



# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526 (217) 877-4146 StThomasDecatur@gmail.com

**2nd Sunday of Advent • December 5, 2021**



## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### *Weekends*

Sunday 10 am

### *Weekdays*

Monday-Thursday 5:15 pm

### **Reconciliation**

Sundays: 9:15 am - 9:45 am

Tuesdays: 4:15 pm - 5 pm

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

First Saturday at 8:30 am

### **Decatur Catholic Radio**

WDCR 88.9/96.5

## **From the darkness... the Light of Gods Glory!**

Sometimes, especially when life gets overwhelming and difficult, we can find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable. Wallowing in this uncomfortable darkness seems to be our norm and it's difficult to see a way out of, or through, this experience.

If we listen carefully enough, we will hear God's voice calling out deep within, beckoning us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair.

Faith tells us that God has already begun the creation of a good work in us and is with us, bringing it to completion, until Christ Jesus comes again.

It is this light of God's glory for which we are asked to pave the way and straighten the paths of our lives so that it can shine.

With all that life can ask of us and bring to us, it is our task to constantly discern what is of value. So that we do not get so weighed down by things that we no longer see, or feel, God's salvation.

## SAINT NICHOLAS, DEC. 6

St. Nicholas, the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

When Europeans immigrated to the United States, many German, Polish, Belgian and Dutch communities brought the tradition of St. Nicholas to America. The tradition calls for children to leave their empty shoes out in front of their bedrooms or the fireplace on the evening of Dec. 5. Then Saint Nicholas visits overnight and fills them with special candies, treats and small gifts.



## Holy Days of Obligation

Let's be honest—Catholics have their own vocabulary when it comes to certain things. “Holy Day of Obligation” is one of those terms we throw out that I think, unless you grew up Catholic (and maybe even then!), probably needs an explanation. A “holy day of obligation” (or “day of precept”) is a day in which the faithful are “to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship of God, the joy proper to the Lord’s Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body” (CCC 2185). In other words, they are days in the life of the Church in which we are called to celebrate a particular solemn occasion or feast in the Church by attending Mass and refraining from servile labor—not just “required to attend Mass.” Interestingly enough, the number of days of obligation depends on where you are in the Church. First off, every Sunday is considered the “primordial holy day of obligation,” but often, we don’t even think of Sunday when we use the term. The universal Church has up to 10 additional days of precept, but in the US, there are typically only 8—a couple of which have been permanently transferred to Sunday for convenience sake (e.g. Corpus Christi and the Ascension). Thus, the traditional list is usually shorter. You’ll notice as well that usually, if a day of precept falls on a Saturday or Monday, the faithful are typically dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass, due to the proximity of the celebration to Sunday. [For example, All Saints and Mary, Mother of God fell on Monday and Saturday respectively, so neither are obligatory. However, Christmas this year is on a Saturday, but we are not dispensed from attending a Christmas Mass this year.]



December 8, the celebration of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is just one such holy day of obligation.

As a reminder, our Mass times for that day are:

- Tues., December 7 (anticipatory Mass), 5:15 pm at St. Thomas
- Wed., December 8, 6:30 am at OLOL
- Wed., December 8, 2:00 pm at OLOL
- Wed., December 8, 5:15 pm at St. Thomas

Please plan on attending one of these Masses. If you are unable to attend (without sufficiently grave reason, of course), the Church asks that you please attend the Sacrament of Confession before presenting yourself for communion (which is not the same, of course, as simply attending Mass) so as to ensure we are receiving the Eucharist worthily.

As well, some of you may be wondering about the upcoming Christmas obligations, since Christmas falls on a Saturday of this year, immediately followed by a Sunday (Holy Family). The widely held understanding in the Church is that two days of precept require two Masses to be attended by each individual. In other words, the Church asks that you find one Christmas Mass time to attend (either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day) and one Sunday Mass time to attend (December 26). Note that we will NOT have an anticipatory Saturday evening Mass on Saturday night (December 25).

The schedules for our parishes are as follows (note also that we’ve added a Midnight Mass, which I’m very excited for—spread the word!):

### Mass for Christmas

- Fri., December 24, 4:00 pm at OLOL
- Fri., December 24, 5:00 pm at St. Thomas
- Fri., December 24, 7:00 pm at OLOL – in Spanish
- Sat., December 25, 12:00 am Midnight at OLOL
- Sat., December 25, 7:30 am at OLOL
- Sat., December 25, 9:30 am at OLOL
- Sat., December 25, 10:00 am at St. Thomas

### Mass for Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Family

- Sun., December 26, 7:30 am at OLOL
- Sun., December 26, 9:30 am at OLOL
- Sun., December 26, 10 am at St. Thomas
- Sun., December 26, 11:30 am at OLOL – in Spanish

Keep spreading joy!

*Fr. Friedel*

# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
November 21	\$3,121.	\$5,000.
November 28	\$3,421.	\$5,000.

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**Year-to-Date:     \$103,924.     \$110,000.**

**Short/Ahead:     - \$6,076.**

R/M Donations .....	\$288.
Sister Parish Donations.....	\$63.
Christmas Offering .....	\$40.
Christmas Flowers .....	\$340.
Decatur Calvary Cemetery .....	\$35.
Campaign for Justice and Hope.....	\$90.
Retired Religious.....	\$35.
Catholic Children's Home.....	\$35.

