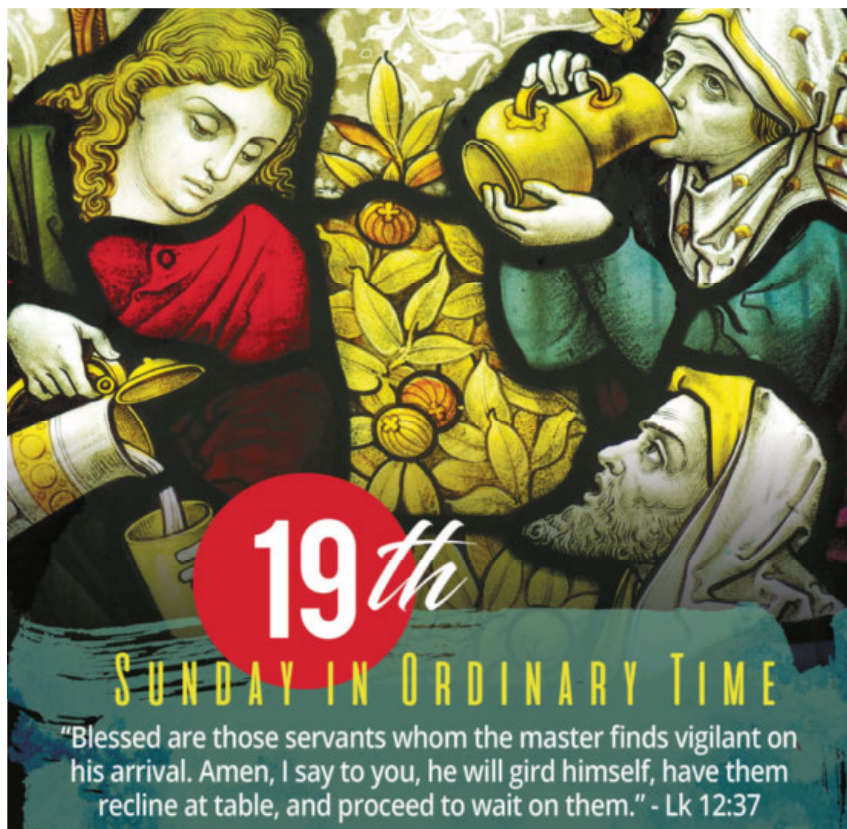




# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**19th Sunday in Ordinary Time • August 7, 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

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### **What shall we do?**

Jesus tells us today: "Do not be afraid any longer." He also tells us what to do next. Here is the list. Give alms. Gird your loins, that is, put on comfortable clothes so you can work. Wait at the ready for the coming of the Lord. Be prepared all the time. Know what God wants. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to be about his business and his Father's business – not our own. Our business is also God's business.

- What fear will I let go; what fear will I give up?
- What does God want me to do this week?
- How will I be full of mercy?

### **Good works flow from faith and love**

The fruits of our labors are not always seen in our lifetimes. Faith is not conditional on seeing results. Faith is a radical trust in what is unseen. It requires vigilance and self-investment. It requires our attention even when our efforts don't bear fruit or are unappreciated or unrecognized.

A person who is open to accepting God's presence, however it comes, and is willing to share the love received with others is a true inspiration. Good works will flow from this vigilant depth of faith. It will be directed where it is most needed and detached from the need for recognition or gratitude. Faith exercised in secret is the most profound expression of faith and a testament of true love for our Creator.

No one needs to know the humility, generosity, and goodness of our hearts, only God. Standing erect and watchful, we are prepared to receive the gift of Divine Love and freely share it with others, without recognition or self-benefit.

# Welcome!

The St. Thomas Parish family extends a warm welcome to our new parochial administrator, **Fr. Peter Chineke!** 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 **NEXT Sunday, August 14.**



**Fr. Peter Chineke,**  
*Parochial  
Administrator*

Growing up in Nigeria, Father Peter Chineke's road to the United States and our diocese is simply providential.

