

ST. THOMAS MORE  
CATHOLIC PARISH \$ ESTABLISHED 1959

# THE GOOD SERVANT

*"Earth hath no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." - St. Thomas More*



## Pastor

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

## Parochial Vicar

**Father "Ejay" Edil Jarapa**  
associate@stthomasmorechurch.org

## Deacons

Mr. Jack Roder  
Mr. David Deitz

## Parish Staff

stthomasmorechurch.org/staff

[www.stthomasmorechurch.org](http://www.stthomasmorechurch.org)

## Weekend Mass Schedule

**Saturday** 8:30 AM 5 PM  
**Sunday** 8 AM 10 AM 12 PM

## Daily Mass Schedule

**Rosary** 8:00 AM  
**Daily** 8:30 AM

## Reconciliation

**Tuesday** 5:30 PM  
**Thursday** 9 AM  
**Saturday** 9 AM 1 PM

## Perpetual Adoration

**Sunday** 1 PM - **Saturday** 1 PM  
stthomasmorechurch.org/adoration

## Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4:30 PM  
847.888.1682

## School Office

stmelgin.org  
847.742.3959

## Faith Formation Office

stthomasmorechurch.org  
/religious-education  
847.888.4887

**847.888.1682**

# PARISH GREETINGS

*St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin*

## WELCOME Parishioners

Our Mission is to embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ (sacrificial love of God and others) through living a Catholic life strengthened by the Sacraments, nourished by a dedicated prayer life and lived out by loving service to all peoples. Join us and find the purpose and meaning that leads to the fullness of life.

## SACRAMENTAL Information

### Baptism

[stthomasmorechurch.org/baptism](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/baptism)

Baptism for children is celebrated Sundays at 1:00pm. See our website for more information.

### Matrimony

[stthomasmorechurch.org/marriage](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/marriage)

Visit our website above to fill out a form and a priest will contact you with more information.

### Sick & Homebound

Call the parish office if you are unable to come to church and would like to receive Holy Communion.

### Anointing of the Sick

[stthomasmorechurch.org/anointing-of-the-sick](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/anointing-of-the-sick)

Call the parish office to make arrangements to receive this sacrament.

### Becoming Catholic

[stthomasmorechurch.org/becoming-catholic](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/becoming-catholic)

If you are an adult who is interested in becoming Catholic we would like to help you.

## SUPPORT Information

### St. Vincent de Paul

[stthomasmorechurch.org/st-vincent-de-paul-society](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/st-vincent-de-paul-society)

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

### Bereavement Ministry

Trained volunteers are available to provide spiritual support and comfort to all parishioners mourning a death loss.

### Life Matters

Any woman, who is pregnant and in need, should never feel alone and can find help at Corbella Clinic at **847.697.0200**, The Life Center at **847.622.1235**, or Project Rachel at **800.593.2273**.

## BULLETIN Deadlines

### September 18th Bulletin

Materials Due: **September 05, 2022**

### September 25th Bulletin

Materials Due: **September 12, 2022**

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# PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

## LETTER from Bishop Malloy



**Diocese of Rockford**  
555 Colman Center Drive  
P.O. Box 7044  
Rockford, Illinois 61125

(815) 399-4300  
Fax (815) 399-4769

August 22, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians in the Diocese of Rockford,

As our faithful families return to school for the new year, I am reminded of Pope emeritus Benedict XVI's remark that good schools educate the whole child with a well-rounded curriculum. Solid formation of our children will help ensure that they be given every chance to live whole and healthy lives, devoted to God and to Christ's Church.

Still as the new school year dawns, I must urge Catholic parents to be aware of new sexual education standards in Illinois public schools referred to as comprehensive sex education. The standards put forth in comprehensive sex education can cause irreparable harm to children, are contrary to Church teaching on God's gift of sexuality, undermine parents' rights, and indoctrinate children to a particular social agenda.

In 2021, I, along with the other Bishops of Illinois, opposed SB 818 that allows for school districts across Illinois to teach comprehensive sex education in public schools. If a school district adopts comprehensive sex education, it must abide by the National Sex Education Standards (NSES). These standards require children from kindergarten through 12th grade to receive instruction about gender identity, expression, and orientation.

