



November 9, 2025 | VOLUME 55 NUMBER 44 | The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica



DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE AND THAT GOD'S SPIRIT DWELLS IN YOU?

A Letter From Our Pastor

DEDICATION OF ST. JOHN LATERAN



Today we celebrate the Dedication of the St. John Lateran Basilica, the Mother Church of the Catholic Church and all of Christendom. The living foundation of the Church Christ founded through Peter is closely guarded there, for the Cathedra (Latin for “chair” and “Seat of Teacher”) is found within it. It is from that seat that the promise Christ gave to the Disciples gathered in the Upper Room (Jn 16:13), that the Holy Spirit would guide them to all truth, manifests and is proclaimed to the nations. (Note that God does not extend this promise to any and all who would later read about this promise given to our very first Magisterium in the Upper Room!)

Imagine a world where God’s will is only clearly established by the words the Catholic Church gathered and codified as Scripture in 405 AD, with no further guidance from God. Where would divergent partners go to resolve their different conclusions on God’s will regarding in vitro fertilization? One rightly concludes all the eggs fertilized in the petri dish are their children, while the other counters with, “If God didn’t want us to use this technology, He wouldn’t have allowed it!” Do they survey the thousands of Preachers and go with the opinion of the majority?

I’ve often heard from acquaintances who seldom attend Mass that they feel closer to God in nature, and that He is everywhere — so why do we want to limit Him to a building? While it’s true that nature is one of the best natural proofs of God’s existence, and there is no denying His omnipresence, today’s readings reveal what God the Father and Jesus had to say about that!

God the Father, through Ezekiel, clearly and beautifully describes how His gift of life and abundance of gifts flow from the Temple into the world. This is clearly His primary “residence/command center” in this world. St. Paul clarifies that we are called to be that “water” flowing out into the world that Ezekiel prophesied about. Church buildings are established throughout the world, but they are only a source of life if we remain true and build upon the foundation we have received. This fulfills Jn 4:21 and Jesus’ promise to the woman at the well that true worship will not reside on her mountain or Jerusalem, as neither represented God’s will. How can we know God’s will? Could a pine or oak tree whisper it to us?

Jesus is “consumed with zeal for His Father’s House” in our Gospel, and in His rage turns over the tables and drives out those profaning this sacred space by extorting those seeking His will. I sure don’t find any case of Jesus taking offense at business transactions elsewhere, although He is just as omnipresent in all those places as well.

Let us thank God for giving us a sure source for His Will, and may each of us bring it forth to our hurting and broken world.

God bless!

Fr. Eddie

As we observe Veterans Day this week, may we pause and give a grateful prayer for all who have served our nation. We would not have the opportunities and freedom that we enjoy today without their selfless service and sacrifice. May those who have died rest in peace. Amen.

A Prayer for Our Veterans

Loving God, We ask for blessings on all those who have served their country in the armed forces. We ask for healing for the Veterans who have been wounded, in body and soul, in conflicts around the globe. We pray especially for the young men and women, in the thousands, who are coming home with injured bodies and traumatized spirits. Bring solace to them, O Lord; may we pray for them when they cannot pray. We ask for, echoing John Paul II, an end to wars and the dawning of a new era of peace, as a way to honor all the veterans of past wars.

Have mercy on all our veterans. Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in. Bless all the soldiers who served in non-combative posts; May their calling to service continue in their lives in many positive ways.

Give us all the creative vision to see a world which, grown weary with fighting, Moves to affirming the life of every human being and so moves beyond war. Hear our prayer, O Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Amen.



 Cover photo: The facade of St. John Lateran by Marek Poplawski / Shutterstock



ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH



Fall Fun Fest

OUTDOOR MASS, PICNIC AND
LAWN GAMES

A special event for the whole parish family to enjoy!

11.16.25 | 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.

**Thanksgiving Food
Collection:**

Bring donations of canned goods and staples to the field.

Angel Tree Project:

Angel selection will be on the field @ the 10 am Mass

Need help setting up your chairs or tents? High school volunteers will be at the church lot entrance to the field.



The **Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** is a feast celebrated on November 9 each year. It commemorates the dedication of the Archbasilica of the Most Holy Savior and Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran, commonly known as St. John Lateran, which is the cathedral church of Rome and the official ecclesiastical seat of the Pope.

Short History:

- 4th century origins: After Emperor Constantine the Great legalized Christianity with the Edict of Milan (313 AD), he donated land and a palace on the Lateran Hill to the Church. Around 324 AD, Pope Sylvester I consecrated the new basilica—the first public Christian church in Rome.
- Dedication: The basilica was originally dedicated to Christ the Savior; later, the names of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist were added.
- Role in Church history: For centuries, the Lateran Basilica was the center of Christian life—it housed the popes, hosted early Church councils, and served as the model for other churches around the world.
- Feast significance: The annual Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica is celebrated by the entire Catholic Church, not just in Rome, because it symbolizes the unity of all Christians under the Bishop of Rome.

In short, the feast honors not only a building but also the unity and universality of the Church.



