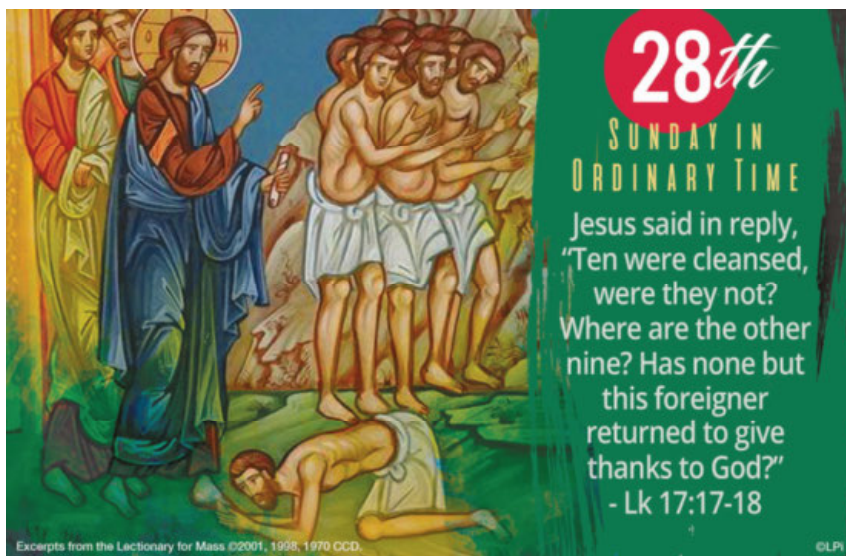




St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time • October 9, 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

We cannot take another step without saying thank you

Ten lepers were cured. Only one returned to give thanks. Expressing gratitude is a sign of a loving heart. When we have received a gracious gesture, the appreciation experienced forms a bond between the giver and receiver. This can only happen when abundance and kind gestures are seen as gifts and not something to which we are entitled. When we fall victim to entitlement, we diminish our capacity to love.

The power of gratitude is more profound when we realize all that we are and all we are given do not have a human source but are of God. Walking around believing that our glass is only half full leaves us always wanting more. We are never satisfied. We become nothing more than entitled pursuers of whatever we can get.

Instead, the one who is eager to count their blessings and appreciate the wonder and beauty of the gift of life itself is at peace. Before they take another step or venture off on another journey, they bow in gratitude to the presence of God himself. They are most keenly aware that all would cease to be without God.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Being grateful makes us better people

Like the people with leprosy in today's gospel, when our lives are hard we too sometimes beg or plead with God to do something for us. Sometimes we get what we asked for and at other times we do not. However, when we do get what we asked for, do we make a point to thank God or go to church to offer a prayer of thanksgiving?

When we pause to think, we realize that when good things do happen in our lives, we often forget to say thank you to you, Lord. May we go through each day looking for all the things that we can give thanks for. Amen!

Mass of Remembrance

Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 5:15 p.m.

During the month of November we celebrate and honor the memory of our beloved dead.



We will have our St. Thomas Mass of Remembrance on **Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 5:15 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend this beautiful Mass as we remember parishioners who have died in the past year.

Bible study every Tuesday morning

Looking to grow in your faith? You're invited! Bible study group meets every Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. after morning Mass. Currently, we're reading the Book of the Prophet Amos. Deacon Kevin leads the hour-long Bible Study group in the chapel of the church. Please join us in learning from scripture in a fun, informative, and friendly setting. Everyone is welcome!



Pictures for the Table of Remembrance

As a way to remember our beloved dead during the month of November, we again have a table for you to place a picture of your deceased loved ones on. You may bring those pictures any weekend in November beginning **Sun., Oct. 30**. Please plan to take them home on Sun., Nov. 27.



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.

Q: What was God doing before Creation?



A: St. Augustine confronted this question in the fifth century. He noted that others jokingly responded that for all eternity God was making hell for people who ask questions like that. Augustine's more serious response was that prior to the creation of the world there was no time. It makes no sense to ask what God was doing prior to the creation of the world, because the creation of the world also included the first moment of time.

Time can be a difficult thing to understand, but one common-sense view is to think of time as a measurement of change. If God existed in a changeless, perfect state without the universe, then our mental picture of a lonely God passing countless idle eons is a flawed one. God exists without time because he does not change. The Bible even says, "Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (Jas. 1:17).

Dealing with Loss

Those who have experienced the loss of a loved one often find healing and support by sharing with others who have similar experiences. Our parish is hosting a grief session on Wednesday, October 19 at 5:30pm in the parish house at St. James. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information,

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!



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.





	Collected	Budgeted
October 2	\$5,701.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$61,344. \$70,000.

Short/Ahead: - \$8,656.

R/M Donations.....	\$100.
Sister Parish Donations	\$295.
Assistance for the Needy.....	\$5.
World Mission Sunday	\$55.

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, October 9
 10 am – **Norma Wilson †**

Monday, October 10 — Columbus Day
 8:15 am – **Annette Mormino †**

Tuesday, October 11
 8:15 am – **Joan Foyer †**

Wednesday, October 12
 8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Thursday, October 13
 8:15 am – **Patty Hoffman †**

Friday, October 14
No Mass

Saturday, October 15
No Mass

Sunday, October 16
 10 am – **Mary Kraus †**

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

Have A Serving Heart?

We Need Your Help!

Faith in Action has flexible volunteer opportunities that work around your schedule. Come volunteer with us and impact someone's life in a special way!

We currently need:

Drivers – transport seniors to their medical appointments, grocery store, and/or errand running (hand sanitizer and gloves are available to help ensure safety)



Shoppers – get groceries for a homebound senior or escort a senior to the store (hand sanitizer and gloves are available to help ensure safety)

Friendly Phone Callers/Friendly Visitors – brighten up a homebound senior's day by calling/visiting them to remind them that they have not been forgotten and that someone cares about them (weekly, biweekly, or monthly calling/visiting options)

For more information, please contact Sarah at 217-428-0013 or ssanchez_dec@cc.dio.org



Please pray for our Sister Parish,
Immaculate Conception,
in Comapa, Guatemala,

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.

An easy way to donate online

As many people move away from using cash, many organizations have enabled giving through digital options. QR codes (quick response codes) allow givers to make instant donations via their phone or mobile device simply by scanning a special code.



SCAN ME

In partnership with our Diocese, our parish offers an online giving program that enables parishioners to donate to the parish online.

3 Steps to Donate via QR Code

1. Open the camera app on your phone
2. Hover the camera over the QR code above
3. Don't take a picture but click on the notification on your screen which will take you to our online donation page.
4. Maybe give it a try!

Online giving...

- Enables you to make your Sunday offertory contribution online by debit or credit card
- You can make a one-time Memorial Gift Donation
- Your information remains private and secure
- Provides you the flexibility to designate a one-time gift or recurring gift
- Provides you comfort knowing your donation will be supporting the ongoing mission and vitality of our parish community.

Please call the parish office at 217-877-4146 if you have any questions.

Thank you!

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