Examples of the troubling comprehensive sex education skills that children will be taught by grade levels include:

- **2nd grade:** discuss the range of ways people express their gender and how gender-role stereotypes may limit behavior.
- **5th grade:** distinguish between sex assigned at birth and gender identity and explain how they may or may not differ.
- **5th grade:** explain masturbation.
- **5th grade:** describe the potential role of hormone blockers on young people who identify as transgender.
- **8th grade:** define sexual identity and explain a range of identities related to sexual orientation.
- **8th grade:** explain the steps to using barrier contraception methods correctly.
- **10th grade:** differentiate between sex assigned at birth, gender identity, and gender expression.

Parents should be aware that the curriculum in comprehensive sexual education can harm young children and adolescents by presenting ill-formed views of relationships that are based on personal gratification and the contemporary misunderstanding of God's gift of sexuality. Sexual education, when informed by the truth and beauty of our Catholic faith and morality, focuses our children on the selfless love modeled by Jesus Christ and leads to the union between body and spirit. Such education promotes the value of chastity and teaches the self-control needed to honor the dignity of ourselves and others.

Parents and concerned guardians can take steps to protect their children by educating themselves to make informed decisions, by petitioning their school boards to choose not to teach comprehensive sexual education, by deciding to opt their children out of this education if their school districts choose to teach it, and by remaining vigilant in being aware of who is teaching their children and what they are teaching. These steps are described in detail, including access to an updated list of decisions by Illinois school districts, on the Diocese of Rockford Life & Family Evangelization website at [www.rockforddiocese.org/life/current-life-issues/parental-rights/](http://www.rockforddiocese.org/life/current-life-issues/parental-rights/).

We know that, as of the date of this letter, the following school districts in the diocese have adopted the new comprehensive sex education curriculum:

- **Rockford School District 205**
- **DeKalb Community Unit School District 428**

and the **School Districts in Stephenson County** have opted out of implementing the curriculum. I urge Catholic parents who live in these districts to be extremely vigilant by examining the curriculum and using their right to opt their children out if they object.

Other school districts in Carroll, Jo Daviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Whiteside, and Winnebago – throughout the diocese – are considering whether to opt out of implementing such instruction. In these cases, I urge Catholic parents and guardians to make known to their school boards their objections to the curriculum.

As families prepare for a new year of learning, I share with you the words of Pope Benedict XVI in an address on youth education:

*"It is not ideologies that save the world, but only a return to the living God, our Creator, the guarantor of our freedom, the guarantor of what is really good and true ... an unconditional return to God who is the measure of what is right and who at the same time is everlasting love. And what could ever save us apart from love?"*

With the assurance of my prayers for you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *David J. Malloy*  
Most Reverend David J. Malloy  
Bishop of Rockford

<sup>1</sup> Message of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, 1 January 2012, [https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/messages/peace/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_mes\\_20111208\\_xlv-world-day-peace.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20111208_xlv-world-day-peace.html).



Good and Gracious God,  
You created human beings in Your image and likeness  
And gave us dominion over creation  
to be stewards of the land  
and co-creators of Your Kingdom.  
Jesus, You became one of us  
and labored as a carpenter.

You ask all people --  
whatever our state of life --  
to follow you faithfully.

Holy Spirit, bless all  
workers this Labor Day.  
May all our actions be  
animated by Your love,  
as we do all things for  
the glory of God.  
Amen.

## Anniversary Celebration Volunteers For Fr. Ejay!

**On Saturday and Sunday September 10 and 11** our parish will celebrate Fr. Ejay's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priestly ordination. We will have coffee and treats following each of the weekend Masses. We are looking for a few volunteers to help after each Mass. If you can volunteer, please sign up at <https://stthomasmore37.flocknote.com/signup/97731>

## Parish Office Closed

The parish office will be **closed Monday, September 5th** in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 6th. Have a safe and happy Labor Day.

# PRAY WITH US

*St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin*

## PRAYER List

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.

