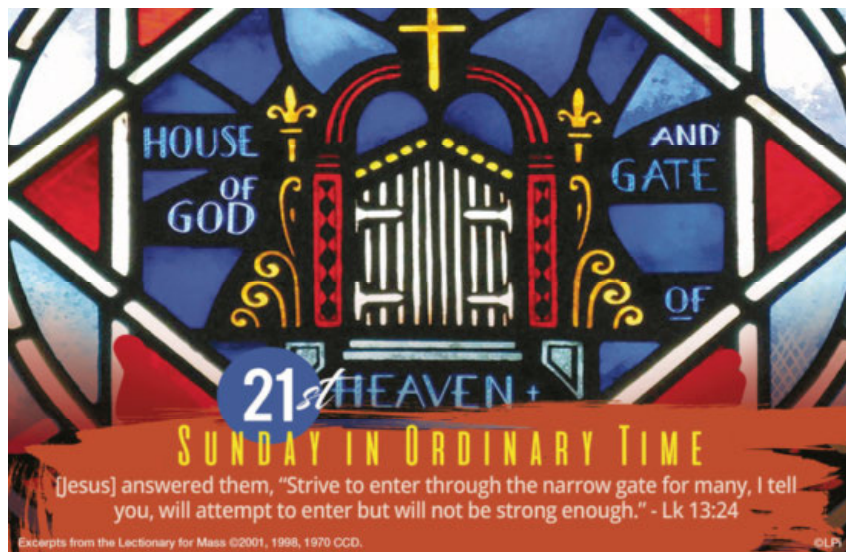




St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time • August 21, 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

Discipline is a radical trust in God

Discipline is necessary for us to focus our attention and develop and refine our skills. A disciplined person has integrity and can make difficult but necessary choices. Most people do not like discipline, especially children.

When we have to rise above our impulses and desires and do something challenging, it can appear as a punishment. The struggles of living a good and effective Christian life, especially when we actively choose virtue over vice, are allowed by God and necessary for reaching spiritual maturity.

God invites us to share in His Kingdom. Hearing and accepting that invitation requires an active, conscious decision on our part. Reforming our lives and changing how we do things does not come easily.

But it is precisely what is necessary for us to enter through the narrow gate that leads to life. In order to remain true to the way Jesus places before us, we have to listen, learn, and be willing to change.

Discipline is essential if we are going to discover our desire for union with our Creator and live in God's house. In this way, we will not risk finding the door locked when we need it to be open.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Are Only a Few to Be Saved?

It is not uncommon for someone to ask us: "Have you been saved?" Often, they are looking for one fixed date, one specific event.

But we know these truths. (1) We are saved everyday – because of God's grace. (2) God chooses to save everyone – me and them. (3) Salvation is strengthened by working for justice, by living merciful lives.

- How will I show that I am being saved by Christ every day?
- How will I cherish that everyone is saved – even those people I do not like but need to still love?
- What mercy work does this summon me to do this week?



We Have a New Priest?

Last Wednesday, August 10th, I arrived at St. Thomas Church to become your parochial administrator. Some of you have gotten to know me a little this past week, but to make sure we all know who our new priest is, I will introduce myself here and do so again on Sunday after Mass.

I am **Fr Peter Chineke**. In my former assignments, some people call me "Fr P or Fr Pete." I am fine with Fr P or Fr Pete or Fr Peter. If you want to call me Fr Chineke, good luck with that, because I know I won't correct your pronunciation. But whichever name you prefer, I am fine.

I was born and raised Catholic in southeastern Nigeria. I grew up speaking Igbo. After high school in 2008 and some studies and discernment, I entered religious life in 2010. Shortly afterward, I was sent to the Philippines as a missionary. While in the Philippines, I engaged in missionary works and ministries that took me to many provinces and islands in the Philippines and many other southeast Asian countries. During this time, I also completed my college seminary studies in Manila.

Coming to the United States in 2016 to study for the Diocese of Springfield, Bishop Paprocki sent me to the Benedictine seminary in southern Indiana. I completed my seminary studies and formation in the spring of 2020 there. Then on June 19, 2020, I was ordained with seven other young men by Bishop Paprocki for service to our diocese.

After working at the Cathedral in Springfield as a parochial vicar and at the Sacred Heart-Griffin High School as a chaplain, I was made a parochial administrator for the three Churches in Gillespie, Carlinville, and Benld last July. After finishing there, I came to St Thomas to be your parochial administrator. During my time with you, I will also be a chaplain for the St. Theresa High School and Millikin University while taking some studies online from the Catholic University in Washington.

