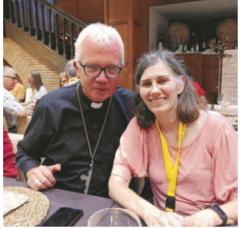
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#### Reverend Ryan Browning

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

#### Sacraments

stthomasmorechurch.org

847.888.1682

# PARISH GREETINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

# Q. & A. with Fr. Browning

# Q: Who is eligible to receive the Eucharist or Holy Communion?

A: Those who wish to receive the Eucharist should first be in a state of grace – a spiritual state of purity. If one knowingly commits a grave sin, receiving the sacrament of Confession before partaking in the Eucharist is required. One should refrain from receiving the Eucharist with unconfessed mortal sin because it will compound the sin (see 1 Corinthians 11:27-30).

# Q: How can one receive the Eucharist – on the tongue or in the hand?

**A:** The traditional practice is to receive the Eucharist on the tongue, but the Holy See has also granted permission for receiving in the hand.

# Q: What is the most essential aspect of receiving the Eucharist?

A: It's essential to approach the Eucharist with a deep awareness of the Real presence of Christ and a profound reverence for this divine gift. The Eucharist is the Jesus. So, this gift needs to be received with as much attention and commitment to Christ. We should be worthy vessels prepared to receive God's greatest gift – the Eucharist.

#### Q: Who should refrain from receiving the Eucharist?

A: Those who are not yet baptized or are below the age of 7, individuals conscious of unconfessed mortal sin, and those whose marriage hasn't been validated within the Church should seek spiritual guidance and the necessary sacraments before receiving the Eucharist. Reach out to one of our priests. We are happy to help.

# Q: What if I haven't had the chance to go to Confession before Communion?

A: If you could not get to Confession before Mass, remaining seated during Communion is more authentic than receiving the Eucharist with grave sin. While attending Mass is obligatory, receiving the Eucharist is required only once a year.

# Q: Is there a way to spiritually connect when unable to receive the Eucharist?

A: Absolutely. You can practice Spiritual Communion

– a way to express your longing for Christ's
presence when physical reception isn't possible.

**Spiritual Communion Prayer:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Remember, these guidelines are rooted in the rich traditions of the Church and are meant to enhance your spiritual journey and connection with God.

# **BULLETIN** Deadlines

#### September 24th Bulletin

Materials Due: September 11, 2023

#### October 1st Bulletin

Materials Due: September 18, 2023

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# PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

# **LETTER** from Fr. Browning

Today, I wish to reflect upon the profound significance of the Five Precepts of the Catholic Church that guide our spiritual journey and deepen our relationship with God and one another.

The Catechism defines them as "positive laws (sometimes called commandments) made by Church authorities to guarantee for the faithful the indispensable minimum in prayer and moral effort, for the sake of their growth in love of God and neighbor."

- 1. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days:
  Gathering in the presence of the Lord on Sundays and special feast days or holy days of obligation is a testament to our shared faith and an opportunity to receive the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian life. It reminds us of our commitment to God and our community. It urges us to sanctify the Lord's Day.
- Confession of Serious Sins: Confession allows us to humbly seek forgiveness, restoring our souls to a state of grace. We experience our Lord's boundless mercy and reconciliation's healing power through this sacrament. It continues the baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness in us.
- Receiving the Eucharist Worthily: Approaching
  the Eucharist with a heart full of reverence and
  free from mortal sin is an act of intimate communion
  with Christ. Let us strive for purity and preparedness to
  receive the spiritual nourishment of the Eucharist fully.

- 4. Observing Days of Fasting and Abstinence: Fasting and abstinence remind us of our dependence on God and our ability to detach from worldly comforts. These practices can be transformative, helping us recognize acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.
- 5. Providing for the Needs of the Church: Financially supporting the Church expresses gratitude for its spiritual nourishment and guidance. We actively build God's Kingdom on Earth by contributing to our faith community. This precept includes supporting the Church with our time and talents.

In embracing these Five Precepts, we fortify our commitment to live as faithful disciples of Christ. Remember that these precepts are not mere obligations but avenues through which we can deepen our spiritual communion, grow in holiness, and share in the abundant grace God's merciful love bestowed upon us.

