

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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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

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

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

Matrimony

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

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

Becoming Catholic

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

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

February 26th Bulletin

Materials Due: **February 13, 2023**

March 5th Bulletin

Materials Due: **February 20, 2023**

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to **84576** or visit
flocknote.com/stthomasmore37



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PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

GOSPEL MEDITATION - Encourage deeper understanding of scripture

It's often said that the Catholic Church lays heavy rules on her members, rules that can almost seem impossible. Mass every Sunday? No lying ever? Sexual purity *all the time*? I recently said to some non-Catholic friends that more than fifty adults were baptized at my parish at the Easter Vigil. One responded spontaneously with shock, "Why would anyone do *that*?" In other words, why would someone willingly place themselves in a system with such demanding and rigorous rules?

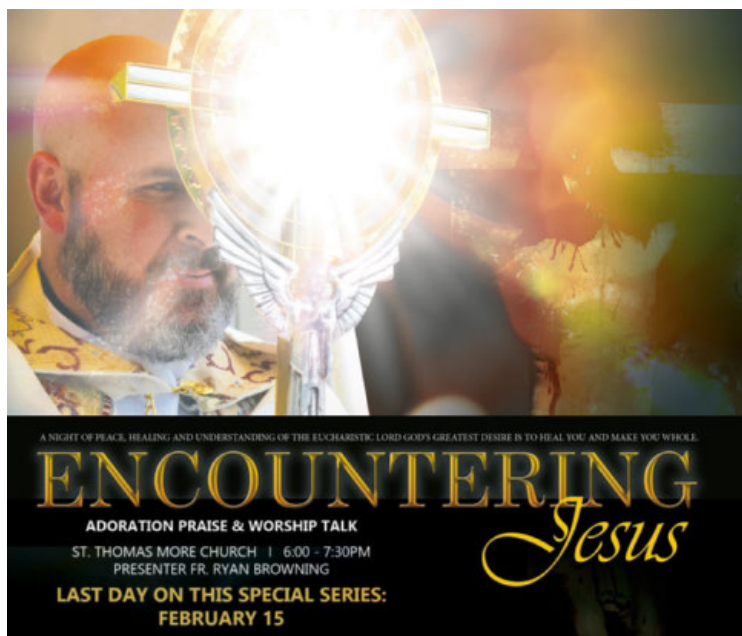
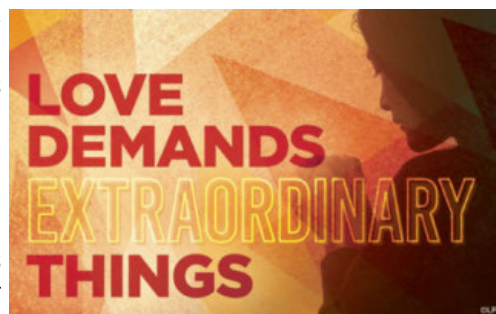
Of course, no one in the history of religions is more demanding and rigorous than Jesus himself. In the Sermon on the Mount, he says you have to be holier than pharisees or you're out. He says if you call someone a fool, you go to fiery Gehenna. He says you can't even look at a woman with lust or you're guilty of adultery (which was punishable by death). To top it all off, he says you can't even get divorced and re-married. Doesn't he know these are basically

impossible demands? What world is he living in?

The new one, actually. He is the new world. Jesus' words aren't meant to condemn.

They are meant to signal something new, a restored humanity. Jesus doesn't just give external laws; he gives us his Holy Spirit to internalize the law through love. He wants to fill us with his love. That's what the Church exists to do. Love demands extraordinary things. The "demands" of the Church only make sense because she is filled with Jesus' love. That wildly demanding love is why we are Catholic.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



Church Cleaning Ministry

Our church cleaning ministry has begun! We have a few dedicated parishioners who come on Tuesdays, at a time convenient for their schedule, and help us with some vacuuming and light cleaning. We could use a few more volunteers. If you can help us sign up at stthomasmorechurch.org/church-cleaning

Hope For Haitians

Again, this Lent of 2023, St. Thomas More Parish will support the poorest of the poor in the country of Haiti. The Rockford Diocese is funding the building of the 18th St. Joseph Village, in Northern Haiti.

Homes in the village, at a cost of \$9,800.00 each, offer two rooms, a bathroom and solar lighting. Purified water is available in each village as well as a building with a conference room and an education room. Approximately 50 to 70 homes will be funded and the Haitians will construct the buildings.

Envelopes for your donation will be available in the Gathering Space throughout Lent. Put your Haiti envelope in the baskets at the back of Church or in the box on the Haiti table.

The school and RE students will be supporting the Haitians also. They will get Hope For Haitians boxes for their collections. Then those boxes will be collected by Mrs. Keane in school and Mrs. Tack in RE, at the end of Lent.

If you would like to volunteer in our Parish Haiti Committee, please contact **Mary Aydt** at **847.691.5119**.



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
 † Ana Carrillo
 † Mary Cantu
 † Ryan Costelloe
 † Kiley Cox
 † Roger Dombrowski
 † Ali Dunn
 † Greg Garfield

† Dianna Giardino
 † Angela Guasta
 † Vincent Guasta
 † Lynn Harper
 † Tony Long
 † Steve McCloud
 † Belinda Mockler
 † Sue Moylan
 † Gloria Neitzel
 † Elizabeth North

† Levi Olson
 † Barb Pruter
 † Linda Rakowski
 † Liza Roman
 † Manuel Roman
 † Helen Stasukaitis
 † Rich Sutton
 † Patricia Viz

SYMPATHY List

Rest In Peace

† Mary Genzler

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

If you have questions about donations to St. Thomas More, contact Olga Pomella at finance@stthomasmorechurch.org or 847.888.1682 x213



SPOTLIGHT

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

BUDDY BENCH

Thank you to our Fellowship Club

The Fellowship Club has donated a "Buddy Bench" to our St.

