Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36
**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

**Sacristan**
Ms. Kay Fetterman

**Maintenance**
Mr. Alex Ho

**Activity Center Custodian**
Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
**Friday:** Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
**Saturday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
**Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent; Hanukkah begins
Monday: St. Francis Xavier
Tuesday: St. John Damascene
Thursday: St. Nicholas
Friday: St. Ambrose; First Friday Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Saturday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**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 8/9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers</th>
<th>8 AM</th>
<th>10 AM</th>
<th>5 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectors</td>
<td>G. Sharp, S. Young</td>
<td>C. Thibodeaux, G. Thibodeaux</td>
<td>S. Horton, P. Husband</td>
<td>E. Perret, K. Perret</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind.

Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah’s time. Israel’s kings held the promise of God’s fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God’s promise could be realized through them.

Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke’s Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception — a holy day of obligation — is the first of two important Marian feast days that fall during Advent. It celebrates the conception of Mary within the womb of St Anne and dates back to the seventh century for the Eastern Church and eighth century for the Western Church.

Two Franciscans helped develop the theology that Mary’s Immaculate Conception was necessary to ensure Jesus’ birth was also without original sin since children take on characteristics of both parents. Franciscan Father Don Miller noted in a FranciscanMedia.org reflection, that the angel Gabriel, speaking on God’s behalf, addresses Mary as “full of grace.” Her role in salvation history meant she had to be sinless from the outset.

The Catholic dogma that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free from original sin from the moment of her conception and preserved from all sin throughout her earthly life was declared by Pope Pius IX in 1854. The feast is fixed nine months before the feast marking Mary’s birthday on Sept. 8. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception is the patron of the United States and 10 other nations in South America, Africa, Asia and Europe.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 8 AM

This is the last weekend to select an angel from the Angel Tree. Members of the Women’s Ministry will be in the back of church after all Masses to help you and your family select an angel, as well as collect any returned gifts. Angel gifts/gift cards should be returned to the tree, wrapped and affixed with the angel ornament, code facing out, no later than December 9th. 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 would like to help sort and prep gifts for delivery, shop for angel gifts not chosen from the tree, or deliver the gifts, please contact Crystal Hebert at crystalhebert12@gmail.com.

EAT
PRAY
and be
MERRY

Please join us for Silver Fellowship Prayers & Lunch
THURSDAY 11 A.M. | DEC 6 | ACTIVITY CENTER
MASS INTENTIONS

SANCTUARY LIGHT
The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Julie Fresina the week of Dec. 2 as requested by Sandra Fox.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Richard Ashby the week of Dec. 2 as requested by Janis Ashby.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Dec. 4 - 6 p.m.: Richard Ashby, Silvia Benoit, Mary Hoang, Harry James Jr., Guise Thanh Nguyen, Denver Denison, Jan Merrill
Wednesday, Dec. 5 - 7 a.m.: Joseph Vince Sr. and Mary Salario Vince, Vince and Salario Families
Thursday, Dec. 6 - 8:45 a.m.: Marjorie and Woodrow Beard
Friday, Dec. 7 - 7 a.m.: Julie Fresina
Saturday, Dec. 8 - 8 a.m.: Olive Petitjean; 4:30 p.m.: Gloria Vilaret
Sunday, Dec. 9 - 8 a.m.: Charles Bongiovanni; 10 a.m.: For the People; 5 p.m.: Eulan Rabalais, Sammy Ragusa, Theresa Nguyen, Joseph Nguyen, John Chemin, Iris Bagot, Carol Thibodeaux, Phil Muscarello

THE WEEK AHEAD AT ST. THOMAS MORE

Tuesday, Dec. 4 - Church Office Closed; CDA Rosary Makers, 10 a.m.; RCIA, 6:30 p.m.; Baptism Seminar, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 5 - Come Lord Jesus, 1:30 p.m.; Small Group Bible Study, 4 p.m.; Parish Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 6 – Silver Fellowship, 11 a.m.; Men’s Ultreya, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 7 - First Friday Fellowship, 7:30 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass, 8 a.m.; Confession, 3:15 p.m.; Retrouvaille, 6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 9 - Cookies with Santa, after 8 and 10 a.m. Masses; , RCIA, 10:30 a.m.

Please note the CDA Christmas Gathering time change for Sunday, December 2nd: the start time is 6:30 p.m.

Parish Stewardship Summary
Fiscal Year 07/01/17 — 06/30/18
Collections for the week of Nov. 11, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory</td>
<td>$24,281.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$1,411.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Fund</td>
<td>$1,285.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Congratulations Fr. Michael for being named to the 2018 “Forty Under 40” class by the Baton Rouge Business Report. The Forty Under 40 program salutes up-and-coming leaders in the Capital Region achieving outstanding performance in their professions and throughout the community.

Photo by Amy Martin | Q & A by Diana Pietrogallo

**WHAT IS YOUR BIRTHDATE?**
April 22, 1980

**NAME ONE BOOK THAT HAS INSPIRED YOU PROFESSIONALLY:**
The Wounded Healer by Henri Nouwen

**WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?**
A marine biologist! I thought working at Sea World sounded like a great idea until I found out how much biology I needed to learn.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB, HOW OLD WERE YOU AND WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM IT?**
I worked in the Snack Bar at the Kenilworth Pool starting at age 14. It helped me fall in love with serving other and began my on again, off again affair with the restaurant industry.

