

St. Thomas More Mission

June 25-26, 2022



Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 26
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 3

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil, 4:30 pm & Sunday, 10:00 am

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday, 12:00 pm & Saturday, 3:00 pm

Devotions

First Friday, 12:00 pm Mass, followed by Adoration, First Friday Prayers and the Rosary.
First Saturday, 3:00 pm Mass, followed by Adoration, Marian Devotions and the Rosary.

Sacrament of Confession

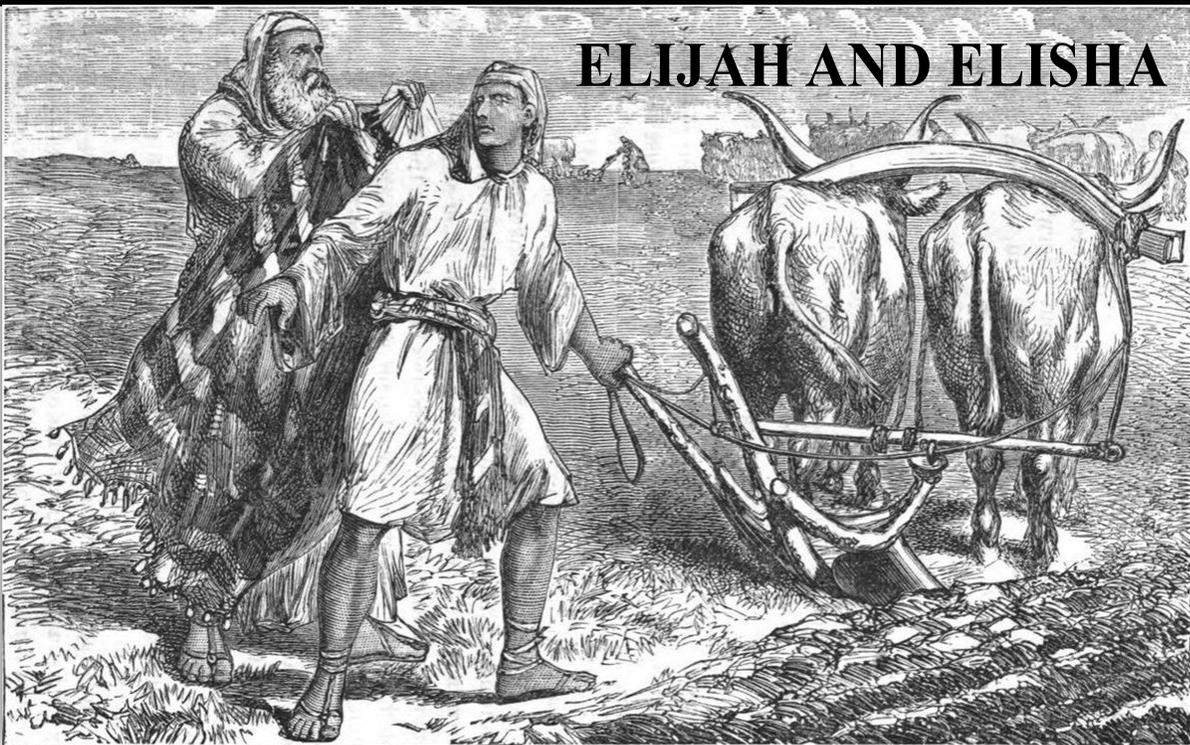
Saturday, 3:30-4:20 pm
Sunday, 9:30-9:50 am
Thursdays, 12:45-2:00 pm

Also, you may request an appointment for confession.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays, 12:30-2:00 pm

The story of the prophets Elisha and Elijah is found in Sacred Scripture. While Elijah's name means, "The Lord is God," Elisha's name means "God is Salvation." The relationship between Elisha and Elijah in the Bible was one of teacher and student. Elijah was the teacher and Elisha was the student. In the Old Testament, we find the story of two of the most notable prophets from the Bible helping to restore Israel in a time of wicked rulers.



In 1 Kings 17, Elijah is initially presented as the seer who foretold a three-year drought in the land of Israel. Back then, Israel was ruled by corrupted Kings whose wickedness brought a terrible drought upon the land. Elijah, living in the desert, is saved by God when ravens bring him food amidst the drought that he himself had predicted. Elijah then travels to the home of a widow and her son where God had promised to provide food until the drought has ceased.

The tale proceeds as Elijah confronts the evil king, Ahab, about being the cause of problems for the people of Israel. Elijah dares Ahab to a challenge of his deity, Baal, versus the God of Elijah at Mount Carmel. The challenge is to offer sacrifices to their own deities and see which starts a fire to show their divinity. Ahab's prophets pray for hours to Baal but nothing happens. When it is Elijah's turn he boldly soaks the sacrament with water to display his supreme trust in God to start a fire despite being wet.

