



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time • June 26, 2022



God calls us in the midst of ordinary things.

Often only looking for God in the dramatic, spectacular, the ritual or the sacred places, we miss that He is walking beside us. Every moment of every day, in every circumstance and experience, God is calling to us, "Follow me."

Sometimes, we are too distracted to hear this call. Other times, we would rather ignore it or pretend it wasn't heard. God, however, is very persistent. Whether we fine tune our hearing to receive this invitation now or when we close our eyes in death, we need to make a choice.

The choice involves leaving some things behind and moving forward, taking risks. Choosing to keep focused and single-minded, the lens we then use to see our world and one another is God's, not our own. Life is no longer about what is important or matters to me but what matters to God.

We acquire a new filter and are asked to use that filter to make choices, establish priorities, and determine what direction we will take, and how to love. Once we accept God's invitation, we cannot keep looking back to what was left behind, only forward to the surprises yet to come. "Begin with prayer to hear God's call and find the courage to trust that He will guide us where we need to be. God uses us in the most ordinary of ways through the simple daily expression of our lives.

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

About Our Journey

After his ministry in Galilee, Jesus sets his face for Jerusalem. Many disciples follow him to this destination, his destiny – as should we. For following Jesus is our call. It is our central task. It is our salvation. We do this not alone but with others. Saying yes to following Christ does come with a risk. But it also comes with the brightness of future hopes and dreams.

- In following Jesus, what am I called to leave behind?
- In following Jesus, what must I pick up and take with me?
- In following Jesus, what salvation will this bring about?

Saints Peter and Paul, Pray for Us!

Many of you already know that I had the blessing of studying in Rome for five years. While I was there, I attended the North American College, the seminary for American seminarians studying in the Eternal City. The “NAC,” as we affectionately called it, was perched atop the Janiculum Hill, which with the Vatican Hill, sits just on the other side of the Tiber River from Rome’s city center. [You’ll notice, by the way, if you’ve ever get to Rome, that the Vatican “Hill” doesn’t seem to be very hilly anymore; that’s because for the construction of the current St. Peter’s Basilica, the hill was razed!] The placement of the NAC is honestly ideal, as from the rooftop terrace, you can see the entire Vatican City and the whole of the ancient city of Rome laid out before you!

Atop the highest wall of the North American College—outside the infirmary located on the sixth floor (just next to where you stand to take in what is arguably the best view of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome)—is scrawled a curious little Latin phrase: *O Roma felix quae duorum principum es consecrata glorioso sanguine.*

I remember the first time I stopped to actually read it and to try my hand at translating it (which is always an iffy experiment). When I realized what it said, it gave me goosebumps. There, where few can see it except those who come and take in this beautiful panorama of Rome, is written: “O Happy Rome, you who have been consecrated by the glorious blood of the two princes!”

The two “princes” refer to the two princes of the Apostles, namely St. Peter and St. Paul, and the blood which is referenced is the blood of their martyrdom. Rome was the location of both influential saints’ deaths. St. Peter—the first pope and leader of the merry band of Apostles—died in AD 64 during the reign of Emperor Nero and was

subsequently buried in a necropolis just outside of the circus where his upside-down crucifixion took place. That site is now the site of the current St. Peter’s Basilica. St. Paul—the author of a significant portion of the New Testament and fierce early propagator of the faith—likely died around the same time, also as a martyr for the faith, beheaded just off the Via Laurentina. Over the mortal remains of St. Paul was built another great basilica: St. Paul Outside the Walls (so named because it is located outside the ancient walls of Rome).

It is often said that the seed of the Church is the blood of the martyrs, by which of course is meant that the Church is built on the faith that the martyrs professed. While it may sound morbid to call Rome “happy” for its being witness to the death of these two great saints, there is a certain blessedness that the Eternal City and our Church enjoys for the fact that it bears the testimony of St. Peter and St. Paul.

On June 29, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, a day which is meant to commemorate the martyrdom of both of these great saints. Since the early third century, their deaths have been celebrated in one feast, though both saints are also celebrated separately (the Conversion of St. Paul is on 25 January and the Chair of St. Peter is on 22 February).

In remembering Ss. Peter and Paul, may we be reminded that our Church is indeed built on the testimony of these martyrs, and that the Church has always thrived in the midst of persecution. May we remember that our mission, like theirs, is to spread the Good News in the midst of a hostile world.

