



TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

March 17, 2024 | VOLUME 54 NUMBER 11 | Fifth Sunday of Lent



GOSPEL REFLECTION

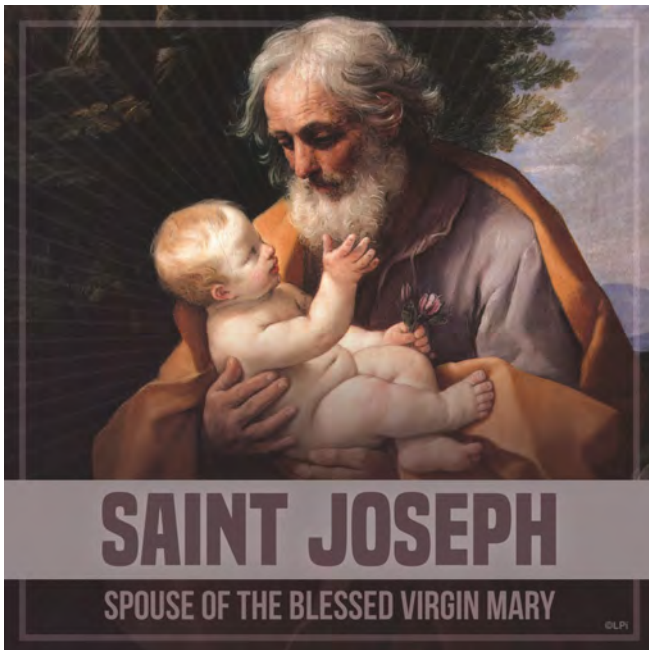
A middle-aged woman sat on the couch in my parish office and recounted to me a shocking list of terrible calamities in her life: addictions, terminal illnesses, financial loss, broken relationships, and so on. She smiled as she did so. “Please forgive me,” I asked, “but you seem to be smiling as you share this.” She said, “Father John, I am totally overwhelmed. But I’m smiling because I just can’t wait to see what good things God does with this mess.” She expected God would manifest His glory when she most needed it.

This week in the Gospel, God speaks from heaven for the third and final time in Jesus’ earthly ministry. It’s at a tough moment. Gentiles seek Jesus, who announces his terrible suffering, and then boldly prays, “Father, glorify your name!” John then writes: Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” Was the task of drawing the whole non-Jewish world to himself overwhelming? Or was it the terrible specter of crucifixion? Whatever it was, the crushing weight triggers his turning to the Father with an unshakeable expectation of divine glory to burst through. And indeed, it did on Easter Sunday. In our burdens, our greatest strength is to turn to God and boldly ask Him for His glory.



Lenten challenge: This week, I invite you to list out everything which is a burden to you. Write it down. Then add these words: “Father, glorify Your name in all these things!” Put that paper in your pocket or purse when you come to Holy Week liturgies next week. You might smile at the most unlikely times.

— Father John Muir, ©LPI



Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

March 19

O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

O Saint Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.

Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. Amen

O Saint Joseph, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions.

O Saint Joseph, pray for me. (*Mention your intention*)



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday - March 24, 2024

4:30 vigil, 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Masses

Procession at 10 a.m. Mass - gather in the plaza

Chrism Mass - Tuesday, March 26, 2024

10:30 a.m. - St. Joseph Cathedral

Holy Thursday - March 28, 2024

No morning Mass or Confessions

Perpetual Adoration suspended – resumes Tuesday, Apr. 2

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7 p.m. - *livestream*

With adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9 p.m.

Good Friday - March 29, 2024

Stations of the Cross - 12 noon

Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3 p.m. - *livestream*

Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024

Easter Vigil - 8 p.m. - *livestream*

Gather in the plaza for the lighting of the Easter fire

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

8 a.m. Mass and 10 a.m. Masses - *livestream*

No 5 p.m. Mass

~ Please note that the church office will be closed on Good Friday, Easter Monday and Tuesday, Mar. 29 - Apr. 2. ~

St. Vincent de Paul Prescription Campaign

The St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy fills life-sustaining prescriptions, providing medicines for high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes and many other illnesses to individuals with limited means. Without a doubt, there are people who are alive today because of the good work of the pharmacy and their volunteers and financial supporters. When someone loses their job or insurance, what do they do? Where can they turn? People go to the SVDP pharmacy in desperate need. They are not looking for a hand-out, but desperately needed medicine and you can help!

Donation canisters for this year's prescription campaign will be in the back of the church **thru Mar. 24-25**. About \$28.00 will fill a prescription and make a real difference in someone's life. St. Thomas More has always been very generous to this life saving effort - thank you for your generosity!



ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH 23rd ANNUAL

LENTEN FISH FRY



Feb. 23

Mar. 8

Mar. 22

5 - 5:30 pm : Drive Up Service

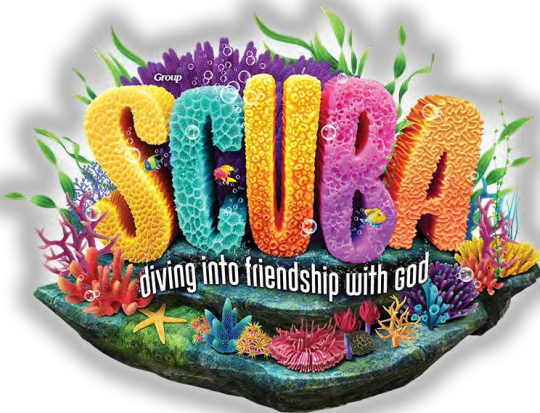
5:30 - 7:30 pm : Dine-In STM Cafeteria

\$10/plate

Fried Fish, French Fries, Coleslaw & Bread

- sweets & drinks available for purchase -

No pre-sale • Pay at the drive-thru or door



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 17 - 21, 2024

Registration will open
on May 1st.

