

MARCH 19, 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

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

April 2nd Bulletin (Early Deadline for Easter Holiday)

Materials Due: **March 16, 2023**

April 9th Bulletin (Early Deadline for Easter Holiday)

Materials Due: **March 21, 2023**

Share your experiences and photos with us.

Flocknote | Facebook | Instagram | YouTube



Let's keep in touch!
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to **84576** or visit
flocknote.com/stthomasmore37



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PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

Q. & A. Daily Faith

Question:

What can I do to help our family practice our faith each day?

Answer:

Some families practice their religion together as just another event on their schedule: go to church, observe Lent, help at the parish picnic, go to a meeting, volunteer time, make your confession, use your envelope... But the focus needs to be on who we are - God's people, in relationship with him, loved, forgiven, and redeemed, and called to live and proclaim the Gospel. Our awareness of God's presence and our sense of mission are supported by the daily rituals, celebrations, and traditions that help us stay focused. Sharing our faith strengthens us and clarifies the beliefs and values of Christian living.

Daily family practices include time for prayer - before meals, before bed, before important meetings and activities. Attend Sunday Mass together and discuss the homily afterward. Create family celebrations for holy days and holidays. Make religion a regular part of your discussions. Include others, especially the elderly and the less fortunate, in your activities and charitable efforts. By applying the virtues of faith, hope, and love to each day, faith becomes part of who your family is. It influences how you act towards others, what you value, and how mindful of God you are. Faith is the leaven of life that helps all of us rise to our calling and dignity as God's people. ©LPi

Online Giving Update

Thank you to the many families that have transitioned from WeShare Online Giving to OSV (Our Sunday Visitor) Online Giving! The parish began transitioning to OSV last August. For those who have not had an opportunity to



make the transition, letters were sent to your home in January encouraging you to deactivate your WeShare Online Account and to create a new account with OSV or choose to

use OSV Envelopes that will be delivered to your home every two months. While we sincerely appreciate your support, we must share with you that our contract with WeShare Online Giving will cease at the end of March. Please check your financial records, deactivate your WeShare Account, and decide which OSV format works best for making your charitable contributions to St. Thomas More.

Direct your questions, to **Olga Pomella** at **Finance@stthomasmorechurch.org**. She will be happy to assist you. Thank you for your cooperation and your generosity!

Palm Weaving Workshop



Join us for one of two 2-hour workshops where we will learn to make a palm cross, a cross with the crown of thorns, Roses, pineapples, woven leaves and more!

Workshops are limited to 15 people each and will fill fast!

Register at **stthomasmorechurch.org/palm-weaving-workshop** to reserve your spot!

Saturday April, 1st from 9 am to 11 am

Saturday April 1st from 1 pm to 3 pm

Cost: \$5.00 for materials, due on the day of class. Participants are asked to bring a sharp pair of scissors.

Location: Chelsea Room

The Observer

Approximately 90,000 registered families within the Diocese of Rockford will receive a copy of The Observer on April 28, 2023. Watch your mail for this informative news source, which will be highlighting the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal results. An annual subscription to The Observer is only \$28, which is available in print, electronically, or both. You may subscribe at **<https://observer.rockforddiocese.org/subscribe>**. St. Thomas More Parish's Observer assessment is approximately \$20,000 per year, and your paid subscription reduces the amount of that assessment. **Please subscribe to The Observer Newspaper today!**

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
 † Ed Bartholomew
 † Ana Carrillo
 † Mary Cantu
 † Ed Clay
 † Helen Clemens
 † Ryan Costelloe
 † Kiley Cox
 † Juanita Cundiff
 † Roger Dombrowski
 † Ali Dunn
 † Greg Garfield
 † Dianna Giardino
 † Dominick Girardi

† Linda Girardi
 † Angela Guasta
 † Vince Guasta
 † Lynn Harper
 † Anastacio Hernandez
 † Inez Hernandez
 † Magdalena Hernandez
 † Miguel A Hernandez
 † Karen Johnson
 † Shirley Kinsella
 † Angela Loeding
 † Jason Long
 † Tony Long
 † Steve McCloud

† Fran Meek
 † William Meek
 † Belinda Mockler
 † Sue Moylan
 † Gloria Neitzel
 † Elizabeth North
 † Barb Pruter
 † Linda Rakowski
 † Carmen Rodriguez
 † Donald Sarau
 † Laurie Sarau
 † Helen Stasukaitis
 † Rich Sutton
 † Patricia Viz

