

DECEMBER 03, 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. THOMAS MORE  
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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](http://www.stthomasmorechurch.org)



## Weekend Mass Schedule

**Saturday** 8:30 AM 5 PM  
**Sunday** 8 AM 10 AM 12 PM

## Daily Mass Schedule

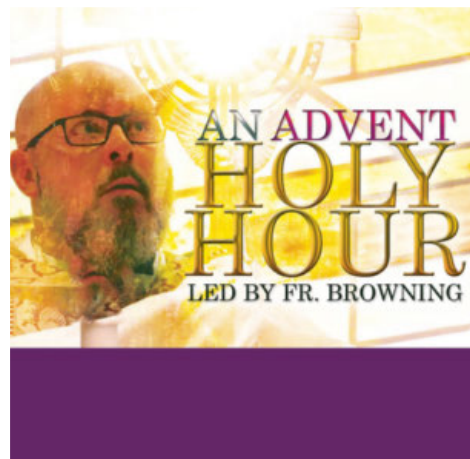
**Rosary** 8:00 AM  
**Daily** 8:30 AM

## 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. I was born Catholic but....

### Q: I didn't receive First Communion or Confirmation.

**A:** We have a group here for adults called "Becoming Catholic" that can help you to prepare for those sacraments. They meet following the 10:00 Mass on Sundays at 11:00am. Make a plan to stop in and check it out. You can send them a message on our website at [stthomasmorechurch.org/becoming-catholic](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/becoming-catholic)

### Q: I received First Communion and Confirmation when I was younger but I don't really remember much of what was taught and want to know more.

**A:** As adults we should always be seeking to learn more about our faith. We regularly have programs or events for adults at St. Thomas More. Our "Becoming Catholic" program is a perfect place to begin. These two links may be helpful to get you started. If you don't find what you're looking for please reach out to us.

[stthomasmorechurch.org/adult-programs](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/adult-programs)

[stthomasmorechurch.org/catholic-apps-and-podcasts](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/catholic-apps-and-podcasts)

### Q: We got married civilly but not in Church. Can we still do that?

**A:** If this is a first marriage for both of you then the answer is YES! No matter how long you have been married civilly. This is called marriage validation. It's a very simple process that starts with meeting with a priest. It does not require a large church marriage. This link will provide more details. If either of you have a previous marriage your process will require more details that the priest can help you navigate. [stthomasmorechurch.org/marriage](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/marriage) The benefit of having your marriage validated is that you will then be able to receive Eucharist.

### Q: I got divorced. Am I still able to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Confession?

**A:** If you were married in the Catholic Church and divorced and are currently not in a new marriage or new relationship then you are able to receive the sacraments. You should first make a good confession before receiving Eucharist. Remember Confession is a sacrament of healing and has powerful graces waiting for us.

**A:** If you were married civilly and divorced and are not in a new marriage or new relationship you are able to receive the sacraments. You should first make a good confession before receiving Eucharist. Remember Confession is a sacrament of healing and has powerful graces waiting for us.

### Q: I have children who are not babies who have not been Baptized. Is it too late?

**A:** It is NEVER too late to request Baptism and become a son or daughter of God. We have children of ALL ages seeking Baptism. We are happy to help your family. Contact Sharon Hall for more details. (847)888-1682x216. [evangelizaton@stthomasmorechurch.org](mailto:evangelizaton@stthomasmorechurch.org)

### Q: I have children who were Baptized but have not received First Communion or Confirmation. Is it too late?

**A:** It is NEVER too late to request these sacraments. Our Family Faith program is designed to meet families where they are and guide them in next steps. Contact Michelle Tack for more information. [stthomasmorechurch.org/religious-education](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/religious-education) (847)888-4887

## BULLETIN Deadlines

### December 10th Bulletin - EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE

Materials Due: **November 22, 2023**

### December 17th Bulletin - EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE

Materials Due: **November 24, 2023**

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# PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

## LETTER from Fr. Browning

The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a season characterized by anticipation, hope, and prayer. Silence is the theme of Advent, which echoes through the prayers, hymns, and scripture readings, inviting us to cultivate a profound quiet in our minds, hearts, and bodies.

In the silence of the mind, Advent encourages a detachment from the noise and distractions of the world. It is an opportunity to create a sacred space for meditation on scripture, allowing thoughts to settle like falling snow. In this mental stillness, we can turn their attention inward, fostering a deeper connection with their faith and a heightened awareness of the spiritual significance of the season.

