1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



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

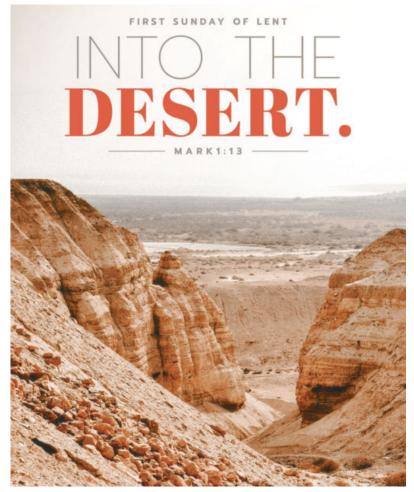
stthomasmorechurch.org/religious-education 847.888.4887

Sacraments

st thom as more church. or g/liturgy-sacraments







PARISH INFORMATION

February 18, 2024 | 1st Sunday of Lent

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Bulletin Deadlines

February 25th Bulletin

Materials Due: February 12, 2024

March 3rd Bulletin

Materials Due: February 19, 2024

"What is a firefighter's favorite part of Easter?"



"The Sprinkling Rite."



Asperges or "The Sprinkling Rite" takes places on special days. The congregation is sprinkled with holy water, recalling their baptisms.

@LP!

Q. & A. with Fr. Browning

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.

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. evangelizaton@sthomsmorechurch.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

NEWS & EVENTS

February 18, 2024 | 1st Sunday of Lent

A Letter from Fr. Browning

Lent is upon us! Jesus explained Lent's purpose in our Ash Wednesday reading: Prayer, Fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer

Lent is a time of prayer spread over 40 days. These 40 days are a journey of prayer that brings us closer to Jesus and leaves us changed by the encounter with Him. Daily Rosary, Daily Mental Prayer, Weekly Adoration, and the opportunities to grow in prayer are many.

Fasting

Lent is a time to fast. The fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines are essential spiritual practices. Fasting is a penance that helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

Another way to work on discipline is to work on a specific virtue. Practicing virtue to overcome vice brings joy in the struggle.

Lent is about dying to ourselves. It's about finding aspects of ourselves that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The passion of Christ is at the forefront of our minds during Lent. By going through our purifying passion, we can experience the resurrection of Christ. Only do what the Lord desires. Determine what is doable.

Never be discouraged by the failure that will come. Begin again. Plus, it shows us our need for God at all times.

God is patient with you. Be patient with yourself.

Almsgiving

Reach out in charity. It's about sharing God's abundance with others: Guardian Angel fund for families who need tuition assistance, Hope for Haitians, and St. Vincent de Paul Society are a few ways to share our gifts.

Learn to love like Christ. Prayer, fasting (self-discipline), and almsgiving are difficult. These will help us (re-)focus on Christ, who suffered and died for us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the Cross, where we find Jesus. In finding Him, we find life and learn to love like Christ (all-in).

In Christ,

Fr. Browning

A Letter from Fr. Ejay



KONTI LANG: "FORTY"

The number forty, like the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert, frequently denotes a period of trial or judgment. It rained for forty days and forty nights during Noah's flood. Israel spent forty years in the desert. For forty years, Moses tended

Fr. Edil Jarapa sheep in the wilderness. This is the period of Jesus' trial wherein Jesus ended up victorious over Satan. Jesus finally returned home to the Father forty days after his resurrection. All these forty days/years have beautiful endings. During this period of lent, we are encouraged to devote time to prayers, seek forgiveness for our sins, offer sacrifices and do acts of charity so that our forty days of lenten journey may become fruitful and meaningful.

Join Adult Choir for Holy Week

St. Thomas More's adult choir invites those in high school and older to join us in singing for our Holy Week services. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required. We will be singing for the following services:

- Choral Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 22, 7 p.m.
- **Palm Sunday:** Sunday, March 24, 10 a.m.
- Holy Thursday: Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.
- Good Friday: Friday, March 29, 3 p.m.
- **Easter Vigil:** Saturday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.

Practices for these services will be:

- Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 27, 7 p.m.

If you're interested in singing or would like more information, please contact **Tim Horneman**, director of music and liturgy: **music@stthomasmorechurch.org**

Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, February 20 at 9:00AM.



NEWS & EVENTS

February 18, 2024 | 1st Sunday of Lent

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.