After Elijah's victory over the prophets of Baal when he called down fire from heaven, the drought ended. Rain fell, and Elijah retreated from the evil Queen Jezebel, who had sworn to kill him (1 Kings 19). Reaching Mount Horeb, Elijah heard the voice of God tell him to anoint two kings as well as Elisha as a prophet. He did this, and Elisha promptly joined him (1 Kings 19:19-21). In 2 Kings 1, Elijah again called down fire from heaven to slay two groups of 50 men sent from King Ahaziah. The third group of men was led by a commander who pleaded for mercy and was spared retribution. Elijah went to Ahaziah and declared the king would die from his sickness, a prophecy that was soon filled.

Elijah and Elisha traversed the Jordan River on dry land (2 Kings 2), and Elisha, being enlightened that Elijah would soon pass away, asked to be blessed with a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elijah was then carried heavenward by a chariot of fire. Elisha picked up Elijah's mantle and used it to cross the Jordan again on dry land. He received the double portion he had asked for and performed many miracles in Israel. Among Elisha's miracles were the turning of bad water into clean water (2 Kings 2:19-22), making a widow's oil to fill many jars (2 Kings 4:1-7), and even raising a boy from the dead (2 Kings 4:32-37).

Elijah and Elisha were both very regarded by those in the "school of prophets" (2 Kings 4:38-41) as well as by the rulers of their country. Their influence led to an awakening among some of the Israelites during a dismal stage of Israel's history. Through the corrupt reigns of Ahab and Ahaziah, God trusted in Elijah and Elisha to lead the charge for righteousness.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office

2825 West 81st St., Chicago, IL 60652
Phone 773-436-4444 - Fax 773-778-9087
Email address: stmrc@comcast.net
Visit our official Facebook page at:
St. Thomas More Chicago
Website address:
<http://stthomasmorecatholicchurch.org/>

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Friday-Sunday - Closed

Rectory

Rev. Scott Haynes, Associate Pastor

Business Manager

Pat Lave

Coordinator of Religious Ed

Debbie Ksycki

Registration

New parishioners should register at the parish office.

Religious Goods Store

Open on the third weekend of the month.

SACRAMENTS

Visitations

Hospital or Homebound; Please contact the Parish Office at 773-436-4444 as soon as possible for Communion, Confession or Anointing of the Sick.

Marriage

Registered and supporting members should call the parish office. A date should not be set until consulting with the Pastor.

Baptism

Registered parishioners should contact the parish office.

Funeral

Registered parishioners should contact the parish office.

Bulletin

Please submit all requests for bulletin announcement on Mondays by 10:00 am.

Contact information for Fr. Derran Combs:

frderran.STMM22@gmail.com

312-372-5111 ext. 1377

SUNDAY, June 26

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am Ann McGetrick (Bob & Joanice Kellam)
Deceased Members of Ugochukwu, Ekechukwu
& Madu Families
Dolores Pogor Maria Smilga)

MONDAY, June 27

St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

12:00 pm Dolores Pogor
Lorimer Cruz
Dr. Ana Manglano Oualle (Pat & Bill Collins)

TUESDAY, June 28

St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

12:00 pm Stase Mikelevicius
Arsenio Cruz
Margaret Harmeyer (Debbie & George Ksycki & Family)

WEDNESDAY, June 29

Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles

12:00 pm Thomas J. Schmitz, Jr.
Deceased Members of James Dwyer &
Martin Igoe Families (Peggy Dwyer)
Bill & Sue Ascroft (Burke Family)

THURSDAY, June 30

The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

12:00 pm For the Repose of the Soul of Fr. John P. Frawley &
The Holy Souls in Purgatory (Don & Mary Tadda)
Anne Greeley
Repose of the Soul of Mrs. Levin (Bloom & Jaskolski)

FRIDAY, July 1

St. Junipero Serra, Priest

12:00 pm Health & Blessings for Mike Lave
Edgardo Tabora
Spiritual & Health Blessings for Mr. Levin
(Bloom & Jaskolski)

SATURDAY, July 2

BVM

3:00 pm Poor Souls in Purgatory
Frank & Dorothy DeRoo (Burke Family)
Fr. John P. Frawley

(Vigil Mass)

4:30 pm For the Parishioners

- DePaul Center for Marriage/Family Counseling
Fr. Bob Rohrich, 212 E. Custer St., Lemont, IL
630-257-9235
- Catholic Charities:
General Number 312-655-7000
Counseling Center: 312-655-7725
- Catholictherapists.com
- <http://www.purityispossible.com/>
- Project Rachel (post-abortion healing): 888-456-4673
- Suicide Prevention: 800-273-8255

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THE SICK



Janet Abramic
Sandy Badke
Crispin Bofinger
Sarah Dalton
Ed Demske
Elaine Eberhardt
Diane & Jim Flaherty
Sandra Halper

