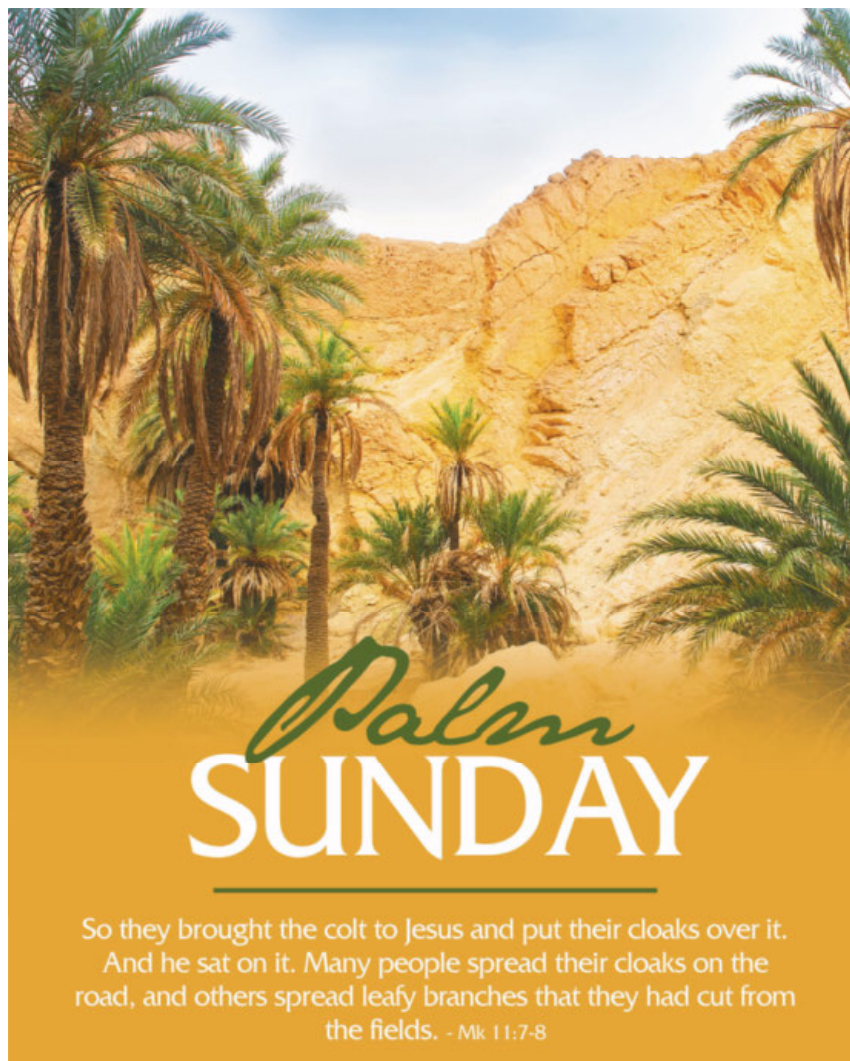




St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord • April 10, 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

THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

St. Augustine of Hippo

Holy Week brings to the fore the essential importance of Christ's Cross. In the view of **St. Augustine**, Christ's death is the reason for our hope since, thanks to His death, the Son of God gave us eternal life which we could not have by our own merits.

The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.

But what does living Holy Week mean to us? What does following Jesus on his journey to Calvary on his way to the Cross and the Resurrection mean?

Waving branches and standing at the Cross

What an ironic twist of events! Jesus is hailed with palm branches as he comes down a street one minute and faces agonizing suffering and death on a cross the next. Does any of this make any sense? They shouted, "hosanna to our King," out of one side of their mouths and, "crucify him," out of the other.

We are pulled today toward two extremes. The utter joy of welcoming the true King in procession and the extreme grieving under the Cross. But we know the end of this story. The King is not dead!



Happy Palm Sunday!

I hope this season of Lent has been going well for you, and that you have been drawn closer to God through it.

One of the defining characteristics of God throughout the bible, both in the Old Testament and the New, is his extreme mercy. We see the Lord relent in his punishment toward the Israelite people time and time again because of the few prayers of his faithful leaders like Moses and the prophets.



Daniel McGrath
Seminarian

After the people of Israel are found to be worshiping idols rather than the Lord, God cries out through the prophet Hosea,

“My heart recoils within me,
my compassion grows warm and tender.
I will not execute my fierce anger,
I will not again destroy [Israel];
for I am God and not man,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come to destroy” (11:8-9).

The Lord is saddened by his people’s unfaithfulness, but that only makes his compassion for them grow. Even when His wrath flares up, it is generally in order that the people may be converted and turn to him. We read in Ezekiel, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but [I desire] that the wicked turn from his way and live” (33:11).

God’s mercy baffles the world’s logic. In so many places - online, in movies, on social media - I see an attitude of “an eye for an eye,” i.e. an attitude of vengeance. Even in my own life, I sometimes find myself thinking about what so-and-so deserves for this evil thing that he did.

What we all need to be reminded of is that this attitude toward others is not the attitude of God. A vengeful person rightly desires that the evil person would stop acting in an evil way. He shares this desire with God. God absolutely does not desire that a sinner remains a sinner; God does not want an evil person to simply remain evil. What is different, however, is the means by which evil is stopped.

