

DECEMBER 24, 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SILENCE

God Speaks in Silence.

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

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

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 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

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 (847)888-4887

BULLETIN Deadlines

December 31st Bulletin - EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE

Materials Due: **December 08, 2023**

January 7th Bulletin - EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE

Materials Due: **December 21, 2023**

Share your experiences and photos with us.

Flocknote | Facebook | Instagram | YouTube



Let's keep in touch!
Text "stmelgin"
to 84576 or visit
flocknote.com/stthomasmore37



Like our Facebook
page to stay connected
to our community!
[facebook.com/St Thomas
More Catholic Church](https://facebook.com/StThomasMoreCatholicChurch)



Follow @stmcelgin
on Instagram. Share
your faith...through pic-
tures by hashtag
#stmcelginthegram



Subscribe to our
YouTube Channel
youtube.com
Search for St Thomas
More Church

PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

God Speaks in Silence.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas reminds us that God desires to be close to His people (Emmanuel means God with us). "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 John 4:16). Love heals. We pray that you profoundly experience the Love of God. We pray that His Love brings healing to our wounded hearts. Christmas is the celebration of God's Love for us. Jesus became man born of the Virgin to offer himself on the Cross to show us the Love of God, to save us from sin, and to fight and defeat our enemies - sin, death, and the devil.

Jesus desires you to experience His Love and

closeness. Commit yourself to Jesus by living a life of faith. St. Thomas More supports you on this journey - Mass, confession, prayer, Adoration, community, and much more. Join us!

Thank you for your continued support of St. Thomas More parish and school. We are grateful for your commitment, service, and dedication. I wish to thank our parish and school staff for their steadfast devotion to continuing the mission of Jesus and His Church.

We pray that God will bring peace and joy to our world and hearts this Christmas.

**A Blessed and Merry Christmas to you,
Fr. Ryan Browning & Fr. Ejay Jarapa
And All the Staff at St. Thomas More**

A LETTER FROM FR. EJAY

KONTI LANG: "Mary's Fiat"



Fr. Edil Jarapa

Fiat is Mary's YES to God's proposal presented to her through the Angel Gabriel. The first Christmas would not have happened without Mary's big YES. From that time on, Mary did not use her life for her own ends; instead, she willingly handed her life back to God and followed God's dreams. Mary's complete surrender was a joyful submission to God's will. Nowadays, very few people would entirely surrender to God because the majority are focused on directing their life toward their goals and desires. Their "yes" and obedience to God are determined by how it will benefit them personally. This Christmas let us say "yes" to God by loving, sharing, forgiving, and seeing Jesus in our neighbors. This may not be as big as Mary's fiat, but at least in a simple and meaningful way, we are able to say "yes" to Incarnate Son of God.

Maligayang Pasko!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul is raising funds to help our Friends in need with heating costs for Nicor and ComEd during **December 1-31, 2023**. You can participate by placing a donation in the box in our display in the Gathering Space, or online at <https://kindest.com/society-of-saint-vincent-depaul>.

Parish Office Closed

The **Parish Office will be closed** on Monday, December 25th & Tuesday, December 26th in observation of the Christmas Holiday.

Adoration Suspended

Perpetual Adoration will be suspended on Saturday, December 23rd at 1PM and will re-open Tuesday, December 26th at 9AM.

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
 † Marjorie Brammer
 † AnnMarie LoPiccolo- Carlsen
 † Yolanda Castro
 † Mary Crawford
 † Rita Dodd
 † Dianna Giardino
 † Al Hansen
 † Jim Hansen
 † Lynn Harper

† Richard Hart
 † Charlie Joseph
 † Mary Joseph
 † Larry Kancler
 † Shirley Kinsella
 † Swan Lourits
 † James Lublow
 † 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

