



FATHER BROWNING...

THOUGHTS, SCRIPTURE, AND MORE.



How can we pray with Scripture? There is an ancient tradition called *Lectio Divina* (sacred reading). Its proven steps help us to allow God to speak to us and immerse ourselves in His

Word. "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb 4:12). It takes daily practice. Start with 10 minutes a day and increase your time in prayer gradually. Let's get

started. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

- 1) **Read:** "What does the biblical text say in itself?" Start in the Gospels. You can use the daily readings. Read the passage slowly and prayerfully two or three times.
- 2) **Reflect:** "What does the biblical text say to me in regards to the faith?" As you were reading it, what words or phrases stood out to you. Now takes those words or phrases and ponder them.
- 3) **Respond:** "What do you want to say to the Lord in response to His Word?" Now have a conversation with God about

what arose in your mind and heart. Questions, concerns, fears, joys, gratitude, etc. The conversation is the point of prayer. Have a chat with Him, who loves you infinitely.

- 4) **Rest:** God always encounters us in prayer, and we will get better at recognizing it. Let Him love you. Rest in His Love.

Practicing this prayer is the key to getting better at it. Do not get discouraged if it is difficult at first (everything is at first). May God help you.

In His Word,
Fr. Browning

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House



St. Thomas More Catholic Church
www.stthomasmorechurch.org



Pastor
Reverend Ryan Browning
rbrowning@stthomasmorechurch.org
www.fatherbrowning.com

Deacons
Jack Roder

Parish Office - 847.888.1682
Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm

School Office - 847.742.3959
www.stmcentral.org

Religious Ed. Office - 847.888.4887

Parish Staff
Visit our website for a staff listing
www.stthomasmorechurch.org/staff

St. Vincent de Paul

Are you in need?

In the name of Jesus, we strive to comfort, feed, clothe, and assist those in need. We serve in person, keeping all things confidential and preserving dignity. Please call our answering machine at **847.628.5170**.

Do you feel called to serve?

We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm alternating between St. Laurence and St. Thomas respectively. For more information, please contact conference president

Doug at StThomasMoreElginSVDP@gmail.com.

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SVDPSTM



SACRAMENTS

For a more in-depth look at the sacraments, please visit our parish website www.stthomasmorechurch.org.

Reconciliation: Confessions are heard every Wednesday 9:00-10:00am, Thursday 6:00-6:30pm, Saturday 3:30-4:30pm and Sunday 9:15-9:45am. Appointments can also be made for confessions to be heard when needed.

Baptism: Children of all ages and adults are welcome to the sacrament of Baptism. Baptism for children is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month at 1:00pm. Parents need to be registered members and should be faithful in attending Mass. Participation in a baptismal preparation class is required. Please call Sharon Hall at the parish office to make arrangements. Adults seeking Baptism should contact Linda McEwan at lmcewan@stthomasmorechurch.org.

Matrimony: Baptized Catholics are called to be married in the Catholic Church. Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

If you were married outside of the Catholic Church and would like to have your marriage blessed, we would be happy to guide you in that process.

Call the parish office to make an appointment with a priest to begin all marriage preparation.

Anointing of the Sick: The anointing of the sick is administered to bring spiritual and physical strength during an illness, for those having surgery, and for those near death. Call the parish office to make arrangements to receive this sacrament.

Prayer Requests

Join us in praying for members of our community who are sick or ailing. To add or remove a name on our prayer list, please call the parish office 847.888.1682. To keep our prayer list current, names will remain on the list for 3 months. After that time, please contact the parish office to renew names.

