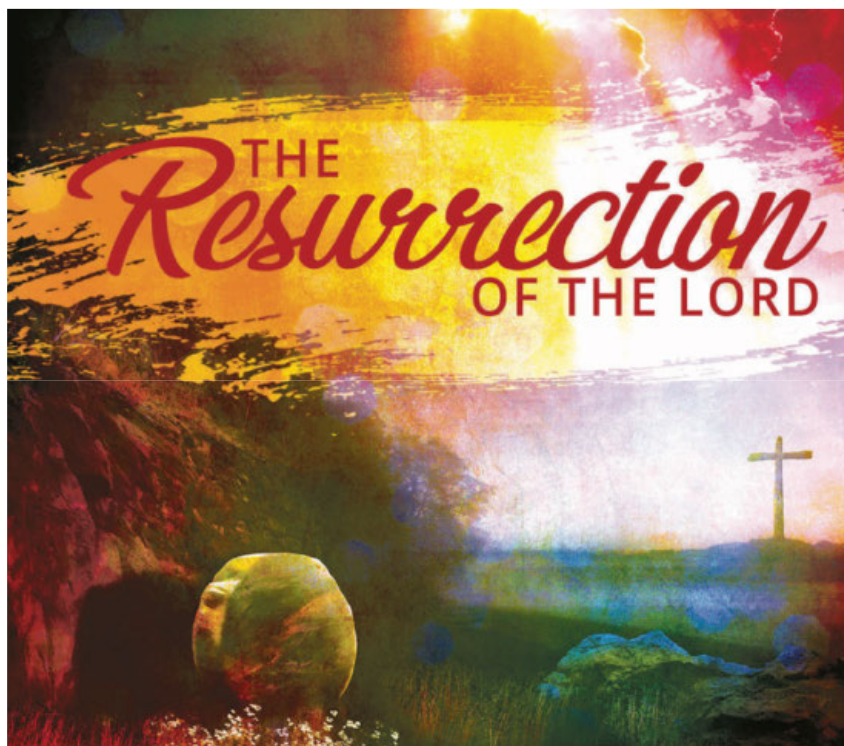




St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of the Lord • April 17, 2022



Alleluia, Christ is risen!

What a glorious and holy day. The resurrection of Christ speaks of freedom, new life, restored faith and enduring, unconditional love. The huge stone, separating death and life, has been moved, allowing God's radiant power to usher in eternal life. When we see the truth of Christ's resurrection through eyes of love, we see the fullness of timeless beauty, truth, and wonder revealed. The emptiness of the tomb is filled with the eternity of love.

We have many stones and boulders blocking the path to freedom, love, and joy. They are often too big for us to move, and they cripple us. We can take a leap of faith today and believe with all our heart, mind, and soul that there is much more than can be seen by the naked eye. There is something very holy, sacred, and eternal stirring within us. We want to live forever! Christ's resurrection brings us joy and allows us to see ourselves as we are meant to be seen, as God's children destined for glory!

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

MEDITATION

Believing in Risen Life

After his death and burial, the apostles saw the risen Jesus. They talked with him. They touched him. They ate with him. These things are not done with the dead. They knew he was alive. We believe this still today because we experience his presence in many ways. Didn't Jesus tell us not to worry and to not be afraid? Either we believe in the message of Easter, or we don't! The resurrection of Christ is really all about receiving the gifts of trust and faith and doing new things. Find a way to trust that this is true and live.

- How do I see the risen Lord's activity still happening today?
- How can I foster belief in the risen Lord by what I say and do?
- How does this belief change my life, my attitudes, my priorities?



Happy Easter!

A happy and joyous Easter to all of you! Alleluia!
(Man, it's good to say that again!)

I want to offer my many thanks to all who have made our celebrations so beautiful during this Holy Week and Easter. The choirs, musicians, those who helped with decorating the Church, and all who volunteered for the various liturgical responsibilities—it takes a village, as they say, and it always fills my heart with joy to see the participation of so many in the life of discipleship in our parishes.

I want to share with you another beautiful and ancient homily that the Church meditates on during Holy Saturday. It speaks of dramatic silence and stillness that overcomes the earth at the death of the Savior, and then the hope that breaks forth in the moment of the Resurrection. I look forward to praying it every Holy Saturday, so I hope it aids your prayer as well during this Easter Season! ALLELUIA!

Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: “My Lord be with you all.” Christ answered him: “And with your spirit.” He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: “Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”



Fr. Friedel,
Pastor

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated.

For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

There is so much more to know.

Once, Jesus was transfigured on top of a mountain before his disciples' eyes, so today he is transfigured before our eyes as he reveals his resurrected self as the Christ. Alleluia, Christ is risen! His glorified presence stands before us showing us that we are all much more than we see ourselves to be and show to others. We have a depth, purpose, and essence that go way beyond the superficial treasures of our existence to the very core of who we are.

Within each one of us is a spark of Divine Love where creature and Creator meet, and we are known uniquely by the name God whispers to us. It is not the earthly name that was given to us but the one that flows from Divine Power and claims us as one who is special and chosen in God's eyes. This is the self that will rise one day with the eternal Christ of God and live eternally as God provides. This is love lifting us up and transforming us into who we really are, not who we want or need ourselves to be. Who are you? A special, unique child of God who has been fashioned in God's image, sustained by the power of God's love and kept eternally with the Blessed Trinity in heaven. Get to know this deeper, truer self as it is who you really are.

Parish Office

Rev. Michael Friedel, Pastor

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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

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<http://www.StThomasDecatur.com>

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, April 17 — Easter Sunday Mass

10 am – **Lori Anne Sullivan †**

Monday, April 18

5:15 pm – **Thomas Seibert †**

Tuesday, April 19

5:15 pm – **Elmer and Alice Rosentretter †**

Wednesday, April 20

5:15 pm – **Fred Luckenbill †**

Thursday, April 21

6 pm – **James Hertel**

Friday, April 22

No Mass

Saturday, April 23

No Mass

Sunday, April 24 — Divine Mercy Sunday

10 am – **Jerry and Marge Hertel, Janet
and Jerry Hill, and Peter Schumacher †**



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Remember in your Prayers

**All who are Ill at Home or in the Hospital
and their Families and Caregivers**

Isabelle Blakeman, 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.



Bishop Paprocki's Easter Egg Hunt at The Evermode Institute - All are welcome to attend an Easter Egg Hunt and activities at the new Evermode Institute (4875 Laverna Rd, Springfield, IL 62707) on Saturday, April 30 at 2 p.m.! Come enjoy family activities, free treats and beverage, and check out the grounds of the future home of The Evermode Institute. Children will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt for ages 0-12 starting at 2PM (bags for the hunt are included). A special Easter blessing will take place at 3:30 PM with Bishop Paprocki in the main chapel. Please RSVP at dio.org.

New Members Are Welcome!

If you've been joining us at St. Thomas for Mass and you would like to become a member of our St. Thomas Parish family, we welcome you with open arms!

So if you're looking for a parish family we'd love to have you make ours yours! Be sure to introduce yourself to us so we can get to know you and serve you better!



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 fun, informative, and friendly setting.



During this Easter 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

Divine Mercy Celebration April 24

The Feast of Divine Mercy Celebration for the Decatur community will take place **NEXT 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!



With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family of longtime St. Thomas parishioner **Irene Crotser, 99**, on April 8, 2022. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Her Funeral Mass is Monday, April 18,** at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas Church; visitation before Mass at 10 a.m.

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