



May 17, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 20 | The Ascension of the Lord



A Letter From Our Deacon

Happy Graduation!



This past Thursday, May 14, marked the 40th day since Easter—mirroring the length of Lent, although it seemed to pass much more quickly! In much of the global Church, this day is when the Feast of the Ascension is celebrated. However, in much of the United States, including the Diocese of Baton Rouge, the feast is transferred to this Sunday, May 17. So, happy Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord!

It would be easy to relegate this feast to yet another celebration in the, as Bible scholar Jeff Cavins describes, “large pile of Catholicism” that we observe throughout the year. However, it should be ranked highly among the pivotal events in salvation history. It is truly the culmination of the Paschal Mystery, which consists of the events from Holy Thursday through Pentecost (which we will celebrate next weekend). As such, it should be a cause for great celebration and joy.

The timing of this feast within our school calendars is especially fitting, as it falls during the season of graduations for many—from kindergarten, 8th grade, high school, and university. The Feast of the Ascension is, in a sense, Jesus’ commencement speech to His Church. Just as students are not meant to remain in the grade level from which they are graduating, but are prepared for the next phase of school or the workforce, so too we, as the Church, have been prepared by Christ to continue the mission He began. We are sent into the world, just as students are sent into their futures.

Through His Ascension, Jesus completes His earthly mission and is exalted at the right hand of the Father. He does not leave us alone, but sends the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as our Advocate and Helper. At the same time, He continually intercedes for us with the Father as our eternal High Priest.

No matter how long it has been since your own graduation, most of us likely cannot name the commencement speaker—or even recall what they said. Let us take time this week to pay close attention to Jesus’ “commencement speech” given in this most sacred Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. And as the worship song proclaims, let us “go make a difference in the world” by bringing others to Christ and teaching them to observe all that He commands.

Blessings,

Deacon Paul



Family Prize Pack:

Sara DeBenedetto

10k Raffle Winners:

\$10K winner – Hunter Greene

\$1,000 winner – Jason Pilgrim

\$1,000 winner – Jimbo Martin

\$500 winner – Brittney Sanders

\$250 winner – Phillip Honore

\$250 winner – Sharon & Tom Mann

Cash Raffle Winners:

\$3,000 winner – Linda & Tom LeBlanc

\$1,000 winner – Joyce Maynor

\$500 winner – Jeanne & Joe Ingraham

\$250 winner – Gary Littlefield

Big Ticket Winner

Crystal Kleinpeter

Good Times & Great Memories - Festival 2026



View all festival pics at
facebook.com/stmchurchbr





55 & ALIVE BUS TRIP TO GRAND COUTEAU Tuesday, June 2, 2026

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **St. Charles Borromeo Church – Guided Visit** – This historic wooden church in Grand Coteau, attributed to New Orleans architect James Freret, is considered one of the region's architectural treasures. After Pope Pius IX approved the plans, the cornerstone was laid in 1879, and the distinctive rear belfry was added in 1886. Its rare Second Empire style, featuring a mansard roof, is unusual among American churches. Inside are a 3,104-pound bell and an extensive collection of stained glass, paintings, statues, and ornate altars.
- **Academy of the Sacred Heart – Guided Tour & Mass** – Founded in 1821 by the Religious of the Sacred Heart under Saint Philippine Duchesne, the Academy is the oldest continuously operating Sacred Heart school in the world. In 1866, Mary Wilson, a gravely ill postulant, was reportedly healed after prayers to Blessed John Berchmans; the Church later recognized the healing as the miracle contributing to his canonization as Saint John Berchmans. Today, a shrine and small chapel mark the room where the miracle occurred, and nearby Berchmans Academy honors his name. Fr. Eddie will celebrate Mass in the chapel.
- **Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto Replica – Prayer Stop** – This peaceful grotto replica in Grand Coteau offers a quiet place for prayer and reflection, inspired by the spirit of the famous Lourdes pilgrimage site in France.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

(departure time confirmed)

7:45 am	Board Bus at STM
8:00 am	Bus Departs
9:30 am	St. Charles Borromeo Church Tour
10:05 am	Board bus
10:15 am	Academy of the Sacred Heart Tour
11:45 am	Mass in school chapel
12:20 pm	Board bus
12:30 pm	Lunch at Big Hill Café
2:00 pm	Board bus
2:10 pm	Grotto Replica tour
2:40 pm	Board bus for return trip to STM

\$65.00 includes Lunch

Payment accepted in exact cash or check (made payable to St. Thomas More Church).

Name(s): _____

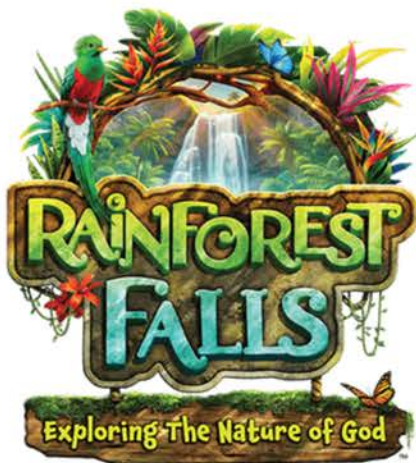
Phone / email: _____

Registration deadline: May 26

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Payment received: Cash Check # _____

Date: _____ Initials: _____



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 15-19, 2026

9 AM - 12 PM

STMBR.ORG/NEWS/VBS

REGISTER NOW!