William & Theresa Jendzio
Daniel Jiminez
Maria Jiminez
Rebecca Jiminez
John Kniecik
Cathy Lahart
Mike Lave
Kenneth Novickis

Louis & Jeanine
Tricia Quasthoff
Walter Quasthoff
Len Reilly
Sr. Maria-Paulina
Phyllis Spizzirri
Mary Tadda
Ken Watterson

*Omnipotent and eternal God, the everlasting Salvation of those who believe,
hear us on behalf of Thy sick.*

STS. PETER AND PAUL

Fr. Scott A. Haynes

www.mysticaltheologyofthemass.com

Today we commemorate two of the great New Testament heroes, St. Peter and St. Paul. Both these men were called to be missionaries. St. Clement of Rome, who I believe was the second bishop of Rome after St. Peter, was among the first to write about the joint role of Sts Peter and Paul and about the fact that Sts. Peter and Paul each suffered martyrdom. St Irenaeus, writing in the second century, stated that the Church at Rome was “the greatest and most ancient Church, founded by the two glorious apostles, Peter and Paul.”

And it was not only Popes and Bishops who revered Sts. Peter and Paul. Archaeological investigations in the twentieth century revealed lots of inscriptions dating from about the year 250—inscriptions like “Paul and Peter, make intercession for Victor” and “Peter and Paul, do not forget Antonius Bassus.” And yet these great saints were real people with faults. They were not marble statues polished to perfection but were men of flesh and blood, who sometimes sinned. St. Peter who had been the most devoted follower of Christ, and who publicly recognized Jesus in the presence of all the other disciples, as the son of the living God, who said that he would follow Him to death—this same Peter denied Christ three times in one night.

According to the opinion of St. Augustine, our Lord permitted this, first, because Peter relied too much on his own strength: secondly, that Peter, whom Christ intended to be His Vicar on Earth, should learn to feel compassion when great sinners would come to him and ask forgiveness of their misdeeds. From Peter’s fall we should learn the following lesson. Despise no one who has committed great wrong, especially if such a one has repented and is on the way to living a better life. Never reproach him with his crimes; but consider that in similar circumstances, you would have done the same thing or worse.

Continued on page 5.

FOR ALL WHO SERVE IN THE MILITARY INCLUDING:



PFC Michael Chesna, Marines
MSG Kevin Daley
Cpl. Brian Husum
AZ2 Marcellus J. Lane - R.I.P.
PVT. Andy Oziemkiewicz
PFC. Luis Rosales
LCPL. Xavier Rosales

THANK YOU FOR OUR FREEDOM!

OUR FINANCES ~ *Your Gifts Matter*

COLLECTIONS

6/4/22	\$3,441.00
Debt Reduction	\$710.45

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

If you have not fallen like St. Peter—if you have never been a great sinner, give thanks to the Almighty for shielding you so graciously thus far, and take care that you do not fall. Secondly: never trust too implicitly in your own strength, for pride comes before the fall. But notice that Jesus does not condemn Peter after these triple denials. No. Rather, Christ looked compassionately on Peter, reproaching him with his fault, and this brought about Peter's contrition. Peter wept bitterly and went away from the place where he had sinned, and with his whole heart, repented of his misdeed.

This repentance he continued while he lived, although he had the assurance that Christ had forgiven him. Let this be an example of true penance to all of us. Once you realize your sin don't wallow in it. Repent with your whole heart, and confess it, as soon as possible, to a priest. Then resolve firmly to avoid all near occasions of sin—stay away from people, places and things that lead you into sin. But even when you have done all that was necessary to free you from your guilt, still, so long as life lasts, never cease to repent of the evil you committed. All true penitents act in this manner. King David, in the old Testament, was assured, by the mouth of the prophet, that his sins were forgiven; yet he repented of them; daily. How often he asked God to forgive him may be seen in his Psalms. "I will wash my bed, I will water my couch with my tears," says he. (Ps. 6).



Somewhere else he says, that he has shed rivers of tears, at the remembrance of his iniquities. Saint John Chrysostom comments that David. "In one night he committed sin, but he wept over it all other nights." A saint from the 4th century, St. James of Nisibis comments, "Today, people pass many whole nights in sin, and think that a single hour's weeping over them is sufficient." Don't act that way. Follow the examples of King David and St. Peter, and let not a day pass without repenting of your sins and praying to God to forgive them. St. James of Nisibis says, "We must wash away, by continual tears, the iniquity of which we have even once been guilty."

Continued on page 6.

Let's look now at St. Paul. Once St Paul converted he suffered for the true Faith even more intently than he had persecuted the Church. At one point many Christians were afraid for St Paul to travel from Caesarea to Jerusalem. But neither tears nor prayers could detain him. "I, am ready," said Paul, "not only to be bound in Jerusalem, but also to die for the name of Jesus."