SYMPATHY List

Rest In Peace

† All Souls

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



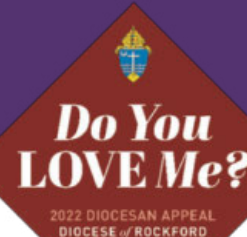
SPOTLIGHT

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

2022 Diocesan Appeal

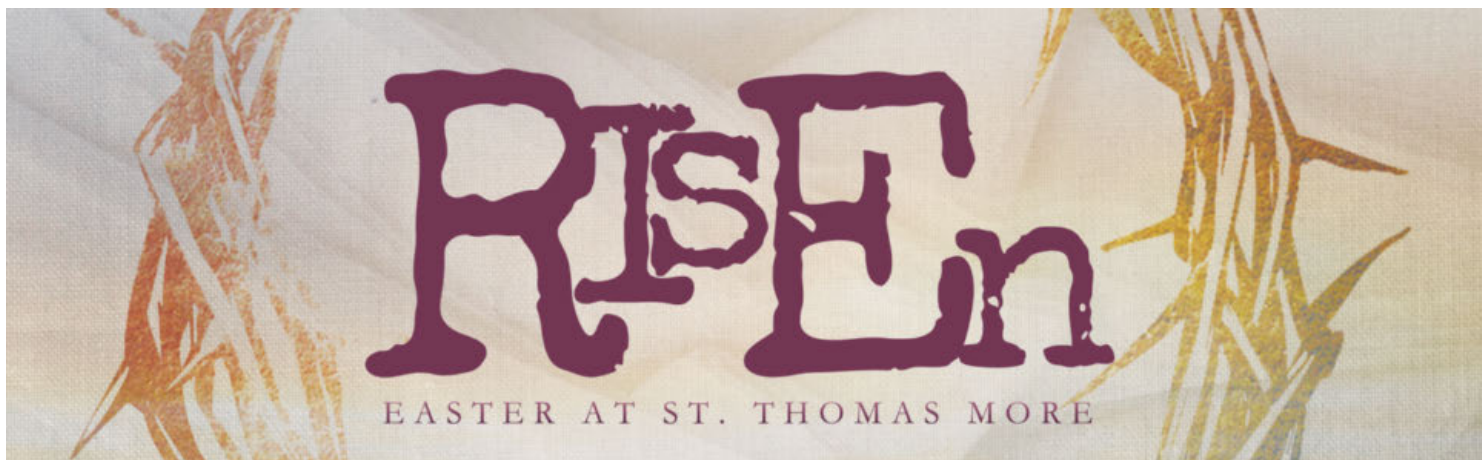
As of February 28, 2023, St. Thomas More Parish recorded \$114,135.96 pledged toward our goal of \$107,019 of which \$106,784.69 has been paid in full. For St. Thomas More to receive a refund for pledges over goal, \$7,351.27 is due on unpaid pledges. The amount returned to the parish is earmarked for buildings and grounds expenses. A special thanks to the 335 families

that helped us reach our goal. We encourage all 2,348 registered families to prayerfully consider their donation to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Watch your mail the end of April for a letter from Bishop Malloy. Your support enables the diocese to minister to the people of our diocesan community. Thank you!



HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin



PALM SUNDAY

April 15PM

April 28AM,
10AM & 12PM

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the
Lord's Supper
(with incense)

April 6 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Liturgy of the
Lord's Passion

April 7 3PM

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Food Blessing

April 8 11:00AM

Easter Vigil Mass
(with incense)

April 8 7:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9

8AM
10AM
12PM

Be Reconciled

On **Wednesday, March 29th** every church in the Rockford Diocese will be hosting Be Reconciled Day. St. Thomas More will have priests here to hear Confessions from **9:00am - 8:00pm**.

In preparation for your Confession, find an examination of conscience. You can find one on our website stthomasmorechurch.org/reconciliation.

Upon arriving at Confession:

- Make the sign of the cross.
- Say, "Bless me Father for I have sinned, it has been ____ (your time frame) since my last confession."
- Begin to tell him your sins. When you are finished let him know by saying "I am sorry for these sins and any sins I cannot remember at this time."
- Then listen to Father and any advice he may want to share and also for the penance he will assign to you.
- Pray the Act of Contrition (a copy of this prayer is in our Confessionals)
- Do the penance given to you.

What a beautiful feeling of God's merciful love you will have upon completion.

Calling All Spanish Speakers

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul is in need of additional bilingual members to support the growing needs of Elgin's Spanish-speaking friends in need. We are looking for people who are willing to retrieve and translate phone messages and people willing to go out on home visits. **Gentleman**, we especially need men to join us for home visits. To learn more, please leave a message for Christa on our conference answering service at **847.628.5170**.

