

the
TOWER

Serving St. Thomas More Catholic Church Since 1970

September 27, 2026 | VOLUME 56 NUMBER 39 | Twenty-sixth 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.

DEACON'S LETTER

Elevator Speech

If you've ever been in a high-rise building riding an elevator with strangers up to the top level floors, you know that feeling of awkwardness or excitement depending on your type of personality. Most people get in the elevator, turn towards the door and watch the floors light up as the elevator moves without saying a word, wishing the elevator would go faster. Other people will chit-chat about the weather or other non-offensive topic. It is in this environment that the term "elevator speech" was born. I was trained in my career, having worked for a large Fortune 500 corporation, to imagine myself riding an elevator with a company executive and use that opportunity to sell myself or something I needed in the job. That conversation would have to be brief and yet impactful if I were to achieve that end.



If anyone would ask most of us to boil down our faith into an "elevator speech," I would venture to say that we would struggle to do so. There are many reasons why that is true but what I've always found is that I am more comfortable chit-chatting about things that I know more about. In the long version of the second reading of Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians that we hear in Mass today, Paul gives us the "elevator speech" for Christianity in the last two paragraphs. It begins with Jesus humbly becoming man, then being crucified, and finally, then being exalted by the Father to the point where every tongue confesses that

"Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Beginning on October 7 we will be offering Alpha to the St. Thomas More community. Alpha is a way to encounter Jesus in a welcoming space for people of any and all backgrounds. It is a time to come together and discuss those basic tenets of our faith that we all question from time to time. Each week we will explore a new question of Faith and have a conversation in small groups. I would encourage each of us to invite people in our lives who are questioning their faith or even not comfortable in discussing their faith, to walk with us through Alpha.

Christ calls us each to bring the gospel to the world, in this world where our attention spans continue to shrink, it would be great to have our own "elevator speech" ready whenever the opportunity presents itself and Alpha is a great way to begin to develop it.

God bless,
Deacon Paul

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Welcome

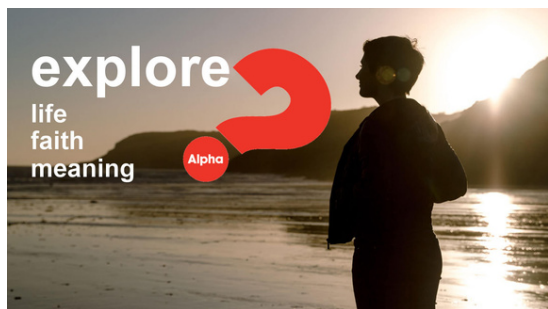
We are so happy you are here! Whether you are visiting for the first time, returning to the Church, or seeking a parish home, we welcome you with joy. We invite you to become part of our parish family and to grow with us in faith, fellowship, and service.

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.

In Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family of **Steven Campagna**. May he rest in the peace of Christ.
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

WORSHIP & FAITH



Alpha is coming to our parish! Have you signed up yet?

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

A Special Invitation to Prayer and Healing

**BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER
SEELOS HEALING MASS**

**Sunday, October 4
10:00 a.m.**

**St. Gerard Majella Church
5354 Plank Road • Baton Rouge
Fr. Jason Palermo, Celebrant**

Come and place your prayers, hopes, and needs before the Lord through the powerful intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a compassionate priest known for his ministry of mercy, reconciliation, and care for those who were suffering.

Whether you are seeking physical, emotional, or spiritual healing, or simply wish to pray for someone in need, all are welcome to this special celebration of the Lord's healing love.

There will be anointing of the sick and blessing with the Seelos relic and mission cross after the Mass.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, Sept. 28 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, Sept. 29 - 6 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, Sept. 30 - 12 p.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, Oct. 1 - 8:45 a.m.: Nina Perrin

Saturday, Oct. 3 - 4:30 p.m.: Carolyn Perrault, Mary Wilson, Sylvia Callihan, Mary Lee Guillot, Josep Gary Fontenot

Sunday, Oct. 4 - 8 a.m.: Gerald Bower;
10 a.m.: Mary Castille; **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 Wyble, 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

Bishop Duca Announces Priests' Formation Days

In a letter to the People of God in the Diocese of Baton Rouge posted on the Diocesan website, Bishop Duca announced that the annual Continuing Formation Days for priests will take place **October 5–8, 2026**, in Mobile, Alabama.

These days provide an important opportunity for our priests' spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical renewal. Participation is mandatory for active priests, and their absence from their parishes may affect weekday Mass schedules and the availability of funeral Masses during these days.

Deacons will be available to assist with funeral rites as needed.

Bishop Duca asks the faithful to pray for our priests and the Diocese of Baton Rouge during this time of renewal and formation, and thanks everyone for their continued support and encouragement of our priests.



Communion Services will be held at St. Thomas More Tuesday thru Thursday, October 6-8. The 12 pm Mass on Monday, Oct. 5, will be celebrated.

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



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

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,*

stmbrmensclub.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 encourage all eligible parishioners to take advantage of this convenient opportunity to protect their health this flu season.



Support Christians of the Holy Land: Olive Wood Gifts Sale October 3-4, 2026

Next weekend, handcrafted olivewood religious items from the Holy Land will be available after all Masses, including nativities, crucifixes, rosaries, and statues.

Purchasing these items provides an opportunity to support Christian artisans and families in and around Bethlehem whose livelihoods have been affected by the ongoing conflict and decline in tourism.

Please stop by the tables, and thank you for your prayers for peace in the Holy Land and your generosity. Cash and credit cards are expected to be accepted.



Jambalaya Fundraiser — Supporting Earthquake Survivors in Colombia

Our community is coming together to support survivors and families affected by the recent earthquakes in Colombia, including the major 7.4-magnitude earthquake in Chocó on August 10 and the 5.1-magnitude earthquake in Santander on August 26.

Join us for a Jambalaya Fundraiser! Enjoy a delicious meal while helping provide support to those recovering from these devastating events.

 **Date:** Sunday, October 11
 **Time:** 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
 **Location:** Activity Center Drive Thru
 **Donation/Price:** \$10

Payment options:

Cash

Check payable to STM Church

Venmo: @STMBRchurch

 **Menu:** Jambalaya, white beans, roll & dessert

Every contribution helps, and we are grateful for your generosity and support. Please share this fundraiser with family and friends, and keep the people and communities affected by the earthquakes in your prayers. 🙏🇨🇴

Thank you for helping our brothers and sisters in Colombia during this difficult time!