



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 4, 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 Friday from 9 am - 5 pm

Decatur Catholic Radio

WDCR 88.9/96.5

“Stand up straight and don’t slouch!”

Many a child has heard these words bellowed from their mother’s lips. We need the perspective of others to help us understand when we are not walking as straight as we could be. God sends us the Holy Spirit to correct and guide us so that our paths through life can be straight.

Without this assistance, how we see and understand ourselves and the world around us is incomplete. We will also lack the virtue of fortitude. It takes courage to listen to the Holy Spirit and devote ourselves to the task of discipleship.

We have to put aside things that the world says are necessary and follow a path placed before us by Jesus Christ. Jesus is asking us to follow him. We must consider what we have to do to be free enough to do so. Love helps us walk straight and focus to see things more clearly and help others to do so as well.

Many folks struggle to find joy and meaning in life. Through acts of kindness, gestures of acceptance, and words of compassion, burdens can be lightened. Believe in God’s love and seek it above all other things!

God needs us to show the world a complete picture of what life is meant to be, correct its vision and tell it to stand up straight!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

How many of us have ever built something with Legos?

We can take the blocks that we have on creatively use them to build whatever comes to mind.

However, if we don't plan well, we may run short of blocks and not be able to complete our project.

In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that following him and building his kingdom may not be easy.

He asks us to think carefully and plan ahead about what we may need, how we will get it, and who we will work with.

He doesn't want us to fall short or be unprepared.



Is he liberal or conservative?

Today, we live in a Christian world where Catholics are quickly judged as either liberals or conservatives. This has gradually become a big problem with how we see our church leaders – deacons, priests, bishops, cardinals, and popes. For some of us, when we have a new priest in our parish, our first reaction is: is he liberal or conservative?

Whatever the root of this myopic judgmental mindset towards our fellow Catholics, especially our church leaders, one may rightly argue that the misinterpretations of the teachings of Vatican II have something to do with it. In our times, we are forcing Jesus out of our private lives, schools, public places, and other institutions. So, the devil works hard 24/7, looking for souls and minds to penetrate, manipulate, and destroy. 1Peter 5:8-9.

Many of us, even our church leaders, have allowed the devil to continue to make us misunderstand and misinterpret Vatican II. The Holy Spirit intended this council to help the Church to remain effective in its mission of sanctifying and purifying humanity for the kingdom of God in a fast-changing world. By misinterpreting its teachings, we have failed woefully in emulating the lives of our great ancestors in the faith, the saints. These men and women of optimistic disposition and goodwill allowed their times' sinful and challenging events to motivate them to holiness and greatness.

One of such great ancestors in our Catholic Christian faith is St. Gregory the Great. This beautiful soul was already the prefect of Rome even before the age of 30. Coming from a wealthy and very educated background, young Gregory did not allow the material allurements of this deceitful world to distract him from preparing a place for himself in heaven.

There are too many great things about St. Gregory the Great. Too worthy of mention in this article is



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

how he responded to the sinful event he witnessed at the Roman Forum. Gregory saw the English people sold into slavery in the Roman Forum. He was moved to compassion and determined to empower the English people by Christianizing them. He achieved this by sending St. Augustine of Canterbury and several other monks as missionaries who ministered and taught the British people. Through the spiritual and material auspices of St. Gregory, these holy monks moved the British people from slavery to being a world power for centuries. I don't think Gregory was either a liberal or a conservative. He was just a child of God, a holy catholic.

Parish Update

Last Thursday, August 25th, I met with our parish pastoral council – a group of 14 fine men and women, including our Deacon Kevin. For those unaware of this committee, every parish is encouraged to have a parish pastoral council that acts as an advisory body to the pastor/parochial administrator. They meet with their priest as needed or several times a year.

Being new here, I needed to meet with this committee to discuss the state of the parish and the rectory. After a general update on the church and rectory buildings, we discussed having the contracted housekeeper clean the rectory weekly instead of biweekly. We also discussed replacing the stove and repairing the kitchen sink. We also deliberated on renovating one of the suites upstairs for the priest. While the pastoral council has discussed these things and unanimously agreed to do them, I will still meet with the parish finance council next week. The finance council has the power to either approve or disapprove any renovation.

The pastoral council also recommended moving the daily Mass to the morning as it had been until about a year ago and returning the Saturday vigil Mass. I moved the daily Mass to mornings at 8:15am Monday-Thursday from September 5th (Labor Day). But for the return of the Saturday Vigil Mass, for several reasons, we agreed not to return it for now.

Finally, I proposed an all-day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Fridays of every month from 9:00am to 5:00pm starting from Friday, 9/2/2022. They all agreed and encouraged it.



	Collected	Budgeted
August 28	\$3,497.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$39,197. \$45,000.

Short/Ahead: - \$5,803.

R/M Donations.....	\$100.
Sister Parish Donations	\$160.
Assistance for the Needy.....	\$78.

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, September 4
 10 am – **Dolores Brady †**

Monday, September 5 – Labor Day
 8:15 am – **Maureen Jesse †**

Tuesday, September 6
 8:15 am – **End of Abortion**

Wednesday, September 7
 8:15 am – **Patty Hoffman †**

Thursday, September 8
 8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Friday, September 9
No Mass

Saturday, September 10
No Mass

Sunday, September 11
 10 am – **Mary Lou Gardner †**

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**

Rachel Flick, 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,
 Carolyn Thorpe, Roz Sandage, Brenda Sullivan,
 Virginia Thompson, JoAn Wayne,
 Pete Wayne, and Tami Wittenauer



WDCR NIGHT AT THE MOVIES
“JOSEPH OF NAZARETH -
The Man Closest to Christ”
Thursday, September 22nd
6:30 p.m. Avon Theatre

Tickets will be sold after Mass on
Sept. 11th & Sept.18th
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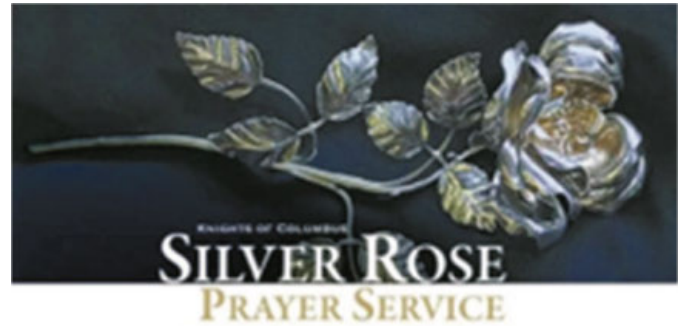
Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Brandy Stivers from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be working securing new ads for our parish bulletin over the next several weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



 **Brandy Stivers**
Cell: 217-972-4974
bstivers@4LPi.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.



All members of the community are encouraged to join the Knights of Columbus for a Silver Rose Prayer Service **at St. Patrick Church in Decatur on September 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM.** The program is sponsored by Knights of Columbus Decatur Council 577, Mt. Zion Council 11582 and Holy Family Council 17241 to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe and express both international unity and dedication to the sanctity of human life.

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!

Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at the **Royal International Buffet**, 2036 Mount Zion Rd. (Rt 121), Decatur, on **Tues, Sept. 13** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation.

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