



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

Third Sunday of Easter • May 1, 2022



Month of Mary

What prevents us from seeing the Lord?

We are not used to seeing Jesus in the ordinary, everyday events of our lives. We expect some kind of startling, extraordinary revelation to occur that definitely and unmistakably sends a signal that God wants our attention. We don't expect a visit from Jesus while we are having breakfast, doing the dishes, running after the kids, negotiating a deal at work, or taking a shower!

Sometimes when God simply stands on the shore of our lives casually looking for us, we don't recognize him. Did we ever stop and think that God is really and truly interested in the routine, run of the mill events of our lives? So, "what did you do today?" God may ask. Maybe we don't think that God is concerned about such things, or we are so consumed with life's demands that we give it little if any thought. God is there. One day, out of the blue, God will get our attention and ask, "Do you love me?"

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

Serving Breakfast.

In this third appearance of the risen Lord to his followers, Jesus prepares breakfast on the shore for the disciples toiling in the sea. What an image! Jesus cooks. Jesus feeds them so they can go out and feed and tend the flock. God wants happiness for each of His children, desiring their wellbeing and success. We must do our part. The resurrection calls us to be God's microphone, a messenger, and a prophet.

- What will this weekly meal of Communion enable me to be?
- What will this meal empower me to do?
- How can I then do the mercy work of giving drink to the thirsty and food to the hungry?

A Time for Changes

Around this time of year, new priesthood assignments are announced. Many priests stay where they are, but it is also not uncommon for changes to happen. In case you haven't heard, I announced this past weekend that I am receiving a change of assignment. Starting July 1st, I am going to St. Boniface in Edwardsville. I will be the Parochial Vicar (Assistant Priest), serving with Fr. Jeff Goeckner, the pastor. I will also be assistant chaplain at Fr. McGivney Catholic High School. As I mentioned in my announcement, I am familiar with St. Boniface because I was assigned there as a deacon. Fr. Wayne Stock will be officially assigned here July 1st to take my place, although you will see him serving here with us all now, as he is currently in residence at Our Lady of Lourdes.



Fr. Trummer,
Parochial Vicar

With changes of assignment there is a mixture of emotions. There is sadness about leaving a community you have come to know, love, and serve, but also excitement about what the future holds. I want to thank everyone for their love and support. I have always felt welcomed and appreciated in my almost two years here at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thomas. You have supported me in so many ways, whether that be affirmations and conversations after Mass, or heartfelt Christmas and birthday cards. Thank you so much!

At this time of the year, there can be maybe some questions, curiosity, or even frustration about changes of assignments. "Why do changes happen?" The personnel board, composed of the Bishop, some priests, and laypeople, all work together to determine where priests should be assigned. As priests retire or move to other parishes, priests are reassigned according to the needs of the Diocese. There are certainly advantages for a priest to be at a place a long time so that he can come to know people and settle in where he is assigned.

The advantages to moving a priest is to allow for parishes to get to experience a variety of priests, and sometimes moving can give a priest a fresh new

start so that he does not become stagnant. Some priests have certain gifts and personalities that make them a better fit for certain parishes. For newer priests, there is the hope they can get experiences at a variety of parishes to help prepare them to be a pastor. I have mentioned some, but the list is not exhaustive. Some people like the assignment changes that happen, while others might find them confusing. Regardless of what one experiences, the personnel board is composed of many people who truly try to make assignment changes for the best of our Diocese.

Although the overall number of priests is not decreasing at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thomas, this time of the year is a good reminder of the importance of praying for vocations to the priesthood. Prayer really makes a difference. It is not a vague wish or mustering up a feeling of hopefulness; prayer is powerful.

Jesus says in Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." God wants us to have an abundance of holy priests, but mysteriously enough, it is something he makes conditioned on our prayer. Whenever I say the meal prayer, I add extra prayers after the normal food blessing. It is a great time to add on little intentions and petitions. The vocation prayer that I seriously encourage you and your families to pray after the meal prayer is this, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few—Master, send laborers for your harvest." The first half can be done by the leader, while anyone else present can do the response in bold, or the entire prayer can be prayed together. It takes literally less than 5 seconds, making it a total of 10-15 seconds a day.

