Rise up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from east to west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.  Baruch 5:5
**SACRAMENTAL LIFE**

**Weekend Mass**
- Saturday: 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m.

**Weekday Mass**
- Wednesday and Friday: 7 a.m.
- Tuesday: 6 p.m.
  (Preceded by Novena: 5:30 p.m.)
- Thursday: 8:45 a.m.

**Communion Service**
- First Saturday: 8:45 a.m.

**Reconciliation**
- Thursday: 8 a.m.
- Saturday: 3:15 p.m.
  and by appointment

**Baptism**
Call the parish office in the early stages of pregnancy.

**Marriage**
Call the parish office at least six months before the wedding.

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**
Fr. Michael Alello

**Permanent Deacon**
Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

**Pastoral Associate**
Sr. Janelle Sevier

**Administration**
Ms. Sheila Juneau

**Music & Liturgy**
Mr. Bret Jackson

**Religious Education**
Ms. Sarah Neau

**Secretary/The Tower**
Ms. Ellen Guidry

**Secretary/Receptionist**
Ms. Elise Moran

**Sacristain**
Ms. Kay Fetterman

**Maintenance**
Mr. Alex Ho

**Activity Center Custodian**
Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Mon.:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
**Tues.:** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
**Wed.:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
**Thurs.:** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
**Fri.:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
**Sat.:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
**Sun.:** Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sun.:** Second Sunday of Advent
**Mon.:** International Human Rights Day
**Tues.:** St. Damasus I
**Wed.:** Our Lady of Guadalupe
**Thurs.:** St. Lucy
**Fri.:** St. John of the Cross

**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.

**Liturgical Minister Schedule**

**DECEMBER 15/16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>4:30 PM</th>
<th>8 AM</th>
<th>10 AM</th>
<th>5 PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lectors</strong></td>
<td>L. Bennett, R. Stanek</td>
<td>M. Goff, E. Terrio</td>
<td>S. Horton, D. LeBouef</td>
<td>R. Harsch, B. Watts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AWAITING THE SALVATION OF GOD

The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. In the Gospel reading, the Roman empire isn't big enough, either. The great powers of Rome are named and made to stand waiting for the arrival of God’s salvation. And we find Paul meditating joyfully on what really matters.

According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God’s salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people. Why, the very way is smoothed out. The path is lined with fragrant, lush trees.

It can't get any better than this, can it? Well, yes, it can. For a voice calls out in the desert. Here is the beginning of the salvation of God.

Parish Forum Summary Available

By Dr. Greg Brandao

All St. Thomas More employees, school parents, parishioners, and 7th and 8th grade students at STM School were invited to participate in feedback sessions and forums designed to provide insights into the important elements of our community that must be maintained, areas that can be improved, and ways that each member of our parish family can participate in improvement efforts. More than 280 persons participated in this process.

A summary of the input that was provided in those sessions and forums is available on our website (www.stmchurch.org). If you do not have Internet access, you may secure a copy of the report from the parish office.

Because the forums were generally designed for parishioners or school parents, the report has sections entitled “STM Parishioners” and “STM Schools.” Input from school faculty and staff members and our 7th and 8th Graders was incorporated into the STM Schools Report. Although that may seem a bit counter to the idea of “one STM,” we recognized that there are school parents, faculty and staff members, and students who are not parishioners and that there are parishioners who do not have family members currently directly associated with any of the STM schools. We will work diligently to ensure that all our efforts are coordinated and that we continue to encourage active collaboration among all members of the STM community to advance the notion of “one STM.”

These thoughts do not represent final decisions reached in any of these areas nor do they necessarily represent a parish-wide consensus or mandate on any topic presented, but they will provide direction as the strategic planning process continues.

As the input from those sessions and forums is processed and the strategic plan is developed, all STM family members will receive updates and calls for assistance in achieving its objectives. We have already begun several initiatives based on ideas presented, including:

- Entering into an agreement with MESH to develop an STM branding/marketing campaign;
- Requesting interested firms to submit qualifications to conduct a campus master plan;
- Developing an enrollment management plan to improve retention and increase applications to STM schools; and
- Beginning an effort to devise a campus-wide advancement plan to maximize financial support for STM activities.

If you have any questions about the content of the summary provided or the direction that we are heading, please contact me (greg@stmchurch.org). I would be happy to follow up with you in a personal meeting.

Thanks to all for your collaboration as we become “one STM” community!

Return Angel Tree Gifts

Wow! STM, your generous hearts have supported the Angel Tree project in this parish greatly! Thank you for taking angel ornaments to fill the Christmas wishes of those who are less fortunate. Members of STM Women’s Ministry will be in the back of church after all Masses this weekend, Dec. 8th & 9th, to collect your angel gifts/gift cards. Please return them wrapped with the angel ornament affixed with the code facing out. The gifts will be delivered to the participating organizations by volunteers.

