



February 15, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 7 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



IN JESUS IS REVEALED A NEW WISDOM,  
A NEW LAW, A NEW WAY OF LIVING.

HAPPY ARE THEY WHO CHOOSE TO KEEP HIS  
COMMANDMENTS AND FOLLOW HIS WAYS.

# A Letter From Our Pastor

## CHOICES



“...He has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand!”

These are powerful words that conjure up in my mind images of Charleston Heston as Moses in the classic film *The Ten Commandments*, delivering a final ultimatum from God to Pharaoh.

The verses which follow it are also quite profound and powerful:

Before man are life and death, good and evil,  
whichever he chooses shall be given him.

Many challenges in our lives are not of our own making and are beyond our control, yet we all choose how we respond to them. What will we cherish, work for, live for, and be willing to die for? My grandmother was very fond of reminding us of this aspect of life for which we alone are responsible:

“You’ve got one thing in life no one can take from you; you have to give it up... that’s your good name! Your father fought to present it to you pure and clean, as did your grandfather and his father. It is up to you to cherish, protect, and pass it on to your children unblemished.”

And we are all named “Catholic!” Jesus became man to define it for us (as our Gospel illustrates today), died for it, and rose again to demonstrate its divine power and the eternal life it promises. Note our second reading: “Eye has not seen, ear has not heard...what God has prepared for those who love him.”

Every Sunday, at the ten AM Mass, we pray over and send off Catechumens who seek to walk fully with Jesus. Every other Sunday (through March, at the five PM Mass), we are joined by and pray for a fresh set of troops who have chosen to arm themselves in God’s righteousness and be sent to the spiritual battlefields of life and our world today. Please pray for our Catechumens and Confirmands and renew your own commitment to battle for the Truth of Christ in a world that increasingly seeks to dismiss Him, distort His instructions to us, and sow seeds of doubt about His unconditional love for each of us.

Choose wisely; choose Christ!

Blessings,  
*Fr. Eddie*

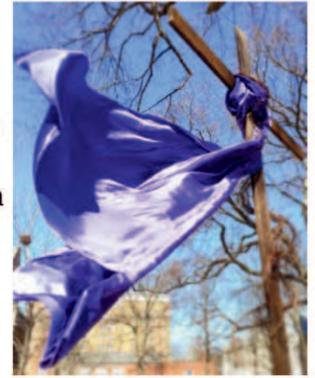
### Lenten Schedule Changes

To better serve our parishioners during Lent, please note the following changes:

- **Tuesday Confessions:** A new time for confession has been added at 5:00 pm before the 6:00 pm Mass.
- **Friday Daily Mass:** The Friday daily Mass will now be celebrated at 6:00 pm instead of 12:00 noon, allowing more parishioners to attend.
- **Stations of the Cross:** Journey with Jesus to Calvary this Lent by praying the Stations of the Cross with us on Fridays at 5:30 pm.

We invite everyone to take advantage of these opportunities for prayer, reflection, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lenten season.

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.



Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season.

In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.

For Ten Things to Remember About Lent, visit <https://www.usccb.org/resources/10-things-remember-during-lent>



*Repent and believe  
in the Gospel.*

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE - MASS W/DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 7:00 AM, 12 NOON, 6:00 PM**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

The church office is closed Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 16 & 17, for the Mardi Gras holiday.  
**There is no Mass or Novena on Mardi Gras Tuesday.**

### **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.



### **DIVINE MERCY NINE WEEK NOVENA TUESDAYS AFTER THE 6:00 PM MASS FEB. 10, 24, MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, APR. 7**



*"Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all it is a time of grace." -Pope Francis*

YOU'RE INVITED!

# LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5  
CHURCH & ACTIVITY CENTER**

8:45 AM MASS

9:30 - 10 AM COFFEE SOCIAL

10 AM - 11:15 AM REFLECTION

11:30 AM - LUNCH



The STM Senior Ministry, 55 & Alive, invites you to Mass followed by prayer and reflection by Fr. Eddie. Bring your Bible. Lunch will follow. **Registration is required by March 2.** Use the form below to register, or call the church office at 225.275.3940.



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

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

## *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).*



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 MAR. 13  
 MAR. 27



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**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. 17 - 6 p.m.:** No Mass
- Wednesday, Feb. 18 - 7 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **12 p.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **6 p.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors
- Thursday, Feb. 19 - 8:45 a.m.:** Diana Walker; Special Intention: Stacey Register
- Friday, Feb. 20 - 6 p.m.:** Frank DePaula
- Saturday, Feb. 21 - 4:30 p.m.:** Bobby Foulkas
- Sunday, Feb. 22 - 8 a.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends and Neighbors; **5 p.m.:** Pamela Ortego, Mary Ethel Landreneau, Pauline Evangeline Staempfli Morgan, Susan Ricaud; Special Intention: Stacey Register

**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

### Pastor

Rev. Eddie Martin

### Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

### Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

### Administration

Ms. Sarah Neau

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Mrs. Tricia Greely

### Religious Education

Ms. Bridget Day

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Mrs. Ellen Guidry

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Mrs. Daphne Bihm

### Music Director

Mrs. Mallory Sollie

### Sacristan

Mrs. Kay Fetterman

### Maintenance

Mr. Alex Ho

### Custodial

Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

Mr. Rommell Richard



*Lenten Retreat*  
ON THE  
*Blessed Mother*

SATURDAY, FEB. 21  
12:00 PM  
STM CHURCH

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HOSTED BY FR. MAYNARD E. HURST, JR.  
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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 (Rosary @ 11:30 am)

Thursday: 8:45 am

Friday: 12 noon (6 pm during Lent)

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 pm Vigil

Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm

### RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays of Lent from 5:00 - 5:45 pm

Wednesdays from 11:15 - 11:45 am;

Thursdays from 8:00 - 8:30 am

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

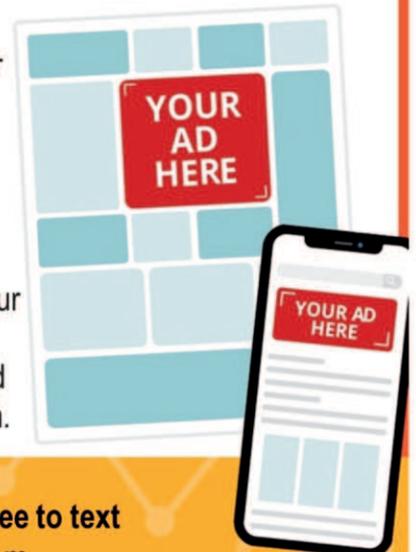
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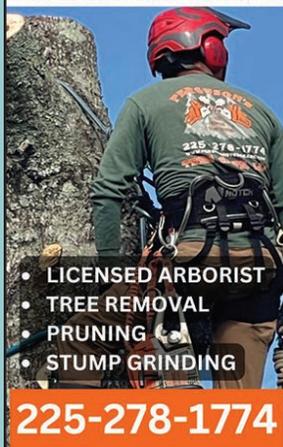
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