

MARCH 17, 2024

5TH 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 & Mr. Steve Taylor

Parish Staff

stthomasmorechurch.org/staff

School Office

stmelgin.org, 847.742.3959

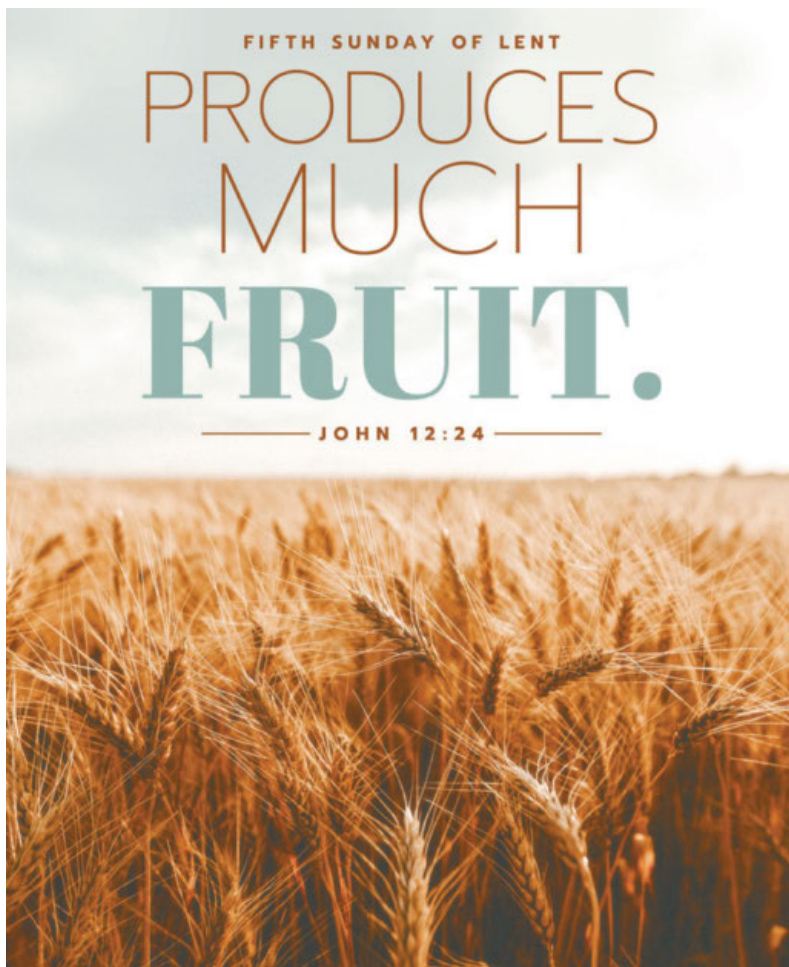
Faith Formation Office

stthomasmorechurch.org/religious-education

847.888.4887

Sacraments

stthomasmorechurch.org/liturgy-sacraments



www.stthomasmorechurch.org

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PARISH INFORMATION

March 17, 2024 | 5th Sunday of Lent

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Easter Vigil Reception

This year 32 adults will be entering the church and receiving sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Did you receive your sacraments as an adult at the Easter Vigil? Would you like to congratulate our newly received brothers and sisters? We will host a reception following the Easter Vigil Mass and we are looking for food donations. Light appetizers and desserts, and drinks. Early delivery of donations can be arranged. Please pray for all these men and women.



If you would like to donate please use this link to let us know what you will bring. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054EA8AE2EA1FF2-48408511-easter>

Be Reconciled

On **Wednesday, March 20th** every church in the Rockford Diocese will be hosting Be Reconciled Day. St. Thomas More will have priests here to hear Confessions from **9:00am - 8:00pm**.

In preparation for your Confession, you should do the following:

- Set aside some time, find a quiet place, and ask God to be with you in your preparation.
- Ask God to reveal to you all that you need to share during confession.
- Find an examination of conscience. You can find one on our website stthomasmorechurch.org/reconciliation.
- If it makes you feel more comfortable you can write your sins down and bring that paper with you to Confession.

Upon arriving at Confession:

- Make the sign of the cross.
- Say, "Bless me Father for I have sinned, it has been ____ (time frame) since my last confession."
- Begin to tell him your sins. When you are finished let him know by saying "I am sorry for these sins and any sins I cannot remember at this time."
- Then listen to Father and any advice he may want to share and also for the penance he will assign to you.
- Pray the Act of Contrition (a copy of this prayer is in our Confessionals)



• Do the penance given to you.
What a beautiful feeling of God's merciful love you will have upon completion.

Bulletin Deadlines

March 24th Bulletin – *Early Deadline*

Materials Due: **March 11, 2024**

March 31st Bulletin - *Early Deadline*

Materials Due: **March 15, 2024**

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!

