



December 14, 2025 | VOLUME 55 NUMBER 50 | Third Sunday of Advent

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion
singing, crowned with everlasting joy;

they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

Isaiah 35:10

A Letter From Our Pastor

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!



For we are the luckiest people in the world. Stop to think about all that is offered to us... adopted into the family of God, promised eternal life, and the opportunity to be God's hands and legs in bringing these same gifts to others. Life-changing, supernatural gifts entrusted to you and me!

Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday is a day set apart near the middle of our Advent journey to pause and rejoice in the reason for our joy... the coming of Jesus: past, present, and future. Our focus shifts from "The Lord who is to come" to "The Lord who is close at hand."

Isaiah speaks of a day when deserts bloom and the lame leap! Not only hinting at the miracles Jesus will later perform - and offer as proof of his identity in our Gospel, confirming He is indeed the one to come - but of the paradise that awaits us all in the next "age!" So sad the "Nones and Dones" have nothing more than the hollow, fleeting, temporary pleasures of this world to look forward to. YUCK!

Now let's look at John the Baptist's predicament. He sits in jail, knowing his end is near. He must have wondered what more he could have done? He did all the Lord asked of him, lived on locusts and wild honey, slept on the desert floor, and turned Israel upside down with his baptisms that prepared the way of the Lord! Check, check, check - nothing left undone. His cuz, Jesus, has worked miracle after miracle for total strangers and nonbelievers; what is he waiting for with me?! "Come on, Jesus, hurry up with some of that Savior Stuff! Get me out of here. Has anyone else given more than I have to your cause? Is it possible you aren't the MAN? Is this any way to treat your most loyal follower?"

Jesus had one more task for him, to witness with his life. And now that he has accomplished the mission God entrusted to him, why would Jesus do anything to prolong his trials on this earth and delay his reward of eternal life in Paradise?

We can all feel abandoned by God when things don't go as we think they should. Try to imagine what the Jews must have felt and how much they must have doubted God's existence during Nazi Germany!

The enduring truth we must focus on in such times of despair is the Life waiting for us after this one ends. Stay focused on the gift no one can take from us, Eternal Life! The worst anyone can do is hasten our arrival in Paradise! Herod didn't just take John the Baptist's life; he sent him on to Paradise! Who enjoyed the last laugh there? And until our portal to eternal life opens, we get to live with the gifts and JOY of those things in the opening paragraph above!

Have a blessed, JOY-filled week!

Fr. Eddie

Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation, and the faithful are required to attend Mass either Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, or Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25.

St. Thomas More Christmas Mass Schedule

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Wednesday, December 24 @ 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Thursday, December 25 @ 9:00 am



Our week begins with “Gaudete Sunday.” Gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose-colored vestments often used at the Mass.

We focus this week on feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of God is close at hand. And so, we consciously ask:

Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow.

We may experience the Light shining into dark places of our lives and showing us patterns of sinfulness, and inviting us to experience God's mercy and healing.

Perhaps we wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. We may want to make gestures of reconciliation with a loved one, relative, friend or associate. With more light and joy, it is easier to say, “I'm sorry; let's begin again.”

Each night this week we want to pause in gratitude. Whatever the day has brought, no matter how busy it has been, we can stop, before we fall asleep, to give thanks for a little more light; a little more freedom to walk by that light, in joy.

Thank You for Supporting Our Angel Tree Project

Thank you to all our parishioners who so generously supported this year's Angel Tree Project. Because of your kindness, we were able to provide gifts and necessities to individuals and families in need, reminding them that they are seen, loved, and supported by their parish community.

Your compassion brought hope and joy to many this season. Whether you selected an angel tag, donated funds, or helped with organizing and distribution—your generosity made a real difference.

Thank you for being a parish family that gives from the heart.



