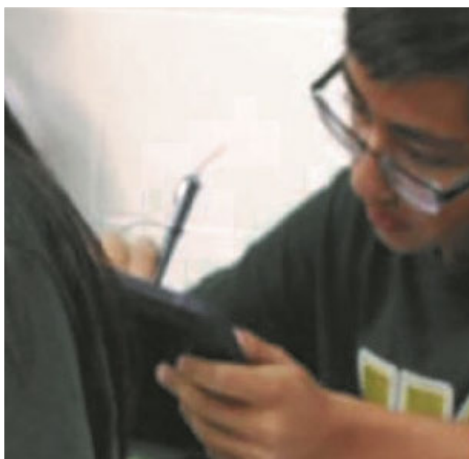


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www.fatherbrowning.com

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 23rd Bulletin

Materials Due: **January 10, 2022**

January 30th Bulletin

Materials Due: **January 17, 2022**

Share your experiences and photos with us.

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PARISH NEWS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

LETTER from Fr. Browning

We celebrate the Baptism of the Lord this weekend. It brings our attention to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus allows John to baptize him to fulfill all righteousness – preparing himself to be a perfect sacrifice for us.

The Baptism of the Lord reminds us of our baptism. In a homily on the Baptism of the Lord, Pope Benedict XVI said, "baptism is communion with the One who conquered death and holds in his hand the keys of life. Belonging to this circle, to God's family, means being in communion with Christ, who is life and gives eternal love beyond death."

Spend some time this week in prayer on the gift of your baptism. Pray for your parents, your godparents, and the priest who baptized you.

Thank God for the gift of baptism, which incorporates

us into Jesus. Baptism forgives us of all sin, original and personal sin (if baptized as an adult). Baptism not only purifies us from all sins but also makes us "a new creation" and an adopted son or daughter of God. As an adopted child of God, we become a "partaker of the divine nature," a member of Christ and co-heir to heaven with him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit (see 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Peter 1:4; cf. Galatians 4:5-7; See 1 Corinthians 6:15; 12:27; Romans 8:17).

Baptism makes us members of God's family - the Church. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. Baptism has opened the gates of heaven to us, and the Church provides the means to get there through the other sacraments.

What a gift indeed! Thank you, Jesus!

In Christ,
Fr. Browning



January 15-16, 2022

The National Appeal, the first of the 3 combined appeals for 2022, allows you to donate to one or more separate collections that support the Universal Catholic Church

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

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

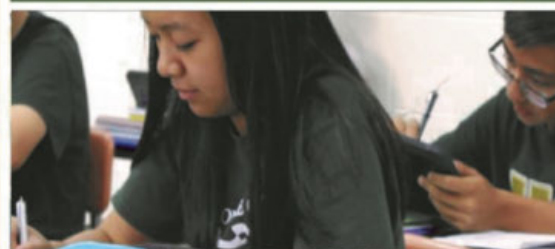
A HUGE Thank You to everyone who helped decorate and prepare our worship space for Advent and Christmas! Your amazing talent, hard work and support added so much to our celebrations!

If you are interested in becoming part of the incredible Arts & Environment team, please call the parish office to leave your name and number or drop an email to shall@stthomasmorechurch.org to be added to our notification list. There are no major commitments - come help when you can, share ideas and talents, or be a prayer warrior for the team!



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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

† Belinda Mockler

† 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.

THANK You!!

These organizations would like to give a big thank you to all who have donated.



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FR. SCOTT DONAHUE

LITTLE FLOWER Prayer Group

New prayer group forming for those interested in group prayer. Will meet the **first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:15am** in the Chelsea Room.

First meeting will be Thursday January 20.

All are welcome.

SPOTLIGHT

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

DROP-OFF Baby Shower

When: **January 15th & 16th**

Where: **St. Thomas More Gathering Space**

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)



HAPPENINGS

St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin

New Year 2022

**How can you make 2022 a year that changes your relationship with Jesus?
Set a plan to focus on your spiritual and physical health.**

God made us body and spirit and now is the time to look at how to honor these two gifts from God.

