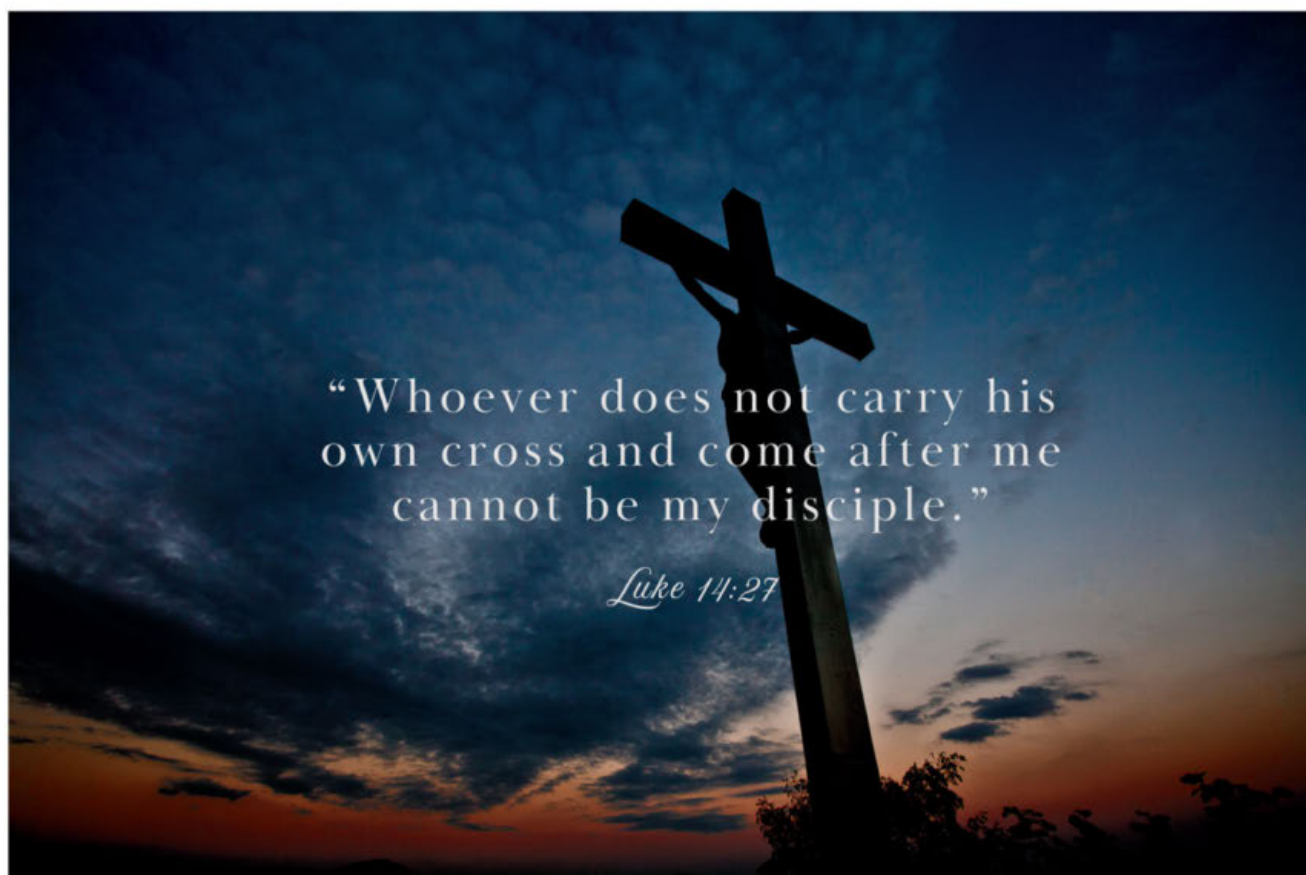




September 7, 2025 | VOLUME 55 NUMBER 36 | Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



A Letter From Our Pastor

HATE YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER?



