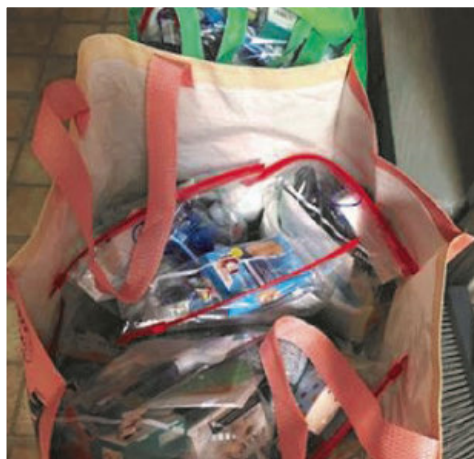


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Parochial Vicar

Father "Ejay" Edil Jarapa
associate@stthomasmorechurch.org

Deacons

Mr. Jack Roder
Mr. David Deitz

Parish Staff

stthomasmorechurch.org/staff

www.stthomasmorechurch.org

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 8:30 AM 5 PM
Sunday 8 AM 10 AM 12 PM

Daily Mass Schedule

Rosary 8:00 AM
Daily 8:30 AM

Reconciliation

Tuesday 5:30 PM
Thursday 9 AM
Saturday 9 AM 1 PM

Perpetual Adoration

Sunday 1 PM - **Saturday** 1 PM
stthomasmorechurch.org/adoration

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4:30 PM
847.888.1682

School Office

stmelgin.org
847.742.3959

Faith Formation Office

stthomasmorechurch.org
/religious-education
847.888.4887

PARISH GREETINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

WELCOME Parishioners

Our Mission is to embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ (sacrificial love of God and others) through living a Catholic life strengthened by the Sacraments, nourished by a dedicated prayer life and lived out by loving service to all peoples. Join us and find the purpose and meaning that leads to the fullness of life.

SACRAMENTAL Information

Baptism

stthomasmorechurch.org/baptism

Baptism for children is celebrated Sundays at 1:00pm. See our website for more information.

Matrimony

stthomasmorechurch.org/marriage

Call the parish office to make an appointment with a priest to begin all marriage preparation.

Sick & Homebound

Call the parish office if you are unable to come to church and would like to receive Holy Communion.

Anointing of the Sick

stthomasmorechurch.org/anointing-of-the-sick

Call the parish office to make arrangements to receive this sacrament.

RCIA (Becoming Catholic)

stthomasmorechurch.org/becoming-catholic

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a journey together in search of God.

SUPPORT Information

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**.

Bereavement Ministry

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

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**.

BULLETIN Deadlines

January 16th Bulletin

Materials Due: **January 03, 2022**

January 23rd Bulletin

Materials Due: **January 10, 2022**

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PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

LETTER from Fr. Browning

The New Year brings an opportunity for spiritual renewal. It is time to evaluate our life of faith. Jesus said, "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well (Mt 6:33)." If we made this our daily goal, we would quickly progress in our spiritual life. I propose three areas on which to focus.

- 1) The **Eucharist** is the source and summit of our faith. This year renew your dedication to Sunday Mass and Holy Days. God commands us to go to Mass not because He needs us to worship Him but because He knows we need it. The best way to pray and grow in holiness outside of Mass is Adoration. Please consider dedicating an hour a week to adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
- 2) **Confession** is a sacrament of healing. It is the sacrament that reconciles us with the Father, the Church, and one another. When we sin mortally, we have separated ourselves from the grace that saves us. We need to repent and begin again. The biblical image is of the paralyzed man on the stretcher brought to Jesus. He is first forgiven of his

sins and then healed. Spiritually this is what happens in confession. Make it a regular family practice this year. It's incredible, do not be afraid!

- 3) **Prayer** is a conversation with God. It is the raising of our mind and heart to God. All of the Saints speak of the necessity of prayer for our salvation. Pick up my "Prayer Prescription" booklet on how to pray. Be faithful to a specific time of prayer each day. Persevere when it isn't easy. When you fail (you will, I do), begin again!

These three practices will help us put into place Jesus' command to seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness. We will grow together as a parish family. We will become disciples who share Jesus with others. We will find God's peace and goodness amidst the sufferings of this life. We will grow in holiness.

May God bless this New Year,
Fr. Browning

P.S.: check out our pro-life ministry webpage for all of the activities coming up in January. <https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/pro-life>

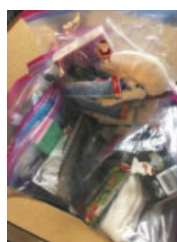
Encounter Weekend

DECEMBER

Thanks to all who joined us for the our Encounter Weekend for the month of December. We hope to see you at the next event. All are welcome!



Thank You St. Thomas More School Families!



School families donated toiletry items to be shared with nursing home residents and others. The generosity of the school families greatly benefitted our local community! We were able to generously fill 22 bags for nursing home residents, 40 bags

for Soup Kitchen, as well as other items given to St. Vincent DePaul.

Many thanks to Mrs. Keane, school principal, for her help in this Christmas goodie drive, and all the teachers who collected the donations as they came in.

A big thanks to the families that took the time to purchase and donate items that can be used by those in our community.



