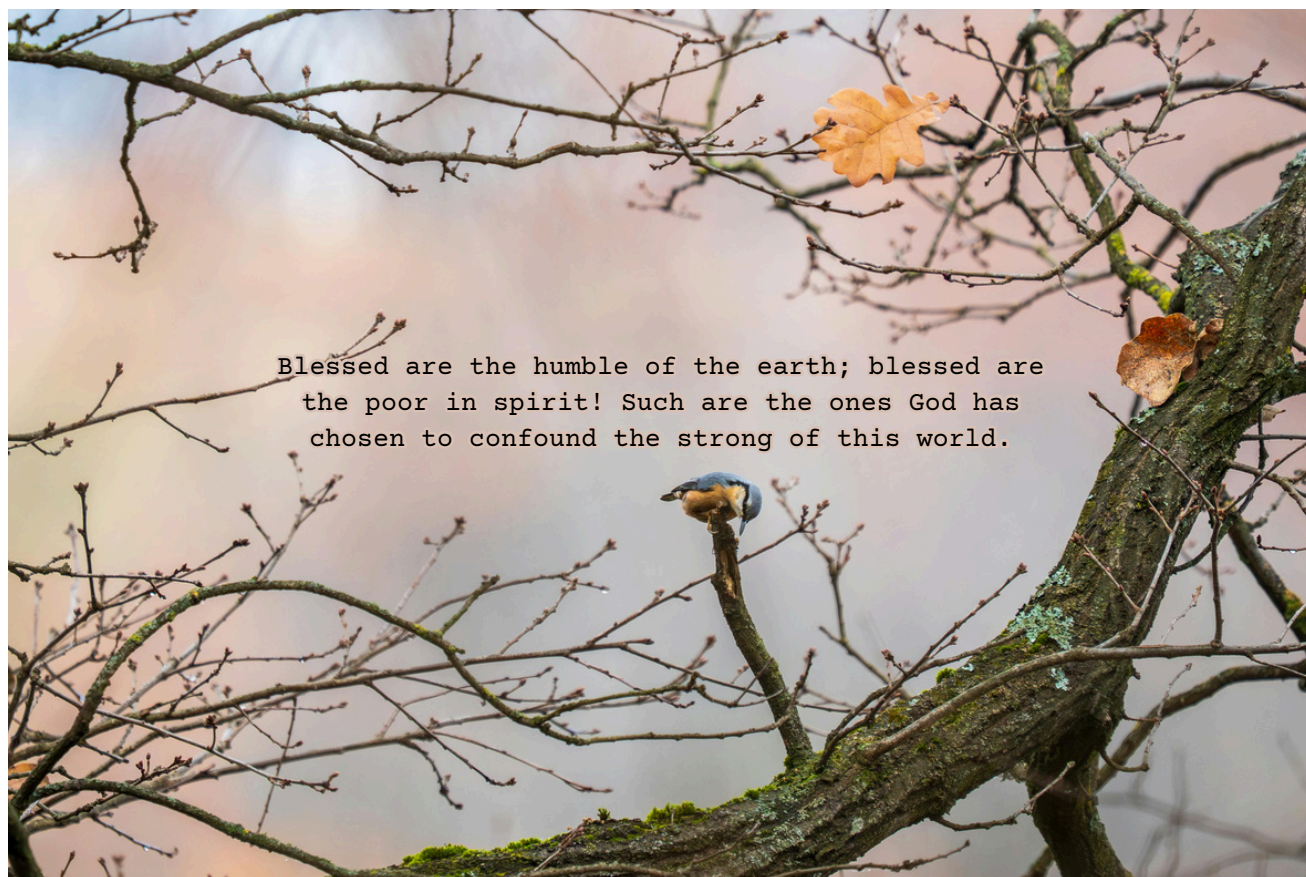




February 1, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 5 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



# A Letter From Our Deacon

## THE BEATITUDES AND PARISH MINISTRY

Last week was Catholic Schools Week, a time to celebrate our largest ministry at St. Thomas More and, arguably, the largest ministry of our diocese.

Ministries in the Church have always been the lifeblood of the Body of Christ—His hands and feet—serving the faithful as He did. We are so blessed here at St. Thomas More to have so many ministries that serve God's people and meet them where they are. We have ministries that build our community life, others that evangelize to Catholics and non-Catholics alike, and still others that reach out to those in need: the poor, the shut-ins, and those who mourn.

