St Thomas More Catholic Church

May 24, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 21 | Pentecost Sunday

11441 Goodwood Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70815 | 225.275.3940 | **www.stmbr.org**

A Letter From Our Pastor

Pentecost

Today we celebrate both the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. The gifts of knowledge and wisdom, infused by the Holy Spirit, served as the ink that connected all the dots Jesus had left for the disciples, but which they had previously been unable to connect. Now they understood His Bread of Life Discourse in John 6 and the meaning of the Last Supper. The Church was off and running!

Jesus uses many analogies to illustrate the Holy Spirit: fire, water, and wind. We will hear all three used in our readings this weekend. But I'd like to focus here on the water analogy.

Water is necessary for all living things—every plant and animal. Without it, life ceases, and the earth itself becomes a vast dust bowl, a barren desert. Likewise for us, without God.

Jesus promises the woman at the well living water that will "become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (Jn 4:14). God also illustrates and prefigures the Holy Spirit for Ezekiel as water flowing out of the temple, from which all life is sustained (Ez 47:1-12).

I find it a most illuminating analogy. Although rain falls in a single form, the results it produces are entirely different as it is absorbed by the various life forms it sustains. In a pecan tree, it produces pecans; in others, grapes, cucumbers, bananas, etc. Likewise, it produces different fruits in each of us. To one, the gift of interpreting Scripture; to another, prophecy; and to another, the gift of healing. Some flourish in compassion; others are strengthened to endure great trials; some develop a missionary spirit; and others develop the will to embrace martyrdom.

We have to acknowledge a special gift of wisdom, knowledge, and discernment promised by Christ himself to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church at the Last Supper—the gift that sets us apart from the thousands of Christian denominations:

"*I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth...*" *(John 16:12-13)*

Let us never forget that this special gift—the ability to define the morality of all life choices, especially regarding issues that did not exist in the first century—was promised to them, the Church authority, not to each of us as individuals. May we have the humility and wisdom to live according to the Church's teachings.

Happy Birthday! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessings,

Fr. Eddie

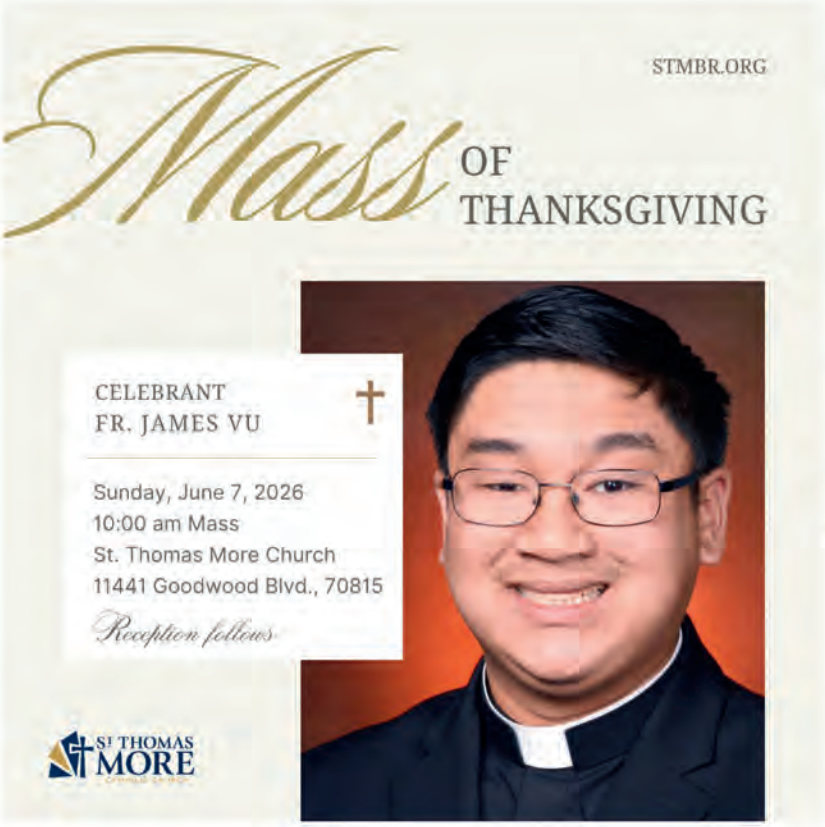
Gracious God,

On this Memorial Day Weekend, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace.

In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe.

We ask this through your name. Amen.



The parish family is joyfully invited to a special celebration at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 7.

We give thanks to God for James Vu, a parishioner of STM, who will be ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of New Orleans on May 30. Father James will return to his home parish to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving here at STM.

This is a moment of great joy for our parish as we rejoice in his vocation and accompany him with our prayers as he begins his priestly ministry.

A reception will follow the Mass in the Activity Center.