†All Souls in Purgatory

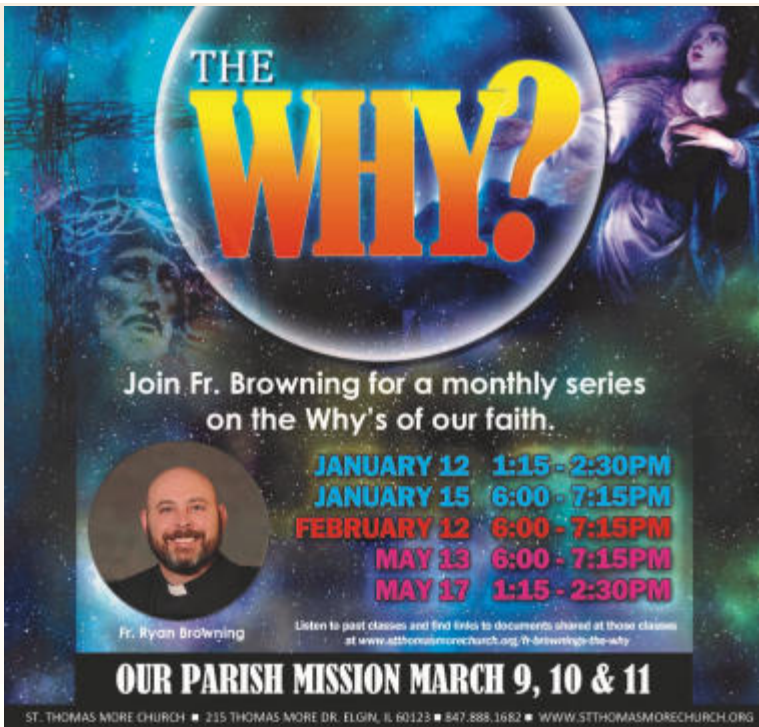
†Helen Baier
†Chuck Benson
†Gracie Canning
†Dan Coyle
†Juanita Cundiff
†Julie Daly
†Dominick Girardi
†Angela Gusta
†Vincent Gusta
†Kathy Hamilton
†Frank Iori
†Charles Joseph
†Laura Keating
†Stephen Lange
†Dennis Lisiecki, Jr.
†Jenny Lisiecki
†Ann Marie LoPiccolo-Carlson
†Jeanne Matsukis

†Fran Meek

†Mary Meek
†Belinda Mockler
†Maria I. Montejano
†Reynaldo Mangila
†Gloria Neitzel
†Izzy Nottolini
†Delphine Ornelas
†Florence Ostidick
†Charles Pruter
†Lutie Regan
†Diane Schumacher
†James Shumaker
†Mary Ann Vandervalk
†Bob Voegtli
†Keith Williams
†Carol White
†Dave White

Camp Frost - UPDATE

Camp Frost has been moved to Saturday, February 8th. All children in grades K-4 are invited to enjoy games, skits, crafts, music, snacks, laughs and more! It's from **1:00 - 5:00pm** at St. Thomas More School Gym, and the cost is \$10 per child. A snack and T-shirts will be provided. Parent help is needed every hour of the event. Please contact Emily Stuckey at estuckey@stthomasmorechurch.org.



THE WHY?

Join Fr. Browning for a monthly series on the Why's of our faith.

Fr. Ryan Browning

Listen to past classes and find links to documents shared at those classes at www.stthomasmorechurch.org/fr-browning-the-why

OUR PARISH MISSION MARCH 9, 10 & 11

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH ■ 215 THOMAS MORE DR. ELGIN, IL 60123 ■ 847.888.1682 ■ WWW.STTHOMASMORECHURCH.ORG

Schedule:

- JANUARY 12 1:15 - 2:30PM
- JANUARY 15 6:00 - 7:15PM
- FEBRUARY 12 6:00 - 7:15PM
- MAY 13 6:00 - 7:15PM
- MAY 17 1:15 - 2:30PM



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

SAVE THE DATE

Join Us for Our Second
VALENTINES DATE NIGHT!

Friday, February 14th, 2020
6:00pm to 9:00pm
In the Gathering Space at St Thomas More Church.

A ROMANTIC EVENING WITH YOUR SPOUSE AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER COUPLES!

Donation for event is \$20 per couple/ \$10 per person & if able, please bring a favorite dish to pass.

RSVP/Questions:
Call or Text to Renée or Ted Collins at 847.502.2271, or trgoals@comcast.net.
Tickets Sold After all Masses in the Gathering Space. Request FREE Childcare when you RSVP.

2019 Diocesan Appeal Update

Needed to reach our goal..... \$17,014.00

Certificate of HOLY BAPTISM

• **ETHAN SCOTT TORNBORG**

School News

STM Girls Basketball

- **MON, Jan. 27** begins at **6:00PM @AWAY**
STM (5th, 6th & 8th) vs. St. Peter & Paul
- **THUR, Jan. 30** begins at **5:00PM @STM School Gym**
STM (8th) vs. St. Charles Borromeo
- **THUR, Jan. 30** begins at **6:30PM @STM School Gym**
STM (8th) vs. St. Mary's Sycamore

To see the full schedule and detail of away games visit
<https://stmcentral.org/sports-schedules>

Bereavement Ministry

Trained volunteers are available to provide spiritual support and comfort to all parishioners mourning a death loss. Please call the parish office at **847.888.1682**.

