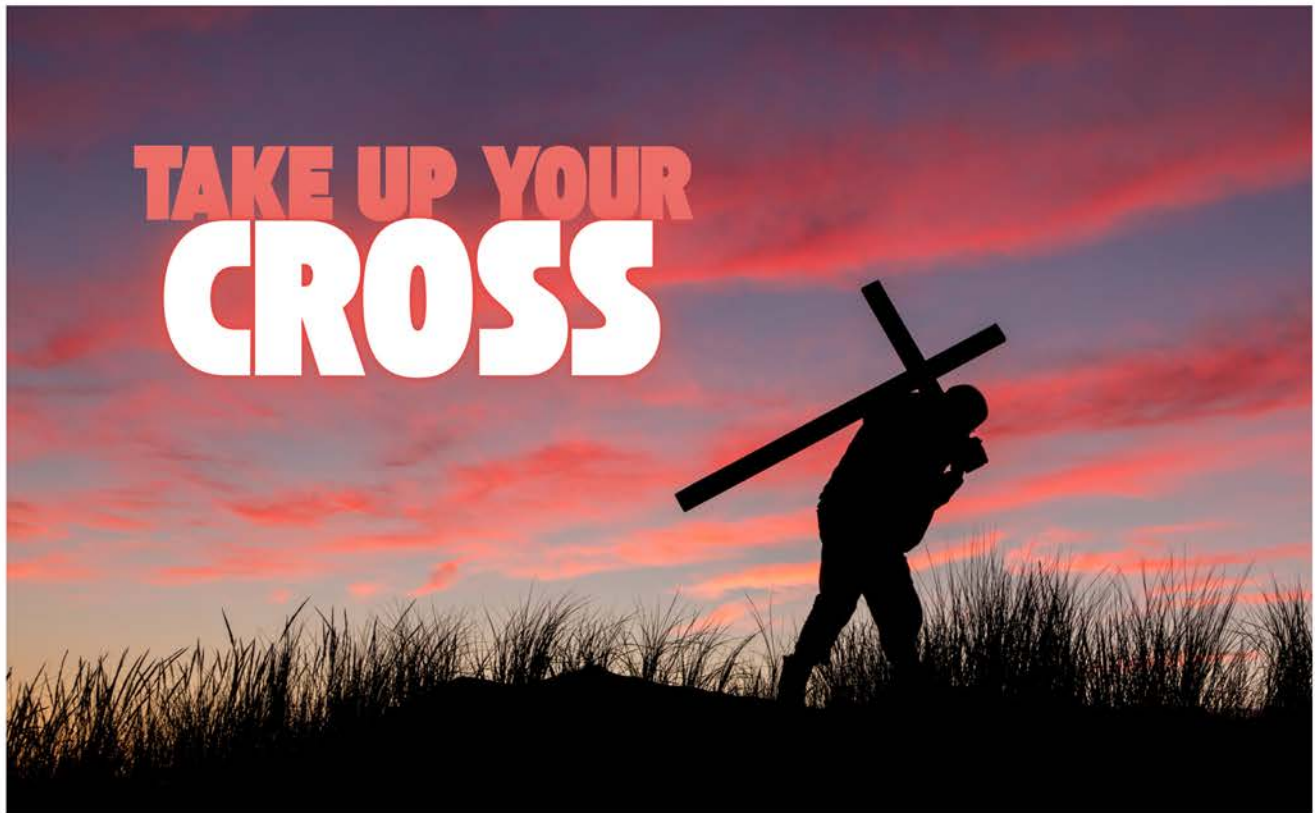


the
TOWER

Serving St. Thomas More Catholic Church Since 1970

August 30, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 35 | Twenty-second 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

OCIA & Baptisms
Mrs. Tricia Greely

Religious Education
Ms. Bridget Day

Executive Secretary
Mrs. Ellen Guidry

Receptionist
Mrs. Daphne Bihm

Music Director & Liturgy
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
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/stmbrevevents

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

Take Up Your Cross!

I'm on a personal mission to show as many as I can that God has revealed to me the simplicity of living a fulfilling life... **Die to self; live for others.** That's all we really need to know. I emphasize it in my homilies whenever it comes up in our readings, and I know you're probably tired of hearing it. Yet Jesus spells it out so clearly in today's Gospel that I must focus on it again. This time I'm sharing Fr. Tony Kadavil's approach to this Truth; I hope you enjoy it!



During the Los Angeles Open Golf Tournament several years ago, Arnold Palmer, the legendary golfer, was interviewed while practicing on the putting green. "Arnie," he was asked, "What do you feel was wrong to make you play so poorly this past year?" Without looking up from his putting, Arnold answered in his own direct way, "I wasn't hard enough on myself, that's all."

Two hours after this brief interview, the same reporter came back to find Palmer still practicing on the putting green. The reporter concluded, "The greatness of Arnold Palmer is his choice of the hard way."

Success in life requires a willingness to resist the lure of the easy way.

The 'easy way' is constantly bombarding us. We live in a world that focuses on enjoying all the pleasure we can while avoiding all the pain and challenges of life. Jeremiah could have remained a dresser of sycamores. Maximilian Kolbe could have retreated behind his German citizenship and not decried the atrocities of the Third Reich, which landed him in Auschwitz. He could have remained silent when the father he volunteered to replace was chosen for execution. He clearly followed St. Paul's great advice in his letter to the Romans: "offer our bodies as a living sacrifice" and "do not conform yourself to this age."

