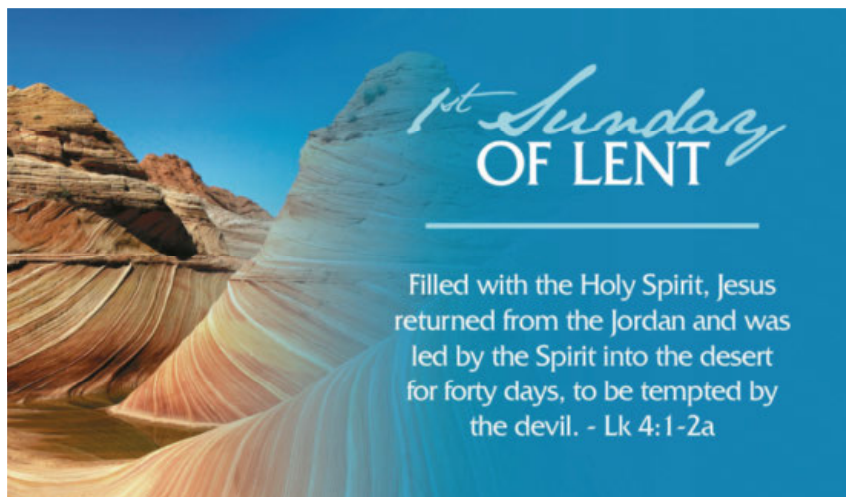




# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**1st Sunday of Lent • March 6, 2022**



## **God is incredibly in love with all he has made**

Human beings did not come to believe in God just because of someone's private testimony about him. Rather, belief in God became real when human beings understood that all of human history is being guided and lead, kept and sustained by a God who is incredibly in love with all that he has made.

It is this realization that leads us to thanksgiving and gratitude for the one who gives us "this land flowing with milk and honey." It also leads us to adoration and worship as we continue to see the creative power of God's presence in all of the events of our lives.

There is a great temptation for human beings to leave the truth of who they are, where they came from and who created them. Falling into this temptation we cease giving thanks to and worshipping our Creator as we pursue our own self-sufficiency, power, and prestige. While having more may seem better, the only thing we really need more of is love. And here is found the reason for Lent. It is a wonderful opportunity to get a handle on the attractive lures of illusion that easily captivate us and bring us off track. It is also a time for some honest reflection rooted in prayer, fasting, and selfless giving that can bring us to temptation's remedy: love. Love of his Father gave Jesus resistance. It can do the same for us.

## 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

### **Reflecting on Baptism and Temptations**

Luke's gospel recounts that Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit at Jordan's baptism, is led by that same Spirit into the desert – a place for reflection and prayer. And hunger. And temptations by diabolos, the false accuser. What happens? Strengthened by baptism at which he is called "beloved", temptations are resisted – not easily, but resisted nonetheless. Food for our thoughtful reflections this Lent.

- How does my Baptism strengthen me for Christian living?
- How can I face temptations of eating, of power, of vain glory this Lent?



## Turning Our Minds to Lent

Happy first Sunday of Lent! I hope you have been enjoying some of the more Spring-like weather we've been having over the last week. Despite the fact that it is still Winter, with the sun shining and birds singing, you'd think it was already Easter. Thank God for the natural beauty around us as we enter into the desert with Jesus this Lent!

There is a line in Psalm 90 that always sticks out to me when I pray it. We pray, "Give us joy to balance our affliction." I think that this petition not only reflects our expectant attitude during the season of Lent, but also reflects the sentiment in the hearts of people all around the world right now.

Lent is a time of entering into planned, personal "affliction" that we call penance. This penance leads us to recognize our dependence on God both by the deprivation of common pleasures through fasting and by deepening our discipleship through prayer and almsgiving.

We see how Jesus deprives himself of earthly food: "He ate nothing during those days [in the desert]." And we see how he is propelled by the Holy Spirit



Daniel McGrath  
*Seminarian*

from fasting to proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God for the salvation of our souls. He later dies on the cross, and in his resurrection, he is given joy to balance his affliction.

Our world, particularly Ukraine, has been experiencing a deep amount of affliction during the last two weeks. My heart, and the hearts of many people I have talked to, have been saddened, upon hearing reports of escalating violence and aggression, and the real affliction of many thousands of people in eastern Europe. In this experience of evil, we hear the echo of the petition of the Psalm, "Give us joy to balance our affliction!" Christ suffers in his people. When Saul was persecuting the early church, Jesus called out to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me!" Paul later writes, "if one member [of the body] suffers, all suffer together" (1 Cor. 12:26). Jesus is not distant to or uninterested in the sufferings of his people. Nor are we unaffected; as members of the body of Christ, we suffer as one. As we enter into Lent, we can spiritually unite ourselves to our suffering brothers and sisters in Europe, begging God to bring them peace, and offering our penance for them.

May we, through our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, be ever more deeply united to the afflicted and suffering heart of Christ this lent, so that upon our entry into the Easter season after these forty days, we may be given abundant joy to balance our affliction.

