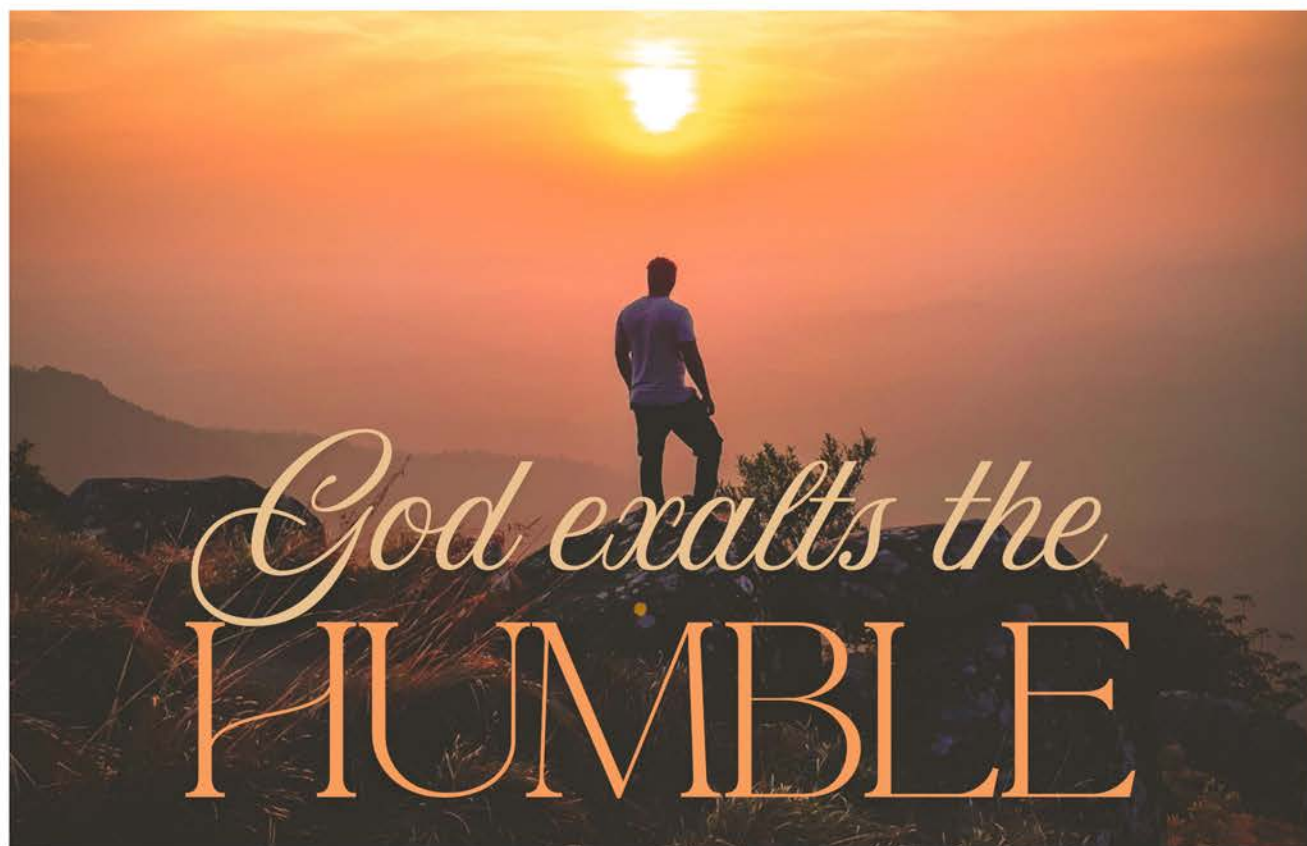




Aug, 2025 | VOLUME 55 NUMBER 35 | Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time



A Letter From Our Pastor

HUMILITY



Deepest gratitude and deepest thanks to Jennifer Berniard and Julianne Alt for co-chairing the AMAZING auction we just enjoyed. Special thanks also to Courtney Gatlin, Liz Psaila, Sarah Morris, Lindsey Ledell, Kelly Bailey, Connie Silva, Colleen Bryant, and each of you who gave of your time, skills, and treasure to make it such a remarkable night and success. A special shoutout also to Ron McDaniel and Johnson Controls for the air conditioning they supplied.

