



# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 25, 2022**



## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### *Weekends*

Sunday 10 am

### *Weekdays*

Monday-Thursday 8:15 am

### **Reconciliation**

Sundays: 9:15 - 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

## **Lived faith requires an actual change of heart**

We can be blindly arrogant and selfish. For some, the lens through which we view life is the lens of self-benefit. Having this myopic vision, the plight and station of others are off our radar and of no genuine concern.

Being self-sufficient and resilient, we can wonder if all of this “God-talk” is for real. If we believe we are solely responsible for our destiny and well-being, what place is there for God? Tangible faith requires an actual change of heart, a conversion. It involves walking a courageous journey of transformation that consists of a shift in priorities and focus.

Humility becomes the order of the day. An authentic loving relationship with God blossoms within a person’s soul. God becomes an ever-faithful companion. Whether this faith is stumbled upon because of messages heard from prophets in our midst or from someone coming back from the dead, the journey is the same.

Faith has to be owned and become something permanent. Jesus and the prophets before him have consistently reminded us of the dangers of wealth, ignoring the poor and the needy, and becoming too fiercely independent and arrogant. Yet, we conduct our lives as if that message has never been preached.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### **Feel for Others**

If we live comfortably with everything we need, the sight of someone very poor can sometimes make us uncomfortable, but this is what Jesus would want.

He wants us to feel the pain of others or to be compassionate and do something about it.

This is in contrast to the rich man in today's gospel who simply ignored the poor man Lazarus lying in sickness outside of his house. Even the dogs felt bad for poor Lazarus, but the rich man did nothing!

Jesus wants us to do something.



## A WORD FROM FR. PETER

### Preach The Gospel Always. When Necessary, Use Words

– St. Francis of Assisi

Every day of our lives, we wake up to either continue from where we stopped or begin a new life. Whichever one happens, as Christians, at the center of our thoughts should be the desire to follow Christ more closely daily. And we follow him not only by words but by actions. This may be a real struggle for some of us. But it is easier for people who continue to strive daily to be intentional in their efforts to allow their actions to be inspired and guided by that ultimate goal of seeing Christ someday in glory.



**Fr. Peter Chineke,**  
*Parochial  
Administrator*

Father David Beagles is one of such people. A great example and model of the Christian life, Father Beagles inspires me to be more intentional about allowing my thoughts and actions to be guided by the love for Christ. The way he talks, smiles, relates with, and talks about others reminds me of what I should be doing as a follower of Christ. While he was my classmate by ordination, Father Beagles is more than twice my age. He is a priest of our diocese and currently serves as pastor of St. Elizabeth Church in Robinson, and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Oblong, both in our diocese.

This past Tuesday, during our diocesan priests' convocation in Collinsville, IL., Fr Beagles preached the Mass presided by Bishop Paprocki. In his homily, Father Beagles reminded us that as followers of Christ, our daily lives should be a witness to the gospels. He explained that we should preach by our lives – in how we treat and relate with others; how we care about the weak, the vulnerable, the poor, and people with various kinds of need. St Francis had said the same thing centuries ago when he told us to preach the gospel always and, when necessary, to use words.

As we begin a new week, let us remind ourselves of the need to preach the gospel with and in our daily lives like Father Beagles and use words when necessary.



### Recipe from *Thomasian Cooks*

*St. Thomas Women's Club Cookbook  
Published in 1978*

#### CHICKEN IMPERIAL

- 1 frying chicken (1 1/2 - 3 lb.), disjointed
- 1/4 c. cooking oil
- 1 lg. onion, chopped
- 1 Tb. paprika, or more
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. chicken stock
- 1/2 pt. sour cream

Brown chicken in oil, then remove it and brown the onion. Add seasonings, chicken stock and the chicken. Cover, cook over medium-low heat about 30 minutes. Remove chicken to warm platter. Pour over chicken. Blend sour cream into drippings. Serve on hot noodles.

-- Mrs. Mary Kraus

#### Mums the word!

Thanks so much to the parish families who came up with the idea of purchasing and planting mums around the church last weekend. The mums look beautiful! What a loving parish family we have!



#### Weekly Breakfast after Mass

You are invited to join us for breakfast after 8:15am Monday morning Mass. The weekly breakfast location will be announced at the end of Mass. Anyone is welcome to join us.



#### 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



	Collected	Budgeted
September 18	\$2,373.	\$5,000.
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$52,173.</b>	\$60,000.
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$7,827.</b>	
R/M Donations.....		\$30.
Sister Parish Donations .....		\$70.

**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, September 25  
10 am – **Dennis Mahorney †**

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- Monday, September 26  
8:15 am – **Elmer and Alice Rosentretter †**
- Tuesday, September 27  
8:15 am – **Bernie Custin †**
- Wednesday, September 28  
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**
- Thursday, September 29  
8:15 am – **Glennae Schultz †**
- Friday, September 30  
*No Mass*
- Saturday, October 1  
*No Mass*
- Sunday, October 2  
10 am – **Robert and Louise Luckenbill †**

## 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

## NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER BABY BOTTLE 2022 CAMPAIGN

Through your generosity to the New Life Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Campaign, St. Thomas raised **\$1,500.78!**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is compassionately being shared with hundreds of women, men, and their families that walk through the doors of NLPC seeking help. You help give these babies a chance of a lifetime to be born!

## 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. Join us for food and conversation!



## 55+ Community Gathering

Our next gathering will be **Tuesday, Sept. 27**. Mass at 11:30 in the Chapel at Our Lady of Lourdes, followed by a Potluck Lunch. Please bring a dish or items to share and invite a friend to join us.



Speaker: Amy Bliefnick, President & CEO of Macon Resources, Inc (MRI).

## Rosary Rally

Please come and join us in praying the rosary at **noon on Oct 15 at St. Patrick Church** (front steps). The Rosary Rally is sponsored by America Needs Fatima. It will be one of the 20,000 rallies taking place across the United States.



We are offering reparations for sins and offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and praying for the conversion of the US. You are welcome to bring a chair and umbrella with you.

## The Teen Commandments

Now, these are the Teen Commandments

1. Stop and think before you drink.
2. Don't let your parents down, they brought you up.
3. Be humble enough to obey. You will be giving orders yourself someday.
4. At the first moment, turn away from unclean thinking at the first moment.
5. Don't show off driving. If you want to race, go to Indianapolis.
6. Choose a date who would make a good mate.
7. Go to church faithfully. The Creator gives you the week, give Him back an hour.
8. Choose your companions carefully. You are what they are.
9. Avoid following the crowd. Be an engine, not a caboose.
10. Or even better, keep the original Ten Commandments.

Paul Anka, George Hamilton IV, and Johnny Nash released the song “The Teen Commandments” which peaked at #29 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1959.

## 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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