



January 25, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 4 | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



A Letter From Our Pastor

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



If you attended the 10:00 AM Mass this weekend, you were treated to a barrage of young souls leading our celebration, reading from the pulpit, serving in the sanctuary, singing from the choir, and serving as ushers. All fruit of our Catholic School.

Years ago, my bride and I were asked to lead the fundraiser to build St. John the Evangelist Primary in Prairieville. Frankly, I was amazed at some of the comments we heard during that period. Questions of why we needed a Catholic elementary school when Dutchtown was an exemplary school, right around the corner.

“Good Catholics” scowled at me as though I were crazy! “Why would anyone pay those outrageous tuitions when a perfectly good education was available for free, much less give up their hard-earned savings to finance the construction of such an unneeded undertaking?” I was shocked, appalled, and taken completely by surprise by such responses. At least until it dawned on me that those making such statements had never had the grace and good fortune to attend a Catholic school.

Public schools often do a fine job of preparing our youth to succeed in business and launch a career. Catholic schools are just as well known, if not more so, for the same kind of preparation. But the difference, worth all the gold in the world, is that Catholic schools teach not only how to provide for material needs in this life, but how to experience eternity in the next. Throw in forming our students to set their priorities well above material concerns and arming them to handle any crosses that life will undoubtedly throw at them, and you have the answers my nay-sayers in Prairieville had no clue of. Catholic schools demonstrate, live, and instill the Catholic faith. The Catholic faith is the key to all truths, joys, the very purpose of life, and finding fulfillment in it.

I also taught high school Catechism (PSR, etc.) down in Prairieville. I was always challenged to give a presentation that didn't bore the students who had attended Catholic elementary schools out of their minds, but that public school kids could still follow. For instance, many from “exemplary” public schools couldn't tell you whether Moses was Old Testament or New Testament!

If you want our pews filled with parishioners and our sanctuary with a priest in the future, please support our school. It is our number one mission and an established conduit through which we build the Kingdom of God, something we are charged to spend our lives doing. Remember, it's not enough to be merely a “good person” who does no harm to others.

Lastly, have you noticed the photos of the priests on the wall of the Activity Center? STM school has produced at least six priests, and a seventh will be ordained within a year, God willing. That's what I'm talking about!

Blessings,

Fr. Eddie



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BBQ CHICKEN DINNERS

to go

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
AFTER 8AM & 10AM MASSES
@ ALL CHURCH EXITS

OR

ACTIVITY CENTER DRIVE THRU
9 AM - 12:30 PM

*bbq chicken, bbq beans,
dirty rice, bread slice*

Cash, Check & Venmo \$10/DINNER



Feast of St. Joseph — Save the Date Altar Planning Underway

We warmly invite you to join our parish community on Thursday, March 19, 2026, as we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph with the beautiful St. Joseph Altar at the heart of the day. The altar is a sacred expression of thanksgiving and devotion—a time-honored Catholic tradition that brings our parish together in prayer, gratitude, and fellowship.

The Tradition of the St. Joseph Altar

The St. Joseph Altar (or Tavola di San Giuseppe) originated in Sicily during the Middle Ages in thanksgiving for the end of a devastating famine. Families created elaborate three-tiered altars—representing the Holy Trinity—filled with symbolic breads, pastries, and food to share with the community. Today, we continue this tradition to honor St. Joseph's role as the protector of the family and to express our gratitude for God's many blessings.

Schedule of Events

All are welcome to join us for the full morning of devotion or stop by during the day:

- 8:45 am – Mass
- 9:30 am – Coffee and Fellowship (immediately following Mass in the coffee shop)
- 10:00 am – Blessing of the Altar in the Parish Hall
- 10:00 am – 5:00 pm – Altar Viewing and Devotion
- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Traditional St. Joseph Gravy Lunch served

How You Can Help

It takes many hands to prepare this beautiful tribute, especially this year as we plan for a larger altar than last year. If you would like to help with baking, setup, serving lunch, or cleanup, please sign up using the link found on the parish website at stnbr.org/news/altar.

Whether you join us for Mass, a cup of coffee, or the traditional lunch, we look forward to celebrating the St. Joseph Altar and the foster father of Jesus with you.