May we approach these precepts with hearts open to transformation, fostering a more profound love for God and one another. Let us pray for the strength to uphold these teachings in our daily lives and encourage one another on this faith journey.

In Christ's love, Fr. Browning

#### A LETTER FROM FR. EJAY

#### **KONTI LANG: "Fraternal Correction"**



This Sunday gospel presents to us steps how to help one erring person to change through a dialogue, peer intervention or community session. All means must be exerted to make conversion possible without maligning the person involved.

Fr. Edil Jarapa Fraternal correction is an act of charity to the person and to our society. The worst scenario is when nobody wants to talk about the evil of sin for fear of being branded as bigot, intolerant, judgmental and uncharitable. So evil is tolerated, sin is justified, and consciences are obscured. Hence, the wrongdoer continues to thrive and gradually loses the sense of sin. This destroys not only himself but also affects those who surround him.

### Remembrance Mass

St Thomas More would like to invite all to a special Mass that will be celebrated **September 15**, **at 6pm**, to remember and celebrate the lives of all our children that have been lost to abortion, miscarriage, still birth, infant death, or death of a child at any age. During the Mass, we will provide flowers for family members to offer in remembrance of the loss of their child(ren). We would like to make sure we have enough flowers, so we ask for an RSVP, so we can be prepared.

After the Mass, we will offer a light reception in the Chelsea Room, for any that wish to stay. This Mass is open to all, please share with family and friends who may also like to participate.

Register at <a href="https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/">https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/</a> remembrance-mass or call the church office to RSVP 847.888.1682

# 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

†Michael Abbs

**†Eunice Bai** 

**†**Ed Bartholomew

**†**Mary Beckman

**†Ed Clay** 

+ Arlo Dilly

**†**Roger Dombrowski

†Mary Fusek

†Dianna Giardino

**†Lynn Harper** 

†Alinda Hornck

†Irma Hrycyk

†Daniel Johnson

†Charlie Joseph

†Mary Joseph

**†Bill Kerwin** 

**†Shirley Kinsella** 

†Charlene LaCasse

**†**Angela Loeding

†James Lublow

† Joan Maryanski

†Fran Meek

**†**William Meek

†Edward Menchaca

†Belinda Mockler

†Gloria Neitzel

†Elizabeth North

**†**Charlie Pitt

†Linda Rakowski

†Manuel Roman

†Maria Roman

**†**Joyce Romke

†Melanie Sipe

**†**Richard Sutton

**†** Judy Taeyaerts

†Patricia Tanner

**†**Luca Tendy

**†**Gabriel Tomlinson

**†**Amani Urban

**†Louise Wolff** 

### **SYMPATHY** List

Rest In Peace

**†All Souls** 

# **READINGS** of the Day

https://bible.usccb.org/

Podcast audio, videos and daily prayers.

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### **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 <a href="mailto:finance@stthomasmorechurch.org">finance@stthomasmorechurch.org</a> or 847.888.1682 x213



# SPOTLIGHT

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

# **TRAVELING** Parishioners

#### **CAMINO DE SANTIAGO, SPAIN**

Here are some photos from my trip. The first one is the plaza in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of them Rosary. The second one is with Bishop Heying. The third one is in front of a banner saying Camino Frances, the route that we took. The last one is in Santiago de Compostela, the town that is the end of the Camino. ~ Pauline





# **HAPPENINGS**

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

#### That Man Is You!

Begins Saturday, September 16 from 6:45am-8:15am

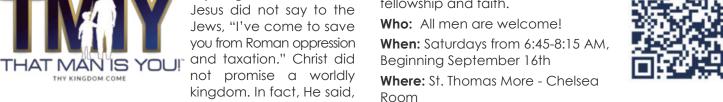


#### That Man Is You! **Thy Kingdom Come**

"In the world you will have tribulation ... yet I have overcome the world ... My kingship is not of this world ... My kingdom is in your midst ... My kingdom is within you!" The kingdom of God is among us. Indeed, it is here now. For where the King is, there is His Kingdom. Let us live with an eternal perspective. May

we become the men we need to rebuild the kingdom! Join us for food, fellowship and faith.

