

FATHER BROWNING...

THOUGHTS, SCRIPTURE, AND MORE.



THE KERYGMA, PART 3.3

The Passion continued

There are many ways to approach the Passion of Jesus. Last week, we looked at two that we hear the most often. There is a third way to understand the Passion that is used most often by the early Church Fathers. Today, we will meditate upon it.

The Church Fathers saw Jesus' Passion as Jesus going to battle for us against powers that we cannot escape from on our own: Sin, Death, Satan, and Hell. God's answer to sin (disobeying and turning away from God) is not only to forgive us but to set us free from

a tyrant.

St. Luke tells us that when Jesus had driven a demon out of a man, the Pharisees accused him of driving out the demon by the prince of demons. Jesus, as usual, answers with a parable that explains what He has come to do. Jesus says, "When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his possessions are safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away the armor on which he relied and distributes the spoils" (Luke 11:21-22). St. Matthew records, "How can anyone enter a strong man's house and steal his property, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house" (Mt 12:29).

What does this mean? Who is the strong man? The devil. What is the

house? This world. What are his goods? Us the human race, which, through sin, have unwittingly sold ourselves into slavery to the devil by our rebellion. Here's where it gets good. Who is the stronger man who binds the devil so he can the goods can go free? Jesus! Pray with these passages this week. God saw us in slavery to sin, death, the devil, and hell, and would not sit by. He sends Jesus His Son to set us free. When have you felt a slave to those powers? Have you felt helpless against them? Pray with that and with the Passion of Jesus - that's why He did it.

Next week, we will look at how He did it.

In Him,
Fr. Browning

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St. Thomas More Catholic Church
www.stthomasmorechurch.org



Pastor
Reverend Ryan Browning
rbrowning@stthomasmorechurch.org
www.fatherbrowning.com

Deacons
Jack Roder

Parish Office - 847.888.1682
Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm

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

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



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 lmcewan@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.

With Sympathy

- **KAREN BRUMMEL**
- **KELLI FIELDS** (niece of Mary Jo Zaeske)



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
†Brad Abell
†Chuck Benson
†John Bertram
†Gisella Calo
†Gracie Canning
†J. Connell
†Jessica Connell
†Dan Coyle
†Ruth Cullian
†Juanita Cundiff
†Julie Daly
†Reyes Diaz
†John Demstron
†Bridget Ernst
†Dominick Girardi
†Kathy Hamilton
†Gail Hand
†Stephanie Hand
†Maximina Huizar
†Frank Iori
†Charles Joseph
†Tadeusz Krasowski
†Stephen Lange

†Dennis Lisiecki, Jr.
†Jenny Lisiecki
†Ann Marie LoPiccolo-Carsen
†Jeanne Matsukis
†Belinda Mockler
†Jim Molitor
†Reynaldo Mangila
†Bill Moylan
†Gloria Neitzel
†Delphine Ornelas
†Deacon Robert Plazewski
†Charles Pruter
†Lutie Regan
†Conni Schultz
†Diane Schumacher
†Soraya Senang
†James Shumaker
†Mary Ann Vandervalk
†Clementina Valenzuela
†Angel Vega
†Bob Voegtli
†Keith Williams
†Carol White
†Dave White

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.



As we give thanks for the bountiful gifts bestowed on us by our Lord, Jesus Christ, there are many opportunities to return your first fruits to the Lord. Perhaps you would consider increasing your Sunday Giving or donating to the Parish Building Fund, School Tuition Assistance, RE Tuition Assistance, Youth Ministry, and the Needy. You may designate how the parish should use your gift. Make your check payable to St. Thomas More and write your intention on the memo line. All contributions will be documented in your 2019 tax letter.

There is still time to donate to the 2019 Diocesan Stewardship Appeal, National Appeal, International Appeal, and Mission Appeal. Go to <https://www.rockforddiocese.org/donate/>. Contributions to these appeals are recorded by the diocese; a separate tax letter will be mailed to you from the Diocese of Rockford.

Looking for additional ways to support the parish? The Catholic Foundation is an umbrella endowment trust fund established in 1987 by Bishop O'Neill. Parishes, schools, and diocesan agencies may establish endowment accounts with The Catholic Foundation. This endowment trust fund accepts gifts whose principal (corpus) remains untouched for perpetuity, but allows for the distribution of earnings. The Catholic Foundation also accepts gifts from individuals through Donor Advised Funds. Go online to learn more about donor advised funds <http://www.foundationrockford.org/endowments/donor-advised-funds/>.