Come, Lord Jesus! Lenten Journey Prayer + Scripture + Eucharist + Christian Community

Journey with us during the holy season of Lent as we study and meditate on the Sunday Gospels, leading us to the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Meet weekly with family members, friends, and fellow parishioners—or join an online group—for a deeper understanding of Jesus' life, death, and the victory He claimed for each of us. Prepare for the Easter celebration with a spiritual journey that will renew your faith and transform your life!

Sign up after any Mass this weekend, call the office to register, or attend an **INFORMATIONAL SESSION** on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 9 a.m. or 6 p.m. in the Mother Teresa Room.

Sessions will be held every Wednesday during Lent in the Mother Teresa Room at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., beginning Feb. 25. Please choose either the morning or evening session.

For further information, contact Beverly Shaw at 225-235-0185.



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!






St. Thomas More Parish

YOUTH GATHERING



WHO Parishioners in grades 5 - 8

DATES Fridays: Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 17

TIME 3:15 - 4:30 pm

PLACE Parish Activity Center

REGISTER stmbr.org/news/youth

SAVE THE DATES!

FEB. 27
MAR. 13
MAR. 27



STM PARISH LENTEN FISH FRY

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



SUNDAY



FEB. 8

PICK UP FROM 11 AM UNTIL 12:30 PM
PRESCHOOL DROP OFF LANE (11500 SHERBROOK AVE.)

Let the Men's Club do your Super Bowl cooking!

TWO PACKAGES AVAILABLE PREORDERS ONLY BEFORE FEB. 3

- **BASIC HOG HEAVEN** - \$75 WHOLE SMOKED BOSTON BUTT - SHREDDED, FEEDS 15-20
- **PREMIUM HOG HEAVEN** - \$90 INCLUDES WHOLE SMOKED BOSTON BUTT - SHREDDED, 32 HAWAIIAN ROLLS, 2 QUARTS BAKED BEANS, 1 PINT CORN PUDDING, AND 1 PINT BBQ SAUCE, FEEDS 15-20

STMBR.ORG/NEWS/HOG-HEAVEN



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



Retrouvaille Weekend Retreat for Troubled Marriages March 27-29, 2026

Retrouvaille is a Christian based/Catholic-in-origin peer ministry that can help a troubled marriage. We have already saved thousands of marriages. For more information call us at 1-800-470-2230, visit our website: HelpOurMarriage.org, or use the QR code below.

Sign up to pray for ACTS retreatants

Southeast Baton Rouge ACTS Coalition (STM, SJV, St Pat's) will be having a Men's ACTS Retreat from January 29 – February 1. We are inviting parishioners to sign up on the prayer board in the church vestibule to pray for these men during their retreat. Your prayers will help prepare their hearts, lift their intentions, and support them spiritually throughout this life-changing weekend.

BatonRouge@helpourmarriage.org
1-800-470-2230



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SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Kathryn and Vincent Dubroc the week of January 25, as requested by Nicole Walker.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Tuesday, Jan. 27 - 6 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory
- Wednesday, Jan. 28 - 12 p.m.:** Jimmy Kelly
- Thursday, Jan. 29 - 8:45 a.m.:** Rose Kron
- Friday, Jan. 30 - 16 p.m.:** Norma Mitchell
- Saturday, Jan. 31 - 4:30 p.m.:** Marie Schittone, Duane Kolbeck
- Sunday, Feb. 1 - 8 a.m.:** Onelio Sotolongo; **10 a.m.:** Mark Midboe; **5 p.m.:** STM Families, Friends and Neighbors

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

Please remember in your prayers the following persons: Louis LaBauve, Margot Murphy, Laurie Bolanos, Becky Cline, Laura Chapman, Tim Bonin, Joe Bonin

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

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Rev. Eddie Martin

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

In a caring environment

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St. Thomas More Church provides worship,

education, ministerial and social opportunities

for the spiritual growth of the parish family.

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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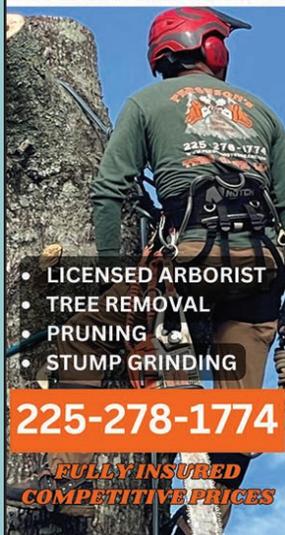
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