



October 26, 2025 | VOLUME 55 NUMBER 43 | Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



A Letter From Our Pastor

HUMILITY/MASS



Today's Gospel features the smug prayer of the Pharisee who essentially reminds God how lucky He is to have him on His team, contrasted by the tax collector who owns his sinfulness and pleads for mercy. Likewise, in our first reading, Sirach reminds us:

"...the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds to reach the unseen throne of God."

Such prayers are heard because they come from the hearts of people who know how much they need God. Prosperity tends to lead us into a false sense of sufficiency - apart from God's grace and providence - whereas the poor know their next meal is dependent on God. Sometimes, our good deeds/pious works can also blind us to our spiritual deficiencies and need to engage more in building the Kingdom.

Speaking of humility, there is a bit of discord in our Church today over how we engage in praying our greatest prayer, our Mass! As with all changes, there have been those resistant and enamored with the mindset of the Church from six decades ago. (Such as altar rails, priest dress, forbidding female altar servers, etc.) There is even a group that has broken away and, to my understanding, seeks to undo the changes ushered in through Vatican II such as the Ordinary Form of Mass we have used for the past five and a half decades.

The history of our liturgy was the subject of our last retreat; presented by the highly respected Dr. Brant Pitre. Some of the key points I have room to share with you here are that our Popes have every bit of authority they need to alter our Mass and have done so dozens of times since the birth of our Church. Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me" and gave us the words of consecration. EVERYTHING else is MAN-MADE, not Divinely revealed, and absolutely open to alterations.

The highly romanticized "Latin Rite" (Tridentine Mass) was only the accepted form of Mass for less than four of the Church's twenty centuries. There was great discord in the Church when the Latin language was introduced. "Only the Greek is sacred!" many protested. Also, singing many parts of the Mass in Latin remains completely acceptable and is preferred for special seasons such as Lent. Receiving in the hands is the original form of reception, and each of you can receive standing, kneeling, in the hands, or on the tongue. None of the positions are more reverent, pious, holy, or superior to the others. The Bishop gave us firm instructions that no more altar rails will be installed and insisted all priests say Mass facing the people.

Many who treasure parts of the Latin Rite feel we have lost reverence. Reverence is an internal mindset, but I would like to address a couple of changes that would surely increase our reverence. Mainly - quiet in the Church prior to Mass, so that people can pray! Ushers and ministers, your service is invaluable, and I'm so thankful for each of you, but please learn to whisper or step outside. Genuflecting prior to entering the pews and bowing before the tabernacle and prior to receiving communion is also essential. I'll post a refresher on reception of the Eucharist particulars later. God Bless!

God bless!

Fr. Eddie



Mass of Remembrance



"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26

During November, the Month of Remembrance, please remember in your prayers members of our parish family buried from Saint Thomas More during the past year, October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025. Below are their names as they appear chronologically in our parish death register. Those who have died this past year will be especially remembered at the Vigil Mass on Saturday, November 1.

Bradley Jenkins
Ralph Dupuy
Fran Golleher
Carl Guidry
Donna Laborde
Joseph Cronan
Carolyn Perrault
Patricia Hubbs
Gerard Scallan
Marie Noto
Mildred Quartararo
Pete Huff
Jaime Hernandez
Carroll Gibson
Judy Rachal

James Stiglets
Ronald Jackson
John Stewart
Joyce Landry
Marguerite Wilton
Sophie Gibson
Margaret Landry
Delores Dupuy
Geraldine Stephens
Newman Roblin
Suzanne Jung
Lura Sharp
Mery Sanchez
Ronald Gurley
Anthony Pichon

Genevieve Jordan
Beverly Rabalais
Rose Broussard
Bridget Wolfe
Laurina Geraci
Lynette Harelson
Rev. Tom Duhé
Fran Gaudin
Lois Thompson





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.

With Trunk or Treat & Soccer Challenge





All Saints Day on Nov. 1 is typically observed as a Holy Day of Obligation, requiring the faithful to attend Mass. However, because Nov. 1 falls on a Saturday in 2025, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated (temporarily suspended) for the faithful in the United States this year. Nevertheless, although not required this year, participation in Mass is encouraged on this great feast honoring all the saints in heaven.



