



July 20, 2025 | VOLUME 55 NUMBER 29 | Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**There is need of
only one thing.**



A Letter From Our Pastor

ORA ET LABORA



Martha and Mary are commonly cast in the dilemma of work versus prayer, two choices that may seem to be in opposition to one another. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, either one will “go dry” without the other.

This is something St. Benedict understood well. The primary “motto” of his monastic rule-of-life was “Ora et Labora” - Prayer and Work. He instructed his monks that they were to seek out, receive, and willingly carry out the will of God; prayer to discern it, work to carry it out. “That by the labor of obedience you may return to Him from whom you have departed by the sloth of disobedience.”

Likewise, St. James wrote in his Epistle how faith (intimately linked with prayer) without works was dead. Note how he describes Abraham’s righteousness: “You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by works.” (James 2:22)

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta put it in more modern and straightforward terms: “Actions are the fruit of prayer.”

If you’ve hit a dry spell in your spiritual life, then chances are your actions are lacking. If you busy yourself with so many actions that you don’t stop to listen to God in prayer, you become the noisy gong St Paul warns the Corinthians about; possibly doing your own will (well-intentioned as you may be) instead of God’s will. And the work won’t fulfill you any longer.

Good listening skills are critical to every relationship: husband/wife, parent/child, and yes, Creator/created. We must intensely seek the heart and inner soul of the other to complete each relationship, to become one.

In our Gospel today, Mary is not about to miss the opportunity to discuss with Jesus questions she has for Him or miss an iota of His knowledge, charisma, and divine presence, which she craves that she might enter into a fuller and more complete union with Him. Martha is caught up in fulfilling hospitality protocol, and a bit caught up in the “me, myself, and I” are doing all the serving. That is the point Jesus is making here, not that prayer and works are in opposition to one another.

God bless,
Fr. Eddie

HELP US CREATE AN ACTS RETREAT CONTACT LIST

We are compiling a list of parishioners who have been on an ACTS retreat and we need your input! If you have attended an ACTS retreat that was hosted by a church parish *other than* St. Thomas More or St. Jean Vianney, please let us know!

Contact information

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone

What parish hosted the ACTS retreat you attended?

In what year did you attend the retreat?

Completed forms may be dropped by the church office, or call the church office with the information above (225.275.3940).

An online form is available at stmbr.org/news/acts



Prayer for Texas Flood Victims

God of compassion, you are our refuge and our strength, our sure rock in the midst of any storm, the light which pierces every darkness, and an anchor of hope for those who contend with despair. Reach out your hand to all those who feel too weary to carry on. May they receive that courage, resilience, and healing grace that can only come from you.

Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops



Confirmation Volunteers Needed

If you are confirmed as well as energized by your Catholic faith and open to sharing it with our teens, we invite you to consider serving in this important role. Small group leaders will meet with candidates to discuss lesson topics, which will be provided in advance, making it easy to guide the conversation and build connections. The Confirmation session schedule can be found at stmbr.org/news/confirmation-vol.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please complete the GOOGLE FORM found at stmbr.org/news/confirmation-vol or email Bridget Day dayb@stmbr.org.



Adults' shirts : \$25 - - Kids' shirts: \$15

stmbr.org/auction

under Event Tickets

~ STM students can wear the t-shirt to school the Friday before the auction ~

youth gathering
RSVP
stmbr.org/news/youth

STM SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING
5TH - 8TH
JOIN US FOR A FUN MOVIE AFTERNOON

Watch 'Wonder' with Friends

Admission price: a bag of unwrapped, bulk candy and canned goods to donate.

Join us on July 25th from 2:00-5:00 in the STM Activity Center. You may bring pillows and blankets, Sign Up is Mandatory on Faith Direct.



Join the Music Ministry!

"Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy." — Psalm 33:3

Our volunteer choir is open to everyone, high school age and up — no experience required, just a willing heart and a love for lifting praise through song! We also welcome experienced pianists, organists, instrumentalists and singers for both volunteer and paid opportunities.

Come make a joyful noise with us!
Contact Music Director Mallory Sollie at solliem@stmbr.org.



Pope Leo XIV
@Pontifex



Youth Confirmation, Parish School of Religion & First Reconciliation/Eucharist

Registration ONGOING

deadline to register is July 31

VISIT: [STMBR.ORG/NEWS/REL-ED-REG](https://stmbr.org/news/rel-ed-reg)

The Lord has entrusted us with the mission to care for creation and to bring it peace and reconciliation. We hear the cry of the earth and the poor, for that cry has reached the heart of God. Our indignation is His indignation; our work is His work.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Jul. 22 - 6 p.m.: Essie Culotta; Special Intention: Gene Clement Family

Wednesday, Jul. 23 - 12 p.m.: Jim Stiglets

Thursday, Jul. 24 - 8:45 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, Jul. 25 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, Jul. 26 - 4:30 p.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

Sunday, Jul. 27 - 8 a.m.: Brad Sylvester, Chad Roberts, Frank Schittone, Cora Josephine Washington; 10 a.m.: Mona Villemarette; 5 p.m.: Isom Castille

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Barry Sanders the week of July 20 as requested by the Sanders family.

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

Please remember in your prayers the following persons: Becky Cline, Buddy Vidrine, Baron Lacour, Laurie Bolanoff, Diane Green, John Pecoraro, Jr., Hunter Pecoraro, Loressa Watts, Destiny Kelley, Marcia Sells, Byron Ellis, Tim Bonin, Joe Bonin, Tara Manzullo, Lloyd Hebert, Bubba Howell, Frank DePaula, Julie Zerbst, Geraldine Gauthier, Wendall Blouin, Camilla Barlow, Kathy Mois.

PRAYER LINE FOR IMMEDIATE PRAYER REQUESTS

For serious or urgent prayer requests, call Sharon Hebert at 225.978.1246 (leave your name and phone number if there is no answer), or send a request by email to kennyshar69@att.net.

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers: Capt. Austin Starks, PFC Alyssa Richardson, SSG Brian Edwards, SPC Havyn Henley, PO3 Tytan Henley, MAJ Nate Conlon

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. (To add the name of a loved one, call 225.275.3940 or email receptionist@stmbr.org.)



Join us!

STM PARISH AUCTION

Saturday, August 23rd
STM Gymnasium



For tickets and details, visit

stmbr.org/auction



STM GYM - 11441 SHERBROOK DR. BATON ROUGE 70815
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM • RAFFLE DRAWING AT 7:45 PM
LIVE AUCTION STARTS AT 8 PM • DANCING STARTS AT 9 PM
COCKTAIL ATTIRE!



Special Event Guest: Sugar Shaker!!!
We are pleased to announce that Sugar Shaker is going
to help us make this night fun.
Join us from 9-11 to watch the band and dance!

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

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Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

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Mr. Rommell Richard

Stay connected!



STM website: stmbr.org



facebook.com/stmchurchbr



Sign up for the e-newsletter
on our parish website, under
Links/Resources



[youtube.com/
stthomasmorebatonrouge](https://youtube.com/stthomasmorebatonrouge)

The STM Auction Whiskey Bar is Back!



🍷✨ Help Keep Spirits Lifted
on Auction Night! ✨🍷

**We're building a showstopping
Whiskey Bar for our big parish
event — and we need your help to
make it top shelf!**

- 🍷 Donate a bottle of whiskey, bourbon, or scotch
- 🎉 Your gift adds flavor, fun, and fundraising power
- 💛 All proceeds auction night support the church, school, and early learning center
- 📍 Drop-off details: bring donations by the church office anytime M-Th: 8 am - 12 noon, 1-5 pm or Fri. 8 am-12 noon 🍷

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