Blood Drive

St Patrick and St John Neumann churches will be holding their quarterly blood drive with Versiti Blood Centers at St John Neumann Church (2900 East Main St, St Charles) on **March 27, 2023** from 1:00 PM till 7:00 PM. For signing up contact **Brian Watkins** at blooddrive.sp.sjn@aol.com. Walk-ins are welcome after 2:00 PM.

Choral Stations Of The Cross

The St. Thomas More Music Ministry will present musical reflections on the Passion and death of Jesus during the Stations of the Cross on **Friday, March 31, at 7 p.m.** Join us as the Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, and more sing and ring in honor of our Savior's sacrifice at Calvary.

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, March 20

8:30 AM Mass

Raymond Bellock

Tuesday, March 21

8:30 AM Mass

Robert McBriarty

6:00 PM Mass

Edward Keigher

Wednesday, March 22

8:30 AM Mass

Margaret Watson

9:30 AM Mass

Marilyn Schlaefter

Thursday, March 23

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Theodore V. Lewandowski

6:00 PM Mass

Sr. Theresa Kelly

Friday, March 24

8:30 AM Mass

Jesus & Myrna Llagas (sp. Int.)

Saturday, March 25

8:30 AM Mass

Larry & Sandy Harden

5:00 PM Mass

Robert Lentz

Robert Pasholk

Sunday, March 26

8:00 AM Mass

Christine Baczek

10:00 AM Mass

People of STM

12:00 PM Mass

Roger Alcorn

Presiders

Saturday, March 25

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Browning

Sunday, March 26

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Linster

Adoration Candles Intentions

March 12 - March 18

Chuck Pruter

March 19 - March 25

Mary R. Francone

STROKE SCAN PLUS

Vascular & Organ Wellness Ultrasound Screenings
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Friday & Saturday, April 14 & 15

Please call 832-437-7355 for your appointment. Appointments are limited due to our COVID safety procedures.

Do You Have Any of These Risk Factors?
 High Blood Pressure • High Cholesterol • Family History of Stroke, Heart Attack, Aortic Aneurysms or Cancer
 Diabetes • Atrial Fibrillation • Obesity

The first symptom of a stroke is a stroke! Early detection helps to save lives. Manage these controllable risk factors: smoking, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, excessive weight, and alcohol consumption.

 Stroke Risk Screening Ultrasound of the carotid artery looking for plaque or blocked arteries.	 Liver Screening Ultrasound looking for physical lesions such as masses or tumors.
 Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Ultrasound of the abdominal aorta looking for an aneurysm.	 Kidneys (2) Screening * Ultrasound looking for physical lesions such as cysts, masses and stones.
 Thyroid Screening * Ultrasound looking for physical lesions such as nodules or cysts.	 Gallbladder Screening * Ultrasound looking for physical lesions such as polyps, stones, and sludge.

Total Discounted Package: All 7 Ultrasounds for \$169
 Savings of \$174; Appointments: 832-437-7355; * No substitutions or discounts allowed

Additional Testing Available*

- A1c (Diabetes) \$25
- Lipids/Cholesterol \$25
- VLD (Vitamins D) \$45
- PSA (Prostate) \$45
- TSH (Thyroid) \$45
- CMP (Comprehensive Metabolic Panel) \$45
- GGT (Liver Enzyme) \$45
- CRE (Kidney Creatinine Serum) \$45
- TTE (Electrocardiogram) \$45
- Bone Density (T-Score) \$25

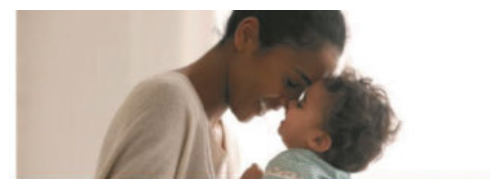
Screening Preparations

- Wear a two-piece comfortable outfit.
- No food or caffeine 4 hours prior to screening.
- If you are diabetic, make sure to eat a light meal.
- If you are taking medication, continue to take it.

Saving Lives Since 2001!

*These additional tests are not included in the Total Package cost and may not be available in all regions.

Results will be emailed to the patient and the physician. For more information, please call 832-437-7355. This is a medical screening service. Please call 832-437-7355 for more information.



February 22 to April 2
40 DAYS FOR LIFE

HELP SAVE LIVES IN AURORA!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over 20,000 babies saved from abortion
- Over 200 abortion workers converted
- Over 100 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: Outside Waterleaf across from Planned Parenthood, 3051 E. New York Ave, Aurora

Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily

Local contact:

Phil Price (252) 205-0991

Beth Doroff (630) 854-1092

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/Aurora



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