



# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 17, 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

## Seek to be truly present to another

We become a welcoming person when we can step aside from our own needs and desires to create space for someone else. Welcoming involves a quality of listening and presence that communicates to another person that what they are sharing and who they are have importance.

When we shift attention and focus from ourselves and direct it toward someone else, positive things can happen. When someone knows that their story matters, it can be life changing and life-giving. Hospitality brings forth life and celebrates relationships.

“Our families need to ask for the gift of the Spirit! Through prayer, even in the busiest times, we give time back to God, we find the peace that comes from appreciating the important things, and we encounter the joy of God’s unexpected gifts.

Through daily prayer may our homes become, like the house of Martha and Mary, places where Jesus always finds a warm welcome (Pope Francis).” While it is necessary to attend to the details of hospitality, learning how to be present to people, experiences, and God is sometimes more important. Creating homes that are welcoming requires members who truly enjoy being there and celebrating life with one another.

## TAKE A LISTEN

### **Fr. Chris Comerford and the St. Louis Cardinals**

St. Louis Cardinals Chaplain shares stories from the ballpark . It is a dream come true for **Father Chris Comerford**, pastor of St. James and Patrick in Decatur.

A huge baseball fan, he has been combining two of his loves, the sport and our faith, for more than 12 years as Chaplain for the St. Louis Cardinals. Fr. Chris shares funny stories, players he has gotten to know, and what it's like ministering in Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

Go to [dio.org/podcast](http://dio.org/podcast) to listen or search “Dive Deep” on all the major podcast platforms

**Listening to Jesus:**

**Mary has chosen the better part.**

Jesus visited the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany. These two sisters are very different, as often is the case with siblings. After reflecting upon these two sisters, we can choose which of their perspectives to follow.

Martha is in the presence of Jesus, but she is not present to Him. Martha is physically in the same house as Jesus. But when He speaks, instead of listening to Jesus, Martha is busy doing her own preoccupied things.

what exactly is Martha doing instead of listening to Jesus? She would certainly be the first to explain that she's working for Jesus. Her work is all about Jesus. But here's something to be noted, she's not doing what Jesus wants her to do. This sets before us one of the key distinctions of the catholic spiritual life. This is the difference between sincerity and fidelity. Some persons believe that as long as they're sincere in what they do in life, then they're being faithful to what God wants them to do. This is a mistaken belief, and this belief can lead to many dead-ends in the spiritual life. Sincerity is definitely a virtue, but it is not a measure of fidelity.

And here is Martha's sister Mary. Mary is in the presence of Jesus and is also present to Jesus. Mary shows us path of our fidelity is the spiritual virtue of listening. Mary listens to Jesus. But what did Jesus say to her? We understand in the gospel that St. Luke the Evangelist does not reveal to us what Jesus said to her. What Jesus said was for Mary alone. But that Mary listened is for all of us to imitate: to listen, so that we might faithfully obey God.

Mary listened to Jesus' words: this is what Jesus calls "the better part". Let us choose the better path and make ourselves humble everyday by listening to Jesus, who knows what we are and what we need the most. May the Holy Spirit guide our journey.



**Fr. Ramesh,**  
*Parochial  
Administrator*

*Fr. Ramesh B Matta*  
Parochial Administrator

**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.



**Lunch Bunch**

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at **El Rodeo Restaurant**, 4204 N Prospect Dr, Decatur (near Walmart), on **Tues, August. 9** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation. Bring a friend or two!



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**

**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.

## Be Ready for God to “Stop By”

In my experience, most people can be divided into two groups: those who are old enough to remember when you kept food on hand for company, and those who aren't. For those of you in the latter group, let me explain. Before text messaging and social media made us all unconditionally, mercilessly reachable, people would do this thing called “stopping by.”

They would be passing by a friend's house, maybe on the way home from work or shopping, and they would just ... stop. With no warning. No notice whatsoever. “I was just in the neighborhood,” they would say. I remember my mother and I would do this on many a Saturday. It wasn't an everyday occurrence, but it was common enough that you had to be ready.

