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TOWER

Serving St. Thomas More Catholic Church Since 1970

September 20, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 38 | Twenty-fifth 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

Monday, 12 pm; Tuesday: 6 pm;
Wednesday: 12 pm Thursday: 8:45 am

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

Never Too Late

Today's readings emphasize God's generosity in forgiving a life lived mostly far from Him and His teachings, while cautioning us not to envy those He pardons. Rather, we should rejoice in souls once lost, now saved; not be bitter about their ticket also being punched for heaven. If we have the attitude of Paul, wanting to enjoy his reward of eternal life now but willing to continue his labors here so that even more of these "latecomers" hold tickets, there will be no room for jealousy or envy in our hearts.



In truth, those who toil for Christ all their lives aren't being cheated in the slightest, as they also enjoy the reward of meaningful and fulfilling lives. Late bloomers waste their lives pursuing fulfillment in worldly things that never deliver. And after all, paradise is all-fulfilling, leaving nothing wanting - not a daily wage that is soon exhausted.

If that's not enough for you, Purgatory might satisfy your sense of injustice, although God employs it to purify us, not to exact revenge.

Lastly, I'd like to emphasize once more the wide-open nature of our Church. It is universal and welcoming to all. A church of saints and sinners. A church where differences are left at the door and unity is highly prized. Let's be sure that each of us is doing all we can to welcome newcomers and visitors.

God bless,
Fr. Eddie



Catechetical Sunday, September 20, 2026

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring glad tidings to the poor." Luke 4:18

Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church. Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you. Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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OUR PARISH FAMILY

Welcome

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

Interested in becoming a parishioner? We would love for you to make our parish your spiritual home. Registration forms are available in the church, at the parish office, or on our parish website.

New Parishioners

We warmly welcome those who have recently registered with our parish. We are grateful that you have chosen to become part of our faith community! **Cindy Estep**

In Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family of **Presentacion Jackson**. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

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 August:

Taylor James Romano, child of Bradley Steven Romano & Kathryn Riley Davis; **Anthony Nguyen Perron and Emily Nguyen Perron**, children of Jacob Wayne Perron & Giau Nguyen; **Josephine Lenore Crowder**, child of Patrick Casey Crowder & Ashley Reis Porcuna; **Ava Elizabeth Dolan, Corinne Jolie Dolan, and James Francis Dolan, IV** children of James Francis Dolan III & Adrienne Rose Castille.

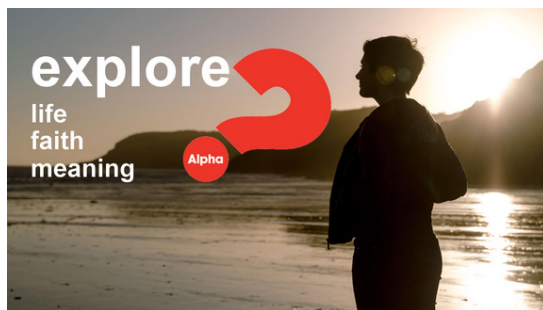
End-of-Life Decision Making and the Dignity of Human Life

The Dioceses of Baton Rouge and Lafayette invite you to a presentation by Dr. Joseph Zalot, Director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, on Catholic teaching and faithful decision-making at the end of life.

Saturday, October 31, 2026 | 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Tracy Center Auditorium, Catholic Life Center
1800 S. Acadian Thruway, B.R.
Lunch provided.

Registration required.
<https://diobr.org/rlc-event>



We're excited to announce that Alpha is coming to our parish!

Alpha is a space to encounter Jesus, deepen your faith, and share meaningful conversations with others in our community. Whether you're a lifelong Catholic or simply curious about faith, Alpha offers a welcoming place to explore, connect, and grow together.

What can you expect at Alpha?

Each session begins with a meal, followed by a short video exploring questions of life and faith and time for open conversation. It's a relaxed opportunity to listen, share, ask questions, and explore the Christian faith together.

As a parish, we hope Alpha will create opportunities for people to encounter Jesus and grow in relationship with Him. We also hope it will give our parishioners an easy way to invite a friend, spouse, or family member to join us.

