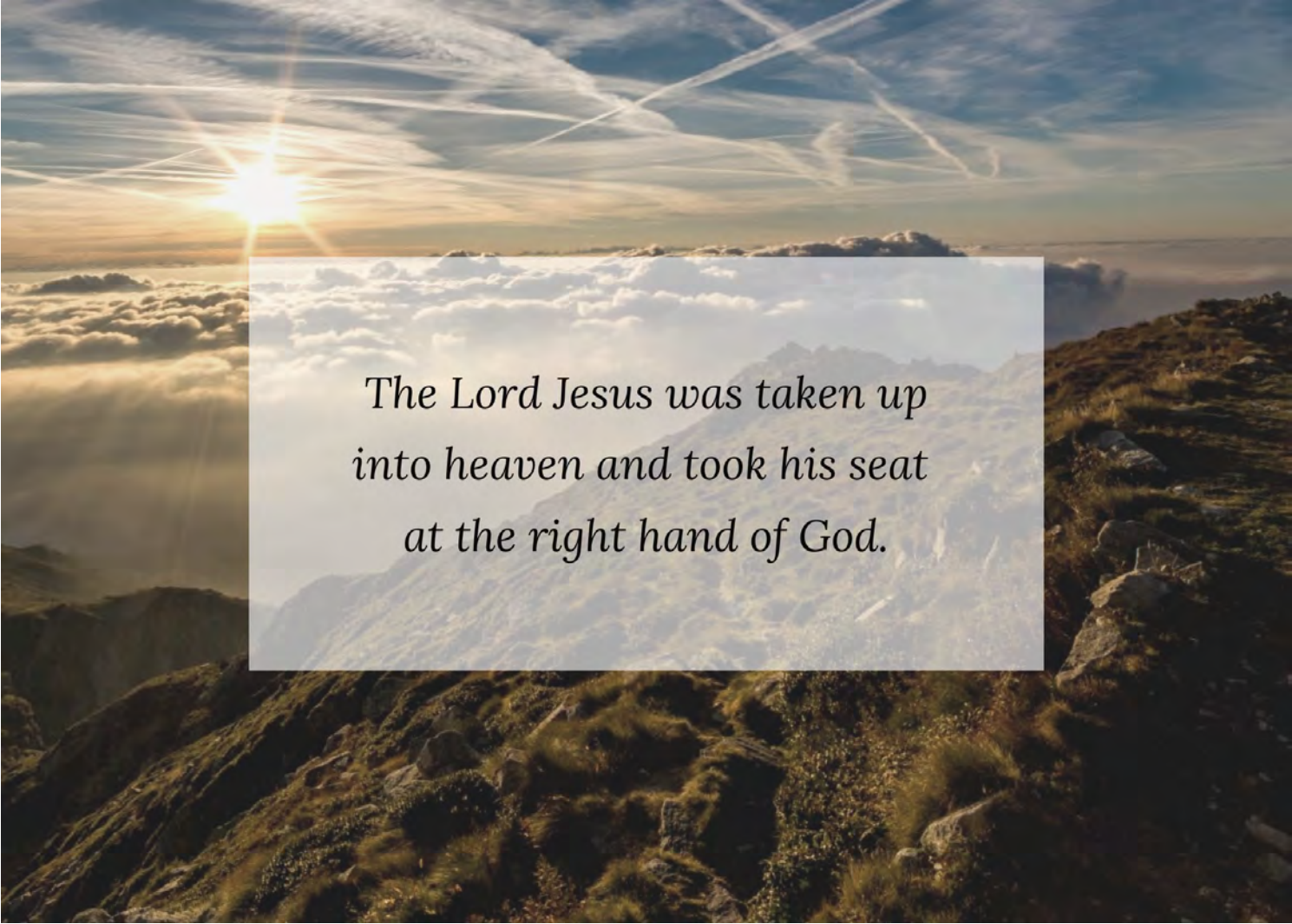




TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

May 16, 2021 | VOLUME 50 NUMBER 20 | The Ascension of the Lord

A landscape photograph of a mountain peak at sunrise or sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with wispy clouds and several white contrails from airplanes. The foreground shows a rocky, grassy slope. A semi-transparent white text box is centered over the middle of the image.

*The Lord Jesus was taken up
into heaven and took his seat
at the right hand of God.*



Deacon Paul Soileau assigned to STM

Effective August 16, 2021, following his August 14th ordination at St. Joseph Cathedral, Deacon Paul Soileau is appointed as Deacon Assistant at St. Thomas More with his assigned Ministry of Charity to minister to the infirm at Oschner's O'Neal Campus. It is with great gratitude to God that we welcome Paul Soileau as a permanent deacon here at St. Thomas More, along with his wife Jill by his side.

Hello again to the St. Thomas More family, and I am happy to say now that I will be a real part of it. My wife, Jill, and I are so excited to be assigned to STM for my first parish as a permanent deacon (of course after my ordination on August 14).

