



July 5, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 27 | Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Come to Me

all you who labor and are burdened - I will give you rest

A Letter From Our Pastor

Living Our Values



Last week, I asked you what values, truths, or principles you would be willing to die for. Today, I want to know how you will live those values.

On Monday, we celebrate the feast day of Maria Goretti, who at 13, gave her life up rather than submit to the sexual demands of a 20-year-old. Her father had passed, sending her mother into the fields to support her seven children. Maria was left at home to look after the younger children and do the domestic chores. They were migrant farmers and so poor they had to share a home with another family of migrant workers, the Serenellis, whose son Alessandro took her life when she refused him. (He later saw her in a dream, had a complete conversion, and was beside her mother as she was canonized in 1950.)



The only known picture of Maria Goretti; public domain

What has happened in our world that chastity, which Maria treasured so much that she gave her life to protect, has essentially dropped out of our vocabulary? It is seldom even considered when sexual issues are addressed in our society; it seems to be considered completely out of reality in our modern, liberated, “advanced” world. However, I am glad to report that more and more of the younger couples that I prepare for marriage today are embracing this treasure of purity. Hopefully, that is a sign of the return to the Catholic Faith that seems to be sweeping our nation, possibly as a backlash to the many Protestant faiths that have recently embraced same-sex marriages, etc.

Let each of us do a little soul-searching and see what values we would die for, then ask the Lord to show us how we can publicly live them and do all we can so that our children and acquaintances do likewise!

One sure avenue is to educate our youth not only on how to earn a living and provide for themselves and their family, but also on how to gain eternal life! This is the pearl of great value. As our Gospel says today:

“...although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones.”

This is exactly what happens in our school! Although educating our children in the ways of faith will always be the parents’ primary responsibility, it surely helps to have our faith ingrained in them every day in their formative years.

Many thanks to our teachers, volunteers, parents, and those who have generously supported the efforts of our school, PSR, VBS, OCIA, and other initiatives to educate our youth and adults in the ways of God’s love. God bless our Educators in the Faith!

Lord, give us courage and strength!

Blessings,

Fr. Eddie

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



Students' enjoying sports activities



New building today with the help of past Mission Appeals

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.

Support the St. Thomas More Auction — Become a Sponsor!

The annual St. Thomas More Auction is one of our parish and school community's most important fundraising events. Your sponsorship helps make this special evening possible while directly supporting the mission of St. Thomas More.

Sponsorships are not just for businesses. Parish families and friends are encouraged to participate as sponsors as well. Consider joining with another couple or family to share a sponsorship, enjoy a reserved table together for the evening, and support our parish and school community.

Diamond Sponsor — \$5,000

Diamond sponsors cover our band, faculty, and staff tickets.

Includes key signage

Includes a table and entry for 10 near the stage

Donor/company name included in the program and online

Gold Sponsor — \$3,000

Gold sponsors help us cover the band, program, and rentals for the night.

Includes prominent signage

Includes a table and entry for 8 near the stage

Donor/company name included in the program and online

Copper Sponsor — \$2,000

Sponsor the 6-top pub-style table and make an impact!

Includes reserved seating for 6 guests at a premium pub-style table

Donor/company name included in the program and online

Silver Sponsor — \$1,500

Includes seating for entry for 4 guests at a shared 8-top table

Donor/company name included in the program and online

Bronze Sponsor — \$300

Includes entrance for 2 with reserved seating

Donor/company name included in the program and online



SAVE THE DATE

STM AUCTION

Casino NIGHT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026
6:30 P.M.
ST. THOMAS MORE GYM

WWW.STMBR.ORG/AUCTION

Thank you for supporting St. Thomas More and helping make our annual auction a success!

Your generosity helps strengthen our parish and school community while creating a memorable evening for all who attend.

Visit stmbr.org/auction for more information or to purchase a sponsorship!



St. Thomas More Parish

YOUTH GATHERING

WHO Parishioners in grades 5 - 8

DATE Friday, July 17

TIME 1:00 - 3:00 pm

PLACE Parish Activity Center

REGISTER stmbr.org/news/youth



KC Chicken Dinners To Go

Mark your calendar!

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Chicken Dinner To Go on **Sunday, July 19, 2026**.

Dinner sales will take place following the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses at the church exits, and at the Activity Center drive-thru from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (or until sold out).

Each dinner includes BBQ Chicken, BBQ Beans, Wild Rice, and Bread for just \$10.

Cash, checks, and Venmo are accepted.

Please plan to pick up a delicious meal and support the Knights of Columbus and their charitable works.



Gospel Reflection – Matthew 11:25–30

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives thanks to the Father for revealing His wisdom not to the wise and learned, but to the humble and open-hearted. He then extends one of the most comforting invitations in Scripture: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Christ does not promise a life without burdens, but He offers Himself as the place where those burdens can be carried with love and peace.