A Letter from Fr. Browning



Fr. Ryan Browning

On Wednesday, March 20, the Diocese of Rockford will celebrate Be Reconciled. Every parish will have confessions available from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Confession is a great way to prepare yourselves for Holy Week and Easter graces.

Whether you have been away from confession for a month or many years, we are always ready to welcome you back and help you experience God's mercy. There is nothing we've done that God can't forgive except the sins we won't bring to Him in sorrow. He doesn't want you to carry the weight of those sins any longer. He died on the Cross and rose from the dead so that you could experience the same resurrection in grace in the confessional.

You can find some helpful resources on our website: <https://stthomasmorechurch.org/reconciliation>

Reconciliation/Confessionstthomasmorechurch.org. Do not be afraid! God's mercy and freedom await you. It will change your life.

In God's merciful love,
Fr. Browning

Location of Blessed Sacrament

Q: Why do parishes have the Blessed Sacrament in a separate room?

A: While many Catholics of a certain age have memories of the Blessed Sacrament being housed in the tabernacle on the high altar of the church, many parishes in the decades since the Second Vatican Council have chosen to build a separate space - a reservation chapel - where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. of parish life. The practice of reserving the Eucharist in a separate space - or in a dignified location away from the altar where Mass is celebrated - is that it emphasizes the importance of the liturgy itself, which is the "source and summit" of the life of the Church.

The important thing is that as communities question where to place the tabernacle, they listen to the voice of the Church, explore the ancient and varied liturgical tradition of the Church, consider the needs and life of the community, and also take into account the architecture and limits of the spaces they might already have. ©LPI

A Letter from Fr. Ejay



Fr. Edil Jarapa

KONTI LANG: "Seeing Jesus"

Remember that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the magi from the east looked for Jesus and was seen in the cradle. This time, Greeks from the west are looking for Jesus in Jerusalem, not because of the sign from the sky but out of curiosity about Jesus, who is becoming popular among Jews. His reputation as a great teacher and miracle worker spreads exponentially. Being in a perfect time and place, beyond what they are about to see is a martyr and savior who would be crucified a cross. Thus, they would know fully Jesus' identity and mission. Today, seeing Jesus is not enough. We need to get closer to Him. We must know Jesus through his words, feel Jesus through our prayers, receive Jesus through the sacraments and proclaim Jesus through our witnessing.

Adorers Needed

Spend an hour with Jesus in our St. Joseph Chapel on **Fridays** at **1:00AM**

Sign up at stthomasmorechurch.org/adoration

Hope for Haitians

Imagine bringing Hope to a family who doesn't know how they will survive the next month, week or



even the next day. They have no income, little or no food and no

access to clean water. With your help, Hope for Haitians helps provide sustainable sources of food for each family in a village by supplying animals such as chickens, goats, cows, and other livestock. The villagers are taught about animal husbandry, raising chickens for Meat or eggs, milking goats or cows and tending to their livestock to expand their possibilities. Families grow



in health and look forward to a brighter future. Please donate through our parish Lenten appeal to help Hope for Haitians continue to provide animals to sustain a more productive lifestyle.

Information is available in the gathering space, visit <https://hopeforhaitians.org/church-139/> or scan the QR code.



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

† Mary Baron

† Daria Bernardi

† Marjorie Brammer

† Yolanda Castro

† Bill Genzler

† Dianna Giardino

† Al Hansen

† Jim Hansen

† Lynn Harper

† Eddy Ibe

† Charlie Joseph

† Mary Joseph

† Larry Kancier

† Karen Leinen

† Swan Lourits

† James Lublow

† Jerry Martinez

† Joan Maryanski

† Chef Mathieu

† Fran Meek

† William Meek

† Lila Moulton

† Gloria Neitzel

† Barbara Pruter

† Manuel Roman

† Lillian Rozanski

† Patricia Tanner

† Gabriel Tomlinson

† Nathan Van De Voorde

† Darren Watson

† Monica Wojcik

† Louise Wolff

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**.