In this week's Gospel, we hear Jesus giving His disciples the Beatitudes in His famous Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes outline the virtues required to be a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. As we serve others through the ministries of the Church, we are putting into practice the virtues that Jesus calls us to in the Beatitudes. Note the word "practice." None of us are perfect, but through our service, God makes our offering perfect.

We serve a righteous God who will always bless our work. Over my 40 years of working in various ministries in the different parishes where we lived, I can easily see where I have been comforted, repaid, satisfied, shown mercy, and experienced peace in my life because of that work. The Prayer of St. Francis says it so beautifully: "For it is in giving that we receive."

Our parish website lists all the ministries that are currently active. If you are serving in one of these ministries, thank you! You will be blessed for your work. If you are not serving, I ask you to take it to prayer and ask God to show you where you can best serve. If you don't see a ministry on this list and want to help start it here, feel free to reach out to me or Fr. Eddie to discuss. Lastly, if you want to serve but just can't seem to get started, or need help discerning which ministry is right for you, please feel free to reach out to me, and I can try to help.

Godspeed,

*Deacon Paul*



*Photo by Rosie V. Carr*



**MAY GOD'S GRACE AND BLESSINGS SURROUND  
YOU ON THIS REMARKABLE MILESTONE.**

55 & ALIVE INVITES YOU

# Valentine's Day PARTY



*Join us for fellowship and assorted king cakes!*

FEBRUARY **12** 10AM-12PM

PARISH ACTIVITY CENTER

RSVP  
✓♥

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DROP OFF REGISTRATION FORM AT THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN FEB. 9





**STM Athletics is  
seeking a Track  
and Field Coach  
for the upcoming season.**

**If you are interested or  
know someone  
who may be a good fit, please contact the  
STM Athletic Director, Ali Buchart Peirson,  
bucharta@stmbr.org.**

### FLOWER DONATION

The flowers on the altar in front of the ambo and under the crucifix are donated in memory of Carolyn Perrault the weekend of Feb. 7-8, as requested by Charles "Swatty" Perrault.

### SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Joseph B. Richard Sr. the week of Feb. 1, as requested by Shelley Dedeaux.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, Feb. 3 - 6 p.m.:** Thomas Webre, Frank DePaula, Lynn Smith; Special Intention: Family of Eugene Clement

**Wednesday, Feb. 4 - 12 p.m.:** David Zalfen

**Thursday, Feb. 5 - 8:45 a.m.:** Celise Hebert

**Friday, Feb. 6 - 16 p.m.:** Frank DePaula

**Saturday, Feb. 7 - 4:30 p.m.:** Carolyn Perrault

**Sunday, Feb. 8 - 8 a.m.:** Debbie Davis, Fr. Tom Duhé, Rita Reado, M/M Elton Benoit; **10 a.m.:** Mona Villemarette; **5 p.m.:** Bobby DeAngelo

#### 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.)



## **Knights of Columbus – Council 5530 St. Thomas More Parish, Baton Rouge MEMBERSHIP DRIVE • FEBRUARY 7-8, 2025**

### Our Mission

The Knights of Columbus are dedicated to forming Catholic men as authentic disciples of Christ—living their faith courageously at home, in the parish, at work, and in the world. Through our programs and brotherhood, we help men, their families, and parishes grow in faith, increase in holiness, and share the joy of the Gospel.

### What We Do

Throughout the year, Council 5530 participates in and sponsors numerous parish, church, and community events, including:

- Tootsie Roll Drive supporting disabled citizens served by ARC of Baton Rouge and St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children
- STM Festival fish fries and booths
- STM Auction supporting the church and school
- Family Movie Night
- BBQ Chicken Dinners (three times per year), which fund many of our charitable activities

These charitable efforts support, among others:

- Catholic School Scholarships
- Seminary and Clergy Support
- STM Vacation Bible School
- CYLA – Catholic Youth Leadership Awards
- YEP – Catholic Youth Expansion Program
- ACTS Retreat meals and financial support
- KOLBE Prison Ministries
- KC Ladies Auxiliary Retreat
- Pro-Life efforts, including the Novena for Life and National and Local March for Life events

### Contact Information

Interested in joining or supporting the Knights of Columbus?

