



February 22, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 8 | First Sunday of Lent



A Letter From Our Deacon

“For if, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign... how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace... come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.” (Rom 5:15)



We are given readings on this first Sunday of Lent that call us to pay attention to our own temptations toward sin. As we make our plans for our Lenten observances of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, it is important to understand how dependent we are on the Holy Spirit’s intervention in our lives to make those observances fruitful. In and of themselves, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving do little to affect our souls. Our observances of Lent are only effective when *we unite our efforts with the work of Jesus through the Holy Spirit*. His work, His sacrifice, offers us an abundance of grace, and it is through this grace that our efforts then become effective, meaningful, and valuable to our own spiritual lives and, thereby, to those we touch.

As John Henry Cardinal Newman writes, “He has not created me for naught,” but to do His work in the lives of those around us—our families, friends, and community. We will best accomplish this by growing closer to God over this Lenten season through surrendering ourselves. In a world that teaches only to care for ourselves, surrendering is very countercultural and, frankly, hard. Let us manage, then, our expectations—Lenten practices are hard. Setting aside time to pray; fasting from meals, particular foods, or from eating between meals; and/or identifying and giving monetary support to those in need beyond our normal commitments are all very difficult. We must engage the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Helper, to gain the strength needed to be successful this Lent.

Here is a Holy Spirit prayer that, if you commit to praying it, will yield results:

O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore You. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do. Give me Your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that You desire of me and to accept all that You permit to happen to me. Let me only know Your will.

Our merciful God seeks only to liberate us from anything that separates us from Himself and His work. I pray that we can all surrender ourselves to Him with the help of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Deacon Paul

LENTEN FISH FRY

FEB. 27
MAR. 13
MAR. 27

JOIN US FOR GREAT
FOOD & FELLOWSHIP!

FISH FRY FRIDAYS
FEB. 27, MAR. 13 & 27

Drive-thru
Activity Ctr
5-5:30pm

Dine-in
Cafeteria
5:30-7:30 pm

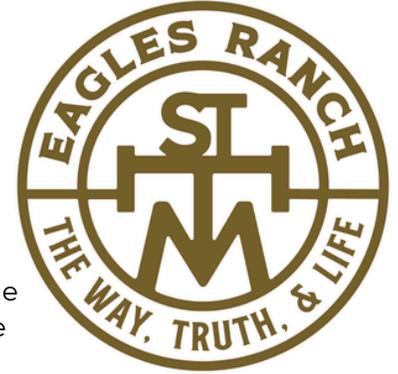
\$10/plate



NO PRESALES
CASH, CHECK &
VENMO ACCEPTED
SWEETS & DRINKS
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE
IN THE CAFETERIA

DELICIOUS FRIED FISH, FRENCH FRIES, COLE SLAW & ROLL

Eagles Ranch
The Way, Truth, & Life
The 45th Annual
St. Thomas More Parish Festival
May 1, 2, & 3, 2026



The 45th Annual St. Thomas More Parish Festival is coming soon! The theme is **Eagles Ranch – The Way, Truth, and Life**. Eagles Ranch is a reflection of the STM Parish community, one shaped by purpose, service, and an example set by those before us as a standard of hard work. We pitch in and help rather than standing on the sidelines. Through loss, floods, joyful fellowship, volunteering, and everyday parish life, the involvement reveals a deeper, richer parish family and reflects the Church as it was intended. *The Way, the Truth, and the Life* (John 14:6) is a lived legacy of the varied gifts, yet the same Spirit that calls the STM community to be part of Eagles Ranch. Festival weekend is filled with **fellowship**; **great food** (American, Italian, Cajun, Vietnamese, funnel cakes, and sweets); **drinks** (soft drinks, iced tea, lemonade, beer, wine, and daiquiris); **games** (ranging in skill levels); **rides** (catering to all ages); and plenty of **live music**. Please watch for additional details about the weekend that will be announced soon!