Life Matters

Any woman who is pregnant and in need can turn for help to the pro-life movement. Never feel alone, call Project Rachel at **800.593.2273** The Life Center at **847.622.1235** or Fox Valley Pregnancy at **847.697.0200**.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Sunday

Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17
/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Monday

2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26 [25a]/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday

2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89: 4-5, 27-28, 29-30 [29a]/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday

2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14
[Lk 1:32b]/Mk 4:21-25

Friday

2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11 [cf. 3a]/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12a]
/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday

Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [10b]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40
or 2:22-32



Photo by Josh Anlegate & Pascal Meier on Unsplash

Perpetual Adoration

Perpetual Adoration will begin at St. Thomas More on February 26.

Eucharistic Adoration is adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. It involves the contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us. The time you spend in the presence of Christ is where you will get to know Him better and to know the love he has for you. We will have many resources to guide you as you begin this life changing prayer time. Sign up today below or at our website. If you have any questions please contact **Sharon Hall** in the parish office **847.888.1682** or email at shall@stthomasmorechurch.org

What one hour, of one day each week, can you plan to spend time sitting with our Lord?

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Day _____

Time _____ AM _____ PM

Fill out, cut, and return to the parish office or at the welcome center. Thank you!



thank you



December 13, 2019

St. Thomas More Church
215 Thomas More Drive
Elgin, IL 60120

Dear Friend,

Thank you for delivering Christ's love to poor children through your generous support of the *Box of Joy* program! Your gift of \$153.08 helped give destitute children around the world Christmas gifts they will never forget.

By participating in Cross Catholic Outreach's *Box of Joy* program, you give more than a financial contribution and a giftbox filled with useful and fun Christmas gifts. You demonstrate God's love and kindness to the hearts of poor children in Guatemala.

Your tangible act of charity also provided hope for the future. As a valued partner in our work, you empowered us to advance the biblical imperative to "love our neighbor, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7).

The challenge of global poverty is great, but the power of Christ is greater. Every desperate cry for help is a call to his Church to be his light in the darkness. Cross Catholic Outreach seeks to equip the American Church to be Christ's hands and feet to people desperate for hope. Please take a minute to read the enclosed insert to learn more about Cross Catholic — and how you can get involved in what God is doing in the lives of the poorest of the poor around the globe.

Once again, thank you for your support and partnership as we minister to children and families who are desperate for hope. May God bless you!

Your Brother in Christ,

Sharon D. Charnick

Sharon D. Charnick
Executive Director

P.S. I invite you to visit our website at www.CrossCatholic.org to learn more about our organization. If you have any questions or would like additional information about Cross Catholic Outreach, please contact us at 800-944-2426, ext. 142, or at BoxJoy@CrossCatholic.org.

www.CrossCatholic.org

Thank You!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who gave of their time and talent during this Christmas season! Your willingness to use your gifts and abilities allowed us to celebrate this Christmas season with reverence, awe, and beauty.

- Art and Environment
- Music Ministers
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Lectors
- Altar Servers
- Ushers
- Greeters
- Mass Coordinators

Providing emergency shelter while helping the homeless to develop a sustainable future

December 27, 2019

St. Thomas More Church
215 Thomas More Dr.
Elgin, IL 60120

Dear St. Thomas More Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00 to PADS of Elgin.

Because of your support, we will be able to continue to provide our guests with a safe place to sleep, food, clothing, coats, shoes, a hot shower, and laundry facilities. We will also provide comprehensive case management services that assist with finding employment, financial planning and if necessary, referrals to mental health or substance abuse counseling. Our shelter is open 365 days per year.

In our last fiscal year, we provided over 15,000 days and nights of shelter and served over 17,000 meals to 423 men, women and children.

In addition, more than \$1.8M of every dollar we receive goes directly to program services, which is why we have a greater than 15% net shelter success rate.

You helped make all of this possible.

I welcome the opportunity to answer any other questions you might have about our services or how we are making a difference locally.

All of us at PADS of Elgin truly appreciate your support. Thank you again for helping us to provide a shelter to the homeless in our community.

Sincerely,
Sharon D. Charnick
Sharon D. Charnick
Executive Director

Please keep this letter as your receipt as your donation is tax-deductible as allowed by law. No cash or services were received in exchange for this gift.

"Wealth does not have to mean happiness"

PADS of Elgin • 11700 Oakley Street • Elgin, IL 60120 • 815-898-8744
www.padselgin.org • FAX 815-898-8744

Luann and Kathy,

Thank you for your help collecting gifts through the giving tree and sharing them with St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Baskets. Those gifts helped a lot of families have a special Christmas. We were able to give 46 families, gifts, cleaning supplies, gift cards and personalized Christmas cards from the STM Youth Ministry. Your help is very much appreciated!!! God bless you both and Happy New Year!!

