

# St. Thomas **MORE**

*A Legacy of Excellence*

Dear St. Thomas More families,

As we continue to journey through this season of Advent, please be assured of my daily prayers for all of you. I pray that during these sacred days all of us will grow closer to our Lord as we anticipate the birth of our Savior at Christmas.

I am writing with a few updates, announcements, and reminders.

## **Re-Enrollment for 2019-2020**

Following the Christmas break, we will send out re-enrollment information to all current families which will invite you to indicate your plans for next school year. As in years past, the re-enrollment fee will be collected in February in lieu of a February tuition payment.

We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in the education of your children, and we sincerely hope you will choose to continue to partner with STM next school year.

## **In-Parish Tuition**

Families who are registered parishioners at St. Thomas More Catholic Church are eligible for the in-parish tuition rate. In order to be granted in-parish tuition, a family must meet the minimum contribution of \$400 by December 31, 2018. If you have not already met this contribution level, you may visit the Church office to submit your donation or visit [www.stmchurch.org](http://www.stmchurch.org) to make an online gift.

Registered parishioners at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, St. Anthony Catholic Church and St. Patrick Catholic Church are also eligible for the in-parish tuition rate, as those parishes do not have schools. These three church communities will provide St. Thomas More with a list of registered parishioners who meet the \$400 contribution level at their respective church parish.

If you need assistance on this matter, please contact Dale Oufnac at the STM business office via phone 225-275-2820 or email [oufnacd@stmbr.org](mailto:oufnacd@stmbr.org).

## **Strategic Planning Forum Reports**

Dr. Greg Brandao has completed his report from the strategic planning forums and individual meetings, and a full summary of the feedback can be found on the STM parish website at the following link: [FORUMS REPORT](#). The input from parishioners, school families, students, and staff members will guide our planning for the future. We have already begun to implement many of the great ideas raised through this valuable process. Thank you again to all who participated!

## **Job Postings**

Our leadership team has begun planning for next year, and we are excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for the positions of Assistant Principal and School Counselor. Mrs. McDaniel and I believe that adding a second Assistant Principal to our administrative team will greatly benefit our school community in numerous ways. In addition, with Ms. Harlow retiring this summer, we are in need of a lower grades counselor.

The job postings for both positions will be available on the school website at the following link: [JOB POSTINGS](#). We are accepting applications from internal and external candidates, so please feel free to share these opportunities with anyone you think might be interested. Applications will be collected until the end of January, with interviews to follow. Both positions will begin summer 2019.

### **School Board**

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful nominations for school board. The following individuals have accepted Fr. Michael's invitation to serve.

- David Bordelon, Tabatha Broussard, Colleen Bryant, Jill Durrett, April McCullough, Rene Mire, Jenee Olivier

These STM parents will join current members Bernie Dupuy, Milton Graugnard, Christine Hosea, Henri Saunders, and Rusty Welch on the school board.

### **Distinguished Graduate**

Thank you to everyone for your nominations for Distinguished Graduate. We are excited to announce that Sherie Noel Leblanc will be honored during Catholic Schools Week as the 2019 Distinguished Graduate from STM. Sherie has committed her professional life to the mission of Catholic education. She currently serves as the Director of Admissions and Chair of the Math Department at Catholic High School in Baton Rouge.

### **Thank You**

As we approach the end of the first semester, I want to reiterate my deep gratitude for the gift of the St. Thomas More community. My family and I are blessed to be here at STM, and I appreciate all of you for your support since I arrived over the summer. I look forward to the many great things ahead for St. Thomas More. If I can be of assistance to you or your family in any way, please let me know. God bless!

In Christ

Mr. Moscona

# DECEMBER

18.... 6<sup>th</sup> Grade 9 Weeks Tests, Math & Rel.  
Jr. High Exams, English and Science  
**11:00am Dismissal in Church Lot for  
6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

19.... **NO BUS SERVICE**  
7:15am BETA Rosary  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade 9 Weeks Tests, Sci. & SS  
Jr. High Exams, Lit. and Rel.  
**11:00am Dismissal in Church Lot for  
6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

20.... **NO BUS SERVICE**  
8:45am Christmas Mass  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade 9 Weeks Test, English  
Jr. High Exam, Math  
**11:30am Dismissal in Church Lot for  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades Only**

21.... **NO BUS SERVICE**  
Jr. High Exam, Social Studies  
10:00am Sing-A-Long  
10:30am Christmas Parties  
**11:30 Early Dismissal**  
**Last Day of School for the Holidays**