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

† All affected by COVID-19

† Maria Abbinanti

† Sebastian Abbinanti

† Bill Afryl

† Mabel Allen

† Michelle Bailey

† Briana Bidro

† Lauren Calo

† Ana Carrillo

† Dianna Giardino

† Dominick Girardi

† Linda Girardi

† Emmanuel Gumapas

† Trina Higgins

† Shirley Kinsella

† Rita Lutzow

† William Meek

† Paul Messina

† Gloria Neitzel

† Joanne Nowak

† Chuck Pruter

† Lutie Regan

† Janet Roman

† Lisa Roman

† Manuel Roman

† Diane Schumacher

† Jo Ann Sperkowski

† Rich Sutton

† Douglas Steichen

† Wojcik Family

† Heather Wydra

SYMPATHY List

Rest In Peace

† All Souls

READINGS of the Day

<https://bible.usccb.org/>

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB's) mission is to encounter the mercy of Christ and to accompany His people with joy. Visit the link above for podcast audio, videos and daily prayers.

PARISH Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, January 3, 2022** to celebrate the new year!

Hope you all have a blessed beginning to the 2022 new year!

PRO Life

Saturday, January 8, 2022 - Chicago March for Life www.marchforlifechicago.org. If you would like information about going contact Rebecca Hendershott at mammalaughs@gmail.com

SPOTLIGHT

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

BAPTISMS at STM

We welcome
this child to
God's family.



Congratulations to **Micah Panyasiri** on his Baptism Day!

HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

Get Involved 2022

A new year is a new opportunity to consider how you can be of service to your parish. We love our volunteers and volunteers tell us that the rewards from serving are great! Meeting new people and making a difference in our parish. Check the list below and let us know if you see a place that you can help.

Weekend Volunteers

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

Requirements; all ministers need to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church and if they are, or have been, married, their marriage needs to have been celebrated in the Catholic Church. Ministers can serve at the Mass times of their choice but we are especially in need of those who will serve at the noon Mass.

Altar Servers

Requirements; boys and girls age 5th grade through high school. Training is provided and servers can choose the Mass times they wish to serve.

Welcome Ministry

Requirements; greet and welcome parishioners as they arrive, guide people to a pew if they need assistance, remove collection at the end of Mass.

Bell Choir

Requirements; a willingness to learn! All ages welcome. Previous music experience not necessary. See our music ministry website to sign up.

Flexible Schedule Volunteers

Minister of Hope

Requirement; Ministers of Hope help with funerals. Set up for the Mass, offer direction for family members who will participate in the Mass. Training is provided.

Drop-off Baby Shower

When: January 15th & 16th

Where: St. Thomas More Narthex

Benefits Corbella Clinic and TLC Pregnancy Services

Greatest Need:

- New Outfits, sleepers or onesie: sizes 0-3 month, 3-6 month, 12month to 4T (boys and girls)
- Gently used children's clothing: 12months to size 5 (boys & girls)
- Baby towels
- Baby socks
- Baby wash and shampoo
- Diapers: sizes 3, 4 & 5
- Young women and maternity clothing (gently used is fine)

Communion to the homebound and nursing homes

Requirements; We have an ongoing need for volunteers to bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are in local nursing homes or homebound because of illness or who are recovering from surgical events. We provide training to those interested. Schedules for when volunteers visit can be very flexible. Volunteers need to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church and if they are, or have been, married, their marriage needs to have been celebrated in the Catholic Church

Those Who like to Cook!

Requirements; We have several opportunities for you to share your love of cooking with others.

- **Funeral Luncheons** Cook a side dish for a funeral luncheon. You would be notified when a family has requested a funeral luncheon and given the day and time to drop off your dish.
- **PADS** You can cook part of a meal for the homeless at PADS on either the first or third Fridays of each month. We have already designed the menu and you can choose which part you'd like to prepare and deliver to PADS in Elgin.
- **Meals for priests** We also have parishioners who are preparing a meal twice a week for our priests.

Perpetual Adoration

Requirements; commit to sitting in the Adoration Chapel one hour each week. This is a life changing opportunity. Our website will help you to sign up. You can choose any day and time you like but our website will indicate current times where we have the greatest need.

To sign-up, or for more information visit

stthomasmorechurch.org/get-involved-2022

First Communion

Congratulations to the **Mendez sisters** who made their First Communion on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



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, January 03

8:30 AM Mass

**Ruth Roti (sp. int.)
Colleen Phelan**

Tuesday, January 04

8:30 AM Mass

Rev. Anthony F. Pantyra

Wednesday, January 05

8:30 AM Mass

Barbara Weiss

9:30 AM Mass (School staff and students only)

John & Doris Pitale

Thursday, January 06

8:30 AM Mass

Rev. John T. Heraty S.T.L.

Friday, January 07

8:30 AM Mass

All Souls

Saturday, January 08

8:30 AM Mass

Charles Miller

5:00 PM Mass

**Maynard & Ann Decker
Tom & Laverne Gibson**

Sunday, January 09

8:00 AM Mass

Menke Family (sp. int.)

10:00 AM Mass

People of STM

12:00 PM Mass

**Greg & Linda Stevens
George Gaston**

Presiders

Saturday, January 08

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Browning

Sunday, January 09

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Ejay

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Linster

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Browning

Adoration Candles Intentions

January 02 - January 08

Special Intentions for: Elizabeth (Lisa) Roman, Janet Roman, Manuel Roman

January 09 - January 15

Frank Ybarra

DEFEND THE UNBORN

ROCKFORD WALK FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2022 • 11 AM
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We will begin with a rally and then walk several blocks past the State of IL building, and back to the Federal Courthouse to conclude in prayer.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

Pastor Charlie Heffellinger - Calvary Chapel, Rockford
 Mary Kate Knorr - President & Founder of Feminae Vero
 Dr. Steve Jacobs - Program Director at Illinois Right to Life
 Jeanna Desideri - Executive Director of Corbella Clinic, Elgin

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