



January 18, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 3 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



A Letter From Our Pastor

RESPECT LIFE

This week, many from our diocese and across the country will be in Washington to cry out for the unborn, who remain at risk in our society. The Supreme Court decision allowing states to determine whether life is valued or trashed within their borders did not end the killings, and many estimate that the number of living, thriving, developing humans being sacrificed has, in fact, increased.



The outcry by those who value their self-centered "right" to engage in sexual activity, regardless of consequences - even over the life of their very own offspring, has been enormous, and we have much work ahead of us to soften these hearts of stone and open them to the treasure of life, lived as God intends.

To that end, we have been asked to consecrate Thursday, January 22nd, as a special day of prayer and penance, called "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn."

There is also a "9 Days for Life" novena available at this site:

<https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>

Please consider that the far-reaching impacts of this twisted mentality that some lives can be discarded at the choosing of others extend well past the issue of abortion. Everyone knows the terms zygote, embryo, fetus, newborn, toddler, adolescent, adult, and elderly describe stages of human life. Each of us has or will go through them, God willing. None of these depicts a doorknob or some other inanimate object that one day magically becomes alive and human, or ceases to be human.

If one set of individuals can be empowered to end a human life in one of these stages, why not someone else in another stage? Want to stop the killing in our streets? Let's start by reversing the notion that lives that interfere with others' desires can be ended.

This same twisted mindset brought many of the grave injustices of the past, from slavery to wars. Thinking of people as mere things or objects that stand in the way of what we want. We must confront it everywhere it surfaces, including fundamental prejudices as Dr. Martin Luther King took on - at the cost of his life.

All human life is precious, in every stage, color, nationality, shape, and form.

It's time we close Pandora's death box and flood the world with God's grace flowing through responsible choices. Let's go back to the chaste blueprints He gave us so we can experience a joy and fulfillment no earthly "goods" can produce, especially those gained at the cost of another's life.

Let us pray...

Blessings,

Fr. Eddie



NOVENA FOR LIFE CONTINUES

The St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus invite all parishioners to join them in praying a **Novena for Life**, which aligns with the national “9 Days for Life” initiative sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) from January 16–24. This nationwide effort focuses on prayer for the sanctity of human life and helps foster a culture of life, especially as we approach the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the annual March for Life.

Parishioners are encouraged to come together in prayer daily at 6:00 p.m. in the Mother Teresa Room on non-Mass days, and immediately following Mass in the church on Mass days through Jan. 24. Let us unite in prayer for the protection and dignity of all human life.

Children's Church Set To Begin

Children's Church is a new ministry offered during the 10:00 a.m. Mass, providing age-appropriate faith formation during the Liturgy of the Word. Potty-trained toddlers through first graders are invited to participate. Children exit with facilitators after the Opening Prayer and return to Mass following the homily. Instruction will be held in the Activity Center meeting rooms.

Children's Church will be offered once a month to start on the following dates: **January 18, February 8, March 1, April 12, and May 17.** Additional dates will be added as the ministry grows.



*“Let the children come to me...”
(Matthew 19:14)*

HOLY MASS IN OBSERVANCE OF

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

12:00 NOON | MONDAY, JAN. 19

“Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of His children.”

- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

 The church office is closed on Monday, Jan. 19.

Gracious God,
We live in times of deep division, mistrust, and violence. Bless us in a special way on the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Open our hearts and minds to your truth and renew our commitment to justice and peace, pursued through cooperation and love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we might realize and accept that we are all members of the same human family, created in your image and likeness. May the example of Dr. King inspire us to see in one another, sisters and brothers, with a common origin and destiny, guided by the conviction that together we can nobly fulfill the promise of our nation.

We pray in the name of the God who is our creator and who calls us to create communities of justice, freedom and peace. Amen.

Catholic Schools Week Kickoff

Join us for a School-Led Mass on Sunday, **January 25th** at 10:00 am as we kick off Catholic Schools Week. Fellowship Sunday in the activity center will follow Mass, hosted by St. Thomas More School. All are welcome!



Mark your calendars for March 19th, STM St. Joseph Altar!

If you are interested in helping, please sign up by visiting stmbr.org/news/altar, and/or email Bridget Day dayb@stmbr.org

Lead the Rosary

Our parish is seeking individuals or families who are willing to lead the Rosary before the 10:00 am Sunday Mass. This is a beautiful way to serve our parish community and help lead others in prayer.

If you are interested, please use the SignUpGenius found at stmbr.org/news/rosary to view available dates and sign up.

We are grateful for your willingness to share in this important ministry.

Reminder: 1st Eucharist Mandatory Parent Meeting, Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 6:30 pm , Parish Activity Center

2ND ANNUAL STM MEN'S CLUB **HOG HEAVEN** SMOKED BOSTON BUTT SALE



SUNDAY



FEB. 8

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STMBr.org/News/Hog-Heaven



Confirmation Parents Invited to View *The Chosen*

Confirmation preparation begins today, and we are pleased to offer a special opportunity for parents of Confirmation candidates.

During Confirmation instruction times—both before and after the Sunday evening Mass—parents are warmly invited to remain on campus.

While candidates are participating in their sessions, parents are encouraged to gather in the Mother Teresa Room to watch *The Chosen, Season 1*. This engaging series brings the Gospel to life and offers a meaningful way to reflect on Christ's call to discipleship while your child prepares for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We hope parents will join us for this time of faith, reflection, and fellowship as we begin this important journey together.

The Chosen Schedule in Mother Teresa Room:

- Jan 18: Episode 1 @ 3:30 pm
- Feb 1: Episode 2 @ 4pm, Episode 3 after Mass
- Feb 15: Episode 4 @ 4pm
- Mar 1: Episode 5 @ 4pm, Episode 6 after Mass
- Mar 15: Episode 7 @ 4pm, Episode 8 after Mass



Thank you
for your
support!

Fellowship
Sunday

&

Noodle
Bowl
Fundraiser

01.11.26

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

There are no sanctuary light intentions the week of Jan. 18. To request a sanctuary light in the church or chapel to burn in memory of a loved one, call the church office at 225-275-3940. The sanctuary light stipend is \$20 for each week burned.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Jan. 20 - 6 p.m.: Thomas Kleinpeter

Wednesday, Jan. 21 - 12 p.m.: Ned Dufour

Thursday, Jan. 22 - 8:45 a.m.: Rose Kron

Friday, Jan. 23 - 16 p.m.: Helen Fox

Saturday, Jan. 24 - 4:30 p.m.: Carolyn Perrault

Sunday, Jan. 25 - 8 a.m.: Gene Clement; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends and Neighbors; **5 p.m.:** Pamela Ortego, Mary Ethel Landreneau

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

Please remember in your prayers the following persons: Louis LaBauve, Margot Murphy, Laurie Bolanos, Becky Cline

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@stmb.org.)

CHURCH STAFF

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OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of **Frank DePaula** and **David Zalfen**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

*Let us pray
for you!*

The St. Thomas More Catholic School Community would love to pray for you and your intentions during Catholic Schools Week, January 25-31, 2026. Each day during morning assembly, our students and faculty will pray for all intentions included on this prayer list. Scan the QR code to send us your prayer intentions!



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

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.

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