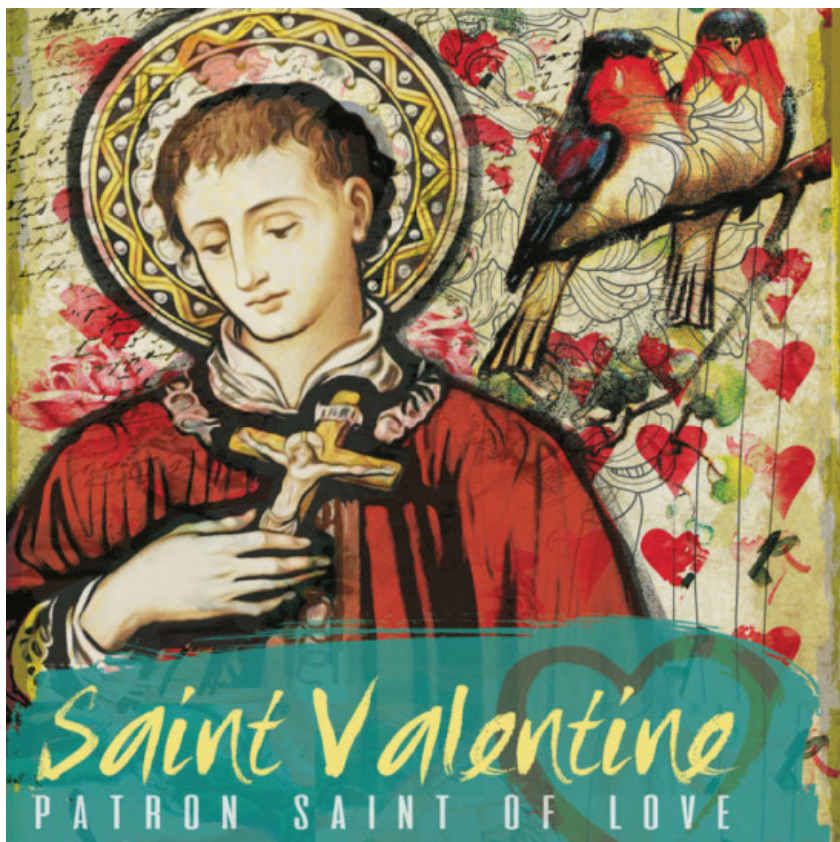




St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 13, 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 Justice and Mercy

In Luke's Sermon on the Plain, Jesus speaks to more than just his own people. We hear four blessings and four related woes.

He first calls all those in the crowd, and now calls us to rejoice and leap for joy at the blessed activities dealing with justice and mercy. The implication: do the blessings; avoid the woes.

- How will I be just in dealing with others all week long?
- How will I be merciful to everyone just as God is merciful?
- What mercy work will I do?

God ultimately will set things straight.

The human heart will always find itself wanting unless it finds rest in God. Many people haven't yet figured out that pursuing purely secular interests and side stepping their relationship with God causes them to fall short of their potential. When we seek our satisfaction, seek our strength, and establish priorities based entirely on the things of this world, we come up empty. There is never enough and we are always reaching for more.

That is why knowing the beatitudes and God's vision they contain is so important. They remind us that our consumption, success driven lives can actually hurt and exploit others; quickly moving us away from God's idea of how things need to look. We look to God for our cues for how to live and discern the best way to share this world with our brothers and sisters.



St. Valentine's Day

Happy St. Valentine's Day! As many of you know, St. Valentine is the patron saint of love (which, to be honest, I didn't know was a thing that someone could "claim" ...who knew?!) and of happy marriages, as his feast day has commonly been associated with "courtly love."

But did you know that St. Valentine was actually a martyr (which means, of course, that he died defending the faith)? There's actually not much else that's historically certain about St.