God desires the conversion of the heart. As Jesus says in the Gospel of Luke, “There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance” (15:7).

This repentance can take many forms. It could be as dramatic as the conversion of St. Paul, or as simple as the daily defeat of a vice. One of the most beautiful and well-known conversions in the bible takes place in the Gospel reading we have today. The heart of the thief crucified next to Jesus is filled with compassion for Jesus. This thief began in that moment to trust in God, and Jesus assured him that he would be in heaven that very day.

The mercy of God is astounding, almost unnerving, and it is a central message during the season of Lent. This time of turning back to God is a time of receiving more and more of his mercy. I would encourage you to reflect on the depth of God’s mercy, shown both through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and in his patience with our daily weaknesses, as we enter into this Holy Week. God bless you!

This Easter Season, Fr. Trummer is hosting a **Life in the Spirit Seminar**, which focuses on deepening our relationship with the Holy Spirit. The seminar will talk about the essential truths of God’s love, discipleship, and charisms and gifts of the Holy Spirit. If you want your faith reignited, and to experience the more God has to offer, then come to the Life in the Spirit Seminar. It will take place in the Enrichment Center at Our Lady of Lourdes from 7-8pm. There will be optional time for continued socializing and discussion after 8pm. The seminar will be hosted on the following Thursdays: 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, (no meeting on 5/12), 5/19, 5/26, and 6/2. The last session for praying for a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place on Friday 6/3 at 7pm. Any questions can be emailed to Fr. Trummer– mtrummer@dio.org

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
April 3	\$7,473.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date:	\$196,179.	\$200,000.
----------------------	-------------------	------------

Short/Ahead:	- \$3,821.	
---------------------	-------------------	--

R/M Donations	\$140.
Sister Parish Donations	\$200.
Easter Flowers	\$75.
Palm Sunday	\$70.
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	\$75.
Holy Land	\$90.
Seminarians	\$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.

Online giving is also available:
<https://parishgiving.dio.org/stthomasdecatu>

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, April 10
 10 am – **Pat Hayes †**

Monday, April 11
 5:15 pm – **Lori Anne Sullivan †**

Tuesday, April 12
 5:15 pm – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**

Wednesday, April 13
 5:15 pm – **Jeanne Vigh †**

Thursday, April 14 — *Holy Thursday Mass*
 6 pm – **Rev. Dennis Kohlross and
 Rev. David Zimmerman †**

Friday, April 15
 6 pm — **Good Friday Service**

Saturday, April 16
 8 pm – **Easter Vigil Mass**

Sunday, April 17 — *Easter Sunday Mass*
 10 am – **Lori Anne Sullivan †**



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, **Ann-Marie Hillyer**,
 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.



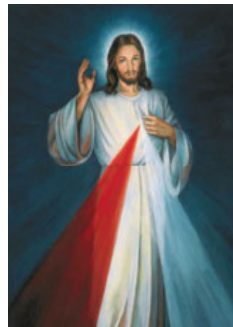
Please bring a dish or items to share. The speaker will be announced at a later date. Spread the word about this gathering. **RSVP to OLOL office 217-877-4404.**

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.

Divine Mercy Celebration April 11

The Feast of Divine Mercy Celebration for the Decatur community will take place on **Sunday, April 24, at 2 p.m. at St. Patrick Church.**



The presider is **Fr. Chris Comerford**. The Divine Mercy service includes Eucharistic Adoration and Confession from 2 to 3 p.m. and then Praying of the Divine Mercy chaplet, the blessing of Divine Mercy images, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please come and celebrate this special feast!



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.



“Praying the Stations with Mary the Mother of Jesus”

**Candlelight Stations
of the Cross on Good Friday**

St. Thomas the Apostle at 3 pm

Join Us for Bible Study at St. Thomas

Looking to grow in your faith? The Bible Study group meets on Tuesday mornings, from 10:15 -11:15 am in the chapel at church. Please join us in learning from scripture in a in a fun, informative, and friendly setting.

FREE
AD DESIGN

WITH PURCHASE
OF THIS SPACE

LPi CALL
800.950.9952

Here with *you.*



HSHS
St. Mary's
Hospital

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251



**GROW YOUR
BUSINESS**
BY PLACING
AN AD HERE!

CONTACT US!

Contact Brandy Stivers
to place an ad today!
bstivers@4LPi.com or
(800) 950-9952 x2609



Graceland/Fairlawn

www.gracelandfairlawn.com
217-615-0769

Moran & Goebel

www.moranandgoebel.com
217-615-0793

**SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL PARISH.**

Buy a bulletin ad space today!

**GAIN
Joy**



HSHS Medical Group
Health and Medical Spa

WORK ONE-ON-ONE
with Weight-Loss Coach
Natalie Feriozzi, MS



HSHSMedicalGroup.org/weight-loss
217-321-7281 • MG-healthandspa@hshs.org

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



NEVER MISS A BULLETIN !

Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin
emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com



**A service as
unique
as your
loved one.**

Honor the life of
your loved one
with the experts
at helping you say
goodbye.

**Brintlinger
AND Earl**
FUNERAL HOMES
brintlingerandearl.com

B & W II

ASPHALT PAVING
& SEALCOAT CO.

877-8362

P.O. Box 448 Forsyth, IL

We've Missed You!

Welcome Back to Mass



Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are
by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com

