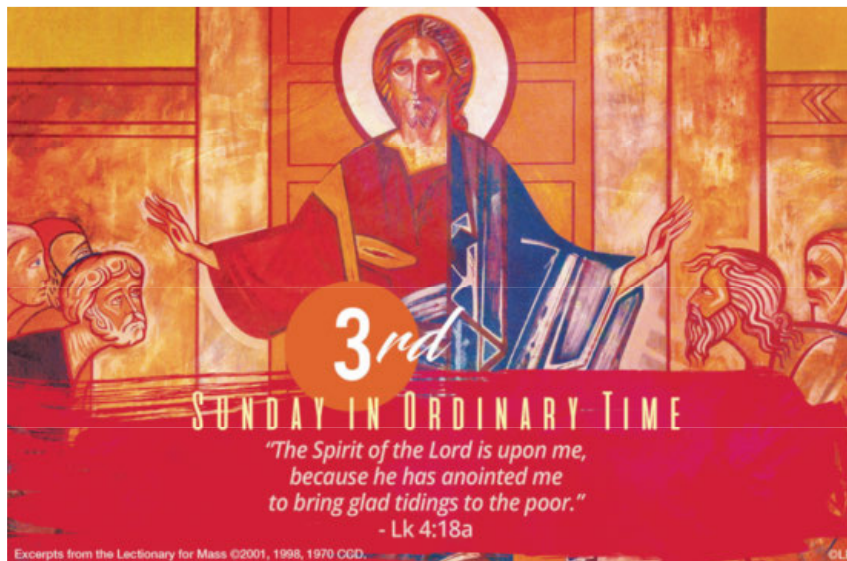




# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 23, 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

## Truly hear God's word and act on it

People can easily lose a sense of the sacred and transcendent. When we lose a sense of God's special presence, we need to be brought back. Ezra brought people back to the word of God and they realized what they were missing. Jesus proclaims God's word in the synagogue with true conviction and tells those gathered that he is the fulfillment of all that Isaiah taught.

Even though people get lost, distracted, discouraged, and often journey down the wrong path, God's timeless law remains. When we allow ourselves to truly hear God's word and act on it, that living word slowly, over time, changes us. It has the power to soften and mold us, creating within us a joyful spirit. We realize the truth in what God speaks and become open to God's love.

Gradually and gently God leads us back where we belong. We discover again the sacred character of life and the wonder of God's power.

It is no wonder that Luke addresses his remarks to Theophilus. It is a name that means "beloved of God," a name that can be used by anyone who desires friendship with God. Life is a time for celebration and great rejoicing!

## CONTEMPLATE

### **Believing the Word of God**

We are the Body of Christ assembling as the graced community of believers each week to give thanks and praise, to share in Communion, and then sent to serve. We are part of the great Communion of Saints to whom is handed down the living Word of God – both the Scriptures and the Tradition as well as the very person of Christ who is the spoken Word of God (Luke). During the first Mass in a brand-new church building, the bishop shows the Lectionary to the assembly and says:

*"May the word of God resound always in this building, to open for you the mystery of Christ and to bring about your salvation in the Church."*

## **And Now Back to Our Regularly Scheduled Programming!**

Welcome back to Ordinary Time, everyone! I always like to remind people in the midst of this season that Ordinary Time isn't just a Church-speak for "the boring time between when the real good stuff happens." Far from it—Ordinary Time is the time in which we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. We listen again to the miracles that He worked, we hear again His preaching and the parables that He used to illustrate for us the Kingdom of God, and we celebrate that even now, His graces flower among us.

I'm sure I've said this before, but the reminder never hurts: Ordinary Time is meant to indicate to us that the Sundays during this portion of the year are marked by ordinal numbers (Second, Third, Fourth, etc.). Unfortunately, in the English language, "ordinary" also carries with it a sense of plainness and regularity, and while it's not the intention of the Church to relegate these Sundays to the back-burner, I think we can learn from it that the Lord desires to work even now, here in the midst of the "regular" and the "everyday," not just in the watershed moments of life or in the great and profound mysteries that we celebrate during Easter and Christmas, Advent and Lent, but here, in the grayness of the winter here in central Illinois.

He came for us now, to enter into our present moment, to fill our entire life with His grace.

Now that I've had a little time to rest and relax, I also wanted to make sure to thank all the people that I probably should have thanked weeks ago. To all who helped make the transition of seasons (Advent to Christmas, Christmas to Ordinary Time) easy, I offer you my heartfelt gratitude! Most especially, I thank the choirs and instrumentalists who worked



Fr. Friedel  
*Pastor*

diligently to provide beautiful music for us at our Christmas Masses. I thank those who came to fluff the Christmas trees, for those who put out the garland and the wreaths and the bows, and for Dan Ashenfelter and Sheri Holohan at St. Thomas and the Hispanic Community at OLOL who helped to decorate the Churches with finery to meet the season's festivities. Thanks to our fine staff as well, for always making sure I have my head screwed on relatively straight. Community worship is enhanced when the community takes vibrant part, and this pastor is grateful for all the ways you find to do just that!

