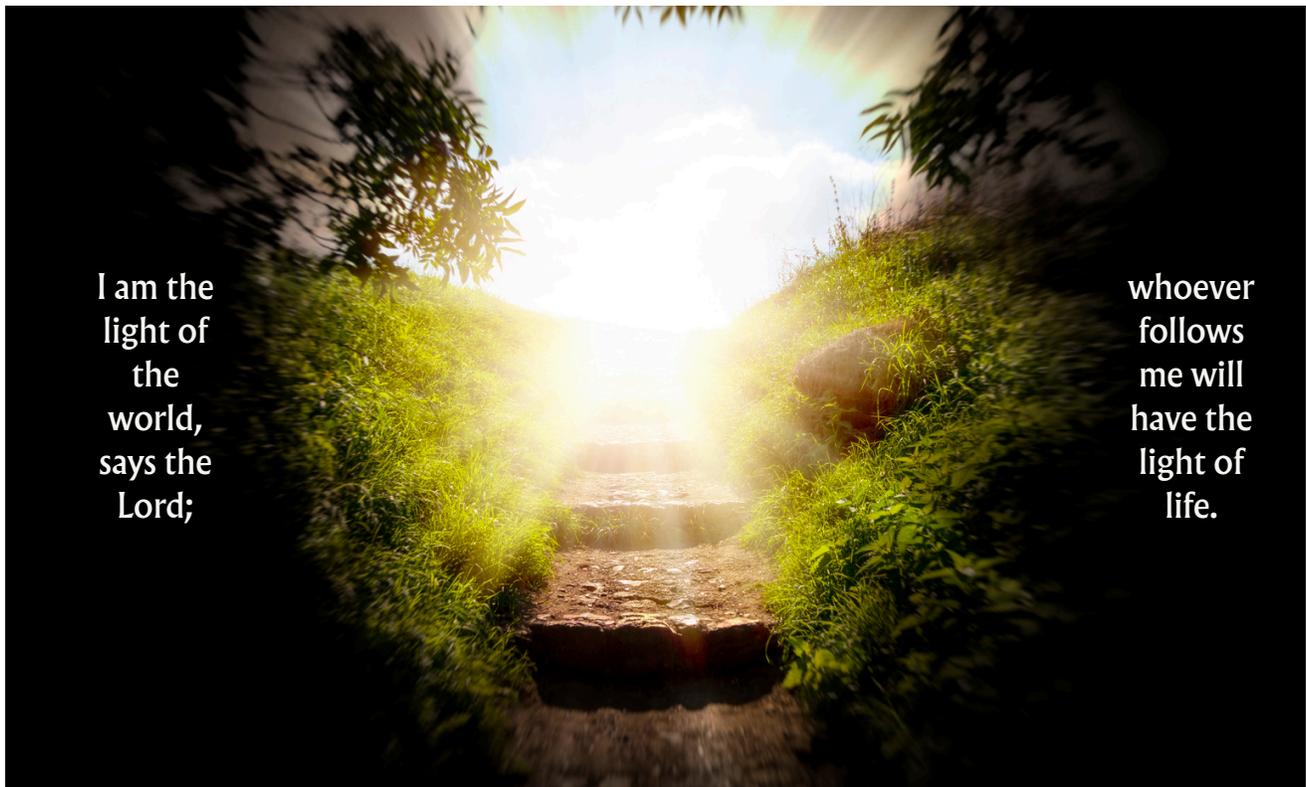




March 15, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 11 | Fourth Sunday of Lent



I am the
light of
the
world,
says the
Lord;

whoever
follows
me will
have the
light of
life.

A Letter From Our Deacon



"I didn't see that coming!"

As we live our daily lives, many times we have things happen to us that we just never expected, never even thought could happen, or never saw coming. This could be as simple as a flat tire on your vehicle as you are getting ready to go to work, or as impactful as the loss of a job or an unplanned pregnancy. We know these things will happen to each of us; it's just a matter of when, not if.

