



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

### Perpetual Adoration

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

[stthomasmorechurch.org/adoration](http://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](mailto:rbrowning@stthomasmorechurch.org)

[www.fatherbrowning.com](http://www.fatherbrowning.com)

### Parochial Vicar

Father "Ejay" Edil Jarapa

[associate@stthomasmorechurch.org](mailto:associate@stthomasmorechurch.org)

### Deacons

Mr. Jack Roder & Mr. David Deitz

### Parish Staff

[stthomasmorechurch.org/staff](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/staff)

### School Office

[stmelgin.org](http://stmelgin.org), 847.742.3959

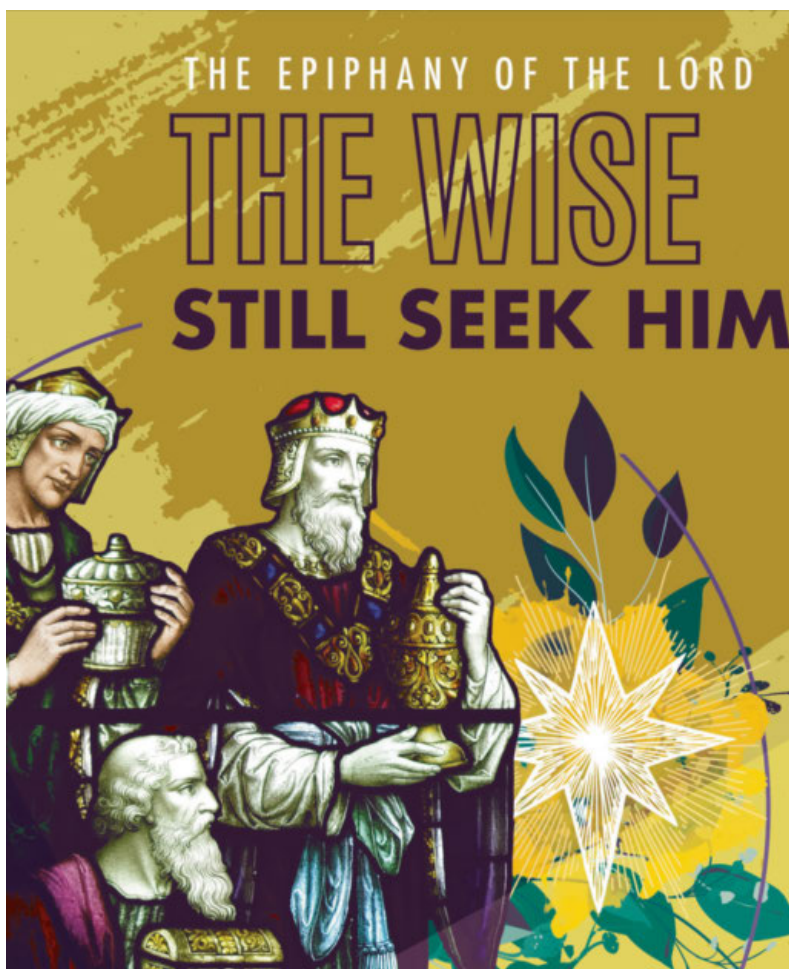
### Faith Formation Office

[stthomasmorechurch.org/religious-education](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/religious-education)

847.888.4887

### Sacraments

[stthomasmorechurch.org/liturgy-sacraments](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/liturgy-sacraments)



## PARISH INFORMATION

January 28, 2024 | 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Stay Connected



#### Flocknote

Text "stmelgin" to 84576 or visit  
[flocknote.com/stthomasmore37](https://flocknote.com/stthomasmore37)



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#### Instagram

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### Bulletin Deadlines

#### February 4th Bulletin

Materials Due: **January 22, 2024**

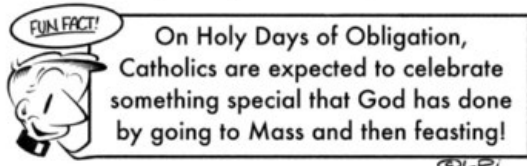
#### February 11th Bulletin

Materials Due: **January 29, 2024**

"What do you get when you cross  
a Papal blessing with a to-do list?"



"A Holy Day of Obligation!"



### Q. & A. I am a 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](https://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](https://stthomasmorechurch.org/adult-programs)

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

B: 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. [evangelization@stthomasmorechurch.org](mailto: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](https://stthomasmorechurch.org/religious-education) (847)888-4887



## Communion & Mortal Sin

### Question:

I have a friend who receives communion, but who I know for a fact is in a state of mortal sin. Should I tell our priest? Is it my responsibility to say something?

