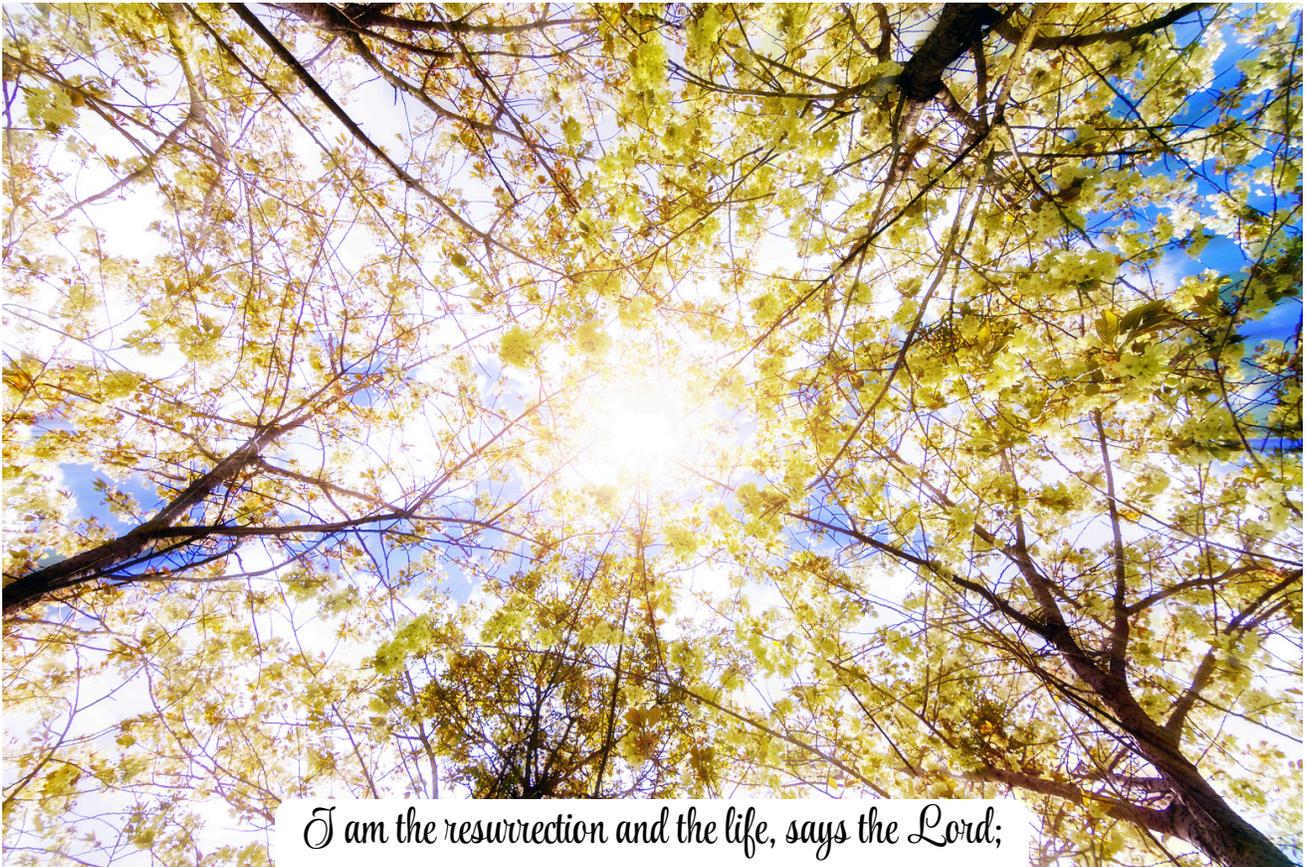




March 22, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 12 | Fifth Sunday of Lent



*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.*

A Letter From Our Pastor

The Ultimate Near-Death Experience!

Today, Lazarus experiences the ultimate near-death experience: **HE DIES!** Not just for a few seconds or minutes, as most of us are familiar with today, but for four days!

Today also offers one of the more challenging-to-understand Bible verses:

“Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was.”



What??? When we hear that someone we love is in very great need, don't we drop everything and hustle to their aid immediately? Especially the great miracle worker who has performed miracle after miracle and healed stranger after stranger. Instead, we are told that **because** Jesus loved Lazarus so much, he sat on his can and did absolutely nothing for two days! That's a head-scratcher for sure on the surface level.

What Jesus chose to do was to give Lazarus an experience that no one else on this earth has ever had or likely will ever have. He had already raised Jairus' daughter and the widow's son from the dead, but they were both only recently passed—within minutes or hours of their last breath. Medical expertise being what it was in those days, a person wasn't considered undeniably dead until three days had passed. Jesus even threw in an extra day so there would be no doubt of Lazarus' demise.

He shows Lazarus that we don't live for this life, but the next. What a gift! How fearless of this life's threats and anxious for the next life he must have been after being raised!

Two verses later, we are told that so many came to believe after witnessing this event that Lazarus joined Jesus on the hit list of the Pharisees and Sadducees (especially the Sadducees, who did not believe in an afterlife). Yet some who witnessed this miracle of miracles still did not believe and, in fact, went immediately to the Sanhedrin and essentially announced, “**Guess what He's done now!**” This is even more puzzling to me than Jesus remaining idle for two days—not just on the surface, but as I ponder it. Imagine being so hardened of heart that you see a man raised from the dead and don't stop to think, *Wait a minute, maybe I'm backing the wrong horse here. I'd sure like a chance at eternal life!* Instead, they acknowledge and **lament** that he is working many great signs, and soon the entire nation will be following him.