Please contact:

Grand Knight: John Serbeck – 281-814-4856 –  
john@sebeck.com

Membership Director: Don Pourciau – 225-573-2257 –  
dwpourciau@bellsouth.net



## Dive In and Volunteer at Our Lenten Fish Fries!

Our parish's Lenten Fish Fries are back, and we need friendly faces to help make them a hit! This is your chance to serve the community, have fun, and be part of a cherished tradition.

We're looking for volunteers in these areas:

- Food Line – Help serve up our delicious meals with a smile
- Drink Table – Keep everyone refreshed and happy
- Dessert Table – Share the sweet treats that make the meal complete
- Drive-Thru – Assist guests picking up meals on the go
- General Support – Lend a hand wherever it's needed

Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or trying it for the first time, there's a spot for you! Come be part of the team that brings our community together every Friday during Lent.

★ Sign up today and make a difference—one fish fry at a time!

Visit: [stmbr.org/news/fish-fries](http://stmbr.org/news/fish-fries)

### Help us with our St. Joseph Altar!

*It takes many hands to prepare a beautiful altar tribute to St. Joseph—especially this year as we plan 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 on the parish website at [stmbr.org/news/altar](http://stmbr.org/news/altar).*

### STM YOUTH GATHERING

Parishioners in grades 5-8 | Friday, Feb. 6 - 3:15 - 4:30 pm  
Parish Activity Center | Register here: [stmbr.org/news/youth](http://stmbr.org/news/youth)

### NEXT SUNDAY IS SCOUT SUNDAY!

You'll notice our boys in uniform at the 10 am Mass on Feb. 8—please keep them in your prayers as they participate and give thanks for their dedication to faith, service, and community.

### Men's Club Boston Butt Sale

HOG HEAVEN • SUNDAY, FEB. 8  
STM PRESCHOOL PICKUP 11 AM - 12:30 PM  
**PREORDER ONLY BY FEB. 3**



Package I - \$75

*Shredded Boston butt - feeds 15-20*

Package II - \$90

*Shredded Boston butt w/Hawaiian rolls, baked beans, corn pudding and bbq sauce - feeds 15-20*

To order or for more details: [stmbr.org/news/hog-heaven](http://stmbr.org/news/hog-heaven)

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

Journey with us this Lent through *Come, Lord Jesus!*, a faith-sharing program reflecting on the Sunday Gospels and leading to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Call the church office to sign up, or attend an informational session on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 9 a.m. or 6 p.m. in the Mother Teresa Room.**

Lenten sessions will meet on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. or 6 p.m., beginning Feb. 25 in the Mother Teresa Room. Please choose the time that works best with your schedule.

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

# Lenten Retreat

The Fr. Maynard E. Hurst, Jr. Kaycee Auxiliary invites all adult parishioners and friends to a half-day Lenten Retreat at St. Thomas More.

**Date:** Saturday, February 21, 2026

**Topic:** The Blessed Mother

**Retreat Leader:** Very Rev. Jamin S. David, J.C.L., V.G.,  
Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia

## Retreat Begins at 12:00 PM

The retreat will begin at 12 pm in the church and is offered at no charge. A love donation is suggested.

## Optional Lunch at 11:00 AM

Those who wish to gather earlier are invited to an optional lunch at 11 am in the Parish Activity Center. Cost: \$10 per person | Menu: Chicken Salad Wrap/sides. Registration and prepayment are required if you plan to eat lunch - use form below.

Questions: Contact Shirley Bonaccorso  
(225) 926-7939 or (225) 205-8938



### SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE:

10 am – Registration (Activity Center)  
11 am – Optional Lunch (Activity Center)  
12 pm – Retreat Begins (Church)  
1 pm – Break & Dessert (Activity Center)  
1:30 pm – Session II (Church)  
2:30 pm – Closing Remarks & Dismissal (Church)  
3:15 pm – Reconciliation (Church)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending Retreat: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Meals: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline is February 7, 2026**

Return completed form with cash or check (payable to Fr. Hurst Auxiliary) for the meal to the church office.  
St. Thomas More Church, Attn: Lenten Retreat, 11441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70815

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## Stay connected!



STM website: [stmbr.org](http://stmbr.org)



[facebook.com/stmchurchbr](https://facebook.com/stmchurchbr)



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



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

## Contributions for 2025

Contribution statements for 2025 are being mailed to parishioners who requested them last year. ParishSoft users will receive their statement directly from the company. To allow for mailing, please wait until February 15 to contact the church office if your statement has not arrived.

### ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

11441 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815  
[stmbr.org](http://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  
follow message prompts