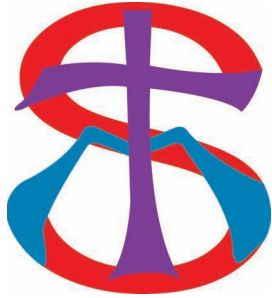


DECEMBER 18, 2016

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



St. Thomas More Parish



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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

215 THOMAS MORE DR. | ELGIN, IL 60123-5054 | (847) 888-1682

MISSION STATEMENT

As Gospel stewards, grateful for what God has given, St. Thomas More Catholic Church community commits itself to the renewal of parish life through evangelization, worship, outreach to the poor, and community living.

CONNECT WITH US



St Thomas More Catholic Church

OUR WEBSITE

www.stthomasmorechurch.org

ROSARY

prayed before the 8:30 am Mass

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

Weekday: Monday-Friday 8:30 am

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 9:00-10:00 am,

Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm or by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday, 9:00 am

until Benediction, 4:00 pm

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Pastor

Reverend Richard Rosinski

rrosinski@stthomasmorechurch.org

Deacons

Bob Newton

Jack Roder

Gregory Stevens

Business Office847.888.1682

Olga Pomella, Manager x 13

opomella@stthomasmorechurch.org

Evangelization847.888.1682

Sharon Hall, Director x 16

shall@stthomasmorechurch.org

Music and Liturgy847.888.1682

Jeanne Anne Aukofer, Director x 12

jaukofer@stthomasmorechurch.org

Parish Office847.888.1682

Hours: Monday-Friday8:30 am-4:00 pm

FAX:847.888.3198

Marilyn Bauman, Secretary x 10

mbaumann@stthomasmorechurch.org

Susie Johnson, Secretary x 11

sjohnson@stthomasmorechurch.org

Angie Young, Bulletin Editor x 18

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RCIA847.888.1682

Linda McEwan, Coordinator

lmcewan@stthomasmorechurch.org

Religious Education847.888.4887

Michelle Tack, Director

mtack@stthomasmorechurch.org

Saint Edward Central Catholic H. S.847.741.7535

www.stedhs.org

Saint Thomas More School

Ann Hawkinson, Principal847.742.3959

ahawkinson@stmcentral.org or www.stmcentral.org

Youth Ministry847.888.1682

Mrs. Lisa Gaston, Director x 19

lgaston@stthomasmorechurch.org



SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Wednesday 9:00-10:00 am,
Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm or by appointment.

Baptism: The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third weekends of the month at 1:00 pm or during the 5:00 pm or 12:00 pm Masses. Parents need to be registered members and should be faithful in attending Mass. Participation in a baptismal preparation class is required. Please call Sharon Hall at the parish office to make an appointment: **847.888.1682 extension 16.**

Matrimony: Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance. Couples meet with a priest to set a date and will also participate in a marriage preparation program.

Anointing of the Sick: By appointment.

SICK & HOMEBOUND

If you are unable to come to church and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office: **847.888.1682.**

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



IN SYMPATHY - Ronald Vonesh

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO ARE ILL...

Mary Beth Alway, Fr. Bob Balog, Cathy Banker, Gerard Barnicle, Virgil Beard, Margaret Brantley, Gracie Canning, Leola Christopherson, Theresa Cortesi, Edna Enriquez, Federico Enriquez, Enrico Espina, Ed Frederick, James Frederick, Linda Girardi, Cathy Hanes, Michele Ingram, Natalie Jorgensen, Michael Keafer, Dennis Kitter, Ken Kline, Karen Kurelo, Carol Legenza, Reynaldo Mangila, Joanne Matzke, Mike McCall, Kathleen Miller, Msgr. John Mitchell, Scarlett Moran, Gloria Neitzel, Bruce Newberg, Tho Nguyen, Marian Peterson, Hannah Perkins, Chuck Pruter, Lufie Regan, Clarke Renard, Manzella Rocco, Patrice Romano, Cindy Schoeps, Diane Schumacher, Frank Scislowski, John Sloan, Larry Sorce, Debra Hershey-Stammet, Judy VanHaxleden, Dan Weiler, Carolyn Wisniewski

St. Vincent de Paul - In the name of Jesus, Vincentians, strive to comfort, feed, clothe, and assist those in need. We serve in person, keeping all things confidential preserving dignity. Call **847.628.5170** and leave a message on the 24 hour answering service.