Something new this year—the Festival will be paperless. Booths will process debit/credit card payments. Additionally, funds can be loaded onto a payment bracelet to use around the fairgrounds for anyone without card access. Please know that clearer details will be shared as the event gets closer. This change will make transactions smoother, and we know you will enjoy the convenience.

If you are feeling lucky, we invite you to take a chance on one of the annual raffles:

- The **\$10,000 Raffle - FIVE winners** will be drawn (1) \$10,000; (1) \$1,000; (1) \$500; and (2) \$250. Only 400 Tickets will be sold!
- The **Big Ticket Raffle** is a deep freezer and a \$2,500 credit for beef meat cuts of your choice. You get to stock your freezer with the best farm-to-table beef available.
- The **Cash Raffle** includes four prizes: \$3,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250.
- The **Festival Prize Pack Raffle** includes 2 weekend ride bracelets, 4 T-shirts, and \$100 in Festival credit. This raffle will be drawn on or around March 11, 2026.

More information about the raffles and ticket sales will be shared soon. **All merchandise, raffle tickets, ride bracelets, and the volunteer sign-up can be found online at www.stmfestival.com!** The coming weeks will feature articles focusing on the various aspects of the Annual Festival.

The STM Annual Festival is an event for old friends, new friends, family, and fellowship. This event only exists with volunteers. Every contribution helps to make this event a success; your time is valued, from the chairman to a single booth shift. **Please consider volunteering** for a couple of hours during the 2026 Annual Festival, which benefits our community, parish, church, and schools. **Please email stmchurchfestival@gmail.com or contact Cory Burns if you want to help!**

There are many sponsorship opportunities for your business—now's the time to lock in yours! If you have any other questions concerning the Festival, please feel free to contact any member of the 2026 Festival Committee.

2026 Committee Members

Chairman – Connor Uffman (2026) (225) 229-0534 csuffman@icloud.com

Food & Beverage – Eric Bradley (2027) (225) 610-3090 lenllc@icloud.com

Games & Merchandise – Cory Burns (2028) (225) 333-1019 Coreyburns0@icloud.com

Manpower – STM Men's Club – JP Gaspard (225) 329-5844 Jpgaspard18@gmail.com

Marketing & Communications – Sara Kleinpeter (225) 235-2332 sara.kleinpeter@gmail.com

Find Us Here: Web: <http://www.stmfestival.com/> Facebook: [stmchurchfestival](https://www.facebook.com/stmchurchfestival) Instagram: [@stmbrevents](https://www.instagram.com/stmbrevents)

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAYS IN LENT | 5:30 PM**



"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



**Help Us Prepare the
St. Joseph Altar!**

This year, our St. Joseph Altar is bigger than ever and will be held in the Activity Center Halls! We need your help to make it beautiful and meaningful.

We are looking for:

- *Food & Baked Goods: fig cookies, bread for eating, decorative bread, cakes in the shape of a lamb and a cross, dead bones cookies, marinated vegetables, deviled eggs, cannolis*
- *Produce & Trays: assorted whole fruits and vegetables for decorating, and fresh fruit trays, vegetable trays for consuming*
- *Other Items: lilies, religious items*
- *Volunteers: to set out food, help serve hot lunch, oversee the altar, and assist with clean-up*

Sign up online at stmbr.org/news/altar or call the church office. Your generosity brings our St. Joseph Altar to life!

YOU'RE INVITED!

**LENTEN
MORNING OF
REFLECTION**

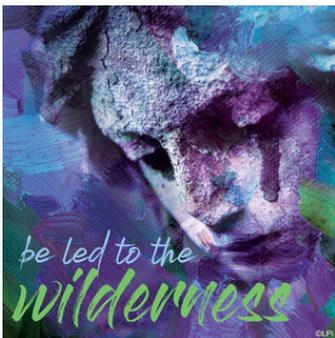
**THURSDAY, MARCH 5
CHURCH & ACTIVITY CENTER**
8:45 AM MASS
9:30 - 10 AM COFFEE SOCIAL
10 AM - 11:15 AM REFLECTION
11:30 AM - LUNCH

The STM Senior Ministry, 55 & Alive, invites you to Mass followed by prayer and reflection by Fr. Eddie. Bring your Bible. Lunch will follow.

