout Troop 99!

Scouts will be selling beautiful, fresh wreaths and centerpieces outside of the church after all masses on December 3rd and 4th. Wreaths vary in price from $36-43 and centerpieces are $42. Your purchase goes towards their scouting activities in 2023!

ACTS®

God is calling all women of St. Thomas More Parish!

We would like to invite you to join us for a **Women's ACTS Retreat,** February 2-5, 2023

For more information or to register : https://www.stmhouston.org/womens-acts-retreat or Scan the QRS Code

SCAN ME

Wassail & Cookies + Gift Giving Sunday

Two beloved STM Traditions are back!

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is a special day for our STM Parish. Each year we come together to bring gifts for those in need in our community and to celebrate the Christmas season as a Family of Families with Wassail & Cookies!

Scan this QR Code
To be an STM Christmas Elf!
We need help organizing the gifts we receive on Christmas Gift Weekend - this is a fun way to give back while getting to know other STM parishioners!

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Del escritorio del P. Clark

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

¡El Adviento ha llegado! La palabra “Adviento” proviene de la palabra latina “advenire”, que significa “venir a”. El Adviento es el tiempo del año en el que nos preparamos para la celebración de la Navidad, el aniversario de cuando Dios se hizo hombre y entró en el mundo. La Iglesia también nos anima a usar este tiempo litúrgico para preparar nuestras almas para permitir que Jesús entre en nuestros corazones. Las lecturas del primer domingo de Adviento tienen un énfasis en la segunda venida de Jesús, así que esta semana nos enfocamos en esa segunda venida, cuando Jesús vendrá a juzgar a los vivos y a los muertos al final del mundo.

Las lecturas de esta semana nos conectan con un interesante campo de estudio de la teología cristiana llamado Escatología. Eschaton significa "las últimas cosas" en griego, por lo que Escatología es el estudio de las últimas cosas. Este campo de estudio se ha dividido tradicionalmente en 4 categorías: Muerte, Juicio, Cielo e Infierno. Los siguientes comentarios son una breve descripción de lo que la Iglesia Católica enseña sobre estas últimas cosas. ¡El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica tiene mucho más que decir sobre ellos!

La muerte se define como la separación del alma del cuerpo. La muerte es el resultado del pecado, y es el fin del peregrinaje terrenal del hombre. Morimos solo una vez y no hay reencarnación después de la muerte. Muchos de los santos nos animan a reflexionar diariamente sobre la realidad de la muerte porque nos ayuda a centrarnos en la vida venidera. En la oración del Ave María decimos: “Santa María, Madre de Dios, ruega por nosotros pecadores, ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte”.

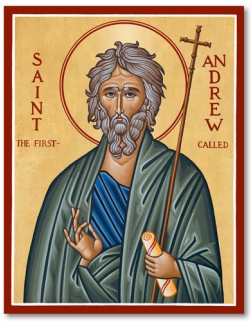
El juicio es algo que todos enfrentaremos. Está el Juicio Particular y el Juicio Final. El Juicio Particular sucede inmediatamente a nuestra muerte, y en ese momento se determina si vamos al cielo o al infierno. El Juicio Final ocurre en la segunda venida de Cristo al final del mundo. La resurrección de todos los muertos, “tanto de justos como de injustos”, precederá al Juicio Final. Esta será “la hora en que todos los que están en los sepulcros oirán la voz [del Hijo del hombre] y saldrán, los que hicieron lo bueno, a resurrección de vida, y los que hicieron lo malo, a resurrección de juicio.” (CEC 1038). Cuando todo esté dicho y hecho, seremos juzgados según la forma en que vivimos. Nuestras acciones importan y nuestras acciones tienen consecuencias.

El Cielo se define como la comunión con Dios para siempre. Es más grande que cualquier cosa que podamos imaginar. O vamos al cielo inmediatamente después de la muerte, o a través de una "limpieza" conocida como Purgatorio. Los que mueren en la gracia y amistad de Dios imperfectamente purificados, aunque tienen la seguridad de su salvación eterna, pasan por una purificación después de la muerte, para alcanzar la santidad necesaria para entrar en el gozo de Dios (CIC 1054).

