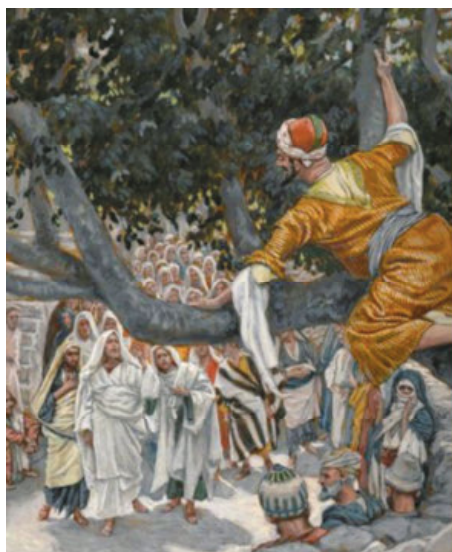




St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time • October 30, 2022



31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."
- Lk 19:8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

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

God's divine blessing lives in each of our souls.

God does not set things in motion or create something and then step back to attend to other matters. When God creates, God remains connected. God's continued and constant presence is necessary for everything we see to exist. Without God, life as we know it would cease.

God's imperishable spirit is in all things! Being the author of love, God cannot despise or hate Himself. Therefore, God cannot despise or hate anything or anyone. How can God be repulsed by the image of Himself reflected in a human soul? Jesus goes to the homes of sinners. His very presence there is enough to change even the most conflicted and self-serving of hearts.

God's divine blessing lives in each of our souls. It is our essential goodness, a free gift given to us by God. The soul who realizes its utter dependency upon God is a soul who knows salvation.

The beginnings of salvation's blessings are discovered when we understand who God is, who we are, and how we are to act relative to our brothers and sisters. We find what our selfishness lost.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What about the tree?

We've often heard of the story of Zacchaeus, a man of short stature who climbed a tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus. But we rarely pay attention to the tree—the tall, sturdy structure that supported Zacchaeus' desire to encounter Jesus.

This is significant for us missionary disciples. We too are called to be like trees, to offer support to those who long for the loving gaze from Jesus. We are called to be Sister and Brother trees to each other.

Compassionate God, help us to lift each other up to your joyous love.



The Three States of the Church

Our Church, the One Holy Catholic, and Apostolic Church, is a family of people who are baptized in Christ and profess obedience to the teachings of Christ and his apostles. This Church is a perfect society because it has within it all it needs to actualize itself. In other words, the Church has a mission and, within it, possesses all it takes to accomplish its mission. This mission is the salvation of all her members. And all it takes to achieve this salvation is the proper celebration and dispensation of the seven sacraments of the Church. These sacraments have sanctifying powers to bring members into a heavenly union with Christ.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

Members of the Church exist in three states of life. The first state is the Militant State. Members of this state are those of us alive and active in our Catholic faith. In this state, the Church regularly nourishes us with the sacraments and the word of God.

We fight every day for the salvation of our souls by living good lives and being spiritually and materially charitable to ourselves, our families, friends, neighbors, and our church communities.

The second state of the Church is the Penitential State. The members of this state are our brothers and sisters who lived well in this life, fought the good fight of faith, and finished their race but are not clean enough to see the face of God. So, they must spend some time in purgatory to get more perfectly purified to see the face of God. On Wednesday, November 2nd, we will have a special Mass at 5:15 pm to pray for them. Please join us in this Mass! They are the people we celebrate on "All Souls Day" every November 2nd.

The third and final state of the Church is the Triumphant State. Members of this state are our brothers and sisters who lived this life well. They observed the ten commandments, received the sacraments regularly, and were materially and spiritually charitable. Some of these people might have spent some time in purgatory before finally arriving in heaven. St. Thomas the Apostle, our Patron, is one of them. We celebrate these saints every 1st of November – the Feast of All Saints.

May St. Thomas the Apostle and all the saints pray 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 **next 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 **this Sunday, Oct. 30.** Please plan to take them home on Sun., Nov. 27.



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.



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



	Collected	Budgeted
October 23	\$13,600.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: **\$84,519.** \$85,000.

Short/Ahead: **- \$481.**

R/M Donations.....	\$40.
Sister Parish Donations	\$30.
World Mission Sunday	\$170.

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 30
 10 am – **Norma Wilson †**

Monday, October 31
 8:15 am – **Intentions of Ann Midden**

Tuesday, November 1 – *All Saints Day*
 8:15 am – **Elmer and Alice Rosentretter †**

Wednesday, November 2 – *All Souls Day*
 8:15 am – **Edna Cox †**
 5:15 pm – **Deceased St. Thomas Parishioners †**

Thursday, November 3
 8:15 am – **Marge Collett †**

Friday, November 4 – *Eucharistic Adoration*
 8:15 am – **Patty Hoffman †**

Saturday, November 5
No Mass

Sunday, November 6
 10 am – **Bob and Erika 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,
 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

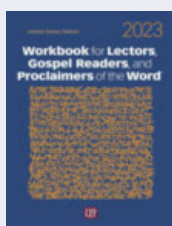
Looking to grow in your faith? You're invited! Bible study group meets every Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. after morning Mass. Currently, we're reading the Book of the Prophet Amos. Deacon Kevin leads the hour-long Bible Study group in the chapel of the church. Please join us in learning from scripture in a fun,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

We will have a donut Sunday after Mass on the last Sunday of each month, **beginning this 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!

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration!

Every first Friday is a day of Eucharistic Adoration at St. Thomas. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the main church **next**

Friday, Nov. 4, beginning at 8:15 am with Mass and concluding with Benediction at 5 pm. A signup sheet for adoration hours on first Fridays will be available in the back of church this Sunday.



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.



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.

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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