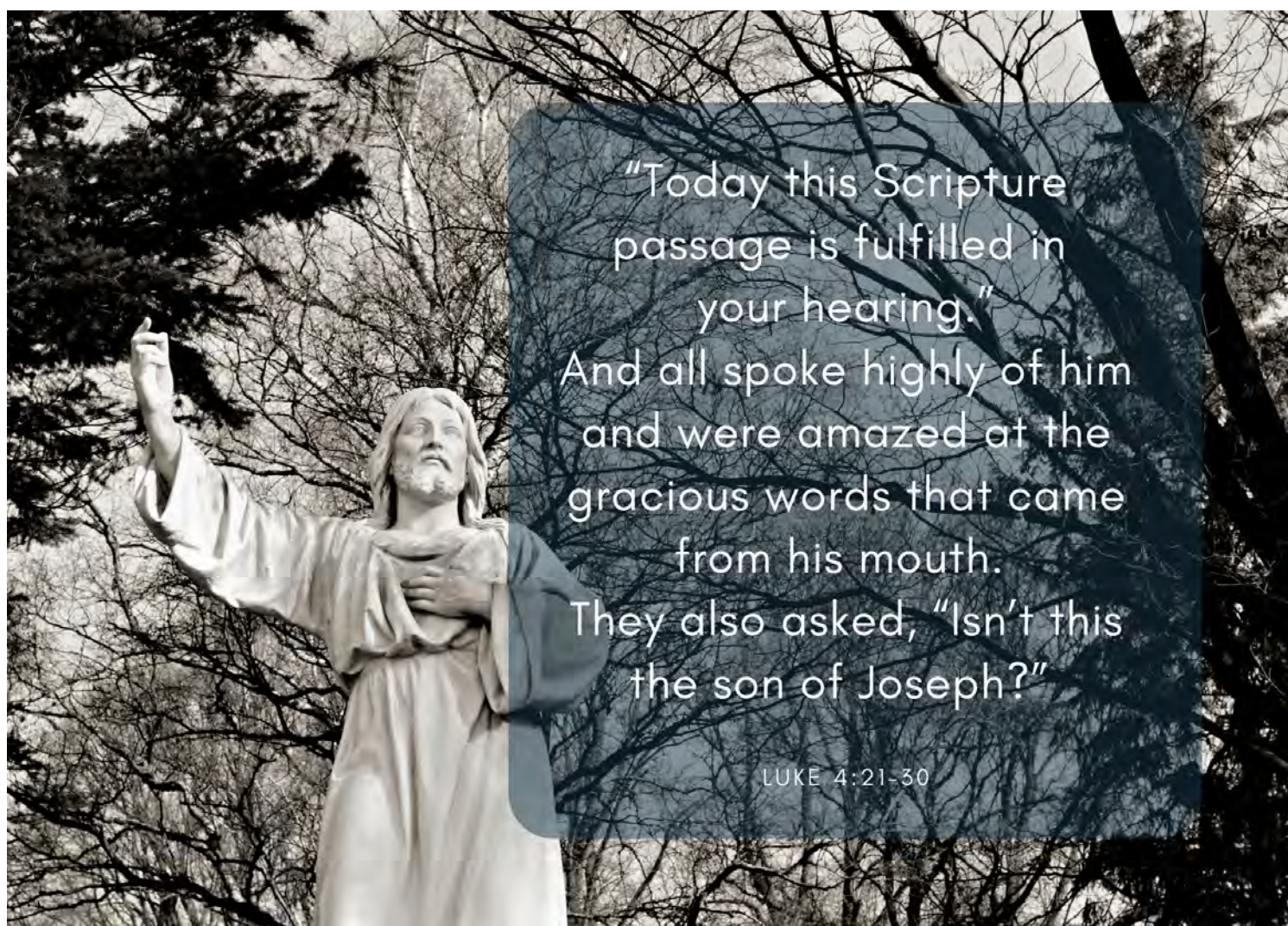




TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

January 30, 2022 | VOLUME 51 NUMBER 5 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