A sound and fulfilling life comes only from seeking God's will and focusing on what we can do for others. For individuals and families, it means taking the time to be sensitive to the needs of our loved ones, especially our children. It means providing not only for their physical needs but also for their emotional and spiritual needs. Are we setting a good example of following Christ fully, or are we teaching them to live the life of a Cafeteria Catholic? Do we demonstrate and instill sacrifice, perseverance, and determination?

Let's make it clear to all who have eyes on us: **the path to personal success is the path of self-denial.**

God bless,

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! *Aimee and Landon Meyer and family.*

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

Sacramental Preparation – CLOSES SEPTEMBER 1

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

- 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

PSR Registration

CLOSES SEPTEMBER 1

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

stmbr.org/news/psr



Bible Study Opportunity Volunteers Needed

St. Thomas More is looking for energetic, faithfilled, volunteers eager to work with our high school students leading a Bible Study this school year.

The program we are using is from Ascension Press and includes engaging videos and lessons. We need parishioners to help lead and walk alongside our young people. No teaching experience is necessary—just a willingness to share your time and love for Christ.

With the age of Confirmation now moved to 7th grade, it is more important than ever to provide meaningful opportunities for our newly confirmed youth to stay connected, deepen their faith, and grow as lifelong disciples of Christ.

Please prayerfully consider giving back to our youth by serving in this ministry. Together, we can nurture the next generation of the Church!

If interested please contact Bridget Day in the church office, dayb@stmbr.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Sept. 1 - 6 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, Sept. 2 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, Sept. 3 - 8:45 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, Sept. 4 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, Sept. 5 - 4:30 p.m.: Doris and Bill Croissant, Ernest Bonaccorso Jr., Joe Vince, Sam Smith

Sunday, Sept. 6 - 8 a.m.: Stephen Thomas; **10 a.m.:** Tom Webre; **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 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, Kathie Moise, Myra Chester.

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



2026 Knights of Columbus SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

Prize #1
Pit Boss 1600 Competition Series Pellet Grill/Smoker *or*

CASH OPTION: \$500

Prize #2
Blackstone 36 in. 4 Burner Omnivore Griddle *or*

CASH OPTION: \$400

Prize #3
K2 Cooler (Yeti style) Summit 50 - 57 Quart *or*

CASH OPTION: \$300

Prize #4
Leupold BX-1 McKenzie HD 12 X 50 Binoculars *or*

CASH OPTION: \$200

Prize #5
Outdoor Gourmet 100 Qt Crawfish Boiling Kit *or*

CASH OPTION: \$200

5 PRIZES
CASH OPTIONS UP TO \$500
TICKETS: \$20

Every ticket is eligible for all 5 drawings!

DRAWING EVENT
When: September 9, 2026
Where: STM Activity Center
When: 6:00 pm
Included: Food and refreshments

Your ticket supports the good work of the KCs.

GET TICKETS NOW




Tickets	Cash Cost	Venmo
1	\$20	\$20.50
2	\$40	\$40.99
3	\$60	\$61.20
4	\$80	\$81.60
5	\$100	\$102.00
6	\$120	\$122.40
7	\$140	\$142.80
8	\$160	\$163.20
9	\$180	\$183.60
10	\$200	\$204.00

Contact: John Serbeck (KC 5530 FS)
Email: john@serbeck.com • Phone: 281-814-4856
winner need not be present
Permit: L0006061



RUN FOR LIFE 2026 JOIN TEAM STM!

St. Thomas More Church is proud to sponsor this event again, and we'd love for you to join the fun on **November 21!**

Born to Run is more than just a race—it's a morning of food, music, and community while supporting the Woman's New Life Clinic and women in need.

Ways to get involved:

- Join the STM team (run or walk!) Visit: stmbr.org/news/run-stm
- Cheer along the route
- Invite friends and family
- Donate to our team goal

Let's show up as a parish family to support life, share fellowship, and make STM shine in our community!

September

Labor Day / Office Closed: Sept. 7
Fellowship Sunday: Sept. 13
Youth Gathering: Sept. 18
Scout Popcorn Sales: Sept. 19-20
Food Collection Weekend: Sept. 19-20
Children's Church: Sept. 20
Blood Drive: Sept. 20
ACTS Fundraiser: Sept. 27
Flu Shot Clinic: Sept. 26-27

Monday
October 19, 2026
Greystone Country Club
11:30am Shotgun Start



STM MEN'S CLUB
MEN DOING MORE

STM Men's Club Greg Brown Golf Tournament

INDIVIDUAL \$150

TEAM \$500

Each player receives:

- Round of golf
- Polo
- Hat
- Swag bag (golf balls, towel, etc.)
- Dinner



*Scan to register to play or sponsor,
or for more information visit,
stmmensclub.com*

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

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 grades 7 - 12 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.

Details: <https://ourladyofhopems.com/youth-fest>

Interested in attending? Contact Bridget Day in the church office at dayb@stmbrr.org



Come, Lord Jesus! Join Us for Prayer and Scripture

Did you know that St. Thomas More has a *Come, Lord Jesus!* group that meets every Wednesday morning?

This faith-filled program brings parishioners together for prayer, Scripture study, and fellowship in a community of Christian love. Through weekly reflection on the Sunday readings, members journey through the Gospels, Epistles, and Old Testament while deepening their relationship with Christ and growing as witnesses of His love.

Participants use a Catholic Bible, the *Come, Lord Jesus!* Member Handbook, Volume I (Be My Witness), and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Join us **Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Meeting Room 5** of the Activity Center. Come and discover this wonderful opportunity to pray, learn, and grow together in faith!

Contact: Marcia Empson, msempson@bellsouth.net



October 2 - 4, 2026
Grand Couteau, LA
Registration Ends: September 18
helpourmarriage.org

