



April 26, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 17 | Fourth Sunday of Easter



Jesus said again,
**Amen, amen,
I say to you,**

**I am the gate for the sheep.
Whoever enters through me will be
saved, and will come in and go out
and find pasture.**

A Letter From Our Pastor



4th Sunday of Easter

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

These are the closing words of our Gospel this week. Please ponder them and ask yourself why we would ever choose to cherry-pick the teachings of Christ. The Creator of the Universe deigned to take on our lowly form so that He could show us, by the example of His own life, how to find purpose, fulfillment, and meaning—things no earthly pursuits will ever approach—and, as a bonus, secure joy for all eternity. What would He ever instruct us to do (or not do) that would not be for our benefit?

This is the same Jesus who serves as the head of our Church today, just as He did when He asked Saul on the road to Damascus, **"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"**

(NOTE: **me** = **Church**) (Acts 9:4).

Forgiveness, selflessness, and service to others are key teachings we would all agree on, although some of us might be hard-pressed to demonstrate our commitment to these values. But we, as a society, have turned our backs on some very important ones. Sex outside of marriage, the breakdown of marriage, and discrimination over exactly who qualifies as our neighbors are among the major ones that come to mind. And the sanctity of life, from conception to natural death, is not a battle that ended with the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Let us do everything in our power to hold fast to Christ's teachings in all these matters and to help others avoid succumbing to the "everybody else is doing it" mentality and other false mindsets that numb us to the dangers of ignoring Christ. No good ever comes from ignoring Christ; instead, brokenness and pain are the fruits of disobedience. We also place our eternal souls in jeopardy—not only by committing such sins, but by ignoring the moral decline of our society and failing to speak up, take action, and reach out to counter it. We are our brother's keepers.

American society, American society, why are you persecuting me?

Let's turn things around.

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Eddie

The 45th Annual St. Thomas More Parish Festival is NEXT WEEKEND!

Eagles Ranch is NEXT WEEKEND! The excitement is already building, and you'll begin to see the campus transform more and more with each passing day. The STM Festival Committee is excited to watch months of preparation come together and hopes you'll enjoy the continued improvements to this year's festival experience.

As we enter the final stretch, we're asking for your help during setup week. Volunteers are needed each day to assist with setting up games, booths, tents, and more. Our annual Set Up Saturday begins with prayer at 7:30 a.m. on April 25, followed by breakfast and then work. We invite you to come lend a hand. Throughout the rest of the week, crews will gather each evening at 4 p.m. to continue preparations. After the closing ceremony on May 3, help will also be needed to take everything down.



Festival programs will be available at stmfestival.com and at the main entrance of the church after Masses this weekend. These will include menus, booth information, and the full entertainment schedule.

- **Ride bracelets and merchandise will be sold in the Activity Center from 7:00–8:30 a.m. on Thursday (4/30) and Friday (5/1).** This is the final opportunity to purchase them before the festival begins.
- **Eagle Bands – NEW THIS YEAR – Tap & Go RFID wristbands will replace Festival Bucks as the cashless payment option for food, drinks, and games.** Attendees can preload funds online or add cash at designated locations. A one-time \$3 activation fee applies for online or card deposits. Eagle Bands can be picked up in advance at the church office through noon on Friday, May 1, or in the Activity Center on April 30 and May 1. They will also be available on-site throughout the weekend. Bands will be scanned at each booth, and credit/debit cards will be accepted at the Beer Booth.

Weekend Highlights:

Friday, May 1: Opening prayer and rides begin at 5 p.m.; Pants Party from 7–10 p.m.; field closes at 11 p.m.

Saturday, May 2: Rides open at 11 a.m.; Bingo from 12–2 p.m. and 3–5 p.m.; Mike Broussard & the Night Train from 3–6 p.m.; Blue Crab Redemption from 7–10 p.m.; field closes at 11 p.m.

Sunday, May 3: Rides open at 11 a.m.; student performances at 12 p.m.; Bingo from 1–3 p.m.; raffle drawing and closing ceremony at 4 p.m.

The Sweets Booth, located under the big tent this year, is looking for homemade treats for the weekend. This is an easy and fun way to volunteer—whether you bake cupcakes, cookies, pies, cakes, dessert bars, pralines, fudge, banana pudding, Mississippi mud, or sugar-free items. Donations can be dropped off Friday, May 1, from 7:20–8:00 a.m. in front of the Activity Center, or anytime during the festival at the booth. For questions, contact Megan Campagna at mscampagna@cox.net or 225-276-1257.

The Plant Booth welcomes plant donations to sell during the weekend. Donations can be dropped off at the booth just before the festival begins on Friday, May 1. For more information, contact Sterling or Liz Core at 936-5759.

The Book Booth is back for 2026! Donations can be placed in Book Bins around campus or brought to the church office. To arrange a drop-off or ask questions, contact Susan Weber at 225-907-4175 or Shari Ashe at 225-205-8486. The booth will be located in the STM Gym Lobby throughout the festival.

Most importantly, the festival depends on YOU. It's a celebration for the entire STM community, but it cannot happen without volunteers. If you're able to help in any way, please email stmchurchfestival@gmail.com or sign up at <https://www.stmfestival.com/volunteer>.

Festival Raffles:

Raffle tickets may be purchased online until 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, or at the Raffle/Merchandise Booth during the festival. Prizes include:

- **\$10,000 Raffle:** Six winners—\$10,000, \$1,000 (2), \$500, and \$250 (2). Only 400 tickets available at \$100 each.
- **Big Ticket Raffle:** A \$2,500 farm-to-table beef package, professionally processed and packaged, plus a deep freezer.
- **Cash Raffle:** Four prizes—\$3,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250; \$10 per ticket.