All are warmly invited to attend.

Let's Make STM Vacation Bible School a Parish Success!

STM VBS "Rainforest Falls" registration is currently open. Children entering kindergarten through 4th grade are invited to participate, and students entering 5th grade and above are welcome to serve as Junior Helpers.

VBS will be held June 15–19 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The registration fee is $40 for the first child and $35 for each additional child. Adult volunteers who commit to working the week of VBS will not be charged a registration fee for their children. Adult volunteers and Junior Helpers are still greatly needed. Junior Helpers have a $10 fee to cover the cost of the VBS t-shirt.

We also invite the entire parish to get involved. Please consider signing up to donate snacks or help us decorate as we transform the campus into a vibrant rainforest adventure. A volunteer sign-up link can be found at stmbr.org/news/vbs or use the QR code provided.

The church office is closed on Monday, May 25, for the Memorial Day holiday.

You are warmly invited to join us in celebrating Fr. Eddie's 10-year anniversary of priestly ordination. Please gather with us after the 8:45 AM Mass on Thursday, May 28, in the Activity Center for a time of fellowship and thanksgiving as we honor his years of faithful service to the Church and our parish community. All are welcome—we hope you will join us!

55 & ALIVE BUS TRIP TO GRAND COUTEAU

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **St. Charles Borromeo Church – Guided Visit –** A stop at the historic St. Charles Borromeo Church in Grand Coteau offers a peaceful glimpse into Louisiana's rich Catholic heritage. Dating back to the 19th century, the church is known for its beautiful architecture, serene grounds, and its connection to the miraculous healing of Mary Wilson. Visitors can explore the sacred space, learn about its history, and enjoy a quiet moment of reflection in this cherished landmark.
- **Academy of the Sacred Heart – Guided Tour & Mass –** A tour of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau highlights its long-standing tradition of education and faith. Established in 1821, the campus features picturesque grounds, historic architecture, and a legacy that continues to inspire today. Fr. Eddie will celebrate Mass in the chapel.
- **Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto Replica – Prayer Stop –** A visit to the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto replica in Grand Coteau offers a quiet, prayerful experience. Surrounded by natural beauty, this peaceful site invites reflection and provides a meaningful connection to one of the world's most beloved pilgrimage traditions.

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:** _____

FLOWER DONATION

The flowers on the altar in front of the ambo are donated in memory of Thomas Kleinpeter the weekend of May 30-31, as requested by Woman's Hospital Labor and Delivery Unit.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Thomas Kleinpeter the week of May 24, as requested by Lynn Boudreaux.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, May 26- 6 p.m.: Josie Hebert, Baby Fischer
Wednesday, May 27 - 12 p.m.: Baby Fischer
Thursday, May 28 - 8:45 a.m.: Baby Fischer
Friday, May 29 - 12 p.m.: Baby Fischer
Saturday, May 30 - 4:30 p.m.: Joseph B. Richard Jr.
Sunday, May 31 - 8 a.m.: Aldo Gomez; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **5 p.m.:** Josie Hebert, Baby Fischer

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

Cub Scouts – Pack 228

Adventure starts here!

Boys and girls entering Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join the fun with Pack 228 this summer. Come check out our FREE summer events, make new friends, play games, explore the outdoors, and discover what Cub Scouts is all about!

We can't wait to meet your family and welcome you to the adventure!

Scouts BSA – Troop 229

Ready for adventure? Troop 229 is welcoming students entering 5th through 8th grade to join Scouts and experience all the excitement the outdoors has to offer!

From camping, hiking, backpacking, fishing, swimming, rock climbing, and wilderness survival to leadership opportunities and lifelong friendships, Scouts is the perfect place to learn new skills, grow in confidence, and have fun along the way.

If your child is ready to explore, lead, and adventure, we'd love to have them join us!

For more information or to sign up, contact: fontenotm@stmbr.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

Youth Faith Formation

- **Registration for Parish School of Religion (PSR) for parish youth not attending Catholic school opens June 1. Students in grades 1–5 participate in a home-based program that supports parents as the primary teachers of the faith. Resources are provided to help families teach and live the Catholic faith at home. Students in grades 6 and above participate in on-campus Confirmation preparation. All parish families with children in public or private schools are encouraged to enroll.** **stmbr.org/news/psr**
- **Beginning June 1, registration will also open for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation for rising second graders for the 2026–2027 year. Eligible students must have participated in Catholic school or PSR for at least two years. Preparation is home-based and takes place through the parish where the family is registered.** **stmbr.org/news/sac-prep-reg**
- **Registration for Fall 2026 Confirmation for students entering grades 7 and 8 is now open. A mandatory parent meeting will be held on July 26, 2026; at least one parent must attend.** **stmbr.org/news/confirmation**

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