For more information or to register for the program, please contact Bob Nierzwicki at 773.633.7449 or bobnierz@sbcglobal.net or scan the QR code.



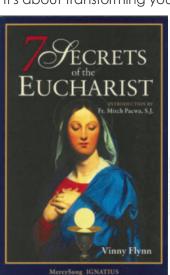
#### K of C Coats for Kids

The Elgin Knights of Columbus are looking for "gently used" winter coats for their "Coats for Kids" program for the local students in grade schools and REP programs. If you can help please contact Marshall **Spangler** at **847.606.1605** 

# Fall Book Study

#### **7 SECRETS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Pope John Paul II referred to the Holy Eucharist as "the greatest treasure of the Church," and yet even many devoted Catholics have a very limited understanding of this powerful sacrament. This study, using Vinny Flynn's book, 7 Secrets of the Eucharist, will help us come away with a completely new awareness that the Eucharist is not just about receiving Communion; it's about transforming your daily life.



Mondays, September 11 - October 30 9:00 - 10:00am in person or 6:30 - 7:30pm via Zoom

Tuesdays. September 12 - October 31 6:00 - 7:00pm in person Registration fee \$10 for materials payable

🎎 at first class. To register, **scan** the QR code or

stthomasmorechurch.ora /7-secrets-of-the-eucharist

# K of C Scoopie Night

Culver's of Elain is hosting a fundraiser for the Elain Knights of Columbus Council #654 on Monday, October 2, 2023 between 4:00pm & 8:00pm.

A percentage of sales will go to the Elgin Knights of Columbus. Please mention that you supporting the Knights of Columbus Council #654 when ordering.

Location of Event: Culver's of Elgin - 1175 North McClean Blvd, Elain, IL 60123

#### Secular Discalced Carmelites

Adult lay Catholics aged 18 - 65 who wish to explore a possible vocation as a member of the Secular Discalced Carmelites in the Diocese of Rockford are invited to visit upcoming meetings, which are held the second Saturdays of the month at St. Rita Parish in Rockford. Inquiries to: Barb at 815.399.3639 or barbholmes19@gmail.com.

# 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.



# 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 11

8:30 AM Mass

Richard Patrick Fitzsimons (Fire Safety Director of the Twin Towers)

### Tuesday, September 12

8:30 AM Mass

Michael Kirmsy

### Wednesday, September 13

8:30 AM Mass

**Bill Whitchurch** 

Jim Lloyd

9:30 AM Mass

Donna Brown (Close friend of STM teachers)

# Thursday, September 14

8:30 AM Mass

**Fred Taeyaerts** 

# Friday, September 15

8:30 AM Mass

Sharon Labedz

# Saturday, September 16

8:30 AM Mass

Thanksgiving for the Bayona Family

5:00 PM Mass

Tom & Evie Thompson (sp. int. 56th Anniversary)

# Sunday, September 17

8:00 AM Mass

Ray & Virginia Hunt

10:00 AM Mass

**People of STM** 

12:00 PM Mass

**Michael Dreher** 

Ida & Francis Cox and Ella Chafee

#### **Presiders**

# Saturday, September 16

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Ejay

# Sunday, September 17

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Linster

#### **Adoration Candles Intentions**

# September 10 – September 16

Tom & Evie Thompson - 56th Anniversary, Peter & Mary Fran Patterson - 51st Anniversary

# September 17 – September 23

Mary Hagamman & Family (Sp. Int.) Juan Luna & Juana Vargas

# Volunteers Needed To Visit Nursing Homes

Being in a nursing home or rehab facility and unable to come to church to receive Eucharist can be difficult. We are looking for men and women who are willing to visit those who are currently in nursing homes and unable to come to Mass. Volunteers visit nursing homes on Sundays, but can also visit on a day that works better for your schedule. Volunteers must be fully initiated Catholics (meaning you've celebrated the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, and if you are currently a married person, your marriage took place in the Catholic Church). Training is provided. Use this link to sign up or to receive more information.

https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/eucharist-to-home-bound



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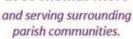
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