Valentine, as there is a bit of an ambiguity that exists between two early Christian martyrs who both had the name Valentinus (the name was not so uncommon in the first few centuries of the Church; it's from the Latin for "worthy" or "strong and powerful"). What does seem certain is that our St. Valentine



Fr. Friedel
Pastor

died on February 14 somewhere around the year AD 270 and was thereafter venerated in the Church of Rome. Archeologists have unearthed a very early Roman Church dedicated to him as well as a Roman catacomb that bears his name. The pope (Gelasius, at the time) declared February 14 to be his feast day as early as 496!

Some stories claim that one of the reasons St. Valentine was arrested and subsequently killed was for marrying Christians (something that would have been illegal in the Roman Empire of his day) and helping them escape the persecutions of the Emperor Claudius II. Perhaps that's where the tradition came from seeking his intercession for young married or affianced couples. The earliest association that we have of St. Valentine's day being

associated with courtly love is actually from the High Middle Ages, when the medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer referenced the day in his work "Parliament of Fowles" (c. 1375) as a time when humans and birds alike come together to find love.

If you catch me in a joking mood on St. Valentine's Day, you'll probably hear me quip that I often refer to the day as "International Celibacy Awareness Day." I jest, of course—but in our day and age, our world truly needs both witnesses. In a culture of use and over-sexualization, we need the fidelity and steadfastness of holy marriages to show us what human love is called to achieve, and that is the emulation of the steadfastness and fidelity of God's love for His Church. We also need chaste celibacy as a sign to the world that there exists a unity and consummation yet higher than what can be achieved in sexual love, as sacred as that can be in the context of a committed relationship. After all, we were all created for union with God, and celibacy remains a poignant reminder in the Church that we are made for a life beyond this earthly world—one where Christ will be our all in all, and where love of Him and of the Trinity will overwhelm all of our bodily senses.

On this St. Valentine's Day, whether you find yourself in the married state, engaged, or living a life of continence (i.e. sexual abstinence—whether temporarily or permanently!), let's pray together that St. Valentine would intercede for us and for our world, that we would together find the true meaning of love, of charity, as it is before God. Let's pray for holy marriages. Let's pray for young couples, that they make the decision to include God and the Church in their union. And let's pray for young men and women to model for us holy celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

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
February 6, 2022	\$5,782.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$156,240. \$160,000.

Short/Ahead: -\$3,760.

R/M Donations	\$305.
Sister Parish Donations	\$205.
Catholic Times	\$110.
Catholic Church in Latin America	\$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 †**

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. 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

Happy 101st Birthday!

Happy birthday to **Isabelle Blakeman** and **Cecelia Wessbecker** who celebrated their 101st birthdays in recent months! May God continue to bless you both with a strong faith, a loving family, good health, and abundant happiness all the days of your life! Thank you for being such a blessing to us. Love, your St. Thomas parish family.



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!

Gospel Mass and Soul Food Luncheon

In recognition of Black History Month, all are invited to a Gospel Mass and soul food lunch in Springfield, hosted by the Black Catholic Commission. Sunday, Feb. 27, Mass starts at 11 a.m., St. Aloysius Church on Springfield's north end. The soul food lunch follows Mass and is \$5 per person. Please RSVP for the lunch: dio.org/plasm/black-catholic-commission.html Coordinator-Donna Moore: 217-321-1161.

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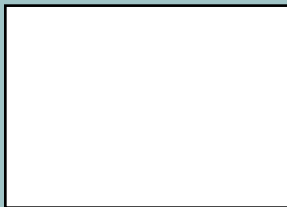
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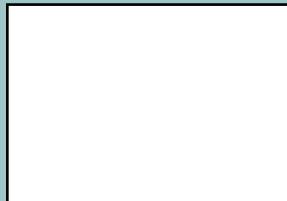
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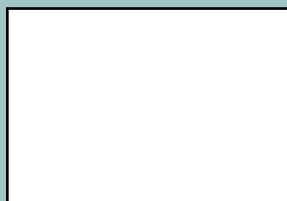
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