

# GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### **ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

Emails. Carpools. Shopping lists. Home repairs. It can seem like we move so quickly from one thing to the next. Our news comes in sound bites and headlines. How often do we take time for silence, for prayer, for reflection, for wisdom? Jesus warns us of stumbling through life without an adequate sense of where we're going. "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit?" This Sunday's Gospel isn't about fumbling along but offers a self-check on our own motivations.

"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" Without adequate self-reflection, it's easy to become blind to our own faults.

We go through life's motions as our bad habits linger or even increase. We may become increasingly impatient, we may



avoid important tasks, we may neglect the emotional needs of our spouse. Perhaps, in the process, we find fault with those around us. In the words of Jesus, "remove the wooden beam from your own eye first."

So how do we know? How can we notice the hidden faults in our lives? "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of store of evil produces evil." Do you notice certain relationships that have become strained, or situations where you know you don't act your best? Perhaps this is an area where you are acting out of sin, rather than virtue. The truth is, all of us are a mixture of light and dark, vice and virtue. We can't pretend we're perfect! But we also need to take time to pause and prayerfully examine the fruit we're bearing.

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#### **Pastor**

Reverend Richard Rosinski rrosinski@stthomasmorechurch.ora

#### **Deacons**

Jack Roder Gregory Stevens

Parish Office - 847.888.1682 Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:00pm

School Office - 847.742.3959 www.stmcentral.org

Religious Ed. Office - 847.888.4887

#### **Parish Staff**

Visit our website for a staff listing www.stthomasmorechurch.org/staff

# SACRAMENTS

For a more in-depth look at the sacraments. please visit our parish website www.stthomasmorechurch.org.

**Reconciliation:** Confessions are heard every Wednesday 9:00-10:00am and Saturdays 3:30-4:30pm. Appointments can also be made for confessions to be heard when needed.

Baptism: Children of all ages and adults are welcome to the sacrament of Baptism. Baptism for children is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month at 1:00pm. 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 arrangements. Adults seeking Baptism should contact Linda McEwan at Imcewan@stthomasmorechurch.org.

Matrimony: Baptized Catholics are called to be married in the Catholic Church. Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

If you were married outside of the Catholic Church and would like to have your marriage blessed, we would be happy to guide you in that process.

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

**Anointing of the Sick:** The anointing of the sick is administered to bring spiritual and physical strength during an illness, for those having surgery, and for those near death. Call the parish office to make arrangements to receive this sacrament.

# St. Vincent de Paul

#### Are you in need?

In the name of Jesus, 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.

#### Do you feel called to serve?

We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm alternating between St. Laurence and St. Thomas respectively. For more information, please contact conference president

Christa at StThomasMoreElginSVDP@gmail.com.

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SVDPSTM

# With Sympathy

MARCELINO EUGENIO • KENNETH HENDRICKS

THOMAS MITORAJ

# Prayer Requests

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.

**†All Souls in Purgatory** 

**†Shirley Bednarke** 

**†Chuck Benson** 

**†Lucas Buckardt** 

**†**Gracie Canning

**†Julie Daly** 

**†** John Demstron

**†Edward F. Kelly** 

**†Bev Kittler** 

† Dennis Kittler

**†Kevin Knott** 

**†Stephen Lange** 

**†**Amy Lara

†Denny Lisiecki Jr.

†Jenny Lisiecki

**†Ann Marie** 

LoPiccolo-Carlsen

†Reynaldo Mangila

**†Bob Matejka** 

**†Bill Moylan** 

**†** Delphine Ornelas

**†Bruce Ostdick** 

**†Deacon Robert Plazewski** 

**†**Gerry Regan

**†Lutie Regan** 

**†Patty Romano** 

**†Louis Scatena** 

**†**Diane Schumacher

**†**James Shumaker

**†Chuck Pruter** 

†Mary Ann Vandervalk

**†**Jerry Wiel

**†Cheri Wyman** 

**†**Dorothy Young

# 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.

# Hope for Haitians

Once again, during the Lenten season, our Parish will be raising money to help support Haiti--the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. More information will be in the Gathering Space as will envelopes be there for vour donations. Please watch for

more announcements in the bulletins. And thank you for your generous support.