We are now signing up
adult volunteers -
contact Jeanne Mancuso at
mancusoj@stmbr.org
if you can help.

GET YOUR PRIZE PACK RAFFLE TICKETS THIS WEEK!

The festival prize pack raffle will be drawn at the final fish fry on the 22nd. Don't miss your chance to win **two weekend ride bracelets, four festival t-shirts, and \$100 in festival bucks** for just **\$5/ticket**. Winner need not be present. Get festival raffle tickets at stmfestival.com/online-store/raffles, or in the church office.



MAY 3 - 5, 2024

Around The World **2024 STM Festival** **May 3, 4, & 5, 2024**

FOR ALL FESTIVAL NEWS, VISIT
stmfestival.com

If you would like to sponsor the 2024 STM Festival, please visit the Festival Store at stmfestival.com/sponsors or email stmchurchfestival@gmail.com.

Raffle tickets are now online - visit the festival store to purchase tickets:
stmfestival.com/online-store/Raffles



Pope Francis 
@Pontifex

Pride is the 'great queen' of all the vices. Those who give in to this vice are far from God, and it takes time and great effort to correct this evil, more than any other battle to which the Christian is called.

WEEKLY READINGS/OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of March 17

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

Observances for the week of March 17

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent

Monday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Tuesday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Holy Week begins



Pray the Stations of the Cross

Join us on Friday, Mar. 22, at 6 pm in the church for the STM School *Christians In Action* club performance of the Passion Play. This live action play of Jesus' journey to the cross and resurrection is always beautiful!

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."
-Pope Francis

Receive Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent

Tuesdays, 5 - 5:45 pm, Thursdays, 8 - 8:30 am

Saturdays, 3:15 - 4:15 pm



Divine Mercy Weekly Novena Continues

Nine Week Novena of Chaplets

Tuesdays: Feb. 20, 27,

Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2

6:30 p.m. in the church -

following 6 p.m. Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 7, 2024

Divine Mercy Chaplet

4:00 p.m. in the church

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Mar. 19 - 6 p.m.: James J. Smith, Lan Pham, Trung Luu, Nicholas Quartararo, Toni Campos, Special Intention: Kristen L. Dugas

Thursday, Mar. 21 - 8:45 a.m.: Peck Abadie

Saturday, Mar. 23 - 4:30 p.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

Sunday, Mar. 24 - 8 a.m.: Toan Thi Ngo; **10 a.m.:** Andrew Littlefield, Rev. A.J. Jung SJ, Carolyn Talbot, Sadie Broussard, Barry Sanders, Shirley B. Young, Melissa Meyers, Mickey Deville; **5 p.m.:** Souls in Purgatory

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Marilyn McDonald the week of Mar. 17, as requested by Frank Fresina.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers these seriously ill persons: **Laurie Bolanos, Becky Cline, Diane Green, Tina Koon, John Mike Golmon, Kayleigh Mims, Hunter Pecoraro, John Pecoraro, Jr., Jim O' Rourke, Bob Sanchez, Marci Ferracci Sells, Dianne Tollett, Loressa Watts**

To add a name to the prayer list, contact Elise Moran in the church office (225.275.3940, morane@stmbr.org).

PRAYER LINE

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 prayerline@stmbr.org.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Michael Alello

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Paul Soileau

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Ms. Sarah Neau

Religious Education

Mrs. Jeanne Mancuso

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Secretary/Receptionist

Ms. Elise Moran

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Mrs. Mallory Sollie

Sacristan

Mrs. Kay Fetterman

Maintenance

Mr. Alex Ho

Custodial

Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

OUR PARISH FAMILY

BAPTISM

We extend a warm welcome into the Church family to the following child that was baptized at St. Thomas More during the month of February.

Jet Wilson Amick, child of Claire Nettles.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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	https://www.youtube.com/stthomasmorebatonrouge
	Sign up for parish email on our parish website, stmbr.org , under Links and Resources
	Listen to Father Michael's homilies: https://soundcloud.com/padrehooch

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH
11441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70815
www.stmbr.org | Office Phone: 225-275-3940
Office Hours: Mon.- Thurs.: 8 am - 12 pm and 1 - 5 pm; Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 pm

DAILY MASSES

Tuesday: 6:00 pm, and Thursday: 8:45 am

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 pm Vigil

Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm

RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays of Lent from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Saturdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Also by appointment.

Emergencies After Hours:

Please call 225.275.3940 and follow the directions given on the voicemail message.

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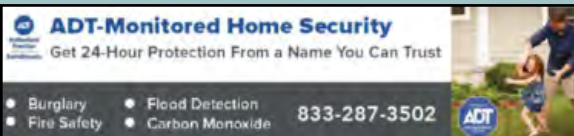
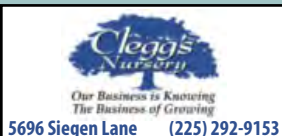
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