This past year as an intern has been a great learning experience for me but I have to say that I'm a bit tired of "practicing." It's time for me to start using the five years of formation that the diocese has invested in me.

I look forward to meeting more of you as I transition from intern to permanent deacon and we're all able to return to church and ministries.

Thank you to Fr. Michael, Sr. Janelle and Deacon Joe for all the great advice and mentorship over this past year.

May God continue to bless your families and our parish!

Paul

GOD REMAINS WHERE LOVE REMAINS. When a believer realizes without doubt that God is love, it is a powerful moment. Being able to place our resurrection trust in this fundamental truth allows us to experience God's presence in all of our experiences: the good and the bad, positive and negative, life enriching and destructive events we encounter. It is no wonder that St. Paul so accurately tells us that it is love that endures all things and lasts. How can God not endure or ever fade away? Because he is God, Jesus also guarded and protected his disciples as the endearing shepherd who always had their best interest at heart.

If we become too immersed in the world, we lose touch with these deeper realities. We can

become so preoccupied with preserving what we have created or think that we need, forgetting that it is not building our city that really matters, but God's. Jesus clearly did not belong to the world and, by virtue of his resurrection, he tries to get us to understand that we do not either. The truth brings us to other worldly, more divine places and takes our eyes off of the concerns that often captivate our fears and storm our senses.

Life can easily erode our faith. Think of your life over the last couple of weeks. What challenged your faith and distracted your divine glance? Even being overly stimulated with technology and social media can erode our sense of confidence and cause us to forget who we really are. We need to distance ourselves from the world in order to experience the joy that Christ offers. The world will never like the word of God. It is too



challenging and too perplexing. The world mistakenly believes that it can survive on its own. It is a mistaken judgment that may cost people a lot in the end. It is all so very simple: God remains when we love one another. If in all the business of our lives and all that each day brings, the good and the bad, we follow the call and path of love, we will walk with God. There is nothing to fear and anxiety finds no home. @LPi

How to entrust your troubles to the Virgin Mary to better walk toward the Lord

In this month of May, let us remember that the Virgin is guiding us with maternal tenderness in every moment of our lives.



Just before his death on the Cross, Jesus offered us his mother (Jn. 19:26-27). Ever since, Mary has been present by our side – she has become the mother of the Church. She is the manifestation of the Father’s love that guides us to Christ and opens our hearts to the action of the Holy Spirit.

On earth, Mary nursed, nurtured, and educated Jesus and was the most loving of mothers. In the same way she is now taking care of us. Let us entrust her all our troubles to her, big and small, from the most spiritual to the most mundane. For example: the lack of diligence in prayer, our family problems, or even something as simple as deciding “what to have for dinner.” Naturally, the Holy Virgin won’t do our cooking for us or provide a magic recipe for a succulent meal, but her intercession will help unburden us, so we can become receptive to what the Lord requires of us here and now.

Let us rely on the Virgin to walk toward Jesus

Mary is as attentive to our needs as she was to those of guests in Cana. And as in their case she intercedes for us (Jn.2:3). She takes all of our supplications and all of our prayers to her Son. Whenever we recite a “Hail Mary,” we are like little children holding our mother’s hand to progress. We trust her to intercede on our behalf and rely on her guidance on our path to Christ. We are carried by her prayer — for little children, their mother’s arms are the best way to progress quickly and safely, without a risk of falling, even when they are tired or don’t know their way.

This month of May invites us to learn from Mary. The reason why during this month we pray the Rosary with and for our children is because “the richness of this traditional prayer, which has the simplicity of a popular devotion but also the theological depth of a prayer suited to those who feel the need for deeper contemplation” (St. John-Paul II *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*).

There are thousands of ways to say this prayer: alone, in a group, in the silence of a church or in the din of a busy street; morning and evening, with the family gathered in a prayer corner; in bed during sleepless night. When we’re tired, it’s even possible to recite it without thinking, as a call of love, repeated over and over again.

Mary is asking us to accomplish God’s will on Earth

“Do whatever He tells you” were the last words of Mary recorded in the Gospels, her only instruction addressed to us (Jn. 2:5). They reveal all that Mary wants to teach us: to rely on her tenderness instead of twiddling our thumbs or making a mess of things, assuming she’ll fix them. Entrusting ourselves into Mary’s hands is not an excuse for becoming spiritually lazy. On the contrary!

In Cana, Mary interceded with her Son and then told the servants: “Do whatever He tells you.” Similarly she is asking us to accomplish God’s will on Earth. And the closer we grow to her, the more she makes us realize that the only thing that truly matters, the only thing we need to look for, is to “do as He tells us.”