### Answer:

While we may always want to do what is best for our friends and family members, we have a responsibility to respect their privacy and their conscience. In its reflections on the Eighth Commandment ("You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"), the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury. [One] becomes guilty: -of rash judgment who, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor; -of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who do not know them; of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them" (no. 2477).

We will never truly know what is in a person's mind, heart, and soul; only God knows those things. We should, of course, take our concerns to God and entrust the person about whom we are concerned to God's grace and mercy. If we have concerns about the spiritual wellbeing of someone with whom we are close, we should go to the person themselves and talk about our fears and concerns. Unless it is a case of abuse or endangerment (which we have a moral and even legal responsibility to report to the appropriate authorities), we ultimately do not have the freedom to share another's persons faults or sins, however good we think our intentions might be. ©LPi

## Everyday Stewardship

When I reflect on the many years of my life, there are many people who were influential on my development as a person, a student, and a Christian. Through their graciousness and generosity, I was able to work through challenges and difficulties, becoming stronger in the end. They pushed me to become better than I was at the time and helped me to see what I could eventually become. Without them giving of themselves to me I am unsure where I would be today.

Because others were good stewards of the gifts and talents God gave them, I now strive to use wisely what I have been given as well. Yes, I spend much of my time on the road speaking in churches about stewardship and I write books and articles about this way of life, but my real desire is to impact the most those around me. I want my children to see how I am growing in this life and be an example to them. I want me and my wife to grow in generosity together. My hope is that my friends see a light in me and inquire about how and why it is there. Above all, I want to live with a graciousness and hospitality that others find welcoming.

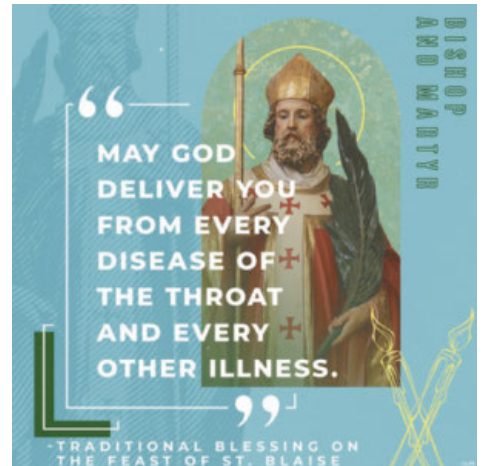
I believe that through our kindness and grace-filled existence God can touch others, heal others, and embrace others. We are the hands and feet of Christ. May we, today and every day we hear his voice, harden not our hearts. —Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## Funeral Dishes

Thank you for your delicious food and the time donated making them. It was enjoyed by all. Please stop in the Chelsea room and pick up your dishes. Any remaining dishes will be donated.

## St. Blaisé Blessing of the Throats

Following all Masses the weekend of **February 3/4** the priest will bless throats in honor of St. Blaisé.



## Chili for Charity

The Knights of Columbus will host the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili for Charity Fundraiser at St Thomas More on **Saturday, February 24 from 3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** We thank you for your generous support in the past and kindly ask you to support us again.

For more information and/or to become a sponsor **scan the QR** code or visit [stthomasmorechurch.org/knights-of-columbus](http://stthomasmorechurch.org/knights-of-columbus)



## NEWS & EVENTS

January 28, 2024 | 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 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  
† 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

† Shirley Kinsella

### 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](https://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](mailto: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](https://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**.

## STM Spotlight

### ReLENTless Program

Lent is about going even deeper into our faith. Taking the time to be purposeful in our actions and letting go of behaviors that have kept us from that deeper faith. We've developed a program that guides and encourages you to make this Lent one of real substance. To make specific sacrifices for a greater goal of union with Jesus. We will do this together in a re-LENT-less small group community. This program is for people of all ages and stages of their faith journey. We encourage you to invite others to join us regardless of where they live. We will be following Fr. Browning's daily reflections and reading 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory.



**Mondays:** February 12 - March 25

**Mornings:** In person 9:00am

**Evenings:** via Zoom 6:30pm

**Fee for materials:** \$30.00

**Register:** Scan the QR code or visit [stthomasmorechurch.org/relemtless](https://stthomasmorechurch.org/relemtless)

## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

January 28, 2024 | 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Catholic Schools Week

As Catholic Schools Week approaches, let us remember that a Catholic school is a community of faith, knowledge, and service.

#### Let us pray...

God of knowledge and faith, thank you for the opportunity to go to a Catholic school. When I go to Mass, I hear that knowledge is so important. Thank you for my parents and grandparents who have built our school and supported it throughout the years. Help me to be a good student and to become a good supporter of my parish, city, and country.

