

Today’s readings are all about relationships. Among the many lessons we have learned as a result of the global pandemic is the deep importance of the relationships and communities in our lives. Our families, our neighbors, our friends and our parish family need us and we need them — not just for survival, but to be our best selves, and to help each other on the path to heaven.

Our readings today show us how we can be good stewards of these vital relationships, beginning with the first reading from the prophet Ezekiel. God says to Ezekiel, “You... I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me.” Because of our Baptism, we are all “watchmen” for one another. We have been given the gift of our Catholic faith and we have a responsibility to lovingly and generously share that gift. As Christian stewards, we must take this call to heart every day of the week and in every setting in which we find ourselves.

This can seem overwhelming at first. Are we called to keep a sermon in our back pocket at all times? Not exactly.

St. Paul gives us simple instruction in our second reading from Romans to guide us in our dealings with others. He reminds us what Christ Himself taught: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love is the overarching principle that guides us to be good stewards of our relationships and communities.

True love means seeking the good of the other. Sometimes, love requires us to speak up when it would be easier to remain silent — other times, love calls us to keep our mouths shut when we would prefer to “put someone in their place.”

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus further refines this instruction on good stewardship of our relationships, even when they involve conflict. He says, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.”

What timely advice for the modern-day steward. In this age of social media, it is tempting and all too easy to take to Twitter or Facebook to vent our frustrations about someone who has offended us. This is not love. But neither is allowing a brother (or sister) to sin against us without speaking up. Jesus teaches us to confront the offending person directly and discretely — with the goal of restoring the relationship if possible. This is how we steward our relationships even through rocky waters.

Later in this passage, Jesus speaks to us of the power and beauty of community life. “If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Christian stewards, God has designed us in such a way that we must help each other on the journey towards heaven. Let us take care to steward our relationships well.

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

August 30, 2020

Sunday Collection	\$	3,064.99
Vigil Candles.....	\$	64.82
OnLine Giving	\$	675.00

**Second Collection - September 12 - 13:
Shrines of the Holy Land**



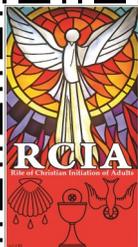
Please Note: We are so grateful to those who have continued to give through this pandemic crisis...

We depend on our parishioners weekly contributions.

We kindly ask that you continue to contribute via our usual Sunday Mass collection or by Mailing or dropping off your donations at the church office.

You may also go to our website (www.ThomasMoreSATx.org) to donate online through Online Giving or to submit your prayer request(s).





Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
- RCIA -

If you, or someone you know, are a non-Catholic and would like to learn more about the Catholic faith or possibly *become* a Catholic?...
(no pressure)... or -

If you are a Baptized Catholic adult... but have not made your First Holy Communion or been Confirmed... or -

Maybe you are you a practicing Catholic... and just want to learn more about our faith?

— *Or maybe you know someone like this* —

If so... I would like to invite you / them to our RCIA sessions.

They begin ***THIS*** Thurs, Sept 10th.

We meet in the Rectory Meeting Room... from 7 - 8:30 pm.

(Depending on the number of attendees... We may have to change location)

Masks will be required and Social Distancing will be observed.

Sessions are very informal...

We learn about Church, it's teachings, sacraments, and so much more!... and answer any questions you have.

For more information - call the parish office or talk to Den Tim... or simply come to our first meeting.

Hope to see you there.



St. Thomas More Fall Raffle

October 11, 2020

Drawing will be held at 2:45 pm
(Need not be present to win).

Tickets are \$5.00 each

Raffle tickets can be picked up in the Rectory Office

Over \$7000 in prizes!!!



UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL'S DESIGNER-PURSE RAFFLE

Thank you to all who supported and participated in this Raffle!

The School made \$10,875!!

We couldn't have done it without you!!

ATTN: la Comunidad de STM - Una Invitacion

Ya temenos la lista para los 46 Rosarios de la Virgen de Guadalupe para que separen su fecha con tiempo.