## Lord Hear Our Prayer...

† All Souls in Purgatory  
 † All affected by COVID-19  
 † Ed Bartholomew  
 † Annette Bimmerle  
 † Michael Bimmerle  
 † Nicole Marie Burr  
 † Joseph Cannizzaro  
 † Ana Carrillo  
 † Ryan Costelloe  
 † Charles Felski  
 † Tim Felski

† Dianna Giardino  
 † Angela Guasta  
 † Vincent Guasta  
 † Lynn Harper  
 † Beverly Kittler  
 † Amelia M. Lara  
 † Christie Laurie  
 † Fran Meek  
 † Belinda Mockler  
 † Gloria Neitzel  
 † Alexandria Pauletto-Dunn

† Arlene Pinkawa  
 † Chuck Pruter  
 † Linda Rakowski  
 † Crescentiano Rodriguez & family  
 † Liza Roman  
 † Manuel Roman  
 † Diane Schumacher  
 † Helen Stasukaitis  
 † Patricia Tanner  
 † Imelda Veneracion

## SYMPATHY List

### Rest In Peace

† Douglas Steichen  
 † Heather Wydra

## READINGS of the Day

<https://bible.usccb.org/>

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB's) mission is to encounter the mercy of Christ and to accompany His people with joy. Visit the link above for podcast audio, videos and daily prayers.

## GIVING at St. Thomas More

At St. Thomas More Church you are able to share your donations in a variety of ways.

- **AT MASS:** You can drop your weekly offering in one of the baskets at the back of church. We are currently not taking up a collection during the Mass.
- **ONLINE:** You can sign up to make your weekly offering online by visiting our website at Parish Giving; [stthomasmorechurch.org/donate-1](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/donate-1)

If you have questions about donations to St. Thomas More, contact Olga Pomella at [finance@stthomasmorechurch.org](mailto:finance@stthomasmorechurch.org) or 847.888.1682 x213

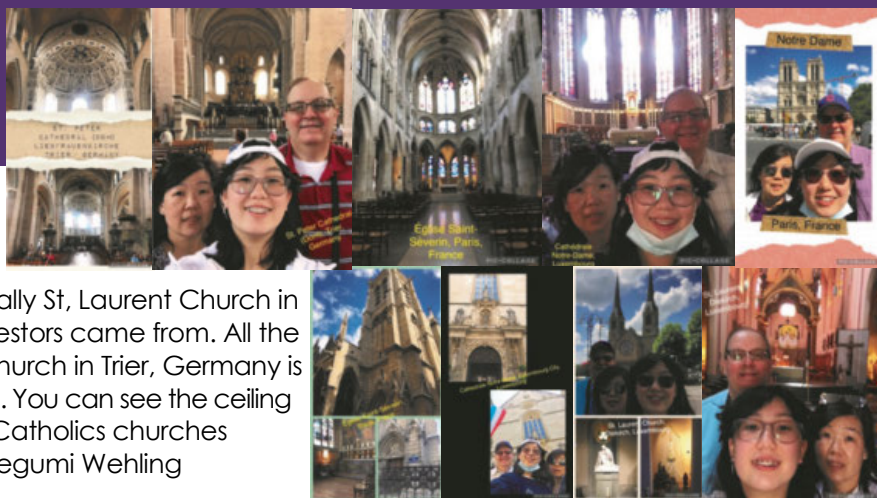


## SPOTLIGHT

*St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin*

## TRAVELING Parishioners

We just want to share our joy to all of you about visiting very beautiful churches in Europe. Especially St. Laurent Church in Diekirch, Luxembourg where my husband's ancestors came from. All the churches were beautiful and unique. St. Peter Church in Trier, Germany is 700 years old! It had a very beautiful chapel ceiling. You can see the ceiling on the picture. We hope all of you enjoy all the Catholics churches pictures in Europe. God bless! ~Fely, Bob and Megumi Wehling



# HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

## Music Ministry

### JOIN THE PARISH CHOIRS

#### YOUTH CHOIR (GRADES 3-8)

- Our kids who love to sing can be immersed in the rich world of sacred music in the Youth Choir. We'll sing music of all types, from chant and traditional to contemporary. We may even break out the percussion instruments and learn a little bit about reading music!
- If you're looking for a way to get your kids involved in the Church, this is it!
- It's a lot of fun and a great way to make friends!
- If there's enough interest, we'll join a choral festival in Chicago in early 2023!

#### HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE (GRADES 9-12)

- Great for teens to immerse themselves in the rich traditions of sacred music, from chant to contemporary. You can try it all!
- Ideal for young people looking for a way to contribute their talents to the Church and take leadership roles
- If there's enough interest, we'll join a choral festival in Chicago in early 2023!

