

OCTOBER 29, 2023

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Sacraments

stthomasmorechurch.org
/liturgy-sacraments

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

November 5th Bulletin

Materials Due: **October 23, 2023**

November 12th Bulletin

Materials Due: **October 30, 2023**

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PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

LETTER from Fr. Browning

St. Thomas More Parish is filled with gratitude as we bid a fond farewell to our esteemed Business Manager, Olga Pomella, who has tirelessly served our parish community for many years. Her dedication and unwavering commitment to the mission of our parish have left an indelible mark on all of us.

Olga has been an integral part of our community for over a decade, providing essential financial stewardship, guidance, and support. Her contributions have enabled the growth and flourishing of our parish in countless ways. Her diligent management of our financial resources, her astute budgeting, and her meticulous attention to detail have ensured our parish's sustainability and facilitated numerous projects that have enriched the lives of our parish.

Beyond her financial acumen, Olga has been a pillar of support for the entire St. Thomas More family. Her unwavering dedication to our parish mission has endeared her to all who have worked alongside her.

As we express our deepest gratitude for Olga's incredible service, we also extend our best wishes for her future endeavors. Her legacy will forever be woven into the tapestry of our parish. We have been blessed to have her as our Business Manager, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact she will continue to make in her next chapter.

We invite all community members to celebrate Olga's accomplishments and offer her our heartfelt thanks. She has been a true asset to St. Thomas More, and her legacy will shine brightly in our hearts. Please offer a prayer of gratitude for Olga and her family.

Thank you, Olga, for your remarkable service, dedication, and the countless lives you've touched during your time as our Business Manager. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

In Christ,
Fr. Browning

Memorial Mass

The faith community of St. Thomas More invites you to join us in honoring your loved ones at our Memorial Mass, on **Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 11:00am**. For those that died and were buried from St. Thomas More Parish during the past year, Memorial Crosses will be given to their families. Luncheon to follow by invitation only.



A LETTER FROM FR. EJAY

KONTI LANG: "Greatness"



Fr. Edil Jarapa

Jesus teaches his disciples and the crowds about true greatness in the kingdom of God. He highlights the value of humility and servanthood, claiming that the greatest among them should be the one who humbles themselves and serves others.

Instead of pursuing power, status, and recognition, Jesus teaches a mindset of selflessness and humility. Today, we are all reminded about the dangers of hypocrisy and the significance of acting in accordance with our beliefs. It invites us to analyze our intentions and aspirations, and to ensure that we are not aiming for recognition or honor for our own sake, but rather seeking to serve and love others.

STM is Hiring

St. Thomas More seeks a **Part-time Receptionist** to join our team. This role offers a unique opportunity to combine your administrative skills with your commitment to the Catholic Faith. Scan the QR code for full description and how to apply.



Deceased Member Mass

The Elgin Knights of Columbus will be having their Deceased Member Mass on All Souls Day, Thursday, **November 2nd at 7 PM** at St. Thomas More. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be available after the Mass in the Chelsea Room.

Honoring all who have served

We are offering complimentary dental services by appointment only. Services included are simple cleanings, fillings, and simple extractions.

Friday, November 3rd, 2023 from 8am - 12pm
Carol Stream Dental Associates - 630.289.8899
784 W Army Trail Rd, Carol Stream IL, 60188

Coming Soon!!

St. Vincent de Paul's **Christmas Wreath Sale** begins November 4th. More information next week.

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
 † AnnMarie LoPiccolo- Carlsen
 † Mary Crawford
 † Rita Dodd
 † Roger Dombrowski
 † Lynn Harper
 † Richard Hart
 † Charlie Joseph

† Mary Joseph
 † Swan Lourits
 † Fran Meek
 † William Meek
 † Edward Menchaca
 † Belinda Mockler
 † Gloria Neitzel
 † Elizabeth North
 † Barbara Pruter

† Manuel Roman
 † Jennifer Stewart
 † Gabriel Tomlinson
 † Chosen Whitehead
 † Joann Wille
 † Louise Wolff

SYMPATHY List

Rest In Peace

† Joseph Andrew Rienstra † Richard Sutton

READINGS of the Day

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

Podcast audio, videos and daily prayers.

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**.

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

WEDDING



MR. AND MRS.

Jorge and Maureen
VENIDA



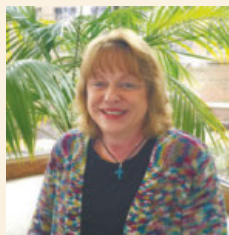
Mr. & Mrs. Venida were married civilly but decided to have their marriage validated in the Catholic Church.

Would you like more information about having a civil marriage validated? Visit our website at stthomasmorechurch.org/marriage

HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

“Farewell and Thank You” from Olga Pomella



It is with thankfulness to God for the opportunity to serve St. Thomas More Parish that I share with you the news of my retirement at the end of 2023.

