



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time • August 14, 2022



In August, the Catholic Church celebrates the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A devotion is something that people do or say to show their love for God. The Immaculate Heart of Mary signifies, first of all, the great purity and love of the heart of the Blessed Virgin for God.

When we honor the Immaculate Heart, we give ultimate honor to Jesus. As we honor the Mother, we honor the Son. In addition, the Blessed Virgin is our mother as well (see Revelation 12:17), and her mother's heart is incomparable. St. Louis de Montfort said, "If you put all the love of all the mothers into one heart, it still would not equal the love of the heart of Mary for her children."

To "consecrate" means to "make holy" or to set oneself aside for service of God. This is beautiful! It is also a lifelong commitment, and shouldn't be taken lightly. If you are interested in consecrating yourself or your family to the Immaculate Heart, spend some time learning about the devotion and discerning it through prayer. You could pray an Immaculate Heart novena or an Immaculate Heart chaplet.

You could also memorize a few breath prayers (Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for me!), meditate on scripture (try Luke 2:19, Luke 2:35, and Luke 2:51), or look find another option that really speaks to you. Many Catholics consecrate their homes and/or families to the Immaculate Heart for the graces and special protection received.

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

Falling asleep in the Lord

Assumption Day is celebrated on or around August 15 in many countries. It commemorates the belief that when Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, died, her body was "assumed" into heaven to be reunited with her soul, instead of going through the natural process of physical decay upon death.

Though not a holyday of obligation this year in the USA because it falls on Monday, the Assumption of Mary remains important.

She teaches us to face death this way – falling asleep in the Lord – one more way to proclaim the greatness of the Lord.

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. Peter at a reception after the 10 a.m. Mass **this 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 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.

Gracious and Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of our priests.

Through **Fr. Peter**, 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.



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 22nd

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!



	Collected	Budgeted
August 7	\$6,205.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$27,522. \$30,000.

Short/Ahead: - \$2,478.

R/M Donations.....\$315.

Sister Parish Donations\$105.

Flagpole Donation.....\$300.

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>



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

Monday, August 15
 5:15 pm – **Dolores Midden †**

Tuesday, August 16
 5:15 pm – **Elmer and Alice Rosentretter †**

Wednesday, August 17
 5:15 pm – **Christine Kerns †**

Thursday, August 18
 5:15 pm – **Irene Crotser †**

Friday, August 19
No Mass

Saturday, August 20
No Mass

Sunday, August 21
 10 am – **Joan Luckenbill Brunner †**

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



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,
Andy Richards, Kay Russell, Pat Ryan,
 Carolyn Thorpe, Roz Sandage, Caroline Snyder,
 Brenda Sullivan, Virginia Thompson, JoAn Wayne,
 Pete Wayne, and Tami Wittenauer

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!

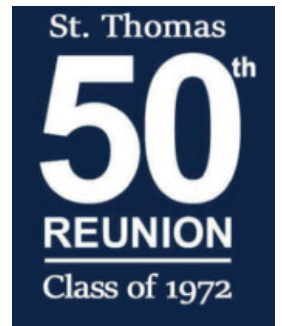
Let the Parish Pray for Your Intentions



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.

St. Thomas School class of 1972 will hold their 50th reunion. We would love for all St. Thomas school friends to join us Sept 17, 2022 at 2:00pm at the Friendly Bar on Rt 48 in Decatur. All are welcome. Questions? Call Sheri at 217-271-9091



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COUNCIL 577

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the **2022 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge**. The local competition will be held Saturday September 3, 2022, 9:00 AM at the Our Lady of Lourdes North Soccer Field located at 3950 N. Lourdes Dr. in Decatur. In the event of inclement weather, a rain date is set for Saturday September 10, 2022, at 9:00 AM.

Each contestant will test their skills by kicking 15 Penalty Kicks within their gender and age group.

For complete details or to sign up, scan QR Code or email kofc577soccer@gmail.com



RULES



SIGNUP



Please remember to pray for those in our Sister Parish, **Immaculate Conception**, in Comapa, Guatemala

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