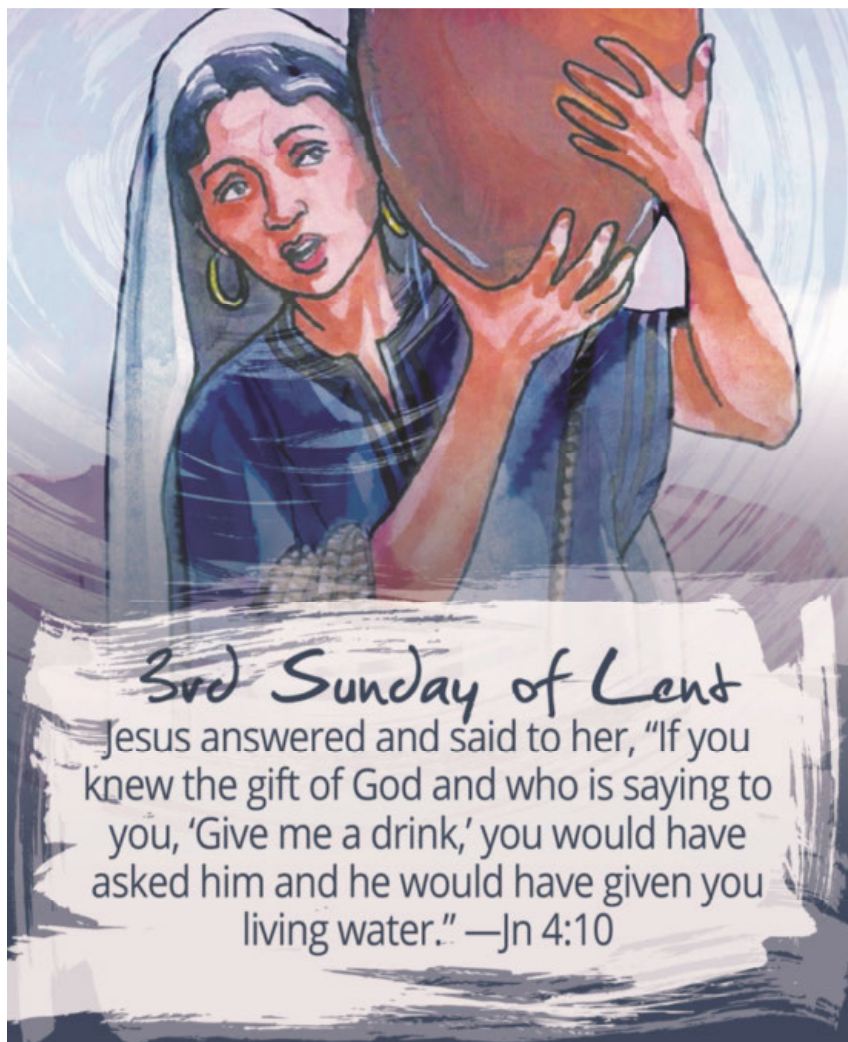




St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

3rd Sunday of Lent • March 20, 2022



3rd Sunday of Lent

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." —Jn 4:10

Why do we continue to seek something else?

The story of the woman at the well speaks to all of us of everlasting water that heals us and gives us strength for the journey. There are those among us who long for this, but we who have been marked for Christ a long time ago already possess it. But too often we continue to climb high hills looking for something else to satisfy us. The Samaritan woman leaves behind her container at the well when she leaves, for there is no reason for her ever to return. You and I have left our vessels at the well also. Stop climbing that hill — drink from that everlasting water God has given to 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

THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

St. Oscar Romero, March 24

When St. Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, his country was in chaos. He set up pastoral programs to assist the victims of oppression. He also became an outspoken advocate for human rights. Many people in El Salvador were living in poverty.

On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was murdered while celebrating Mass in El Salvador. A car pulled up outside, and a gunman fired a single shot straight into St. Oscar Romero's heart.

Calling him a "a martyr for the faith" nearly 40 years later, Pope Francis canonized him in 2018. For the occasion, Pope Francis chose to wear the same blood-stained belt that Romero was wearing at the altar when he died.

Lent: A Time for Reconciliation

The season of Lent is a special time when we are reminded of our call to conversion. If you haven't gone to confession in a while, it's the perfect time to reconcile yourself with God and the Church.

Preparation for confession should include an examination of conscience, which means you think back on sins you have committed since your last confession.

What happens during confession depends on the priest and the person. Most people still start with the formula: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (state the number of months or years) since my last confession."