The silence of the heart during Advent is a call to open oneself to the transformative power of hope and love. It is a time to listen attentively to God's presence in our hearts, seeking a renewed sense of purpose and rekindling the flame of faith. As the heart grows still, it becomes a fertile ground for the seeds of grace to take root and flourish.

Simultaneously, the silence of the body is emphasized

during Advent, inviting us to embrace moments of physical stillness and restraint. In a world filled with constant movement and activity, this intentional pause allows us to embody the waiting and anticipation inherent in the Advent season. By slowing down and being present in the moment, one can fully appreciate the significance of the journey toward Christmas.

In the convergence of these three silences – of mind, heart, and body – the first Sunday of Advent becomes a sacred space for Catholics to prepare for the coming of Christ. It is a time to quiet the noise, to center our lives, and to make room for the transformative power of the Incarnation. As we embark on this journey of inner silence, we set the stage for a season of profound spiritual growth and joyful anticipation.

Creating silence in our lives can be a challenge. Striving for this silence will pay great dividends. Silence of mind, heart, and body will bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives - joy, peace, love, and deep faith. My dear friends, this is what Advent is all about.

God's peace be with you,  
Fr. Browning

## Mass for Widows

On **Tuesday, December 5**, the 8:30am morning Mass will be offered for men and women who have lost their spouse. In this Mass we will remember and pray for all spouses who have died. Coffee and treats will be offered following Mass. All are welcome. No registration is required.

## A LETTER FROM FR. EJAY

### KONTI LANG: "Watch"



Fr. Edil Jarapa

While the master was away, he commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Somebody may deceive him and gain entrance into the house, and wreck and ruin and rob all they have. Jesus is also saying this to us, "Be alert; don't go to sleep; watch!" There will be temptations and pressures to make us believe that everything is a lie, to make us give up and stop living like a Christian, to stop walking in faith, to stop trusting in God. Be vigilant. In the meantime, get to work. Don't let anything deter us. As we anticipate Jesus' coming, we are not to spend all of our time being idle. Meaningful waiting means living our faith, finding joy in hope, and sharing the love.

## Attention Parishioners

Attention Parishioners: This year presents a unique occurrence as the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24, immediately followed by Christmas Day on December 25. Please note that each day is a separate Holy Day of Obligation. We kindly remind you to attend two distinct Masses, one for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and another for Christmas, to fulfill your sacred obligations.

To fulfill your obligation for the **4th Sunday of Advent**, plan on attending one of these Masses:

- **Saturday, December 23: 5 pm**
- **Sunday, December 24: 8 am, 10 am, Noon**

To fulfill your **Christmas** obligation, plan on attending one of these Masses:

- **Sunday, December 24: 4 pm, 6 pm**
- **Monday, December 25: Midnight, 8 am, 10 am, Noon**

We are also grateful for your generosity and giving to our parish. This link can help you to arrange giving

<https://osvhub.com/stthomasmorechurch/giving/funds>

or SCAN THE QR CODE.



SCAN ME

# 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  
 † AnnMarie LoPiccolo- Carlsen  
 † Yolanda Castro  
 † Mary Crawford  
 † Rita Dodd  
 † Dianna Giardino  
 † Al Hansen  
 † Lynn Harper  
 † Richard Hart

† Charlie Joseph  
 † Mary Joseph  
 † Swan Lourits  
 † Joan Maryanski  
 † Fran Meek  
 † William Meek  
 † Edward Menchaca  
 † Lila Moulton  
 † Gloria Neitzel  
 † Elizabeth North  
 † Barbara Pruter

† Manuel Roman  
 † Lillian Rozanski  
 † Patricia Tanner  
 † Gabriel Tomlinson  
 † Darren Watson  
 † Chosen Whitehead  
 † Joann Wille  
 † Louise Wolff

## SYMPATHY List

### Rest In Peace

† Belinda Mockler

## 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](http://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](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/donate-1)

If you have questions about donations to St. Thomas More, contact Olga Pomella at [finance@stthomasmorechurch.org](mailto:finance@stthomasmorechurch.org) or 847.888.1682 x213