GAUDETE REJOICE





Advent NIGHT OF MUSIC

IN COLLABORATION WITH SIYING HE,
PIANIST - LSU SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Friday, Dec. 19, 2025
7:00 pm in the church

FEATURING ZONGCHI HAN, VIOLIN;
NASR SHEIKH, VIOLA; MALLORY SOLLIE,
MEZZO-SOPRANO; TIANYU XUE,
TROMBONE; AND OTHER LOCAL
MUSICIANS



#iGIVECATHOLIC

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

On Giving Tuesday 2025, our parish family came together in a meaningful way. To everyone who contributed to our I Give Catholic campaign—thank you.

Your generosity is a true blessing to our community. Because of your support, we will be able to enhance church security, ensuring that our parish remains a safe and welcoming place for all who come to worship, pray, and gather in faith.

We are deeply grateful for every donation, every prayer, and every act of support. Your kindness strengthens our mission and helps protect our parish family.

**Thank you for giving Catholic,
and thank you for making a meaningful difference.**

STM MEN'S CLUB

ANNUAL MEETING & GUMBO COOKOFF

**SATURDAY, JAN. 10
6:30 PM
ACTIVITY CENTER**

RSVP TO ATTEND/REGISTER YOUR GUMBO:
[STM.BR.ORG/NEWS/GUMBO-COOKOFF](https://stmbr.org/news/gumbo-cookoff)

Who will win the golden ladle this year?

Support Our Elderly Religious This Weekend Special Collection Dec. 13–14

This weekend's special collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious, which aids more than 20,500 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who spent their lives in service. Many communities now struggle to provide for their basic care and daily needs.

Your gift helps them age with dignity. Thank you for your generosity. Place the envelope in the regular offertory or **donate online at <https://retiredreligious.org/ways-to-give/donate/>.**



SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Juanita Coutee the week of Dec. 14 as requested by Cheryl and Chris Volentine.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Dec. 16 - 6 p.m.: Lou and Emery Bares, Harold Cannon, James Parent

Wednesday, Dec. 17 - 6 p.m.: Denver Denison

Thursday, Dec. 18 - 8:45 a.m.: Denver Denison

Friday, Dec. 19 - 12 p.m.: Denver Denison

Saturday, Dec. 20 - 4:30 p.m.: Albert Chaplain

Sunday, Dec. 21 - 8 a.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **10 a.m.:** Carol Speyrer, Leonce Lemoin Family, Edward Rabalais Family, Mitch Rabalais, Anthony Pinchon, Carolyn and John Perkins, Mickey Deville, Mark Midboe; **5 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

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 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.)

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

OUR PARISH FAMILY

BAPTISM

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

Adrian Mark Antony, child of Antony Bilavendran and Silvia Robert;

Steven James Calverley, child of Steven and Stefanie Calverley;

Elizabeth Ray Calverley, child of Steven and Stefanie Calverley;

Caroline Lee Gaspard, child of J P and Allyson Gaspard; and

Noah Joseph Vegas, child of Russ and Briana Vegas

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of **James Parent**, **Anthony Gauthier**, **Roy Tucker**, **James Blouin**, and **Ned Dufour**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*In a caring environment
dedicated to celebrating the Catholic faith
and modeling the life of Jesus Christ,
St. Thomas More Church provides worship,
education, ministerial and social opportunities
for the spiritual growth of the parish family.*

Cover photo credit: Ranyel Paula

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)

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

11441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70815

stmbr.org | Office Phone: 225-275-3940

Office Hours:

Mon.- Thurs.: 8 am - 12 pm and 1 - 5 pm;

Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 pm

DAILY MASSES

Tuesday: 6:00 pm, Wednesday: 12 noon (w/Rosary @ 11:30 am);

Thursday: 8:45 am, Friday: 12 noon

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 pm Vigil; Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm

RECONCILIATION

Wednesdays from 11:15 - 11:45 am; Thursdays from 8:00 - 8:30 am

Saturdays from 3:15 - 4:15 pm; and by appt.

Emergencies After Hours:

Please call 225.275.3940 and follow the directions
given on the voicemail message.