Notice that not only do the Pharisees not get it, but neither do the Apostles or Martha, at least not in full. He has to spell out what is going on to both the Apostles and Martha. This is a common theme of John's Gospel—Jesus has let us in on many things but didn't fully lay out every detail. Some things will remain mysteries to us. We're not meant or capable of understanding everything about him, the future, or His divine plan. We simply have to surrender and trust Him!

May each of us have the same deep-seated joy and peace about the future in Paradise that Lazarus experienced and that awaits us!

God bless,

Fr. Eddie

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

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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APR. 12
CHAPLET @ 4:00 PM

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

Day of Adoration and Penance Service

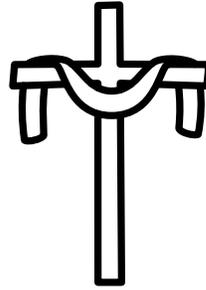
Thursday, March 26, 2026

STM Church

Adoration: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Penance: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

If you can commit to one full hour of adoration, please sign up at stmbr.org/news/adoration otherwise, visit the Blessed Sacrament whenever you can.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday - March 29, 2026

4:30 Vigil, 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Masses
Procession at 10 a.m. Mass - gather in the plaza

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31, 2026

Chrism Mass - 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral
Confessions - 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.
Daily Mass - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1, 2026

Confessions - 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.
Daily Mass - 12:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday - April 2, 2026

No morning Mass or Confessions | School Passion Play - 8:45 a.m. in the church
Perpetual Adoration suspended (chapel closed) — resumes Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7 p.m.
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Good Friday - April 3, 2026

Stations of the Cross - 12 noon
Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 4, 2026

Easter Vigil - 8 p.m.
Gather in the plaza for the lighting of the Easter fire

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

8 a.m. Mass and 10 a.m. Masses
No 5 p.m. Mass
The church office is closed April 3 and 6.



SANCTUARY LIGHTS

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Mar. 24 - 6 p.m.: Billy Roberts, Bertha St. Romain, Ann Jeanne

Wednesday, Mar. 25 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, Mar. 26 - 8:45 a.m.: Barry Sanders

Friday, Mar. 27 - 6 p.m.: James J. Smith

Saturday, Mar. 28 - 4:30 p.m.: Ronald Gauthier Sr., Ronnie Gauthier Jr., Thomas Kleinpeter, Evelyn and Jim Kessel, Bobby Foulkas, Frank DePaula, Joseph B. Richard Sr., Lynn Smith

Sunday, Mar. 29 - 8 a.m.: Joseph Abadie; **10 a.m.:** Elaine Valois; **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, 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, MA3 Larry Helmke, E-5 David Meyers, SGT Nicholas Lee, SSgt Carlos Burn, CPO John W. Arceneaux
(Add/edit: receptionist@stmbr.org.)

2026 FESTIVAL ★ EAGLES RANCH

★ MERCH ★

ORDER ONLINE

STMFESTIVAL.COM

Long Sleeved Performance
Shirts \$30



Festival T-Shirt
Adult/Youth \$20



PRE ORDER ONLY
Festival T-Shirt
Adult/Youth \$20

PRE ORDER ONLY
Festival T-Shirt Adult
\$20



Womens V-Neck
Adult \$30



20 oz Tumblers \$25

12 oz Tumbler
\$20



Trucker Hat
\$30

Relaxed Twill
Hat \$25



Koozies \$2

A limited amount of merchandise will be sold in the STM Activity Center on Thursday April 30th and Friday May 1st, 7-8 am. Preorder is recommended to guarantee size and availability.



FELLOWSHIP & BINGO

☀️ Rise and shine for Bingo!

Join the 55 & Alive Senior Ministry for a fun-filled morning with up to 30 exciting games and five chances to win amazing prizes! Prizes will be awarded for first through fifth place overall.

- Anticipate playing 30 games
- Games begin: 9:30am
- Coffee/Snack Break: 10:25 am
- Games resume: 10:35 am
- Games end: 11:30 am
- Seating: Open seating; players are encouraged to switch tables after the break

Name and Phone Number:

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When: Thursday, APRIL 9, 2026
Where: Activity Center
Time: 9:30am - 11:30am
Cost: Free

Registration Deadline: Apr. 3
You must register to be a winner.

Optional:
Bring light snacks that are easy to carry and share.

Use this flyer to register, or call the church office at 225.275.3940.

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST TO SHOUT BINGO?

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

SVDP Prescription Campaign

March 21 - April 5

STM is taking part in the St. Vincent de Paul Prescription Campaign through April 5 (Easter Sunday) to help neighbors in need afford essential medications. Donation canisters are in the back of the church 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.

Thank you for your generosity. 🙏

Fall 2026 Confirmation Registration for 7th and 8th graders opens April 30 and closes July 17. Parents are asked to please note that a mandatory parent meeting will be held on July 26, 2026.



Vacation Bible School Rainforest Falls | June 15-19

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 April 16.

Youth Gathering - April 17

Calling all students in grades 5-8! Join us on Friday, April 17, for a Youth Gathering, an afternoon filled with faith, friendship, and fun. Don't miss these upcoming hangouts held in the Activity Center. Registration is required. Visit stmbr.org/news/youth to register.



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 appointment -

Emergencies After Hours:

Please call 225.275.3940 and follow voicemail instructions