



March 1, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 9 | Second Sunday of Lent



From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, HEAR HIM.

A Letter From Our Pastor

TRANSFIGURATION OR TRANSFORMATION?



Our readings this week are all about transformation. We should all be in the middle of a transformation this Lenten season as we strive to distance ourselves from everything that is self-serving or of the world, as we focus on those things that endure forever. Things like selfless acts of kindness and love—authentic Kingdom building.

Abram is selected by God to be the person from whom God's people will emerge and fill the earth. But he is told he must leave all of his comforts, family, home, and support and be completely dependent and trusting in Him as he journeys to a land unknown to him. God simply tells him He'll let him know when he has arrived at wherever he's headed. Talk about a leap of faith! More accurately, a transforming journey of faith. And Abram "went as the Lord directed him."

St. Paul heralds the great gift of immortality Christ has brought us. It's odd... if someone invented a pill that would give us human immortality, how hard would we fight for it, and what wouldn't we give in exchange to escape death? Yet Christ promises us DIVINE immortality in heaven, with Him and all our loved ones who have gone before us (at least those who passed the judgment seat). No pain, no suffering, and the beatific vision—living as we were originally created to live. Yet we aren't nearly as excited or energized about securing that existence. Our choice is much like the one offered Abram: "Come to an unknown land; have faith in me, and great things await you." Are we ready to leave the trappings of this world behind and make the same leap of faith?

Will we miss out on seeing Jesus, Elijah, Moses, and OURSELVES transformed into the glorious state Peter, John, and James were blessed to witness at the Transfiguration?

A holy transformation to each of you this Lent!

Blessings,
Fr. Eddie

If you enjoy listening to our local Catholic Radio station, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a pledge during the "STM" portion of the drive. Your support helps continue the important work of sharing the Gospel through Catholic radio in our community. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting this ministry!

A promotional graphic for the Spring Pledge Drive. It features a portrait of Fr. Eddie Martin on the left. To the right, the text reads: "MARCH 4", "8:30-9 AM", "• LIVE", "FR. EDDIE MARTIN", "PASTOR, ST. THOMAS MORE BATON ROUGE, LA". At the bottom, it says "690am | 1380am | ccmedia.live" with "NEW ORLEANS", "BATON ROUGE", and "LISTEN LIVE" below it. A heart icon with a cross is in the top right corner.

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



We're excited to continue sharing details about our upcoming Parish Festival! Make plans now to join us for a wonderful weekend of fellowship, family fun, and celebration. Enjoy delicious food (American, Italian, Cajun, Vietnamese, sweets & funnel cakes), refreshing drinks, games for all ages, rides, and live music all weekend long.

New This Year: The Festival will be paperless! All booths will accept debit/credit cards, and reloadable payment bracelets will be available for your convenience. More information will be shared soon.

Be sure to get your raffle tickets:

- \$10,000 Raffle – Only 400 tickets sold; five winners!
- Big Ticket Raffle – Deep freezer + \$2,500 beef credit
- Cash Raffle – \$3,000, \$1,000, \$500 & \$250 prizes
- Festival Prize Pack Raffle

Volunteers are the heart of our Festival — please consider signing up for a shift. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Visit our newly redesigned website at www.stmfestival.com for full details, raffle information, merchandise, ride bracelets, and volunteer sign-ups. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming weeks!

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GOSPEL REFLECTION

When I sit down to answer emails or write a Gospel reflection or return a phone call, I sometimes wonder: Does any of this humdrum work matter? Maybe you ask the same thing about your daily labor. Today's Gospel, the Transfiguration, offers a surprising answer. Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain. There, "his face shone like the sun face and his clothes become white as light" (Matthew 17:2). That detail regarding his clothes is worth considering.

We know Jesus' body is inseparably united to the divine nature. But his clothing? That's something made by human hands. It's an artifact. And yet it shines with the same uncreated light. What does this detail mean? The early Church noted that Adam and Eve's first act after the Fall was to make clothing. This clothing symbolizes all human labor that supports our dignity. In Jesus' glorified garments, we see not just the redemption of our body, but of human effort to protect and uplift human dignity.

Parents, your family is your work. Baristas, plumbers, nurses, accountants — your labor, your emails, your phone calls, your spreadsheets — can all become radiant when offered to God in love. The question isn't just do I believe in Jesus' glory, but do I believe he can share it with the work of my hands?

— Father John Muir, ©LPi



Lenten Challenge for the 2nd Sunday of Lent

Identify the "artifact" you are making to uplift the dignity of others: your job, your home, your relationships. Consciously bring it to the Lord this Sunday at Mass. Offer it to share in His glory. It will begin to shine.

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LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5
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8:45 AM MASS

9:30 - 10 AM COFFEE SOCIAL

10 AM - 11:15 AM REFLECTION

11:30 AM - LUNCH

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

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

Retrouvaille is a Christian-based, Catholic-in-origin peer ministr that helps couples facing serious challenges in their marriage. This program has helped save thousands of marriages and offers hope, healing, and practical tools for renewal.

A representative from Retrouvaille will be making a brief pulpit address this weekend to share more about this important ministry.

For more information, call 1-800-470-2230, visit HelpOurMarriage.org.

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SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Mona Villemarette the week of Mar. 1, as requested by Gerrie Villmarette.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Charles Junot the week of Mar. 1, as requested by Nancy Junot.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Mar. 3 - 6 p.m.: Frank DePaula, Helen Fox, Thomas Webre, Bobby Foulks

Wednesday, Mar. 4 - 12 p.m.: Susan Ricaud

Thursday, Mar. 5 - 8:45 a.m.: Harold John Cannon

Friday, Mar. 6 - 6 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, Mar. 7 - 4:30 p.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

Sunday, Mar. 8 - 8 a.m.: Helen Fox;
10 a.m.: Onelio Sotolongo; **5 p.m.:** Frank DePaula

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, Mark Landry

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)

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Sign up for the e-newsletter on our parish website, under [Links/Resources](#)



youtube.com/stthomasmorebatonrouge

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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 appointment -

Emergencies After Hours:

Please call 225.275.3940 and follow voicemail instructions

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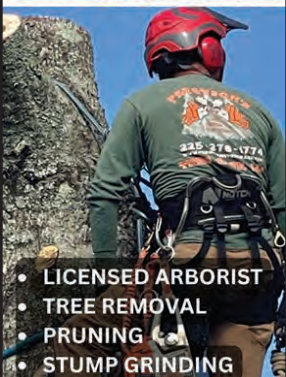
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