S

t. Oscar Romero (1917-1980) was a “Salvadoran Roman Catholic archbishop who was a vocal critic of the violent activities of government armed forces, right-wing groups, and leftist guerrillas involved in El Salvador’s civil conflict (Encyclopedia Britannica).” As a voice of the voiceless, he was an outspoken champion of the poor who were the ones most affected by the civil unrest and violence. His advocacy provoked several attempts on his life. Nonetheless, St. Oscar Romero was convinced that before all else his faith in the resurrected Christ and the values of the Gospel trumped any earthly concern or worry. He walked with complete confidence and trust. On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass. Such is often the fate of those who challenge the socio-political agendas of the day.

We may look at the example of witness of St. Oscar Romero as something extraordinary. In one sense it is. Through the power of God, an ordinary human being did extraordinary things. But, in and of himself, St. Oscar Romero was simply a humble, loving servant of God. Oscar knew not only the power of love but the risk that comes when loving unconditionally. The beauty of God’s message was able to shine in and through him because



he was able to step out of the way and be a vessel. One can assume that for St. Oscar Romero, one’s earthly life has no merit when faith, integrity, conviction, zeal and love are jettisoned. Fear and apprehension had no grip on this man who not only saw but spoke the truth.

Do we speak the truth? It makes us feel good to speak of God as love. But have we ever considered the ramifications of this radical message? There are assaults on human life occurring daily. More and more the value and worth of a human being is being reduced and minimalized. We are becoming widgets in the production of life. In our whole simple humble ways, we too are called to be prophets. Knowing who you are and what is within your means to do, how can you make God’s love real, stand up for what is right, and give witness to the sacredness of all that is around you?

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The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. The special devotion, which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households, began in the 17th century. In the words of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, "Nothing truly can be more salutary or efficacious for Christian families to meditate upon than the example of this Holy Family, which embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues."

Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer

O Lord Jesus, you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. There you grew in age, wisdom and grace as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer.

We entrust our family to you.

O Blessed Mary, you are the Mother of our Savior. At Nazareth you cared for Jesus and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home.

We entrust our family to you.

O Saint Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary, and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work.

We entrust our family to you.

Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our family to you. May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful and open to the gift of new life. Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts, and to live in peace all our days. Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need. May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!



COMMUNION - PARTICIPATION - MISSION

The Synod on Synodality is a two-year process of listening and dialogue between all members of the Church which began in October. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium."

THE DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE WILL BE HOSTING SYNODAL SESSIONS FROM JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 19 IN EACH DEANERY.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SYNOD AND READ THE BISHOP'S LETTER, GO TO DIOBR.ORG/SYNOD

Remaining Synod meetings schedule

Northwest Deanery - Jan. 31

6-8 p.m.; St. John the Baptist Hall,
4727 McHugh Drive, Zachary

South Deanery - Feb. 16

6-8 p.m.; St. John the Evangelist Parish Hall
57805 Main Street, Plaquemine

Baton Rouge Deanery — Feb. 17

6-8 p.m.; The Catholic Life Center Ballroom
1800 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge

East Central Deanery - Feb. 18

6-8 p.m.; St. Peter Chanel Gym
2590 Louisiana Highway 44, Paulina

East Central Deanery - Feb. 19

9-10:30 a.m.; St. Theresa of Avila School Gym
102 North Burnside Avenue, Gonzales

Donate through Faith Direct

Even as the pandemic continues to bring uncertainty, the new year is filled with hope and promise – we always seek to grow our vital ministries, explore new ways to share the good news of Christ's love, and reflect His care and mercy to those in need throughout the community. To continue to make a difference in 2022, St. Thomas More is reaching out to our parishioners.

Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2022 that reflect the steadfast promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people all around us.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/LA554. Thank you for your continued support.

