



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 18, 2022



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekends

Sunday 10 am

Weekdays

Monday-Thursday 8:15 am

Reconciliation

Sundays: 9:15 am - 9:45 am
Wednesdays: 7:30—8:10 am

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday from 9 am - 5 pm

Decatur Catholic Radio

WDCR 88.9/96.5

How we can use the talents and skills God gave us to make for a better world?

Human beings are often very clever when managing money and making a profit. Sometimes, we place so much of our sense of security in money that we lower ourselves to deceit and fraud. Our need to produce a profit can easily lead to economic injustice and exploitation.

Money is necessary to conduct the business of our lives. However, it cannot become the god we serve. Being smart, savvy, and creative with financial wealth can be good.

Being smart, savvy, and creative with living out our relationship with God is even better. Our hearts have to find a home somewhere. Jesus reminds us of a choice we must make: God or mammon. We need to be cautious about “selling our souls” to what cannot fully satisfy us and falling into the traps of lust, gluttony, pride, and greed. Instead, we can better direct our efforts and our talents to the management of God’s kingdom, which in the end is the only thing that matters.

Many of the world’s problems, especially those involving inequity and injustice, result from conflicts about money. Many equate money with happiness. Those successful in accumulating large amounts of it quickly realize just how wrong they are.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God or money, what will it be?

We can either serve God or mammon (which means money or wealth), Jesus tells us in today’s gospel.

He spoke a lot about money and challenged us to think about how we use it. In our culture we pay a lot of attention to rich people. Jesus challenges us instead to pay attention to the poor.

Where do we put our energies and time?

Lord, help us to understand that after our basic necessities of life are taken care of that our job is to take care of those who don't have what they need.



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

If you want to be my disciple, take up your cross and follow me

One of the most beautiful things about our Christian faith is that we know what to do precisely to belong to Christ truly and wholly. Jesus said many things that explain his condition for discipleship. But, shortly before his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus told the many people following him that anyone who would be his disciple must take up their cross and follow him.

At first, his apostles and the others following him did not understand this statement. But as the events of his passion, death, and resurrection gradually unfolded, people began to see all that meant. In the heat of persecution and witch-hunting of Christ's followers, many fled, and some denied him, even Peter – the head of the apostles.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

The followers of Jesus, who either disappeared or denied any associations with him, did so because they feared losing their lives. But Jesus said clearly in Matthew 16:25 that anyone who would save their life must first lose it for his (Jesus) sake.

To help us understand Jesus's insistence on carrying our crosses daily and following him, the Church has designated Sept. 14 of every year as the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast reminds us that the Cross of Christ is both symbol of our faith and a sign of our salvation. Hence the expression, no cross, no salvation.

What, then, is my cross that I must carry daily and follow Christ? The challenges I face in my business, relationships, family, vocation, or place of work. The misunderstandings I have with people and institutions. The guilt I feel from the mistakes and sins of my past and the sinful habits I still have. My poor relationship with God and my little or no contribution to the Church and charities. Any of these can constitute a cross in our lives. A change of heart to reverse, appease, or improve the situation for the sake of Christ is what it means to carry one's cross and follow Christ in order to be his disciple.

Priests' Convocation this week

Fr. Peter will be away Monday afternoon through Thursday afternoon (Sept. 19th-22nd) for the annual Convocation of Priests in our diocese.

There will be a Monday morning 8:15am Mass, however there will not be a morning Mass Tuesday through Thursday this week. There will not be reconciliation on Wednesday morning.

During the four days, priests will have the opportunity to discuss mutual pastoral concerns, participate in special presentations on aspects of their ministry, be given an update on the affairs of the diocese and share in liturgies, meals and fellowship with their brother priests.

Dealing with Loss

Those who have experienced the loss of a loved one often find healing and support through sharing with others with similar experiences. Ss. James & Patrick Parish is hosting a grief support group. For more information, please contact Donna at 422-4534

Weekly Breakfast after Mass



Starting Monday, Sept. 19, you're invited to join us for breakfast after 8:15am morning Mass. The location will change every week. This Monday, 9/19, we will go to New Moon Cafe right after Mass for breakfast. The weekly breakfast location will be announced at the end of Mass. Anyone is welcome to join us.

What You're Stressing About the Most Is Where You're Trusting God the Least

If you truly believe that God will provide the money you need to pay your bills, then why are you stressed about money?

If you truly believe that God is sovereign over what happens in your life, then why are you stressed about what might happen tomorrow?

Believing in God and in His perfect plan for us brings great joy and contentment to our lives. Stress robs us of that joy.

If you're dealing with stress, take it to Him in prayer. He wants to hear from you and He wants to help you!



	Collected	Budgeted
September 11	\$4,498.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$49,800. \$55,000.

Short/Ahead: - \$5,200.

R/M Donations.....\$95.

Sister Parish Donations\$145.

Assistance for the Needy.....\$65.

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 18

10 am – **For All Parishioners**

Monday, September 19

8:15 am – **Fr. Paul Steingreaber, O.S.B †**

Tuesday, September 20

8:15 am – NO MASS – Priests’ Convocation

Wednesday, September 21

8:15 am – NO MASS – Priests’ Convocation

Thursday, September 22

8:15 am – NO MASS – Priests’ Convocation

Friday, September 23

No Mass

Saturday, September 24

No Mass

Sunday, September 25

10 am – **Dennis Mahorney †**

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**

Betty Althoff, 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, Michelle 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. 18th**

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

Or call WDCR (217) 464-1099

Or download a flyer wdcrradio.com

Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will
meet at **Cracker Barrel**

(Tues, Oct. 11) at 11:15 a.m.,
5120 Hickory Point Frontage Rd.

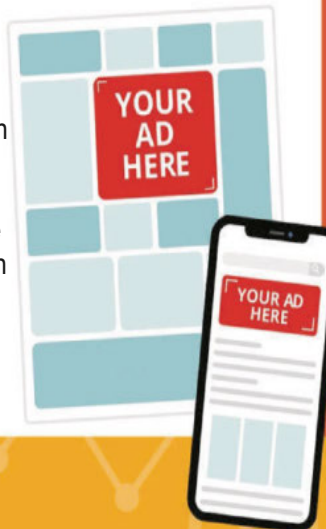
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 **Brandy Stivers**
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bstivers@4LPi.com

Tootsie Roll Drive



Members of Knights of Columbus Council 577 will be present **after Sunday Mass this weekend** to collect donations for the 52nd Annual Intellectual Disabilities Drive, more commonly known as the Tootsie Roll Drive.

Council 577 contributes all funds raised every year to Special Olympics Region I and Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., a non-profit charity. Last year, over \$10,000 was raised thanks to your generous support. Over 1,400 athletes in Region I compete in 16 sports and rely on our support every year to assist with expenses with year-round training and hosting events, competitions, and other activities.

Donations can also be made by mailing a check to The Hall at Five-Twenty, 520 E. North St., Decatur, IL 62523 or by contributing with a debit or credit card by scanning the QR code with your phone camera. Thanks for your contributions to this most worthy cause!



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, macaroni & cheese, jars of pasta sauce,
- canned fish and meat (salmon, tuna, ham, chicken, turkey —pop-top cans are best),
- canned vegetables, fruit, soup, and stew,
- instant potato packets,
- peanut butter, jam and jelly, cereal,
- and canned beans, and pork & beans.

Thanks for your caring and generosity!

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