SIGMA

ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS

PROCESS
ELECTRICAL
MECHANICAL/PIPING
TECHNICAL STAFFING
INSTRUMENTATION

LEADERSHIP SOLUTIONS
FIELD SERVICES
AUTOMATION

LASER SCANNING
CIVIL/STRUCTURAL
CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT
LAND SURVEYING
PROCUREMENT

225-810-3100

www.sigmaec.com



Plumbing • Heating • Repairs
225-927-6520
est. 1960



George J
Schwartzburg, MD
12351 Industriplex Blvd
926-4400




RESTHAVEN

GARDENS OF MEMORY & FUNERAL HOME
225-753-1440

www.resthavenbatonrouge.com



Quality Car Care Center

GOODYEAR



11442 N. Harrells Ferry Rd.

273-2955

Premier Eyecare & Optical



Comprehensive Eyecare,
Glasses & Contact Lenses

1 HR. GLASSES 246-8830

ERIC THAI, Doctor of Optometry

www.PremierEyecareOptical.com

Corner of Sherwood at Old Hammond

MERAKI
Construction

225-281-0933

Residential and Commercial Construction

PALM
FAMILY DENTISTRY

DANIEL PALM, DDS
AUSTIN LAMING, DDS | CARENCE ROSEBUD, DDS



Baton Rouge | 7604 Goodwood Blvd | 927-7545

Prairieville | 40398 Highway 42 | 622-2545

palmfamilydentistry.com

Regain Control of your Heartbeat

Dr. Mark Pollet, MD, FACC, a leading cardiac electrophysiologist, specializes in diagnosing and treating arrhythmias. Experience personalized care and get back to living your life.

(225) 769-0933

www.BRCardiology.com

8888 Summa Avenue • Baton Rouge



BATON ROUGE
CARDIOLOGY CENTER



Salon James
PAMPERING YOU
IN ELEGANCE

NAIL • SPA SERVICES • HAIR
VIP MEMBERSHIPS
MEN'S LOUNGE • PEDICURE
WAX • FACIALS/SKIN CARE

20% OFF hair, nails & lashes
with this ad.

thesalonjames.com

9636 Airline Hwy Ste A4 • 225-636-2220

O'Neal Food Mart

2863 O'Neal Lane

225-465-3289

Valero Gas Station

We Serve Breakfast,
Lunch, Seafood through
Drive-Thru

YOUR DESIGN/BUILD GENERAL CONSTRUCTION FIRM

ELVIN DO
CONSTRUCTION LLC

LICENSED & INSURED

(225) 235-8441 | EPARCH08@HOTMAIL.COM

IF YOU LIVE ALONE

MDMedAlert!

✓ Ambulance/Police
✓ Family/Friends
✓ GPS & Fall Alert

CALL NOW!

800.808.9294

As Low As

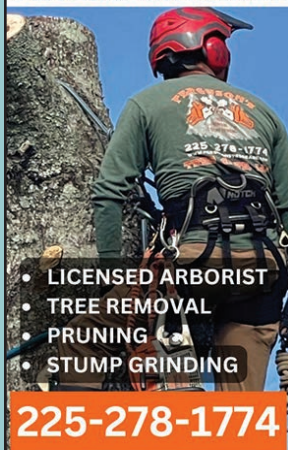
\$19⁹⁵

mo.

md-medalert.com



FERGUSON'S TREE CARE, LLC



• LICENSED ARBORIST
• TREE REMOVAL
• PRUNING
• STUMP GRINDING

225-278-1774

FULLY INSURED
COMPETITIVE PRICES



**Baton Rouge General
Physicians**
BRGeneral.org

763-4500

8333 GOODWOOD BLVD.

Amanda Watts, MD

Timothy Bella, MD

Daniel Daire, FNP

Shelby Mougeot, FNP



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge, LA

B 4C 05-1276

STEMMANS AND ALLEY, PLLC



Attorneys and Counselors At Law
M. Todd Alley (Parishioner)



2798 O'Neal Lane, Ste. B-3

752-5266

Sal's Electric, Inc.
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Commercial • Residential
225-664-1787 | SalsElectricInc.com



ROOF LEAKING?