Life Matters - Any woman who is pregnant and in need can turn for help to the pro-life movement. Never feel alone, call Project Rachel at **800.593.2273** the Life Center at **847.622.1235** or Fox Valley Pregnancy at **847.697.0200.**



WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS MORE

Interested in becoming Catholic? Contact Linda McEwan, RCIA Coordinator, lmcewan@stthomasmorechurch.org.

Interested in becoming a member, registration forms are on the website at www.stthomasmorechurch.org or call the parish office at **847.888.1682.**

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Enjoy some Christmas cheer! The STM Fellowship Club will hold a catered luncheon in the Chelsea Room on **Tuesday, December 20th, 2016 at 12 noon**, that is free to registered members.

Optional:

- To join the fun consider bringing 2 dozen cookies for a cookie exchange
- A \$5 generic (man or woman) gift exchange
- A canned meat to donate to St. Vincent DePaul Society

If you are a non-member and would like to participate, please call Pat Tomlinson 847-695-3549 by Sunday 12/18. The cost for non-members is \$5.00.

**ST. THOMAS MORE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

- **Reconciliation**

- ◊ Monday, December 19 at **7:00 pm** (Communal Penance Service)
- ◊ Wednesday, December 21 from **9:00 pm – 11:00 am**

- **Simbang Gabi**

- ◊ Friday, December 23 at **7:00 pm**

- **Christmas Masses**

- ◊ Saturday, December 24 - **4:00 pm & 6:00 pm**
- ◊ Saturday, December 25 - **12:00 am Midnight** (Choir Concert begins at 11:30pm) **8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm noon**

- **New Year's Eve Masses**

- ◊ Saturday December 31 at **5:00 pm**
- ◊ Sunday, January 1, 2017 - **8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00pm noon**



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish office will be closed on:

- **Friday, December 23**
- **Monday, December 26**
- **Friday, December 30th**
- **Monday, January 2, 2017**

**BEREAVEMENT
MINISTRY**

Trained volunteers are available to provide spiritual support and comfort to all parishioners mourning a death loss. If you would like to have a bereavement minister contact you, please call the parish office at **847-888-1682**.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
NOVEMBER 2016**

Stewardship of Treasure\$88,787
Budget.....\$80,000
Variance.....\$8,787

NOVEMBER 2016 TITHES

St. Vincent de Paul received \$650 support from the parish. The following organizations received a tithe of \$525.00:

- PADS of Elgin
- Easter Food Baskets
- Dominican Sisters

**DIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP
AS OF 11/30/16**

Pledged to date\$151,670
Goal.....\$141,779
Total Paid to date.....\$119,991
Families in Parish.....2,711
Donors523
Participation.....19.3%
Paid in full383
Pledges Outstanding.....140

**EPIPHANY PROCESSION**

We are seeking volunteers to represent the Three Magi for the **Feast of the Epiphany on January 8th**. We are looking for women and men to participate at all Masses the weekend of January 7th & 8th.

The Magi will process to the sanctuary with the gifts. If interested in participating in this memorable service, please call the church office at 847-888-1682.



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus." Joseph heard these prophetic words in a dream. They were words of anticipation, of what was to come. And in a sense, they ushered in a kind of Advent for Joseph. With this divine message, Joseph began a period of holy waiting. He now knew that the Messiah was going to be coming into his own home, and he had just nine months to prepare! We can only imagine how Joseph might have spent these precious days. Most likely he did more than prepare a physical home for his soon-to-be-born Son; he must have also used these days to prepare his heart, mind, and soul for such a tremendous mission.

Today, we stand in a position not all that different from St. Joseph. We also know that the Messiah will be arriving --not just in remembrance at Christmastime, but in reality at the second coming. But unlike Joseph, we don't have an exact timeframe. We don't know when Jesus will return. We just know that we need to be ready!

During the season of Advent we are challenged to recall this fact and strive to get our hearts in order. The days are short now until Christmas, and for all we know they might be short until Christ's return as well. What remains to be done? Aside from wrapping presents and planning parties, where do we yet need to tidy up our habits to properly celebrate the real meaning of this festive season? How can we make sure that we don't get swept away in the external preparations, forgetting the work that needs to be done in the invisible silence of our souls?

