



WELCOME TO STM

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 8:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

Daily Mass Schedule

Rosary 8:00 a.m.

Daily 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation

Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Online Giving

stthomasmorechurch.org/donate-1

Perpetual Adoration

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - **Saturday** 1:00 p.m.

stthomasmorechurch.org/adoration

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

847.888.1682

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

School Office

stmelgin.org, 847.742.3959

Faith Formation Office

stthomasmorechurch.org/religious-education

847.888.4887

Sacraments

stthomasmorechurch.org/liturgy-sacraments



BEHOLD,
THE LAMB
OF GOD.

— JOHN 1:36 —



PARISH INFORMATION

January 14, 2024 | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Bulletin Deadlines

January 21st Bulletin

Materials Due: **January 08, 2024**

January 28th Bulletin

Materials Due: **January 15, 2024**

Civil Rights Day

A Prayer for a Just Society

Heavenly Father, You create every human person in Your image and likeness. You call us together in one human family, united in dignity, value, and love. Give us the strength and wisdom To protect this dignity and life at all stages. Jesus our Savior, you proclaim the blessedness of those who work for peace and who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Forgive us for the times we have not responded to the call of Your Beatitudes. Holy Spirit, the Advocate, empower us to stand in defense of the poor and vulnerable. Good and Gracious God, make our hearts to love like Yours. Amen.



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) 888-1682 x216. evangelization@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

A Letter from Fr. Browning



Fr. Ryan Browning

We pray that you had a Blessed Christmas and New Year.

Fr. Ejay and I thank each of you for remembering us at Christmas with your cards, gifts, and sweets. We are grateful to be priests at St. Thomas More. Please accept our deepest thanks and our prayers for your goodness and generosity.

On another note, we would appreciate your assistance in meeting our goal for the 2023 Diocesan Appeal. If you have not yet given, please prayerfully consider giving something.

Your gift will help sustain and grow diocesan ministries that form and support our future priests, affirm and teach our youth, assist the poor and the marginalized – and build our Church for the future.

Your gift will help change lives.

We are still about \$20,000 short of our goal, with about 12% of registered parishioners having given. Any gift is greatly appreciated.

We thank you in advance for your generous support. By working together, we can share Christ's love with others.

In Gratitude to God,
Fr. Browning



TO DATE OUR PARISH HAS ACHIEVED:

Diocesan Stewardship Goal:	\$115,160.00
We Pledged:	\$98,113.29
Below Goal:	\$17,046.71
# of Families in Parish:	2,328
Donors:	315
% Participation:	14%

A Letter from Fr. Ejay



Fr. Edil Jarapa

KONTI LANG: "Rock"

Simon's name was changed by Jesus to Peter, which means "rock." The name Peter had special meaning since it indicated that he would play a foundational and stable role in the early Christian community. Despite his name, Peter was a weak apostle: he sank in the stormy sea due to a lack of faith, received a rebuke from Jesus for backing Satan, and denied Jesus three times at the most crucial moment of His life. After his failures, Peter stood firm for Jesus even to the point of martyrdom. Even though we are all weak and imperfect, we can nevertheless be solid disciples of Jesus if we begin to give up our old lives and embrace new life in Christ.

Grief Support Group

Through Grief with Mother Mary

It is a new year, and you find yourself wondering how you will get through it without those you lost due to death. Maybe it has been weeks, months, years but you still can't move forward, and it hurts. Make your New Year's resolution to take care of yourself by learning about the process of grief and how to reduce the pain by attending "Through Grief with Mother Mary" support group.

In the weekly sessions you will also learn about Mary's experience with grief, her 7 Sorrows and through prayer ask for her intercession to Jesus for grief healing.

This group is open to men and women who are grieving the loss of a loved one. You need not be a parishioner of St. Thomas More to participate in this group.

- **St. Thomas More Church**
- **Thursdays, January 25 - March 21**
- **9:15 AM - 10:45 AM**
- **Sign-up <https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/through-grief-with-mother-mary>**

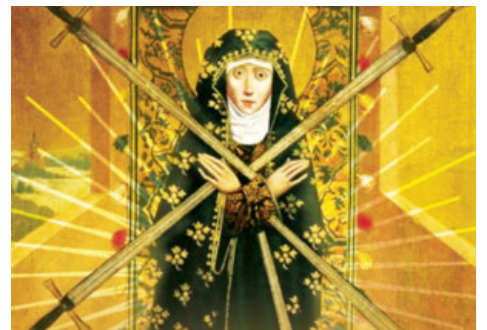
Registration will end on Tuesday, January 23rd. \$10.00 fee required for materials.

