



## FATHER BROWNING...

### THOUGHTS, SCRIPTURE, AND MORE.



#### THE KERYGMA, PART 4: Our Response

Given what Jesus has done for us, what should our response be? What is the reasonable response to

someone who saves you from death? What is the sensible response to someone who rescues you from Hell? What is the generous response to someone who has bound the strong man so you can go free? Isn't it reasonable to trust him? Isn't it wise to surrender to him? And isn't it sensible to tell others

of this Good News?

I genuinely believe that when we allow the Good News to penetrate our hearts, our only response is to give Him everything. Imagine you are under the reign of a tyrant. There is no hope of escape only a life of pain and struggle, and you are powerless against your oppressor. You are utterly dependent on being saved by someone outside of this situation. Along comes the long-awaited One who has come to rescue you from the tyrant. He gave everything to save you. How would you respond to Him? Would your heart not be full of love and gratitude? Now imagine your

savior is also the God who created you. Is He not worthy of your love? Is He not worthy of your life? Is He not deserving of your trust?

My friends, our God is a God full of mercy and compassion. He is a God who wants to share His life and love with us, His creatures. Our response must be a daily resounding yes, reverberating through every aspect of our lives. Get rid of whatever keeps you from going all-in with the Lord because the Lord went ALL-IN for you!

Blessed Advent,  
Fr. Browning

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St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
[www.stthomasmorechurch.org](http://www.stthomasmorechurch.org)



**Pastor**  
Reverend Ryan Browning  
[rbrowning@stthomasmorechurch.org](mailto:rbrowning@stthomasmorechurch.org)  
[www.fatherbrowning.com](http://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](http://www.stmcentral.org)

**Religious Ed. Office** - 847.888.4887

**Parish Staff**  
Visit our website for a staff listing  
[www.stthomasmorechurch.org/staff](http://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](mailto:StThomasMoreElginSVDP@gmail.com).

Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/SVDPSTM](http://www.facebook.com/SVDPSTM)



## SACRAMENTS

For a more in-depth look at the sacraments, please visit our parish website [www.stthomasmorechurch.org](http://www.stthomasmorechurch.org).

**Reconciliation:** Confessions are heard every Wednesday 9:00-10:00am, Thursday 6:00-6:30pm, Saturday 3:30-4:30pm and Sunday 9:15-9:45am. 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](mailto: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

• **PATRICIA ESCOBAR**



## 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  
†Helen Baier  
†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  
†Angela Gusta  
†Vincent Gusta  
†Kathy Hamilton  
†Maximina Huizar  
†Frank Iori  
†Charles Joseph  
†Laura Keating  
†Tadeusz Krasowski  
†Stephen Lange

### †Dennis Lisiecki, Jr.

†Jenny Lisiecki  
†Ann Marie LoPiccolo-Carsen  
†Jeanne Matsukis  
†Belinda Mockler  
†Jim Molitor  
†Maria I. Montejano  
†Reynaldo Mangila  
†Gloria Neitzel  
†Delphine Ornelas  
†Florence Ostidick  
†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.



# Stewardship

## 2019 November Stewardship

Budget .....	\$80,000.00
Stewardship .....	\$79,552.00
Variance .....	(\$448.00)

## November Tithe

St. Vincent DePaul Society .....	\$650.00
Dominican Sisters .....	\$555.00
PADS .....	\$555.00
Christmas Food Baskets .....	\$555.00

## DIAL Loan

Balance as of 11/30/19 .....	\$277,600.00
Interest paid-to-date .....	\$3,597.93

## DIAL Loan - School Roof

Interest paid in November 2019 .....	\$1,093.96
Principal paid in November 2019 .....	\$7,500.00

## Diocesan Stewardship

Goal .....	\$115,181.00
Needed to reach goal .....	\$20,482.00

## BEHOLD

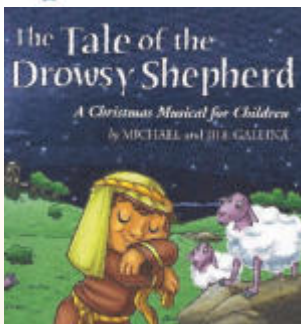


"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you."

MATTHEW 11:10

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

## Christmas Concert



**St. Thomas More School** will be performing their annual Christmas Concert on **Thursday, December 19th** at **6:30pm** in the Church. Preschool through 8th grade will be performing. **We hope you can come join 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**.

