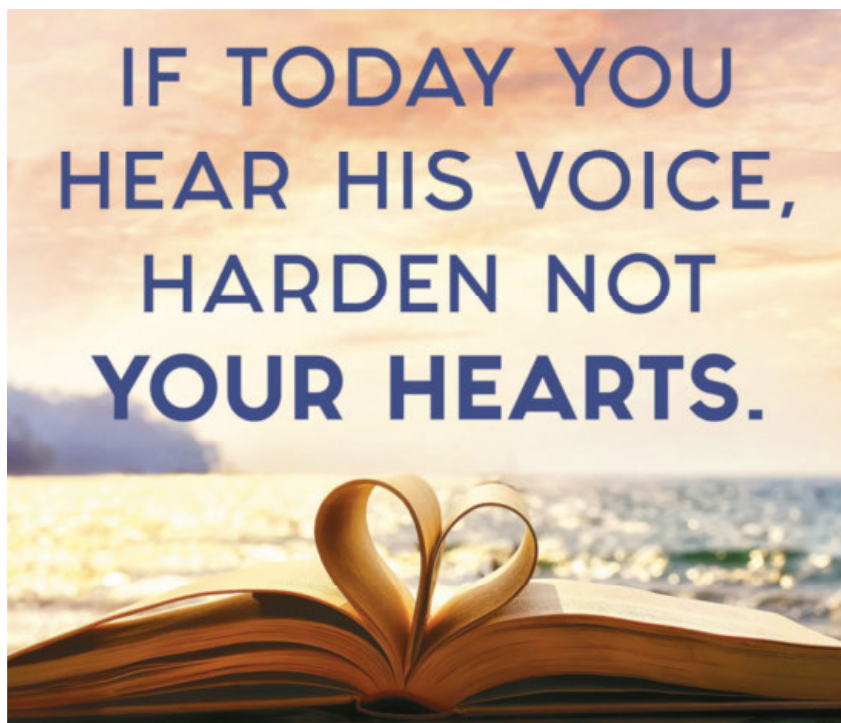




St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 31, 2022



True wealth and happiness are God's gifts

Greed is more present and powerful in our lives than we care to admit. We like our “stuff” and are hesitant to part with it. What we convince ourselves that we really need, we really do not. If everything we own is taken away from us tomorrow, life will continue. We will find happiness again.

How many relationships are ruined because of inheritance issues? Our possessions cannot come with us when we die. Why do we foolishly think that we cannot live without them here? Wealth and happiness do not have physical origins. True wealth and happiness are gifts of God's kingdom and matters of heart and soul.

We are much more than what we possess, and greed is more real and operative than we think. Let us begin our journey to detachment with an honest admission. We often place more importance on things than on people and God. Ask God to accept our conflicted hearts and give us the courage to do things differently.

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

About Greed

Family quarrels, regrettably, are often about inheritance, about possessions. That should be mine, we may say. I do not have enough, we may say. Jesus tells a story about how we are stewards only, and not owners of what we use; about how possessions can possess.

- How much is enough?
- What do I have that I can give away?
- With mercy works in mind, what will I do?

Become rich in the sight of God

Jesus invites us to make ourselves rich in the sight of God. The richest man in the valley may not be the one with the most money. Jesus said, "Watch and be on your guard because a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs." (Luke 12:15) Jesus taught the same on other occasions also when he said, "You cannot be the slave of two masters, you cannot serve both God and mammon." (Matt 6:24) On another occasion Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and all these other things will be given you as well." (Matt 6:33) How do we seek first the kingdom of God; how do we make ourselves rich in the sight of God? Like so many other things, it all begins in the mind and then affects our lives. So, our attitude is to be one of trust in God instead of trusting in the resources of this world. There are some helpful passages in the Bible to help us grow in trust in God. We could spend a whole lifetime meditating on the first two lines of Psalm 23; The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.



Fr. Ramesh,
*Parochial
Administrator*

There are also some incredible lines in Psalm 16 that help us to trust in God; Preserve me God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: "You are my God. My happiness lies in you alone" ... O Lord it is you who are my portion and cup, it is you yourself who are my prize. Psalm 62 also encourages us to trust in God; In God alone is my soul at rest; my help comes from him. He alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress; I stand firm.

When we stop and think about why we are on this planet, why God created us, where we will end up when we die, at least some of what we do could be described by the words in the book of Ecclesiastes "Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity." (Eccl 1:2) Jesus invites us to make ourselves rich in the sight of God. The richest man in the valley may not be the one with the most money. Jesus said, "Watch and be on your guard because a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs." (Luke 12:15)

Let us make an act of trust in God. We close our eyes and, in your imagination, see Jesus in front of you. He is looking at you, smiling at you. He invites you to trust in him. Jesus asks you to let go of anything that is keeping you from trusting in him.

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 makes a big difference to people who may otherwise go hungry.



Here are some ideas:

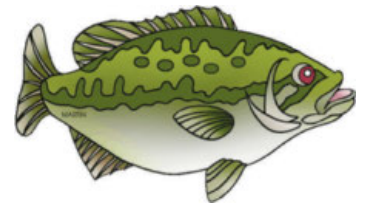
- dry pasta, jars of pasta sauce,
- canned fish and meat (salmon, tuna, ham, turkey —pop-top cans are best),
- canned vegetables and fruit,
- instant potato packets,
- peanut butter, jam and jelly,
- and canned beans.

Thanks for your caring and generosity!

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.

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.

Q: Why do the Gospels differ in their details? I was surprised to learn that not all of the Gospels tell the same stories, for example, the Nativity.



A: Take any event that happens, from family trips to national politics and ask two or three different people to explain what happened. You will get a different version of the same story. People tend to tell the story from their perspective, and past experience shades what we recall and how we recall it. What details we leave in or out is also influenced by the audience who is listening to our tales. The Gospel writers are no different. Each one tells the story of Jesus from their own perspective. Versions differ in some details, not because one is true and the other is not, but because each Gospel writer, or Evangelist, has a different theological point to communicate as well as a different audience for whom he is writing. He picks and chooses the details of his Gospel based on what message he is preaching, what his audience may already know, and what message they need to hear. They record of the church's experience and understanding of Jesus.

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 31

10 am – **Joan Foyer †**

Monday, August 1

5:15 pm – **End to Abortion**

Tuesday, August 2

5:15 pm – **Christine Kerns †**

Wednesday, August 3

5:15 pm – **Delmer Collett †**

Thursday, August 4

5:15 pm – **Bob and Erika Luckenbill †**

Friday, August 5

No Mass

Saturday, August 6

No Mass

Sunday, August 7

10 am – **Mary Kraus †**



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!

Let the Parish Pray for Your Intentions

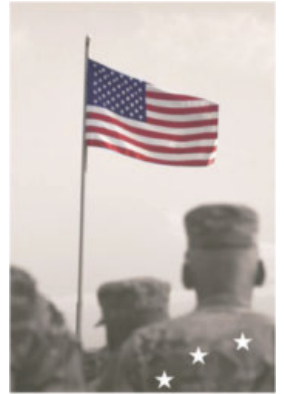


The **parish petition book** is located on a stand in the chapel under the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. These intentions will be remembered

in our intercessions at all Masses. If you would like the parish to pray for your intention, please write the intention in the book. The petitions in the book are usually anonymous. Stop by the Tabernacle and talk to Jesus about your special intention. Listen to his response and his words of comfort.

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!

Lunch Bunch

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

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