God may not speak to all of us directly in our dreams, but he does speak to us clearly through his word. May we recognize today the mission he has laid before us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2016

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
 Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25
 Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38
 Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45
 Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56
 Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66
 Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/Lk 1:67-79
 Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



**ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE
EVENING**

**Monday, December 19th
at 7:00pm**



**The church office will be closed from
12:30pm - 2:30pm on Tuesday, December 20th
for our Christmas luncheon.**

Q & A OF THE WEEK

Q :Why do the Gospels differ in their details? I was surprised to learn that not all of the Gospels tell the same stories, for example, the Nativity. Doesn't this take away from their credibility?

A: Take any event that happens, from family trips to national politics and ask two or three different people to explain what happened. You will get a different version of the same story. People tend to tell the story from their perspective and past experience shades what we

recall and how we recall it. Our choice of words and what details we leave in or out is also influenced by the audience who is listening to our tales.

The Gospel writers are no different. Each one tells the story of Jesus from their own perspective. Versions differ in some details, not because one is true and the other is not, but because each Gospel writer, or Evangelist, has a different theological point to communicate as well as a different audience for whom he is writing. He picks and

chooses the details of his Gospel based on what message he is preaching, what his audience may already know, and what message they need to hear. The various details of the Gospels point more to their authenticity as a record of the church's experience and understanding of Jesus. In a good study Bible, the background notes for each Gospel contain a lot of information that helps us better understand each Evangelist and his message.

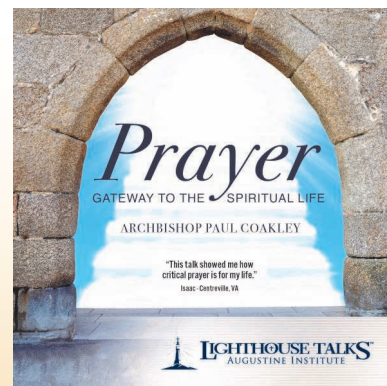




VOCATIONS CORNER WITH FR. ROMKE **TIME CRUNCH**

Believe it or not we're only one week away from Christmas! For many people I think this is the time of year when they feel incredible pressure and maybe even anxiety to get the last presents purchased and wrapped and to get the house cleaned for upcoming Christmas celebrations. The bottom line is that they are expectations placed on us that need to be fulfilled in this final week, this period of crunch time, and so it is easy to create either a mental or even jot down a physical list of things to do. What is harder to do than creating that list is to remember to put "PRAY" as the very first thing on the list (and to put it down numerous other times on the list as well so that we don't cross it off and call the job done!)

This is especially true when it comes to discerning our vocations and the bigger pieces of our lives. Society places expectations on us when we graduate from high school or college, when we get married, and at other big moments in our lives. And if we don't know exactly what our next move is, yet the time to make a move is coming close, it can be easy to forget about God. The thing is that this is the time when we need Him and His guidance the most. So put communicating with God through prayer at the top of your to-do-list each day and then have confidence that everything will work out just fine in the end.



LIGHTHOUSE TALKS **CD OF THE WEEK**

PRAYER: GATEWAY TO THE SPIRITUAL LIFE BY ARCHBISHOP COAKLEY

In this presentation, given at the Rediscover Catholic Celebration in Minneapolis, Archbishop Coakley reflects on his own journey, and discusses the importance of prayer to the spiritual life and lifelong conversion.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2021!

St. Edward Central Catholic H.S. will administer the placement exam for current 8th graders on **Saturday, January 7th, 2017**. All current 8th graders interested in attending St. Edward must attend. Testing will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m., and will take approximately 3 hours. Please download the registration from our website, **www.stedhs.org**, and bring it to the testing day with the \$15.00 fee. Please contact Mrs. Cholewa at acholewa@stedhs.org with any questions.

