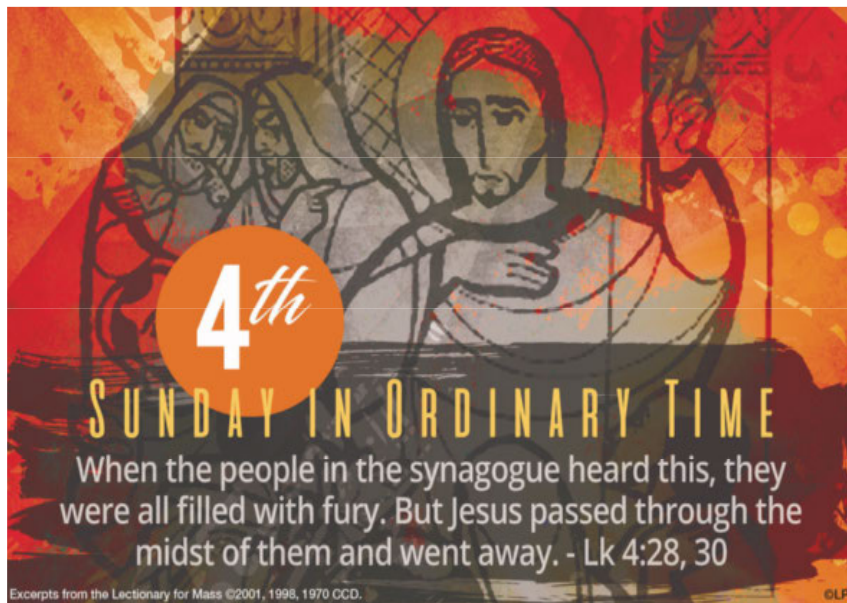




St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 30, 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

A challenge to see things differently

Prophets possess an intimate knowledge of God and act on their experience of God. Prophetic messages usually challenge the status quo and draw us up and out of ourselves, focusing us on the bigger picture. We often think of ourselves and our own needs first.

When we listen to someone speak, we judge the merit of the message by its degree of usefulness. If the message or vision contains no personal benefit or profit but a call to stretch and grow, we can become indignant.

Prophets are usually the ones whose message challenges us and calls us to see things differently and love more perfectly and deeply. God is love. When listening to St. Paul speak about love we witness the unfolding of this type of unconditional, other centered, self-sacrificial perfect God.

It is an invitation to life, freedom, and happiness that can be offered to us only by God. Jesus, who is God and Love incarnate, calls us to this richer expression of love. Are we ready to listen and be challenged and stretched?

Believing God who protects

Proclaiming God's Word can be costly. For the grueling work of prophet Jeremiah, God declares he will not be alone. In proclaiming Good News in his home town, Jesus is faced with reproach and the threat of being thrown over the cliff. Proclaiming Good News is the task of each of us because of Baptism into Christ. So, how do we do it? As faithful, hopeful, loving Christians,

- What words of faith will I share with others this week?
- What is part of the great hope I have in believing in Christ?
- Because God keeps me safe in a protecting embrace, how can I love? Whom will I love – even those who are not “one of us”?

Embracing the Unfamiliar, and Living with the Uncomfortable and the Inconvenient

This Sunday's Gospel is interesting...Jesus, in His hometown of Nazareth, from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah that God has sent Him to preach good news to the poor, and then says to the marveling crowd, "Today, this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And while the reception of Jesus' words seems to be pretty good, there are those in Jesus' hometown that begin to think more in human terms: "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" Surely He can't be what He seems to be saying He is, can He?



Fr. Friedel
Pastor

The familiarity that the people of His hometown share with Jesus ends up becoming an obstacle to their faith. And it's an obstacle that I would guess many of us have tripped over a time or two, if we've been paying attention. The "familiar" often comes to be taken for granted. And while we've been given this great invitation to embrace God as familiar (literally, as of the same family), the call is certainly not to become complacent with His gifts or take for granted how close He desires to be to us.

