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TOWER

Serving St. Thomas More Catholic Church Since 1970

August 16, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 33 | Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



ABOUT OUR CHURCH

PARISH CLERGY

Pastor
Rev. Eddie Martin

Permanent Deacon
Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon
Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

PARISH STAFF

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

Ministry Assistant
Ms. Caroline Lucas

Sacristan
Mrs. Kay Fetterman

Maintenance
Mr. Alex Ho

Custodial
Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton
Mr. Rommell Richard

Office Phone Number
225-275-3940



St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Our Mission

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.

Office Hours

Mon.- Thurs.: 8 am - 12 pm; 1 - 5 pm
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 pm

Parish Worship Schedule

DAILY MASSES

Tuesday: 6 pm; Wednesday: 12 pm
Thursday: 8:45 am; Friday: 12 pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 pm Vigil
Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm

ROSARY

Wednesday: 11:30 am

RECONCILIATION

Wednesdays: 11:15 - 11:45 am,
Thursdays: 8 - 8:30 am,
Saturdays: 3:15 - 4:15 pm,
and by appointment.

Let's Stay Connected

Stay informed and connected with our parish community.



website: stmbr.org/church



weekly e-newsletter: sign up to receive - under Links/Resources



email: churchinfo@stmbr.org



facebook.com/stmchurchbr



instagram.com/stmbrevents

Submission Deadlines

Submit bulletin notices and social media requests two weeks prior to publication/posting. Send submissions to churchinfo@stmbr.org

Online Offertory Option

To access our online offertory giving, please follow the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



Stewardship

Sharing Our Time, Talent & Treasure

Stewardship is our grateful response to God's blessings. Through prayer, service, and generosity, we are called to share the gifts God has given us. Our parish offers many opportunities to share your time and talents through ministries that support our worship, strengthen our community, and serve those in need. There is a place for everyone to serve. To learn more about our parish ministries and how you can get involved, visit stmbr.org/church/ministries.

PASTOR'S LETTER

Knock Down Those Walls

Today's readings are all about embracing those who are different from "us" and overcoming social "classifications."

The Lord speaks through Isaiah in our first reading, specifically instructing His Church to welcome foreigners, "for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." The same concept is repeated in our Responsorial, "O God, let all the nations praise you."

St. Paul marvels in our second reading about how one race's rejection of His Catholic faith has led all races to unite in following Him.

Our Gospel is set in Tyre and Sidon, bastions of the Gentiles, a race so looked down on that Jesus encapsulates the Jewish assessment of them as "dogs!" As difficult as it is to hear Jesus using such demeaning, bigoted language, He is making a point that even those we would judge the "least among us" are welcome and deserving of His love.

This is a very appropriate message for each of us as our neighborhood demographics shift from the old guard of white-collar to blue-collar workers, and languages beyond Cajun French reach our ears.

We've got a great thing going here at STM, a lot of diversity! And much like the Apostles filled their Churches with historically Gentile people, our future survival here hinges on welcoming those who populate our neighborhoods, if they'll have us and look past our shortcomings!

Blessings,

Fr. Eddie



OUR PARISH FAMILY

Welcome! We are so happy you are here! Whether you are visiting for the first time, returning to the Church, or looking for a parish home, we welcome you with joy. We invite you to become part of our parish family and grow with us in faith, fellowship, and service.

New Parishioners

We warmly welcome those who have recently registered with our parish. We are grateful you have chosen to be part of our faith community! *Alicia and David Bergeron and family, Hannah Gambrell, Alece and Jacolby Glaude and family, Ruth and Jesse Linder and family, Stacy and Daniel Nguyen and family, Mirice and Noel Ndjie Ntsongo and family, Manuella and Emile Picarella and family, Katrina and Kyle Stewart and family, and Adele and Cole Thornton*

To register as a parishioner, please complete a registration form available in the church, at the parish office, or on our parish website. We look forward to welcoming you!

WORSHIP & FAITH



Welcome Newly Baptized

We extend a warm welcome into the Church family to the following children who were baptized at St. Thomas More during the month of July: **Karl Mognol Ndjie Ntsongo**, & **Noah Ngono Ndjie**, children of Noel Ntsongo & Mirice Mouyol; **Margaret Ann Holland**, daughter of Elijah & Katie Holland; and **Emely Jimena Xitumul Galeano**, daughter of Audelina Xitumul Galeano.

1st Reconciliation & Eucharist

Sacramental Preparation – Registration Open

Preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist is an important step in your child's faith journey. Parents agree to:

- Bring their child to Mass regularly and participate in Sunday worship and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Prepare their child using provided resources and complete assigned materials.
- Attend parent preparation meetings.

Requirements:

- Children must have completed 1st Grade Religious Education through a Catholic school or PSR.
- Children not in Catholic school must also register separately for PSR.
- Preparation takes place at your registered parish. Families from another parish need written permission from their pastor.
- A baptismal certificate is required for children baptized outside STM.

