

the
TOWER

Serving St. Thomas More Catholic Church Since 1970

September 6, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 36 | Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

*where two or three are gathered together
in my name*

T H E R E A M I I N T H E M I D S T O F T H E M



11441 Goodwood Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70815 | 225.275.3940 | www.stmbr.org

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/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

Unity / Reconciliation

It is rare that all three readings address the same subject as completely as they do today. And it couldn't be directed toward a better topic: how we are to interact with one another.

Our second reading summarizes all the commandments that address our relationships and condenses them down to loving our neighbor as ourselves. The first reminds us that we are our brothers' keepers and that it is sinful not to interact with them, try to persuade them, and instruct them in God's ways. (So contradictory to what our culture tells us: mind your own business and don't discuss religion and politics in public.) Our Gospel informs us on how we are to reconcile our differences - in the most private, least abrasive manner possible.

The Gospel closes with a promise that when two or more ask in His name, their prayer will be answered. This is often a source of disappointment for those who misinterpret it.

When my older brother was in high school, he pointed out today's Gospel verse to me, "...if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted...". He then instructed me to pray with him that "Kathy" would fall in love with him; convinced and confident by this passage that it would surely happen. I shook my head and agreed that was what it said, but his request sounded more like voodoo than prayer to me. "Kathy" did not fall in love with him.

My brother's mistake is one many of us have made: misunderstanding the nature of prayer, particularly the verses where Jesus assures us our prayers will be answered, like today. What He assures us of is that when we seek His will in prayer, He will make it known. Jesus advises us never to pray for our individual desires: God knows what we want and, more importantly, what we need. (Intercessory prayer for others, however, is very appropriate.) Today's promise, for instance, is given in the context of maintaining unity and bringing a brother back into the fold; the Church being the ultimate authority in determining the best means of doing that (...if he refuses to listen to them, tell him to the church.) The Apostles were the Church, and the binding and loosing promise refers to their rule; he's assuring them he will guide them in their decisions and judgments.

Let us follow God with all our heart, mind, and soul. Let us love our neighbor as ourselves. And we must bring as many along with us as we can. Let us seek His will and forgiveness in our prayer and grant his forgiveness to those who wrong us.

God bless,

Fr. Eddie



WE REMEMBER

God of love we place in your loving arms the thousands of innocent lives that were lost on that unforgettable morning of September 11, 2001. We also remember the courage of the countless men and women who put their lives at risk in order to rescue, alleviate and bring solace to the afflicted. Help us to continue to work for a world free from every form of hatred, violence and ignorance. May terrorism -- in all its forms -- disappear from the face of the earth. Amen.

- Fr. Alberto Cutie

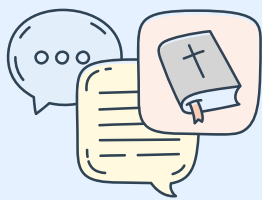


Please join us for a Patriotic Rosary

following the 6:00 PM Communion Service on Tuesday, September 8.

Let us come together in prayer as we remember the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, honoring those who lost their lives and praying for our nation, our families, and peace in our world.

WORSHIP & FAITH



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

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Fr. Eddie is on vacation this week. During his absence, Communion Services will be held in place of the regularly scheduled weekday Masses, with the exception of Thursday, when the 8:45 AM Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Matthew Graham.

Confessions are canceled this week on Wednesday and Thursday.

Please keep Fr. Eddie in your prayers as he enjoys this time of rest and renewal. May this be a peaceful and relaxing time for him.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE

Beginning September 14, our weekly 12:00 p.m. Friday Mass will move to Monday at 12:00 p.m.

This schedule will remain in place outside of Lent.

During Lent, we will have Friday Mass at 6:00 p.m. instead, with no Monday noon Mass.

Please note: Any Mass intentions previously scheduled for a Friday noon Mass will be moved to the Monday noon Mass that same week.

