



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 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

Decatur Catholic Radio

WDCR 88.9/96.5

MEDITATION

About Being Disciples

Jesus tells the chosen 72 where to go (ahead of him), what not to take (extra baggage), and how to behave (stay and accompany). Saint Paul carries this forward by stressing what is important for those who follow Jesus (boasting in the Cross of Christ).

- What does Jesus empower me to do and say today?
- How will I embrace the Cross of Christ this week?
- How will this discipleship enrich the Kingdom of God?

True freedom is a gift given to us by God.

The celebration of our country's independence gives us cause to reflect on the gift of freedom. We treasure the liberties our country provides, but are they the real source of freedom? True freedom is a gift given to us by God, not by the world. In fact, the world robs us of freedom by tethering us to a need for money, power, possessions, and prestige as vehicles to success and measures of self-worth.

Even though we possess certain liberties, we are held captive by a system that sees no value in the Cross of Christ. It is no wonder Jesus sent his seventy-two disciples into the world with only what they were wearing.

The freedom given to us by God is a matter of the heart and requires detachment from the very things we think we cannot do without. A heart secure in God's peace is something no one can take away and something really worth dying for.

The secular definitions of freedom and liberty are very attractive. They promise us a great deal. It is no wonder Jesus asks his disciples to travel with very little. The Gospel is not dependent upon things or anything those with worldly power or investment can say or do. When one chooses to live for Christ, they choose to live with peace. That's what true freedom will give us.

Welcome!

The St. Thomas Parish family extends a warm welcome to our new parochial administrator, **Fr. Ramesh Matta!** We look forward to getting to know him better and celebrating the Eucharist with him. We certainly are blessed! Please join us in greeting Fr. Ramesh at a reception after the 10 a.m. Mass this Sunday.

Father Ramesh B. Matta was born in 1980 and was ordained in 2007 for the Diocese of Vijayawada, India.

He served in five different parishes in his diocese as Associate Pastor. He obtained a Master's degree in Broadcast Journalism and taught the subjects in two colleges of Media & Communications in Delhi, India.

Father Ramesh was Director of Radio Maria for his diocese and Zonal Director of Divyavani TV, a Catholic Television channel run by the regional Bishop's council. In the Diocese of Springfield, he recently served as a parochial vicar at St. Aloysius & St. Frances Xavier Cabrini parish, Springfield.



Fr. Ramesh,
*Parochial
Administrator*

Gracious and Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of our priests.

Through **Fr. Ramesh**, we will experience your presence in the holy sacraments.

Help him to be strong in his vocation.

Set his soul on fire with love for your people.

Grant him the wisdom, understanding, and strength he needs to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.



What's a Parochial Administrator?

According to Canon Law, when a parish is "vacant," meaning that the pastor has retired, been transferred to another assignment, or is unable to exercise his duties as a pastor, the bishop must appoint as soon as possible a parochial administrator. In general, an administrator has the same duties and scope of authority as a pastor; however, these may be limited by the bishop.

In deciding the appointment of a pastor to a vacant parish, the bishop should make a judgment based on his knowledge of the priest's character and abilities, and on the advice of other priests and laity (Canon. 524). As such, the bishop may obtain this knowledge and advice during a priest's time as administrator of a parish.

Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at **Benny's Grill, 1770 E Pershing Rd, Decatur** on **Tues, July 12** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation. Bring a friend!



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

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!



Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
June 26	\$2,035.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$247,254.	\$260,000.
Short/Ahead:	- \$12,746.	
R/M Donations.....		\$45.
Sister Parish Donations		\$90.
Calvary Cemetery, Decatur		\$10.
Peter's Pence.....		\$120.

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/stthomasdecaturn>

Mass Intentions for the Week

- Sunday, July 3
10 am – **Mary Lou Gardner †**

- Monday, July 4 – Independence Day
8:30 am – **Irene Crotser †**
- Tuesday, July 5
5:15 pm – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**
- Wednesday, July 6
5:15 pm – **Jeanne Vighi †**
- Thursday, July 7
5:15 pm – **Robert and Louise Luckenbill †**
- Friday, July 8
No Mass
- Saturday, July 9
No Mass
- Sunday, July 10
10 am – **For All Parishioners**

Parish Office

Rev. Ramesh Matta, Parochial Administrator
 rmatta@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

- 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

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.

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 St. Thomas parishioner. If you have not been visited by a priest within two days, please call the office.

Food for the Hungry

Just a reminder that we have an on-going Food Drive for Catholic Charities every weekend of the year. A few cans and boxes of food doesn't look like much, but when added with other donations it does make a big difference to those people in our community who may otherwise go hungry.





St. Thomas the Apostle ~ Prayer for Faith

Almighty and ever living God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with sure and certain faith in your Son's resurrection:

Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight;

Through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Host the Vocations Crucifix

Please sign up today! The church needs your prayer. The signup sheet is on a table in the gathering area of church.

Families and individuals are encouraged to sign up to host the Vocations Crucifix and pray for the week. God bless you!



Reporting Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse

To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy or other church personnel—even if it is in the past—individuals are encouraged to call the Diocese's Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number at 217.321.1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE.

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