## READINGS OF THE WEEK

### Sunday

Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10 /Mt 11:2-11

### Monday

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4] /Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

### Wednesday

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

### Thursday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8] /Lk 1:5-25

### Friday

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b] /Lk 1:26-38

### Saturday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a] /Lk 1:39-45

### Next Sunday

Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7 /Mt 1:18-24

## Certificate of HOLY BAPTISM

• RUDY AMIR FLORES

## Sharing Tree

This weekend, December 14 and 15, is the last weekend that gifts may be placed under our Sharing Tree, which is located in the Gathering Space.

### 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

Thank you to all who participated in helping to bring Christmas joy to those in need in our community. God's blessings!

## Abbey Farms Christmas Trees

Don't forget to visit Abbey Farms for all your holiday needs. U-Cut & pre-cut trees, seasonal store, wreaths, garland, and more! Open daily from **10am to 7pm through December 23rd**. For more information call **630.966.7775 x6** or email [adam@abbeyfarms.org](mailto:adam@abbeyfarms.org).

## Decorate the Church

All are welcome to help decorate our church for Christmas. We will begin at **1:00pm on Sunday, December 22**. Join us to put up trees, string the lights and hang the wreaths! On Monday morning, **December 23rd at 9:00am**, we will add the beautiful flowers to our worship space. Decorating as a parish community is a great way to prepare for Christmas, please join us on one or both days!

## Looking for a **VOLUNTEER** Opportunity? Get Involved at **MARKLUND!**

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### VOLUNTEERS needed for:

- Residential Activities
- Classroom Activities
- Community Outings/Field Trips
- Special Events
- Parties
- Special Projects
- And more!

For information on our upcoming events or  
on becoming a Registered Volunteer, please contact:  
**Lisa Esposito at [lesposito@marklund.org](mailto:lesposito@marklund.org)**

**Marklund**

[www.marklund.org](http://www.marklund.org)  
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Elgin, IL 60120

## 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](http://www.rainbows.org) or contact **Ann Marcheschi at 630.337.6203** or [ann@realtorann.com](mailto:ann@realtorann.com).

## Fellowship Club

Join us for our Annual Christmas Luncheon on **Tuesday, December 17th** at **12:00pm** in the **Chelsea Room**. We will be collecting donations of paper goods, soaps etc., for St Vincent DePaul society if you wish to bring something. Non perishable only, no food items.



2019 ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH CHRISTMAS SEASON

# COME, LORD JESUS



## Christmas Season Schedule

### Reconciliation

**Wednesday, December 18**

9:00am - 10:00am & 6:30pm - 8:00pm

**Saturday, December 21**

3:00pm - 4:30pm

### Simbang Gabi

**Sunday, December 15**

7:00pm

### Christmas Masses

**Tuesday, December 24**

4:00pm, 6:00pm & 12:00am Midnight

**Wednesday, December 25**

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

### New Year's Masses

**Tuesday, December 31**

5:00pm

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

8:00am & 10:00am

## Magi Needed!

We're starting a new tradition with our celebration of Epiphany this year. Wearing our beautiful Magi costumes we need three adults at each Mass the weekend of **January 4th** and **5th** to greet all parishioners as they arrive to Mass. After Mass the Magi will have something special to pass out as parishioners leave. If you would like to volunteer please call **Loretta** at **224.535.6024** or contact the parish office.



## Christmas Choir

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior! Christmas Eve Mass times are Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00pm and 6:00pm. Christmas Day Masses are at Midnight, 8:00am, 10:00am and Noon. **Youth Choir** will sing at the 4:00pm Mass, **High School Ensemble** at the 6:00pm Mass, and our **Adult Choir and Handbell Choir** will give a concert prior to Midnight Mass, beginning at 11:30pm. **Servant Choir** (Filipino Choir) will sing at 12:00 Noon on Christmas Day. May the gift of our Savior fill you with peace and joy this Christmas!