Though this project is organized by members of STM Women’s Ministry, all members of the STM family are encouraged and welcomed to help! If you have any questions about the STM Angel Tree Project or want to find how you can help, please contact Crystal Hebert at 225-400-5326 or crystalhebert12@gmail.com.
MASS INTENTIONS

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Isabel Lasseigne the week of Dec. 9 as requested by Stephanie Riegel.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Dec. 11 - 6 p.m.: Jackj Yousseophghi, Catherine Gueho, Lupita de Ovalle, Theresa Nguyen, Joseph Nguyen, Robert Krogseng, June Guidry

Wednesday, Dec. 12 - 7 a.m.: Charles Bongiovanni

Thursday, Dec. 13 - 8:45 a.m.: Camille Monjure

Friday, Dec. 14 - 7 a.m.: Antonio P. Monteagle Sr.

Saturday, Dec. 15 - 4:30 p.m.: Lancelos Family, Susan and Joseph Monjure, Floyd Stadeker, Charles Bongiovanni, Julie Fresina, Isabel and Cliff Lasseigne, Ray Smith, Paul Lovell, Randy Nguyen, Gordon Bordelon, Louis Vuter, Special Intention: Curtis Mitchell

Sunday, Dec. 16 - 8 a.m.: Joan Butt; 10 a.m.: Adam Dows, James Smith, Leroy Empson, Richard Ashby, Lois Hymel; 5 p.m.: For the People

Sanctuary Light

The sanctuary light will burn in memory of Isabel Lasseigne the week of Dec. 9 as requested by Stephanie Riegel.

Parish Stewardship Summary

Fiscal Year 07/01/17 — 06/30/18

Collections for the week of Nov. 18, 2018

<table>
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Faith Direct Online Giving

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To subscribe to Fr. Michael’s weekly homilies, visit: www.padrehooch.com.

PRAYER LIST


PRAYER CHAIN:

For serious or urgent prayer requests, call Sharon Hebert at 978-1246. If no answer, please leave your name and phone number for a callback.

THE WEEK AHEAD AT ST. THOMAS MORE

Tuesday, Dec. 11 - CDA Rosary Makers, 10 a.m.; RCIA, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 12 - Come Lord Jesus, 1:30 p.m.; Small Group Bible Study, 4 p.m.; Usher Mtg., 6 p.m.; Forever Young Cards, 6:30 p.m.; Parish Choir, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 13 - Confession, 8 a.m.; KC Auxiliary, 6 p.m.; Men’s Club, 6 p.m.; Men’s Ultreya, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14 - Men’s Club Christmas Party, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15 - Confession, 3:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16 - Holy Name Society, 7 a.m.; RCIA, 10:30 a.m.

FOREVER YOUNG: December 12, 6:30 pm, Cards in the coffee shop. Call Joyce at 272-2348 to participate.

SINGLE SENIORS: December 12, 11 a.m., Christmas Party at the Oak Lodge, 2834 S Sherwood Forest Blvd.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

11441 Goodwood Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70815

www.stmchurch.org

Office Phone: 225.275.3940  Office Fax: 225.275.1407
Attention High School Seniors

Each year the STM Knights of Columbus Council 5530 selects one Catholic high school senior boy and one Catholic high school senior girl to represent the Council in the Catholic Youth Leadership Award program (CYLA). To be eligible, you do not need to attend a Catholic high school. Each candidate is judged in five categories, Spiritual, Academic, Civic, Athletic, and Social. The Council winners receive each a $100 cash award and plaque and advance to the next level. State winners receive a $5,000 scholarship.

Applications may be obtained online at [http://louisianakc.org/programs/cyla/](http://louisianakc.org/programs/cyla/) or at the parish office. If you are interested in the award program and intend to fill out an application, please contact Rusty Hamilton at 225.270.1229 or by email at rmh115@cox.net so that he can ensure that all applications are received by the deadline. Applications must be received by the parish office or email by January 25, 2019, to be eligible. Good luck!

**When John proclaimed a baptism of repentance, as today’s Gospel relates, he called people to a deep change of heart. For John the Baptist, repentance was not simply regret for past failings, but a commitment to orient life around God’s desires and purposes. What might living in alignment with God’s desires look like? Our readings offer some clues. Baruch indicates that when mercy and justice are embraced like a royal garment, we may see the fruits of repentance. Paul notes how the Holy Spirit has been active within the church in Philippi, forming them to live in a loving and united community of faith, so they may witness to the love of God. And John himself suggests that a repentant heart clears a path for God to enter, leveling the mountains and valleys of our resistance, so that God might dwell within.**

---

**STM Women’s Ministry**

**Cookies with Santa**

following 8 & 10 am Masses

**Activity Center**

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Look around most Catholic churches, and you will discover an image of John the Baptist, often in the old baptistery, or in a window near where the font is or was located. He has two feast days in the calendar: one commemorating his birth, and the other his death. There are only three nativities in our calendar: for Jesus, for Mary, and for the Baptist. John’s birthday is reckoned according to the schedule given in Luke’s Gospel of the angel’s announcement to Mary. The angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is in the sixth month of pregnancy, and so Mary hastens to help her. Reckoning Christmas as December 25, we count backwards nine months to March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation. Then we count forward three months to June 24 for John the Baptist’s birth. Halfway to Christmas, his nativity gives ample reason for rejoicing in the summer, and his symbols of fire and water are used playfully in bonfires and dives into the sea. Even at the polar opposite of Christmas in the calendar, the energy of Christ’s birth in the Incarnation provides cause for rejoicing.

--James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.
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