† 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

THANK YOU to all who serve and protect

• **Alex Arciuch**
Tech. Sgt., USAF

• **Nathan Brammer**
USAF

• **Miguel Carrillo**
US Army

• **Robert Castellvi**
Brig. Gen., Airborne

• **Nickolas Gulik**
Army National Guard

• **William J. Guth**
Master Sgt., USMC

• **Benjamin Harrington**
US Navy

• **Douglas R. Johnson**
Technical Sergeant, USAF

• **Nick Lange Sr**
Lt. Col., Airborne

• **Alexander Litgen**
Airman, US Army
82nd Airborne

• **David McCallister**
Sgt. 1st Class, US Army

• **Bryan P. Malm**
SSG, USAF

• **Sebastian Martinez**
SGT, US Army

• **Steve Olson**
Staff Sgt., USAF

• **Tucker A. Parkhouse**
Pvt., USMC

• **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

Save The Date

- ◇ **January 28 – February 3**
Catholic Schools Week
- ◇ **January 28**
STM School's Open House 1- 3PM
- ◇ **February 10/11**
Encounter Weekend
- ◇ **February 14** - Ash Wednesday
- ◇ **February 16 – March 22**
Stations of The Cross
- ◇ **March 20**
Be Reconciled 9AM –8PM
- ◇ **March 28** - Holy Triduum
- ◇ **March 31** - Easter
- ◇ **April 17**
Holy Hour with Fr. Browning 6PM
- ◇ **April 20/21** - Encounter Weekend
- ◇ **June 11-14** - Summer Camp, 6-8th grade, 9-12th counselors
- ◇ **July 12-14** - Steubenville Conference, incoming freshman through 12th grade

* Dates and times may alter. Stay up-to-date by visiting our website stthomasmorechurch.org

Get Involved

Would you like to become more involved in our St. Thomas More Community? Visit our web pages below for more information about what we provide to help you on your journey. Use our website below and add the interested subdirectory after the forward slash (/).

[https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/\(add subdirectory here\)](https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/(add subdirectory here))

EVENTS/GROUPS/INFORMATION SUBDIRECTORY

- MASS...../mass-times-1
- GIVING...../donate-1
- LITURGY...../worship-ministries
- SACRAMENTS...../liturgy-sacraments
- ADULT PROGRAMS...../adult-programs
- FAMILY FAITH...../religious-education
- YOUTH MINISTRY...../youth-ministry
- BECOMING CATHOLIC...../becoming-catholic
- MUSIC MINISTRY...../music-ministries
- THAT MAN IS YOU!...../that-man-is-you-1
- LITTLE FLOWER PRAYER GROUP...../parish-prayer-groups
- PRAYER WARRIOR...../st-thomas-more-prayer-warriors
- FAMILY ROSARY...../parish-prayer-groups
- ROSEBUD MINISTRY...../respect-life
- ADORATION...../adoration
- FELLOWSHIP CLUB...../fellowship-group-for-seniors
- PARISH HELPERS...../parish-helpers
- RESPECT LIFE...../respect-life
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL...../st-vincent-de-paul-society
- KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS...../knights-of-Columbus
- SPRED...../spred



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 25 – Christmas Day

8:00 AM Mass

People of STM

10:00 AM Mass

Jovito & Milagros Daquiawag

12:00 PM Mass

Maynard & Ann Decker

Tuesday, December 26

8:30 AM Mass

Keith Cameron

Wednesday, December 27

8:30 AM Mass

Ann Brkljack

Thursday, December 28

8:30 AM Mass

Donna Browning (sp. Int.)

Friday, December 29

8:30 AM Mass

Stefan Bruckner

Saturday, December 30

8:30 AM Mass

Gloria Landoy

5:00 PM Mass

Lewin J. Bugna

Ted Schnell

Sunday, December 31

8:00 AM Mass

People of STM

10:00 AM Mass

Diane Childress

12:00 PM Mass

Chuck Pruter

Presiders

Saturday, December 30

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Browning

Sunday, December 31

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Browning

Adoration Candles Intentions

December 24 – December 30

Ann Decker

December 31 – January 06

Frank Ybarra

2023 Diocesan Appeal



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>





1570 Larkin Ave • Elgin, IL 60123
(847) 695-2235

SUBURBAN WATER CONDITIONERS, INC.

