



TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

May 10, 2020 | VOLUME 49 NUMBER 19 | Fifth Sunday of Easter



MOTHER:
Her children rise
up and call her
blessed.



Proverbs 31:28

Dear God,



Thank you for the gift of motherhood. Thank you for the blessing it is to be called “Mom.” Thank you for the good plans you have in store for those who still wait to be a Mom. Thank you for the numerous spiritual children you have given to so many “spiritual moms” and mentors. We pray that you would fill this day with favor and grace as we honor moms all around our nation.

We ask for comfort for those who are grieving loss and heartache, especially on this day. We ask for strength for those who wait for children to come back home. We ask for healing for those who have been hurt by relationships that were intended to be loving and nurturing. We ask for faith for those who will someday be moms, who find themselves on a journey that seems so hard. We ask for great encouragement and grace to cover those who have made a brave and loving choice for adoption. We ask for incredible provision and care over every single parent mom who works so hard on behalf of her children. We ask that you would remind many of those who, though they do not have “physical” children, have the gift of being amazing hope-bringers to many spiritual children they’ve been blessed to nurture through these years.

God, thank you, for the gift of life. Thank you that your heart is for us, and that you are with us, in all our unique journeys and pathways. Thank you that you are Sovereign over every part of our lives. Thank you that your ways are perfect and you make our footsteps secure.

Today we pray for refreshing, for joy, for grace, for wisdom, for great peace ... for all moms, for moms to be, and for women who nurture and lead.

In Jesus’ Name,
Amen.

Thank you, God, for our mothers!

A NOTE-ABLE FAREWELL

Over the last several years, I have had the privilege to minister alongside Bret Jackson, working together to enhance the liturgy wherever God called us. Bret has been an enormous asset to our STM community, helping with the transition from two parishes into OneSTM while bringing his tool chest of gifts with him. We say goodbye to Bret who leaves St. Thomas More to begin a new job in public safety and corrections for the State of Louisiana, a career in line with his college degree. Though he will come back from time to time to play the organ and piano at Mass, we will miss working with him on a daily basis. We wish Bret much happiness and success in his new career.

- Fr. Michael

To my friends of St. Thomas More,

Amidst these uncertain times, I hope you all are doing well!

Fr. Michael asked that I take a moment to share an update with you all, though I would have wished to do this in person. I have accepted a position with a state agency (more precisely, the Department of Public Safety & Corrections); therefore, I will no longer be serving St. Thomas More as the Coordinator of Music and Liturgy. Right now, we have no idea when our worship will get back to “normal” or whatever the new normal will be; but I have expressed to Fr. Michael that I am willing to assist St. Thomas More in this transition in any way I can.

I want to thank you all for your dedication, hard work, commitment, and sharing the gift of your ministry with this community. Looking back, I am also thankful for how you have pushed me, held me accountable, surprised me, and, above all, supported me in my role here at St. Thomas More.

It has been an honor to serve you and this community; my prayers are with you always.

- Bret



Guide Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the church office.

Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It “will pay” to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.



COVID-19 - Parish Update

Beginning Monday, May 11, the church office will return to normal operating hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the parish staff will be working on site, while practicing social distancing. Please be aware that the church office is NOT open to the public at this time and parishioners are discouraged from dropping by without first calling. We ask that you please call us at 225.275.3940 if have any questions or concerns, or need assistance in any way.

MASS INTENTIONS

The following intentions will be offered on May 10, 2020:

Josephine and Fred Stanek, Marie Harrell, Ronald Stein (May 5), Alphonsus Pham (May 6), Mary Frances Burns (May 7), Stephen Maher (May 8), Theresa and Cilton Guillot, Carlos Quiroga, STM Family, Friends and Neighbors, Donald Bozeman, Eric Howell, Grace Anselmo, John Barron.

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Roland Sheets the week of May 10 as requested by Jackie Strickland.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers these seriously ill persons:

Ida Mae Alonzo, Gail Babin, Bill Bailey, Pat Bailey, Johnnie Broussard, Liz, Ferguson, Helen Fox, Jane Gelpi, Larry Gibson, John Chris Goff, David Longwell, Cathey Merle, Curtis Mitchel, Bootsie Pecoraro, Lydia Pourciau, Suzette Snow, Brant Theriot, Grace Thompson, Loressa Watts, D.J. Webre, and Thomas Webre.



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](mailto:prayerline@stmchurch.org) to **prayerline@stmchurch.org**.

Fifth Sunday of Easter Reflection

When earthly lives end, especially when the person is younger, we tend to focus upon and consider what was lost. We think of lost opportunities — things they won't be able to see, babies they won't be able to cradle, and adventures that now must go undiscovered. Our minds create this chasm between earth and heaven that sees the losses of this life as permanent ones, never possible to achieve again. This perception causes many folks to remain stuck in their grief as they ponder all of the missed opportunities and regrets.

This is not resurrection thinking. All of the love that we can give and receive, the joy and elation that can be experienced, the adventures that can be undertaken, and the possibilities to be discovered are all part of a continuous journey. They are not ends in and of themselves but are all part of the unfolding of a relationship we have with God, who not only makes all of these wonderful things possible now but sustains them and fulfills them into eternity. The perception and experience of loss is really an illusion, because in God's eternal kingdom and in God's time, nothing is ever lost. Even the most intimate and tender of moments we can conceive of sharing with another human being are only part of a journey toward perfect intimate and tender moments to be shared with God in our resurrected life. We become like God and see God as He is in eternity. What greater joy, love, and hope can ever be discovered as we walk down our often dimly lit paths in this world.

This is an awesome wonder and magnificent news to behold. Call to mind someone you have lost in death. How do you see them now? How do you see yourself in heaven? Remind yourself, again, that God is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Our happiness is not going to be fully realized in this world, and there is nothing we can find here that cannot be found one hundred fold in eternity. It's all about relationship, and not solely about the relationships we have with each other, ourselves, and the world in which we live. It's about our relationship with God. If we realize how special that one relationship really is, then there is only one particular of heaven and life eternal that really matters: namely, that we fall into love eternal and discover truth. For when we finally close our eyes in death, then all will be well as long as we are with God. There are no losses, only gains.

Armed Forces Day—May 16

Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. Thanks to President Harry S. Truman, it's a day to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces. President Truman led the effort to establish a holiday in order for citizens to unite and to honor our military heroes for their patriotic service in support of the United States of America.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



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OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of **Fannie Schittone**.



Thank you for your continued financial support of STM Parish during these unprecedented times. Our prayers are with all of you, and we are looking forward to the day when we can all worship together under the roof of the church that we love!

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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