Doug and SvDP members of STM/STL

StThomasMoreElginSVDP@gmail.com.
Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SVDPSTM

St. Thomas More Catholic School



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 26, 2020

1:00 to 3:00 pm

- ✓ **School & Classroom Tours**
- ✓ **Meet the Principal & Teachers**
- ✓ **Refreshments**
- ✓ **Alumni Welcome!**



Join Us As We Kick Off Catholic Schools Week!

Check Out The New Podcast BECOME WHO YOU ARE

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*Who am I? What's my purpose?
How do I find happiness here
on earth? How do I find love
that satisfies?*

For more information:
Visit our Website: jp2renew.org
E-mail: info@jp2renew.org



For the full schedule of STM Schools activities, please visit www.stmcentral.org

Tax Letters

The **2019 tax letters** will be in the Chelsea room for parishioners who contributed \$250 or more. They will be available for pick up after all Masses this weekend!

22nd Annual Chili for Charity



Elgin Knights of Columbus
St. Thomas More Gym,
1625 West Highland Ave, Elgin, IL



**Saturday, 3:30pm to 7:00pm,
February 29, 2020**

Donations are \$8 at the door or \$7 prior ticket sales.

The donation includes hot dogs, salad, bread, chips, drinks and many chilies to taste. This is a great family event and we will have magicians, face painters, balloon artists, 50/50 and raffle prizes.

The proceeds of our event will benefit all Elgin Catholic Schools, the Elgin Soup Kitchen, and Elgin area youth sports. We are asking for your continued support for this great cause. There are opportunities to place an ad in our infamous K of C Chili Ad Book, donate raffle prizes, food items, monetary donations and/or if you feel you have a great chili recipe, you can enter as a contestant to possibly win cash prizes.

Contact **Chris Gulik** at 847.931.9641
chrisgulik@sbcglobal.net for tickets and any questions you have. On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, we thank you for your consideration and will keep you in our prayers.



Presiders

Weekend for Feb 1st & 2nd.

PRESIDERS

5:00 pm Fr. Browning **10:00 am** Msgr. Linster
8:00 am Fr. Browning **12:00 pm** Fr. Deitz

Enthroned The Bible In Your Home

Pope Francis has issued an apostolic letter entitled "Aperuit Illis," Instituting **Sunday, January 26** as the "Sunday of the Word of God" for all dioceses and churches throughout the world. Create a special place in your home to sit and spend time reading scripture.

You can bless this special space using a prayer service to "enthroned the Bible in your home". The prayer service is available at our Welcome Center or online at our parish website.



Bulletin Deadlines

FEB 9TH BULLETIN

Materials Due:
January 27, 2020

FEB 16TH BULLETIN

Materials Due:
February 03, 2020

Mass Intentions for the Week

If you would like to have a Mass said for someone, call the parish office to schedule. The contribution for reserving the intention of a Mass is \$10.00.

monday JAN 27	8:30 am Frank Ybarra
tuesday JAN 28	8:30 am Francisca Siazon
wednesday JAN 29	8:30 am Charles & Mary Joseph (sp. int. 52nd Anniversary) Karen Brummel
thursday JAN 30	8:30 am Deceased members of the intercessory prayer group
friday JAN 31	8:30 am All Souls
saturday FEB 01	8:30 am Jim Durante 5:00 pm People of STM
sunday FEB 02	8:00 am Helen Hartwell, Bill Moylan 10:00 am Joseph & Marian Good, Mary Ellen Dubin 12:00 pm Michael Geppert, Gregory Maher

monday JAN 27	tuesday JAN 28	wednesday JAN 29	thursday JAN 30	friday JAN 31	saturday FEB 01
4:30 pm @CHURCH, LANCASTER Youth Choir 6:00 pm @LANCASTER High School Choir	7:00 pm @WESTMINSTER St. Vincent De Paul	9:00 am @CHAPEL Eucharistic Adoration 3:00 pm @CANTERBURY Bible Study 4:00 pm @CHAPEL Benediction 7:00 pm @CHELSEA RCIA 7:00 pm @LANCASTER Adult Choir	9:00 am @TUDOR Women's Intercessory Prayer Group 6:00 pm @CANTERBURY, WESTMINSTER Spred	9:15 am @CANTERBURY Women's Rosary Group	7:00 am @CHELSEA That Man Is You! 8:30 am @CHURCH First Saturday of the Month Mass

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