Any questions please contact:

Angelina Beaudion

Call or Text: **708.732.9405**

Email: **abeaudion@sbcglobal.net**



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
† Debbie Abbs
† Michael Abbs
† Eunice Bai
† Marjorie Brammer
† AnnMarie LoPiccolo-
Carlsen
† Yolanda Castro
† Mary Crawford
† Dianna Giardino
† Al Hansen
† Jim Hansen
† Lynn Harper
† Richard Hart
† Eddy Ibe
† Larry Kancler
† Shirley Kinsella

† Swan Lourits
† James Lublow
† Joan Maryanski
† Fran Meek
† William Meek
† Lila Moulton
† Gloria Neitzel
† Elizabeth North
† Barbara Pruter
† Lillian Rozanski
† Patricia Tanner
† Gabriele Tomlinson
† Darren Watson
† Chosen Whitehead
† Joann Wille

Sympathy List

Rest In Peace

† All Souls

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 Melissa Galla at 847.888.1682 x213 or finance@stthomasmorechurch.org.

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 and preserving dignity. Please call our answering machine at **847.628.5170**.

Life Matters

Any woman, who is pregnant and in need, should never feel alone and can find help at Corbella Clinic at **847.697.0200**, The Life Center at **847.622.1235**, or Project Rachel at **800.593.2273**.

Bereavement Ministry

Trained volunteers are available to provide spiritual support and comfort to all parishioners mourning a death loss.

Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be **closed** to observe the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on **Monday, January 15, 2024**. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 16th at 9:00 a.m.

STM Spotlight

Thank You!

Community Crisis Center would like to give a big thank you to all who have donated.



Thank you again!

See the full letter posted on our church bulletin board.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

January 14, 2024 | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Steubenville Informational Meeting

Steubenville information meeting for parents and teens 8th grade through high school on **January 21st** after 10am Mass (11:00am) in the Chelsea Room. Also, Q. & A. about summer the intensive confirmation option.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" We should be looking for the graces of God in our marriage. Discover those graces by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on:

- Jan 26-28 in Brookfield, WI
- Feb. 9-11 in Geneva, IL
- March 9-10 in Wisconsin
- April 27-28 in Mundelein, IL

For more info go to: wwme.org or call **888.574-5653**

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Christ is Anything but Ordinary

We're about to dive headlong into week two of Ordinary Time, and we need to admit, after the hustle and bustle of the holidays, things are indeed looking more ... ordinary, at least in our spiritual lives. The transcendent highs of the Christmas season are flatlining a bit and the vivid imagery of the Nativity scene has faded. The solemn anticipation of the Advent season is by now a distant memory. Are you bored yet? Here's a secret: I think that Ordinary Time can actually be quite extraordinary, if we're really living out our baptismal call. In today's Gospel, Jesus point-blank asks Andrew, who is following him after hearing John the Baptist's testimony: "What are you looking for?" He's asking us the same question. What are you looking for? Why are you following me? Is it for the Christmas cookies and the Advent carols? Is it for the King's Cake on the Epiphany? Is it for the feeling we get on Christmas when we just know God has done a wondrous thing? None of those things are bad, but they are not what Andrew was looking for, and they were not what Christ promised him when he said, "Come, and you will see." Andrew was looking for the Messiah — the One who makes even Ordinary Time extraordinary. The One who can sanctify the longest and dullest of to-do lists, on the longest and dullest of days. The One whose peace can reign in our homes on January 25, not just December 25.

Remember what you are looking for. Come, and you will see.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

INTENTIONS & PRESIDERS

January 14, 2024 | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, January 15

8:30 AM Mass

Socorro Rocha

Tuesday, January 16

8:30 AM Mass

Lorraine Lorenz

Wednesday, January 17

8:30 AM Mass

Sonia LePoudre

9:30 AM Mass

Christine Marie Peters (Grandmother of Lillian & Pippa Peters)

Thursday, January 18

8:30 AM Mass

Robert Lacek

Friday, January 19

8:30 AM Mass

Robert Anderson

Dennis Kittler

Saturday, January 20

8:30 AM Mass

Mary H. Lesniak

5:00 PM Mass

People of STM

Sunday, January 21

8:00 AM Mass

Kym Baczek

10:00 AM Mass

Araceli Tomilloso

Timothy C. Felski

12:00 PM Mass

Linda Becci

Presiders

Saturday, January 20

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Ejay

Sunday, January 21

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Ejay

Adoration Candles Intentions

January 14 – January 20

Linda Becci

January 21 – January 27

George H. Hoelter, Bryan D. Sido



January 13-14, 2024

The National Appeal reflects the varied ways we seek to communicate Christ's message. You can help to promote the Gospel through your support of these worthy causes:

- Retirement Fund for Religious
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Catholic Communication Campaign
- Catholic University of America
- Rockford Diocesan Priests' Pension
- Catholic School Financial Support for the Diocese of Rockford

Please bring the National Appeal envelope to Mass, or donate online at rockforddiocese.org/donate.

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