**WHAT IS THE STRANGEST JOB YOU'VE EVER HAD?**
During my time at LSU, I spent a summer as a Secret Shopper for a large property management company outside of Chicago. Every day, I created a new identity and shopped apartment complexes.

**WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?**
Making the person in front of me the most important thing.

**WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED THE HARD WAY?**
Change is difficult and while I’d love to see things happen quickly, change takes time.

**ARE YOU ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA? IF SO, ON WHICH PLATFORMS ARE YOU MOST ACTIVE?**
Extremely...Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Soundcloud. I see social media as an opportunity to meet people where they are and provide spiritual nourishment.

**HOW MANY UNREAD MESSAGES ARE IN YOUR IN-BOX RIGHT NOW?**
0, I can’t handle unread messages. Read, sort, respond.

**WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE APP AT THE MOMENT?**
Pray as you go

**WHAT TIME DO YOU GET UP ON WORKDAY MORNINGS?**
6 AM

**THE SAYING GOES: “BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD.” SPECIFICALLY, WHAT ARE YOU “BEING” TO MAKE BATON ROUGE BETTER?**
Authentic.

**WHAT WAS THE BEST VACATION YOU HAVE EVER TAKEN?**
I traveled with David, my brother, around Alaska: hiking, eating, kayaking, and laughing.

**WHICH TALENT OR SUPERPOWER WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE AND WHY?**
The ability to heal others from physical or mental illness; cancer is terrible and our mental health epidemic needs our attention.

**WHICH FICTIONAL CHARACTER DO YOU MOST IDENTIFY WITH?**
Tigger, he’s always moving and trying to enjoy life.

**FAVORITE DRINK?**
Old Fashioned.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BAND OR SONG?**
“Rise Up” by Andra Day.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?**
Freedom Writers.

**PETS?**
Louis, a German shepherd that appeared at the church after the 2016 flood and adopted me.

**HOBBIES?**
Marathons, sipping coffee, trying new restaurants, cooking, and travel.

**TELL US ABOUT A MOMENT THAT CHANGED YOUR LIFE.**
The day I was ordained a priest.

**WHAT’S THE NEXT BIG PERSONAL OR CAREER CHALLENGE YOU PLAN TO TAKE ON?**
If I type, “complete an ironman,” does that mean I have to do it?

**WHAT CONCERNS YOU MOST ABOUT THE FUTURE?**
Division. We constantly see the struggles our city faces across racial, social, and economic lines.

**WHAT GIVES YOU THE MOST HOPE ABOUT THE FUTURE?**
I believe people are honest, caring, and selfless, sometimes, we simply need to help them see that within themselves.
Four people received into Full Communion with the Church
By Sarah Neau

We are used to seeing people who go through RCIA received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. But the beauty of the RCIA process is that those who are already baptized as Christians can be welcomed into Full Communion at any time of the year. This year we were able to receive four people into Full Communion with the Catholic Church during the month of November.

On Sunday, November 11, Marquam “Mark” Landry and Deborah Landry were received into Full Communion through a formal Profession of Faith, and the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Both Mark and Deborah were baptized in the Baptist church and were excited to be received into the Catholic Church as a couple. For their Saint names, Mark chose Thomas and Deborah chose Teresa. RCIA team members Shannon Baldridge and Bobbie Stiglets stood as their sponsors.

Along with the Landry’s, we also completed the Sacraments of Initiation for Lance Gauthier, who already baptized in the Catholic Church and having received Eucharist, was finally able to receive Confirmation. Lance chose his baptismal name of Michael to also be his Saint name. His sponsor was his David Collins.

On Tuesday, November 20, at the 6 p.m. daily Mass, Charles Edward Lewis, Jr. was received into Full Communion through his formal Profession of Faith, and the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Charles was baptized in the Baptist church and was excited to finally be able to fully participate in the Mass with his wife, Christa. Charles chose Francis de Sales as his Saint. His sponsor Sarah Tate, who was unable to be present for the celebration, was represented by family friend Grace Dennis.

Every person who comes through the RCIA process has a unique journey that has led them to seek out becoming a member of the Catholic Church. It has been a privilege for the RCIA team to get to know each of these individuals as they traveled their journey and we ask the parish community to pray for these four who have been welcomed into Full Communion, as their faith journey continues beyond their time in the RCIA process. We also ask the parish community to continue to pray for the five individuals who are still in the RCIA process and journeying to their reception into the Catholic Church at Easter: Aimee Gautreau, Dru Nettles, Jonas Dang, Jonathan Dartt, and Yolanda Raymond.

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Vietnamese Noodle Dinner
Sunday, Dec. 2
9 am - 12 noon
Activity Center | $8

To trace the origins of Advent, we have to go back to the fourth or fifth century in France (then Gaul), when Epiphany was the favored day, next to Easter, for baptism. The old pagan structures of Rome were collapsing then, and many people sought to be baptized. Since adults always prepared for baptism by fasting, folks counted back a few weeks for a kind of retreat. Before too long, bishops were advising everyone to attend church frequently beginning on December 17. Soon, artists were imagining ways of expressing the Advent mystery, and in Italy this gave rise to beautiful mosaics of empty thrones awaiting the arrival of the Lord of all creation.

Advent as we know it develops on two separate tracks: the first having to do with our spiritual preparation for celebrating the Christmas feast, and the second having to do with the way this is organized and expressed in the liturgical readings and prayers every day of the season.

--James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.
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