- WATER TREATMENT EQUIPMENT
- SALES - RENTALS - SERVICE
- REVERSE OSMOSIS (R.O.)
(THE BOTTLED WATER ALTERNATIVE)

BOB MEEK, Parishioner

Bus (847) 741-4037
Home (847) 697-5889



Quick Commercial Printing

909 DAVIS ROAD ELGIN • ILLINOIS 60123

847.697.1434
FAX 847.697.1469



Michael P. Ellsworth, CFP

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER

- Parishioner since 1997 -

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND WEALTH MANAGEMENT
(847) 531-8693

36 N. McLean Blvd., Elgin
www.ameripriseadvisors.com/michael.p.ellsworth



Your local technology and business partner since 1979. Providing computing and network solutions to business and education.

630-584-9505
www.mcctech.com



ST. CHARLES, IL

WHEN IT'S
TIME TO PAINT...
IT'S PRIME TIME!

• FREE ESTIMATE •

• RESIDENTIAL PAINTING • COMMERCIAL PAINTING

• INTERIOR PAINTING • EXTERIOR PAINTING

WWW.PRIMETIMEPAINTINGINC.COM

CALL TODAY AND SAVE! 630-920-3300

Firewood • Tree & Stump Removal



"Fully Insured & Free Estimates."

847-683-7252

**Lester H. Holze, Jr., D.C.,
Christopher M. Holze, D.C.**



Holistic, Natural
Health Care
for the entire family

(847) 888-4770

2000 Larkin Ave., Ste. 200, Elgin



PLUMBING

Service • Remodeling
New Construction

847-683-5050
www.BestlerCorp.com



**CHRIST is the
reason we celebrate
CHRISTmas**

Bring your Bulletin to the gate and receive **\$2.00 BACK**

PURCHASE TICKETS at Goebberts.com

\$3.99 MEAL DEAL

- 1 Bowl of Soup OR Chili,
- 1 Sm Drink & choice of
- 1 Bagel from 11am-11pm

Elgin 847-488-1900

With this coupon.

One coupon per visit.

Not valid with any other offer.

Expires 12/31/2023



3091 U.S. Rt. 20

Elgin

(1 mile west of Randall Rd.)

847-488-1900

Open 24/7

\$2.00 OFF 1 Dozen Donuts

No Limit

Elgin 847-488-1900

With this coupon.

One coupon per visit.

Not valid with any other offer.

Expires 12/31/2023



**20% OFF
purchase of eyeglasses**

*Some conditions apply

St. Charles Elgin
630-584-9850 847-695-0499
Foxvalleyeyes.com

DOORMASTER Garage Door Co., LLC.

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

FIRE DOORS • HOLLOW METAL DOORS
DOCK EQUIPMENT • RESIDENTIAL DOORS

Serving the IL Area for over 30 Years

Steve Getzin, Owner
(847) 683-0333

"WE TREAT YOUR DOOR LIKE OUR OWN."

Free Estimates • Fully Insured



**CROWN
TREE CARE, INC.**

www.crowntreecareinc.com

Your Complete Tree and Shrub Care Company

crowntreecare@gmail.com

ISA and IAA Member

Office: 847-888-9916 • Cell: 224-645-9251

Fax: 847-841-7041

Help at Home for Seniors

Connecting Catholics
at St Thomas More
and serving surrounding
parish communities.



In-home caregiving
with values
and Catholic beliefs
shared by you.



**By Catholics
For Catholics**

Need assistance to live comfortably and
independently at home?

Are you interested in becoming a caregiver?

www.Catholic-Care.com 1-800-811-2210



2020 N Randall Rd, Elgin, IL 60123

(847) 695-8000

McGrathHondaElgin.com



As your local premier Illinois Honda dealer,
we have a huge selection of new and pre owned vehicles.
We are here for all your sales and service needs!



