



# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 16, 2022**



## 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

### **Believing Signs**

At first glance, these readings lead us to bride and groom, gifts, and marriage. But there are important things underneath, important truths at the heart of these proclamations. God has not and will not abandon us (Isaiah). Charisms, that is, gifts of the Spirit, are given to everyone to use for the common good, not just one's own good (Corinthians). The miracle of water to wine is the first of many signs of the Messiah, the Christ (John). God's signs and good activity are everywhere.

- What gifts that I have, given by the Spirit, will I put to use for the good of another?
- What signs will I rejoice in?

### **All relationships need work and discernment**

Relationships are hard to clarify. Determining whether people in our lives are simply acquaintances and associates or a deeper level of friend is a journey that takes time. Identifying and celebrating those people who really care about us is a lifelong adventure that involves both moments of intense elation and heartache.

Some relationships are more easily definable than others. Two people who are in love must decide whether the love they share has the freedom and depth necessary for lifelong commitments. Other relationships may look like friendship but may harbor grave dysfunction and toxicity. Discernment is needed on all fronts.

Life is not meant to be a burden. Believe it or not, God actually wants us to be happy! In fact, the wedding feast at Cana shows us that God even puts His blessing on our happiness. It is okay to celebrate the wonder of ourselves and others.

Our relationship with God also needs definition and discernment. God has taken creation as His spouse and human beings as His children. God delights in us and all that He has made. The wedding feast at Cana demonstrates God's investment in all of this, especially our happiness.

Life is a time for celebration and great rejoicing!

## Everyone needs inner healing

We all desire happiness, freedom, joy, love, life, and peace. We probably have all prayed for more of these things in our life. However, even with our praying for more joy, peace, etc., we can find ourselves stuck in old negative thinking patterns. We can find ourselves weighed down by the burdens and anxieties of the world. We find ourselves struggling to reach that deeper level of happiness and freedom we know we are made for. This can happen even when we are people who pray, go to Mass, and even go to Confession with regularity. Shouldn't we be happier?



Fr. Trummer  
*Parochial Vicar*

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Especially when we get to receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist? Even though God is our Father? Even though Jesus has conquered death? It isn't just people living apart from Christ who struggle to find freedom, joy, and happiness, even we as believers can struggle.

If we continually struggle to find love, joy, peace, and freedom, if we often feel dissatisfied, resentful, chronic fear or worry, unsure of ourselves, if we struggle with the same sins over and over even after confessing our sins, the solution might not be in simply praying more, going to Mass more, or going to Confession more. Those things are all incredibly important and beneficial, but what we need more specifically is spiritual and emotional healing. If that were enough, then why does there exist believers who spend tons of time in daily prayer, attend daily Mass, read spiritual books, listen to Catholic radio, and are engaged in their faith in so many ways, yet are lacking true love, joy, peace, and freedom? Not only lacking these things, but even have a noticeable amount of negativity, bitterness, worry, and heaviness? It is because there is deeper healing that needs to happen in their soul. To use an analogy, exercising, eating healthily, taking vitamins and supplements, and sleeping well are all great ways for a person to be healthy and full of energy. However, if they have heavily developed cancer in one of their major organs, they aren't going to experience full health and might feel quite sick. They need specific targeted treatment for their cancer—radiation, chemotherapy, or surgery. For our souls, spiritual

forms of sustenance like Mass, prayer, and confession are not always targeted or specific enough in treating the cancer or wounds in our souls.

It is my firm belief and conviction that everyone needs inner healing. I believe the only truly spiritually healthy and fully alive disciples are ones that have journeyed through inner healing. The reality is, that many of us have experienced emotional/spiritual wounds that are more serious than we realize. Even if we haven't experienced some major form of abuse or trauma, we still have a need for inner healing. Simply not receiving an abundance of affirmation, love, support, and encouragement, etc. can leave us wounded. Apart from our specific experiences of growing up, the Enemy is always out to attack us. The Enemy doesn't attack us by making random noises in our house at night or knocking something off our dresser. He attacks us with lies about our value and identity. One of my favorite verses is John 10:10, where Jesus said he came that we might have life and have it abundantly. However, immediately before he says that the Enemy, the devil, "comes only to steal and kill and destroy." The devil wants to rob us of the abundant life Jesus has for us. From my experience as a priest, I can say the devil holds many people in bondage through unaddressed spiritual/emotional wounds, lies, limitations, and distortions in our image of God. It isn't a matter of the devil possessing people in some dramatic fashion. It is simply the fact that he robs many people of experiencing this full love, joy, peace, and freedom that they are made to experience.