During Lent, we are challenged to surrender our lives to God through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. We begin Lent by acknowledging our sinfulness and the need to repent. The Church encourages us to reconcile ourselves with each other and with God through the sacraments, particularly Confession. These practices help change us so that when the unexpected happens, we can respond by surrendering to God, recognizing that while we still control what we can, we can confidently know that, regardless of the outcome, God's will be done.

This is the lesson from the readings today: surrender. As the Lord proclaims to Samuel, "Not as man sees does God see..." We can't know what God has in mind for us as we work through the difficulties of our lives. We can only know that He will make "all things new." St. Paul reinforces our need to not worry and to surrender when he says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." Jesus is our light in the dark moments of our lives, during those unexpected times—even those unexpected windfalls. When we surrender to Him, He will show us the way. As Jesus does for the blind man in the Gospel, He will always heal our blindness and show us the way.

"I didn't see that coming," but our God did! Trust in Him and know that He has already done the hard work. We just need to surrender ourselves to His will.

May you continue to be renewed this Lenten season!

Deacon Paul

**DIVINE MERCY
CHAPLET NOVENA
FOLLOWING 6PM MASS
TUESDAYS THRU APR. 7**

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



Fish Fry Friday!

March 27, 2026

5-5:30 pm | Act. Ctr. Drive-thru

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

\$10/fried fish, fries, cole slaw, roll

cash, check and Venmo

45th Annual St. Thomas More Parish Festival

May 1–3, 2026

Eagles Ranch: The Way, Truth & Life

Join us for a weekend of fun at the 45th Annual St. Thomas More Parish Festival, happening May 1–3, 2026! This year’s Eagles Ranch theme reflects a community shaped by purpose, service, and the example of those before us who set a standard for belonging to the STM Community by actively pitching in rather than standing on the sidelines watching.

We’re excited to introduce a **paperless system** for purchasing food, drinks, and parish games—making it easier and faster for everyone to enjoy the festival. Simply load your festival account and use it throughout the event—no cash needed!

Festival highlights include:

- Raffles – Win amazing prizes and treasures.
- Merchandise – Take home festival keepsakes.
- Carnival Rides – Fun for all ages.
- Live Music - *Pants Party, Mike Broussard and the Night Train, Black Crab Redemption*
- Parish Games – Test your skills in our very own carnival challenges.
- Delicious Food & Drinks – Enjoy mouthwatering dishes, treats, and drinks.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for a weekend of community, laughter, and ranch life fun. Celebrate **45 years of tradition** and fun at Eagles Ranch – a festival you won’t want to miss!

Visit **STMFESTIVAL.COM** to purchase raffle tickets, browse merchandise, and learn about volunteer opportunities. While you’re there, take some time to explore our newly redesigned website—you’ll enjoy navigating all the festival content! We’re especially excited about the great work done on the site by RHM, Robert Hebert Media.



stmfestival.com

ST THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Enroll Now

for 2026-2027

stmbr.org/apply

Limited availability for qualified candidates in PK3 through 8th grade and ACCESS Special Education Program (2nd - 8th)

Schedule your private family tour at stmbr.org/tourSTM

11400 Sherbrook Dr. • Baton Rouge, LA 70815 • 225-275-2820



Vacation Bible School Rainforest Falls

June 15–19, 2026

We’re getting ready for an amazing week with our kids – and we need volunteers to make it happen!

Volunteer sign-up is open now:

stmbr.org/news/vbs

Participant registration opens on April 16.



ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

March 19th, 2026

Come celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph

STM Activity Center

9:30 - 5:00 pm

Altar blessing @ 10:00 am



St. Joseph Feast Day Schedule

8:45 AM | Daily Mass (Church)

9:30 AM | Fellowship After Mass (Coffee Shop)

10:00 AM | Altar Blessing (Parish Hall)

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Public Viewing & Devotion

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Traditional St. Joseph Gravy Lunch Served

A Remembrance Table will be included at the St. Joseph Altar to honor loved ones who are no longer with us. Families are invited to bring a framed photo of their loved one. Please write your name on the back of the frame and drop it off at the church office by Tuesday, March 17.