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- **Miguel Carrillo**, US Army
- **Robert Castellvi**, Brig. Gen., Airborne
- **Andrew B Egger**, Sgt.,
US Army 112th Signal Battalion,
Special Operations USAF
- **William J Guth**, Master Sgt., USMC
- **Brandt Johnson**, Lance Corp.,
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- **Douglas R. Johnson**, USAF
- **Philip B. Johnson**, Specialist, US Army
- **Nick Lange Sr.**, LT. Col., Airborne
- **Alexander Litgen**, Airman,
US Army 82nd Airborne
- **David McCallister**, Staff Sgt., US Army
- **Bryan P. Malm**, SSG, USAF
- **Steve Olson**, Staff Sgt., USAF
- **Ryan Jacob Pechay**, Corp., USMC
- **Greg Popejoy**, Master Sgt., USMC
- **Patrick Puckett**, PV2, National Guard
- **Sean Sabate**, USN
- **Henry Voegtli**, Lt. Col., USAF

PARISH CALENDAR**4th Sunday of Advent**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday		
December 19	4:30 pm	Youth Choir –Lancaster Rm
	6:30 pm	Religious Education –Chelsea Rm
	7:00 pm	Communal Penance Service -Church

Tuesday		
December 20	12:00 pm	Fellowship –Chelsea Rm

Wednesday		
December 21	9:00 am	Eucharistic Adoration –Chapel
	4:00 pm	Benediction –Chapel
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir—Church
	7:00 pm	RCIA –Chelsea Rm
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir –Lancaster Rm

Thursday		
December 22	9:00 am	Intercessory Prayer Group –Tudor Rm
	6:30 pm	Servant Choir –Lancaster Rm

Friday		
December 23	-----	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
	7:00 pm	Simbang Gabi –Church

Saturday		
December 24	-----	Christmas Eve

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday,	December 19
8:30 am	Anna Saverino, Gloria Jordan
Tuesday,	December 20
8:30 am	Deceased members of O'Rourke Family
Wednesday,	December 21
8:30 am	Jack O'Connor, Jerry Kinsella
Thursday,	December 22
8:30 am	Ken Kline, St. Jude
Friday,	December 23
8:30 am	Josephine Palacios, Joseph Schatz
Saturday,	December 24
4:00 pm	Wilfred & Loretta Liebert
6:00 pm	Harold & Sylvia Bauman
12:00 am	Richard & Antionette Rosinski
Sunday,	December 25
8:00 am	People of STM, Ross & Patty Ricks
10:00 am	Bruce Heiser, Bob Cundiff
12:00 pm	Maynard & Ann Decker

LITURGICAL ROLES –CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE**Presider**

4:00 pm Father Rich
 6:00 pm Father Rich
 12:00 am Father Rich

Altar Servers

4:00 pm A Meyer, J von Rohr, M Witecha
 6:00 pm J Utanes, *Needed, Needed*
 12:00 am R Bodio, *Needed, Needed*

Lectors

4:00 pm B Harrington
 6:00 pm K Stasukaitis
 12:00 am L Lesniak, C Arciuch

Musicians

4:00 pm Youth Choir
 6:00 pm High School Ensemble
 12:00 am Adult Choir, Bell Choir

Eucharistic Ministers

4:00 pm B Cruz, M Gogoel, B Newton, J Taeyaerts
Needed, Needed, Needed
 6:00 pm S Hall, G McGann, J McCreight, T Eternick
D Eternick, Needed, Needed, Needed
 12:00 am D Varley, M Hesch, L Boehm, L Asmusen
 P Lublow, *Needed, Needed*

LITURGICAL ROLES –CHRISTMAS DAY SCHEDULE**Presiders**

8:00 am Msgr. Linster
 10:00 am Msgr. Dempsey
 12:00 pm Father Rich

Altar Servers

8:00 am M Darrow, L Jackson, M Jackson
 10:00 am B McKee, N Mesina, A Stuart
 12:00 pm M Astudillo, EJ Ave, C Costales

Lectors

8:00 am M Poyer
 10:00 am J Walsh
 12:00 pm K Ribordy

Musicians

8:00 am P Sajdak, H Relihan
 10:00 am J Tandy, D Malesky, S Ward, C Olson
 12:00 pm Servant Choir


Eucharistic Ministers

8:00 am L Rakowski, R Callahan, K Sarto, J Sarto
 D Velten, L McEwan, P Lopatowski, L Heuer
 J Roder, C Hopkins
 10:00 am K Mudgett, R Calara, J Felski, C Puchek
 M Battaglia, A Battaglia, Z Rodriguez,
 M Mesina, B Newton, I Janczak
 12:00 pm S Matson, T Kuroski, B Burchill, M Zarcone
 D Escanilla, F Greene, R O'Neil, C Voris
 G Stevens, K Wright

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