



April 5, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 14 | Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



A Letter From Our Pastor



Easter: The Event of All Time

There is a story about a man who often worked in his yard and always whistled—so loudly, in fact, others couldn't help but notice. It seemed he was trying to draw attention to himself. One day, a neighbor asked him why he always whistled so loudly. The man then took the neighbor into his home to meet his wife. The woman was not only an invalid but was completely blind as well. The man, you see, was whistling not for his benefit, but rather for the benefit of his wife. He wanted his blind wife to know that he was nearby and that she was not alone.

That is part of what we celebrate today: Christ is risen! He is near us. He has not been taken from the Apostles or from us. Neither have our deceased loved ones. I fondly remember Jennie, from her deathbed, telling our children and me not to mourn her passing: "I'll be in Paradise, having the time of my life. And I'll be able to bi-locate and won't have to choose just one of you to ride herd over; now none of you will be able to put anything past me!"

The bridge that takes us from despair to peace when we lose a loved one, when life seems unbearable, or when the walls seem to be crashing in, is the assurance of Christ's gift and promise of eternal life. He promised it. He demonstrated it. He lived it. And so should we!

Christ's resurrection and teachings give us a multitude of reasons to endure the trials of this world, a few of which include:

- + Our loved ones are not gone; they're gone ahead.
- + We can tolerate suffering and abuse in this world because everything is made right in the next.
- + Everything He taught is validated and to be held sacred.

The problem is, many of us have not encountered the risen Christ or fail to recognize Him when we do. He lives in His Sacred Word, in the Eucharist, and in each of us—even those "least of our brothers" we would prefer to avoid, condemn, and ignore. Sometimes, He even sends those we look down on to deliver a word, open our eyes, or present us with a charitable opportunity—actions that can be soul-saving. If you're looking for a Ted Nugent look-alike in a flowing robe, crossing himself, you'll miss Him for sure.

So let's get out there and encounter the Living Christ... He has risen and is walking among us!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessings,

Fr Eddie

Happy Easter

May the joy and hope of the Resurrection fill your hearts this season.

As we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death, we pray that His love brings peace, renewal, and blessings to you and your family.

With warm wishes and prayers,
Fr. Eddie and the Church Staff

The church office is closed on Monday, April 6th.



Eagles Ranch: The Way, Truth, & Life

The 45th Annual St. Thomas More Parish Festival

May 1, 2, & 3, 2026



[stmfestival.com](http://www.stmfestival.com)

Festival season is in full swing! We are excited about the winners of the festival prize pack raffle this year and to see such enthusiasm for this year's festival during the STM Fish Fry events throughout Lent. Banners will be up across the parish campus, and excitement is in the air. If you haven't already, please plan to come out and enjoy the 45th Annual STM Parish Festival: May 1, 2, & 3, 2026! Here are highlights of a few things that will be going on!

Again, this year, the STM Festival is cashless. NEW this year is an Eagle Band—a payment bracelet—in place of the paper festival bucks. More information about the Eagle Bands will be released soon. Please know that this change will make your festival experience easier and more convenient.

It's time to make your plans for the weekend! All merchandise, raffle tickets, ride bracelets, and the volunteer sign-up are available online at <http://www.stmfestival.com/>.

Merchandise

All items can be purchased online or inside the activity center on Thursday and Friday, April 30 and May 1, from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Pre-orders are recommended! **PRE-ORDER MERCHANDISE SALES END ON APRIL 5!** Order TODAY to ensure your sizes are available.

Raffle Tickets

If you are feeling lucky, we invite you to take a chance on one of the fabulous raffles that will be drawn during closing events on May 3, 2026:

- The \$10,000 Raffle: SIX winners will be drawn—(1) \$10k, (2) \$1,000, (1) \$500, and (2) \$250. Only 400 tickets will be sold! \$100 per ticket.
- The Big Ticket Raffle: \$2,500 toward locally raised beef, custom cut and packaged, plus a deep freezer. \$10 per ticket.
- The Cash Raffle includes four prizes: \$3,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250. \$10 per ticket.

Lisa Johnson is available to help with cash or Big Ticket raffles. Contact her at 225-802-3222 with any questions or to purchase tickets. Only 400 tickets are available for the \$10,000 raffle; to get yours, contact Dana Hebert at 225-572-0979. You may also purchase tickets by check made out to STM Festival, with exact cash in the church office, or by visiting www.stmfestival.com to buy raffle tickets today.