“Crazy,” you might exclaim. “People just appeared on your doorstep? How did you cope with the uncertainty?” Well, most of us had moms who kept a little something on hand to eat or drink that was extra nice, just in case anyone stopped by. That way, we were always ready.

Today's readings are about a lot of things: prayer, hope, redemptive suffering. Most of all, though, they're about readiness.

If God showed up at your door, would you be ready for Him? Would you be ready for what He gives you, or what He takes away? Would you be ready for Him to interrupt the plans you have for yourself? To disrupt the idea you carry in your mind of what a servant or a steward is supposed to be?



## Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, July 17

10 am – **Dennis Mahorney †**

Monday, July 18

5:15 pm – **Norma Wilson †**

Tuesday, July 19

5:15 pm – **James Hertel †**

Wednesday, July 20

5:15 pm – **Christine Kerns †**

Thursday, July 21

5:15 pm – **Bob Luckenbill †**

Friday, July 22

*No Mass*

Saturday, July 23

*No Mass*

Sunday, July 24

10 am – **Eva Joanne “Happy” Luckenbill †**

## Parish Office

**Rev. Ramesh B. Matta**, *Parochial Administrator*  
rmatta@dio.org (217) 877-4404, ext. 20

**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,  
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

# NEWS OF NOTE

## **Thank you!**

Dove and Heritage Behavioral Health sent thank-you notes to the parish for your support of their programs for the needy. Four organizations recently received donations from St. Thomas for \$462.25 each. St. Thomas continues to be a very generous parish family. Thank you so very much. Dove wrote, "Your continued support makes a difference and will enable Dove to continue helping those in need right here in our community. Thank you for your contributions!"

## **Fr. Ramesh Is Seeking a Small Car**

We are fortunate to have Fr. Ramesh as our pastoral administrator. He would like to begin visiting parishioners in the hospital and at their homes as soon as possible and requires a vehicle for transportation. If a parish family might possibly have a small unused car that Fr. Ramesh could use it would be greatly appreciated. If this might be a possibility, please speak to Fr. Ramesh after Mass on Sunday, or call him in the parish office at 217-877-4146, ext 20. Thank you!

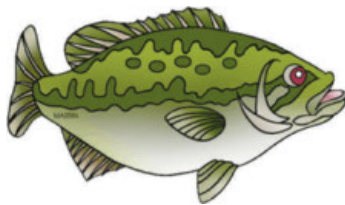
## **Would You Like to Have Your Home, Boat, or Vehicle Blessed?**

One way that Fr. Ramesh can begin to get to know our St. Thomas Parish families is through a home visit to bless your home, car, or boat.

It may surprise you to know that the Church's Book of Blessings has prayers for blessing many objects of family life, work, and recreation in addition to the blessings for people and religious objects of devotion and those used for liturgies.

Speak to Fr. Ramesh or Deacon Kevin to make arrangements for a visit. Note:

Blessing your boat and fishing gear does not guarantee catching a record-breaking largemouth bass in Lake Decatur.



# OLOL & St Thomas Picnic August 14, 2022

At the OLOL Gym — Starting at 12:30 pm

(Potluck drop off at 11:15 before the  
11:30 Spanish Mass)

The picnic is almost a month away and we are still needing your HELP. As you can see from the looking at the sign-up sheets there are many helpers needed.

We especially need Runners that will take the potluck food from the people entering to the potluck line so they can sign in with out many things in the hands. You older students, why not help like you did at the fish fries! We need you!!



**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**

We also need help with cakes and gift cards and workers at the different stations. IF anyone has a tent that could go over the Cake Walk and petting Zoo it will be greatly appreciated if we could borrow it for the weekend. Please call Barbara at 217-791-3015.

Sign-ups for attendance and potluck items will be out July 30 & 31. We would love to see you at the picnic. Thanks for your help in advance!



## **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



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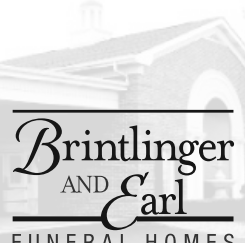
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