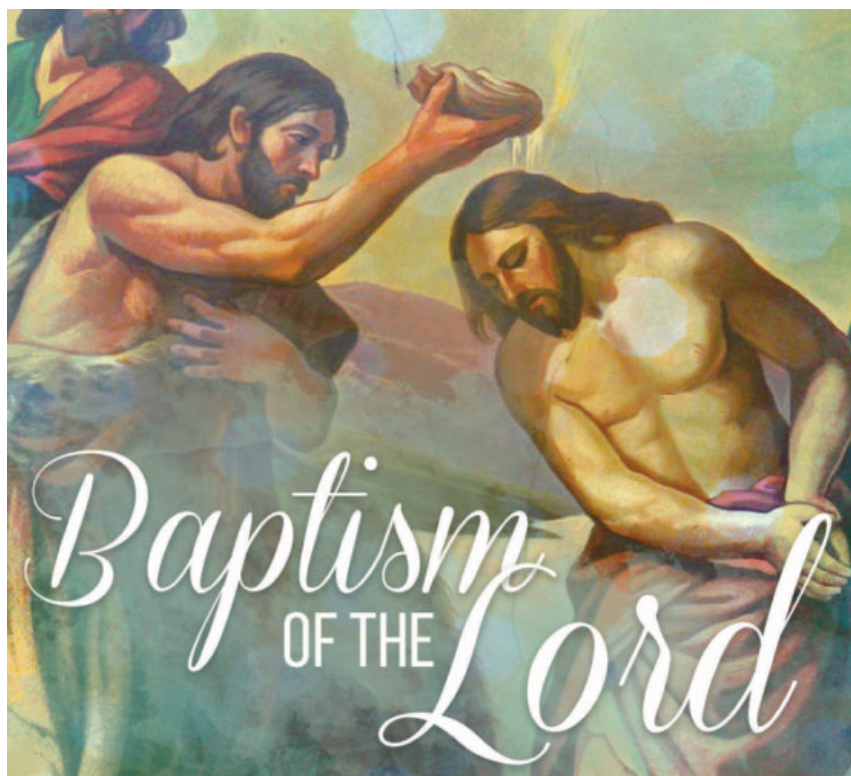




# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**Baptism of the Lord • January 9, 2022**



## We have a special place in God's heart

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus.

That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.

## 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

## CONTEMPLATE

### **I Hope I Am Like Him**

"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?" A sick man asked St. Teresa of Calcutta this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ. "He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him."

Though the authenticity of this conversation cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our discipleship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it. Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?



# BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## The Gift for Us of the Lord's Baptism

Merry Christmas! (Yes, still!) Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of our liturgical celebrations of Christmas. If you're thinking that this Christmas went quickly, well...it did. With Christmas on a Saturday this year, the Christmas season was as short as it possibly could be. That means that officially, after our Masses celebrating the Baptism of the Lord, Ordinary Time begins again in the Church. [Interestingly, there is no "First Sunday of Ordinary Time," so next weekend, we'll begin with the Second Sunday...stick that in your Jeopardy! file.]

Again this weekend, I'd like to share with you a beautiful and ancient reflection on the Lord's Baptism, this time attributed to St. Hippolytus, a priest and martyr of the early Church who likely died around the year 235. In this homily, **St. Hippolytus** reflects not only on the mystery of the Lord's Baptism, but how His Baptism is also a gift for us. In fact, most of us know that our Lord did not require Baptism for His own sake—so in a real way, the entirety of this mystery is meant to be a gift for us, a mystery of the Lord's life for our benefit.

May this new year see us growing in the grace of our own baptisms and constantly deepening our own understanding of the mysteries of the Lord's life!

“That Jesus should come and be baptized by John is surely cause for amazement. To think of the infinite river that gladdens the city of God being bathed in a poor little stream of the eternal, the unfathomable fountainhead that gives life to all men being immersed in the shallow waters of this transient world! He who fills all creation, leaving no place devoid of his presence, he who is incomprehensible to the angels and hidden from the sight of man, came to be baptized because it was his will. And behold, the heavens opened and a voice said: “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well

pleased.”The beloved Father begets love, and spiritual light generates light inaccessible. In his divine nature he is my only Son, though he was known as the son of Joseph. This is my beloved Son. Though hungry himself, he feeds thousands; though weary, he refreshes those who labor. He has no place to lay his head yet holds all creation in his hand. By his passion [inflicted on him by others], he frees us from the passions [unleashed by our disobedience]; by receiving a blow on the cheek he gives the world its liberty; by being pierced in the side he heals the wound of Adam.

I ask you now to pay close attention, for I want to return to that fountain of life and contemplate its healing waters at their source.

The Father of immortality sent his immortal Son and Word into the world; he came to us men to cleanse us with water and the Spirit. To give us a new birth that would make our bodies and souls immortal, he breathed into us the spirit of life and armed us with incorruptibility. Now if we become immortal, we shall also be divine; and if we become divine after rebirth in baptism through water and the Holy Spirit, we shall also be coheirs with Christ after the resurrection of the dead.

Therefore, in a herald's voice I cry: Let peoples of every nation come and receive the immortality that flows from baptism. This is the water that is linked to the Spirit, the water that irrigates Paradise, makes the earth fertile, gives growth to plants, and brings forth living creatures. In short, this is the water by which a man receives new birth and life, the water in which even Christ was baptized, the water into which the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove.