Lastly, I just wanted to ask for your help and prayer. As some of you already know, Mrs. Theresa Bowser, our faithful (and wonderful!) principal of several years at Our Lady of Lourdes School has decided that this will be her last year as principal. She goes with our sincerest gratitude for all that she's done to make the school a place of Catholic excellence. She's going to be a difficult one to replace!

In that vein, I ask for your prayers as we begin the journey at OLOL of finding a new school principal. Our search committee is forming, and the position will soon be advertised. Please join me in praying that our school (and Holy Family's school, which is also looking for a principal) find strong candidates to lead us and move with the Holy Spirit to choose the right leader. The Lord is faithful; pray for our fidelity as well and that the Lord will bring us all closer together in mission as the Catholic Churches and Schools of Decatur!

Keep spreading joy!

*Fr. Friedel*

### **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!



# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
January 16, 2022	\$2,175.	\$5,000.

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<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$143,084.</b>	\$145,000.
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<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>-\$1,916.</b>	
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R/M Donations .....	\$45.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$60.
Assistance for the Needy .....	\$25.
Catholic Times .....	\$100.
Church of Latin America .....	\$55.

**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/stthomasdecatu>



## Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, January 23

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

Monday, January 24

5:15 pm – **Rev. David Zimmerman †**

Tuesday, January 25

5:15 pm – **Patients with medically challenging cases**

Wednesday, January 26

5:15 pm – **Joan Foyer †**

Thursday, January 27

5:15 pm –

Friday, January 28

*No Mass*

Saturday, January 29

*No Mass*

Sunday, January 30

10 am – **Chris Oberheim †**

## 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



## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Please Remember in your Prayers

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

**Isabel Blakeman**, Martha Wayne Cooper, Irene Crotser, Kevin Henry, Polly Hensley, **Jim Hertel**, 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, Vern Wilson, Tami Wittenauer

Please call the parish office or email 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).

*SAVE THE DATE!*

## Decatur Catholic Radio's 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DINNER Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Mt. Zion Convention Center  
Doors Open 5:30 p.m.

Key Note Speaker is  
**Father Burke Masters**

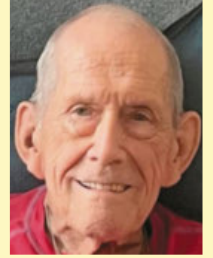


Guest Host of Relevant Radio's "Morning Air"  
Director of Adult Formation in the Diocese of  
Joliet & Chicago Cubs Chaplain



## With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family of **Donald Custin** (89) who passed into eternity on Jan. 15 in Ft. Myers, Florida, where he had been living in recent months near his loving son Tony. May his 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're reading about some of the good (and bad!) girls of the Bible! 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.

### **Night of Healing at Our Lady of Lourdes**

On Saturday, January 29 at 6:30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, there is another Night of Healing. It is for anyone and everyone who needs prayers. Such an important part of Jesus' ministry was healing the sick. There is a power when we gather together and pray for healing.

The Night of Healing is a healing service that provides a much more powerful and intentional way to pray for healing. Prayer for healing will be prayed for in a large group, and there will also be an opportunity for prayer teams to pray over anyone wanting prayer for healing.

If you or anyone needs prayers for healing, please feel free to come. Prayer teams will stay as long as needed for individuals to receive prayer. Our prayer team members will be masked. Any questions can be emailed to Fr. Michael Trummer: [mtrummer@dio.org](mailto:mtrummer@dio.org)

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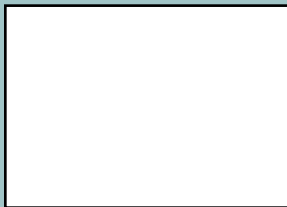
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 217-615-0769

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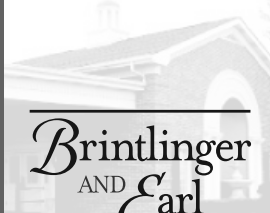


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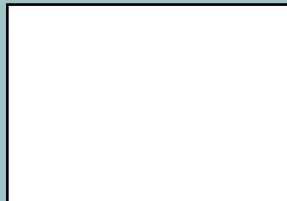


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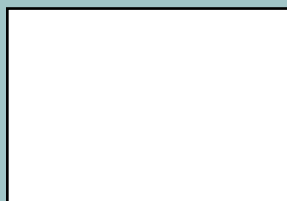
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