



February 8, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 6 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

your light must shine before others

THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS
AND GLORIFY YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER



A Letter From Our Pastor

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Are you afraid of the dark?



I'm not asking about an absence of rays of visible light, or luminous flux, to you physics majors. I'm referring to spiritual darkness. The emotions so many of us go through when we lose a loved one; some struggle for years. Depression, anxiety, loneliness, despair, emptiness, a sense of uselessness, fear of the future, or a feeling of hopelessness. These emotions rob us of joy and peace, and if extreme enough, can lead to self-harm or destruction.

If you find yourself in such a downward spiral, apply the prescription given in our readings today and, as Isaiah prophesies, "...your wound shall quickly be healed;...and the gloom shall become for you like midday."

Our readings today, in fact, call all of us to be the Light of the World!

Our first reading, responsorial, gospel acclamation, and gospel are all about defeating spiritual darkness! We are all called to be like several friends of mine, I like to call "Sunshine" because they always radiate joy, never seem to take themselves too seriously, and light up every room they enter. I find a common trait with these people is that they are constantly living the life described by our readings - doing for others, always looking for some way to pitch in and help. They are also the most faith-filled people I know. They can't contain their joy and love, and it flows through their selfless actions and ready smiles. They have mastered dying to themselves and living for others.

Their only agenda is to leave the world a better place than they found it. They feed off and are energized by this sacrificial mindset, first demonstrated to us by Christ. And they have no fear of death as they know they will enter into the Light of Christ for all eternity. Thank you, God, for these bundles of your love, walking amongst us in disguise as humans; help us to surrender to you as they have so that we too might chase away the darkness in others.

Blessings,
Fr. Eddie



Begin your Lenten journey at STM

 *ash wednesday*
MASS SCHEDULE
February 18, 2026
7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 6:00 pm



Call the church office to register - 225.275.3940.

Magnificat Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, Feb. 21 | 9 am - 12 pm

Oak Lodge Reception Ctr.

Speaker: Claire Gallagher

Tickets: \$27 thru Feb. 18 (tickets are not sold at the door)

magnificatfeb2026.eventbrite.com, or call 225.235.3021

Online Book Study TUESDAYS OF LENT 7PM



Does anyone go to purgatory anymore? What does the Catholic Church teach about it? Does everyone go there? How can I help the souls in purgatory?

Lent is really about transformation. Turning away from sin and back to God. How does purgatory fit into this journey?

Join us this lent for sharing, discussion, and prayer based around the book, Hungry Souls by Gerard Aardweg, PhD.

Live, online, every Tuesday of Lent at 7:00pm
\$21 + Cost of Book Scan the QR Code to sign up or email info@imageandgift.com for more information.



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Mark your calendar and plan to join us for our Annual Festival Fundraiser **Pastalaya**

Dinners, sponsored by the Cajun Booth! Stop by the Activity Center on Sunday, **March 8**, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for a delicious carry-out meal. Dinner is \$10, and new this year, be sure to try our Boudin Egg Rolls — 2 for \$4.

Presales will be available and dinners will be sold at the door.



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.

LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLETS

As we enter the holy season of Lent, our parish is pleased to offer **Following Jesus**, a Lenten reflection booklet designed to guide daily prayer and conversion of heart. Filled with thoughtful reflections from Pope Leo XIV, Pope Francis, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and Henri Nouwen, this booklet invites us to walk more closely with Christ through the days of Lent.

Copies will be available in the church next weekend. All are encouraged to take one and deepen their journey of faith this Lent. One copy per family, please.



A **second collection** will be taken up this weekend, Feb. 7-8, the second Sunday of the month, to help reduce the debt incurred from the beautiful church renovations and the new parish office building. If you'd like to make a donation online, please visit giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/FD-554 and click on RENOVATION DEBT REDUCTION.

Our **monthly food collection** weekend is Feb. 14-15. Please bring donations of canned goods and staples to any Mass and leave items in the storage bench in the back of the church. These monthly collections support the food pantry at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church on Gus Young Ave. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Frank DePaula the week of February 8, as requested by the DePaula family.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Feb. 10 - 6 p.m.: Onelio Sotolongo, Thomas Kleinpeter, Thomas Webre, Frank DePaula, Pauline Evangeline Staempfli Morgan, Henry Anthony Lanclos, Art Henriksen; Special Intention: Carol Stack

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - 12 p.m.: Roy Tucker

Thursday, Feb. 12 - 8:45 a.m.: Marie Vutera

Friday, Feb. 13 - 12 p.m.: Marie and John Grosch

Saturday, Feb. 14 - 4:30 p.m.: Ernest Bonaccorso Jr.

Sunday, Feb. 15 - 8 a.m.: STM Families, Friends and Neighbors; **10 a.m.:** Mickey Deville, Thomas Webre, Frank DePaula, Pauline Evangeline Staempfli Morgan; **5 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

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.)



