

# The TOWER

Serving St. Thomas More Catholic Church Since 1970

July 19, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 29 | Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



# *A Letter From Our Pastor*

## ***Weeds and Wheat***



Today, Jesus gives us several parables to reflect on. The first one answers a question that many writers of the Old Testament often asked: Why are sinners allowed to continue to live amongst us and prosper?

In the parable of the weeds sown among the wheat, we hear that the bad are allowed to live among the good because the farmer doesn't want to risk losing any of his wheat at the expense of uprooting the weeds. Although weeds can never be anything but weeds, the same is not true in our human analogy. Jesus may well be emphasizing we are not to condemn and seek to destroy the human "weeds", but rather do our best to convert them and bring them along with the human "wheat" into his harvest. It also serves as a good warning that condemnation and fire await those who remain "weeds" until the end.

The other parables, the mustard seed and the leaven in the bread, illustrate how the seemingly minute and insignificant efforts of one can produce amazing and powerful results. And the growth is not of our doing, but God's. Yet He gives us a role and part to play. He wants us to share in the joy that comes from saving souls and being a part of something far greater than ourselves. We are His arms and legs; let's get out there in get with it! None of us knows when the harvest will be and we don't want any weeds around when that day comes!

May God use us to transform the world!

Blessings,

*Fr. Eddie*



**“**He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ” — Mt 13:29-30

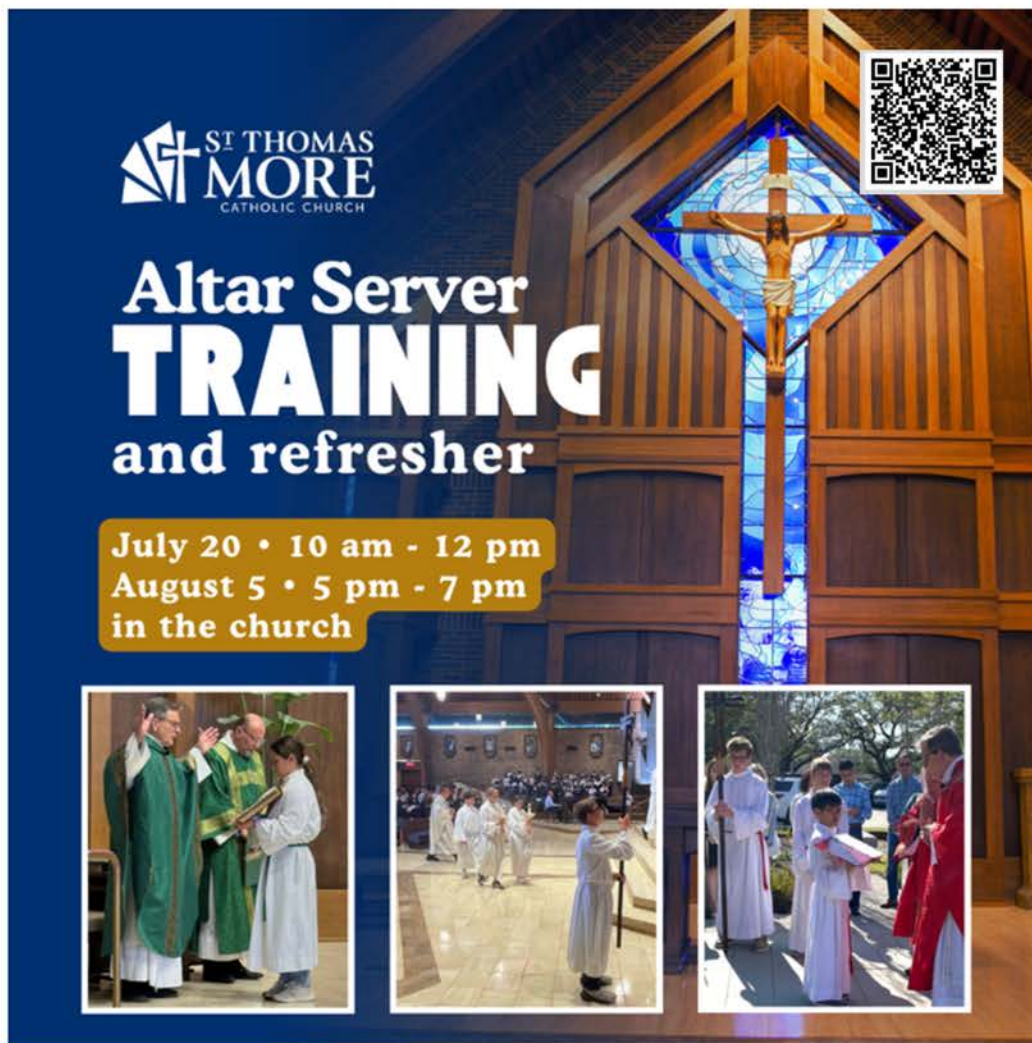
Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass (2001, 1998, 1970 CCD)

## A Familiar Name Returns: *the Tower*

Beginning with this issue, our weekly bulletin once again carries the name *the Tower*. First published under this title in 1970, *the Tower* has long been a familiar part of parish life. As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence, this is a fitting moment to reconnect with the traditions, stories, and symbols that have helped shape our community.