Drop by or call the church office to register, 225.275.3940. Registration is required by Mar. 2.



**Lenten Challenge
for the 1st Sunday of Lent**



This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the

grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— Father John Muir, ©LPi

2026 STM FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

Pastalaya Dinners

SPONSORED BY: FESTIVAL CAJUN BOOTH



SUNDAY, MAR. 8 • 9 AM - NOON
ACTIVITY CENTER • CARRY OUT

CHICKEN, PORK &
SAUSAGE PASTALAYA,
WHITE BEANS, ROLL
\$10/dinner

NEW THIS YEAR:
BOUDIN EGG ROLLS
2 FOR \$4

PRESALES OPEN FEB. 23 | STMBR.ORG/NEWS/PASTALAYA

DONATING BLOOD DURING LENT IS A MEANINGFUL WAY TO LIVE OUT THE CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY TO CARE FOR THE SICK.

BY OFFERING A PART OF OURSELVES TO SAVE OR SUSTAIN ANOTHER'S LIFE, WE IMITATE CHRIST'S SELF-GIVING LOVE AND TURN SACRIFICE INTO LIFE-GIVING CHARITY.



Save the Date

*Save Lives!
Parish Blood Drive
Sunday, March 15
8 am - 12 noon*

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church was burned in memory of Frank DePaula the week of February 15, as requested by the DePaula family.

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Joseph B. Richard Sr. the week of February 22, as requested by Charlotte Couvillon.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Feb. 24 - 6 p.m.: Thomas Webre, Frank DePaula, Lynn Smith; Special Intention: Eugene Clement Family

Wednesday, Feb. 25 - 12 p.m.: David Zalfen

Thursday, Feb. 26 - 8:45 a.m.: Celise Hebert

Friday, Feb. 27 - 6 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory; Special Intention: Stacey Register

Saturday, Feb. 28 - 4:30 p.m.: Deceased Members of Chaplin, Dufrene, Davis and Bulot Families, Bobby Foulkas, Frank DePaula, Joseph B. Richard Sr., Lynn Smith

Sunday, Mar. 1 - 8 a.m.: Lally Ferro; 10 a.m.: Thomas Webre; 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, Kathie,

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
(Add/edit: receptionist@stmb.org.)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Eddie Martin

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

Administration

Ms. Sarah Neau

Formation/Liturgy

Mrs. Tricia Greely

Religious Education

Ms. Bridget Day

Executive Secretary

Mrs. Ellen Guidry

Receptionist

Mrs. Daphne Bihm

Music Director

Mrs. Mallory Sollie

Sacristan

Mrs. Kay Fetterman

Maintenance

Mr. Alex Ho

Custodial

Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

Mr. Rommell Richard

OUR PARISH FAMILY

BAPTISM

We extend a warm welcome into the Church family to the following children who were baptized at St. Thomas More during the month of January:

Lucas Jasildo Linguete, son of Justine and Lawrenz Linguete;
and

Isaac Anthony Pollet, child of Kayla and Mark Pollet.

STM MEN'S CLUB
SPORTSMAN RAFFLE
\$20 DONATION
8 CHANCES TO WIN WITH ONE TICKET
DRAWING: FRIDAY, MARCH 27
6 PM - AT THE LENTEN FISH FRY
-WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT-
FOR PRIZE & TICKET INFORMATION:
EMAIL STMBRMENSCLUB@GMAIL.COM
Firearms provided by Precision Firearms & Indoor Range
-CASH VALUE OPTION AVAILABLE-
MEN DOING MORE

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 (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.

Emergencies After Hours:

Please call 225.275.3940 and follow voicemail instructions