*Merry Christmas to all of our  
St. Thomas More Eagle Families*



# JANUARY

5.... Used Uniform Sale, 9am-12n

7.... **Welcome Back to School  
NO BUS SERVICE**

9.... Wonderful Wednesday, Spirit Shirt and  
Snack Sale  
**Report Cards Distributed**

10.... 8:45am School Mass  
2:00pm Principal's List Party

11.... AR Store

17.... No Mass this Week  
5:30pm Open House for  
Prospective Families

**21... MLK Holiday, No School**

24.... All School Mass  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat  
Boys Basketball Tournament Begins

25.... Boys Basketball Tournament  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade Simple Machines Day

26.... Students Wear Uniforms to Mass for  
Catholic Schools Week  
Boys Basketball Tournament

27.... Students Wear Uniforms to Mass for  
Catholic Schools Week  
Boys Basketball Championship Games

28.... Catholic Schools Week

29-30 Catholic Schools Week  
Preschool Open House

**SAVE THE DATE!**



  
**DAD &  
daughter  
DANCE**

.....  
Godfather, Grandfather, Uncle...

**Saturday, February 9, 2019**

**STM Gymnasium**

(STM students only)



## **Make a New Year's Resolution to Deepen your Relationship with God!**

Do you find it hard to make time to pray as you manage your family's busy schedule? Would you like some practical tips on how to make space for God amidst the chaos of your daily routine? Grab your copy of Becky Eldredge's book *Busy Lives & Restless Souls* at Mass the weekend of December 22/23.

Becky Eldredge is a STM and SJA alumna, a trained Ignatian spiritual director, retreat director, and writer. In her book, she offers a fresh way to equip us with prayer tools that are accessible and practical within the relentless realities of our daily routines.

In the New Year, STM will offer multiple opportunities for you to join a small group discussion of each of the 10 chapters in *Busy Lives & Restless Souls*. Please contact Sarah Neau ([sarah@stmchurch.org](mailto:sarah@stmchurch.org)) or Sr. Janelle Sevier ([srjanelle@stmchurch.org](mailto:srjanelle@stmchurch.org)) at the parish office and let them know if you are interested in participating, facilitating, or hosting a small group discussion here on STM campus or at your home.

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/2551>

# Home & School Association News

---

*The STM Home and School Association provides support, services, enrichment, and prayer for our students and faculty. We strive to complement the efforts of St. Thomas More Catholic School in pursuing the goals of Catholic education. All parents are encouraged to share your talents to enhance our children's academic excellence, personal growth and faith development.*

---

## Enhanced Learning!

Sign-ups are going on for Simple Machines Day, American History Day, and Cajun Day. Use the links below to sign up for these fun and exciting days for our students. Lessons and most materials are provided. Contact Karen Saunders with any questions [khs97@cox.net](mailto:khs97@cox.net).

Also, we are still looking for someone to shadow Karen this year to take over the Enhanced Learning Team next year.

### 1st Grade Simple Machines Day

Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

7:45am-12:00

Activity Center

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050544a5a72da02-1stgrade1>

### 5th Grade American History Day

Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

7:30am-10:30am

Football Field

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0445a9af2ca75-5thgrade>

### 6th Grade Cajun Day

Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

12:00-2:30pm

Activity Center

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0445a9af2ca75-6thgrade>

## Come to a Home & School Meeting!

Our next Home & School meeting will be on **Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:45am in the St Teresa Room.** Home & School Meeting Dates and Times are all included in the STM calendar. Visit [www.stmbr.org](http://www.stmbr.org).

## Just in Time for Advent!

Join the Home & School Prayer Line. Join us in prayer for members of our STM community who are in need of prayers and sign-up to be a prayer warrior. You will receive email updates with prayer intentions. To volunteer, visit our SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4da4af23a1f85-prayer>. To request prayer please email [stmhandsprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:stmhandsprayerline@gmail.com).



## Mother Seton Award – Call for Nominations!

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City on August 28, 1774 to a prominent Episcopal family. In 1794, at the age of 19, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. William died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving Elizabeth a young widow. After discovering Catholicism in Italy, where her husband had died, Elizabeth returned to the United States and entered the Catholic Church in 1805 in New York. Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, planting the seeds of Catholic education in the United States. Her legacy now includes religious congregations in the United States and Canada, whose members work on the unmet needs of people living in poverty in North America and beyond. Mother Seton, as she is often called, was canonized on Sunday, September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI. She was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "Saint."

