



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

5th Sunday of Lent • April 3, 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

THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

St. Isidore of Seville (April 4)

Saint Isidore of Seville was a prolific writer and capable administrator of his diocese. Following his brother as bishop of Seville, he founded schools and seminaries, and he was known for his encyclopedic knowledge. He was sometimes called “The Schoolmaster of the Middle Ages” because the encyclopedia he wrote was used as a textbook for nine centuries. Perhaps Isidore's greatest accomplishment is that he was a holy man.

Our society can well use Isidore's spirit of combining learning and holiness. Loving, understanding and knowledge can heal and bring a broken people back together. We are not barbarians like the invaders of Isidore's Spain. But people who are swamped by riches and overwhelmed by scientific and technological advances can lose much of their understanding love for one another.

What's your comfort zone?

We all have a comfort zone. But did you realize that you can have one spiritually? Think about what you like and what you don't particularly enjoy when it comes to church, prayer, and liturgy. We all have “those songs” we crinkle our noses at, either because they're too modern or too old-fashioned. We all have “those people” in our parish whose ideas we aren't so sure about, whether that's because they're trying to change too much or because they seem always to be looking toward the past. Also, when was the last time you sat on the OTHER side of the church during Mass?

As much as we may not want to admit it, even (and especially) as people of God, we get deeply attached to our own personal comfort zones — and we tend to view those outside with distrust. Thankfully, our God is a God who “opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters.” Our God is a God who does “something new.”

God challenges us to “make a way” out of our comfort zone, that together we may announce His praise.



Looking to Easter and Beyond

Lent is a very important season. It is important that each year we take a more intentional effort at examining our spiritual life. However, the challenges or penitential practices of Lent are not meant just to do something hard; they are meant to prepare us for what lies ahead.

Interestingly enough, we can lose sight of the big picture. Most people correctly group Lent and Easter together, as Easter happens right after the end of Lent. Sometimes we celebrate briefly, “Jesus is risen! Praise God! Jesus has conquered death!” Then, we have our Easter celebrations—we gather together, maybe hunt some Easter eggs, and finally eat some sweets and desserts that we gave up for Lent. Once the weekend or the Easter Octave is over, we go back to normal life. However, even Easter is not the final goal. Yes, Jesus conquered death and showed his love for us in an extraordinary way, but Jesus did not die only to show us an example of love or his power over death.

Jesus became man, walked among us, suffered, died, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven so he could give us his very Spirit, the Holy Spirit. The deeper fulfillment of everything Jesus does actually happens on Pentecost. Jesus wanted us to be filled with his very Life, the Love between the Father and Son. When we have the Holy Spirit we can experience true love, joy, and peace. We become temples of God. God’s love is not something we have to muster up, but it is actually a gift; the Holy Spirit is the love of God poured into our hearts.

You might be thinking, “This all sounds great, but I think I am covered. I have been baptized, received Communion, and been confirmed. I have the Holy Spirit.” However, if we look around, we don’t always see those who have received their sacraments living like the early disciples did after they received the



Fr. Trummer,
Parochial Vicar

Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We have received the Holy Spirit in the sacraments, but we have to stir up the gift we have received.

The common analogy you may have heard is chocolate syrup being poured into milk. You have to stir the syrup in order for it to become chocolate milk. Many people have received the sacraments, but never “stirred up” the Holy Spirit.

How do we stir up the Holy Spirit that lives inside of us? That is the key question. Whenever we make more of an effort to pray, engage our faith, and share our faith, we are stirring up the Holy Spirit within us. However, many of us do try to pray, be engaged in our faith, and share our faith, but our experience is still far different from the early apostles and disciples and saints of history. The early Church exploded with new converts and believers, yet in our time we see our numbers dwindling slowly with each coming year. What is the answer to renewal in the Church?

The answer to renewal in the beginning is the same answer now—more of the Holy Spirit.

One of the most powerful ways to stir up the Holy Spirit in our lives is by attending some form of a Life in the Spirit Seminar. The Life in the Spirit Seminar is not a silver bullet to fix all the problems in the Church, but it does provide an opportunity to learn more about the Holy Spirit, gather together with other believers, and provide an opportunity to pray for a deeper Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We can receive more of the Spirit anywhere, but the principal way we receive more is by coming together in faith and vulnerability, praying for more of the Holy Spirit. I think the single most important thing we can do to bring life and renewal to the Church is for all of us to be baptized in the Spirit. Baptism in the Spirit is not a new sacrament. It is a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a stirring up of the Spirit we have already received in the sacraments. I cannot fathom where I would be as a believer (and priest!) without the grace of Baptism in the Spirit. I encourage you to attend our upcoming Life in the Spirit seminar starting Thursday, April 21st at 7pm. More info is here in the bulletin! There is also the Upper Cenacle Prayer Group which meets a couple Tuesdays a month as well!

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
March 27	\$2,346.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date:	\$188,706.	\$195,000.
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Short/Ahead:	- \$6,294.	
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R/M Donations	\$40.
Sister Parish Donations	\$5.
Ash Wednesday	\$20.
Easter Flowers	\$5.
Catholic Charities	\$45.
Assistance for the Needy	\$65.
Catholic Relief Services	\$183.
Ukraine Support	\$105.

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, April 3
10 am – **Paul Kraus †**

Monday, April 4
5:15 pm – **The End to Abortion**

Tuesday, April 5
5:15 pm – **Martha Wayne Cooper †**

Wednesday, April 6
5:15 pm – **Robert and Louise Luckenbill †**

Thursday, April 7
5:15 pm – **James and Kathryn O'Brien †**

Friday, April 8
No Mass

Saturday, April 9
No Mass

Sunday, April 10
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,
Sawyer Dale Hunter, Anonymous, Patricia Jones,
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 26

The next 55+ Community Gathering will be Tuesday, April 26 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. Spread the word about this gathering. **RSVP to OLOL office 217-877-4404.**

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.

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.



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



Thursday, April 14 — Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper

6 p.m.—St Thomas the Apostle

7p.m.—Our Lady of Lourdes

There will be no morning Mass on Holy Thursday at either parish.

Friday, April 15 — Good Friday Services

of the Lord's Passion

3 p.m.—Our Lady of Lourdes

6 p.m.—St. Thomas the Apostle

There will be no Mass on Good Friday at either parish.

Holy Saturday, April 16 —Easter Vigil

8 p.m.—St. Thomas the Apostle

8 p.m.—Our Lady of Lourdes

Easter Sunday, April 17 — Masses will follow the regular Sunday Mass schedule.

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

Candlelight Adoration

April 5 at 7pm at St. Thomas

PASSION NARRATIVES

Presented by Fr. Friedel

OLOL on April 7 at 7pm

STATIONS of THE CROSS at ST. THOMAS

Fridays at 3pm

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

April 8 The Stations of the Cross
for Social Justice

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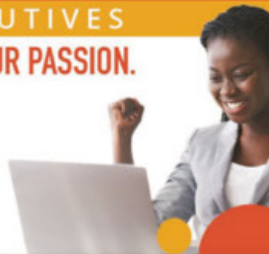
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