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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

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

December 3rd Bulletin - EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE

Materials Due: **November 17, 2023**

December 10th Bulletin - EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE

Materials Due: **November 22, 2023**

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PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

LETTER from Fr. Browning

Advent presents a time to focus on a challenging but necessary practice: silence. Advent, Christmas, and this time of year is a perfect opportunity to slow down, recreate, and foster silence. In our human relationships, we mostly speak with each other to communicate. Communication with God is a much different experience. In our communication with God, there is much more silence. God always seems to be silent. God draws us into this silence to become one with Him.

In adult relationships, this is foreign to our communication. But our original experience as humans also began in silence, and we can draw from that experience now. God knows, loves, and creates us in silence. Our life in this world begins in silence below the beating and loving heart of our mother. Our mother communicated love in simplicity and silence. A father does the same as he learns the needs of his child.

Only over time does the child learn to understand the words his mother and father speak to him. At first, they are incomprehensible to us. We always remain children before God. His words are incomprehensible to us at first, and we do not recognize how He loves us. When a baby is upset

or needs something, a mother holding that baby communicates the most profound love and fosters growth, which the baby cannot acknowledge. Likewise, we spend our whole lives in the arms of God, being loved by Him, without even realizing it. The most profound prayer is the silent acknowledgment of this fact, expressed in a choice to receive His love and rest in Him.

Prayer is not complicated, even though it seems so at times. Prayer is simple. God has only one message: unconditional love. He has only one Word: His eternal Son. He speaks only one language: silence.

John of the Cross states, "What we need the most in order to make progress [in prayer] is to be silent before this great God with our appetites and our tongue, for the language He best hears is silent love" ("Sayings" number 132 in the collected works of St. John of the Cross).

Will you join me this Advent as we reflect on silence, what it is, how to foster it in our lives, and experience the immense love God has for us in silence?

In Jesus,
Fr. Browning

ECCW Advent Retreat

The Elgin Deanery Council of Catholic Women are sponsoring an Advent Retreat for all women of the Elgin Deanery churches at St. Laurence Church, 225 Jewett St. on Tuesday, Nov 28, with Adoration at 6:00 p.m. a talk by Fr. Andrew at 6:30, refreshments at 7:00.

A LETTER FROM FR. EJAY

KONTI LANG: "Goat"



Fr. Edil Jarapa

What is it about goats that prompts Jesus to make a negative comparison to sheep? Goats are capricious: impulsive and unpredictable, devious and contrary. They are never satisfied with their surroundings. Because they despise being confined, they are excellent at opening gates and squeezing through narrow openings. They are not particularly good followers. They like taking the initiative or venturing out on their own. If detected in a Christian, these characteristics could be spiritually lethal. A Christian who is unpredictable, believes he is above it all, does his own thing, tries to take over, has difficulty working in a group, or does not want to be led is behaving like a goat, which Christ says will be sent into eternal damnation.

Buddy Bench

The St. Thomas More Parish Fellowship Group bestowed a beautiful, blue Buddy Bench to the school this past Spring. The Fellowship Group collected over 25,000 bottle caps weighing in at 100 pounds over the course of two years in order to acquire the bench. This summer it was placed by the school playground where it is now being used by all the students. Thank you to the Fellowship Group for their kind and generous support of the school!

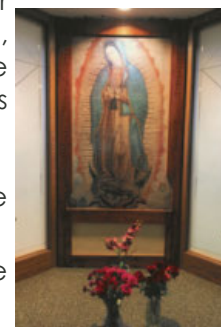


Our Lady of Guadalupe Special Mass

For the first time, St. Thomas More invites you to join us for a special evening Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and one of the most beloved apparitions of Mary.

- **Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m.**
- With traditional Guadalupe music from the STM Ensemble

All are invited to bring roses for the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



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
 † Al Hansen
 † 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
 † Darren Watson
 † Chosen Whitehead
 † Joann Wille
 † Louise Wolff

SYMPATHY List

Rest In Peace

† All Souls

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

Arts & Environment Ministry

We are parishioners who plan, design, and execute the Worship Space Environment for the various seasons of the liturgical year, primarily Christmas and Easter, and we are looking for men and women to join us. No artistic experience is needed! We need assistance with the set up and take down of liturgical decoration and the watering of plants and flowers as needed. You can commit to as many hours as you want - any amount of time you can give is much appreciated. Many hands make for a lighter load! If you have any questions, please contact one of us: **Jeanne Dawson** – 225-405-6692/jperedaw@att.net or **Michele Rieger** – 630-518-6236/merieger83@gmail.com



HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

Advent Book Series

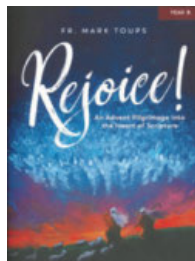
This new installment of the *Rejoice!* series, will immerse you in the readings that anchor us during the Advent season – the Sunday Mass readings. We meet **Mondays, November 27 - December 18.**

3 OPTIONS TO JOIN:

- **In Person** - Mornings 9:00-10:00AM
- **On Zoom** - Evenings 6:30-7:30PM
- **On Your Own** - At your Convenience

Registration fee \$10 for materials

Register at stthomasmorechurch.org/rejoice-an-advent-pilgrimage



ALL GIFTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3.

Next weekend, December 2 and 3, will be the last weekend that the Sharing Tree, which helps those in need in our community, will be collecting gifts. 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. Visit stthomasmorechurch.org/sharing-tree or scan the QR code for more information.

ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING GIFTS INCLUDE:



Advent Talk with Mike Pacer

Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m.



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!

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

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.**



TWO WAYS TO REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT

OPTION #1

BE A TABLE HOSTESS

contact Mariana Maloney
mariana.maloney@yahoo.com
or text at 224.805.7904

OPTION #2

GUEST ONLY ...that don't already have a hostess

Attend the event and be placed at a table.
SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE or visit
stthomasmorechurch.org/advent-by-candlelight

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!

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

Need Ministry Volunteers

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 <https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/parish-helpers>



Sacred Heart Statue

Thank you to the **HENDERSHOTT FAMILY** for bringing The Sacred Heart of Jesus into your home.

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 27

8:30 AM Mass

Lucretia Browning

Tuesday, November 28

8:30 AM Mass

Terry Stratton

Wednesday, November 29

8:30 AM Mass

Joseph Fricano

9:30 AM Mass

All STM Staff & Students

Thursday, November 30

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Salvatore J. Guagliardo

Ted Schnell

Friday, December 01

8:30 AM Mass

All Souls

Saturday, December 02

8:30 AM Mass

Federico Gutierrez

5:00 PM Mass

Constance M. Schultz

Sunday, December 03

8:00 AM Mass

People of STM

10:00 AM Mass

Richard & Margaret Wehling

12:00 PM Mass

Thanksgiving for the Bayona Family

Presiders

Saturday, December 02

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Ejay

Sunday, December 03

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Ejay

Adoration Candles Intentions

November 26 – December 02

Jose Gutierrez, Francisco Velasquez & Reyes Family

December 03 – December 09

Fr. Browning, Fr. Ejay & Fr. Linster (sp. Int.)



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