## Adorers Urgently Needed

What do you usually do during the late/early hours between midnight and 4:00am? Awake because of your work schedule? Awake because you sleep at other times or just have difficulty sleeping? We could use your help. We've had a hard time finding permanent Adoration Adorers for some of these wee hours. Would you consider "trying out" one of these times as a substitute? Follow the link below to receive messages for when a substitute is needed. Melissa Galla, our Adoration Coordinator, will help you with next steps for accessing the locked chapel during these hours. Once or twice a month substitutes are greatly appreciated too! <https://adorationpro.org/thomasil>

#### Can you fill the hours below?

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| • Wednesday 12:00 AM | • Thursday 9:00 AM |
| • Wednesday 10:00 PM | • Thursday 11:00AM |
| • Thursday 12:00 AM  | • Friday 4:00 AM   |
| • Thursday 2:00 AM   |                    |

## Respect Life Ministry

St Thomas More Respect Life Ministry will be offering a special Rosary for all that have been affected by suicide. This Rosary will take place on Monday evening, **September 26, 7pm**, in the church. We will have candles available, for anyone to light, prior to the start of the Rosary, so that we can have a visual reminder of the prayers we are offering. Please join us, and invite anyone that is interested, to come as well. Rosaries will be available if needed.

## That Man Is You!

All men of the parish and their friends, sons, and brothers! We would like to invite you to join That Man Is You! They are a men's program focused on the development of authentic male leadership. They address the pressures and temptations that men of all ages face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers.

- **What:** That Man Is You! - 'All Things New' featuring prominent Catholic speakers Drs. Scott Hahn, Mark Miravalle and John Bergsma
- **Who:** All Catholic men in the Elgin community are welcome!
- **When:** Saturdays from 6:45-8:15 AM beginning September 17th
- **Where:** St. Thomas More - Chelsea Room

For more information or to register for the program, please contact **Bob Nierzwicki** at **773.633-7449** or [bobnierz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobnierz@sbcglobal.net)

## Becoming Catholic

Becoming Catholic will begin on **Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 11:00 am** in the Canterbury room. We will continue to meet on Sundays at 11:00am after attending the 10:00 am Mass together.

Contact **Sharon Hall** at call **847.888.1682, ext. 216** or [evangelization@stthomasmorechurch.org](mailto:evangelization@stthomasmorechurch.org)

# MASS HIGHLIGHTS

*St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin*

## 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, September 05

8:30 AM Mass

**Ruth Roti (sp. Int.)**

**Judy Taeyaerts (sp. Int.)**

### Tuesday, September 06

8:30 AM Mass

**Gloria Askew**

### Wednesday, September 07

8:30 AM Mass

**Mary Anne Fout**

9:30 AM Mass (School staff and students only)

**All Students and Staff**

### Thursday, September 08

8:30 AM Mass

**Fr. Edil Jarapa (sp. Int.)**

### Friday, September 09

8:30 AM Mass

**Jesse Meek**

### Saturday, September 10

8:30 AM Mass

**Daniel Coyle**

5:00 PM Mass

**Maynard & Ann Decker**

**John Maggio**

### Sunday, September 11

8:00 AM Mass

**People of STM**

10:00 AM Mass

**Richard & Margaret Wehling**

12:00 PM Mass

**Helen Lynch**

**Tom and Della Langan and Mary Killman**

## Presiders

### Saturday, September 10

8:30 AM Mass

**Fr. Browning**

5:00 PM Mass

**Fr. Ejay**

### Sunday, September 11

8:00 AM Mass

**Fr. Browning**

10:00 AM Mass

**Fr. Ejay**

12:00 PM Mass

**Fr. Linster**

## Adoration Candles Intentions

### September 04 – September 10

**Jerrie Brillo**

### September 11 – September 17

**Tom & Evie Thompson** (55th Wedding Anniv.)






**Peter & Mary Fran Patterson** (50th Wedding Anniv.)



Stay connected with your faith when you are on vacation or traveling. Share with St. Thomas More, a picture of you and/or your family at Mass! Send your picture to [ayoung@stthomasmorechurch.org](mailto:ayoung@stthomasmorechurch.org) with a simple description and your location, and it will be shared in our Sunday bulletin and our social media!

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