†Swan Lourits

†Lila Moulton

†Gloria Neitzel

+Lillian Rozanski

†Patricia Tanner

†Darren Watson †Louise Wolff

+Gabriel Tomlinson

+Lillian Stern

†James Lublow

† Joan Marvanski

Lord Hear Our Prayer...

† All Souls in Purgatory

†Debbie Abbs

†Michael Abbs

†Eunice Bai

†Marjorie Brammer

†Yolanda Castro

†Al Hansen

†Jim Hansen

†Lynn Harper

†Eddy Ibe†Charlie Joseph

†Mary Joseph

. . .

†Larry Kancler

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.

Bereavement Ministry

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

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**.

STM Spotlight

Baptisms at STM

We welcome these children to God's family.



Megan Torres
Her parents Diego and Monica
and family.



Colin James, Margaret Susan, and Samantha Jean Koga Their parents Kevin and Mary

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

February 18, 2024 | 1st Sunday of Lent

Chili For Charity

The Knights of Columbus will host the 26th Annual Chili for Charity Fundraiser at St Thomas More on **Saturday**, **February 24 from 3:30p.m. - 7:00p.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





Rent for Lent



Did you know the average rental cost in Elgin is \$1500.00 per month and rising? **St. Vincent de Paul** assisted 70 families during the months of January through March

during the past 2 years.

As part of your Lenten almsgiving, please consider making a donation to St. Vincent de Paul to help those in the Elgin area who are struggling with paying for rent.

Donations may be made by:

- Taking an envelope from the table in the gathering space and placing it with your donation in the box on the table. OR
- Going on our website: https://kindest.com/412112
 -rent-for-lent

Donations for this fundraiser are accepted from February 14th through March 24th

Thank you for your support!

Hope for Haitians

Hope for Haitians has been an important charity that St. Thomas More parishioners have supported for many years. If you would like more information to give, please check the gathering space, visit https://hopeforhaitians.org/church-139/ or scan the QR code.





Night Mass

Night Mass at **6:00pm** on **Tuesday's & Thursday's** during Lent, beginning February 20.

- Fr. Browning's Daily Lenten Flocknote
 Dedicate yourself to the Lord this Lent. To join Flocknote text "stmelgin" to 84576.
- Stations of the Cross

On **Thursday's** at 2:00pm & **Friday's** at 7:00pm during Lent. Choral Stations of the Cross, on **Friday, March 22 at 7:00pm.**

Lenten Holy Hour

A evening of prayer in the presence of Jesus on **Thursday, February 22** at **6:30pm** in the Church.

Teaching Mass

A Walk through the Mass with Fr. Browning on **Wednesday**, **March 13** at **6pm** in the Church

Parish Retreat

Lenten Parish Retreat led by Fr. Browning on **Saturday, March 16** from **9:00am - 3:00pm.**

Be Reconciled

A Diocesan Day of Penance on **Wednesday**, **March 20** from **9:00am - 8:00pm**

Holy Week

INTENTIONS & PRESIDERS

February 18, 2024 | 1st Sunday of Lent

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, February 19

8:30 AM Mass

Linda Becci

Tuesday, February 20

8:30 AM Mass

Mary H. Lesniak

6:00 PM Mass

Helen M. Clemens

Wednesday, February 21

8:30 AM Mass

Richard Kotera

9:30 AM Mass

Linda Rakowski

Thursday, February 22

8:30 AM Mass

Onorio Flores

6:00 PM Mass

Jon R. Becklinger

Friday, February 23

8:30 AM Mass

Maureen Pour

Ruth Roti

Saturday, February 24

8:30 AM Mass

John Henn

5:00 PM Mass

Victor Ong Lin Un

Sunday, February 25

8:00 AM Mass

People of STM

10:00 AM Mass

Rita Lutzow

12:00 PM Mass

Ida & Francis Cox

Ella Chafee

Presiders

Saturday, February 24

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Linster

Sunday, February 25

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Browning

Adoration Candles Intentions

February 18 - February 24

The Brillo Family

February 25 - March 02

Timothy P. Hopkins

Lent Unplugged Challenge

Take the Unplugged Challenge this lent. Unplug from all electronics for a day this lent and plug into your other options. Download the Unplugged Challenge at https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/lent

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

Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & 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 Feb 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, e-mail reflect.chicagoland@gmail.com, or call 630,222,8303 for details.



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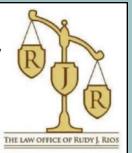
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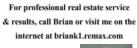


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