

# The TOWER

Serving St. Thomas More Catholic Church Since 1970

July 26, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 30 | Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## *Communion with Him*

IS THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

– POPE BENEDICT XVI



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.



In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field." He invites us to become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of heaven lies veiled in his ordinary life, his teaching, his suffering, his Church.

This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and his Church. After all, He never ceases seeking his treasure in us.

— Father John Muir, ©LPI



St. Thomas More Catholic School welcomes Mrs. Ellen Bogan Lee as Interim Principal for the 2026–2027 school year.

With over 40 years in Catholic education, including roles as Diocesan Accreditation Coordinator and Principal of St. Michael the Archangel High School, Mrs. Lee brings a wealth of experience and a deep connection to our community as an alumna and former faculty member. Her leadership will guide us through this transitional year as we continue our search for a long-term principal.

Read Father Eddie's announcement letter at [stnbr.org/news/interim-principal](https://stnbr.org/news/interim-principal)

## How do I become Catholic?

### An Invitation to Come and See

The Catholic Church always welcomes new members into its community. For those who are born into a Catholic family this welcome occurs usually as an infant when the parents of the family bring their child to receive baptism. But how does an adult or an older child become Catholic?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the present-day process by which people enter the Catholic faith. It is a process designed to welcome and prepare new members into the Church and prepare them for the initiation sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It also prepares those individuals already baptized in another Christian faith or baptized Catholic for full communion with the Catholic Church.

#### Who is OCIA for?

- Adults or school age children (7+) who have never been baptized
- Christians baptized in another faith
- Catholics who were baptized but have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation
- Catholics who have been away from the Church and would like a refresher

We are also looking for volunteers to help teach, serve as sponsors and support for both the adult and children's sessions.

There is no cost or commitment to participate in the OCIA process. **We will have an introductory session on Tuesday, August 25, from 6:30-8 pm in the Mother Teresa Room.** Please contact Tricia Greely ([greelyt@stmbr.org](mailto:greelyt@stmbr.org)) at the parish office for more information by email or phone 225-275-3940



## Backpack Blessing Weekend August 8-9, 2026

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Fellowship Sunday hosted by Catholic Daughters  
Following 10:00 am Mass in the Activity Center

Join us for our annual Backpack Blessing at all Masses the weekend of Aug. 8-9 as we pray for students, teachers, and school staff as they begin a new school year. Following the 10:00 a.m. Mass on the 9th, everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshments. We hope you'll join us!



Catholic Daughters invites you to celebrate the joy of Christmas together—even in the middle of summer!

# CHRISTMAS IN JULY *Movie Night*

*Featuring The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*



**Fri. July 31  
6:30 pm  
Activity Center**

**Fun for the whole family!  
Popcorn and drinks provided.**



*Silent night...  
hold on tight!*



Bring a blanket for cozy floor seating, or choose a chair.  
Admission: A donation of a sticker book or medium-sized stuffed animal for Braveheart, a local foster care nonprofit.



## Casino Night is Coming to STM!

Feeling lucky?

Join us for an exciting evening of fun with :



Blackjack

Craps

Roulette

at the St. Thomas More Auction on August 22 in the gym.

This isn't just a night of fun—it's one of STM's biggest fundraisers, helping support St. Thomas More Church, School, and Early Learning Center. Every ticket purchased, every sponsorship, and every bid helps strengthen our STM community.

Gather your friends, try your luck at the tables, and enjoy an unforgettable evening—all while supporting a great cause!

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [stnbr.org/auction](http://stnbr.org/auction) The July discount on tickets ends this week!

### SANCTUARY LIGHTS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Chad Roberts and Frank Schittone the week of July 26 as requested by Carol Roberts.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Larry Cronan the week of July 26 as requested by the Cronan family.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, Jul. 28 - 6 p.m.:** Earl Millet

**Wednesday, Jul. 29 - 12 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Thursday, Jul. 30 - 8:45 a.m.:** Larry Cronan

**Friday, Jul. 31 - 12 p.m.:** Gwendolyn Smith

**Saturday, Aug. 1 - 4:30 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Sunday, Aug. 2 - 8 a.m.:** Cora Perkins ; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors;

**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 [kennysnar69@att.net](mailto:kennysnar69@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

## OUR PARISH FAMILY

### IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of **Frances Mollere** and **Stephen Thomas**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



## 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