**TUESDAYS AFTER THE
6:00 PM MASS**
FEB. 10, 24,
MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
APR. 7

**Come, Lord Jesus!
Lenten Journey
Informational Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 11
Mother Teresa Rm
9 am or 6 pm**



Thank You for Christmas Flower Donations

Margo Murphy, in memory of Dugas, Raiford, Murphy, and Ellis Families; M/M Ricky Rinaudo, in memory of M/M Joseph Rinaudo Jr., M/M Anthony Vitale, M/M Donald DeVille; Maxine Gray, in memory of Myrtress and James Landry, Barbara and Debra Landry, James Richard Landry, Brenda Landry, and Henrietta D.; M/M Robert Robinson, in memory of M/M John Pecoraro Sr.; M/M Nhan Le; M/M Alvin Madere, in memory of Newman Roblin and Paula Roblin; Russ Vegas; M/M Jean Baptiste Dodor; M/M Daniel Killeen, in memory of Manuel Fernandez, Gloria Killeen, James Killeen, Maria Lourdes Fernandez, Robert Ryan, Steve Fernandez; Gloria Vutera, in memory of Louis Vutera; Virginia Moore; M/M Bruce Hernandez, in memory of Veronica and Noah Laurent, Ray Laurent, and Mable and H.C. Hernandez; Mary Coco, in memory of Dottie and Leo Coco, Irene and Joe Gyan, James L. Coco; Richard Ulrich, in memory of Charlotte Ulrich, Ruth Ulrich, Donald Ulrich; Aida Fernandez; M/M Hosea LaFleur, in memory of Lilly Marie Cancienne, M/M Thomas Day Sr., Therese Abadie LaFleur; Barbara Sanders; Judith Whitt, in memory of Eunice Diaz Family, Henrietta DuBois Family, Alvin J. Lopez Sr. Family, Ida Esnard Family; Teenie Bajon, in memory of Calvin Bajon, Lena and Joe Maggio, Elodie and Sidney Bajon, Donia Marie Harrell; Mrs. J.T. Meyer, in memory of Thelma and Lois Abadie; Billie Boltin; M/M Donnie Hayes, in memory of Carlos Hayes, Paige Battley, Nicole Hayes, Veronica Victorian; M/M Jose Vasquez, in memory of loving family members; M/M Joseph D. Nguyen, Paul Maria T. Nguyen, Theresa Maria Nguyen, Anathaxio S. Nguyen, Joseph Q. Nguyen; Joan Carona, in memory of Jack Carona and Anna Thrower; Myra Broussard, in memory of Rose Broussard, Nicholas W. Broussard Sr. and Joshua J. Roussell; M/M Don Linarello; M/M Shawn Luke; M/M Dana Vutera; M/M Edgardo Merle; M/M David Bonaventure, in memory of Agnes and Harold Sillinger and Family, Olepty and Jack Bonaventure; Ms. Lindel Brown, in honor of Jesse Cannon, and in memory of Ruth Cannon, Weldon Prophet and Lorraine Prophet; Gerrie Villemarette, in memory of Mona Villemarette and Stewart Villemarette; Suzanne Cronan, in memory of Larry Cronan, Wilma, Joseph and Michael Cronan, and Marguerite and Teddy Peno; M/M Clyde Martin III, in memory of Henry, Delia, Stella, Marie and Michael Mugeot, Clyde Martin Jr., Kathleen Martin, and Don Redding; Joanne Day, in memory of Mike, Anne, Michael, and George Gaydos, and Raymond Day; M/M Joseph LeJeune Jr.; M/M Stipo Matkovic, in memory of Fabien and Sarafina Matkovic, Stjepan and Ruza Mrkeha; Sandy Baker, in memory of Mary Baker and Curtis Rousselle; Jules Noel, III; Jimmy Mathes' David Magee; Rene Mire; Julie Nguyen; Louis Lato; Veronica Stanek; Jill Vanlangendonck; Renee Scheurich; Geralyn Thibodeaux; Eric Thai; Susan Young; Giang Nguyen; Jose Villa; Dyra Hughes; Scott Murphy; Melissa Godso; Thomas Hoffman; Patrick Dietrich; Barry Hunt; James Pitchford; M/M Thomas Hirschey, in memory of Margaret Hirschey and John Scardina; Carol Roberts, in memory of Billy Roberts, Chad Roberts, Marie and Frank Schittone; M/M William Galloway, in memory of James McLin, Sybil McLin, Rose Broussard, and Jerelyn Mouch; Ethel Charrier, in memory of Curtis Charrier Sr., Craig, Keith Sr. and Jr. Charrier, Rosa and Carlos Lazarus; and the Cheek and Charrier Families; M/M Peter Chukwuemeka; M/M Frederick Russell; Rose Marie Cronin, in memory of Jerry Cronin, Rose Mary and Earl Millet, Mickey Millet, and Clarence Paul Millet; David Theophilus and Gwen Grass; M/M Bill Dow; Katherine Morris; M/M Ralph Drouin.



CHURCH STAFF

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Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon

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Mr. Rommell Richard

OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of **Diana Walker, Martha Belton, Susan Ricaud, and Richard Ramsey**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

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.

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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.

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

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