Soul

Prayer

It's that simple and that complicated. The only way to honor your soul is to pray. Prayer is the relationship you build with Jesus. You cannot know Him if you don't pray. If you don't know how to pray tell Him that and sit still and listen. He will begin to open your

heart and your mind to who He is. But just like all your important relationships you have to make time to be together. Choose a time in your day that is just for prayer. Put it in your calendar with an alarm to remind you until it becomes automatic to your day.

Ways to enhance your prayer

Confession

starting with a clean soul is a great way to prepare for prayer. Go now and set an alarm for one month, or sooner, to go again and keep that date.

Mass

Get to Mass on Sundays and as many other days as you can. Masstimes.org will tell you where and when Daily Mass is celebrated every day near where you live or work. Can't physically get there? Listen to our livestream Mass recorded daily on our YouTube channel.

Rosary

if you know it, pray it. If you don't know it, learn it. There are many different websites and apps that can teach you the Rosary.

Adoration

Commit to one hour each week to sit with Jesus and pray and discuss all the big and small stuff in your life. One hour. You can do it.

Intercession

ask a Saint for their prayers. Ask a good holy friend to pray for you that you can be strengthened on this journey in 2022. Pray for them.

Read or Listen

Scripture is the best thing you can add to your reading list. If you'd like some guidance, look for *Fr. Mike Schmitz's Bible In A Year* and begin. It's an excellent resource. Add good Catholic books to your reading list. Lots of great choices available to increase your knowledge of the faith and provide thought for your prayer life. Catholic Podcasts are wonderful too. Many just for women or men, couples, young adults, current Catholic topics, lots of choices. Add television stations like EWTN to your television. FORMED is another great Catholic source that can be added to smart TV's.

Body

You know your body better than anyone. What one thing can you do to honor your body that perhaps needs your attention?

Movement

If you know you should move more steps in a day then begin today. Walk around the block. Park at the back of the parking lot. Think to yourself; "these extra steps, or this extra movement, strengthens and honors my body."

Nutrition

Which foods can I choose to eat that will better honor and fuel my body? Choose them. Am I drinking enough water each day to hydrate my body and mind? A foggy brain can be a sign of dehydration.

Which foods and drinks, especially alcohol, need to be reduced or eliminated because they are not honoring your body?

**The answer to many of these questions may feel too difficult to act upon.
Growth and change cannot happen without effort. Choose effort.**

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 10

8:30 AM Mass

Gloria Askew

Tuesday, January 11

8:30 AM Mass

Michael Burke

Wednesday, January 12

8:30 AM Mass

Ruth & Robert Evans

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

Barb Weiss

Thursday, January 13

8:30 AM Mass

Chuck Benson (sp. int.)

Friday, January 14

8:30 AM Mass

John & Pam Urquhart (sp. int.)

Saturday, January 15

8:30 AM Mass

Thanksgiving for January birthday celebrants in the Bayona family

5:00 PM Mass

Fred Taeyaerts

Patricia O'Connor and Robert Evans Jr.

Sunday, January 16

8:00 AM Mass

Jesse Meek

10:00 AM Mass

Mary Jane Nogal

12:00 PM Mass

People of STM

Presiders

Saturday, January 15

8:30 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

5:00 PM Mass

Fr. Linster

Sunday, January 16

8:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

10:00 AM Mass

Fr. Browning

12:00 PM Mass

Fr. Ejay

Adoration Candles Intentions

January 09 - January 15

Frank Ybarra


January 16 - January 22

Donna J. Benz

DEFEND THE UNBORN

ROCKFORD WALK FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2022 • 11 AM
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE: 237 S. CHURCH STREET, ROCKFORD



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 Heffelfinger - 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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