Tickets may also be purchased in advance at the church office (cash or check made payable to STM Festival). For assistance, contact Lisa Johnson (225-802-3222) for cash or big-ticket raffles, or Dana Hebert (225-275-0979) for the \$10,000 raffle.

Raffle tickets will also be sold after all Masses this weekend, April 25–26.

We extend a warm welcome to the following individuals who were received into the Church at the Easter Vigil:

Hilda Alonzo, Eric Ashley Blauvelt, Cameron Anthony Bobb, Griffin Paul Gulino, Tayla Tien Hinh, Tumi Tu-Mi Hinh, Andy Jose McDowell, Kesler Soto Mercado, and Jonathan Michael Psaila.

May they be strengthened by the grace of the Sacraments and continue to grow in faith, hope, and love within the life of the Church.

We joyfully congratulate our First Communicants and keep them in our prayers. May their first reception of the Holy Eucharist on April 19, 2026, be the beginning of a lifelong love for Jesus and a deeper unity with His Church.

Jaiden Akunne	Aria Evans	Alexander Pham
Gracen Bates	Joshua Foret	Aiden Pham
Olivia Berniard	Anna Maria George	Beckett Pilgrim
Amelia Blair	Josie Brynn George	Sarah Pitre
Elijah Braud	Caroline Goodner	Bailee Plummer
Mary Margaret Broussard	Asher Hagendorfer	Everett Pollet
James Bryant	Amelia Harrell	Henry Psaila
Mildred Burns	Olivia Huh	Maddux Robillard
Steven Calverley	Savannah Johnson	Riley Romano
Lincoln Campbell	Skylar Kelly	Jackson Sasich
Hudson Castille	Grant LaFleur	Clark Schaefer
Sylvie Catlett	Cora LeBouef	Noah Tassin
Kelsie Dang	Camden Loveless	Stella Tessier
Luke Davis	Alexis Lyons	Megan Thomas
Skilah Davis	Jack Morris	Taylor Tran
Olivia Do	Tierra Nguyen	Alexander Truong
Beckett Dornier	Juliet Odom	Luca Vargas
Phoenix Dornier	Emma Palazzo	Lucy Wandell
Audrey Ducote	Jennifer Perron	Connor Yates

Fall 2026 Confirmation Registration

Registration for 7th and 8th graders for Fall 2026 Confirmation opens April 30 and will close July 17.

Important: A mandatory parent meeting will be held on July 26, 2026. Parents are asked to attend to receive important information about the program, schedules, and preparation requirements.

Students and parents are encouraged to register early to ensure a smooth start to the Confirmation process. For questions or more information, please contact Bridget Day in the church office at 225-275-3940 or dayb@stmbr.org.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Calvin Bajon the week of Apr. 26 as requested by Teenie Bajon.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Jennifer Nates Martin the week of Apr. 26 as requested by Fr. Eddie Martin.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Apr. 28 - 6 p.m.: Mary Lois and Lester Graves, John Hubbs, Paula Ramagos, James J. Smith II, Anna Huong Nguyen, Josie Hebert; Special Intention: For the Sick

Wednesday, Apr. 29 - 12 p.m.: Glenn Silinger

Thursday, Apr. 30 - 8:45 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, May 1 - 12 p.m.: Onelio Sotolongo

Saturday, May 2 - 4:30 p.m.: Carolyn Perrault, Leward Ortego, Bobby Foulkas, Frank DePaula, Joseph B. Richard Sr., Calvin Bajon, Lynn Smith, Susan Ricaud; Special Intention: Gloria Vutera

Sunday, May 3 - 8 a.m.: Rose Rabalais; **10 a.m.:** Barry Sanders, Jennifer Nates Martin; **5 p.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

Kindly remember in your prayers the following individuals who are seriously ill: Louis LaBauve, Becky Cline

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 kennysar69@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, MASA Landry Helmke, E-5 David Meyers, SGT Nicholas Lee, SSgt Carlos Burn, CPO John W. Arceneaux (Add/edit: receptionist@stmbr.org.)

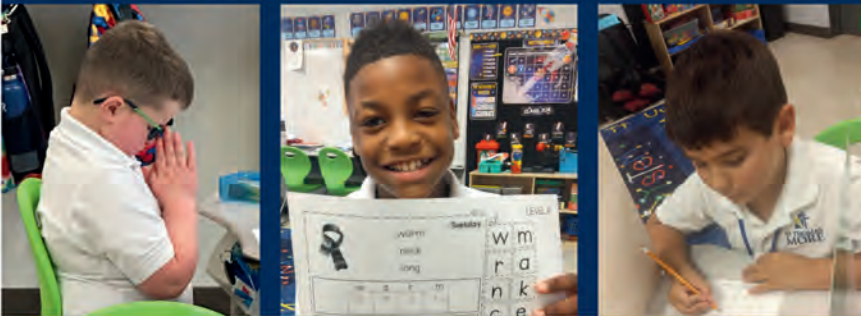


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Office Hours: Mon.- Thurs.: 8 am - 12 pm and 1 - 5 pm; Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 pm

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:

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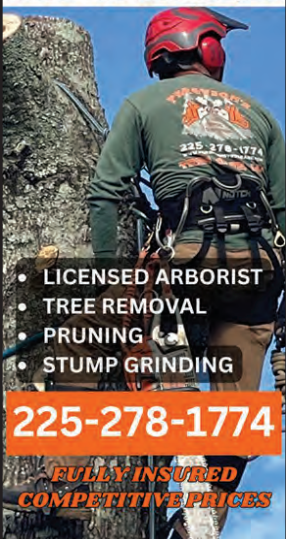
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