## SPOTLIGHT

*St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin*

## ADVENT TALK with Mike Pacer

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 6:30 P.M.**

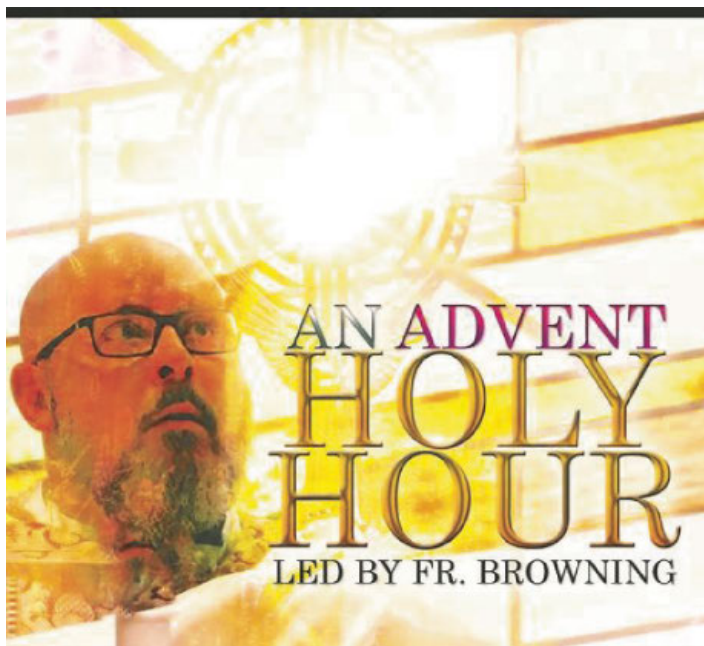
Join us **December 5 at 6:30PM** for our special Advent speaker Mike Pacer, a gifted speaker, and author, who will share with us how to experience an awesome Advent. Mike, comes from just down the Fox River in Batavia and is the dad of our recently ordained priest, Fr. Nate Pacer (2022). Mike is also president of 5 Stones, a Catholic Distribution and Resource Company in Sycamore. Mike will have 3 books for purchase, including "Mercy and Hope" (\$10), "Prayers for Catholic Men" (\$5), and "The Three Comings of Christ" (\$10). You can purchase the books using cash, check or credit card. All are welcome!





# HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin



**AN ADVENT HOLY HOUR**  
LED BY FR. BROWNING

**PRaise & WORSHIP, MUSIC, TIME FOR PRAYER & SILENCE**

Jesus is the love of God made flesh. His Sacred humanity is made really, truly present to us in the Eucharist at mass and in Adoration. So Many came to Jesus with their brokenness, their illness, and their fears and experienced the love of God. We should do the same. Let's encounter the powerful presence of God!

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 6PM**

A special evening of prayer in the presence of Jesus.	Go deeper in prayer for an encounter with a living God.	Enter sacred space and spend time with Jesus.
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*"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." - Matthew 11:28*

## Pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain

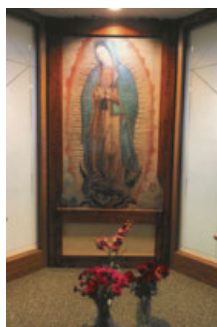
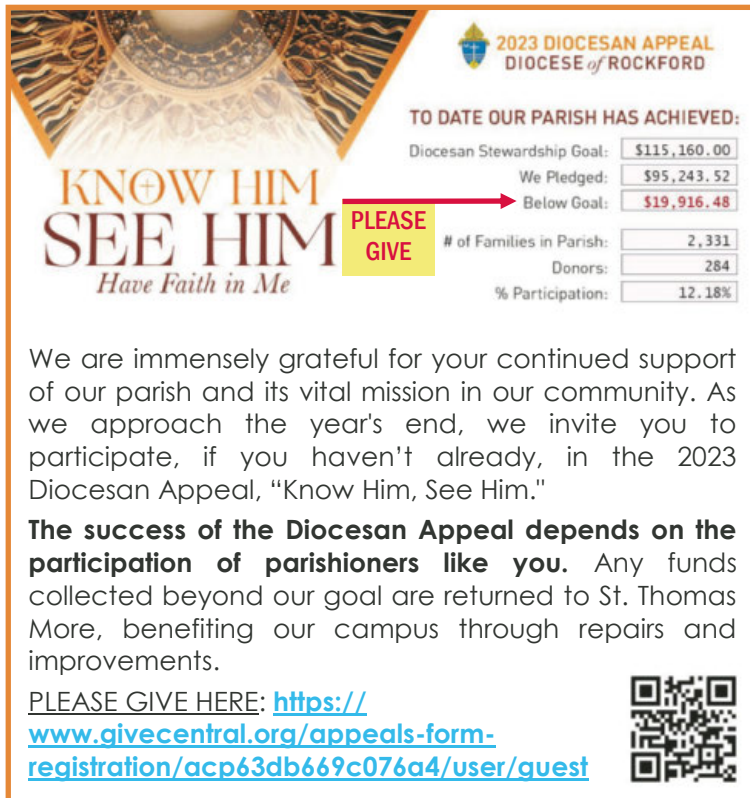
Join Fr. Browning on a pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain!! January 25 - Feb. 2, 2024. Openings for this pilgrimage are now available. For registration or questions email [help@pilgrimtravel](mailto:help@pilgrimtravel). Review itinerary and read more information on our website [stthomasmorechurch.org/pilgrimage-to-fatima-spain](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/pilgrimage-to-fatima-spain)

