



# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**4th Sunday of Lent • March 27, 2022**



## Have you put on your “God glasses”?

Jesus tells the blind man “you have seen the Son of Man, you have seen the Christ; the one speaking with you is he.” What if each of us could put on some glasses—“God glasses”—that allow us to see that intricate and detailed beauty of each person?

Imagine how differently we would act if each time we encountered our co-workers, we saw Christ. How differently we would treat our parents, our children, our spouse, and our classmates, our friends, our enemies. How differently we would treat the people who sit around us in church, the people we see here every week but to whom we never talk, the people who don’t speak our language, the people who don’t look, act, or think the way we do.

Imagine if each time we encounter each other, each time we speak with one another, we “see” Christ, we “hear” Jesus. How different our world would be.

## 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

## THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### **St. Michael the Archangel**

A statue of St. Michael the Archangel stands in the center of Kyiv, depicted with a shield and a sword, as the protector of the capital of Ukraine and the entire country. In the 16th century, St. Michael appeared on the coat of arms of Kyiv. But in 1969, during the regime of the Soviet Union, the authorities replaced his figure with chestnut leaves. After the fall of the USSR, the archangel was returned to the coat of arms, in 1995.

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk spoke about the angelic protector on March 4. “Here in Kyiv we perceive that the patron of our city is the Archangel Michael, who, with the cry, ‘Who is like God?’ cast into the abyss Lucifer — the one who rose up against God’s truth and was the leader of the diabolical armies,” he said. “We perceive today that the Archangel Michael, together with the whole Heavenly Host, is fighting for Ukraine.”



## Upcoming Events

There are a couple of things that I'd like to make you aware of as they unfold in the world around us. I usually leave Church news to the Church news websites, but as these "touch home" a little, I think it's good for us all to be informed.

Firstly, you may have heard that the global Church has undertaken, under the leadership of Pope Francis, a global "synod"—as a matter of fact, it's a "synod on synodality." Essentially, what the Pope is asking is that people throughout the world would take part in a process of

"synodality" (which comes from the Greek word for "gathering" or "assembly"), which includes dialogue, accompaniment, and collaboration among the diocesan leadership, ordained clergy, religious, and lay faithful. I would like to officially invite anyone who desires to participate in the synod to a listening session to be conducted at Holy Family Parish in Decatur at 2:00 pm this Sunday, March 27.

At this listening session, the Bishop will address all present (virtually, as there are various locations throughout the diocese where these sessions are being held), before those present break out into groups to discuss three key questions, as outlined by the Bishop.

We will reflect on the progress we have made in the five years that have passed since we held our Fourth Diocesan Synod in 2017: In what ways are we seeing the fruits of discipleship unfold in our local communities? What essential work remains to be done? What are the challenges and opportunities we see to evangelize and form missionary disciples of Christ?

We will reflect on synodality and evangelization: A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, 'journeys together.' How is this 'journeying together' happening today in your particular



Fr. Friedel,  
*Pastor*

Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying together'? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

We will also reflect on challenges to authentic discipleship: Given our negative experience with the loss of Catholic Charities foster care and adoption services 10 years ago due to government mandates contrary to our Catholic faith, how do we prepare for such mandates possibly being imposed on our Catholic schools?

The session will conclude with a group discussion and presentation to the Bishop on the nature of the conversation among those present.

Finally, on a different note, please keep up your prayers for the people of Ukraine! As some of you may have heard, Pope Francis consecrated Russia and the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the afternoon of Friday, March 25—the Solemnity of the Annunciation. The Pope has encouraged bishops, priests, and laity to join their prayers to his, and although the consecration has already taken place—it's never too late to add our prayers to the Holy Father's!

In addition to your prayers (which are extremely necessary!), for those of you who desire to support the people of Ukraine financially, please see the infographic ("How to Support Ukraine") contained in the bulletin for approved Catholic organizations who are supporting the humanitarian and refugee situation as it unfolds in Ukraine.

Keep spreading joy!

*Fr. Friedel*



During this Lenten season, please remember to pray for those in our Sister Parish, **Immaculate Conception**, in Comapa, Guatemala, as they pray for us.

**G U A T E M A L A**

# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
March 20	\$3,714.	\$5,000.

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**Year-to-Date:     \$186,360.     \$190,000.**

**Short/Ahead:     - \$3,640.**

R/M Donations.....	\$325.
Sister Parish Donations.....	\$40.
Ash Wednesday.....	\$20.
Easter Flowers.....	\$160.
Catholic Charities.....	\$155.
Church of Central/Eastern Europe .....	\$65.
Ukraine Support .....	\$495.

**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:**

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, March 27  
10 am – **For All Parishioners**

Monday, March 28  
5:15 pm – **James Hertel †**

Tuesday, March 29  
5:15 pm – **Joanne Luckenbill Brunner †**

Wednesday, March 30  
5:15 pm – **Rev. Dennis Kohlross †**

Thursday, March 31  
5:15 pm – **Birthday Blessings for Bernadine Metzger**

Friday, April 1  
*No Mass*

Saturday, April 2  
*No Mass*

Sunday, April 3  
10 am – **Paul Kraus †**

## 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,  
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.

## 55 Plus Gathering ~ April 19

The next 55+ Community Gathering will be Wednesday, April 19 with Mass in St. Anne's Chapel at 11:30 a.m., followed by Pot Luck Lunch with meat prepared and served by Gigi Langhauser and Margaret Gall.



Please bring a dish or items to share.  
The speaker will be announced at a later date.  
Please spread the word about the gathering.

## Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at **Olive Garden, 3795 N Water St, Decatur** on **Tues, April 12** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation.

### HOW TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

Caritas Ukraine  
[www.caritas.org/ukraine](http://www.caritas.org/ukraine)

Catholic Relief Services  
[www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy  
of Philadelphia  
<https://ukrarcheparchy.us/donate>

Catholic Near East Welfare Association  
[www.cnewa.org/campaigns/ukraine/](http://www.cnewa.org/campaigns/ukraine/)

Aid to the Church in Need  
[www.churchinneed.org](http://www.churchinneed.org)

Knights of Columbus Ukraine  
Solidarity Fund  
<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/charity/ukraine.html>

*Mary, queen of peace, pray for all the victims of this tragic and unjust war.*





## 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

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

### Candlelight Adoration

March 27 at 7pm at OLOL

April 5 at 7pm at St. Thomas

### PASSION NARRATIVES

Presented by Fr. Friedel

OLOL on March 31 and April 7 at 7pm

### STATIONS of THE CROSS at ST. THOMAS

Fridays at 3pm

**March 25** Praying the Stations of Mercy  
with Pope Francis

**April 1** The Stations of the Cross  
"I am there"



### Collecting Your Blessed Palms

**The palm branches we received** on Palm Sunday last year were set apart by a blessing from the priest and made into a "sacramental," an object that is meant to draw us closer to the celebration of the seven sacraments. Throwing them in the trash ignores their sacred purpose and treats them like any other object we no longer need.

**Bring your old palm branches** to church over the next few weekends and place them in the basket in the back of church.

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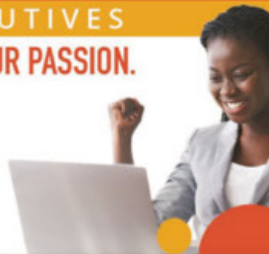
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