STM Angel Tree Project: Share the Spirit of Christmas

St. Thomas More Parish continues its tradition of helping those in need through the annual Angel Tree Project. This year's tree will include wishes from St. Vincent de Paul, Xavier Catholic School, Volunteers of America, and STM families.

The Angel Tree will be in the back of the church starting November 15, with ornaments available through November 30 (also at the Outdoor Mass on November 16). After choosing an angel, please wrap or bag your gift, attach the ornament, and return it by December 7 to the church or office.

Questions? Contact Megan Campagna at 225-276-1257 or mscampagna@cox.net.

Visit stmbr.org/news/angel-tree for volunteer opportunities.

Let's come together as a parish family to share joy and hope this Christmas season!

Domestic Church Marriage Retreat

Were you inspired by the recent Domestic Church presentation at our parish? Take the next step in strengthening your marriage and deepening your faith by signing up for an upcoming Domestic Church Couples Weekend!

 **Date: December 12-14, 2025**

 **Location: Our Lady of the Oaks, Grand Coteau**

 **Open to all married couples seeking to grow together spiritually & emotionally.**

This weekend is a beautiful opportunity to: reconnect with your spouse, deepen your spiritual life as a couple and build a supportive faith-based community. Spaces are limited — don't wait!

If you have any questions, contact Angela and Kevin Beyer via email at batonrouge@domesticchurchfamilies.com



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Marriage Retreat with Fr. Todd Lloyd
December 12-14, 2025

Our Lady of the Oaks, Grand Coteau

To register, visit:

domesticchurchfamilies.com/retreat



Monthly Food Collection Next Weekend

Food pantries across the country are gearing up to feed thousands upon thousands of hungry Americans on Thanksgiving Day -- and we can help!

Many people don't have the time during the busy holiday season to actually volunteer at a food pantry, but we can all help out simply by grocery shopping.

Please consider donating the goods noted below next weekend, Nov. 15-16, to benefit the food pantry at St. Paul the Apostle on Gus Young. Donations may be left in or around the storage bench in the back of the church before or after any Mass. Thank you!

*There will be a container on the field at 10 am Mass to collect donated goods.

Thanksgiving goods:

- Boxed stuffing mix (like Stovetop)
- Instant mashed potatoes in boxes or packets
- Jars of turkey gravy or dried gravy mix packets
- Dry macaroni
- Canned vegetables: yams, green beans, corn, peas, etc.
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Cornbread mix
- Canned pumpkin or fruit pie filling
- Pie crust mix (boxed)

Always needed:

- Rice, cereal, oatmeal, dried pastas
- Canned soups, broths
- Canned vegetables/fruit of all types
- Dried and canned beans
- Canned protein: chicken, fish
- Breakfast bars
- Peanut butter
- Shelf stable milk

#iGIVECATHOLIC ON GIVING TUESDAY



Help us fund new security measures

- * SECURITY DETAIL AT WEEKEND MASSES
- * INSTALLATION OF PANIC BARS ON CHURCH DOORS

ADVANCED GIVING
NOV. 17 - DEC. 1

GIVING TUESDAY
DEC. 2



IGIVECATHOLIC.ORG/ORGANIZATION/STMCHURCHBR

Special Collection Next Weekend

Next week our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Nearly 38 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face in bringing permanent and positive change to their communities.

Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/cchd.



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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

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)

OUR PARISH FAMILY

BAPTISMS

We extend a warm welcome into the Church family to the following children who were baptized at St. Thomas More during the month of October:

Hunter Lewis Clark, child of Taylor and Monica Clark

Grant Paul Stegeman, child of Joseph & Skyler Stegeman

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of **Leroy Dunware, Bessie Johnson, Bernadette Dupuy, Judith Schnyder** and **Todd D'Aquin**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

FLOWER DONATION

The flowers on the altar next weekend, Nov. 15-16, are donated in memory of Rose Mary and Fred Kelpé as requested by family.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Juanita Coutée the week of Nov. 9 as requested by Cheryl and Chris Volentine.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Terrence Douglas the week of Nov. 9 as requested by Laurie and Brian Douglas.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Nov. 11 - 6 p.m.: Joseph Cronan, Anthony "Freddy" Pichon Jr., Jerry Cronin

Wednesday, Nov. 12 - 12 p.m.: Anthony Pichon

Thursday, Nov. 13 - 8:45 a.m.: Judith Schnyder

Friday, Nov. 14 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, Nov. 15 - 4:30 p.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

Sunday, Nov. 16 - 8 a.m.: Mark Midboe; **10 a.m.:** Mona Villemarette;

5 p.m.: Charles Brou

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, Sharon Mann, Louis LaBauve, Melani Cagle

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 kennysar69@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.)

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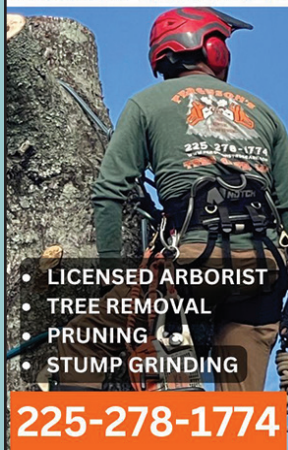
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