Routine is a good thing, but it can also challenge us to remember why or with what importance we do the things we do. Take for example genuflecting to the tabernacle. When we do it, do we remember Who it is that we are acknowledging when we bend our knee? Or as we enter the Church, do we walk in just like we walk into our favorite restaurant, casing the joint for the people we know, chatting with those who we pass on the way to our seat? None of those are bad things, of course—but the Church is first and foremost the House of God; while He rejoices in our community, He also deserves our

first acknowledgement. Or when we receive communion, are we mindful of who we receive? Do we take a moment after receiving to acknowledge that we carry God within us—and do we kneel after Mass to pray in thanksgiving for that great gift?

One of the challenges with a God who desires to be so present to us is not to get so familiar with Him that we forget the greatness and sheer graciousness of that gift.

So, was that it for the people of Nazareth? Were they forgotten in the plan of God, since Jesus was not able to share His miracles with them that day? Surely not...if they had faith, the call was to pursue Him. To leave the comfort and convenience of Nazareth, to leave behind what was familiar and to enter into discipleship with Jesus. So too with us. At times the Lord calls us to leave behind what we find convenient, what we've made "our own"—even sometimes good things, things in the faith—in order to pursue Him in what is uncomfortable for us. But like the people of Nazareth that day, we learn that to do so is well worth the reward.

For those of you who are celebrating, happy Catholic Schools Week as well! This is a week to celebrate the gift of Catholic education. Thank you to the teachers and staff who make it possible, and to the families who continue to support our mission in our Catholic schools. May the Lord prosper us and bless our Catholic schools with His abundance!

Keep spreading joy!

Fr. Friedel

and Schools of Decatur!

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 23, 2022	\$3,383.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$146,467. \$150,000.

Short/Ahead: -\$3,533.

R/M Donations	\$110.
Sister Parish Donations	\$40.
Assistance for the Needy	\$133.
Catholic Times	\$130.
Church of Latin America	\$130.

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 30
 10 am – **Chris Oberheim †**

Monday, January 31
 5:15 pm – **Arnold Metzger †**

Tuesday, February 1
 5:15 pm – **The End to Abortion**

Wednesday, February 2
 5:15 pm –

Thursday, February 3
 5:15 pm – **Jeremy David Matthis †**

Friday, February 4
No Mass

Saturday, February 5
No Mass

Sunday, February 6
 10 am – **Pat Hayes †**

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, **Carolyn Thorpe**, Roz Sandage,
 Brenda Sullivan, Virginia Thompson,
 JoAn Wayne, Shelia Wayne,
 Vern Wilson, Tami Wittenauer

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 11th 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

God's plan for the Human Person

Join Seminarian Daniel McGrath for a **three-part series of classes on the human person.** During the first talk we will learn about Creation and life in the Garden of Eden. The second talk will examine the Fall and its effects on humanity. Finally, the third talk will take a look at redemption in Jesus Christ and the state of the Christian person after baptism.

Classes will be at 7:00 pm on **February 2nd, 9th, and 16th** in the Enrichment Center at Our Lady of Lourdes.

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.



"Thank you to everyone who kept my family in your prayers and offered condolences and support in the past few weeks on the death of my wife Norma.

I also want to thank the group of international nurses from St. Mary's and Decatur Memorial who sent me a lovely card, gift, and prayers after my hip replacement surgery at the end of December. Our pastor Fr. Friedel also surprised me with a card and gift for Christmas. All of these things were so much appreciated and made me glad to be part of the St. Thomas family. Thank you so much! "

— Vern Wilson

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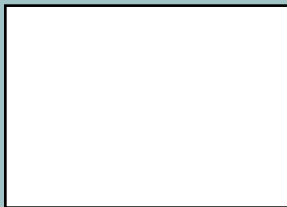
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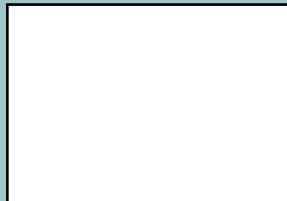


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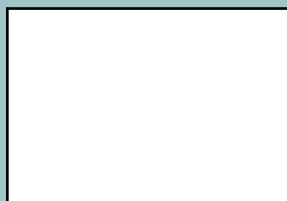
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