If you can't remember the words or you don't recall how long it's been, don't worry! Just tell the priest it's been a long time, and he will guide you through the process.

Don't stress about going to confession, rejoice in God's love and mercy! Participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation allows you to experience the healing gift of God's love!



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>

Q: Why do priests wear vestments? Do they have a special meaning?



A: Vestments are clothes worn for a specific purpose. Our own manner of dress often corresponds to what we do. We dress up for special occasions, activities, and for special guests. We even had our "Sunday best" clothes we wore just for Church. Vestments are much the same, and each one has a meaning.

The **alb** is a reminder of the baptismal garment. The **stole** is a symbol of ordained ministry and authority within the Church. The **chasuble** reminds us that we are on a pilgrimage of faith, passing through this life towards heaven.

Priests wear vestments for two basic reasons:

First, they draw attention to the importance and solemnity of the act of worship. The color of the vestments indicates the season of the year or the feast being celebrated.

Second, vestments draw attention to what the priest does, rather than who he is. In the celebration of the Mass, the focus is on what we do together, on our common unity, and on the mystery and person of Christ.

3rd Sunday of Lent

Drinking in Christ.

Let us not grumble like the people in the desert. For we stand in the grace of God who pours divine love into our hearts and being. Let us stay in conversation with Jesus just as the Samaritan woman did at the well through our prayer and Lenten reading.

- What grumbling, what complaining will I stop doing?
- How will I make time each day to pray and converse with God?
- How will I be a sign of healing and support to the elect thirsting for Easter Baptism?



	Collected	Budgeted
March 13	\$3,344.	\$5,000.
<hr/>		
Year-to-Date:	\$182,646.	\$185,000.
Short/Ahead:	- \$2,354.	
R/M Donations.....		\$115.
Sister Parish Donations.....		\$113.
Ash Wednesday.....		\$70.
Easter Flowers.....		\$380.
Catholic Charities.....		\$263.
Church of Central/Eastern Europe		\$110.
Catholic Relief Services		\$65.

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:



- Sunday, March 20
10 am – **Pat Hayes †**

- Monday, March 21
5:15 pm – **Dennis Mahorney †**
- Tuesday, March 22
5:15 pm – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**
- Wednesday, March 23
5:15 pm – **Arnold Metzger †**
- Thursday, March 24
5:15 pm – **Rev. David Zimmerman †**
- Friday, March 25
No Mass
- Saturday, March 26
No Mass
- Sunday, March 27
10 am – **For All Parishioners**

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



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.

Candlelight Adoration

Join us Tuesday, April 5 for Eucharistic adoration by candlelight at **St. Thomas**. Praying in Eucharistic adoration is such a powerful opportunity because when we pray in front of the Eucharist, we pray in front of Jesus Christ himself. Confession is available.

Tuesday, April 5 (7-8 p.m.)

Easter Cards for the Homebound

Help bring Easter joy to parishioners who are unable to join us for Mass because they are homebound, ill, or reside in a nursing home.

If you would like to mail Easter Cards to our parishioners, a list is available a list is available by email and copies are on the table in the back of church.



Send Deacon Kevin an email at deaconkev@gmail.com and he will send you this list of names and addresses. Make it a family project!

Thank you for mailing these cards to the individuals.

What a wonderful way to express the joy of the Risen Christ!

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Marriage Tip this Week:

“In a family you don’t have to look very far to find your cross,” a father observes in *Follow the Way of Love*. Who in your family seems to have a mission to purify YOU today, to teach you patience, or to challenge you? What cross do you bring to the others in your family?



Lenten Schedule

OLPI

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 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

March 27 at 7pm at OLOL

April 5 at 7pm at St. Thomas

PASSION NARRATIVES

Presented by Fr. Friedel

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

STATIONS of THE CROSS at ST. THOMAS

Fridays at 3pm

March 18 Praying the Stations for Older Adults

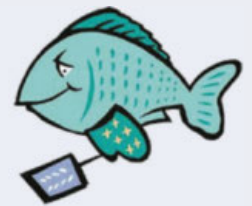
March 25 The Stations of the Cross "I am there"

Our Lady of Lourdes

Lenten Fish Fry

Our Lady of Lourdes school gym — Mar. 18 and 25, from 5-7 pm.

Call orders in at 4:30pm to 877-4408. Take out and dine in.



Catfish, Baked Cod, or Walleye, Shrimp Dinner \$10. includes: French fries or baked potato, coleslaw, bread and soft drink or tea. Children's meals: walleye or hot dog, fries, and soft drink, \$5.

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