We will be working directly with the Rockford Diocese on our fund raising activities. If you have any questions, you may call Mary Aydt at 847.742.6978.





# **Email Scam Alert**



St. Thomas More would like to bring awareness to an ongoing email/text scam. The scam appears to have the pastor, priest or parish staff asking for assistance. Once someone replies to the email correspondence, the conversation will eventually end with an attempt to have the person transfer funds to a bank account or purchase aift cards. The emails

come from a fake email account that looks like it could be real (i.e. pastorname.churchname@vahoo.com). Please be aware that we at St. Thomas More will NEVER ask for gift cards or money directly from you utilizing text messages or emails.

If you have any concerns or questions about correspondence which appear to be coming from Father Rich or the St. Thomas More Parish Staff, please contact us directly at 847.888.1682 or via email by visiting www.stthomasmorechurch.org/staff.

We are happy to verify if a message is truly from us.

# Bereavement Ministry

Trained volunteers are available to provide spiritual support and comfort to all parishioners mourning a death loss. Please call the parish office at 847.888.1682.

# 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.



#### Sunday

Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a] /1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

#### Monday

Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [11a]/Mk 10:17-27

#### Tuesday

Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23 [23b]/Mk 10:28-31

#### Wednesday

JI 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a] /2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

#### Thursday

Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25

Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15

#### Saturday

Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32

#### **Next Sunday**

Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 [cf. 15b] /Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

## 2019 National Appeal

Collection as of 2/25/19......\$15,125.00

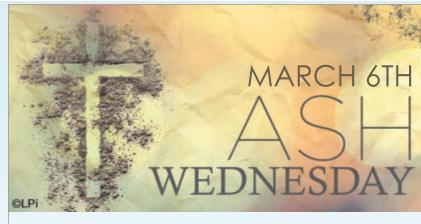
There is still time to donate. Please use your National Appeal envelope, or go online to www.rockforddiocese.org/charitablegiving/national-appeal/.

Thank you for your generous support of the Universal Church.

# 2018 Diocesan Appeal

Ends May 21, 2019

Thank you to all who generously supported the 2018 Diocesan Appeal. The balance due on outstanding pledges is \$12,524.49. Remember, any pledges paid in full over the parish goal are returned to the parish. Fr. Rich promised that these funds would be used to reduce the parish loan on the parking lot, as well as help fund the expense of the school roofing projects planned for this summer.



# Ash Wednesday Schedule

8:30am .......... Mass with ash distribution

**5:00pm** ...... Prayer service with ash distribution

7:00pm ........... Prayer service with ash distribution

There will be **no Eucharistic Adoration** on **Ash Wednesday**, **March 6th**.

### 2019 International Appeal

Watch your mail for the International Appeal. Return your contribution envelope in the Sunday Collection March 9 and 10. You may also donate online and view Bishop Malloy's message at www.rockforddiocese.org/charitablegiving/international-appeal/.

On March 10th & 11th, we have an occasion to help those in need, and assist victims of war, oppression and disaster by participating in the 2019 International Appeal collection which includes:

INTERNATIONAL

March 9 - 10, 2019

Catholic Relief Services
Aid to Central and Eastern Europe
Rockford Diocese's Response to World-wide Disaster
Rockford Diocesan Priests' Pension
Elementary School Financial Support for the Diocese of Rockford

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

Thank you for your generous gift.

## **WeShare Online Giving**

Thank you to those families using WeShare online giving. If you would like to know more about supporting St. Thomas More Parish through online giving, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.stthomasmorechurch.org/donate-1">www.stthomasmorechurch.org/donate-1</a>. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select Give Online under Links. Follow the WeShare instructions or call 800.950.9952 Option 1 for assistance.

# WeShare Users Receiving Sunday Envelopes

In order to be better stewards of our resources, the parish will no longer send envelopes to your household unless you notify us otherwise. If you would like to continue receiving envelopes, please send an email to se@stthomasmorechurch.org by March 29. Thank you!

# Calling all St. Thomas More School



Stay informed.

Be involved.