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We have set out on a journey led by God's kindly light that dissipates the darkness of division and directs our journey towards unity. The world needs God's light, and that light shines only in love, in communion and in fraternity.

You can help change a child's story!

Abused and neglected children in our area need your help.



Every child deserves a safe, permanent home. However, some children have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care due to abuse or neglect. They belong to no one as they silently wait for the court to decide their future. These children need a voice. **Capital Area CASA Association** needs caring adults like you to speak up for children in our community.

The first step in becoming a CASA volunteer is to attend a 30-minute virtual orientation session. **To sign up for one please visit www.casabr.org/volunteer or scan the QR code!**



read the Bible



More than 50 parishioners already signed up!

Join us as we read the entire Bible this year ... a 365 day journey through God's Word.

LINK TO THE READING SCHEDULE:

[HTTPS://WWW.STMBR.ORG/NEWS/READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-365-DAYS](https://www.stmbr.org/news/read-the-bible-in-365-days)

FOR WEEKLY REFLECTIONS & MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION:
CONTACT SR. JANELLE AT [SRJANELLE@STMBR.ORG](mailto:srjanelle@stmbr.org)

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Feb. 1 - 6 p.m.: Jane Gelpi, Martha Kim Anh, All Souls, John Greiner, James Prevot, Ledell Rabalais

Thursday, Feb. 3 - 8:45 a.m.: Joyce Meyer

Saturday, Feb. 5 - 4:30 p.m.: Joyce Graham, Willie Yelverton, Carolyn Perkins, Carmel Galouye, Jack Bonaventure, Carol Harrelson, Ernest Bonaccorso, Doris and Bill Croissant

Sunday, Feb. 6 - 8 a.m.: Souls in Purgatory **10 a.m.:** Barry Sanders; **5 p.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Marie Schittone the week of Jan. 30 as requested by Carol Roberts.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Myrna and Edward Hargrove the week of Jan. 30 as requested by Danielle LeBouef

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.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers the following seriously ill persons: **Ivy Alford, Calvin Bajon, Annagrace Fremin, Bill & Pat Bailey, Ruth Fleming**

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.

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Permanent Deacon

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Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

OUR PARISH FAMILY

BAPTISM

We extend a warm welcome into the Church family to the following children who were baptized at St. Thomas More during the month of December:

Adeline Kate Alt, child of James and Julianne Alt.

Byzantine Icon Workshop Feb. 20 - 25 | 9:00 am - 4:30 pm LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

A team of iconographers will provide instructions, which are guided and paced, to produce a finished icon of St. Patrick. The cost of the workshop is \$375 and includes all materials and lunch for five (5) days. Materials provided are a specially prepared board, gold leaf, all paints, brushes, and other materials. Participants who have a 13-watt desk OttLite may bring it for their personal use during the workshop.

All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Gardens to further the implementation of the Botanic Gardens Educational Program. Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Gardens and mailed to: Kitty Hessburg Wiemer 7636 Claret Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

For more information, contact: Ms. Kitty Hessburg Wiemer (225) 284-7440



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.



www.stmbr.org



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<https://www.youtube.com/stthomasmorebatonrouge>



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**Sign up for parish email on our
parish website, stmbr.org,
under Links and Resources**



**Listen to Father Michael's homilies:
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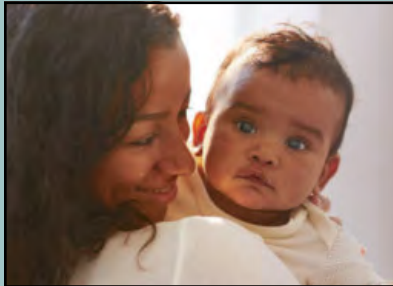
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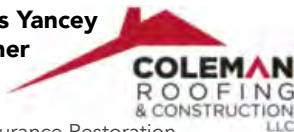
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