



# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time • October 23, 2022**



## **God knows no favorites — all are broken and need mercy**

To be humble means to see ourselves as we are. It comes with the recognition that we are never perfect, better than another, or free of sin. The humble person knows their faults and failings as well as their successes and triumphs.

They also realize that they are nothing without God, especially God’s mercy. The humble one knows who they are, who they can be, and how they have fallen short. Being desperately in love with God, they know how they have sometimes given in to their desires rather than God’s will, almost with a sense of embarrassment.

Being justified in our relationship with God is not about a list of the good things we do and the bad things we don’t. We are vindicated when we realize how totally dependent we are upon God’s gratuitous, abundant, and unconditional love. It is a gift we often take for granted and is often unappreciated.

God knows no favorites. Everyone belongs regardless of whether you are an official, bona fide member. The genuinely humble ones may not appear to be overly “pious.” They may not know all of the proper prayers or abide by all of the correct rituals, but they know that they are broken and need mercy. There is a reason Jesus told us to pray in private. It’s only between you and God.

## 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

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### **Jesus wants us to take the humble way in prayer and action**

Have you ever felt like you were better than others and your way is the right way? Most of us have at some time or other. In today’s Gospel Jesus reminds us that it is not about being perfect but about always working to be better.

In the parable, Jesus compares two men who went up to the temple to pray. One’s prayer was filled with pride about all the good he had done and rules he had followed. The other, humbly prayed for mercy and to do better.

Lord, teach us to be humble in our thoughts, words, and deeds to learn from each other and support each other always. Amen.



## Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist

We celebrated the feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist last Tuesday. He was one of the second-generation Christians who did not have any physical contact with Jesus. But Luke had direct contact with many first-generation Christians, including the apostles like St Paul, whom he worked very closely with as a companion and fellow minister of the gospel.

The evangelists Matthew and John wrote their accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus from their first-hand experiences and information about Jesus. But Mark and Luke wrote theirs from the information they gathered from the apostles and other first-generation Christians that had direct encounters with Jesus Christ.

While these four evangelists – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, wrote beautifully about the same life and ministry of Jesus Christ, each is unique in many ways. Their uniqueness as people from different cultural, family, socioeconomic, and political backgrounds played a role in their accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus.



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

Matthew was a highly educated Jewish man from Galilee who worked closely with the authorities of the Roman Empire and served as a tax collector before he met and followed Jesus. John was the brother of James. They are Jewish men and sons of Zebedee from Jerusalem. He probably had the closest contact with Jesus of all the disciples as he was with Christ even unto His crucifixion in Calvary. Mark was from Cyrene, a town in North Africa. Like Luke, Mark was both an immigrant to the Jewish world and a second-generation Christian. But he worked very closely with Peter – the head of the apostles, from whom he gathered most, if not all, of the information in his gospel. And finally is Luke, a physician, and an immigrant. He worked very closely with both St. Peter and St. Paul.

The fascinating thing about St. Luke is that by reading his gospel, one can easily understand the identity and background of the author as a physician and an immigrant. His gospel shows special love and attention for the sick and the poor. Reading the gospel of Luke, one may understand Jesus almost exclusively as the savior for the poor and the sick. It is not a surprise. As a physician, he devotedly cared for the sick, and as an immigrant, he understood the plight of the poor. So, in his gospel, he had the sick and the poor in mind in a particular way. Scripture scholars like Clayton Jefford and Pablo Gadenz believe that Luke’s primary audience was the gentile immigrants, among whom were the sickest and poor in the Jewish society of the time. May Saint Luke continue to intercede for us. 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.



### 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.



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



	Collected	Budgeted
October 16	\$3,453.	\$5,000.

**Year-to-Date: \$70,824.** \$80,000.

**Short/Ahead: - \$9,176.**

R/M Donations.....	\$105.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$75.
Assistance for the Needy.....	\$200.
World Mission Sunday .....	\$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/stthomasdecatu>



Sunday, October 23  
 10 am – **60th Wedding Anniversary for Caroline and Charles Snyder**

Monday, October 24  
 8:15 am – **Leona Nichols †**

Tuesday, October 25  
 8:15 am – **Joan Luckenbill Brunner †**

Wednesday, October 26  
 8:15 am – **Patty Hoffman †**

Thursday, October 27  
 8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Friday, October 28  
*No Mass*

Saturday, October 29  
*No Mass*

Sunday, October 30  
 10 am – **Norma Wilson †**

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

## Bible study every Tuesday morning

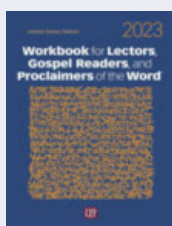
Looking to grow in your faith? You're invited! Bible study group meets every Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. after morning Mass. Currently, we're reading the Book of the Prophet Amos. Deacon Kevin leads the hour-long Bible Study group in the chapel of the church. Please join us in learning from scripture in a fun,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



## Lectors: Pick Up 2023 Workbooks

Lectors may pick up a copy of the *2023 Workbook for Proclaimers of the Word* in the sacristy after Mass.

Thank you for your ministry!



## Donut Sunday is back!

We will have a donut Sunday after Mass on the last Sunday of each month, **beginning next weekend, October 30**. Volunteers and sponsors are needed for this monthly project.

Anyone who is interested in helping should contact Kathy Brown from our Parish Radical Hospitality Committee. Thank you!



## Ministry Schedule Sign Up Online

Add yourself to the monthly ministry schedule for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Altar Servers by picking the Sunday Masses when you're available on the signup page on the parish website:

<https://stthomasdecatour.com/ministrysignup>

Thank you!

## World Mission Sunday

Be the Lord's 'Witnesses' in prayer and support this World Mission Sunday: Today, World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis reminds us that in Baptism we are all called by the Lord to be His missionaries:



"You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8).

Joining Catholics worldwide this Sunday, we offer our prayers and generous financial support, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, to the Pope's missions. Your prayers are most treasured, and they, along with financial help offered today, WORLD MISSION SUNDAY, answer Christ's call to be His witnesses. Thank you!

### Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (Lunch: NOON), Cathedral Lower-Level Meeting Room. We request that women from all 37 parishes in the Springfield Deanery attend. We will be showcasing EACH of our Springfield Deanery Parishes at the 2023 SDCCW Convention:

**Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023:** Sacred Heart Griffin West Campus, Mass at St. Agnes Church, Main Celebrant is Bishop Paprocki.

**Attending the Deanery Meeting, Nov. 15?** Please R.S.V.P. to Janet Zimmerman, Pres. of the Springfield Deanery by Tues., Nov. 8: janetzim14@yahoo.com or 217-494-4743.

## Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at the **Benny's Grill, 1770 E Pershing Rd, Decatur on Tues, Nov. 8** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation.

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