## 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.

**2023 DIOCESAN APPEAL**  
DIOCESE of ROCKFORD

**TO DATE OUR PARISH HAS ACHIEVED:**

Diocesan Stewardship Goal:	\$115,160.00
We Pledged:	\$95,243.52
Below Goal:	\$19,916.48
# of Families in Parish:	2,331
Donors:	284
% Participation:	12.18%


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

**PLEASE GIVE**

We are immensely grateful for your continued support of our parish and its vital mission in our community. As we approach the year's end, we invite you to participate, if you haven't already, in the 2023 Diocesan Appeal, "Know Him, See Him."

**The success of the Diocesan Appeal depends on the participation of parishioners like you.** Any funds collected beyond our goal are returned to St. Thomas More, benefiting our campus through repairs and improvements.

PLEASE GIVE HERE: <https://www.givecentral.org/appeals-form-registration/acp63db669c076a4/user/guest>



## Bethlehem Peace Light

**The Peace Light will be coming to St. Thomas More on the weekend of December 9/10 after all Masses.** The Peace Light from Bethlehem is a continuously-burning flame, originating from the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Israel. It is meant to promote peace, harmony and unity among the people of the world regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. For several decades the International Scouting movement - both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts - have actively promoted global peace and harmony through the distribution of the Peace Light.

## Sharing Tree

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

This weekend, December 2 and 3, is the last weekend that gifts will be collected by the Sharing Tree to help those in need in our community. 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](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/sharing-tree) or scan the QR code for more information.



# 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, December 04

8:30 AM Mass

**Margaret Aranda**

### Tuesday, December 05

8:30 AM Mass

**William Greguras**

**For all Widows and Widowers**

### Wednesday, December 06

8:30 AM Mass

**Vince Spaccaferro**

### Thursday, December 07

8:30 AM Mass

**Bernie Sloan**

5:30 PM Mass

**Joseph Heinz**

### Friday, December 08

8:30 AM Mass

**John Sloan**

**Linda Becci**

10:30 AM Mass

**Dr. & Mrs. A Hassan Hhazei**

12:10 PM Mass

**Marge Banker**

7:00 PM Mass

**People of STM**

### Saturday, December 09

8:30 AM Mass

**Edward Febuary**

5:00 PM Mass

**Fred Taeyaerts**

### Sunday, December 10

8:00 AM Mass

**Denise Pope & Stephen Durrant**

10:00 AM Mass

**People of STM**

12:00 PM Mass

**Jovito & Milagros Daquiwig**

## Presiders

### Saturday, December 09

8:30 AM Mass

**Fr. Ejay**

5:00 PM Mass

**Fr. Browning**

### Sunday, December 10

8:00 AM Mass

**Fr. Ejay**

10:00 AM Mass

**Fr. Ejay**

12:00 PM Mass

**Fr. Browning**

## Adoration Candles Intentions

### December 03 – December 09

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

### December 10 – December 16

**The Bayona, Barabicho, Schaeffer  
and Ventura Families**

**Fox Valley Filipino  
American Catholic Ministry  
2023 SIMBANG GABI  
7:00 PM**

DEC. 15 FRI ST. MARY, HUNTLEY  
DEC. 16 SAT ST. PATRICK, ST. CHARLES  
DEC. 17 SUN ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, WEST DUNDEE  
DEC. 18 MON CHURCH OF HOLY APOSTLES, MCHENRY  
DEC. 19 TUE CHRIST THE TEACHER, DEKALB  
DEC. 20 WED ST. MARGARET MARY, ALGONQUIN  
DEC. 21 THU ST. THOMAS MORE, ELGIN  
DEC. 22 FRI ST. MARY, WOODSTOCK  
DEC. 23 SAT ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, CRYSTAL LAKE





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