Whoever goes down into these waters of rebirth with faith renounces the devil and pledges himself to Christ. He repudiates the enemy and confesses that Christ is God, throws off his servitude, and is raised to filial status. He comes up from baptism resplendent as the sun, radiant in his purity, but above all, he comes as a son of God and a coheir with Christ. To him and to his most holy and life-giving Spirit be glory and power now and for ever. Amen.

Keep spreading joy! *Fr. Friedel*

# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
December 25/26	\$5,392.	\$5,000.
January 2, 2022	\$10,600.	\$5,000.

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**Year-to-Date: \$136,301.** \$135,000.

**Short/Ahead: \$1,301.**

R/M Donations .....	\$135.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$265.
Christmas Offering .....	\$4,001.
Retired Religious .....	\$100.
Catholic Children's Home .....	\$245.
Tornado Relief Collection .....	\$30.
Catholic Times .....	\$235.
Church of Latin America .....	\$95.

**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, January 9

10 am – **Robert and Dolores Midden †**

Monday, January 10

5:15 pm – **Dennis Mahorney †**

Tuesday, January 11

5:15 pm – **Brian Sprague †**

Wednesday, January 12

5:15 pm – **Mary Kraus †**

Thursday, January 13

5:15 pm – **Rev. David Zimmerman †**

Friday, January 14

*No Mass*

Saturday, January 15

*No Mass*

Sunday, January 16

10 am – **For All Parishioners**  
*Pro Populo*

## Parish Office

**Rev. Michael Friedel, Pastor**

[mfriedel@dio.org](mailto:mfriedel@dio.org) (217) 877-4404

**Rev. Michael Trummer, Parochial Vicar**

[mtrummer@dio.org](mailto:mtrummer@dio.org) (217) 877-4404

**Rev. Richard Weltin, Pastor Emeritus**

**Deacon Kevin Richardson**

[deaconkev@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:StThomasDecatur@gmail.com)

<http://www.StThomasDecatur.com>

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



## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Please Remember in your Prayers

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

Martha Wayne Cooper, 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, **Brenda Sullivan**,  
Virginia Thompson, JoAn Wayne, Shelia Wayne,  
**Norma Wilson**, Vern Wilson, Tami Wittenauer

Please call the parish office or email  
[StThomasDecatur@gmail.com](mailto:StThomasDecatur@gmail.com) to add or remove a name.

## St. Teresa Scholarship Dinner

On Saturday,  
February 5th, 2022,  
from 5-7p.m., the  
Knights of Columbus  
4th Degree will be  
holding the 13th  
annual Scholarship  
Dinner at St. Teresa



High School with **all** proceeds going to the support of St. T. scholarships. During the first 12 years, over \$55,000 has been raised for student scholarships. Due to the Covid concerns the menu has changed.

This will be a **CARRYOUT ONLY** chicken dinner supplied by Nelson Catering. The meals will consist of ½ baked chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, and a cookie. This is a **PRE-Sale ONLY**; no tickets will be sold at the door, and we **REALLY** need your support by purchasing tickets or donations.

Tickets are \$10 each and being sold by 4th Degree KC members now and after each Mass on the weekends of Jan 22/23 and Jan 29/30 at all Decatur & Mt. Zion parishes. Please plan on supporting Catholic High School education by participating in this event with friends & family.

For additional information, please contact  
Larry Clark (620-6799) or  
Steve Bowman (791-6951).

## New Members Are Welcome!

If you've been joining us at St. Thomas for Mass and you would like to become a member of our St. Thomas Parish family, we welcome you with open arms! So if you're looking for a parish family we'd love to have you make ours yours!

Be sure to introduce yourself to us so we can get to know you and serve you better!



## With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family of **Renee Francine Saunches** (72) who passed into eternity on Dec. 27.



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

*The good (and bad!) girls of the Bible!*

### **Bible Study Resumes Thurs., Jan. 13**

Looking to grow in your faith? Bible study resumes on Thursday, Jan. 13. We've been away far too long!



For the **first four weeks** back we'll be reading about some of the good (and bad!) girls of the Bible! For example, the prayerful mother, **Hannah**; **Athaliah**, the only woman ever to rule over Judah; **Anna**, the first to acclaim the Christ; **Dinah**, the woman who looked back; and more.

Deacon Kevin leads the Bible Study group on **Thursday mornings, from 9:15 -10:30 am** in the parish office meeting room. Please join us in learning from scripture in a fun, informative, and friendly setting.

You'll be glad you did! Bring a bible if you have one. Bring a friend, too! See you on Thursday.

## **Lunch Bunch**

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at the **Royal International Buffet**, 2036 Mount Zion Rd, Decatur, on **Tues, Jan. 11** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation.

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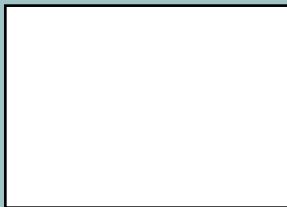
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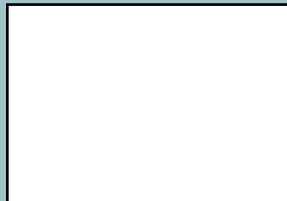


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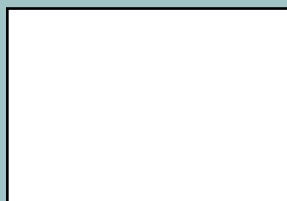
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