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SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Marie Schittone the week of May 17, as requested by Carol Roberts.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, May 19- 6 p.m.: Baby Fischer, Lucy, Louise, and Martin
Wednesday, May 20 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, May 21 - 8:45 a.m.: Jay Murphy
Friday, May 22 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, May 23 - 4:30 p.m.: Ronald Gauthier Sr.
Sunday, May 24 - 8 a.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **10 a.m.:** Marie and John Grosch, Frank DePaula, Mona Villemarette, Dominic Toan Nguyen, Anna Huong Nguyen, Frances Jeanfreau, Josie Hebert, Baby Fischer; **5 p.m.:** Myrtle Joyner

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

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

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.)

CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMANDS!

Father Eddie administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to of our parish youth on Wednesday, April 22. May the Holy Spirit fill their hearts with peace and joy, and continue to bless their lives with the gift of faith.



Meghan Ann Bordelon
Allen Charles Buckley
Kailyn Khanh Bui
Liam Jay Bujanda
Evan Joseph Buuck
Reed Edward Calongne
Jean Louis Caraballo
Andrew Douglas Carter
Tyler Ryan Cothren
Kensie Hoa Thi Dang
Kaiser Nhu Bach Dang
Audrey Anne David
Abby Marie David
Lucas Joseph David
Landon Cyril Delaune
Cullen David Delaune
Adrienne Lan Do
Chloe Mai Do
Emma Katherine Durrett
Abigail Elizabeth Foret
Caden Michael Gautreau
Grayson Marie Gomez



Jacob Fisher Hebert
Abram Tucker Henry
Jack Lawrence Holder
Sophie Marie Ingrassia
Rhys Gabrielle Jantz
Ryleigh Brynn Johnson
Caitlyn Uyen Khemmanyvong
Molly Ann Kyle
Emma Clare LaBauve
Olivia Rose LaBauve
Nicholas Brendan LaCour
Sophia Maria Landry
Sylvia Minh Thu Le
Ella Elizabeth Llorens
Justin Julian Long
Olivia Renee Moise
Isaiah Roar Roland Moore
Cannon Enrique Morales
Zoe Rynn Munozcano
Angel Hoa Nguyen
Katelyn Nha Kha Nguyen
Grace Nhi Nguyen



Alex Nguyen
Sadie Sofia Olivier
Valeria Ortiz Fandiño
Luca Michael Paola
Dung Dinh Pham
Jayce Aaron Plummer
Preston Christopher Raney
Sara Catherine Rodriguez
Maximo Georgio Roman
Davis Hayes Romano
Reese Victoria Romig
Eleanor Rae Roth
Kason Francis Schexnayder
Jayden Thien Sierra
Benjamin Toan Tra
Brayden Hien Tra
Katelynn Tran
Jonah Douglas Waggenspack
Reis Charles Wascom
Thomas Edward White
Lucas Anthony Wisdom

Youth Faith Formation

Registration for **Parish School of Religion** for parish youth not attending Catholic school will open on June 1st.

- Students rising to grades 1–5 participate in a home-based program that highlights the role of the Domestic Church, recognizing parents as the primary teachers of the faith. Families are given resources to help guide their children in learning and living the Catholic faith at home. stmbr.org/news/psr
- Students rising to grade 6 and above take part in Confirmation preparation, with classes held on campus. All parish families with children attending public or private schools are strongly encouraged to enroll.

Beginning June 1, families may register rising second graders for **First Reconciliation and First Eucharist sacramental preparation** for the 2026–2027 year. Second-grade students who have participated in either Catholic school or Parish School of Religion (PSR) for at least two years are eligible to receive these sacraments. *Sacramental preparation for both First Reconciliation and First Eucharist takes place within the parish where the family is registered.* Our program is home-based, emphasizing the role of the Domestic Church and recognizing parents as the primary educators in the faith. stmbr.org/news/sac-prep-reg

Registration for Fall 2026 Confirmation for students rising to grades 7 and 8 is now open. Visit stmbr.org/news/confirmation A mandatory parent meeting will take place on July 26, 2026. At least one parent is required to attend to receive important details regarding the program, schedule, and preparation expectations.

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

OUR PARISH FAMILY

BAPTISM

We extend a warm welcome into the Church family to the following child who was baptized at St. Thomas More in April:

Atlas Paul Schexnayder, child of Aaron and Jaslyn Schexnayder.

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family of **Jon Miller**. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*In a caring environment
dedicated to celebrating the Catholic faith
and modeling the life of Jesus Christ,
St. Thomas More Church provides worship,
education, ministerial and social opportunities
for the spiritual growth of the parish family.*

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