



October 19, 2025 | VOLUME 55 NUMBER 42 | Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES,



WILL HE FIND FAITH ON EARTH?

A Letter From Our Pastor

PERSISTENT PRAYER!



The Dishonest Judge

Today's readings focus on persistent prayer, beginning with Moses struggling to keep his arm outstretched and ending with the widow dealing with the dishonest judge. It seems as though God is often indifferent to our pleadings. "Unanswered prayers" can tempt us to doubt His love for us and even His existence.

The problem often lies in our misunderstanding of the purpose of prayer. Prayer should seek to reveal God's will for our lives, not manipulate God to bring about our will. That said, scriptures are filled with Christ answering prayer requests and parables instructing us to be persistent in our prayers; our Gospel today is one of many examples.

There are also several instances in the Gospels where Jesus assures us that all our prayers will be answered. These can be very confusing, especially when things don't go our way. You'll note, if you research a bit, that the context in which He promises to fulfill our prayers always implies we are following His example and seeking the Father's will, not seeking a favor or particular outcome.

Notice that in the Lord's prayer, there is no line where we fill in the blank for our desires. He knows what we want, and more importantly, what we need.

The most difficult "unanswered prayers" are for the healing of a loved one, especially a child. Having buried the love of my life and a child, I find comfort in knowing that we weren't created for this world, this life, but for a far greater existence in the next. I have no doubt that up in heaven they are looking down and saying, "Look at that poor stiff, he's been stuck down there for 95 years." And, "Well, isn't she special? She only had to stay down there a few days!"

So let us be persistent in our prayer and always pray for God's will to be done, whenever and however He chooses.

God bless!

Fr. Eddie



Please remember in your prayers the youth of St. Thomas More who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, October 21, at the 6 pm Mass. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them as they continue their faith journey.



World Mission Sunday, celebrated on the second-to-last Sunday of October, unites Catholics worldwide in supporting the Church where it's young, vulnerable, or facing persecution. Instituted by Pope Pius XI, it remains the only global collection sustaining over 1,100 mission territories. Your prayers and donations fund vital efforts—church building, pastoral care, education, and healthcare—where the Church cannot yet support itself. By participating, we answer our baptismal call to share the Gospel and bring hope to all people.





ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

MASS ON THE GRASS and Parish Picnic

A special event for the whole parish family to enjoy!

10.26.25 | 10 am - 1 pm | STM Field

Hamburgers, hot dogs, jambalaya, Cane's lemonade & sweet tea, and water will be provided. Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets, and pop up tents.

Trunk or Treat is back!
(to begin approximately at 12 noon)

We need trunks! Join the fun and sign up to decorate your car! Visit stmbr.org/news/picnic to register your car thru 22nd. If you would like to donate candy for our trick or treaters, drop candy off at the church office by Oct. 23.






KC's Youth Soccer Challenge on the Field - Ages 9-14



Remembering Our Loved Ones

All Souls Day, November 2, is a special time to remember, honor, and pray for our loved ones who have passed away.

At St. Thomas More, we have a Book of Remembrance (also known as the Book of the Names of the Dead) that includes the names of deceased family members we wish to prayerfully keep in our hearts—especially on All Souls Day and throughout the month of November. The Book of Remembrance is located in the back of the church for parishioners and friends to write the names of their loved ones.



In the spirit of All Saints Day, the parish will remember those loved ones who were buried from St. Thomas More Church between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025, at the Vigil Mass on Saturday, November 1.

Please join us in prayer and remembrance.

Join St. Thomas More together with
Louisiana Right to Life for a

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GOSPEL MEDITATION 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A woman in my parish has an adult son who has rejected his faith. She prays for him every day. She lights candles, says rosaries, and asks God again and again to bring him back. But nothing changes. Is God listening? Is He delaying? She told me once that she feels like the widow in Jesus' strange parable — crying out for justice, but hearing only silence. And yet, she said, she is at peace. I asked why. She responded, "God is already answering. I just can't see it yet."

She embodies something of the mystery in Jesus' parable this week in Luke 18. A powerless widow demands justice from a corrupt judge. This isn't about wearing God down until He gives in. It's about faith in the justice that is already coming. The widow isn't just persistent; she believes that justice is inevitable. And when Jesus points to the judge's words — his fear of being "struck" — He hints at something deeper: God's justice does not creep in gradually. It strikes. It comes like lightning.

Blessed Mary is, of course, the ultimate widow demanding justice. At the foot of the cross she stands before what looks like the ultimate injustice — the brutal execution of her son. But she did not despair. She did not beg for a last-minute rescue. She knew that justice was not delayed. In fact, it was happening. The power of the cross was already unleashing justice upon the world — suddenly, decisively, like a blow that would topple every corrupt power, making even the most corrupt fear her strike.

This parable asks us: will the Son of Man find faith on earth? Or will we mistake God's silence for absence? The cross proves that justice is not slow. It is only hidden. The lightning has already struck. In the cross, justice is speedily being done.