Today's Gospel reading can surely throw the novice Bible reader into a state of mass confusion. Does Jesus actually instruct us to hate our parents and children? How do we reconcile that with His instruction to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us? Seems impossible, right?

This is one of those times we must apply historical criticism to the text. What would those words have meant to the crowds who heard them? Would they have gotten a different meaning than we do today? Of course, the answer is obviously, yes!

Jews of Jesus' day used hate as an idiom to demonstrate preference for one option over another. Jesus is trying to emphasize how important it is for us to put loyalty to him above all else, even our very lives. He's asking, can you love and follow me completely, over every other person, entity, or situation? He is still asking each of us today! What's your answer?

As we reflect on that question in the coming days, I wanted to let you know that I will be on vacation this week. Mass and confessions will be offered on Wednesday, thanks to Fr. Bob Stine, and on Thursday, thanks to Fr. Matthew Graham. Communion services will be offered on Tuesday and Friday at the regular Mass times.

God bless!

Fr. Eddie

Is Your Child in 4th Grade or Above? Consider Altar Serving!

St. Thomas More is inviting parish and school students in 4th grade and up who are baptized Catholic to become altar servers—a meaningful way for young people to grow in their faith and take an active role in the Mass.

Altar servers assist at Sunday and/or school liturgies (if STM student), learning responsibility, reverence, and teamwork while deepening their connection to the Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for children who are curious about what happens on the altar and who want to serve their parish in a special way.

A training session will be held on:

 Saturday, September 27

 9:30 - 10:30 AM

 In the Church

Current altar servers are also asked to attend this session as a refresher and to help welcome and train new servers.

To register for training, please visit stmbr.org/news/altar-server



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**5K & 1/2-MILE
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RACE INFORMATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

NORTH BOULEVARD TOWN SQUARE
DOWNTOWN BATON ROUGE

7:30 am – On-site registration begins

8:30 am – 1/2-mile Fun Run/Walk begins

9:00 am – 5K begins

Post-race "Birth"day Party to follow

\$35 Early Bird Discount (ends Friday, September 12)

\$45 Adult | \$25 Student | \$20 Child (12 or under)

Event includes t-shirt*, race prizes, and post-race party featuring free food, music, and fun for the whole family.

**Register by Monday, October 13, to receive a t-shirt!*

WOMANSNEWLIFE.COM/BORNTORUN

MAKE AN IMPACT!

Join us to kick off our 25th anniversary celebration!

You can help women in need by participating in Woman's New Life Clinic's Born to Run - Baton Rouge 5K & 1/2-mile Fun Run.

Woman's New Life Clinic (WNLC) is a life-affirming counseling and medical clinic that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans communities.

SIGN UP TODAY

stmbr.org/news/born-to-run

25th Anniversary WOMAN'S
NEW LIFE CLINIC
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St. Thomas More



Largest team gets
a cupcake party!

Highest fundraising
team gets a pizza
party!



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Questions? Contact Taylor Crosby at
225.218.4862 or tcrosby@womansnewlife.com.

Sponsorship and Underwriting opportunities
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR
PARISH BLOOD DRIVE: SEPT. 25, 2025

Experience The Chosen at STM

Join us for an eight-week video series on The Chosen Season 1 on Thursdays, starting Sept. 11, from 10 am - 12 pm 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)** 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.

A **second collection** will be taken up next weekend, Sept. 13-14, the second Sunday of the month, to help reduce the debt incurred from the beautiful church renovations and the new parish office building. If you'd like to make a donation online, please visit membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/LA554/50326 and click on RENOVATION DEBT REDUCTION.



Celebrating the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Sept. 8

Each year on September 8, the Church celebrates the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary—her birth. This feast falls exactly nine months after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8). While these dates are not based on historical records, they carry rich liturgical symbolism, reflecting the Church's deep reverence for the mysteries surrounding Mary's life and her unique role in salvation history—much like the nine-month span between the Annunciation and Christmas.