Fr. Chineke says it was after secondary school in his home country that he began to discern a vocation to the priesthood. He first joined a religious community in Nigeria in 2010. Two years later, he went to the Philippines to continue religious life and seminary formation as a missionary. He says that "divine providence brought him to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois."

He was ordained to the priesthood in 2020 and comes to St. Thomas from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield where he served as parochial vicar. In the future, Fr. Chineke will pursue graduate studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

**Fr. Chineke will arrive at St. Thomas on Friday, August 12.** He will celebrate his first Mass with us next Sunday.

## 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!



## Flowers at Calvary Cemetery

It was brought to the attention of the staff at Ss. James and Patrick Parish who oversee the records of Calvary Cemetery, that flowers, flags, and other items were removed from Calvary Cemetery in Decatur without their authorization. Please accept their apology. They are sorry for any inconvenience or grief this caused. They are working on determining why this happened and trying to fix the issue. If you have questions, or would like to identify your loved one's flowers, please call the Ss. James and Patrick Parish office at 217-429-5363.

## 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!**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Annual Night at the Movies**

**Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**6:30 p.m., Avon Theatre**

**"ST. JOSEPH – The Man Closest to Christ"**

An Inspiring Movie about the Life of St. Joseph

## Host the Vocations Crucifix

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!

# Parish Giving

|              | Collected | Budgeted  |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| July 10 & 17 | \$10,136. | \$10,000. |
| July 24      | \$4,102.  | \$5,000.  |
| July 31      | \$2,880.  | \$5,000.  |

**Year-to-Date: \$21,317. \$25,000.**

**Short/Ahead: - \$3,683.**

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| R/M Donations.....            | \$400. |
| Sister Parish Donations ..... | \$375. |
| Assistance for the Needy..... | \$218. |

**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, August 7  
 10 am – **Mary Kraus †**

Monday, August 8  
 5:15 pm – **For Peace**

Tuesday, August 9  
 5:15 pm – **The Hertel Family**

Wednesday, August 10  
 5:15 pm – **William A. See †**

Thursday, August 11  
 5:15 pm – **Irene Crotser †**

Friday, August 12  
*No Mass*

Saturday, August 13  
*No Mass*

Sunday, August 14  
 10 am – **For All Parishioners**

### Parish Office

**Rev. Peter Chineke, Parochial Administrator**  
 pchineke@dio.org (217) 877-4146, 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

## An American Flag for St. Thomas

Thank you very much to all who have responded to the idea of installing a flagpole with an American flag outside the church at the Northeast entrance. Your support is appreciated! The cost would be \$2,400 for a 24-foot flagpole with lighting. We are at the halfway mark in



contributions for the project. The pole will be installed at the location of a Dogwood tree that had to be removed from there last year. We'll let it cool off a bit before parish volunteers install the pole. If you'd like to lend a hand installing the pole or landscaping a planting area around it, just let us know!

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!

## 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.

**Q: On August 10 we celebrate the feast of St. Lawrence. Can you tell us a bit about him?**



**A:** Little is known about Lawrence other than he was a deacon during the reign of Emperor Valerian from 253–259. In 258, Valerian began a persecution of the Roman Church. Lawrence was in charge of the purse for the Church of Rome. Roman officials demanded that the riches of the church be handed over to them. Lawrence asked for a few days to gather them.

Lawrence took the money he had charge over and distributed it to the poor of Rome. Then he gathered all the homeless and poor together. When the officials came again demanding the riches of the church, Lawrence pointed to the destitute and homeless, saying that these were the true riches of the church.

For this he was imprisoned and tortured, and put to death by burning on a gridiron. It is said that as he was dying, he told his executioners to turn him over because he was done on one side and needed to be fully cooked for the Lord.

Lawrence continues to be a model for us today. The church needs continual reminders that its riches are the people. The primary purpose and mission of the church is to be continually sensitive to the needs of all God's people, most especially the least of our brothers and sisters.

## **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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