Registration Deadline: September 1

Fee: \$40

Register: stmbr.org/news/psr

Thinking About Becoming Catholic?

Interested in learning more about the Catholic faith?

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for adults and children (age 7+) who want to become Catholic, Christians from other denominations seeking full communion with the Catholic Church, baptized Catholics who still need First Eucharist and/or Confirmation, and anyone wishing to deepen their faith.

Introductory Meeting

Tuesday, August 25

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Mother Teresa Room

We are also seeking volunteers to serve as catechists, sponsors, and hospitality ministers for the OCIA program.

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

PSR Registration Open

STM's Parish School of Religion (PSR) provides Catholic faith formation for children attending public schools or non-Catholic private schools.

Grades 1–5 participate in a home-based program using textbooks and online assessments.

Second-grade students preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist must also register separately for Sacramental Preparation.

Grades 6 and above attend in-person classes as part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Registration Fee: \$40.00

Registration Deadline: September 1

To register, visit: stmbr.org/news/psr

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Aug. 18 - 6 p.m.: Johnny Ragusa, Angel Pia Sr., Aline Cangelosi

Wednesday, Aug. 19 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, Aug. 20 - 8:45 a.m.: Stephen Thomas

Friday, Aug. 21 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, Aug. 22 - 4:30 p.m.: Allen Dufrene

Sunday, Aug. 23 - 8 a.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors;
10 a.m.: Josie Hebert, Tom Webre, Debbie Davis, Mickey Deville, Stephen Thomas, Special Intention: Living Members of Delage Family;
5 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Mona Villemarette the week of Aug. 16 as requested by her mother, Gerrie.

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.

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.)

PARISH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE

STM AUCTION

Casino NIGHT

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

WWW.STMBR.ORG/AUCTION



Experience The Chosen – Season 4

Join us as we continue The Chosen, a powerful series on the life of Jesus told through those who knew Him.

Directed by Dallas Jenkins,
it's the largest crowdfunded TV series ever made.

Details:

Thursdays, Sept. 3-17,

Oct. 1-15, 29 & Nov. 5

10 am – 12 pm

Mother Teresa Room

Format: Watch an episode + guided discussion
with Scripture Cost: Free (registration required)

Register: 225-275-3940

Capacity: Limited to 30 participants

All are welcome—come grow in faith and invite a friend!

Southeast Baton Rouge Coalition
St. Jean Vianney St. Thomas More St. Patrick

Retreat Registration now open!



Men's ACTS Retreat #4: October 8, 2026 - October 11, 2026

First Come/First Served
Home parishes Preference

Men's Link to Register:
<https://forms.gle/6wV7k1CanEwo82br6>

Questions: Contact Retreat Director:
Kerry Gaspard
Enter email kerrygaspard@gmail.com



KICKOFF!



*Join us
for mass, girl dinner, and meeting*



*Tuesday, August 18, 2026
6 pm Mass*

*followed by dinner and meeting
in the Activity Center*



girl dinner: (noun) a viral social media trend describing a quick, low-effort meal made of random snack foods instead of a formal meal. It requires zero to minimal prep work—think opening packages rather than using a stove.

Faith. Friends. Potluck.

*Food and drink can be dropped off in the
Activity Center prior to Mass*



All are welcome! Come get involved!

PARISH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS



St. Thomas More Parish

YOUTH GATHERING



WHO Parishioners in grades 5 - 8

DATE Friday, August 21

TIME 3:15 - 4:30 pm

PLACE Parish Activity Center

REGISTER stmbr.org/news/youth



Calling our STM 5th - 8th graders!

Come join us in the Activity Center on Friday, August 21, for fun, friendship, and faith. The afternoon will begin at 3:15 and will end at 4:25. Pick up begins at 4:30. Guardians will park and come get your child from the Activity Center. Snacks will be provided. Register at stmbr.org/news/youth



STM MEN'S CLUB MEN DOING MORE

Men's Club Member Meeting

Saturday, August 29, 2026

6:00 PM

STM Parish Activity Center

All men in our parish community are invited to attend the Back-to-School Member Meeting on August 29th at 6:00 p.m. in the Activity Center.

Members are encouraged to invite other men from the community to attend and learn more about becoming a member. The meeting will include a recap of the past year, as well as information about upcoming events and opportunities for the year ahead.

You're invited to the
**Magnificat of Baton Rouge
Prayer Breakfast**
Featured Speaker:
Ryan Gaudet
Saturday, August 29, 2026
Oak Lodge Reception & Event
2905 Westfork Dr., BR
9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Ryan Gaudet, a second-year seminarian at Notre Dame Seminary and former summer seminarian with our parish family, will share his inspiring story of faith, conversion, and his call to priesthood.

Register:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/prayer-breakfast-13>
or contact Gwen Gillis at 225-505-7050
or Dianne Lencse at 225-235-3021