**Thank you** for your continued generosity in supporting the church. Envelopes may be mailed to the parish office, or slipped through the mail slot on the office door.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, December 5  
10 am     **Jane Welch †**

Monday, December 6  
5:15 pm – **Elmer and Alice Rosentretter †**

Tuesday, December 7  
5:15 pm – **Margaret Trudel †**

Wednesday, December 8 — Holy Day of Oblig.  
5:15 pm – **Austin Nichols †**

Thursday, December 9  
8:30 am – **Brian Ascheman †**

Friday, December 10  
*No Mass*

Saturday, December 11  
*No Mass*

Sunday, December 12  
10 am     **For All Parishioners**

## Parish Office

**Rev. Michael Friedel, Pastor**  
mfriedel@dio.org (217) 877-4404

**Rev. Michael Trummer, Parochial Vicar**  
mtrummer@dio.org (217) 877-4404

**Rev. Richard Weltin, Pastor Emeritus**

**Deacon Kevin Richardson**  
deaconkev@gmail.com (217) 877-4146

**Vern Wilson, Plant Manager (volunteer)**

### Parish Office

Open Mon-Thurs., 9am-noon  
2160 N. Edward Street, Decatur, IL 62526  
(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com

http://www.StThomasDecatur.com

**Office Hours:** 9am-noon, Monday-Thursday



## Please Remember in your Prayers

**All who are Ill at Home or in the Hospital  
and their Families and Caregivers**

Irene Crotser, Kevin Henry, Polly Hensley,  
**Brian Hill**, Sawyer Dale Hunter, Anonymous,  
Don Keefner, Kelly McLean, Trey McLean,  
Lucia Molloy, Christina Mooney, Lucia Mounce,  
Rev. Msgr. James O'Shea, Joe Perry,  
Kay Russell, Roz Sandage, Renee Saunches,  
Virginia Thompson, JoAn Wayne,  
Norma Wilson, Tami Wittenauer,  
Rev. David Zimmerman

Please call the parish office or email  
StThomasDecatur@gmail.com to add or remove a name.

# Advent Activities

## Christmas Card Lists

If you would like to mail Christmas Cards to our parishioners who are Homebound or in the Nursing Home, **a list is available in the back of church.** We will not be collecting the cards at church this year.



## Card List Change/Addition

**JoAn Wayne** (*change of address*)

Hickory Point Christian Village  
Haven House, Rm. 305  
565 West Marion Ave.  
Forsyth, IL 62535

**Patty Hoffman**

Carriage Crossing Senior Living  
2650 N Monroe St  
Decatur, IL 62526

**Warm Hats, Socks, and Mittens** of all sizes

can be brought in and placed on the Christmas Tree by **Sun., Dec. 12.**

They will be dropped off at Catholic Charities and Oasis for distribution to adults and children in need.

Thank you for your generosity.



## After Mass Today: St. Nicholas

This weekend after Mass we'll welcome Saint Nicholas, the historic 4th-century saint and Greek Bishop of Myra. His feast day is Dec. 6. We'll learn about the true St. Nick and his radical love for Christ and his compassion for the poor. After Sunday Mass please join St. Nicholas in the back of church for a special treat and challenge for the children of all ages.



## Lectors: Pick Up 2022 Workbooks

Lectors may pick up their copy of the *2022 Workbook for Proclaimers of the Word* please stop by the sacristy after Mass.



*Holy Day of Obligation*  
**Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**



**Wednesday, Dec. 8**, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass schedule for the Solemnity is:

**Tuesday, Dec. 7** — 5:15p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle, and 6:30p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes

**Wednesday, Dec. 8** — 6:30a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes and 5:15p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle

Please join us for one of the liturgies to celebrate our Blessed Mother.

Also on this day, **please remember in your prayers our sister parish in Comapa, Guatemala**. This is the patronal feast day for their parish, La Parroquia Inmaculada Concepción.

With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family of **Laura Brosamer Senger** (61), of Decatur, who died Nov. 29 surrounded by family after a valiant fight with breast cancer.



Laura was the wife of Chris Senger, the daughter of Lowell Brosamer, and the daughter-in-law of the late Sue Senger.

May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

**The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch** will meet at the **New Moon Cafe**, 3755 E William Street Rd, Decatur, (near Footworks and Whit's End) on **Tues, Dec. 7** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation.

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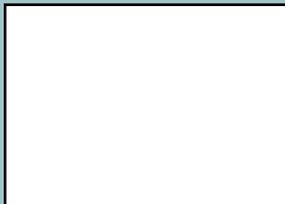
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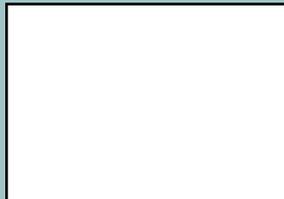


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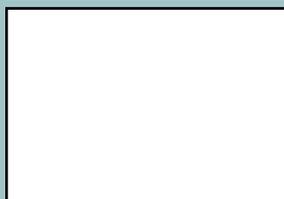
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