Sign-up on our alumni page at www.stmcentral.org

Our school is your school.

# St. Thomas More Campus Gardens

As we patiently wait for spring to arrive and the planting season to begin, St. Thomas More would appreciate the gift of your talent. If you would like to share your green thumb with the parish by planting and tending a garden on our campus this year, please contact Olga Pomella at opomella@stthomasmorechurch.org.





## New York Times best-selling author of "Left to Tell" **IMMACULEE** ILIBAGI*7 A* Rwandan Genocide Survivor Brings Message of Forgiveness, Healing & Hope



# Get Your Tickets Now!

New York Times best-selling author of "Left to Tell," Immaculée Ilibagiza, will lead a retreat at St. Thomas More Church on:

- Friday, May 31st (5:00pm-9:00pm)
- **Saturday, June 1st** (9:00am -12:30pm)

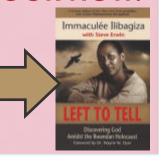
Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience Immaculée's powerful message of forgiveness, healing, and hope. She was witness to the life -saving power of faith and the Rosary, as she huddled with seven other women in a cramped bathroom for 91 days while killers lurked just outside the door.

#### Tickets are on sale now!

Individual ticket is \$57.00 Individual, plus one guest \$76.00 To purchase tickets online, visit www.immaculee.com.

# **READ HER BOOK NOW!**

**Book Clubs Are Now** Formina. **Details on our** Parish website.



# **Presiders**

# Ash Wednesday, Mar. 6th

MASS with Ash Distribution

8:30 am Father Rich

PRAYER SERVICES with Ash Distribution

5:00 pm Dcn. Roder 7:00 pm Father Rich

### Weekend for Mar. 9th & 10th.

**MASSES** 

**5:00 pm** Father Rich **10:00 am** Father Deitz 8:00 am Father Deitz 12:00 pm Father Rich

# Lenten Retreat

Sponsored by Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. This retreat is being held on Monday, March 11th, 18th, 25th, April 1st and 8th from 6-9pm at the Nazareth Spiritualty Center, 717 N. Batavia Ave., Batavia, IL. This is an evening of presentation and reflection on the Lent Scriptures. Open to both women and men. Cost: \$5 for each Monday you are able to attend. To register call **Linda Isleib** at **630.879.1296**.

# **Bulletin Deadlines**

MAR 17TH BULLETIN	MAR 24TH BULLETIN		
Materials Due:	Materials Due:		
March 4, 2019	March 11, 2019		

# Mass Intentions for the Week

to schedule. The contribution for reserving the intention of a Mass is \$10.00.

monday MAR 04	8:30 am Cathy Holze, Charles E. Lewis			
tuesday MAR 05	<b>8:30 am</b> Sam Watson, Linda Moretti			
wednesday MAR 03	8:30 am Patricia McGann, Ron Wright 5:00 pm Prayer service with ash distribution 7:00 pm Prayer service with ash distribution			
thursday MAR 07	<b>8:30 am</b> Virginia Coulombe, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Herrmann			
friday MAR	<b>8:30 am</b> Daniel & Mary O'Shea, Sue Mellen			
saturday MAR 09	<b>5:00 pm</b> Richard N. Rosinski, Carol Koehler			
sunday MAR 10	8:00 am Rev. Andrew Plesa, Robert Hartwell 10:00 am Emilie & Viateur Saindon, People of STM 12:00 pm Bob Cundiff, Mary Ellen Spiekerman			

monday MAR 04	tuesday MAR 05	wednesday MAR 06	thursday MAR 07	friday MAR 08	saturday MAR 09
9:00 am @WESTMINSTER Bible Study 4:30 pm @LANCASTER Youth Choir		NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION OR BENEDICTION	9:00 am @TUDOR Women's Intercessory Prayer Group	9:15 am @CANTERBURY Women's Rosary Group	7:00 am @CHELSEA That Man Is You!
6:00 pm @CAMBRIDGE Bell Choir		3:00 pm @CANTERBURY Bible Study			
<b>7:00 pm</b> @CHELSEA Bible Study		<b>7:00 pm</b> @CHELSEA RCIA			
		wednesday			

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