



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 11, 2022



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekends

Sunday 10 am

Weekdays

Monday-Thursday 8:15 am

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God always patiently waits for us.

It is easy to worship things other than God. Our perception of reality gets distorted as well as our understanding of truth. Ideologies and theories that find a popular reception are extolled when they are simply lies. Human beings easily get lost.

God came to us in the person of Jesus Christ to rescue us from our sins and keep us where we need to be. But we have to realize that we are living in darkness before we can ask for light. We have to recognize that we are lost so that we can desire to be found. And, we have to know that we have sinned so that we can repent.

One of the greatest obstacles to God's power and love is a stubborn, closed heart of stone.

God always patiently waits. God is delighted when one of His children chooses life over death and runs toward His unconditional Mercy. Let's not be so stubborn and stiff-necked that we fail to recognize that we may have wandered into the wrong pasture.

Do you sometimes feel envious when someone else is being praised?

Have you ever felt like not joining in someone else's party? It is natural to feel that way sometimes.

That's how the older son in today's Gospel must have felt. We don't know what he ended up doing. But we should know what we would do if we were in the same situation.

Would we stay away too? Like the father in the parable advised, we should learn to support others and be happy for them when they do the right thing.

Wouldn't we want them to do the same for us?



Discipleship

I must dedicate myself to the service of God until death... – St. Peter Claver

Discipleship is when people become more intentional about their life in Christ. It defines our lives as children of God in the Catholic faith. Based on our Catholic faith's biblical and traditional teachings, discipleship resonates with the mission of our diocese.

On several occasions, Bishop Paprocki has emphasized that the mission of our diocese is to “build a fervent community of intentional and dedicated missionary disciples of the Risen Lord and steadfast stewards of God’s creation who seek to become saints.”



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

For many reasons, the idea of being a missionary disciple of Christ on the path to becoming a saint usually (if not always) sounds so lofty and unattainable. But we have always heard and read stories of men and women, ordinary people in most cases, who were missionary disciples and lived a life of holiness. Their ability to attain the holiness of life they desired depended on their resoluteness in remaining disciples even amid the uncertainties and evils of their times.

Last Friday, September 9, we celebrated one of these people who desired holiness and spent the rest of his life struggling to attain it even in one of the darkest periods in human history. His name is St. Peter Claver. Peter, a young Spanish priest, born into nobility in Catalonia in the 16th century, would dedicate the rest of his life as a missionary disciple of Jesus in a foreign land caring for the poor and helpless slaves in South America.

In different ways, each of us have been called to a life of discipleship. The question we must be asking ourselves every day is “how can I more concretely respond to the call to be a missionary disciple of Christ?” If you need some help answering this question, I invite you to read my article in next week’s bulletin.

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family and friends of:

Irene G. Overstreet (107) passed away on September 2, 2022 in her home at Randall Residence Assisted Living. A graveside service will be held at 1pm Monday, September 12, 2022 in Graceland Cemetery.

Doris Marie Sutherland (82) passed away peacefully on August 9, 2022. Doris was the wife of Jack Sutherland.

May God shower their families with His peace and comfort, and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Planning Your Funeral Is a Gift to Your Loved Ones

As much as we don’t like to dwell on death, it is a real part of our lives and families. The Catholic Funeral Rites are intended to assist us in praying for the person who has died and help us deal with the difficulties and reality of death.



A parish booklet, **Planning Your Catholic Funeral**, is available on the table in the back of church. This guide explains the Catholic funeral rites and give some guidance on the decisions that will need to be made — in light of Church teachings.

There are important decisions you can make now about your funeral and burial to ease the burden of family and friends who will grieve your death. Thoughtfully preparing it now may lessen the anxiety and pressures relatives may face when you die.



	Collected	Budgeted
September 4	\$6,105	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$45,302.	\$50,000.
Short/Ahead:	- \$4,698.	

R/M Donations.....	\$270.
Sister Parish Donations	\$245.
Assistance for the Needy.....	\$131.
Flagpole Donations.....	\$250.

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 11
 10 am – **Mary Lou Gardner †**

Monday, September 12
 8:15 am – **Maureen Jesse †**

Tuesday, September 13
 8:15 am – **Laurie Sullivan †**

Wednesday, September 14
 8:15 am – **Donna Wingert †**

Thursday, September 15
 8:15 am – **Mary Welch †**

Friday, September 16
No Mass

Saturday, September 17
No Mass

Sunday, September 18
 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



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**

Tickets are \$5 each or 4 for \$15

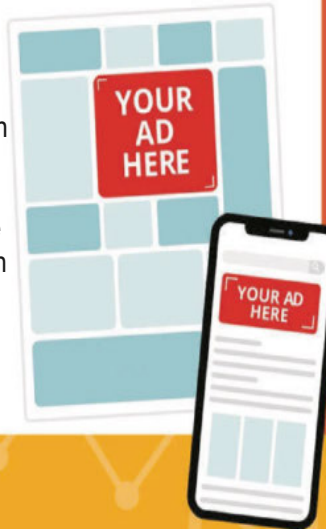
Or call WDCR (217) 464-1099

Or download a flyer wdcrradio.com

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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.

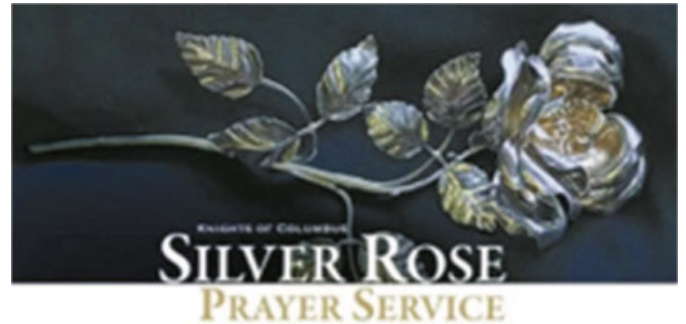


Brandy Stivers
Cell: 217-972-4974
bstivers@4LPi.com



Thank you so much for remembering my birthday with a delicious cake and cards with many well-wishes. My beautiful wife Norma and

I both shared the same Sept. 4 birthday. This was the first birthday that we couldn't celebrate together since she passed away in January. It was so thoughtful of you and such a surprise! Thanks, my friends! — **Vern Wilson**



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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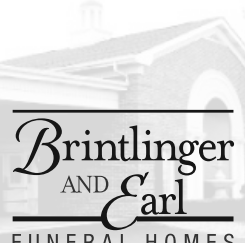
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