Devotions, *Explained!*

Often one of the first prayers taught to children, the Guardian Angel Prayer consists of two rhyming couplets invoking the protection of one’s guardian angel. Its exact authorship is unknown, but it originated in the medieval period.

Prayer of Praise

Dear God,
As we look to the week ahead,
help us to remember that You will
accompany us at every moment
— You who greet us with mercy
anew every morning, and grace in
abundance each night.
Amen.

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All Saints Day

Prayer Service and Blessing of the Graves

FRIDAY OCTOBER 31, 2025 10AM

- ✓ PRAYER SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL
- ✓ DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY WATER BOTTLES
- ✓ BLESSING OF THE GRAVES BY DEACON JOE SCIMECA
- ✓ LUNCH PROVIDED AT THE RECEPTION CENTER

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Pope Leo XIV
@Pontifex

Let us never forget the fundamental importance, at every level, of respect for life and its protection at all stages—from conception to old age, and up to the moment of death. I hope this awareness will continue to grow, especially regarding access to medical care and medicines.



Encounter Middle School Bible Study Parish middle schoolers invited to participate!

Encounter is a Catholic Bible study designed specifically for grades 6 to 8. Using the color-coded Bible Timeline Learning System, each session of Encounter reveals the story of our faith and God's plan for our lives. This captivating program guides students toward a powerful encounter with God. **Sessions are held on Sundays at 6 pm in the Mother Teresa Room** (located on next to the church office). **Registration is required - visit stmbr.org/news/youth-events**

Lesson 1: Sunday, Nov. 2, 6:00-7:15 pm

Lesson 2: Sunday, Nov. 9, 6:00-7:15 pm

Lesson 3: Sunday, Nov. 16, 6:00-7:15 pm

Lesson 4: Sunday, Nov. 23, 6:00-7:15 pm

Lesson 5: Sunday, Nov. 30, 6:00-7:15 pm

Lesson 6: Sunday, Dec. 7, 6:00-7:15 pm

Lesson 7: Sunday, Dec. 14, 6:00-7:15 pm

Lesson 8: Sunday, Jan. 4, 6:00-7:15 pm



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 -
Downtown Baton Rouge
stmbr.org/news/born-to-run



Parish high schoolers are encouraged to participate in an upcoming 8 session Bible study series titled Venture - on Sundays in the Activity Center beginning November 2.

Sessions 1 thru 7:

Every Sunday, Nov. 2 - Dec. 14
6:00 - 7:15 pm | Activity Center

Session 8:

Sunday, Jan. 4
6:00 - 7:15 pm | Activity Center

Visit stmbr.org/hs-bible-study to register.

CHURCH STAFF

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Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

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



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

OUR PARISH FAMILY

BAPTISM

We extend a warm welcome into the Church family to the following child who was baptized at St. Thomas More during the month of September:

Emerson Rye Bourgeois, child of Megan and Paul Bourgeois.

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 Ernest Bonaccorso Jr. the week of Oct. 26 as requested by Shirley Bonaccorso.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Oct. 28 - 6 p.m.: Calvin Bajon, Lynette Harelson, Ames Talbot, Maria and Paul Nguyen

Wednesday, Oct. 29 - 12 p.m.: Fr. Tom Duhé

Thursday, Oct. 30 - 8:45 a.m.: Juanita Coutee

Friday, Oct. 31 - 12 p.m.: Fran Gaudin

Saturday, Nov. 1 - 4:30 p.m.: Millie and Nick Quartararo

Sunday, Nov. 2 - 8 a.m.: Edward Rabalais; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **5 p.m.:** Joseph, Wilma, Larry and Mike Cronan, Francis Smith, Thanh Nguyen, Beth Bonneze

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, Mike Bahm.

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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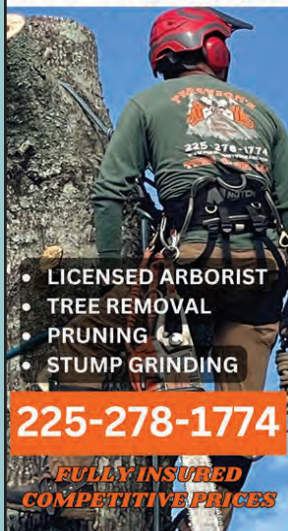
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