

the TOWER

Serving St. Thomas More Catholic Church Since 1970

August 2, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 31 | Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

THEY ALL ATE
and were satisfied



A Letter From Our Pastor



Today, we bid farewell to our seminarian, Ryan Gaudet. I know we have all come to love and cherish his genuine compassion and love for the Lord and our Faith! Let us all keep him and all his companion seminarians in our prayers as they continue their formation journey into the priesthood.

In our Gospel today, Jesus reminds us that we are called to trust the gifts He has given us to bring about great change in people and the world when we put them in His service. He tells the Apostles to feed the crowd. Of course, they reply, they can barely feed two or three people with what little they have. But after they entrust what "little" they have to Him, they are able to feed the thousands with twelve wicker baskets to spare! It's His answer to each of us today who ask, "Who me? What can I do about...?"

I can assure you I spent much time, as does every seminarian, wondering, "Who ME?" while considering my future as a priest. I know you struggle with the same uncertainty when feeling called to discuss faith with others. May we never forget it is our charge to invite others to know and experience the treasure of eternal life and the joy this world will never provide to those God brings into our lives. YES, YOU!

Inviting someone to our OCIA program is one excellent way to share God's treasure of everlasting life. As are simple conversations of faith or an invitation to a friend or neighbor to accompany you to mass. We will soon begin our catechetical sessions. Please be bold and trusting enough to invite anyone you feel may be interested in learning more about our faith to join us. They simply need to call the office and give us their contact information. There is no commitment required for those who are curious, have questions, or just want to know whether what they've been searching for is right here. And it is always a great idea to offer to accompany them to a couple of meetings.

Remember, the question will not be, "Are you saved?", as so many of our fellow Christians emphasize, but "How many have you saved?" Remember, we are our brother's keeper, the salt of the earth, and the light of the world. We can't fulfill any of those responsibilities without reaching out to others.

Never forget, we are all called to be Saints - and to help make others into saints!

Blessings,

Fr. Eddie

A Farewell Message from Our Summer Seminarian, Ryan Gaudet

Your children will be going back to school soon, and so will I. It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. Well, the heat isn't over, but the vacation is!

For me, the first day of classes will be August 17. However, I'm part of the orientation team that will welcome the incoming seminarians, so I need to get to Notre Dame a little earlier, on August 6. But before that, all the Baton Rouge seminarians will gather for convocation from August 2-5. So, my bags will be packed when I show up for Mass on Sunday morning, and after serving my final Mass at 10:00 a.m., I'll be headed for the I-10 on-ramp. Life is about to get busy again.

I want to thank the people of St. Thomas More for making this summer an incredible learning experience for me, starting with Fr. Eddie. I've learned so much by being Fr. Eddie's sidekick this summer—it will take me a while to unpack it all. It was an honor to stand with him during the Liturgy of the Eucharist and turn the pages in the missal. To be right there when the miracle of transubstantiation takes place was truly special and gave me a glimpse of what I pray I will one day be able to do.

It was also an honor to work alongside the dedicated group of young altar servers here at St. Thomas More—they are our future! I would be remiss if I didn't also mention what an inspiration it was to serve with the sacristans, Mass captains, Eucharistic ministers, and ushers who give so generously of their time (and, in many cases, rearranged their schedules so that I could serve!). I thank Deacon Paul and Deacon Joe for their words of advice and encouragement. I thank the staff and volunteers in the parish office, who made me feel so welcome. And I thank the group that ministers to the sick at Capital House every Tuesday morning for inviting me to share in their work of mercy.

I'm grateful to all the parishioners here at St. Thomas More whom I had the privilege of meeting. So many people have thanked me for my "yes" to seminary. Well, I thank all of you for the "yes" you give every weekend when you come to Mass. It's not always easy to come to Mass. It's not always easy to be Catholic. Living a Catholic life is a choice we have to make every day. Thank you—all of you—for that yes. After all, what does the priest shortage matter if we don't have Catholics living out their faith?

Ah, and then there was the food. Between the Knights of Columbus, the 55 and Alive ministry, the Catholic Daughters, all the men and women who cooked, baked, or bought goodies, and all the folks who invited me to lunch or dinner, my diet never stood a chance. When they ask me, "How was your summer assignment?" I will say, "I was delicious."

