

the
TOWER

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August 23, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 34 | Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



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Permanent Deacon
Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon
Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

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OCIA & Baptisms
Mrs. Tricia Greely

Religious Education
Ms. Bridget Day

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Ms. Caroline Lucas

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Mrs. Kay Fetterman

Maintenance
Mr. Alex Ho

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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
1st & 3rd Sunday: 9:30 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

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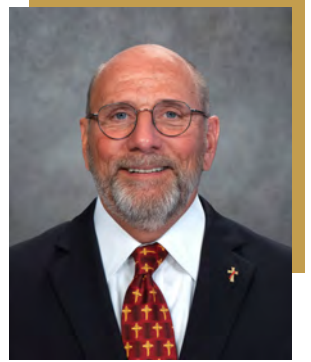
Stewardship

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.

DEACON'S LETTER

What Difference Does It Make?



In today's Gospel, by asking His disciples, "...who do you say that I am?", Jesus is asking each of us, "Who do I say Jesus is...in my life in 2026?"

Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel, was called by God to "gather together scattered humanity" through a threefold promise: the promise of land, a great nation, and a worldwide or universal blessing. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the Church is the fulfillment of that promise (paragraphs 59–61). Abraham lived some 1,800–2,000 years before Jesus. Jesus' coming into this world and establishing His Church through Peter some 2,000 years after God made His threefold promise to Abraham tells us that God is faithful to His promises.

Some of the arguments we hear today against God from secular society are that people don't see God working in a world that has so much pain and suffering, or, "That's an old story, not pertinent to today's world, where we are so much more intelligent." The fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham in His Church is proof that He continues to work throughout human history. The Catholic Church is the oldest continuous institution in the world. God is not bound by time.

If God worked to fulfill His promise to Abraham after 2,000 years, then today, in 2026, some 2,000 years after Jesus came to earth and promised to bring salvation to all through faith in Him, we can trust that He is still alive and well in our world, working in our lives.

So, who do you say that Jesus is...in your life? What difference does His coming into the world, 2,000 years later, make in our lives? Our personal answers to these questions should move our faith to action.

Blessings,

Deacon Paul

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! *Michael Brandell, Betty and Lou Braud, and Rose and Adolphus Obioha.*

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 to the Lord's Table

Please join us in celebrating **Lyra Bradley**, who took a beautiful step of faith by making a public profession of faith and receiving First Holy Communion on Aug. 9. As she continues to walk the path of preparation toward the Sacrament of Confirmation, let us surround her with our parish prayers.

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. 25 - 6 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, Aug. 26 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, Aug. 27 - 8:45 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, Aug. 28 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, Aug. 29 - 4:30 p.m.: Carolyn Perrault

Sunday, Aug. 30 - 8 a.m.: Stephen Thomas; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **5 p.m.:** Joseph Bower

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



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GOLD HOLE SPONSOR \$250	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="581 1192 781 1285"> 2 Hole Signs • Logo included on all Golf Tournament Web Content </td><td data-bbox="781 1192 1045 1285"> HOLE SPONSOR \$150 </td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="581 1285 781 1430"> 1 Hole Sign • Logo included on all Golf Tournament Web Content </td><td data-bbox="781 1285 1045 1430"></td></tr> </table>	2 Hole Signs • Logo included on all Golf Tournament Web Content	HOLE SPONSOR \$150	1 Hole Sign • Logo included on all Golf Tournament Web Content	
2 Hole Signs • Logo included on all Golf Tournament Web Content	HOLE SPONSOR \$150				
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INDIVIDUAL \$150 TEAM \$500	Each player receives • Round of golf • Polo • Hat • Swag Bag (Golf Balls, Towel, etc.) • Dinner				



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stmmensclub.com*

STM 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
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

📺 Increase your odds at the **Knights of Columbus Sportsman Raffle** where a \$20 ticket enters you into **five** separate drawings for top gear (pellet grill, griddle, cooler, binoculars, crawfish boiling kit) or cash value. Since every ticket is eligible for every drawing, buying multiple tickets drastically multiplies your chances to win multiple times! Join us **September 9** at 6 PM in the Activity Center for food and drinks, though winners do not need to be present to win. Buy your tickets now at stmbr.org/news/kc-raffle

PARISH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Experience The Chosen – Season 4

Thursdays, Sept. 3-17, Oct. 1-15, 29 & Nov. 5

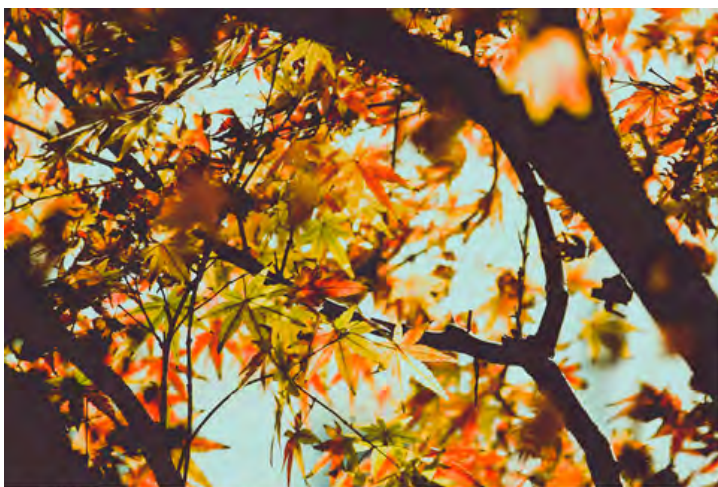
10 am – 12 pm Mother Teresa Room

Cost: Free (registration required)

Register: 225-275-3940

Capacity: Limited to 30 participants

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



FALL INTO GOOD HEALTH

Plan to join us next month for our parish blood drive & flu shot clinic

Sept. 20 Blood Drive | 8 am - 12 pm | Act. Ctr. Lot

Sept. 26 Flu Shots | 4 - 6 pm | School Lot

Sept. 27 Flu Shots | 7:30 am - 12 pm | School Lot
Flu Shots | 4:30 - 6:30 pm | School Lot

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



Hope Youth Fest

Youth in 7th–12th grade are invited to a day of faith, fellowship, and fun!

Saturday, October 10, 2026 | 9 AM – 9 PM

Our Lady of Hope Catholic Retreat Center
Chatawa, MS

Theme: "Our Life, Our Sweetness, and Our Hope"

Enjoy live music by The Vigil Project, inspiring speakers, Confession, Adoration, Holy Mass, campus pilgrimages, and an evening of praise and worship.

Interested in attending? Contact the church office for more information.



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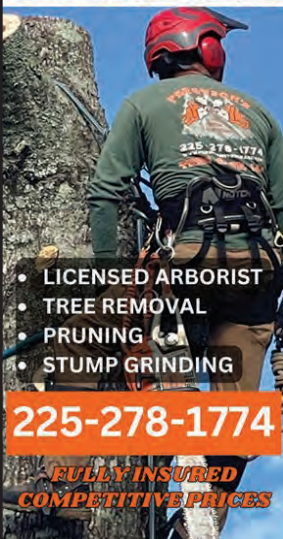
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