MOBILE BLOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 8 AM - 12 NOON

ACTIVITY CENTER PARKING LOT

~ FREE T-SHIRT FOR DONORS~

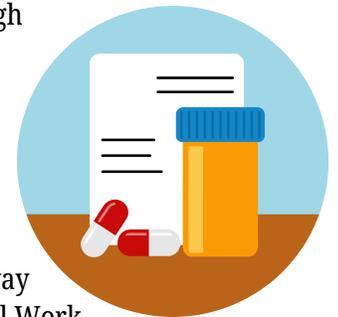
SVDP Prescription Campaign | March 21 - April 5

STM will take part in the St. Vincent de Paul Prescription Campaign from March 21 through April 5 (Easter Sunday) to help neighbors in need afford essential medications. Many individuals and families in our community struggle to pay for the prescriptions they depend on for their health and well-being.

Donation canisters will be placed in the back of the church throughout the campaign to receive contributions. Gifts from parishioners help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul provide life-sustaining medications to those who might otherwise have to go without.

As we continue our Lenten journey and approach the joy of Easter, this is a meaningful way to live out our faith. By supporting the Prescription Campaign, we participate in the Corporal Work of Mercy of caring for the sick, offering compassion and hope to those who are suffering.

Thank you for your generosity. 🙏



Day of Adoration AND Penance Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 26
IN THE CHURCH

ADORATION: 9:30 AM-6 PM

PENANCE: 6 PM-7:30 PM

If you can commit to a full hour of Adoration on the 26th, please sign up at stnbr.org/news/adoration. Otherwise, visit the Blessed Sacrament whenever you can.



Southeast Baton Rouge Coalition
St. Jean Vianney St. Thomas More St. Patrick

Registration now open!
Women's ACTS Retreat #4: June 4-7, 2026

First Come/First Served
Home parishes Preference
Women's Registration Deadline: Sunday April 12th at midnight

Women's Link to Register:
<https://forms.gle/h4Znuj5zhmFdU9YC8>

Questions: Contact Retreat Director
mcstarks1@gmail.com



SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Barry Sanders the week of Mar. 15, as requested by family.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Mar. 17 - 6 p.m.: Chu Van Tran and Choe Thi Le, Ngac Van Tran and Tin Thi Nguyen, Dang Van Xuyen
Wednesday, Mar. 18 - 12 p.m.: Kristen Dugas
Thursday, Mar. 19 - 8:45 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Friday, Mar. 20 - 6 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, Mar. 21 - 4:30 p.m.: Vincent Dubroc
Sunday, Mar. 22 - 8 a.m.: Marie and John Grosch; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **5 p.m.:** Peck Abadie, Andrew Littlefield, Bobby DeAngelo, Frank DePaula

PRAYER LIST

FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

Please remember in your prayers the following persons: Louis LaBauve, Margot Murphy, Laurie Bolanos, Becky Cline, Tim Bonin, Joe Bonin, Kathie, Mark Landry, Margaret Minton

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@stnbr.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

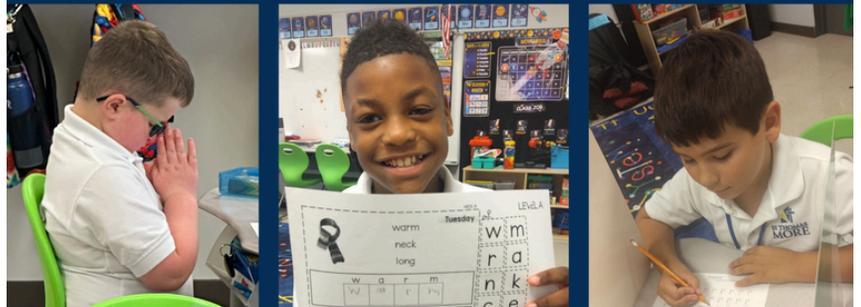


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for 2026-2027*



For more information and to apply:
stmbr.org/access

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STM website: stmbr.org



facebook.com/stmchurchbr



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



[youtube.com/
stthomasmorebatonrouge](https://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 appointment -

Emergencies After Hours:

Please call 225.275.3940 and follow voicemail instructions