

June 21, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 25 | Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

*As a
father has
compassion
on his
children,*



*so the
Lord has
compassion
on those who
love Him.*

— Adapted from Psalm 103:13

A Letter From Our Pastor

Father's Day



Although civil holidays like Father's Day are not religious feasts or memorials, they can surely have religious ties. When we pray the "Our Father," we address the first person of the Trinity as Father (as Jesus instructed us), and the loving Father image is constantly used by Jesus in His parables. Fathers are so critical to our growth, security, and ability to thrive in this life. Several biblical verses emphasize their role as the head of the household and the spiritual leader of the family. How often is that turned around today?

There is a crisis in our society, and we need to do all we can to turn it around.

The crisis - absent fathers. God bless the mothers, and often grandmothers, who have to take on both roles and keep the daunting statistics below from being even worse!

Sad set of statistics for those raised in such a state:

- 63% of all youth suicides,
- 70% of all teen pregnancies,
- 71% of all adolescent chemical/substance abusers,
- 80% of all prison inmates, and
- and 90% of all homeless and runaway children came from single-parent homes.

from Bob Ray Sanders, "Hey Y'all, Let's Fill The Hall (Of Fame), Ft. Worth Star Telegram, Oct. 28, 2007

According to a 2011 report by the National Center for Health Statistics, things are getting much worse. From 1960 to 2010, the percentage of all children born to a single-parent household increased from 5% to 41%, an 800% increase! In one demographic, it is almost three out of every four. I've learned through my interactions with the DCFS that one more grave statistic that Mr. Sanders could have added to the litany above is the percentage of these children that are overflowing our foster parenting system; it's a real crisis. These children of God deserve a better chance.

We have taken God out of our public schools, public squares, and He's far less welcome in our political fabric. We reap what we sow. Although this is a complex situation, drugs are also a major factor; I can't help but believe this is another one of the disasters of our sexual revolution that Pope Paul VI prophesied would happen in paragraph 17 of his landmark encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, way back in 1968, before we lost our way.

We need to return to Christ's teachings of chastity and morality. Men need to have it pressed upon them that if they create a child with a woman, then they are responsible for that child. Women need to save themselves for marriage. Child support needs to become a reality, and drastic measures need to be taken to enforce it; i.e., no unemployment or other government benefits to anyone who does not provide child support to their offspring. And we must realize that a government policy or check will never replace the discipline, inspiration, and love of a father!

Let us cherish and show gratitude to our fathers who give all they have for their children and pray, sacrifice, vote, and work to change this disaster in our society. Let us do all we can to support our single mothers, and all we can to end this carnage. Please consider fostering one of these precious victims. This is not a problem of a single demographic group in our society. We will all be judged by the actions we take and neglect to take for these most vulnerable amongst us!

In Christ,
Fr. Eddie

PRAYER FOR FATHERS ON FATHER'S DAY

Heavenly Father,

You entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, his foster father.

Bless all fathers and grandfathers as they care for their families.

Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience,
give them ability to love in a way that reflects your love.

Support them in the work they have to do,
protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation.

Help us to love them in a way that would bring honor to You and them.

Bless and heal all those wounded by the imperfections of their fathers
and grant an eternal rest to our fathers you have called from this life to yourself,
through Jesus Christ Lord. Amen



A Letter From Our Deacon

Happy Father's Day

"But Dad _____!" We can all fill in the blank in many ways: "I forgot to call," "I didn't do it on purpose," "How did you find that out?" or "Everyone is going—why can't I go?" We didn't always understand or want to accept the consequences of our actions, but our fathers knew there had to be consequences that fit the infraction. Fathers (and mothers) are most people's first experience of justice—that loving justice that comes from God.



The relationship we have with our parents, especially our fathers, significantly influences—or at the very least, mirrors—the relationship we have with God the Father. For example, I grew up in a family of six children with a father who was either working to provide for us or at home helping my mom care for us. For most of my life, my father was the provider and protector. I saw God the Father in a similar light. I had no personal relationship with Him. I prayed to Him only for what I needed. He was "up there," taking care of me from afar.

Later in life, as my dad grew older and began to have more needs, he moved in with us. It was only then that I developed a more personal relationship with him and began to know him as the man he truly was and to appreciate how he and my mom had helped shape me into the person I had become. This personal relationship with my earthly father carried over into my relationship with God the Father. I began to relate to Him on a much more personal level. I began to see how He was working in my life each day, molding me into a better person.

As we read in today's Gospel, "Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known." Our Father in heaven knows everything about us—our gifts and talents, our shortcomings and failures. Even so, He is there waiting to acknowledge us, lift us up, and love us. All we must do is acknowledge Him as "Our Father." His grace and the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, are there to sustain us and ultimately provide a path to everlasting life.

Happy Father's Day to all! Even if you aren't a dad, consider that we have all benefited from either or both our earthly and heavenly fathers. Let us celebrate today the fatherly influences in our lives and remember that we are truly loved.


God bless,


Deacon Paul

✦ Marriage Retreat Opportunity! ✦

Join Couples for Christ for a special day dedicated to strengthening your marriage and growing together in faith and love.

 Date: June 27, 2026

 Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

 Location: Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center

 Registration is FREE, and lunch will be provided!