The Mother Seton Award was created to honor those individuals whose volunteer service and dedication to home, school, and church have been exemplary. This person's character is the personification of our school's motto, "Prayer, Knowledge, and Service," for parishioners, parents, faculty, staff, and students. Each year, St Thomas More Catholic School, in coordination with the efforts of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, seeks to recognize a deserving candidate from our school family to be the recipient of the Mother Seton Award. The Diocese recognizes parent volunteers from schools throughout the Diocese every year with this incredible award. If you know someone who fits this description and you would like to see him or her honored for their commitment to St Thomas More church and school, please send nominations to the Home & School Association at [stmhands@gmail.com](mailto:stmhands@gmail.com). The deadline for accepting nominates is January 31, 2019.

### Past Award Honorees

1987-88	Bobbie Saizan	2001-02	Cindy Divincenti
1988-89	Jane Mathes	2002-03	Vicki Brooks
1989-90	Carol Bonnecaze	2003-04	Lisa Mohr
1909-91	Susan Weber	2004-05	Anne Winkler
1991-92	Richard Bourgeois	2005-06	Claudia Larriviere
1992-93	Bob Bruno	2006-07	Jackie Graugnard
1993-94	Paul Frey	2007-08	Ellen Tomeny
1994-95	Nancy Valluzzo	2008-09	Janet McGinty
1995-96	Kathy Schwartzenburg	2009-10	Terre Smoth
1996-97	Cookie Uffman	2010-11	Sharron Buchart
1997-98	Dolly Trick	2011-12	Tammy Bogan
1998-99	Anne Harrison	2012-13	Jeanne Barone
1999-2000	Dorothy Olinde	2013-14	Kathleen Lovretich
2000-01	Susan Nelson	2014-15	Andrea Sides



2015-16 Karen Saunders  
2016-17 Jennifer Harris

2017-18 Joanne Harvey

## **VOLUNTEERING with Home and School is FUN and Easy!**

Visit [www.stmbr.org](http://www.stmbr.org) and click on the VOLUNTEER button. You will be sent to the Home & School SignUpGenius page. Check out all of the tabs across the top of the page for many volunteer opportunities. To learn more about volunteering with Home & School check out the attached flier.

## **Thankful Thursdays!**

Let's treat our faculty and staff to treats! Once a month on "Thankful Thursday" we will provide refreshments for our hard working staff. Please sign up to help at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4da4af23a1f85-thank1>. The dates are listed below:

01/24/2018  
02/14/2019  
03/21/2019  
04/11/2019  
05/09/2019

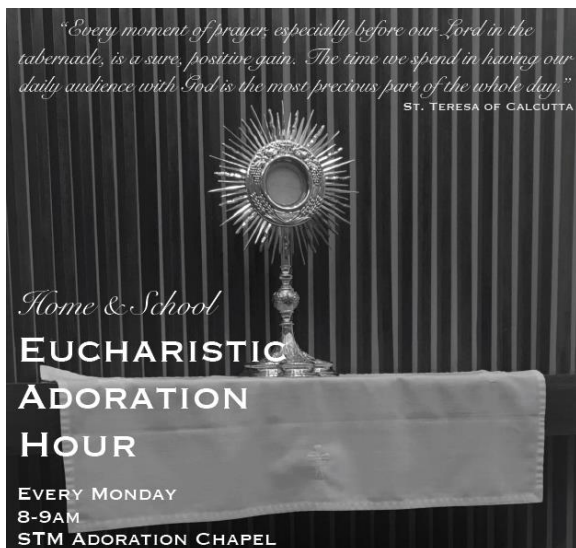
## **Good Samaritan Pantry is Back Open!**

This is a wonderful opportunity to be the hands of Christ for our STM school community! Each grade level is assigned a month of the school year. During your class's assigned month we ask that your grade level contribute five entrees for the *Good Samaritan Pantry*. A SignUpGenius has been created for the entire school year. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4da4af23a1f85-good>

December	4th grade
January	3rd grade
February	2nd grade
March	1st grade
April	Kindergarten



## **Home & School Eucharistic Adoration Hour!**



Sign up and spend a beautiful hour with our Lord on Mondays from 8am to 9am. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4da4af23a1f85-stmhome>.

---

Want More Info? Visit the school webpage [www.stmbr.org](http://www.stmbr.org) or contact: Alicia Quebedeaux, Home and School Association President at [aliciaquebedeaux@gmail.com](mailto:aliciaquebedeaux@gmail.com) or 225.221.6005.