## SIMBANG GABI SCHEDULE 2019

DATE/TIME	LOCATION	PRESIDER	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	PRESIDER
Sunday <b>December 15, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>St. Thomas More</b> 215 Thomas More Dr. Elgin	Rev. Ryan Browning	Friday <b>December 20, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>St. John Neumann</b> 2900 East Main St St. Charles	Rev. David Peck
Monday <b>December 16, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</b> 5N939 Meredith Rd Virgil	Rev. Ariel Valencia	Friday <b>December 20, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>Christ the Teacher</b> 512 Normal Rd DeKalb	Rev. Adrian Ladines
Tuesday <b>December 17, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>St. Margaret Mary</b> 111 S Hubbard St. Algonquin	Rev. Peter Sarnicki	Saturday <b>December 21, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>St. Patrick Catholic</b> 6N491 Crane Rd. St. Charles	Msgr. Daniel Deutsch
Wednesday <b>December 18, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>St. Mary's Church</b> 10307 Dundee Rd Huntley	Rev. Max Stridel	Sunday <b>December 22, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>St. Mary Catholic</b> 312 Lincoln Ave. Woodstock	Rev. Burt Absalon
Thursday <b>December 19, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>St. Catherine of Siena</b> 845 W Main St. Dundee	Bishop David Malloy	Monday <b>December 23, 2019</b> 7:00 pm	<b>St. Lawrence Church</b> 255 Jewett St Elgin	Rev. Andrew Mulcahey

## Presiders

### Weekend for Dec 21st & 22nd.

#### **PRESIDERS**

**5:00 pm** Fr. Browning      **10:00 am** Msgr. Linster  
**8:00 am** Fr. Deitz      **12:00 pm** Fr. Browning



#### **THE PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS:**

- **Friday, December 20, 2019 after 12 noon**
- **Tuesday, December 24, 2019**
- **Wednesday, December 25, 2019**
- **Tuesday, December 31, 2019**
- **Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

## 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 <b>DEC 16</b>	<b>8:30 am</b> Dick Brummel, Jean Ragel
tuesday <b>DEC 17</b>	<b>8:30 am</b> St. Jude, Brendan Hallisy
wednesday <b>DEC 18</b>	<b>8:30 am</b> Deceased members of O'Rourke Family
thursday <b>DEC 19</b>	<b>8:30 am</b> Carol Nowdomski, Genevieve Grevin
friday <b>DEC 20</b>	<b>8:30 am</b> Michael Geppert, Heidi Doctor
saturday <b>DEC 21</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b> Patricia & Jack O'Connor, Victor Centanni
sunday <b>DEC 22</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Anna Saverino, People of STM <b>10:00 am</b> Sylvia Mitchell, Andrew Freund, Jr. <b>12:00 pm</b> Bob Cundiff, Ida & Francis Cox

## Bulletin Deadlines

### **ACCELERATED HOLIDAY DEADLINES**

JAN 5TH BULLETIN	JAN 12TH BULLETIN
Materials Due: December 19, 2019	Materials Due: December 30, 2019

monday <b>DEC 16</b>	tuesday <b>DEC 17</b>	wednesday <b>DEC 18</b>	thursday <b>DEC 19</b>	friday <b>DEC 20</b>	saturday <b>DEC 21</b>
<b>9:00 am</b> @WESTMINSTER Advent Study  <b>4:30 pm</b> @CHURCH, LANCASTER Youth Choir  <b>6:00 pm</b> @CHURCH, LANCASTER High School Choir  <b>6:30 pm</b> @WESTMINSTER Advent Study	<b>12:00 pm</b> @CHELSEA Fellowship Club  <b>6:00 pm</b> @CHELSEA St. Vincent De Paul	<b>9:00 am</b> @CHAPEL Eucharistic Adoration  <b>9:00 am</b> @CHURCH Reconciliation  <b>4:00 pm</b> @CHAPEL Benediction  <b>5:30 pm</b> @CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE Bell Choir  <b>6:30 pm</b> @CHURCH Reconciliation  <b>7:00 pm</b> @CHELSEA RCIA  <b>7:00 pm</b> @CHURCH Adult Choir	<b>9:00 am</b> @TUDOR Women's Intercessory Prayer Group  <b>6:30 pm</b> @TUDOR Mission Rosary Maker's Guild  <b>6:30 pm</b> @CHURCH STM School Christmas Concert	<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED AT 12:00 NOON</b>  <b>9:15 am</b> @CANTERBURY Women's Rosary Group	<b>3:00 pm</b> @CHURCH Reconciliation

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