Spots are limited, so don't miss out—scan the QR code below to register and reserve your place today!



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Sept. 20, Oct. 11, Nov. 15 & Dec. 6

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SAINT THOMAS MORE

FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

6:00 pm Mass

followed by a showing of
A Man for All Seasons
in the Activity Center



Want to love without limit? Put Christ at the center of your life like St. Thomas More

Adapted from a reflection by Linda Schegel, Our Sunday Visitor

When my husband and I teach pre-Cana classes, we continually return to the understanding of marital love as free, total, faithful, and fruitful. We are called to love this way because this is how God loves; indeed, “We love because he first loved us” (1 Jn 4:19).

God desires us. He wants to be with us. His love is free (given without cost), total (without conditions), faithful (He will never leave us), and fruitful (His love begets love). We sometimes tell our children how happy God is when we come to Mass or adoration. He waits for us and delights in our presence. This is true for adults as much as for children.

Casting out fear

It is also the kind of love the saints have for God and the Church. They desire union with the Lord, are convinced of His love, and committed to sharing that good news, come what may. St. Thomas More, as both Catholic and lawyer, was firmly convinced of the truth he held in his heart and mind. In opposing King Henry VIII’s creation of the Church of England, More accepted martyrdom. What the world sees as defeat, we see with eyes of faith as a powerful act of love.

St. Thomas More embodied Christlike love. He freely opposed his earthly king to serve his heavenly Father. He gave himself completely and without reserve. His actions express his loyalty to the Church. Their effects continue nearly 500 years later, calling today’s Catholics to fidelity in a society that often misunderstands the Church.

Ordering our desires

In our day, St. Thomas More stands as both an example of marital love and a reflection of God’s love for each of His children. What do we place at the center of our lives; for what would we give ourselves completely? It is easy to say we love the Lord, the Church, and our families, but our thoughts, words, and actions may say otherwise.

When Christ is truly at the center of our lives—when we begin, end, and live each moment in prayer—everything finds its proper order. God has placed unique desires within us, and when our hearts are rightly ordered, we can act on them without fear of straying. Like St. Thomas More, we can give ourselves fully, trusting that the God who desires us remains with us in perfect love.

Vocation Talk by Summer Seminarian Ryan Gaudet

The parish is invited to hear summer seminarian Ryan Gaudet share his vocation story after the 6:00 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, June 30, followed by a light reception in the Activity Center. All are welcome.

Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in support of vocations.

Support the **Pregnancy Problem Center's Baby Bottle Campaign** beginning June 20-21 at all Masses. Take home a baby bottle, pray for unborn babies, and return it the weekend of June 27-28 with your donation.

Your gift supports life-saving work. Checks payable to Pregnancy Problem Center or donate online at pregnancyproblemcenterbr.com/donate/.

Questions: 924-1400 or pregnancyproblemcenterbr.com.



SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Angela Kamerer-White the week June 21, as requested by Bipsy D'Aquin.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday, Jun. 22 - 6 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory
- Tuesday, Jun. 23 - 6 p.m.:** Josie Hebert, Frank DePaula, Roy Tucker, Mona Villemarette
- Wednesday, Jun. 24 - 12 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory
- Thursday, Jun. 25 - 8:45 a.m.:** Peck Abadie]
- Friday, Jun. 26 - 12 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory
- Saturday, Jun. 27 - 4:30 p.m.:** Billy Roberts
- Sunday, Jun. 28 - 8 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **10 a.m.:** Cynthia Idusuyi, Barry Sanders, Josie Hebert, Aloys Ntsongo; **Special Intention:** Nelson Family; **5 p.m.:** Colleen Peroyea

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*)

5 & ALIVE

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

St. Thomas More Church
8:45 AM MASS

St. Thomas More Activity Center
9:15 AM COFFEE SOCIAL
9:45 AM PATRIOTIC ROSARY
LUNCH FOLLOWS

HAPPY 4th of July

The STM Senior Ministry, 55 & Alive, is **celebrating our nation** and **honoring veterans** on July 9h -- **YOU'RE INVITED!** There is no fee, but donations are welcome at the event. Registration is required by using the form below by Monday, July 6, or call the church office at 225.275.3940 (let us know if you are a veteran).

Please join us for this patriotic event!



NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

YES, I AM A VETERAN

DROP OFF REGISTRATION FORM AT THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JULY 6

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Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

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OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of **Angela Kamerer-White, Mary Zalfen, Robyn Thibodeaux and Jim Oehrle**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



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ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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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:

Please call 225.275.3940 and follow voicemail instructions

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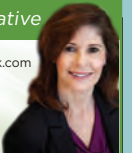
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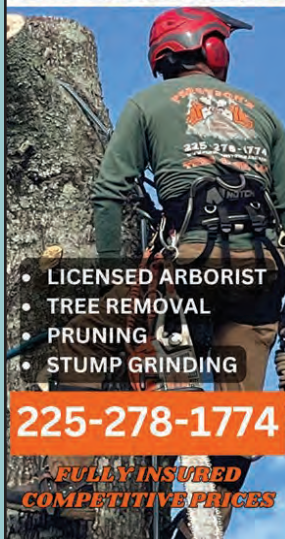
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