In reality, we ought to pray constantly for a renewal in marriages and families. Good and holy priests come from good and holy families. What does it mean to promote vocations to priesthood or religious life, when many families hardly come to Mass? For that reason, I also pray for a renewal in the life of the families (also done after my meal prayer). I do not say this to be negative, but simply to rally us and encourage us to take our prayer efforts seriously! Remember, Jesus has already won the victory!

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
April 24	\$1,974.	\$5,000.
April 17 Easter	\$5,622.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$208,212. \$215,000.

Short/Ahead: -\$6,788.

R/M Donations.....	\$53.
Sister Parish Donations	\$123.
Easter Offering.....	\$1,178.
Palm Sunday.....	\$67.
Catholic Home Missions Appeal.....	\$210.
Holy Land	\$265.
Seminarians	\$180.
Assistance for the Needy	\$82.

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, May 1
10 am – **For all parishioners**

Monday, May 2
5:15 pm – **End to Abortion**

Tuesday, May 3
5:15 pm – **Thomas Seibert †**

Wednesday, May 4
5:15 pm – **Don and Bernie Custin †**

Thursday, May 5
5:15 pm – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**

Friday, May 6
No Mass

Saturday, May 7
No Mass

Sunday, May 8
10 am – **Mary 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>



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,
Tami Wittenauer

Please call the parish office or email
StThomasDecatur@gmail.com to add or remove a name.

RESURRECTION NARRATIVES

Tuesday May 3, May 10, May 17, and May 24
7 pm - OLOL Enrichment Center

Looking for a way to dive a little deeper into the joy of the Resurrection? Come and join Fr. Friedel for a four-part presentation and discussion on some of the Resurrection stories we hear in the Gospels.

All are welcome--as always, bring your Bible and a friend (or three!).

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

The **Partners of HSHS St. Mary's** will host a Mother's Day Raffle and Bake Sale on Thursday, **May 5th**, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Assisi Room on the ground floor of the hospital.

Baked and craft items will be for sale. A queen-sized, nine-patch, hand-stitched quilt will be the main raffled item, with other items such as a Timi's Tour package, a dining package from the Gin Mill with flowers from Ace Hardware, and more. Join us for a dessert treat or a possible getaway with Timi's Tour.

Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at the **Pop's Place, 335 W Main St**, Decatur, (just before S. Wyckles Rd., across from 121 Coffee Run) on **Tues, May 10** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation. Bring a friend!



Many thanks for the cards and notes I received during Easter from my St. Thomas parish family. I am very appreciative of your continued prayers and support. Thank you so very much. May our Lord bless you! — **Jim Ankrom**

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family of **Christine Kerns, 69**, who died on April 14, 2022. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Her funeral service is Tuesday, May 3,
at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas Church.

May Crowning Next Sunday

Our annual May Crowning will take place after Mass next **Sunday, May 8, Mother's Day.**

It is a Catholic tradition to honor Mary, our Mother, during the month of May by placing on her statue a crown of flowers. The



May Crowning gives the our parish family an opportunity to especially honor the Blessed Mother of Jesus, and to give thanks to her for bringing our Savior into the world.

We invite family and friends to share in this devotion, and we ask families to bring flowers to place before the statue of Mary in the church and honor Our Lady of Grace.

Why is May the Month of Mary?

The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Mary, came about in the 13th century. Some say because it was created to replace various pagan cults. The actual reason is the fact that this month is the time when spring is at the height of its beauty. Spring is also connected with nature renewing itself.

In her way, Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to our savior Jesus Christ. The link between Mary and the month of May became popular among the members of the Jesuit Order — by 1700 it had a firm hold among their students at the Roman College and a short time later it was publicly celebrated in the Gesu Church in Rome.

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