Thomas More School. A Buddy Bench or Friendship Bench is a seat in a school playground where a child can go when they want someone to talk to. The bench is a means by which a child can seek support without the need to rationalize their feelings or to seek out a particular member of the staff or special friend. Approximately 25,000 plastic bottle caps were collected, cleaned and sorted by the STM Fellowship Club members to make the bench. Be a part of our Fellowship Club, check us out at www.stthomasmorechurch.org/fellowship-group-for-seniors



HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

FIRST ANNUAL

Fr. Browning Birthday Cookie Contest

Who makes the best chocolate chip cookie?

Let's Find Out! Submit 1 (one) dozen of your best homemade chocolate chip cookies in a disposable container.

You will be given a contest form to complete for "blind judging". The Chocolate Chip Champion will be announced immediately following the Encounter Jesus Holy Hour.

When: Wednesday, February 15th (Father's Birthday!)

Where: Chelsea Room (Church)

Time: Drop-off cookies between 9am and 3pm

Join us for the Holy Hour at 6pm. Stay to sing Happy Birthday to Fr. Browning. Find out the cookie champion and enjoy all the cookie entries!

Chili for Charity is back!

The Elgin Area Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their annual Chili for Charity Cook-off and dinner. Come join us and eat chili on **Saturday, February 25 from 3:30pm to 7:00pm** at the St. Thomas More Gym. For more details, visit stthomasmorechurch.org/knights-of-columbus



INFORMATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 13 IN-PERSON @9:00AM OR ZOOM @6:30PM

We've developed a 50 Day program that guides and encourages you to make this Lent one of real substance. This program is for adults of all ages. Invite your family and friends to join us, regardless of where they live.

Mondays: February 20 - April 3

Mornings: In person 9:00am

Evenings: via Zoom 6:30pm

Fee for materials: \$25.00

Register at: stthomasmorechurch.org/relentless



We invite you to continue your spiritual growth by participating in our Lenten activities.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday Masses:

8:30am, 10:30am, 12:10pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Night Prayer & Mass

Night Prayer at 5:45pm and Mass at 6:00pm on **Tuesdays & Thursdays** during Lent, beginning Feb. 28.

Stations of the Cross

On **Thursdays** at 2:00pm & **Fridays** at 7:00pm during Lent, beginning Feb. 23.

Perpetual Adoration

Sunday - 1pm through **Saturday** - 1pm

Rosary

Every **Weekday** (Church) 8:00am

Every **Monday** (Church) 7:00pm

Reconciliation/Confession

Tuesdays 5:30pm

Thursdays 9:00am

Saturdays 9:00am & 1:00pm

Be Reconciled - A Diocesan Day of Penance

Wednesday, March 29 9:00am - 8:00pm

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - Masses begin in the Gathering Space

April 1 5:00pm

April 2 8am, 10am, 12pm

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper - with incense

April 6 7:00pm

Good Friday - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

April 7 3:00pm

Holy Saturday

April 8 - Blessing of the Easter Food 11:30am

April 8 - Easter Vigil Mass - with incense 7:30pm

Easter Sunday

April 9 8am, 10am, 12pm

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, February 13

8:30 AM Mass

Emil Pasholk

Tuesday, February 14

8:30 AM Mass

Marylou Hochstatter (sp. int.)

Wednesday, February 15

8:30 AM Mass

Bob McBriarty

9:30 AM Mass

Freddy Lourits (sp. int.)

Thursday, February 16

8:30 AM Mass

Sally Skarzenski

Maria Isabel Perez

Friday, February 17

8:30 AM Mass

Marcia O'Connor

Saturday, February 18

8:30 AM Mass

The Lara Family (sp. int.)

5:00 PM Mass

Fred Taeyaerts

Sunday, February 19

8:00 AM Mass

People of STM

10:00 AM Mass

Hollis Gregory King

12:00 PM Mass

Le Thi Nguyen

Ida & Francis Cox and Ella Chafee

Presiders

Saturday, February 18

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Ejay

Sunday, February 19

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Linster

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Ejay

Adoration Candles Intentions

February 12 - February 18

Billy Whitchurch

February 19 - February 25

Marilyn & Leo Schlaefer



MENTAL
HEALTH

Would you value joining others in a conversation about mental health? Would you like to discover what God, Scripture, and Church have to say in light of the experiences of mental health challenges? The subject matter feels particularly relevant in these times of heightened anxiety, and the course creates an opportunity to connect with and support each other in meaningful ways.

ABOUT THE COURSE

The Sanctuary Course for Catholics is an eight-part course for small groups designed to raise awareness and start conversations in local parishes regarding mental health. It was created in collaboration with Catholic mental health professionals, theologians, and clergy, and offers faith communities the opportunity to learn about mental health and grow in their ability to support members living with mental health challenges. Topics covered include: mental health and mental illness, stigma, recovery, companionship, self-care, and community. The sessions are accompanied by compelling films that feature the stories of Catholics living with mental health challenges, along with the insights of archbishops, theologians, and psychologists.

Catholic Charities invites you to join in viewing and discussing the Sanctuary Course for Catholics. We will view the films together followed by group discussion. There is no homework and no cost to attend. Course is appropriate for all adults.

The course will begin Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 7PM—8:30PM and run for 8 consecutive weeks, skipping Holy week, using Microsoft Teams online.

Register: cmhm@rockforddiocese.org
You will be sent a link and course book via email.



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