



June 28, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 26 | Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



A Letter From Our Pastor

250th Anniversary - Values to Die For



What values, truths, or principles would you be willing to die for?

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary of freedom and independence this Saturday, I am also inspired by the sacrifices of the great saints who have made possible 2,026 years of freedom from death and who testified to the gift of eternal life by surrendering their mortal lives. Last Monday, we celebrated the courage of our patron, St. Thomas More. This Monday, we celebrate the great gifts of Sts. Peter and Paul. Next Monday, we celebrate the brave example of St. Maria Goretti.

So many ordinary people of extraordinary courage, resolve, and zeal for righteousness have given their very lives for the principles they hold dear and for the good of others.

I can't help but say a prayer for all the men—and now women—who give their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted. I'm transported in my mind to a Higgins landing craft on D-Day, whose front ramp will soon open as those on board charge forward. So many never even made it out once the ramp opened, and those who did had only a small chance of surviving on the beach. Few were older than 25; their whole lives lay ahead of them. Yet they willingly sacrificed their lives for us, for our freedom, and to liberate thousands subjected to the cruelties of the Nazi regime. They fought and died for righteousness, for something greater than themselves.

Likewise, I pray for those who fought in the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, and in our current engagement with Iran. They risked everything to give us the power to shape our country and our lives. This great experiment—"a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" (Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address)—still needs the values given to us by Jesus and the determination of our Church fathers and saints such as those mentioned above, now more than ever.

We are still a nation struggling to define ourselves and our fundamental values. God's values are even more relevant now that the tables have turned and we are the great world power that England was in the 1700s. Let us remember, as they learned, that might does not make right.

Let us pray for our nation, the world, and all who seek the betterment of mankind, regardless of the skin color or national boundary into which they were born. Let us expand our horizons and strive for God's principles to reign throughout our nation and the world: "All are created equal; all are sons and daughters of God."

Blessings! And let freedom ring!

Fr. Eddie



Let Freedom Ring!
CELEBRATING 250 YEARS 



God, source of all freedom,
as the nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day,
this season is bright with the memory of those
who declared that life and liberty
are your gift to every human being.
Help us to continue a good work begun long ago.
Make our vision clear and our will strong:
that only in human solidarity will we find liberty,
and justice only in the honor that belongs
to every life on earth.
Turn our hearts toward the family of nations:
to understand the ways of others,
to offer friendship, and to find safety
only in the common good of all.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer adapted from the Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers,
Revised Edition, copyright © 2007, USCCB

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 3, FOR THE JULY 4TH HOLIDAY.

JOIN US!

From Atheist to Seminarian

MY STORY OF CONVERSION AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

PRESENTED BY RYAN GAUDET

Seminarian for the Diocese of Baton Rouge

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026
FOLLOWING THE 6 PM MASS
IN THE CHURCH

RECEPTION FOLLOWS



Summer Mission Appeal – July 11-12, 2026

Each year, our parish has the opportunity to support the Church's missionary work throughout the world. On the weekend of July 11-12, we will welcome Rev. Arockiam Arockiam, SVD, Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church on Gus Young Avenue in Baton Rouge, who will celebrate all Masses and will speak about the needs of St. Joseph Catholic Middle School in Ramnagar, India. Through the generosity of mission appeals in past years, significant improvements have been made to the school's facilities. Today, the school serves more than 400 students from poor rural families who otherwise would have limited access to quality Catholic education.

A second collection will be taken at all Masses to help provide teacher salaries, student transportation, uniforms, school supplies, and extracurricular opportunities for these deserving children. Please join us in welcoming Fr. Arockiam and prayerfully consider supporting this important mission.

Diocese of Sivagangai

Tamilnadu State, Southeast INDIA

July 11-12, 2026

Mission Appeal to help the poor students at
St. Joseph Catholic Middle School in Ramnagar

Currently, 407 boys and girls are studying at St. Joseph Catholic Middle School under the tutelage of 18 teachers. The school plays a vital role in the development of the community at large and Catholics in particular.



The school buildings in 2018



New building today with the help of past Mission Appeals



Students' enjoying sports activities



Why Do We Need Your Help for This School?

The school building and many other facilities are just completed, mostly by the money from the mission appeals in the past years in our diocese. The students who come to this government aided Catholic school are from nearby villages whose parents can't afford to pay for private school education.

In addition to the help from the teachers, the alumni and local people, an estimated \$40,000.00 (Forty thousand U.S. \$) will help to take care of the various needs of this school for the academic year 2027-28.

- ❖ To pay the salaries for the extra teachers and aides.
- ❖ To pay for the uniforms and school notebooks for the needy students.
- ❖ To pay for the transportation of the needy students.
- ❖ To pay for sports and other skills developmental activities.

Rev. Arockiam Arockiam, SVD is a Divine Word Missionary, born in the Diocese of Sivagangai, now a naturalized citizen of the United States, serving for the past 24 years in Louisiana. He is currently the Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Baton Rouge. **He is an alumnus of St. Joseph Catholic Middle School and will do the Mission Appeal at all Masses on July 11-12, 2026, here at St. Thomas More Church. A second collection will be taken at all the Masses.**



Please pray for the persecuted Church in India.

RETURN BABY BOTTLES THIS WEEKEND

Thank you for supporting the Pregnancy Problem Center's life-saving ministry to mothers, babies, and families in need. Please return baby bottles with donations to Masses this weekend. Checks may be made payable to Pregnancy Problem Center. Online donations may be made at any time by visiting pregnancyproblemcenterbr.com/donate.



Questions? Call 924-1400 or visit pregnancyproblemcenterbr.com.



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



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

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Colleen Peroyea the week June 28, as requested by Theresa and Carl Gibson.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Jun. 30 - 6 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, Jul. 1 - 12 p.m.: Kathryn Cambre

Thursday, Jul. 2 - 8:45 a.m.: Mary Zalfen

Friday, Jul. 3 - 12 p.m.: Robyn Thibodeaux

Saturday, Jul. 4 - 4:30 p.m.: Angela Kameron-White

Sunday, Jul. 5 - 8 a.m.: Gene Clement;
10 a.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors ; **5 p.m.:** Jim Oehrle

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.)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Eddie Martin

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

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Ms. Sarah Neau

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Mrs. Kay Fetterman

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Mr. Alex Ho

Custodial

Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

Mr. Rommell Richard

STM AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

6:30 P.M.

WWW.STMBR.ORG/AUCTION



OUR PARISH FAMILY

BAPTISM

We extend a warm welcome into the Church family to the following child who was baptized at St. Thomas More during the month of June:

Marjorie Lynn Stafford, child of Justin and Kayla Stafford

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

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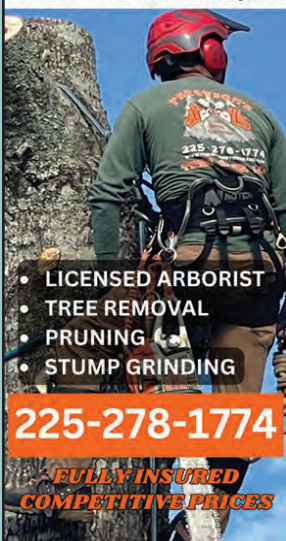
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