INTERFAITH FEDERATION MOVABLE PRAYER VIGIL

STM's Interfaith Ministry invites you to participate in the Interfaith Federation of Baton Rouge's Movable Pray-for-Peace Prayer Vigil. We have partnered with St. Mary's Baptist Church, 1252 N. Acadian Thruway, for this prayer opportunity.

Visit St. Mary's anytime between 2 and 4 p.m. to set aside time to pray for peace. If you cannot make it to St. Mary's, please take a moment to pray wherever you are.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Sept. 8 - 6 p.m.:

Communion Service

Wednesday, Sept. 9 - 12 p.m.:

Communion Service

Thursday, Sept. 10 - 8:45 a.m.:

Rosemary and Fred Kelpé

Friday, Sept. 11 - 12 p.m.:

Communion Service

Saturday, Sept. 12 - 4:30 p.m.: STM

Families, Friends, and Neighbors

Sunday, Sept. 13 - 8 a.m.: Stephen

Thomas, Joseph Bower, Jackie and

Jim Daughtry, Chu Van Tran and

Choe Thi Le, Ngac Van Tran and Tin

Thi Nguyen, Dang Van Xuyen, Rosa

Hang; **10 a.m.:** Mark Midboe;

5 p.m.: Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith

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, 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

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Wishing all our parishioners and friends a joyful and safe Labor Day weekend! May this time bring rest, gratitude, and celebration for the work we do and the people we share it with.

Please note: The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7th.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Join us for Fellowship Sunday on Sunday, September 13, following 10 am Mass!

Enjoy coffee, donuts, and other delicious breakfast treats as we gather together for good food, fellowship, and community. This gathering is hosted by our Senior Ministry, 55 & Alive, and the Hospitality Ministry.

Come enjoy a bite, share a smile, and spend some time together! While you're here, take the opportunity to learn more about these ministries and consider becoming part of one—or both! There's always room for you.

KEEP TIGER TOWN BEAUTIFUL

Sherwood Forest Area

Sept. 26th

7:00 AM start time.

Meet at STM CHURCH parking lot.

Volunteers are asked to wear closed-toe shoes, bring water and gloves (if they have them).

KTTB will supply grabbers, bags, and wagons.

If you physically cannot volunteer but want to help, water and snack donations are welcome.

PLEASE BRING DONATIONS OF CANNED GOODS AND STAPLES TO MASS NEXT WEEKEND.



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



Contact: John Serbeck (KC 5530 FS)

Email: johnserbeck.com • Phone: 281-814-4856

winner need not be present

2026 Knights of Columbus SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

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	\$40.90
3	\$60	\$61.20
4	\$80	\$81.60
5	\$100	\$102.00
6	\$120	\$122.40
7	\$140	\$142.80
8	\$160	\$163.10
9	\$180	\$183.50
10	\$200	\$203.90

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**

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



PARISH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTO THE DEEP - MIDDLE SCHOOL

Calling all 3rd–8th grade boys and their dads!

You're invited to "Into the Deep" — a powerful night of sports, pizza, and adoration for 3rd - 8th grade boys and their dads, hosted by the Office of Vocations, Diocese of Baton Rouge.

When: Friday, September 18, 2026

Where: Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

2250 Main Street, 70802

*The evening begins in the gym behind the
baseball field and finishes in the church.*

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

RSVP: Luke Zumo at luke.zumo@gmail.com



The Diocese of Baton Rouge is forming a new Diocesan Children's Choir

Children ages 10 to 13 — fifth through eighth grade — are invited to audition for the new diocesan choir. Singers will lead the congregation in song at St. Joseph Cathedral on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of Advent and at the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Previous choir experience and music reading are encouraged but not required; every child who loves to sing is encouraged to audition.

Auditions will be held Tuesday, September 8 through 11, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in the St. Joseph Cathedral Choir Room, with rehearsals on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:45pm at the Cathedral starting September 15.

Please register online at the Cathedral website or contact the Director, Brennan Plummer, at music@cathedralbr.org or call the Cathedral office at (225) 387-5928.

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



FALL INTO GOOD HEALTH

Plan to join us this 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

