



# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 24, 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

## **We often want God to be our servant**

Ultimately, what does God promise to give us when we pray? The short answer to that question is God. God promises to give Himself to us in prayer. Prayer is about union with God, not receiving favors.

When God comes to us in prayer, His presence comes with faith, hope, and love. When we find these virtues enhanced and nurtured, we know that our prayer has been heard and answered. When we seek out, listen to, and live by these virtues we find ourselves led back to God and more united with the Divine Presence.

Meister Eckhart says, "When man appeals to God, hoping for some worldly good, he is not appealing to God at all, but to what he is asking of God. He is trying to make God his servant." We struggle with what we want God to do and how we want our prayer validated.

Meister Eckhart is correct. We often want God to be our servant. We further struggle with trusting that God knows what we need and that His will is best. That's what makes Jesus' prayer, the Our Father, so perfect. It celebrates a deepening intimate relationship of trust between our Creator and us. When we persistently cry out for God in love, how can that prayer go unanswered?

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### **About Praying**

Abraham is persistent in his pleading with the Lord. And the Lord listens and relents. A disciple asks Jesus, after seeing him pray, how to pray.

Jesus gives a form that we use at every Mass and that we hand on to the elect each Lent. He then goes on about persistence in our praying.

- How does my prayer plead for the Kingdom of God to come?
- How does my prayer ask for what I need to do God's mercy work?
- How does my prayer seek and offer forgiveness?

## The Power of Intercessory Prayer

In the Book of Genesis, we see the Lord speaking with Abraham about the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and their sins. The Lord decides to wipe them off the face of the earth, but Abraham asks the Lord to sympathize for not all the people are evil. He begins by asking the Lord to spare them if there are fifty just men in the town and finally persuades the Lord to spare the people if there are but ten just men found there. The Lord listens to the pleas of Abraham and relents each time. The Psalm is a hymn of thanksgiving to the Lord for listening to the cries of his servant. In our gospel text we see Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray and he gives them the 'Our Father.' He goes on to tell them – through an example – that if anyone calls on God their prayers will not go unanswered. All too often people forget that 'no' is also an answer, as is silence. In answering our prayers, the Lord does not always give us what we want because what we want might not be what we need or for our good. St. Paul tells us that all our sins have been wiped away because they have been nailed to the cross with Christ whose sacrifice sets us free. No matter what we do we always have the Lord on our side, and he is ready to forgive our sins and to answer our prayers whenever we turn to him in faith and trust.

The power of intercessory prayer to bring justice of mercy! Abraham takes it upon himself to plead for mercy on the twin cities, on account of some good souls there. If Abraham bargained with God, Christ's bargain beats all bargains: he does so on behalf of the entire creation, offering up himself in its place. Can God refuse such an intercession? Jesus assures the disciples of the power of intercession, when he narrates the parable of a man who pleads for food for his friend who came visiting. What ever we ask in prayer, especially when it is on behalf of another, is granted; perhaps not exactly as we desire, but far better than we can ever imagine. Let us put in to practice interceding for the needs of those around us. Be an answer to prayer: identify the need of a neighbor and do your best to fulfil it.



**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.

## When I Called You Answered

Some of us have that friend about whom we are constantly discovering new things. Maybe we've known this person for ten or even twenty years, and one day at lunch we'll find out they're a direct descendant of a dead president or they once met a major celebrity.

"You never asked," they'll say with a shrug.

As annoying as this can be, it makes perfect sense, doesn't it? We never asked. There is something strangely sacred about the act of asking for something. It requires humility. It requires grace. It requires us to be awake, to be aware, to be vulnerable.

Too often we fall into a pattern of entitlement, even when it comes to information. We go through life thinking that a great cosmic conveyor belt of what we want is going to roll on past us, and we'll barely even have to extend our arms. We read our Bible and we hear all these amazing promises from the Father who loves us, and we get sort of complacent. He's got this, we think, and we shut our eyes to take a snooze on the road trip of life, confident that someone else is going to look out for stop signs and wrong turns.

It's true: God's got this. He is going to take care of us. But He wants us to be in relationship with Him. He wants us to be an active, receptive participant in our own salvation. See his patience with Abraham's entreaties on behalf of the righteous of Sodom: He wants to answer, not simply to tell.

He wants us to stay awake for the drive.

## 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

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, July 24

10 am – **Eva Joanne "Happy" Luckenbill †**

Monday, July 25

5:15 pm – **James Hertel**

Tuesday, July 26

5:15 pm – **The Ireland Families**

Wednesday, July 27

5:15 pm – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**

Thursday, July 28

5:15 pm – **Bill and Dorothy Epping †**

Friday, July 29

*No Mass*

Saturday, July 30

*No Mass*

Sunday, July 31

10 am – **Joan Foyer †**



## 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

# LOLO & 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

**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**

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 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



## An American Flag for St. Thomas

Several parishioners have come up with the idea of installing a flagpole with an American flag outside the church at the Northeast entrance. A Dogwood tree had to be removed from there last year and this left a perfect location for the flagpole and a planting around it. The cost would be



\$2,400 for a 24-foot flagpole with lighting. We'll ask for parish volunteers to help install the pole.

If you'd like to make a donation toward this project, **perhaps in memory or in honor of a veteran in your family**, you can place a check in the offering basket with "Flagpole" in the memo line — or speak to **Dan Ashenfelter** or Deacon Kevin for more information. Thank you very much for your support!

## 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!

## 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.

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