St. Peter and St. Paul, princes of the Apostles, watch over our Church and guide us through your intercession, that we may carry the message of Christ’s life as you did, truly, to the ends of the world!

Keep Spreading Joy!

Fr. Friedel



Fr. Friedel
Pastor

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
June 19	\$4,703.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$244,949.	\$255,000.
Short/Ahead:	- \$10,051.	

R/M Donations.....	\$55.
Sister Parish Donations	\$120.
Peter's Pence	\$35.

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.

Bill Pay is offered through many banks. You can schedule a weekly or monthly payment that comes from your checking account. Your bank then mails a check to the parish. If interested, you might speak to your bank about the option.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

- Sunday, June 26
10 am – **Dolores Brady †**

- Monday, June 27
5:15 pm – **Norma Wilson †**
- Tuesday, June 28
5:15 pm – **Louis Vighi †**
- Wednesday, June 29
5:15 pm – **The Peterson Families**
- Thursday, June 30
5:15 pm – **Theresa L. Tappendorf †**
- Friday, July 1
No Mass
- Saturday, July 2
No Mass
- Sunday, July 3
10 am – **Mary Lou Gardner †**

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>



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Remember in your Prayers

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

- Mike Heneghan, Kevin Henry,
 Polly Hensley, Jim Hertel, Ann-Marie Hillyer,
 Sawyer Dale Hunter, Anonymous,
 Amber Johnson, Edwin Jones, Patricia Jones,
 Don Keefner, Kelly McLean, Trey McLean,
 Lucia Molloy, Christina Mooney, Lucia Mounce,
 Rev. Msgr. James O'Shea, Joe Perry,
 Kay Russell, Pat Ryan, Carolyn Thorpe,
 Roz Sandage, Caroline Snyder, Brenda Sullivan,
 Virginia Thompson, JoAn Wayne,
 Pete Wayne, and Tami Wittenauer

55 Plus Gathering ~ June 28

The next 55+ Community Gathering will be Tuesday, June 28 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.



NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER
BABY BOTTLE 2022 CAMPAIGN
ENDED LAST WEEKEND

Please return your Baby Bottle to the bassinette in the Gathering Area.

**A little...or a lot...of
Change Makes a Big Difference!
THANK YOU**

Meals on Wheels

The Macon County Meals on Wheels is accepting new clients. All meals are heart healthy and diabetic friendly. Specialized diets are also available. Lunches are delivered every week day to homebound seniors in Macon County. Clients must be 60 or older, homebound (not-driving) and live in Macon County to be eligible. Anyone can make a referral. Call Meals on Wheels at 217-422-6611 for more information.

Eucharistic Adorers Needed

St. Mary's Chapel is looking for adorers for their 10:00am for the 1st and 3rd Wednesday and 2:00pm for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday Adoration time slots. Please call Jim Keyes at 217-433-4409 or Colleen Keyes at 217-972-4930 to sign up.

Dealing with Loss

Those who have experienced the loss of a loved one often find healing and support by sharing with others who have similar experiences. Our parish is hosting a grief session on Tuesday, July 12th at 5:30pm in the parish house at St. James. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Donna at 422-4534.

Are You Planning a Vacation?

Many will take a vacation this summer. Do we also make sure we schedule a trip to a Catholic Church to fulfill our obligation to give praise & worship to God? To Find a Catholic church at your vacation location, check the website: masstimes.org

Ill or Hospital Bound?

Please call the office so Father can anoint you if you have not been anointed recently. When you go to the hospital please register as a parishioner of St. Thomas. If you have not been visited by a priest within two days, please call the office.

Michelangelo: A Different View

This unique exhibit - sanctioned by The Vatican - is coming to the Civic Center! The exhibit allows for an unprecedented closeness to the magnificent works of Michelangelo, the originals of which adorn the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel at the height of nearly 70 feet, far away from the enormous streams of visitors to the Sistine Chapel. Visitors at this exhibit can take in the imposing paintings at their leisure and study them from only a few feet away. The exhibit will be at the Decatur Civic Center from July 8 through August 7.

First Saturday, July 2 Eucharistic Adoration

Join us **Saturday morning from 8:30-9:30am** for Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Church's life and ministry. Eucharistic Adoration is adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. As Catholics, we believe that Christ is truly and substantially present in the Eucharist.



Please remember to pray for those in our Sister Parish, **Immaculate Conception**, in Comapa, Guatemala, as they pray for us.

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