



# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 6, 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

### **“Here I am, send me!”**

When we encounter or even ponder God’s magnificence, power, and awesomeness, we easily begin to feel our own smallness and perceived insignificance. After all, who can compete with eternal greatness, seraphim, or the ability to catch great numbers of fish?

We unfortunately think that God’s presence somehow overrides us, reduces our importance, and only seeks to judge our inadequacies and doubts. Things begin to change a bit when we realize that what we may have seen as overwhelming and frightening is really only unconditional, unmerited love. Love has tremendous majesty and power.

When we listen to this power and stop seeing it as threatening or dooming, our fear dissipates and Divine friendship takes root. Remaining close to what we once preferred at a distance, we can journey to places we never thought possible and do things we never thought we could do. Strengthened by Divine friendship and encouraged by its life-giving power, we can say “here I am, send me!” when God asks, “whom shall I send?” Sin and fear no longer are of concern to the one who remains close to God in a bond of trust.

### **Believing Christ’s Rising**

Isaiah and Luke relate stories of being called to do God’s work. Paul, in the second reading, recounts the Good News in which we stand and in which we are saved. Namely: Jesus died, was buried, was raised on the third day, and then appeared to many. He is with us still.

- How do I experience the risen Christ in daily life? My life? Other’s lives?
- How will I “press in on Jesus” (Luke) to hear his saving words?
- From what does this Christ save me this day? Then tomorrow? Then the next day?

## Seminary Formation

Happy Sunday! In our Gospel reading for this weekend, we hear about the calling of Saints Peter, James, and John. After they witness the great miracle Jesus works for them, Jesus says to them, "Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching men." Without turning back, they follow him for the rest of their lives, becoming his closest friends and some of his first priests.

This passage is often used by speakers when they speak to young men about listening for God's call to the priesthood. Jesus' words to Peter have certainly been influential in my own life. I would like to take an opportunity to write briefly about the seminary process and where I am right now.

I began to hear the call of God near the end of my senior year of high school, and entered the seminary after my first year of college and after applying to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Because I had not completed a Bachelor's Degree, I entered College Seminary. From a bird's eye view, the seminary system is split into two parts: Studies in Philosophy, and Studies in Theology. Philosophy is either studied during the Bachelor's program in a college seminary, or if a man has already completed a Bachelor's Degree, he studies Philosophy for two years before entering into Theology studies. A seminarian spends his final four years of study in the seminary in a Theology program.

Although we generally talk about studying at the seminary, a man's formation is much more holistic. The formation of a seminarian can be viewed under four dimensions of life: Spiritual, human, pastoral, and intellectual. The intellectual dimension of life is occupied by our studies. Human formation is a matter of growing in maturity in our own life and in friendships with other seminarians. We learn and grow spiritually through a steady routine of prayer that includes a daily holy hour, the Liturgy of the Hours, and Mass, as well as other devotions like the



Daniel McGrath  
*Seminarian*

rosary. Finally, we spend time in parishes for a day each week to fill out our pastoral formation.

At this point, I am in the very middle of my studies of Theology. This means I have two years left in formal studies at the seminary. You may have noticed, however, that I have been in Decatur for the duration of the past school year. I chose to spend a year in a parish in our diocese to help me learn more in the realm of pastoral formation (though I assure you, I have been learning just as much in the other three realms of life, i.e. growth in one area involves growth in another).

A good analogy is that I am an apprentice under Fr. Friedel. I watch and learn, and do a good amount of pastoral ministry myself. This year, I have been involved in visiting some nursing homes and the two hospitals, as well as visiting the grade school, teaching PSR, writing a weekly bulletin article, and various other ministerial tasks. It has been a very blessed experience for me, and I have appreciated the opportunity to spend time and meet people at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thomas parishes.

God Bless!

Daniel McGrath, Seminarian.

### 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



### Host the Vocations Crucifix

Please sign up today! The church needs your prayer. The sign up 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!



# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
January 30, 2022	\$3,991.	\$5,000.