This week's readings focus on the value and necessity of humility. Please understand that humility is more than just a pleasant personal characteristic. It is, in fact, a necessary condition to experience true discipleship and salvation. Jesus reminds us that we must all become like children if we hope to enter paradise (Mt. 18:3). It can also save us some embarrassment, as Jesus warns in our Gospel and as is illustrated by this story from Fr. Tony Kadavil:

During the American Revolution, a man in civilian clothes rode past a group of soldiers who were busy pulling out a horse-drawn carriage stuck in deep mud. Their officer was shouting instructions to them while making no attempt to help. The stranger who witnessed the scene asked the officer why he wasn't helping. With great dignity, the officer replied, "Sir, I am a Corporal!" The stranger dismounted from his horse and proceeded to help the exhausted soldiers himself. When the job was completed, he turned to the corporal and said, "Mr. Corporal, next time you have a job like this, and don't have enough men to do it, inform your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you again." Too late, the proud Corporal recognized General Washington.

Pride is the antithesis of humility. "I've done this, I've accomplished that, etc." Pride is what demands things be proven to us - submitted to our scrutiny. This mindset limits our world to our simple minds and the discoveries of science so far. Granted, we understand far more than generations that came before us, but in the overall scheme of things, I suggest we've learned just enough to get ourselves in trouble.

Heaven help us all if we are the masters of life and there is no authority above us; just advanced beetles, with no one to reach out to and trust in for guidance when our world spins out of control. Such misguided arrogance and stubbornness have led to most of the major conflicts in faith, among nations, in society, and especially in our homes.

Let us follow the teachings of Christ: become the servants of all, put ourselves last, and trust in Him - dear fellow children!

God bless!

Fr. Eddie



The church office is closed on Monday, Sept. 1.

Lord on this Labor Day,
we thank You for the blessing of work.
We ask for strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary.
We ask Your guidance
for everyone seeking employment,
and we ask that
You be with those whose faces
we might never see
but who work tirelessly each day
for the good of us all.

Amen.

- from Our Sunday Visitor

Dear Parishioners,

Annually, we offer a reflection on the financial state of St. Thomas More. I am writing to keep you informed about the financial state of our parish. Now is a good time to share with you our annual financial report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Our Parish Finance Council meets quarterly to review the parish's finances, and I look forward to working with them to determine the best way to manage our funds. I am most grateful for their wisdom and expertise.

The original loan amount to the Diocese of Baton Rouge was \$1,233,012.28. Since the completion of our renovation/construction projects, we have paid \$988,387.82 towards that balance, leaving a balance of \$244,624.46 as of June 1, 2025. Your donations to our Second Collection each month, along with Faith Direct "Debt Reduction" donations, have made this possible! As a reminder, you can give your weekly, monthly, or "one-time gifts" with ease without having to remember a check or envelope when you are attending Mass here. Our online giving platform is FAITH DIRECT. We encourage you to sign up for Faith Direct at faith.direct/LA554 or by calling 866-507-8757.

Our final figures for the 2024-2025 fiscal year show that our offertory donations increased slightly by 1%. As always, we work diligently to trim expenses and maintain sound financial stewardship, which remains a top priority. I want to thank you for your continued generosity and support of St. Thomas More.

I look forward to serving as your pastor for the upcoming fiscal year and working together to continue the good work of our parish.

If you have any questions about STM's financial status, please contact the church office.
Fr. Eddie

STM Financial Report
July 2024 – June 2025

Fiscal Year
July 2024-June 2025

RECEIPTS:

Regular Offertory/Maintenance Collections	\$1,473,644
Building Fund Collections	61,987
Other Miscellaneous Collections (includes interest earned, sacramental offerings, sales of religious items, other special donations, etc.)	392,187

TOTAL GENERAL RECEIPTS	\$1,927,818
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EXPENSES:

Pastoral Services and Administration	\$885,174
Parish Share to Diocese	347,472
Plant Facility (includes property insurance, repairs, general maintenance, loan interest, etc.)	233,973
School repairs/replacements	78,368
ELC/ELC Annex repairs/replacements	88,732

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,633,719
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NET PROFITS FROM MAJOR FUNDRAISER	
Parish Festival held in May 2025--	\$108,153

Experience The Chosen at STM

The Chosen is the first multi-season TV series about the life of Jesus, seen through the eyes of those who knew Him—His followers, those He healed, and even His critics. Created outside Hollywood and directed by Dallas Jenkins, it's the largest crowdfunded TV show ever, bringing the Gospels to life in a fresh, engaging way.