- Repairs
- Roof Replacement
- Gutters

FREE ESTIMATES

(225) 930-4930 | www.midcityroofing.com

**NOW HIRING
MAINTENANCE TECH!**

REGENCY CLUB • SPRING BROOK

**JOIN OUR
TEAM!**

1stLAKE.com/Jobs

504.455.5059

SCAN TO
APPLY!



EEO

NOW OPEN!

SHERWOOD

URGENT CARE

Hrs: Mon-Fri 10am-8pm
Sat & Sun 8am-6pm

225-256-5888

Now accepting primary care

Walk in or schedule your

appointment online at:

SherwoodUrgentCareBR.com



Our Business is Knowing
The Business of Growing

5696 Siegen Lane (225) 292-9153

Add violin music
to your event
Weddings • Funerals
Private Gatherings
Music by Skyler

mactdm32@gmail.com



Specializing in

COLOR • CUTS • HI-LITES • WAXING

UPDOs • KERATIN TREATMENT

BRAZILIAN BLOW CUT

HAIR EXTENSIONS • BAYLAGE

JAPANESE STRAIGHTENING

PERMS • RELAXERS • MAKE-UP

EYELASH EXTENSIONS

We offer Bridal Party & Prom Packages

225-275-2424

13559 Old Hammond Hwy,
Ste A, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

BRING THIS AD IN FOR

20% DISCOUNT

(new clients only)

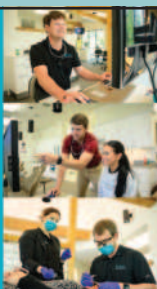
FREE EYEBROW WAX WITH REFERRAL



225-769-1276

COMPLIMENTARY
CONSULTS & X-RAYS

8311 BLUEBONNET BLVD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70810



TODD CARUSO

ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC.

233 Capitol Street
Denham Springs, LA 70726

225-271-4941

Todd Caruso, Parishioner



225-313-1299

www.trubluewater.com

**Fourrier
Insurance Agency**

Since 1946

383-0682

4275 Government St.

GWEN UYEN LE - REALTOR®

(225) 405-7463

(225) 412-9962 Ext. #156

Gwen.Le@eXpRealty.com

GwenLe.eXpRealty.com



License # 995709638

Languages: English & Vietnamese



**SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS!**



C. Farrell Frugé, Jr., D.D.S.

C.F. Trey Frugé, III, D.D.S. & Associates

Family Dentistry STM Lifetime Parishioner

11811 Coursey Blvd. 292-9700 www.CFFDDS.com



LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Sean Altenberger

Saltenger@4LPi.com • (800) 950-9952 x2166



9620 Florida Blvd.

927-5450

5383 Jones Creek Road

751-3380

www.hinabor.com

SOUTHERN

**FASTENER &
TOOL CO.**

Arnold Saucier
9440 Mammoth Dr.

927-3333

"Nobody Does It Better"



Residential & Commercial

• Home Improvement

• Lawn Maintenance

• Fencing

• Painting

Follow Us

225-929-1369



**SPECIAL PRICING FOR
ST. THOMAS MORE
PARISHIONERS!**

Natalie & Bradford Smith

Parishioners, Real Estate Attorneys

225.296.0060

Buying, Building or Refinancing
You have the right to choose
your own title company!

Locations in Baton Rouge,
Prairieville, & Lafayette



CREATING A LEGACY. one CLOSING at a time.

SHERWOOD

TELEVISIONS & APPLIANCES

SALES & SERVICE

MINI STORAGES

LOUIS S. RUFFINO, JR.

FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1969

11756 Florida Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70815

225-275-6900

www.sherwoodtvandappliances.com



BUICK



WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

Visit our Gerry Lane managers
Craig Azar, General Manager
or Keioike Lutchter,
General Sales Manager
to purchase your next
Buick or GMC!

gerrylanebuickgmc.com



YUKON DENALI



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge, LA

A 4C 05-1276