When life feels heavy or uncertain, Jesus invites us to trust Him more deeply and to learn from His gentle and humble heart. True rest is found not in escaping our struggles, but in walking with the One who carries them with us.



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 9th - - **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

FLOWER DONATION

The altar flowers for the weekend of July 11–12 are donated in memory of Laurina Geraci by the Geraci, Core, and Karaosmanoglu families.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Jun. 7 - 6 p.m.: Essie Culotta

Wednesday, Jul. 8 - 12 p.m.: Carolyn Perrault

Thursday, Jul. 9 - 8:45 a.m.: Anthony Speyrer

Friday, Jul. 10 - 12 p.m.: Jim Stiglets
Saturday, Jul. 11 - 4:30 p.m.: Roy Tucker

Sunday, Jul. 12 - 8 a.m.: Stephen Anthony Maher; **10 a.m.:** Mark Midboe; **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, 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@stnbr.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

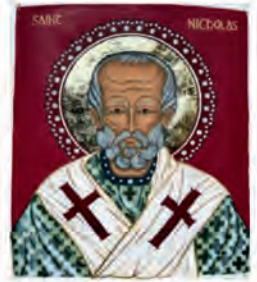
St. Nicholas Icon Painting Workshop

A St. Nicholas Icon Painting Workshop will be held August 16–21, 2026 at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

Led by trained iconographers, this workshop offers participants the opportunity to write an icon of St. Nicholas. Space is limited to 18 participants and is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The cost is \$380. A non-refundable deposit of \$180 is due by July 13, with final payment of \$200 due by August 10. All supplies are provided; participants may bring their own brushes or materials if preferred. Lunch, coffee, and snacks will be provided daily.

To register or for more information, please contact Kitty Wiemer at 225-284-7440 or Diana Wells at 225-927-8646.



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

SIGMA

ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS

PROCESS
ELECTRICAL
MECHANICAL/PIPING
TECHNICAL STAFFING
INSTRUMENTATION

LEADERSHIP SOLUTIONS
FIELD SERVICES
AUTOMATION

LASER SCANNING
CIVIL/STRUCTURAL
CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT
LAND SURVEYING
PROCUREMENT

225-810-3100

www.sigmaec.com



Plumbing • Heating • Repairs
225-927-6520
est. 1960



George J
Schwartzburg, MD
12351 Industriplex Blvd
926-4400



RESTHAVEN

GARDENS OF MEMORY & FUNERAL HOME

225-753-1440

www.resthavenbatonrouge.com



Quality Car Care Center

GOODYEAR



11442 N. Harrells Ferry Rd.

273-2955

Premier Eyecare & Optical



Comprehensive Eyecare,
Glasses & Contact Lenses

1 HR. GLASSES 246-8830

ERIC THAI, Doctor of Optometry

www.PremierEyecareOptical.com

Corner of Sherwood at Old Hammond



Salon James

PAMPERING YOU
IN ELEGANCE

NAIL • SPA SERVICES • HAIR
VIP MEMBERSHIPS
MEN'S LOUNGE • PEDICURE
WAX • FACIALS/SKIN CARE

20% OFF hair, nails & lashes
with this ad.

thesalonjames.com

9636 Airline Hwy Ste A4 • 225-636-2220

O'Neal Food Mart

2863 O'Neal Lane

225-465-3289

Valero Gas Station

We Serve Breakfast,
Lunch, Seafood through
Drive-Thru

Same Day Appointments!



Trans Dental Care
GENERAL DENTISTRY

HOANG V. TRAN, DDS
LIEN VU, DDS

10914 Old Hammond Hwy.
Baton Rouge

(225) 615-7334

www.transdentalcarebr.com

- Restorative • Cosmetic
- Oral Surgery
- Endodontics • Pediatric
- Periodontal Treatment
- Sedation Dentistry



225-281-0933

Residential and Commercial Construction

YOUR DESIGN/BUILD GENERAL CONSTRUCTION FIRM



CONSTRUCTION LLC

LICENSED & INSURED

(225) 235-8441 | EPARCH08@HOTMAIL.COM

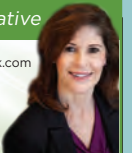


Linda Bynum

Sales Representative

bynuminsurance@outlook.com

225-933-0726



DANIEL PALM, DDS
AILSON LANDRY, DDS | CATHERINE NEUSSETER, DDS



Baton Rouge | 7604 Goodwood Blvd | 927-7545

Prairieville | 40398 Highway 42 | 622-2545

palmfamilydentistry.com

IF YOU LIVE ALONE

MDMedAlert!

