

MAY 21, 2023

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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

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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

June 4th Bulletin

Materials Due: **May 19, 2023**

June 11th Bulletin

Materials Due: **May 29, 2023**

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PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

LETTER from Fr. Browning

HISTORICAL FACT III - THE CONVERSION OF THE GENTILES

The third historical fact that demands an explanation is the sudden rise of Christianity in the mid-first century. Why did it come into existence? What caused this movement to begin? Some skeptical scholars recognize that Christianity arose because the earliest disciples believed God raised Jesus from the dead.

The third historical fact, then, is the sudden and surprising birth of Christianity and its subsequent spread to the ends of the earth. To explain this third fact, we need to see the Resurrection through the New Testament writings as the fulfillment of Jewish scripture.

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures and said, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead" (Luke 24:45).

"Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead" (John 20:8-9).

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

In giving proof for Jesus' Resurrection, the writers of the New Testament continually point to it as the fulfillment of scripture. What scripture is referred to here? There is no explicit prophecy of the Resurrection of the Messiah on the third day. To answer this question, we must go back to the teaching of Jesus himself.

In the Gospels is one passage from Jewish scripture that Jesus cites as a direct prophecy of his Resurrection on the third day: the sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:38-41; Luke 11:29-32).

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will arise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here" (Matthew 12:38-41).

We all know this passage well. I don't know about you, but when I hear it read, I immediately think of children's Bibles and movies that show Jonah camping out in the belly of the whale for three days. The Book of Jonah tells a different story. Three points stand out in the story:

1. Jonah cried from "the belly of Sheol" and "the Pit," both standard Old Testament terms for the realm of the dead. Therefore, Jonah died in the belly of the whale.
2. Jonah says that his "soul" fainted within him, which is another way of saying he died. Therefore, when the fish spits Jonah onto the land, it spits up a corpse.
3. God's first words to Jonah are "arise" (Hebrew *qum*).

Qum is the same Semitic term Jesus uses when he raises Jarius' daughter from the dead (*Talitha cumi*). Therefore, the story of Jonah is the story of his death and Resurrection.

The climax of the story of Jonah is not his Resurrection but the subsequent and even more miraculous repentance of the Gentile city of Nineveh. "And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them" (Jonah 3:5). To understand how miraculous this was, we need to put ourselves in the shoes (or sandals) of a first-century Jewish reader, who would have known that Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire, one of Israel's fiercest pagan enemies (see 2 Kings 15-17; Tobit 13). Recognizing this fact, it becomes apparent that the miracle of Jonah is the repentance or even the conversion of the Gentiles.

The Pharisees and scribes demand a "sign" from Jesus that is a miracle to prove he is who he claims to be. In response, Jesus declares that Jonah's sign is the only "sign" he will give this generation. Jesus refers to the miraculous rescue of Jonah from death and the repentance of the Gentiles. The same is true of the sign of the Son of Man. The "sign of Jonah" is the Resurrection of the Son of Man on the third day and the repentance of the Gentiles that will follow his Resurrection.

What is Jesus saying about his Resurrection? Jesus tells us that the reason to believe in him is twofold: his Resurrection from the dead and the inexplicable conversion of the pagan nations - the Gentiles. The most potent reason for believing in the Resurrection is that many Gentile nations, cities, and even empires would convert, cast away their idols, and turn to the God of Israel.

We take this miracle for granted nowadays. We see this reason given by numerous Church Fathers. They didn't point to the empty tomb or the resurrection appearances but to the Gentile nations around them. They looked to the pagan world, crumbling to the ground as the Gentiles turned from worshipping idols, gods, and goddesses and inexplicably repented, turned, and began to worship the God of the Jews.

They are still converting today. The Church is still spreading throughout the world two thousand years later. You could say this is all a coincidence. I guess you could claim the many passages of the Old Testament prophesying that one day the pagan nations would worship the God of Israel just happened to take place after the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus (see Isaiah 2:13; 25:6-8; 66:18-21; Jeremiah 3:15-18; Micah 4:1-2; Zechariah 8:20-23). I presume you could think that Jesus' crucifixion that the tomb inexplicably being found empty, and hundreds of Jesus' disciples began to claim to have seen him alive again, bodily, are all coincidental. I prefer the simpler explanation: Jesus was right. The Son of Man would die, and the tomb would be empty because he rose on the third day. The tomb is still empty. The Gentiles continue to convert. Jesus' promised sign is here to see. Don't miss it!

In the Love of the Lord,

Fr. Browning

Resources: See Brant Pitre, *The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ*, 2016.