Se les hace una cordial invitacion para que participen en la danza de los matachines

Llamar a Edna Marshall al 210-505-0285



**ST THOMAS MORE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL 7386
ANNUAL BBQ PLATE**

When: October 24, 2020

Where: Carolan Hall, 4427 Moana, SA Tx 78218

Plate: 1/4 chicken, 1 sausage link, beans, rice, jalapeño, pickles, onions, bread, and drink

Cost: \$10/Plate CURBSIDE PICKUP ONLY

Serving: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tickets: Noah (210-459-9270) or any STM K of C Member



VOTING WITH A CATHOLIC HEART

During this extraordinary time... with the elections coming ever closer... I wanted to share a little about our responsibilities as Catholics. The following has been adapted and edited from the July, 2020 Catholic Update. It addresses the question: How can we Catholic citizens exercise the rights and responsibilities of our citizenship in a way that reflects what is most sacred to us: ***Our Catholic Faith?*** *(to continue over the next few weeks)*

Good citizenship begins with love for the people and communities to which we belong... to which we are bound... and upon which our own flourishing depends. Like all human loves, good citizenship must be ordered properly. Our love has to be directed toward what is good and away from what is bad but it also has to be directed toward good things in the proper proportion. We have to love the right things... and in the right way. God, country, family, health, wealth, comfort, security, peace, freedom... all of these are good things and each is worthy of love but they are not all worthy of love in the same way. We must have our priorities straight.

Material prosperity is good... but it is not as worthy of my love as God.

My comfort is good... but not more worthy than my love of country... etc.

Even the way we love other people *(all of whom have equal / inestimable value)* varies on the situation.

I love my wife in one way and my neighbor in a different way.

I love my children in one fashion and the neighbor's kids in a different fashion.

These differences extend throughout society and keeping these relationships properly ordered is a matter of justice... giving to them what is owed to them. Justice demands that the law treat the innocent and guilty differently... just as justice dictates that we should take special care for those who cannot take care for themselves.

Sometimes, we have to choose between competing goods...

Other times, we must go without some good or endure some evil. Choosing what is best in difficult and complicated circumstances requires us to love the right things and to love them in the right way.

But it also requires us to use more than just our hearts.

"Voting with a Catholic heart" means using our heads, too!

Our reason allows us the freedom to choose between one thing and another—between good and evil or between what is good, better, and best.. Obviously, it's important that we are able to know what is good in any particular circumstance and to know the best way to achieve that good so our freedom is put in service of what is actually good.

The virtue that helps us to know what is good and how best to achieve it is called ***prudence***.

Prudence is not merely being cautious. Sometimes prudence demands that we act boldly or swiftly.

Prudence never demands that we choose what is evil, not even in the hope that something good will come of it.

Some moral choices are clear, even if they are not always easy to make.

The intentional killing of an innocent human being, for example, is never justified.

There are other examples: lying and calumny, adultery, blasphemy, torture, various acts against nature, etc.

These acts are called "intrinsically evil," which means they are bad in and of themselves... regardless of circumstances.

Prudence can never justify them.

If we back a candidate or party because they support a grave evil, we participate in that evil ourselves.

We are complicit by our cooperation. Sometimes we might be justified in supporting a candidate despite the fact that they support a great evil, but only if our support is for the lesser of two evils and is made with the intent of advocating for the lesser evil *(for example if two candidates favor abortion, but one at least seeks to limit it)*.

Most of the decisions we have to make are difficult precisely because they include weighing one good against another, or judging the lesser of two evils. Such choices do not always permit obvious or easy solutions.

In such cases we must rely on our conscience to make the most prudent choice...

paying careful attention to the demands of justice.

(to be continued)



**St. Thomas More English
Prayer Group**



The English Prayer Group is not meeting every week..

The next meeting will be announced.

In the mean time... continue praying for the end of the Corona Virus, for our church and our country

Contacts: Olga Guerrero: (210) 657-1610 or
Stella Lopez: (210) 618-6977



**Grupo de Oración
Familias compartiendo la palabra**



El grupo de oración se reúne los viernes a las 7 pm.