✓ Ambulance/Police
✓ Family/Friends
✓ GPS & Fall Alert

CALL NOW!
800.808.9294

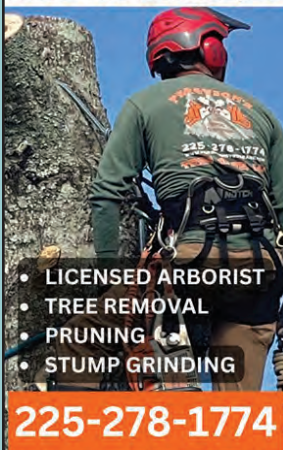
As Low As

\$19⁹⁵ mo.

md-medalert.com



FERGUSON'S TREE CARE, LLC



- LICENSED ARBORIST
- TREE REMOVAL
- PRUNING
- STUMP GRINDING

225-278-1774

FULLY INSURED
COMPETITIVE PRICES



Baton Rouge General
Physicians
BRGeneral.org

763-4500

8333 GOODWOOD BLVD.

Amanda Watts, MD

Daniel Daire, FNP

Timothy Bella, MD

Shelby Mougeot, FNP

Regain Control of your Heartbeat

Dr. Mark Pollet, MD, FACC, a leading cardiac electrophysiologist, specializes in diagnosing and treating arrhythmias. Experience personalized care and get back to living your life.

(225) 769-0933

www.BRCardiology.com

8888 Summa Avenue • Baton Rouge



BATON ROUGE
CARDIOLOGY CENTER



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Baton Rouge, LA

05-1276

STEMMANS AND ALLEY, PLLC



Attorneys and Counselors At Law
M. Todd Alley (Parishioner)



2798 O'Neal Lane, Ste. B-3

752-5266

Never miss our bulletin!

Get this bulletin delivered straight to your inbox every week.



Scan to subscribe on parishesonline.com



Sal's Electric, Inc.
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Commercial • Residential
225-664-1787 | SalsElectricInc.com



NOW OPEN! SHERWOOD

URGENT CARE

Hrs: Mon-Fri 10am-8pm
Sat & Sun 8am-6pm

225-256-5888

Now accepting primary care
Walk in or schedule your appointment online at:
SherwoodUrgentCareBR.com

ROOF LEAKING?



- Repairs
- Roof Replacement
- Gutters

FREE ESTIMATES

(225) 930-4930 | www.midcityroofing.com

Add violin music to your event
Weddings • Funerals
Private Gatherings
Music by Skyler



mactdm32@gmail.com

Let Go. Let God.

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
 - Flood Detection
 - Fire Safety
 - Carbon Monoxide
- 833-287-3502



Clegg's Nursery
Our Business is Knowing The Business of Growing
5696 Siegen Lane (225) 292-9153

WE COMPARED OUR OPTIONS!
WE CHOSE CHURCH.

Church Funeral Services & Crematory remains locally and family-owned, offering quality funeral services & cremation at an affordable price.

CHURCH FUNERAL SERVICES & CREMATORY
225-646-0603 (225) 279-4634 (225) 292-4714
St. Francis Village Baton Rouge



SHERMAN & BALHOFF
SPECIALISTS IN ORTHODONTICS
225-769-1276
COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTS & X-RAYS
8311 BLUEBONNET BLVD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70810



TODD CARUSO
ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC.
233 Capitol Street
Denham Springs, LA 70726
225-271-4941
Todd Caruso, Parishioner

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

HARLEY M. BROWN
Attorney and Counselor at Law
704 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge
phone 225-336-0353 | fax 225-927-7919



GWEN UYEN LE - REALTOR®
(225) 405-7463
(225) 412-9962 Ext. #156
Gwen.Le @eXpRealty.com License # 995709638
GwenLe.eXpRealty.com Languages: English & Vietnamese

exp REALTY
License # 995709638
Languages: English & Vietnamese



TruBlueWater
TRU HYDRATION AT ITS FINEST
225-313-1299
www.trubluewater.com

Frugé
FAMILY DENTISTRY
C. Farrell Frugé, Jr., D.D.S.
C.F. Trey Frugé, III, D.D.S. & Associates
Family Dentistry STM Lifetime Parishioner
11811 Coursey Blvd. 292-9700 www.CFFDDS.com



Advertise in Our Church Bulletin!
Contact Sean Altenberger
saltenberger@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2166



Hinabor
Your Homegrown Supermarket
Since 1965
9620 Florida Blvd.
927-5450
5383 Jones Creek Road
751-3380
www.hinabor.com



SOUTHERN FASTENER & TOOL CO.
Arnold Saucier
9440 Mammoth Dr.
927-3333
"Nobody Does It Better"

Little space.
Big impact.
Advertise here
Call 800-950-9952

LT LEGACY TITLE
SPECIAL PRICING FOR ST. THOMAS MORE PARISHIONERS!
Natalie & Bradford Smith
Parishioners, Real Estate Attorneys
225.296.0060
Buying, Building or Refinancing You have the right to choose your own title company!
Locations in Baton Rouge, Prairieville, & Lafayette




CREATING A LEGACY. one CLOSING at a time.

FREE AD DESIGN WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE
Call 800.950.9952

Gerry Lane
Visit Gerry Lane managers Craig Azar, General Manager or Keioike Lutcher, General Sales Manager to purchase your next Buick or GMC!
gerrylanebuickgmc.com





YUKON DENALI