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
 † Daria Bernardi
 † Mary Cantu
 † Ana Carrillo
 † Ed Clay
 † Helen Clemens
 † Juanita Cundiff
 † Larry Durrant
 † Patricia Egan
 † Dianna Giardino
 † Dominick Girardi
 † Linda Girardi
 † Maraliz Gonzalez
 † Angela Guasta

† Lynn Harper
 † Anastacio Hernandez
 † Inez Hernandez
 † Magdalena Hernandez
 † Miguel A Hernandez
 † Karen Johnson
 † Charlie Joseph
 † Shirley Kinsella
 † Angela Loeding
 † Linda McEwan
 † Fran Meek
 † William Meek
 † Belinda Mockler
 † Gloria Neitzel
 † Elizabeth North

† Barb Pruter
 † Linda Rakowski
 † Carmen Rodriguez
 † Liza Roman
 † Manuel Roman
 † Oscar Romero
 † Joyce Romke
 † Donald Sarau
 † Laurie Sarau
 † Richard Sutton
 † Patricia Tanner
 † Gabriel Tomlinson
 † Louise Wolff

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

BAPTISM at STM

We welcome
 this child
 to God's family.



Jason Scott Kalina

His parents Jeffrey and Lindsey

PARISHIONERS

Mary Garden

Thank you to **REBECCA H.** for sharing a picture of her Mary Garden with us!



HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

Teen Garden Helpers

Confirmation classes have started working on the St. Thomas More campus. Big thanks to all their hard work spreading mulch around school and rectory...and the dads that stayed to help too!



A LETTER FROM FR. EJAY



Fr. Edil Jarapa

KONTI LANG: "Gazing Up"

Heaven where Jesus ascended is not the region beyond earth's atmosphere. Heaven comes from the Greek root word *ouranos* which means being above or lifted. Jesus taking off the sky is a metaphor for His ascendance to the spiritual realm where God exists. Heaven is the new earth where God and followers will live in eternity. When the disciples gaze up into heaven, they look forward to that beautiful reunion with their Master. For us, pilgrims here on earth, we prayerfully look up to heaven simply to express our faith in God, to draw strength and hope from Him. We are not just gazing up to heaven but gearing up our actions and spiritual life so that we may become worthy being with Him in eternity.

Family Faith

Family Faith closed our program year with some significant milestones and transitions. We sent our 7th graders out with a special blessing as they



leave the Family Faith program and head into the preparation for Confirmation next year. Our First graders were also set apart as they will begin preparing to celebrate both First Confession and First Eucharist next year.

Fr. Browning shared a special prayer card to help them practice all the prayers they need to know before entering into sacramental prep.

New Summer Hours

On Friday's, beginning May 26 through and including Friday, August 11, the parish office will be open from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm during these 12 Friday's in the summer.

St. Timothy Award Winners

The Saint Timothy Award is a national recognition given to youth by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry in collaboration with the Religious Education and Youth Ministry Office of the Diocese of Rockford.

It is the highest recognition from the NFCYM for a diocese to confer upon a Catholic Junior High or High School youth (ages 13-18) who:

- Lives as a disciple of Christ, setting a positive example for other youth
- Witnesses to their faith by exhibiting Catholic morals and integrity
- Demonstrates Gospel values through service to others
- Exhibits Christian leadership in parish, school, and/or community settings

St. Thomas More would like to recognize **Jaclyn and Jocelyn Ullrich** as this year's recipients of the St. Timothy Award for 2022/23.

Jaclyn and Jocelyn have been volunteering and assisting with the religious education/family faith program since their time in Confirmation prep. They have been dedicated in every area and each class that they have been assigned.

In addition to their assistance, they are also a beautiful witness and example of our Catholic faith. Families will recognize them for their constant presence on family night, but daily Mass attendees will also recognize them for the beautiful flowers they bring to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Congratulations Jaclyn and Jocelyn!



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, May 22

8:30 AM Mass

Ambrocio Rafael

Ted Schnell

Tuesday, May 23

8:30 AM Mass

Joseph Zioli

Wednesday, May 24

8:30 AM Mass

George Hathaway

9:30 AM Mass

All STM Students & Staff

Thursday, May 25

8:30 AM Mass

Raphael Roche

Friday, May 26

8:30 AM Mass

Anita Curtis

Saturday, May 27

8:30 AM Mass

Constance M. Schultz

5:00 PM Mass

Maynard & Ann Decker

Sunday, May 28

8:00 AM Mass

Carolyn Duxbury

10:00 AM Mass

People of STM

12:00 PM Mass

Lauretta & Harold Guth

**Ida & Francis Cox
and Ella Chafee**

Presiders

Saturday, May 27

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Linster

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Browning

Sunday, May 28

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Linster

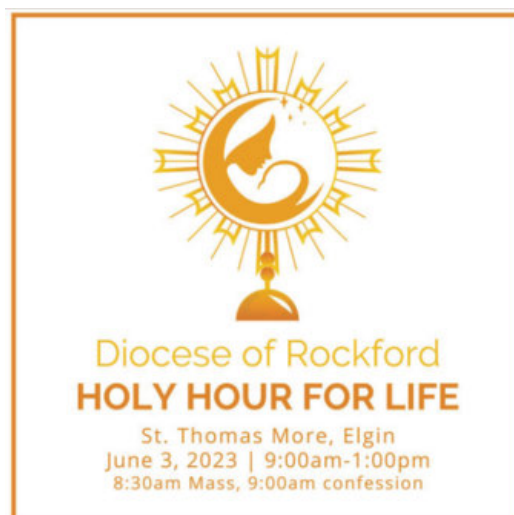
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