Bereavement Ministry

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

STM Spotlight

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

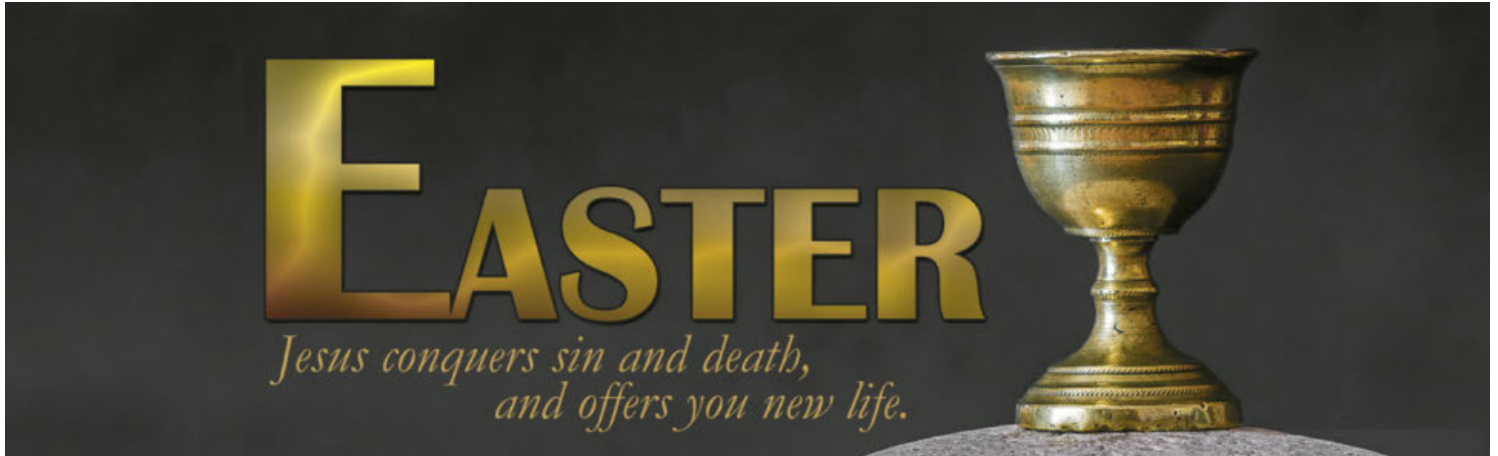
This is a picture of my family last night of the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. My daughter and family on the phone (FaceTime) and happy that everyone was able to join except my oldest grandson who was working.

~ Emma Rafael



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

March 17, 2024 | 5th Sunday of Lent



PALM SUNDAY

March 23...5PM

**March 24...8AM,
10AM & 12PM**

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the
Lord's Supper
(with incense)

March 28 .. 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Liturgy of the
Lord's Passion

March 29 .. 3PM

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Food Blessing
March 30 .. 11:00AM

Easter Vigil Mass
(with incense)

March 30.. 7:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31

8AM

10AM

12PM

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday

Question:

Where do Palm Sunday palms come from and where should they go?

Answer:

The Palm Sunday celebration has ancient origins. Beginning the liturgy "outside" the church, we symbolically reenact Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The crowds in ancient Israel waved palm branches – a symbol of royalty – to welcome Jesus. These days, obtaining palms takes a lot of planning and coordination, as hundreds of thousands of churches worldwide need them on the same day! Many in the United States order palms from Florida, California, Texas, or Central America. Many companies stress the sustainability of their production and the just wages paid to their workers.

The palms used on Palm Sunday are blessed at Mass. This means they shouldn't end up in the trash! Many people weave palms into crosses or families display them in their homes. If you do not plan on displaying your palms throughout the year, they should be burned, buried, or left at the church. In the final case, the palms are burned to provide the ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday service. ©LPi



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." We must die to self to give more in our marriage. Learn how to be the best spouse possible by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences on **April 27-28 in Mundelein, IL** or **June 28-30 in Rockford**. For more info go to: wwme.org or call **888.574.5653**.

INTENTIONS & PRESIDERS

March 17, 2024 | 5th 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, March 18

8:30 AM Mass

Richard & Rick Palcowski

Tuesday, March 19

8:30 AM Mass

Linda Becci

9:30 AM Mass

Joseph Gulik (sp. int.)

6:00 PM Mass

Judith Wetterman

Wednesday, March 20

8:30 AM Mass

Raymond Bellock & Frank Orfie

Thursday, March 21

8:30 AM Mass

The Gustek Family

6:00 PM Mass

Salvatore & Josephine Migliore

Friday, March 22

8:30 AM Mass

Margaret Watson

Saturday, March 23

8:30 AM Mass

Timothy Hopkins

5:00 PM Mass

Jeanette Calma Tablada

Blessings for the Mitchell Family

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday

8:00 AM Mass

People of STM

10:00 AM Mass

John Henn

12:00 PM Mass

Marilyn Kerber

Presiders

Saturday, March 23

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Browning

Sunday, March 24

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Linster

Adoration Candles Intentions

March 17 - March 23

Vanessa N. Rodriguez

March 24 - March 30

Linda McEwan

Prayer for Mental

This month the Pope asks us to pray for the new martyrs. Some saints who were martyred lived with a mental illness. Examples are Saint Oscar Romero who lived with obsessive compulsive disorder, Blessed Rutilio Grande who lived with schizophrenia, and Saint Mark Ji Tianxiang who lived with addiction. These martyrs demonstrate that mental illness does not prevent a person from living a life of great holiness and heroic love of God and neighbor. We pray that these saints inspire us to, in the words of Pope Francis, "Never tire of bearing witness to the Gospel, even in times of tribulation".





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