Para mas informacion contacte Maria Isabel Hernandez.

This Week at our Parish

Sunday, September 6, 2020
Monday, September 7, 2020
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
 7:00 pm Leaders Meeting - *Carolyn Hall*
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Thursday, September 10, 2020
Friday, September 11, 2020
Saturday, September 12, 2020
 4:00 pm Reconciliation - *Rectory Court Yard*
Sunday, September 13, 2020

Lecturas de la Semana del sept 7 - 13

Lunes: 1Cor 5:1-8; Sal 5:5-7,12; Lc 6:6-11
Martes: Mi 5:1-4; Sal 13:6; Mt 1:1-16,18-23
Miércoles: 1Cor 7:25-31; Sal 45:11-12,14-17; Lc 6:20-26
Jueves: 1Cor 8:1-7,11-13; Sal 139:1-3,13-14,23-24;
 Lc 6:27-38
Viernes: 1Cor 9:16-19,22-27; Sal 84:3-6,12; Lc 6:39-42
Sábado: 1Cor 10:14-22; Sal 116:12-13,17-18;
 Lc 6:43-49
Domingo: Eclo 27:30-28:7; Sal 103:1-4,9-12;
 Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35



Sanctuary Light Intention:
 †John (TV) Duong

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, September 12, 2020
 5 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim
Lector - M.Fisher
Sunday, September 13, 2020
 8 am **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim
Lector - C.Brown
 10 am **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando
Lector - M.Briseno
 12 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando
Lector - V.Serrano / T.Sweet
 5 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)
Eucharistic Ministers -
Lector - Volunteer

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 5, 2020
 8:00 am †John TV Duong by Wife
 5:00 pm †Christina Dominguez by Family
Sunday, September 6, 2020
 8:00 am †David Krause by Klar Family
 10:00 am †Betty Jane LaCombe by Hirchak Family
 †Mary Nguyen by Family
 †Joe Garcia by Knights of Columbus
 12:00 pm †Maria Dulce by Irene & Pablo Negrete
 †Jose Luna & Daniel Antuna
 by Deacon Rolando, Martha & Marisol
 5:00 pm †Vicente & Teresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen
Monday, September 7, 2020
 8:00 am †John TV Duong by Irene
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
 8:00 am †Rosie Reyes - First Anniversary of Death
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
 8:00 am †Msgr George Adams by Doc & Eileen Adams
 †Rosie Reyes †Suzell Waller by Eddie Reyes
Thursday, September 10, 2020
 8:00 am †Mary Nguyen by Friend
 †Vincent & Teresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen
 †David Krause by Richard & Dorothy Perez
Friday, September 11, 2020
 8:00 am †Jose Luna by Kim Nguyen
 †Vicente Nghiep by Family
 †Pual Nguyen
Saturday, September 12, 2020
 8:00 am †**Everyone Who Has Died**
 5:00 pm †Ray DuMenil by Family
Sunday, September 13, 2020
 8:00 am †John TV Duong by Irene
 10:00 am †Medardo E. Morales by Morales / Briseno Family
 †Ann Marie Oswald by Evancho Family
 †Evangalina G. Morales by Family
 †Mardonio M. Serratos by Family
 †Patricia Burris by Pastoral Council
 †Joe Garcia by Joe & Annabelle Garcia
 12:00 pm †Jose Luna & Daniel Antuna
 by Deacon Rolando, Martha & Marisol
 5:00 pm †Barbara Chirico



Readings for the week of Sept 7 - 13

Monday: 1Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7,12; Ps 5:5-7,12; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16,18-23
Wednesday: 1Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12,14-17; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: 1Cor 8:1-7,11-13; Ps 139:1-3,13-14,23-24;
 Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1Cor 9:16-19,22-27; Ps 84:3-6,12; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: 1Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13,17-18; Lk 6:43-49
Sunday: Sir 27:30-28:7; Ps 103:1-4,9-12; Rom 14:7-9;
 Mt 18:21-35