The return of this historic title honors our parish heritage and the enduring symbol of our church's bell tower, which continues to call us together in worship, prayer, and service. The name also carries a special connection to our patron saint, St. Thomas More. During his imprisonment in the Tower of London, St. Thomas More continued to communicate his faith through letters and writings, offering words of courage, wisdom, and devotion even in the midst of great hardship.

In that spirit, *the Tower* remains a meaningful part of our parish story. Through this bulletin, we share the life of our faith community, preserve our history, and strengthen our connection with one another through the written word. Inspired by the example of St. Thomas More, whose letters from the Tower of London reflected his deep faith and commitment to truth, may *the Tower* continue to guide, inspire, and serve our parish community as we journey together in faith.



The poster features a large background image of a church interior with a prominent stained glass window depicting the Crucifixion. In the top left corner is the logo for St. Thomas More Catholic Church, which includes a stylized cross and the text "ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH". In the top right corner is a QR code. The main text, "Altar Server TRAINING and refresher", is displayed in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a yellow box contains the dates and times: "July 20 • 10 am - 12 pm" and "August 5 • 5 pm - 7 pm", followed by the text "in the church". At the bottom of the poster are three small photographs: the left one shows two priests in green vestments and a young altar server in white; the middle one shows a group of altar servers in white robes walking in a procession; the right one shows a group of altar servers in white robes standing outdoors.

**ST THOMAS MORE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# Altar Server TRAINING and refresher

July 20 • 10 am - 12 pm  
August 5 • 5 pm - 7 pm  
in the church



### KC Chicken Dinners

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

Scan the QR code or visit [stnbr.org/news/altar-server](https://stnbr.org/news/altar-server)

# Which PSR Program Is Right for Your Child?

Registration is now open for the 2026–2027 Parish School of Religion (PSR).

All registration links are available on our church website.

Please visit our registration page and use the guide below to find the appropriate registration link and requirements for your child's upcoming school grade.



**Grades 1–6  
General PSR**

- For children in grades 1–6 who do not attend a Catholic school
- Students entering 5th grade must register this year if planning for Confirmation in 7th grade
- The Diocese requires two consecutive years of faith formation prior to receiving Confirmation
- 6th grade students (and those needing an additional year to meet requirements) will attend classes on campus
- Register: [stmbr.org/news/psr](https://stmbr.org/news/psr)



**2nd Grade  
Sacramental Preparation**

- For all children entering 2nd grade in the 2026 school year
- Preparation includes the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion
- Requires enrollment in two programs: General PSR and Sacramental Preparation.
- Both registrations are required for participation
- Register: [stmbr.org/news/psr](https://stmbr.org/news/psr)



**7th and 8th Grade  
Sacrament of Confirmation**

- For youth entering 7th or 8th grade who have successfully completed their two consecutive years of religious education.
- This is specifically to register them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Register: [stmbr.org/news/psr](https://stmbr.org/news/psr)



## St. Thomas More Parish School of Religion

## Christmas in July Movie Night



Cool off with a little Christmas cheer! Join the Catholic Daughters for a free showing of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* on Friday, July 31, at 6:30 PM in the Activity Center.

Bring a blanket for cozy floor viewing or grab a chair, and enjoy popcorn, drinks, and a fun evening with family and friends!

Admission is FREE. In the spirit of Christmas, please consider bringing a medium-sized stuffed animal or sticker book to benefit Braveheart, serving children in foster care.

 **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**  
 **Friday, July 31**  
 **6:30 PM**  
 **Popcorn & drinks provided**

Everyone is welcome—we hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE

# STM AUCTION

## Casino NIGHT




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

[WWW.STMBR.ORG/AUCTION](http://WWW.STMBR.ORG/AUCTION)

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, Jul. 21 - 6 p.m.:** Tom Webre, Roy Tucker, Stephen Maher  
**Wednesday, Jul. 22 - 12 p.m.:** Calvin Bajan; Special Intention: Living members of the Clement family  
**Thursday, Jul. 23 - 8:45 a.m.:** Jim Oehrle  
**Friday, Jul. 24 - 12 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory  
**Saturday, Jul. 25 - 4:30 p.m.:** Stephen Maher  
**Sunday, Jul. 26 - 8 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors ;  
**10 a.m.:** Chad Roberts, Frank Schittone, Tom Webre, Mona Villemarette, Isom Castille, Mickey Deville, Angela Kamerer-White;  
**5 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

## 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](mailto:kennyshar69@att.net).

## PRAYER LIST FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

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

## 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, LCpl Joseph Lemoine  
 (Add/edit: [receptionist@stnbr.org](mailto: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



**Now Hiring for 2026-2027!**

**PRESCHOOL ASSISTANT**

Full-time position  
with benefits package

To apply, go to  
[stmbr.org/careers](http://stmbr.org/careers)



## Stay connected!



STM website: [stmbr.org](http://stmbr.org)



[facebook.com/stmchurchbr](https://facebook.com/stmchurchbr)



Sign up for the e-newsletter  
on our parish website, under  
Links/Resources



[youtube.com/  
stthomasmorebatonrouge](https://youtube.com/stthomasmorebatonrouge)

### ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

11441 Goodwood Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70815

[stmbr.org](http://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