

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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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 19th Bulletin - EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE

Materials Due: **November 02, 2023**

November 26th Bulletin - EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE

Materials Due: **November 09, 2023**

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PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

LETTER from Fr. Browning

The Church encourages us to remember the blessed dead in November. All of the Sacraments, but especially Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist, have as their goal the last Passover of the Child of God, which leads through death into life in the Heavenly Kingdom. Our death in the Lord is the fulfillment of our confession in faith and hope: "I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." We have died with Christ and shall again live with Him.

We had a Mass of Remembrance in October to remember and celebrate the lives of all our children who have been lost to abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or death of a child at any age.

On Saturday, November 11, we celebrated a Memorial Mass in honor of our loved ones who died this past year. We distributed the Memorial Crosses to the families who had their loved ones' funerals at St. Thomas More during the Memorial Mass.

These Masses provide opportunities to pray together as a community for our deceased loved ones. They help us experience the closeness of God and remind us of the promise of the Resurrection and the life of the world to come.

Please pray for all those names added to our book of deceased located just outside the Church doors. The book will be present for all of November, and each person in there is in my prayers.

We place all of our deceased loved ones in God's merciful and loving hands. Our grieving hearts can find strength and solace only in the Heart of Jesus - crucified, died, and risen. May Jesus receive our loved ones into heaven, and may He fill our hearts with consolation and trust in Him. May all who have died rest in the peace of Christ.

Peace,
Fr. Browning

K of C Christmas Merchandise Sale

PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED DATES

The Knights of Columbus will have their annual Christmas Merchandise Sale, including candles, after all Masses this weekend, **November 11th & 12th**. Please note, this is the **ONLY SALE** of the year.

A LETTER FROM FR. EJAY

KONTI LANG: "Extra Oil"



Fr. Edil Jarapa

The foolish virgins in the gospel were unable to greet the bridegroom and participate in the bridal feast because they failed to bring sufficient oil for their lamps. They are like individuals who are content to be baptized Christians but make no effort to invest on inner and spiritual treasures. These are the "extra oils" required for salvation. As a result, we must not rely solely on our minimal approach to living our faith. We need an extra effort, extra sacrifice, extra prayers, extra commitment, and extra love in order to become worthy of God's rewards. We simply do not settle for less when we know we can do more for God and our neighbors.

St. Thomas More's Women's Advent Event

Advent by Candlelight

Friday,
December 1, 2023
6:00 - 8:45 p.m.

[stthomasmorechurch.org
/advent-by-candlelight](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/advent-by-candlelight)

We invite all women (13 years old & up) to spend a very special evening in candle-lit spaces, sharing fellowship with friends, listening to music and hearing inspiring reflections.



Our guest speaker this year will be Cathleen Filipski. The topic of her talk: **Bringing Your Gifts to Jesus.**

Would you like to host a table for this event?

Contact Mariana Maloney directly
cell: 224.805.7904 (text msg)
or mariana.maloney@yahoo.com



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
 † Dianna Giardino
 † 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
 † Lillian Rozanski
 † Gabriel Tomlinson
 † Chosen Whitehead
 † Joann Wille
 † Louise Wolff

SYMPATHY List

Rest In Peace

† Roger Dombrowski † Timothy Hopkins

READINGS of the Day

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

Podcast audio, videos and daily prayers.

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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



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 • **David McCallister**
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 • **Bryan P. Malm**
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• **Steve Olson**
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 • **Ryan Jacob Pechay**
Sgt., USMC
 • **Patrick Puckett**
2nd Lt., National Guard

• **Sean Sabate**
USN
 • **Jonathan M Suire**
Capt.; Army National Guard
 • **Daniel T. Winters**
1st Lt., USMC

HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin



ALL GIFTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD.

Our annual Sharing Tree, which helps those in need in our community, begins this weekend. Parishioners can give their gifts of cash, checks and Walmart \$25 gift cards by mail, online or by depositing them in the labeled boxes in the Gathering Space.

**Check donations received at church will be cashed after the December 3 final collection and distribution to the organizations.*

ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING GIFTS INCLUDE:

 <p>CORBELLA CLINIC PREGNANCY • EDUCATION • STI • ULTRASOUND INFANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash, checks* and Walmart \$25 gift cards • Make checks* payable to: Corbella Clinic • Donate by mail: Corbella Clinic 101 E. State Street South Elgin, IL 60177 • Donate online: MissionariesofLife.org • Donate at church: Deposit donations in the labeled box in the Gathering Space. 	 <p>TLC PREGNANCY SERVICES WOMEN, MEN & BABIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash, checks* and Walmart \$25 gift cards • Make checks* payable to: TLC Pregnancy Services • Donate by mail: TLC Pregnancy Services 825 Dundee Ave Elgin, IL 60120 • Donate online: tlcpregnacyservices.com • Donate at church: Deposit donations in the labeled box in the Gathering Space. 	 <p>Community CRISIS CENTER always hope MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donate by mail and online only. Cash, checks* and Walmart \$25 gift cards • Make checks* payable to: Community Crisis Center • Donate by mail: Attn: Business Manager Community Crisis Center P.O. Box 1390 Elgin, IL 60121 • Donate online: www.crisiscenter.org • Donate at church: No donations accepted at church. 	 <p>ELGIN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER MEN & WOMEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash, checks* and Walmart \$25 gift cards • Make checks* payable to: Elgin Mental Health Center. Write "Volunteer Fund" on the memo line • Donate by mail: Elgin Mental Health Center c/o St. Thomas More Church 215 Thomas More Drive Elgin, IL 60123 • No online donations • Donate at church: Deposit donations in the labeled box in the Gathering Space.
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Contact Luann at 847.697.2097 or Kathy at 847.363.8440 with any questions.

Bethlehem Arts

We will host representatives of the Catholic Christian Community from Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the Holy Land who will be displaying handcrafted olive wood religious figurines and articles. Due to the political conflict and covid19 results in the reduction of tourism, the Catholic Community has come to depend more on the sale of these articles abroad to survive. The woodcarvings are beautiful and reflect faith and love for the Lord.

Please consider purchasing a gift that will be remembered and cherished for yourself or someone dear to you. The handcrafted olive wood religious figurines and articles will be available for purchase **after all weekend Masses November 18/19.**

SVDP Christmas Wreath Sale

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is selling 24" mixed greens Christmas wreaths. These quality wreaths come with pine cones and an optional bow. Proceeds from this sale benefit those in need in the Elgin community this holiday season.

Order:

- **Pre-order by November 17th** at our website: stthomasmorechurch.org/st-vincent-de-paul-society **OR**
- Fill out the order form located in the gathering space at church along with your payment (make check out to St. Vincent de Paul). Place order in the container marked Wreath Orders.
- If there are any wreaths still available after Nov. 17th, you can purchase them on the day of pick-up on a first come, first serve basis. Please bring a check to pay for the wreath(s).

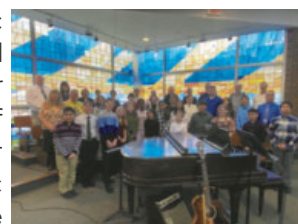
Cost: \$30.00 per wreath

Pick-up date: Nov. 18th from 10 am until 11:30 am

Pick-up Location: St. Laurence Catholic Church parking lot, 225 Jewett St., Elgin, IL

Sing with Music Ministry for Christmas

The St. Thomas More music ministry is looking for additional singers to join us for our Christmas Masses this year. If you enjoy singing but don't have the time to join music ministry on a regular basis, we would love to have you join us for Christmas!



The Youth Choir will sing for the 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. It is open to students (both STM and Family Faith) in 3rd-8th grade. Practices for this Mass will be on **Wednesdays on 11/29, 12/06, 12/13 from 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. and 12/20 from 4:15 - 5:45 pm.**

The Adult Choir will sing for Midnight Mass on Christmas, plus a pre-Mass concert with the Handbell Choir. It is open to high school students and adults. Practices for this Mass will be on **Thursdays on 11/30, 12/7, 12/14 and Wednesday 12/20 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

For more information, contact **Tim Horneman**, at music@stthomasmorechurch.org.

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, November 13

8:30 AM Mass

Barbara Gallagher

Tuesday, November 14

8:30 AM Mass

Ancis Francisco

Reynaldo Aldana

Wednesday, November 15

8:30 AM Mass

Socorro Rocha Espino

9:30 AM Mass

All STM Staff & Students

Thursday, November 16

8:30 AM Mass

Phyllis Riley

Friday, November 17

8:30 AM Mass

Thanksgiving for the Bayona Family

Ernesto Ramos

Saturday, November 18

8:30 AM Mass

Dominador Mendoza

5:00 PM Mass

Fred Taeyaerts

Sunday, November 19

8:00 AM Mass

People of STM

10:00 AM Mass

Earl Lee Foster

Karen & Richard Brummel

12:00 PM Mass

Maynard Decker

Msgr. James W. McLoughlin

Presiders

Saturday, November 18

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Blood

Sunday, November 19

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Blood

Adoration Candles Intentions

November 12 – November 18

The Deceased Members of the Zaeske Family

November 19 – November 25

Maynard Decker



Advent Talk with Mike Pacer

Tuesday, December 5

You are invited to join us on **Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church** for a talk by dynamic speaker Mike Pacer. The author of a new book, "The Three Comings of Christ – Daily Meditations for Advent," Mike will help you to grow closer to God this December and experience an Awesome Advent!



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