Please bless all those men and women who have spent their lives teaching in our Catholic schools.

Please bless my friends and teachers

I learn with every day.

I ask for all these blessings

in the name of God's Son, Jesus.

**Amen.**

### Winter Bags Tournament

The St. Mary Huntley Knights of Columbus will hold their second annual Winter Bags Tournament on Saturday, **February 3** in the church's Parish Hall. The cost per two-person team is \$60, but any team that registers online by January 31 will receive a \$10 discount. (Use this code: EARLYBIRD) Participants must be at least 13 years old. For details and to register online, go to <http://tinyurl.com/kcbags>

### Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s)

Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose and belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the Joseph and Mary Retreat House (formerly Cardinal Stritch Retreat House) in Mundelein, IL (in the northern suburbs), on **February 23-25, 2024**. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$285 for meals and a single room.

Visit [www.ReflectRetreat.com](http://www.ReflectRetreat.com), call **630.222-8303** or e-mail: [reflect.chicagoland@gmail.com](mailto:reflect.chicagoland@gmail.com) for details.



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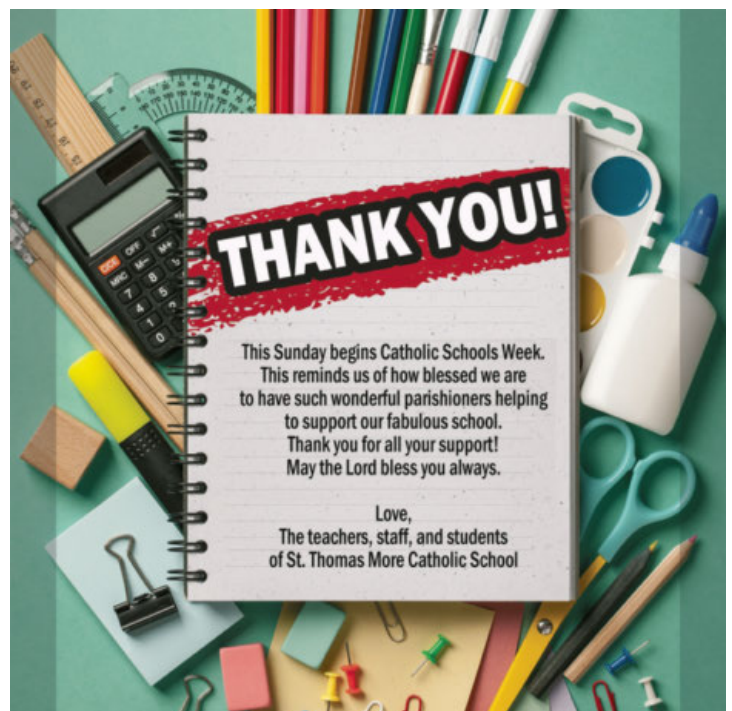
**SUNDAY**  
**JANUARY 28**  
**1PM-3PM**

**Registration for 2024-25**  
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### Tax Letters

Tax Letters will be available for pick up in the Gathering Space this weekend, **January 27/28**.



**THANK YOU!**

This Sunday begins Catholic Schools Week. This reminds us of how blessed we are to have such wonderful parishioners helping to support our fabulous school. Thank you for all your support! May the Lord bless you always.

Love,  
The teachers, staff, and students  
of St. Thomas More Catholic School



## INTENTIONS & PRESIDERS

January 28, 2024 | 4th 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 29

8:30 AM Mass

**Dennis J. Powers**

#### Tuesday, January 30

8:30 AM Mass

**Karen L. Johnson**

#### Wednesday, January 31

8:30 AM Mass

**Pat Svabek**

9:30 AM Mass

**For All Catholic Schools**

#### Thursday, February 01

8:30 AM Mass

**Dana Wheeler**

#### Friday, February 02

8:30 AM Mass

**All Souls**

#### Saturday, February 03

8:30 AM Mass

**Onorio Flores**

5:00 PM Mass

**Maynard & Ann Decker**

**Nicholson Evans Family**

#### Sunday, February 04

8:00 AM Mass

**Helen Durrenberger Stasukaitus**

10:00 AM Mass

**People of STM**

12:00 PM Mass

**Jeffrey W. Kazale**

### Presiders

#### Saturday, February 03

8:30 AM Mass

**Fr. Ejay**

5:00 PM Mass

**Fr. Browning**

#### Sunday, February 04

8:00 AM Mass

**Fr. Browning**

10:00 AM Mass

**Fr. Ejay**

12:00 PM Mass

**Fr. Ejay**

### Adoration Candles Intentions

#### January 28 - February 03

**Linda Rakowski**

#### February 04 - February 10

**Michael Keating**

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