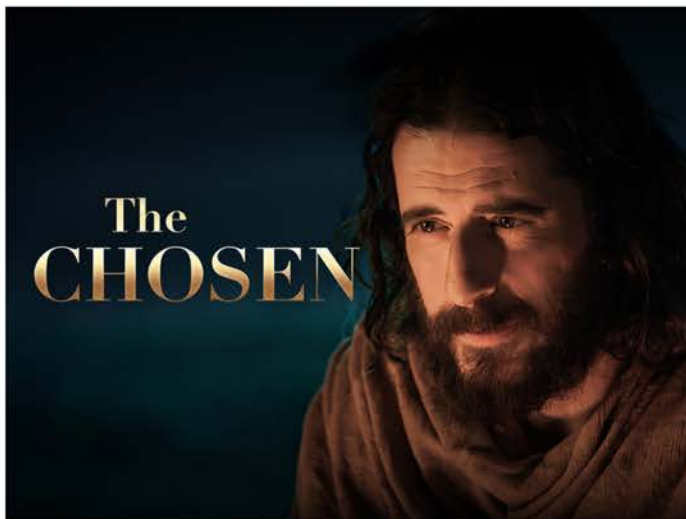
Join us for an eight-week series starting September 11, meeting Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at St. Thomas More Church in the Mother Teresa Room.

Session dates: 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, and 11/6 (Note: No session on 10/9)

Each week, we'll watch an episode from Season 1 and reflect using provided discussion guides and short Bible passages to deepen your understanding of Jesus as both God and man.

There is no fee to attend, but registration is required by calling the parish office at 225-275-3940. Space is limited to 30 participants—register today!

Whether you're new to the faith or have known Jesus for years, The Chosen invites you to see Him in a new light. Come journey with us—and consider sharing the experience with others!



Last weekend, two Cub Scouts from our STM Pack 228 had the special honor of celebrating Mass with Bishop Duca, alongside fellow Scouts from across the Diocese who were receiving Catholic Religious Awards. John Paul Fontenot was awarded the Light of Christ Religious Emblem, and William Woolson received the Parvuli Dei Religious Emblem.

These emblems are given to Catholic Cub Scouts who go above and beyond their regular adventures, completing special requirements that deepen their understanding of the faith and strengthen their relationship with Christ.

We are so proud of these young Scouts and look forward to watching them continue to grow in both skill and faith!

If you're interested in our Cub Scout Pack, please email scouting228@gmail.com.

*Know the Faith.
Love the Faith.
Live the Faith.*



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If you have any questions, please call parishioner
Charles Pourciau at 225.421.9734

Knights of Columbus Sportsmen's Raffle

The STM Knights of Columbus Council 5530 is holding its Annual Sportsmen's Raffle on Tuesday, September 10, at the KC Hall, located at 291 S. Flannery Road. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM (free), followed by the raffle drawing at 6:30 PM.

Raffle prizes include a traditional firearm, cash, or a variety of alternate prizes such as a backyard pellet egg smoker, Blackstone griddle, K2 cooler, binoculars, or a crawfish boiling kit.

Proceeds from this raffle directly support the charitable work of our council, benefiting clergy, Catholic schools, individuals with disabilities, and other local needs.

To purchase raffle tickets, please contact: John Serbeck at (281) 814-4856 (call or text).

We sincerely appreciate your continued support.

CDA COURT #1915 LOUISIANA ROSARY T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER



ADULT SIZES

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2X-4X...\$22

YOUTH SIZES

Small - XL...\$18

T-SHIRT SALES
WILL BE HELD
SEPT. 6TH & 7TH
AFTER ALL
MASSES,

AND
SEPT. 13TH & 14TH
AFTER ALL
MASSES EXCEPT
THE 10 AM

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Eddie Martin

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

Administration

Ms. Sarah Neau

Formation/Liturgy

Mrs. Tricia Greely

Religious Education

Ms. Bridget Day

Executive Secretary

Mrs. Ellen Guidry

Receptionist

Mrs. Daphne Bihm

Music Director

Mrs. Mallory Sollie

Sacristan

Mrs. Kay Fetterman

Maintenance

Mr. Alex Ho

Custodial

Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

Mr. Rommell Richard



Pope Leo XIV

@Pontifex



Jesus tells us that it is not enough to profess the faith with words. Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right, who take risks out of love, as Jesus did.

FLOWER DONATION

The ambo flowers are donated in memory of Sean Michael O'Connor the weekend of Sept. 6-7 as requested by Gina O'Connor.

The altar flowers are donated in memory of Rose Mary and Fred Kelpé the weekend of Sept. 6-7 as family.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Sept. 2- 6 p.m.: Judy Rachal, Beverly Rabalais, Charlie Murray

Wednesday, Sept. 3 - 12 p.m.: Holy Soul in Purgatory

Thursday, Sept. 4 - 8:45 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, Sept. 5 - 12 p.m.: Audrey Gillman

Saturday, Sept. 6 - 4:30 p.m.: Ernest Bonaccorso Jr.

Sunday, Sept. 7 - 8 a.m.: Lally Ferro; 10 a.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; 5 p.m.: Mery Sanchez

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 Moise, Rose Marie Cronin, Allyce Trapp Alexander.

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.)

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