I am excited to invite you to an opportunity for inner healing. Our parish is going to be hosting a retreat for inner healing/freedom this Lent. Specifically, it will start March 11th in the evening and go until the night of March 13th. It will be at Lourdes' Church. A more specific schedule will be released soon. I think in order for us to be disciples that will set the Church and world on fire we must receive this deeper healing and freedom that Jesus has to offer us. I hope to see you at the retreat! Please feel free to invite anyone you know to this retreat. This is not just for Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thomas parishioners. To sign up, please call the office at 217-877-4404, or email [communications@lolchurch.com](mailto:communications@lolchurch.com) to RSVP to the retreat. There is no cost.

# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
January 9, 2022	\$4,608.	\$5,000.

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<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$140,909.</b>	\$140,000.
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<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>\$909.</b>	
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R/M Donations .....	\$125.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$160.
Christmas Offering .....	\$15.
Retired Religious .....	\$100.
Catholic Times .....	\$442.
Church of Latin America .....	\$40.

**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.

**Online giving is also available:**

<https://parishgiving.dio.org/stthomasdecaturn>

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, January 16

10 am – **For All Parishioners**

*Pro Populo*

Monday, January 17 — MLK, Jr. Day Holiday

*No Mass*

Tuesday, January 18

5:15 pm – **Stephanie Fahy †**

Wednesday, January 19

5:15 pm – **Renee Sauches †**

Thursday, January 20

5:15 pm – **Mary Kraus †**

Friday, January 21

*No Mass*

Saturday, January 22

*No Mass*

Sunday, January 23

10 am – **Jerry and Marge Hertel, Janet and Jerry Hill, and Peter Schumacher †**

## 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!

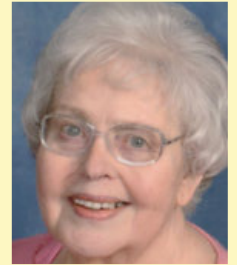
Be sure to introduce yourself to us so we can get to know you and serve you better!





# With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family of **Norma Wilson** (85), beloved wife of Vern Wilson, who passed into eternity on January 8, 2022.



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!*

## Join Us for Bible Study at St. Thomas

Looking to grow in your faith? Bible study has resumed! We've been away far too long.



For the **first four weeks** back we're 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 only daughter of Jacob and the woman who was vindicated by her brothers; **Lot's wife**, 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.

## Host the Vocations Crucifix

Please sign up today! The church needs your prayer. The signup sheet is on a table in the gathering area of church.



Families and individuals are encouraged to sign up to host the Vocations Crucifix and pray for the week. God bless you!

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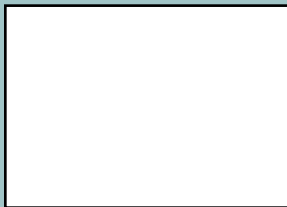
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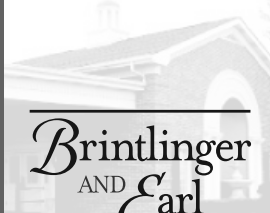


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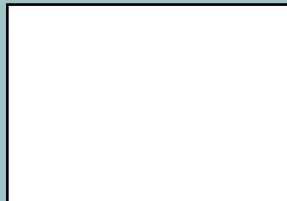


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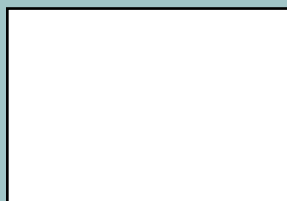
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