— Father John Muir @ LPI



Pope Leo XIV
@Pontifex

Christ's resurrection teaches us that no story is ever so marked by disappointment or sin that it cannot be visited by hope. No fall is definitive, no night is eternal, no wound is destined to bleed forever. However distant, lost or unworthy we may feel, there is no distance that can extinguish the power of God's love.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP: RECOGNIZING GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Sparkling Holiness

As the seasons change, a lot of us like to clean out our homes and unload some of the junk we've acquired over the summer. One trendy approach to decluttering is the Marie Kondo method, named after the author who popularized it. Overly simplified, it's a process that compels you to go through your closets, your garage, your basement — all the places you collect the dreaded "stuff." As you do so, you hold up the items and ask yourself: "Does it spark joy?"

It's a question that is bold in its simplicity. In answering, you're supposed to go with your gut. If it's a quick "Yes, it sparks joy," the item should be kept. If the answer is no, it gets tossed.

There are people in life who will support our efforts to do God's will. There are those who will, as Paul says, "convince, reprimand, (and) encourage," unafraid of the reaction we give them. There are those who will shore up our defenses when the battle goes longer than we thought.

The same goes for hobbies and pastimes. There are those that will ennoble our minds and bring us closer to God. And there are also those that will drain our funds and our free time, with nothing to show for it.

During these autumn months, don't just declutter your basement in preparation for the hauling out of the Christmas ornaments. Take stock of the people and pursuits that make up your life. With each one, ask yourself: "Does it spark holiness?"

If the answer is yes, thank God that our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. If the answer is no, maybe it's time to declutter.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS, ©LPi



Knights of Columbus BBQ Chicken Dinners To Go Sunday, October 19, 2025

Church Exits

After 8 am and 10 am Masses

Activity Center Drive Thru

9 am — 12:30 pm (or until sell out)

**BBQ Chicken, BBQ Beans, Wild Rice
& Bread Slice**

\$10 / dinner (cash, check, Venmo)



Join Team STM & Run for Life!

Woman's New Life Clinic Born to Run

Saturday, November 8, 2025

5 K and ½ Mile Fun Run

North Boulevard Town Square -

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stmbr.org/news/born-to-run



The Kolbe Prison Ministry invites you to support their upcoming retreat at Hunt Correctional Center, Oct. 30–Nov. 2, through prayer. A sign-up board is in the back of the church with one-hour time slots to cover the retreat in prayer. You're not expected to pray for the full hour—just lift up the team and participants as you're able. Every prayer matters.

Thank you for being part of this powerful ministry!

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Calling all STM Eagles and OLOM Bluejays who graduated 8th grade in 1962!

You're invited to a relaxed and informal gathering on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at Pastime Restaurant, 252 South Blvd, Baton Rouge, starting around 3:00 p.m. This will be a casual opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and spend time with classmates you haven't seen in many years.

This gathering holds special meaning, as many classmates began first grade together at OLOM but were split when STM opened during their sixth-grade year. Now, after all these years, there's genuine excitement about reuniting everyone in one place.

There's no cost — just come as you are and pay for your own food and drinks. If you have any photos, yearbooks, or memorabilia, you're encouraged to bring them along (labeled, if possible) to help bring back memories of the good times and the way it was.

Help spread the word! To RSVP, contact Dyra Culotta Hughes at dyrahughes@yahoo.com or 225-454-0388.

OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

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

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Shirley Conrad the week of Oct. 19 as requested by Fritz Conrad.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Raymond Fryoux Sr. the week of Oct. 19 as requested by Brenda Fryoux.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Oct. 21 - 6 p.m.: Keith Dornier, Mary Frugé, Ricky Metz II, Sammy Ragusa

Wednesday, Oct. 22 - 12 p.m.: Lynette Harelson

Thursday, Oct. 23 - 8:45 a.m.: Juanita Coutee

Friday, Oct. 24 - 12 p.m.: Florence and Ames Talbot

Saturday, Oct. 25 - 4:30 p.m.: Ernest Bonaccorso Jr.

Sunday, Oct. 26 - 8 a.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **10 a.m.:**

Brian Abadie, Suzanne Jung, Mike Couvillon, Ronnie Gauthier, Mickey

Deville, Mona Villamarette, Shirley Conrad; **5 p.m.:** Martha Dupuy

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, Lloyd Hebert, Bubba Howell, Frank DePaula, Julie Zerbst, Geraldine Gauthier, Wendall Blouin, Camilla Barlow, Kathy Moise, 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 (To add/edit names: email receptionist@stmbr.org.)

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 5 p.m.

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 12 noon;

Thursday, 8:45 a.m.; and Friday, 12 p.m.

Reconciliation

Wednesday, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.;

Thursday, 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.,

Saturday, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.; and

By Appointment

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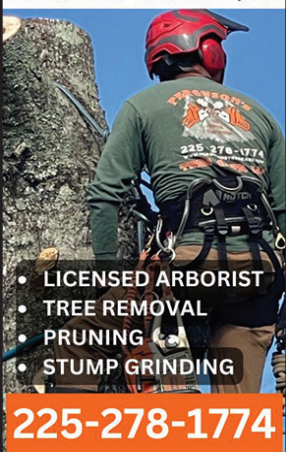
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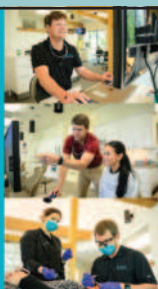
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