Christine Ponsard (aleteia.org)



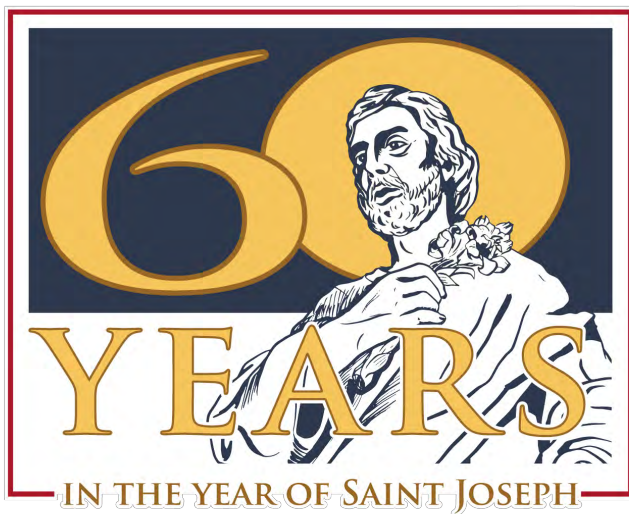
NOVENA FOR LIFE | MAY 25 - JUNE 2

St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus Council 5530 invites all parishioners to participate in a Novena For Life. This will take place each night in St. Thomas More Church starting on Tuesday, May 25th following the 6 p.m. Mass. The Novena will continue each night in church at 6:30 p.m. for nine consecutive nights, ending on Wednesday, June 2nd. The Novena will consist of the praying of the Rosary plus prayers and meditation.

Abortion has been the law of the land since January 22nd, 1973. Since that time more than sixty-two million people have been killed. It is a barbaric method of death sanctioned by our United States government for the past forty-eight years. Faith and action are necessary to bring this to a peaceful end and is necessary for women thinking about abortion to know

alternative support is available. Life is too fragile and short to waste.

Please make plans to join us!



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis' proclamation of the Year of St. Joseph and our diocese's 60th anniversary, the Diocese of Baton Rouge will be celebrating "**60 Years in the Year of St. Joseph**" from May 1, 2021 - March 19, 2022.

Throughout the year, there will be opportunities to learn more about the history of our local church and celebrate its patron through videos, news stories, liturgical celebrations and more.

If you're interested in learning more about "60 Years in the Year of St. Joseph," **please visit diobr.org/60years and follow @DioceseBR on Facebook.**



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Session 1: June 27th- July 3rd
Session 2: July 11th- July 17th

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Pope Francis

@Pontifex

Which way should I follow? There are ways that do not lead to Heaven: the ways of worldliness, the ways of self-affirmation, the ways of selfish power. And there is Jesus' way, the way of humble love, of prayer, of meekness, of trust, of service to others.

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Marie Schittone the week of May 16 as requested by Carol Roberts.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Ronald Gauthier the week of May 16 as requested by Sharon Mann.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, May 18 - 6 p.m.: Marie Schittone, Katie Bossom, Gerald Pitchford, Ed Hargrove Jr., Joanne LeBlanc

Thursday, May 20 - 8:45 a.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, May 22 - 4:30 p.m.: Carol Thibodeaux

Sunday, May 23 - 8 a.m.: Mary Guarino, Douglas M. Gonzales, Marla R. Thurman;
10 a.m.: Blanche Navarre; **5 p.m.:** STM Families, Friends and Neighbors

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 prayer-line@stmbr.org.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers the following seriously ill persons: Bill Bailey, Pat Bailey, Brandon Burrows, Larry Brown, Lisa Brown, Al Diehl, Liz Ferguson, Ruth Gauthier, Jane Gelpi, Leslie Gendron, David Longwell, Terri Mallett, Jack Morris, Carolyn Perkins, Grace Thompson, Loressa Watts, D.J. Webre, Thomas Webre

To add your name, or the name of a loved one if you have their permission, contact Elise Moran at morane@stmbr.org, or call 225.275.3940.

Hiring Part-time Maintenance

St. Thomas More is seeking a highly motivated individual to be a part of our team! Applicant must:

- ⇒ be versatile in several areas and execute many tasks in one day
- ⇒ have basic knowledge of electrical, plumbing, and carpentry, among other technical skills
- ⇒ have basic knowledge of troubleshooting techniques in order to determine exact problems and tackle them accordingly
- ⇒ exhibit good mechanical skills in handling equipment to avoid causing injuries to self and others

SEND RESUME TO JUNEAUS@STMBR.ORG

CHURCH STAFF

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Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

Pastoral Associate

Sr. Janelle Sevier

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Formation/Liturgy

Ms. Sarah Neau

Secretary/Bulletin

Mrs. Ellen Guidry

Secretary/Receptionist

Ms. Elise Moran

Sacristan

Mrs. Kay Fetterman

Maintenance

Mr. Alex Ho

Mr. Carl Gibson

Mr. Edrick Caraballo-Irizarry

Custodial

Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of **Karen Macus**.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to **Joshua Alexander Duke and Amie Marie Martinez** who were married April 9 here at St. Thomas More. The parish wishes them a lifetime of happiness together.



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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	Listen to Father Michael's homilies: https://soundcloud.com/padrehooch

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