Speaking of food, the Gospel for August 2 happens to be the well-known account of the loaves and fishes, which so beautifully shows us how God multiplies the gifts we bring.

That is how I will remember St. Thomas More: God has truly multiplied all the little gifts I received from the people of this parish and made my time here much, much more than a summer assignment.

God bless you all. I will remember you in my heart and in my prayers.

Thinking About Becoming Catholic?

Come and See

The Catholic Church warmly welcomes all who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. While many Catholics begin their journey as infants through Baptism, others discover the faith later in life. Whether you're exploring Christianity for the first time, returning to the Church, or seeking to complete your sacraments, there's a place for you.

What is OCIA?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the Church's process of faith formation for adults and children (age 7 and older) who are interested in becoming Catholic. Through prayer, learning, discussion, and fellowship, participants grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith while preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

OCIA also welcomes those who have already been baptized in another Christian tradition and are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church, as well as baptized Catholics who have not yet received First Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

Who Should Participate?

OCIA is for:

- Adults and children (age 7+) who have never been baptized.
- Christians baptized in another denomination who wish to become Catholic.
- Baptized Catholics who have not yet received First Eucharist and/or Confirmation.
- Catholics who have been away from the Church and would like to renew or deepen their understanding of the faith.

Volunteers Needed

We are also seeking parishioners to assist with the OCIA program by serving as catechists, sponsors, or hospitality volunteers for both the adult and children's sessions. If you feel called to accompany others on their faith journey, we'd love to have you join us.

Join Us

There is no cost and no obligation to attend the introductory session.

Introductory Meeting
Tuesday, August 25
6:30–8:00 p.m.
Mother Teresa Room

For more information or to register, please contact Tricia Greely at greelyt@stmbr.org or call the parish office at 225-275-3940.



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026
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Help Preserve Historic St. Mary

St. Mary's Chapel, a consecrated Catholic chapel owned by the Diocese of Baton Rouge, is being restored through a lifetime lease partnership with *Friends of St. Mary's Chapel*, preserving an important part of Louisiana's Catholic heritage.

You are invited to join the *Friends of St. Mary's Chapel* for an evening of music, food, fellowship, and fundraising on Friday, October 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Cabin & Courtyard Events in Burnside, Louisiana.

Enjoy live entertainment by the Peyton Falgoust Band, delicious jambalaya, a silent auction, and fellowship with others who share a commitment to preserving this treasured landmark. Your support will help continue the restoration of St. Mary's Chapel and ensure its legacy for generations to come.

Visit <https://stmarysgathering2026.auctria.events> for ticket information.



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Aug. 4 - 6 p.m.: Frances Mollere

Wednesday, Aug. 5 - 12 p.m.: Stephen Thomas

Thursday, Aug. 6 - 8:45 a.m.: Richard Desselles Sr.

Friday, Aug. 7 - 12 p.m.: Jerry Cronin
Saturday, Aug. 8 - 4:30 p.m.: Calvin Bajon, Rodney Bordelon

Sunday, Aug. 9 - 8 a.m.: Rose and Edward Rabalais, Mitch Rabalais;
10 a.m.: Josie Hebert; **5 p.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

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.

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, and Karen White.

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, and LCpl Joseph Lemoine.

(Add/edit: receptionist@stmbr.org.)

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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:

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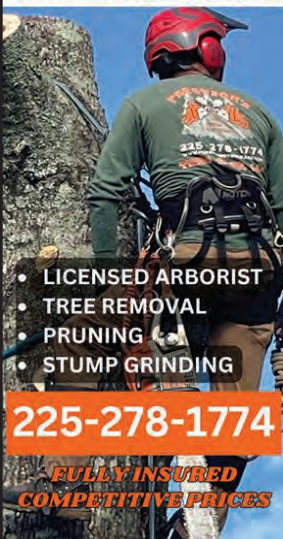
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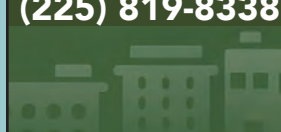


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