El infierno existe y es posible ir allí. Inmediatamente después de la muerte, las almas de los que mueren en estado de pecado mortal descienden al infierno, donde sufren los castigos del infierno, “fuego eterno”. La pena principal del infierno consiste en la separación eterna de Dios en quien únicamente puede tener el hombre la vida y la felicidad para las que ha sido creado y a las que aspira (CCC 1035). Creo que esta explicación técnica es una forma de decir que el infierno es peor que cualquier cosa que podamos imaginar. Como cualquier forma de castigo, un miedo saludable al infierno puede ser el ímpetu que necesitamos para cambiar nuestras vidas y vivir para Dios.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

Padre Clark



Santo Andres
30 de noviembre

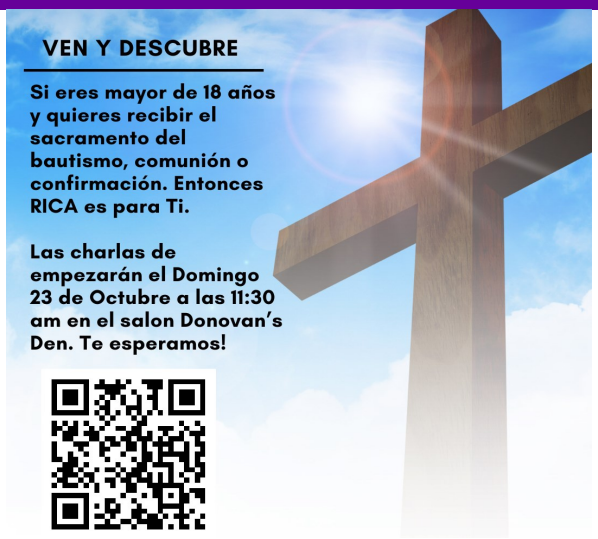
Uno puede solicitar Intenciones visitando la oficina parroquial 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, lunes a viernes

UNCIÓN DE LOS ENFERMOS / COMUNIÓN AL HOGAR

Si usted o un ser querido está sufriendo una enfermedad grave y necesita ser ungido o está incapaz de asistir a misa y quisiera recibir la Sagrada Comunión, por favor contacte a la Oficina parroquial, 713-729-0221.

Por favor visite nuestro sitio web para obtener más

SACRAMENTOS Y FORMACIÓN DE FE



¡Apoya a la Tropa Scout 99 de Santo Tomás Moro!

Los Scouts venderán coronas hermosas y frescas y centros de mesa afuera de la iglesia después de todas las misas el 3 y 4 de diciembre. Las coronas varían en precio desde $36-43 y los centros de mesa cuestan $42. ¡Tu compra se destina a sus actividades en 2023!

Celebración en Honor de la Virgen de Guadalupe

Lunes 12 de Diciembre 2022

En La Manana

5:00 am Mañanitas con Mariachi
5:45 am Rosario Bilingüe
6:30 am Misa en Ingles
7:00 am Acompáñenos para un refrigerio después de misa en el salon Servant

Celebracion por la Noche

7:00 pm. Procesión con Rosario y Danza Tonantzin en el Parqueo
8:00 pm La Santa Misa
9:00 pm Apariciones de la Santísima Virgen de Guadalupe
9:30 pm Danza Tonantzin, Convivio y refrigerio

¡María Madre de la Iglesia, Ruega por Nosotros!

Domingo de regalos de Navidad
10 y 11 de diciembre

- Las etiquetas de regalo estarán en nuestro Giving Tree ubicado en el Nártex a partir del 19 de noviembre.
- Cada etiqueta incluirá un artículo de regalo solicitado.
- Quita tantas etiquetas del árbol como desees.
- Compra el regalo, envuélvelo y pega la etiqueta al regalo.
- Déjalo en el Salon Servant antes de misa el 10 u 11 de diciembre.

******Distribuiremos regalos a partir del 11 de diciembre, así que traiga su regalo antes de este fin de semana.***

Donaciones en línea

El sitio web de la parroquia tiene instrucciones sobre cómo registrarse para realizar donaciones en línea de manera conveniente. Tendrá el control total de tu cuenta de contribución y la programación de sus donaciones.

Puede escanear el código QR anterior o visitar la página de inicio de nuestra parroquia en STMHOUSTON.ORG para obtener detalles e inscribirse.

Vaya aquí para crear una cuenta y registrate para una Hora Santa o como sustituto.

stmhouston.weadorehim.com

Preguntas? Envie un mensaje de texto a Bob Brill, 713-598-4838 o Edna Valdez 713-425-9506

¡Necesitamos más sustitutos!
Si no puede comprometerse con una hora santa semanal regular, pero aún desea ayudar, regístrese para ser un sustituto.