He proved his words by deeds. When he arrived at Jerusalem, he immediately went into the temple to pray, but hardly had the Jews seen him, when they dragged him out of the temple and would certainly have killed him with their blows, had not the Tribune, Claudius Lysias, hastily appeared with his soldiers and released him from their fury.

He, however, took him prisoner and sent him to Caesarea to the Governor Felix, who, although he found him innocent, kept him in prison. Festus, his successor, would have sent him back to Jerusalem that he might be judged there, but Paul appealed to the Emperor and was sent to Rome, where, after two years of imprisonment, he was set at liberty. The Saint then began again his apostolic labors, travelled through Italy and France, ventured even to Spain, preaching the Gospel everywhere and converting a great number of people.

At last, he returned to Rome, and among others, he exhorted some concubines of the godless Emperor Nero, to forsake their wicked life. Amazingly St Paul was successful in this. And Nero's concubines, in response to the preaching of St Paul, therefore, refused to submit to the tyrant's lust. And so, Nero gave orders to imprison St. Paul as well as St. Peter.

Somewhat later, both were condemned to die, Peter upon the Cross, Paul by the sword. St. John Chrysostom relates that the blood that flowed from the body of St. Paul when he was beheaded, was not red, but milk-white. It is also said that his head, when severed from his body, sprang up three times from the ground, and that, each time, water gushed forth. To this day, three springs, which are shown at the place where his execution took place, confirm the tradition.

What you have read of St. Peter and St. Paul, should make you carefully consider the immeasurable goodness and mercy of God towards sinners. Peter had committed sin in denying the Savior three times. Paul had become guilty of great iniquity in persecuting the Church of Christ. Both did penance, both were again received into the favor of the Lord.

How does God treat us? He loves us like St Peter and like St Paul. There is nothing Jesus loves more than to forgive sins. That is the chief purpose of Christ's mission as Messiah—Jesus saves! In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said of Sts. Peter and Paul: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

FIRST MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH OF ROME

Wave after wave of huge British and American bombers opened their bays over Dresden, Germany, on February 13 and 14, 1945. Fire joined fire until the city itself was a raging, screaming bonfire. A tornado of flames hungered for oxygen, sucked all air from the atmosphere, and suffocated to death anyone caught in its vortex. The center of Dresden melted. Only some stone walls remained erect. Human skeletons were mixed into the rubble of a skeletal city. In the old town of Dresden today, a modest memorial marks a mass grave, the location where an unknown number of civilians' scant remains were cremated shortly after the fire. It's easy to walk by without noticing it. Any number of countries have similar memorials marking the mass graves of the victims of plane crashes, sunken ships, war atrocities, or natural disasters. Many countries also have a memorial to an unknown soldier. That unknown fighter represents all those drowned at sea, lost in the jungle canopy, eviscerated by enemy fire, or simply never recovered in the heat and sweat of battle.

Continued on page 7.

Dear Parishioners,

After 31 years of employment at St. Thomas More, it is with a heavy heart that I announce to you that I will be leaving on June 30th.

It has been my pleasure to work for and with the many wonderful priests as well as you, the parishioners of St. Thomas More.

I will miss hearing your voices on the phone and see your smiling faces at the rectory door. I will miss you all terribly.

My time here has been my home away from home, as many of you have treated me like family. You will not be forgotten.

God bless you for all your prayers, smiles and kind words along the way.

Please keep me in your prayers and I will do the same for you.

~ Pat Lave

SUNDAY, JULY 24TH AT 10:00 A.M.

BLESSING AND DEDICATION

of our

NEW ORGAN



Fr. Scott Haynes, Celebrant

Messe Solennelle, Louis Vierne

Musica Pacis Choir

Annually on June 30th, we honor of the First Martyrs of Rome, those unknown men and women, boys and girls, who were cruelly tortured and executed in the city of Rome in 64 A.D. We remember our remote ancestors in the faith who died so that the true faith would not. In 64 A.D. a huge fire of suspicious origins consumed large sections of Rome. The Emperor Nero blamed Christians for the conflagration and executed large numbers of them in retribution for their supposed treachery.

A vivid description of the persecution survives from a Roman historian named Tacitus, who relates that some Christians were sewn into the skins of animals to be attacked and consumed by beasts. Other Christians were slathered with wax, tied to posts, and then burned alive, human torches whose glow illuminated Nero's garden parties. Still others were crucified. This was not the barbarous hacking off of limbs and splitting of skulls later suffered by missionaries in the forests of Northern Europe. Nero's madness was highly refined evil.

On June 30th, we commemorate these Christians in the same fashion in which they would have commemorated the Lord's own death—by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We are separated from 64 A.D. by many centuries, but we are united to 64 A.D. by our common faith. We remember because the Church remembers.