God bless,

Daniel McGrath, seminarian

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## Lenten Schedule

### Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 3pm at St. Thomas, 5:30pm at OLOL

### Reconciliation

St. Thomas: Sunday 9:15 am, Tuesday 4:15 pm

OLOL: Thursday at 12pm, Saturday at 11am

### Fish Frys

OLOL: March 11, 18, and 25 from 5-7pm

Holy Family: April 1, Call 217-423-6223

### Decatur Wide Penance Service

March 20 at 2pm at Holy Family

### Candlelight Adoration at OLOL

March 9 and 27 at 7pm

### Passion Narratives with Fr. Friedel

OLOL on March 24, 31, April 7 at 7pm

### Unleashing the Power of the Eucharist

Fr. Mark Tracy hosts this 3-night presentation to explore the power of the Eucharist, specifically in three dimensions: Meal, Sacrifice, & Real Presence. This event is March 6-8 at 7pm at Holy Family Parish.

### Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas

**March 4** Praying the Pro-Life Stations of the Cross

**March 11** Praying with Saint Theresa of Calcutta

**March 18** Praying the Stations for Older Adults

# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
February 20	\$3,237.	\$5,000.
February 27	\$9,907.	\$5,000.

**Year-to-Date:**    **\$173,702.**    \$175,000.  
**Short/Ahead:**    **- \$1,298.**

R/M Donations .....	\$164.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$155.
Ash Wednesday .....	\$25.
Assistance to the Needy .....	\$150.
Catholic Charities .....	\$55.
Church of Central/Eastern Europe .....	\$30.
Catholic Relief Services .....	\$45.

**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.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, March 6  
 10 am – **Gene Althoff †**

Monday, March 7  
 5:15 pm – **Eva Joanne (Happy) Luckenbill †**

Tuesday, March 8  
 5:15 pm – **The End to Abortion**

Wednesday, March 9  
 5:15 pm – **Arnold Metzger †**

Thursday, March 10  
 5:15 pm – **Louis Vighi †**

Friday, March 11  
*No Mass*

Saturday, March 12  
*No Mass*

Sunday, March 13  
 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**

- 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, **Pete Wayne**, Vern Wilson, Tami Wittenauer

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

## Prayer Shawls Are Available

Do you know someone who is ill or grieving a loss? Perhaps they would enjoy the comfort of a prayer shawl that was created by women of the Prayer Shawl



Group. The shawls have been blessed at Mass. Call Deacon Kevin at the parish office or speak to him after Mass to arrange to pick out a prayer shawl for someone.

### Reporting Allegations of Child

**Sexual Abuse** To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy or other church personnel—even if it is in the past—individuals are encouraged to call the Diocese's Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number at 217.321.1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE.

**BEST LENT EVER**  
2.0

### Feed Your Soul with Prayer this Lent!

Still BEST LENT EVER—Just Even Better. This year...for the first time ever... **Matthew Kelly** is offering TWO options for BEST LENT EVER.

Every day, you will receive two short, practical and inspiring videos in your inbox, each representing a pathway leading toward a better version of you and a closer relationship with God.

Why did he double up? Well, the world has changed. We've changed. And in order to offer a truly transformative experience, he developed two pathways designed specifically to meet you where you are, no matter where you are in your spiritual journey. So this year, have your best lent ever! The program is completely FREE.

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html>

## PRAYERS FOR THE UKRAINE

Pope Francis has called for us to pray for those suffering the effects of war. So many people are affected by this invasion. The envelope in your packet for aid to central and eastern Europe will benefit those in need from the Ukraine. The Holy Father has asked the faithful to pray the Rosary or other prayers each day for peace.

Your prayers and financial help is needed in Ukraine where there are already more than 2.9 million people in need of assistance. There is great risk of additional suffering both within Ukraine and for those who may flee to neighboring countries for safety. **Catholic Relief Services** and its partners need immediate support to meet both ongoing needs, as well as those related to families forced to flee their homes as the situation intensifies.

CRS and Caritas partners on the ground are preparing across Ukraine and in bordering countries, ready to provide safe shelter, hot meals, hygiene supplies, transport to safe areas, counseling support and more.

Please visit <https://support.crs.org> to help.

### Healing Service on April 9

On Saturday, April 9th at 6:30pm, we are hosting another healing service. Such an important part of Jesus' ministry was healing the sick. We often pray for healing privately or at a distance for someone, but 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. There is no official end time, as prayer teams will stay as long as needed for individuals to receive prayer.

Any questions can be emailed to Fr. Michael Trummer: [mtrummer@dio.org](mailto:mtrummer@dio.org)

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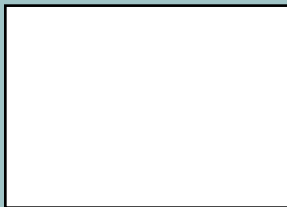
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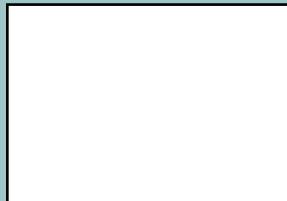
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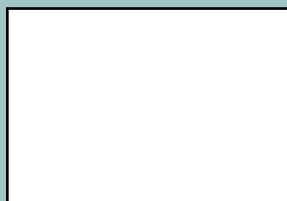
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