Ride Bracelets

The committee recommends that you purchase ride bracelets for your children. You can order them via the included form or online. Ride bracelets ordered in advance will be sent home with your student on the Thursday or Friday before the festival. Additional or companion bracelets will also be sent home with the student. We strongly recommend purchasing a companion ride bracelet to accompany younger children on rides they may not be tall enough for.

Volunteer

The STM Annual Festival brings together old friends, new friends, family, and fellowship. This parish event benefits our community, church, and schools—and it only exists because of volunteers. No contribution is too small; your time is valued, whether as a chairman or for a single booth shift. **Please consider volunteering for a couple of hours during the 2026 Annual Festival. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please email stmchurchfestival@gmail.com!**

A few sponsorship opportunities for your business are still available—ask us! If you have any other questions concerning the festival, don't hesitate 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 – Corey 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

Past Chairman – David Bordelon (2025) (225) 772-7921 david.bordelon@westonsolutions.com

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

Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated on April 12, a beautiful reminder of God's infinite love, mercy, and forgiveness for all. This special feast invites us to place our trust in Jesus and to turn to Him with confidence through the message of Divine Mercy.

As part of this devotion, we will pray Day 9 of the Divine Mercy Novena on Tuesday, April 7, immediately following the 6:00 p.m. Mass.

All parishioners are also invited to gather on Divine Mercy Sunday to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 4:00 p.m. The Chaplet is a simple yet powerful prayer, offered for mercy for ourselves and for the whole world.

Come experience the peace and grace of this special celebration, and entrust your intentions to the Lord's abundant mercy. All are welcome!



Jesus, I Trust in You!

SVDP Prescription Campaign Ends 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.

Life and Freedom in the Spirit

A Magnificat of BR & Marian Servants of BR Event
Presented by: Fr. Bill Henry
Music by: Mercy Beaucoup
When: Saturday, April 11, 2026
Time: 8 AM – 4 PM
Where: Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, BR
Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)

Begins with Mass at 8 AM, then continues in the parish activity center. Open to men and women.

Register by April 8: Scan QR code or email
marianservantsbr@gmail.com



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.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

There is no sanctuary light intention for the week of Apr. 5. If you are interested in burning the sanctuary light in memory of your deceased loved one, call the church office.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Apr. 7 - 6 p.m.: Harold John Cannon, Marian and Clarke Hughes, James Daily, John Hubbs

Wednesday, Apr. 8 - 12 p.m.: Onelio Sotolongo

Thursday, Apr. 9 - 8:45 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, Apr. 10 - 12 p.m.: Jude J. Dugas

Saturday, Apr. 11 - 4:30 p.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

Sunday, Apr. 12 - 8 a.m.: Barry Sanders, Lester Graves, Norris St. Romain, Ngac Van Tran and Tin Thi Nguyen, Chu Van Tran and Choe Thi Le, Dang Van Xuyen, Ann Jeanne ; **10 a.m.:** Helen Fox; **5 p.m.:** Deceased Members of Clement-Wale Family

PRAYER LIST

FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

Our prayer list is being refreshed to ensure it remains current. If you would like to add the name of an immediate family member, please contact Daphne in the church office after receiving permission to have their name shared publicly.

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.)

Fellowship & Bingo!

The 55 & Alive Senior Ministry invites you to a fun-filled morning of Fellowship and Bingo on **Thursday, April 9**, from **9:30 to 11:30 AM** in the **Activity Center**. Enjoy up to 30 exciting games with five chances to win prizes for 1st through 5th place overall. This event is free, but registration is required by April 3. Attendees are also welcome to bring snacks to share. Don't miss this opportunity for fun, prizes, and fellowship with friends!



Call the church office to register: 225.275.3940.

Experience The Chosen - Season 3 - at STM

Join us as we continue The Chosen, a powerful series on the life of Jesus told through those who knew Him. Directed by Dallas Jenkins, it's the largest crowdfunded TV series ever made.

Details:

Dates: Thursdays, April 16 – June 4 **Time:** 10 am – 12 pm

Location: Mother Teresa Room **Format:** Watch an episode + guided discussion with Scripture

Cost: Free (registration required) **Register:** 225-275-3940 **Capacity:** Limited to 30 participants

All are welcome—come grow in faith and invite a friend!



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



Children's Church April 12, 2026

Children's Church is a new ministry offered during the 10:00 a.m. Mass, providing age-appropriate faith formation during the Liturgy of the Word. Potty-trained toddlers through first graders are invited to participate.



"Let the children come to me..."
(Matthew 19:14)

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



Now hiring for the
2026-2027 school year

Band Director

part time



Go to stmbr.org/careers to download application and for submission instructions.

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