Bring your questions. Bring a friend. Come ready for a conversation.

Watch a short video on our parish website to see how we can build a welcoming community together and feel confident sharing the joy of the Gospel with everyone we meet.

There's no cost to attend, and no pressure to have all the answers.

stmbr.org/news/alpha

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Bootsie Pecoraro the week of Sept. 20 as requested by Pam Robinson.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, Sept. 21 - 12 p.m.: Gerald Bower

Tuesday, Sept. 22 - 6 p.m.: Chad Roberts

Wednesday, Sept. 23 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, Sept. 24 - 8:45 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, Sept. 26 - 4:30 p.m.: Gerald Bower

Sunday, Sept. 27 - 8 a.m.: Barry Sanders; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **5 p.m.:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

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, 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, MSgt. Phillip Culotta
(Add/edit: receptionist@stmbr.org)

PARISH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Support STM Men's Club, promote your business, and enjoy a great day of golf!

Join us for the 2026 Greg Brown Golf Tournament on Monday, October 19, 2026, at Greystone Country Club.

The tournament is named in memory of Greg Brown, one of the original founders of the STM Men's Club in 2006 and the driving force behind its first golf tournament in 2007. Greg served as Men's Club president in 2009 and played an important role in the club's early growth and traditions. Following his passing from cancer in 2013, the tournament was renamed in his honor in recognition of his lasting impact on the STM Men's Club.

Sponsors are the driving force behind this event. Sponsorship opportunities give businesses and organizations valuable exposure while supporting STM Men's Club and its mission of Men Doing More.

Sponsorship packages range from \$150 to \$5,000. Individual golfers may register for \$150, and team registration is \$500.

Each player receives a round of golf, tournament shirt, hat, swag bag, and dinner.

Service fees are waived when payment is made by check.

Please make checks payable to STM Men's Club and mail them to: 11441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, 70815



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

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 at dayb@stmbr.org

PARISH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL FLU SHOT CLINIC

Protect yourself and help protect our parish community! Our Annual Flu Shot Clinic will be offered as a convenient drive-through clinic in the school parking lot.

Flu shots will be available:

- **Saturday, Sept. 26: 4 –6 p.m.**
- **Sunday, Sept 27: 7:30 a.m.–12 p.m. and 4:30–6:30 p.m.**

Flu shots are free with or without insurance for ages 3+. Please bring your insurance card with you if you have one.

We are grateful to parishioner Anthony Castille, Walgreens and volunteers for making this annual effort possible and for their generous service to our parish community. We encourage all eligible parishioners to take advantage of this convenient opportunity to protect their health this flu season.

OCTOBER FUNDRAISERS

We have three wonderful opportunities to support great causes next month. Please save the dates for these upcoming events:

- **Holy Land Olive Wood Sale (October 3–4):** Handcrafted items from the Holy Land will be available for purchase. These beautiful crafts make perfect Christmas gifts, so don't miss out!
- **Jambalaya Fundraiser (October 11):** Enjoy a great drive-thru meal while supporting Colombian earthquake victims. This event is spearheaded by parishioners Natalia Fandiño and Dana Vutera.
- **Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner (October 18):** Enjoy a delicious chicken dinner hosted by our K of C council.

More details for all of these events are coming soon. Please watch the bulletin for updates!



Let's Keep Tiger Town Beautiful!

Sherwood Forest Area

Saturday, 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.

Born to Run 2026
5K and Fun Run
November 21
JOIN TEAM STM!
stmbr.org/news/run



Secular Discalced Carmelites Open House

The Secular Discalced Carmelites of Baton Rouge are sharing an invitation to an upcoming Open House on Sunday, October 11, at 2:30 p.m. at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center.

Secular Carmelites are members of the Carmelite Order who seek holiness through prayer, contemplation, charity, and service, following the example of the great Carmelite saints, including St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. *Members may be single or married and may include diocesan priests and deacons.*

Those interested in learning more about the Carmelite vocation and deepening their prayer life are welcome to attend. For more information, visit discalcedcarmelitesofbatonrouge.com.