I look forward to meeting and working with you. Please, feel free to reach out by phone, email, mail, stop by the rectory or office, greet after Mass, or invite me for meals or your events. Thank you.

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!



Communication & Engagement Coordinator

The Parish Communications and Engagement Coordinator serves as the face, voice and presence of the parish, mainly to the parishioners, but also to the public, new members, and any other person they come in contact with. Their main responsibility is to promote the mission of the parish and foster a welcoming atmosphere through all methods of communication and media. This position also supports the pastor and members of the parish, as well as various committees and boards.

Parish Maintenance/Custodial Position

The Facilities Maintenance Coordinator position provides cleaning and maintenance for the parish and school buildings and grounds. This position monitors the status of the buildings and grounds in order to oversee prevention of any major repairs and planning for the future longevity of the parish's physical assets.

Applicants should contact the Director of Operations, Justin Reed, for more information by calling 217-877-4404.



	Collected	Budgeted
August 14	\$4,256.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$31,778.	\$35,000.
Short/Ahead:	- \$3,222.	
R/M Donations.....	\$100.	
Sister Parish Donations	\$210.	
Flagpole Donation.....	\$370.	
For the Needy	\$30.	

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>



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

Monday, August 22
 5:15 pm – **End of Abortion**

Tuesday, August 23
 5:15 pm – **Patty Hoffman †**

Wednesday, August 24
 5:15 pm – **Isabelle Blakeman †**

Thursday, August 25
 5:15 pm – **William A. See †**

Friday, August 26
No Mass

Saturday, August 27
No Mass

Sunday, August 28
 10 am – **Renee Saunches †**

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, Brenda Sullivan,
 Virginia Thompson, JoAn Wayne,
 Pete Wayne, and Tami Wittenauer

NEWS OF NOTE

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.

Host the Vocations Crucifix

The new signup sheets for the Vocations Crucifix are on the table in the gathering area. Families and individuals are encouraged to sign up to host the Crucifix and pray for vocations during the week. God bless you!

PSR Registration is now open!

OLOL and St. Thomas students grade K- 5 meet on Sunday mornings from 8:00 - 9:15 a.m. in OLOL school. Classes will begin on August 21, with families attending the 9:30 a.m. Mass together. Our religious education for Grade 6 - 8 this year will be taught in a Youth Group setting (see below). To register your student (K-5) or for any questions, please contact Mary Lou Walker at 217-454-1140 or mlouwalker@comcast.net. You may also register in the OLOL Church office. We look forward to seeing you there!

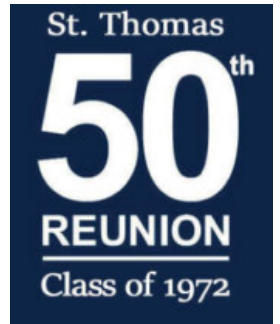
Annual Night at the Movies

Thursday, September 22nd, 6:30 p.m., Avon Theatre: "JOSEPH OF NAZARETH - The Man Closest to Christ". Tickets \$5 each for 4 for \$15. For your tickets please call WDCR 217-464-1099 or download a flyer at wdcrradio.com

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.

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



Recipe from Thomasian Cooks

St. Thomas Women's Club Cookbook

Published in 1978

UNBAKED LEMON BARS

Line a 9x12 pan with whole graham crackers.

1 c. oleo (melted)

1 c. sugar

1/2 c. milk

1 egg, slightly beaten

Cook the above until it boils, remove from heat.

Add the following:

1 c. coconut

1 c. chopped nuts

1 c. graham cracker crumbs

Pour mixture over crackers.

Press whole graham crackers on top.

Icing:

1 c. powdered sugar

1/4 c. soft butter

Dash of lemon juice

Cut into bars.

-- Mary O'Mara

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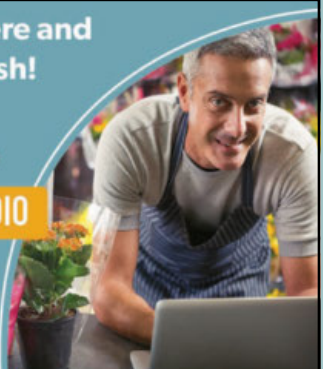


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