How Can We Celebrate Mary's Birthday?

There are many beautiful ways to honor the Blessed Mother on her feast day:

- Attend Mass, giving thanks for Mary's "yes" to God, which made our redemption possible.
- Read Scripture that highlights her role in salvation, such as the Annunciation, the Visitation, or the Wedding at Cana.
- Pray the Rosary, reflecting on the life of Christ through Mary's eyes.

For families, especially with young children, consider celebrating with a simple birthday cake, flowers, or a small celebration to honor Our Lady's special day. These acts of love remind us that Mary, as our spiritual mother, always leads us closer to her Son.

Patriot Day is observed as the National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11th every year in memory of the 2,996 people killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York city, Arlington, Virginia and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.



God of love we place in your loving arms the thousands of innocent lives that were lost on that unforgettable morning of September 11, 2001. We also remember the courage of the countless men and women who put their lives at risk in order to rescue, alleviate and bring solace to the afflicted. Help us to continue to work for a world free from every form of hatred, violence and ignorance. May terrorism -- in all its forms -- disappear from the face of the earth. Amen. - Fr. Alberto Cutie

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

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

Have you ever considered a Jesuit retreat at Our Lady of the Oaks in Grand Coteau? The OLO Women's Preached Retreat Wk 40: 10/02/25 - 10/05/25 has openings. What a blessed time of rest, prayer and reflection among the Oaks! If interested, please call 337-662-5251 to register.

The Apocalypse of St. John: Understanding the Book of Revelation

The Book of Revelation is the Bible's most mysterious and challenging text. Filled with prophetic signs and symbols unknown to most modern Christians, it often seems like an enigmatic puzzle. Learn to read the symbols, signs, and literary techniques of this book the way the early Christians understood them and, thereby, rediscover the beautiful and consoling message of salvation intended to be heard by its original author, two millennia ago, but still so relevant today!

The first class is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 7 PM CT. Join in the pre-class discussion at 6:30 PM CT.

Quality Catholic education online at no cost. (Live classes use Zoom app. made easy by the ICC website.) If you have any questions, please call parishioner Charles Pourciau at 225-421-9734.

CHURCH STAFF

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Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

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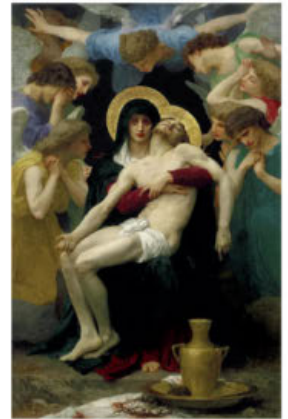
Custodial

Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

Mr. Rommell Richard

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15.

“Let us bind ourselves tightly to the Sorrowful Heart of our Heavenly Mother and reflect on its boundless grief and how precious is our soul.”
- Saint Padre Pio



OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family of **Laurina Geraci**. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Sept. 9 - 6 p.m.: **Communion Service** - Intentions moved to 9/23
Wednesday, Sept. 10 - 12 p.m.: Huey and Allen Dufrene
Thursday, Sept. 11 - 8:45 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Friday, Sept. 12 - 12 p.m.: **Communion Service** - Intention moved to 10/17
Saturday, Sept. 13 - 4:30 p.m.: Family of Eloise Dufrene, Ngac Van Tran and Tin Thi Nguyen, Chu Van Tran and Choe Thi Le, Suzanne Jung, John Giuliente, Millie and Nick Quartararo, Mary Wilson, Beverly Rabalais
Sunday, Sept. 14 - 8 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory; 10 a.m.: Mike Couvillon; 5 p.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

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 Zerst, 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

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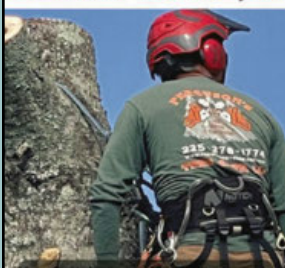
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