The day in the life of a parish employee is a large part of the memories I take with me -- such as meeting Bishop Emeritus O'Neill when he stopped in unannounced to see the renovated church. I fondly recall lunches with the staff and Fr. Plesa. These past seventeen years include four pastors: Fr Geoff, Fr. Tony, Fr. Rich, and Fr. Browning; five associate pastors: Fr. Dario, Fr. Art, Fr. Butler, Fr. Louis, and Fr. Ejay. The school has had four principals since May 2006, three directors of religious education, three directors of music and liturgy, three youth ministers, various support staff, and two directors of evangelization -- each sharing their unique gifts of ministry with our STM community. My predecessor and mentor, Nancy Shumaker, has been a wonderful colleague and friend. I will be forever grateful for her kindness and patience. The diocesan administration staff offers support to all entities, especially to the business managers. I cannot thank them enough for their endless guidance.

You may have asked, “What do they do all day in the church office?” I can honestly say that working in the parish office has been unlike any of my prior opportunities. There is never a dull moment in the life

of a parish employee -- many joyous, some sad, and others divine. And yes, it is already October . . . again!

As we all know, time marches on and things change. There was so much to learn and understand as the new employee. Even now, I learn something new every day and am grateful to those who have been willing to share their knowledge and expertise. Thank you to all those who volunteer(ed) their expertise on the Finance Council, Buildings & Grounds Committee, and the Counting Teams. Thank you to those parishioner/vendors who brought much needed projects to fruition. I am forever grateful for your generosity.

The parishioners of St. Thomas More -- past and present, who support our faith community and the needs of our campus, define the generosity that has allowed the achievement of so much throughout the history of this parish. May their witness encourage the continued support of our church, our school, our faith community, and our diocese.

May God bless you abundantly.
Olga

Parish Helpers

Our parish needs your help! We are currently in need of volunteers in the following ministries; Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Mass Coordinator, Ministers of Hope, Ministers of Care and Wedding Coordinators. Learn more about of these ministries at www.stthomasmorechurch.org/parish-helpers

2023 Diocesan Appeal Update See Him Know Him Have Faith in Me

As of October 16, 2023, 250 St. Thomas More registered families have pledged \$83,784.44 of the \$115,160 parish goal set by the diocese. \$71,184.16 has been paid toward that goal. If the parish does not reach its goal and payment of that goal, the parish is still responsible for paying the balance due. The current shortfall is \$43,975.84. If the parish reaches and exceeds the payment on all pledges, the parish will receive a refund of 100% of that excess, which is used to maintain the campus and needed improvements.

With over 2,000 registered families, St. Thomas More needs you to prayerfully consider your gift to this year's diocesan appeal. No amount is too small, and every gift brings us closer to reaching our assigned goal. It is not too late to contribute to the 2023 Diocesan Appeal. If you have not had an opportunity to donate or would like to give an additional gift, please go to <https://www.rockforddiocese.org/charitablegiving/> and select **Donate Online**.

Your generosity and participation are appreciated. God bless you!

2023 DIOCESAN APPEAL
DIOCESE of ROCKFORD

TO DATE OUR PARISH HAS ACHIEVED:

Diocesan Stewardship Goal:	\$115,160.00
We Pledged:	\$83,784.44
Below Goal:	-\$43,975.84
# of Families in Parish:	2,332
Donors:	250
% Participation:	10.7%

**KNOW HIM
SEE HIM**
Have Faith in Me

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, October 30

8:30 AM Mass

Segundo Nallatan

Elaine Komorski

Tuesday, October 31

8:30 AM Mass

Stella Evans

5:30 PM Mass

Ralph & Mary Ellen Ruiz

Wednesday, November 01 - All Saints

8:30 AM Mass

James Robert Galla

10:30 AM Mass

Bill & Marge Masters

12:10 PM Mass

Juan Luna & Juana Vargas

7:00 PM Mass

People of STM

Thursday, November 02

8:30 AM Mass

Victor Gutierrez

Friday, November 03

8:30 AM Mass

All Souls

Saturday, November 04

8:30 AM Mass

Ann Decker

5:00 PM Mass

Constance M. Schultz

Amy Gillespie & Jeremy Peck (sp. Int.)

Sunday, November 05

8:00 AM Mass

People of STM

10:00 AM Mass

Jeremy Margulies (sp. Int.)

12:00 PM Mass

Nicholas Webber

Presiders

Saturday, November 04

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Ejay

Sunday, November 05

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Browning

Adoration Candles Intentions

October 29 – November 04

Ann Decker

November 05 – November 11

Rita Lutzow

Parish Office Closed - November 1st

The parish office will be **closed** on Wednesday, November 1st.




"I Am the Bread of Life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger; and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." Jn 6:35

"Walk the Talk"
28th Annual Great Lakes Catholic Men's Conference
Saturday, November 18, 2023
8:50 AM - 4:00 PM*
 at Holmes Student Center
 Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, IL

TO REGISTER ONLINE OR FOR MORE INFO GO TO THEWALK.ORG
 OR CALL US AT 888-849-2282

Many parishes are selling tickets!
 \$45 Early Bird if purchased by Oct. 20, \$50 if purchased after Oct. 20, \$55 at the door
 \$25 for college students and younger, and \$10 for deacons.
 *Doors open at 8:00 AM. Ticket price includes lunch & parking.

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