For ad info. call at 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Thomas More, Elgin, IL

B 4C 01-0554

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Michael McKay
847.841.1550

Is your financial future on your to-do list?

Michael.McKay@edwardjones.com

KCBA **TOP 10**

Hire a Skilled Lawyer in Elgin, IL

164 Division St. Ste. 209
Elgin, IL 60120
224-629-6700
lawyerrudyjrios@gmail.com
lawofficeofrudyjrios.com

THE LAW OFFICE OF RUDY J. RIOS

For professional real estate service & results, call Brian or visit me on the internet at briank1.remax.com

RE/MAX

Brian Knott
RE/MAX Horizon
847-269-9870
Email: briank1@remax.net

DARMON
ORTHODONTICS, P.C.
L.M. Darmon, DDS, MS
Parish Member

2001 Larkin Ave
Suite 207
(847) 741-1165

Alexander Plumbing

214 E. Chicago St.
Elgin, IL 60120

Plumbing • Sewers
Remodeling
CALL TODAY!
847-742-0541

Patrick
ELECTRICAL SERVICE

224-535-0122

COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL • RESIDENTIAL

Randall's
Pancakes, Waffles & More

Serving Breakfast & Lunch
7 Days a Week

(847) 628-6256
www.randallspancakes.com
305 Randall Rd • South Elgin

JIMMY'S CHARHOUSE
ELGIN

847-783-0200
www.jimmyscharhouseelgin.com
2290 Point Blvd. • Elgin

McLean AUTO REPAIR

Complete
Automotive
Maintenance

(847)
741-9576

www.mcleanautorepair.com

LAVELLE LAW
Integrity | Value | Results

Comprehensive legal services
for your family and business.

Steve Migala, Parishioner
847-705-7555 smigala@lavellelaw.com

KUSTOM HEATING & COOLING

- SINCE 2000 -

Trained. Reliable.
Trustworthy.

• SERVICE • MAINTENANCE
• INSTALLATION

Servicing All Makes
and Models

(847) 496-3008

LARK & OWL EATERY

Serving Breakfast
and Lunch

BERNA
MOVING AND STORAGE
847-741-0264
Local & Long Distance

Thomas Berna
parishioner

SKC CONSTRUCTION INC.

Pavement Maintenance
& Preservation Solutions

Crack Sealing • Sealcoating
Pothole Repair • Striping

Kevin A. Bergquist - Project Manager
Cell: 224-659-3927
Phone: 847-214-9800
kbergquist@skcconstruction.net
P.O. Box 503 • West Dundee, Illinois 60118

MONDAY:
Closed

TUESDAY-SUNDAY:
7am-2pm

219 Walnut Ave. • Elgin

IF YOU LIVE ALONE
MDMedAlert!™ You Need
At HOME and AWAY!

As Low As **\$19⁹⁵** /mo.

✓ Ambulance/Police
✓ Family/Friends
✓ GPS & Fall Alert

CALL NOW 800.808.9294
md-medalert.com

Laird Funeral Home P.C.

310 S. State St. 120 S. Third St.
Elgin, Ill 60123 West Dundee, Ill 60118

847-741-8800 847-836-8770

Donald Laird Stephen Laird Robert Laird Patricia Laird
Corey Short

"Family owned and operated"

Wait Ross Allanson
Funeral Home and Cremation Services

51 Center St. 201 S. Main St.
Elgin, Ill 60120 Algonquin, Ill 60102

847-742-2100 847-658-4232

ANCHOR PLUMBING

• RESIDENTIAL • MULTI-TENANT
• COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
• SERVICE • REMODELING
• NEW INSTALLATIONS

Located in Elgin
(847) 468-8171

Fox Valley Shooting Range

780 S. McLean Blvd, Elgin
Foxvalleysr.com
630-357-3570

FARMERS INSURANCE

Insuring your Home, Auto, Business & Life
Call for a FREE Quote!

David Dewitt
(847)
622-6848
1831 Larkin Avenue • Elgin