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**Year-to-Date:     \$150,458.**     \$155,000.

**Short/Ahead:     - \$4,542.**

R/M Donations .....	\$25.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$29.
Catholic Times .....	\$30.
Catholic Children's Home .....	\$20.

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

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Monday, February 7  
 5:15 pm – **Mary Lou Gardner †**

Tuesday, February 8  
 5:15 pm – **An End to Human Trafficking**

Wednesday, February 9  
 5:15 pm – **Joan Foyer †**

Thursday, February 10  
 5:15 pm – **Bob and Erika Luckenbill †**

Friday, February 11  
*No Mass*

Saturday, February 12  
*No Mass*

Sunday, February 13  
 10 am – **Dolores Brady †**

## 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**

Isabelle Blakeman, 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, Vern Wilson, Tami Wittenauer

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

# Retreat



## Retreat for Inner Healing

*March 11-13*

During this retreat, we will look at what in our souls and stories prevent us from experiencing the full peace, freedom, joy, and happiness that Jesus offers us. We may have been Catholic Christians our entire lives, but not experience the abundant life that Jesus promises us. This retreat will facilitate an encounter with God's transformative and healing love.

If possible, bring a Bible for the retreat. Non-Catholics are welcome, although there will be Catholic elements such as Mass, Adoration, and Confession. One is not required to attend the entire retreat, although one may miss important information/meditations, as each part of the retreat is part of an integrated whole. Minimum age to be part of the retreat is 18. We plan on using the church building and the school gym (at Lourdes) for our retreat space. Please try to show up ~10min before the start of each day. We will start each day in the gym.

The retreat will span the weekend although it is not an overnight retreat. This schedule gives you a rough idea of how time will be spent. Light breakfast and snacks will be served Saturday and Sunday. Dinner will be provided on Saturday.

To sign up you can call 217-877-4404 or email [communications@lolchurch.com](mailto:communications@lolchurch.com). Signups will also be in the back of OLOL and St. Thomas Church. It will be led by Fr. Trummer.

**Friday** | 6:30pm-8:30pm

**Saturday** | 9:00am Start

12:00-1:30pm Lunch Break

4:30pm Mass

7:30pm End of Day

**Sunday** | 9:00am Start



**Join us as WDCR Welcomes**

*Keynote Speaker*

**Father Burke Masters**

*Baseball Player to Priest*

**WDCR Decatur Catholic Radio**

**11th Annual Dinner**

Tuesday, March 22

Mt Zion Convention Center

Doors open 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:15 p.m.

Reservations \$50pp or \$400 Table of 8

To Purchase your Reservations

Please call 217-464-1099

Chance to Win 2 Cub/Cardinal Tickets at the  
Dinner with each Paid Reservation!

## Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will  
meet at **Cracker Barrel**

**(This Tues, Feb. 8)** at 11:15 a.m.,  
5120 Hickory Point Frontage Rd.

Join us for food and conversation!



### 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 9th and 16th** in the Enrichment Center at Our Lady of Lourdes.

**DEL CARMEN'S PIZZA**  
 (217) 330-7485  
 Order Online at DelCarmensPizza.com  
 2855 N. Water St. • Decatur, IL 62526  
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 Sat 4pm - 9pm • Sun - Mon Closed



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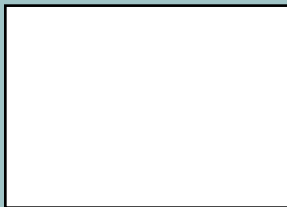
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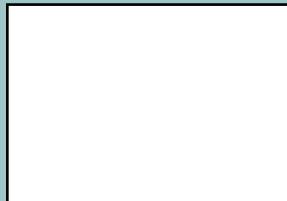


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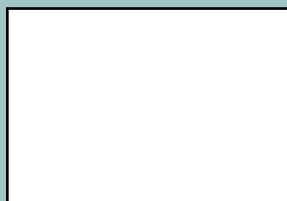
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