For additional information about giving to St. Thomas More Church, please contact **Olga Pomella** at opomella@stthomasmorechurch.org, or to learn more about The Catholic Foundation, please contact **Dan O'Malley**, Diocesan Accountant, at **815.399.4300**.

Thank you for your generosity. May you and your family be abundantly blessed.

Fall Fest Thank You

Thank you so much for your generous support of our 2019 Fall Fest Raffle. As always, **YOU** have made our fundraiser a huge success! The proceeds from this raffle will help fund St. Thomas More's parish school and directly benefit the education and evangelization of our students. **We are so grateful to you!**



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

Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 1]
/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday

Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9. 19-21, 25-27a [26a]
/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

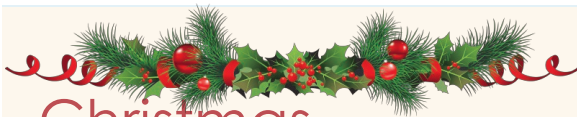
Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday

Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9
/Mt 3:1-12



Christmas Grocery Shopping Bags

We will once again be handing out shopping bags and grocery lists for you to take and fill for the needy in our community this Christmas. We have several volunteer opportunities this year for our shopping bag and gift giving program for St. Vincent DePaul.

- I will take a shopping bag and grocery list on the weekend of December 14 & 15 and return the filled shopping bag on the weekend of December 21 & 22.
- I will volunteer to sort incoming shopping bags after a Mass on the weekend of December 21 & 22.
- I will deliver shopping bags and gifts to the home of a needy family on Sunday, December 22 at 1:00pm.
- I will deliver shopping bags of food to the food pantry at Elgin Community College on Sunday, December 22 at 1:00pm.
- I would like to adopt a family and purchase their Christmas gifts.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

You can also sign up at our parish website for any of these volunteer opportunities. For more information contact **Sharon Hall 847.888.1682 x216** shall@stthomasmorechurch.org.

**Return this form to the Parish
Welcome Center by December 8th.**



Camp WOW!

Camp WOW 2020 registration is open! What is Camp WOW?? It's a 5 day, 4 night Catholic Summer Camp! The dates for Summer 2020 will be **June 22-26th**. All students currently in 6th, 7th or 8th grade are welcome! Camp takes place at Dickson Valley Camp in Newark, IL. Join us for 5 days of swimming, prayer, archery, bible study, campfires, indoor gym and climbing wall, worship, sports, music, skits and more! Cost is \$300. Space is limited!! To register please email **Emily Stuckey** at Estuckey@stthomasmorechurch.org or fill out the application on the parish website under Youth Ministry.

Hat-urday

TO KEEP OTHERS WARM

Attention all knitters and crochet enthusiasts! Let's get together for "Hat-urday To Keep Others Warm" **Saturday, December 7** from **10:00am-12:00pm**. We will create as many hats as possible to share with those in our community in need of a hat to keep warm. We will have super simple hat patterns for knit or crochet. We will have some yarn to share but you are welcome to bring your own. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet please come and we will teach you! Bring your friend and neighbors, all are welcome! For more information contact **Sharon Hall** at **847.888.1682 x216** shall@stthomasmorechurch.org

Peace Light of Bethlehem

The Peace Light is a continuous flame originating from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Israel. Since 2001, Austrian Air has brought the Peace Light to New York in late November. Boy Scout troops spread the message of the Peace Light across the United States. The flame, along with a message of peace and



unity, is passed from person to person around the world. This ceremony will take place in the **St. Thomas More Church, Saturday, December 14th at 6:00pm**. The ceremony is open to all. Those who choose to take the flame home with them should bring an oil lamp or enclosed candle and a means to safely transport it.

EDCCW

Put holiday shopping, wrapping, and baking on hold for an evening, and join us for an uplifting Advent Evening of Reflection and Prayer! The Elgin Deanery Council of Catholic Women (EDCCW) invite all women of the Elgin Deanery (*bring a friend!*) to join us **Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm**. Fr. Andrew Mulcahey will present this wonderful evening at **St. Laurence Church, 225 Jewett Street, Elgin. Come and be inspired!** Questions? Contact EDCCW President **Pat Lopatowski** at patlopat@comcast.net.

APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS QUARTET

AN EVENING OF TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS HYMNS

HEAR THE SOUNDS OF
THE HAMMERED DULCIMER - MANDOLA
FIFE - TIN CAN - NOSE FLUTE - GUITARS
CALF BOTTLES - MOUNTAIN DULCIMER
WASHBOARD - BODHRAN - ACCORDION
PENNY WHISTLE - MANDO-CELLO
AND MUCH MUCH MORE

DECEMBER 5 @ 7PM

Sharing Tree

Next weekend, you will find our annual Sharing Tree, which helps those in need in our community, decorated with color-coded angel tags, located in the Gathering Space. Parishioners are encouraged to take one or more colored gift tags from the tree, purchase the item, and place the unwrapped gift under the tree with the colored gift tag attached.



TAG COLOR CODE

Green: Corbella Clinic-Babies

Red: Community Crisis Center-Children & Teens

Gold: Elgin Mental Health Center
-Men and Women

Blue: St. Vincent de Paul Society
-Men and Women

The final date that gifts can be placed under the tree is Sunday, December 15.



RAINBOWS For All Children

Rainbows helps children who are grieving the loss of a parent or loved one due to death, divorce, deployment, incarceration or trauma. The new 12 sessions will start **Thursday, February 6, 2020** through **April 30, 2020** (no session on February 13th, March 26th or April 9th), from **6:15 to 7:00pm** at St. Mary Church, 10307 Dundee Rd., Huntley, IL 60142. There is no charge to participate in the Rainbow program. For more information visit www.rainbows.org or contact **Ann Marcheschi** at **630.337.6203** or ann@realtorann.com.



SAINT THOMAS MORE
CHURCH
215 THOMAS MORE DRIVE
ELGIN

7:00 pm

2019 PARISH MISSION

embrace the heart of mercy

DEC
9

The Sacred
Heart of Jesus:
God Has a Soft-
Spot for Sinners

DEC
10

The Sacred
Heart of Jesus:
How to Get to
Heaven the
Easy Way

DEC
11

The Sacred
Heart of Jesus:
Making Jesus
the King of Your
Home



Presented by
Rev. Jonathan Bakkellund
Diocese of Rockford

Presiders

Weekend for Dec. 7th & 8th.

PRESIDERS

5:00 pm Fr. Browning

8:00 am Fr. Browning

10:00 am Fr. Deitz

12:00 pm Msgr. Linster

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 DEC 02	8:30 am All Souls
tuesday DEC 03	8:30 am People of STM
wednesday DEC 04	8:30 am Sylvia Bauman, Glen Sibucan
thursday DEC 05	8:30 am William Greguras, Jonathan Estrella
friday DEC 06	8:30 am All Souls, Sr. Mary Ellen Gevelinger, O.P. (sp. Int)
saturday DEC 07	8:30 am Joanne Licari, James Putz 5:00 pm Bernie Sloan, Marion Banaszak
sunday DEC 08	8:00 am Arnett Rakowski, The Jun Family 10:00 am Thomas Cantu, Oralia Barrera 12:00 pm People of STM, Vicente Daquiwig

10 CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER

ST. JUAN DIEGO

- ☐ 1. **Music is Praying Twice!** Bring your family to the Appalachian Christmas Quartet concert on December 5th. St. Thomas More hosts a family night of traditional Christmas hymns. All are welcome!
- ☐ 2. **Fill your children's shoes with small gifts or wrapped candies** while they're asleep to celebrate Saint Nicholas' Feast Day on December 6th.
- ☐ 3. **Attend Mass on Christmas Eve at 4pm, 6pm or 12am** and...

Download and print this top 10 list at
www.stthomasmorechurch.org/religious-education

Bulletin Deadlines

ACCELERATED HOLIDAY DEADLINES

DEC 15TH BULLETIN	DEC 22ND BULLETIN
Materials Due: December 2, 2019	Materials Due: December 5, 2019

monday DEC 02	tuesday DEC 03	wednesday DEC 04	thursday DEC 05	friday DEC 06	saturday DEC 07
9:00 am @WESTMINSTER Advent Study 6:30 pm @WESTMINSTER Advent Study		9:00 am @CHAPEL Eucharistic Adoration 3:00 pm @CANTERBURY Bible Study 4:00 pm @CHAPEL Benediction 7:00 pm @CHELSEA RCIA	9:00 am @TUDOR Women's Intercessory Prayer Group 6:00 pm @WESTMINSTER Spred	9:15 am @CANTERBURY Women's Rosary Group 6:00 pm @CHURCH Advent By Candlelight	7:00 am @CHELSEA That Man Is You 8:30 am @CHURCH First Saturday Mass & Confessions 10:00 am @CHELSEA Hat-urday 7:30 pm @LANCASTER Servant Choir