



# St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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



## 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

## Our souls are made to be eternal.

Every believer wonders about what the experience of heaven will be like. Popular images of people walking around in white robes, becoming like angels, and reunions with those who have gone before us all tickle human imagination.

Jesus never got too specific about what heaven actually looks like. But he assures us that it exists and that all are alive in God.

Clinging to the traditions of our faith, we persevere through life's challenges confident that God's promise of eternal life will come to be. We are told that we shall become like God and see God as He is. As God has made us, He also loves us and sustains us.

Desiring to be with God above all other desires gives us the hope that when we close our eyes in death, we will fall into the arms of the One who will gently bring us where we need to be. Knowing ahead of time what we find when we arrive changes little.

Honoring  
ALL WHO  
served

THANK YOU  
VETERANS



GLPI



## Vocations Awareness Week

This week, November 6 – 12, 2022, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates National Vocations Awareness Week (NVAW), otherwise known as vocations week. This celebration started in the 1970s but has been observed at various times of the year since its inception. However, in 2014, it was moved “permanently” to the first full week of November every year.

During the vocations week, Catholics are encouraged to appreciate and promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life in remarkable ways. We can do this by talking to family and friends about these vocations and encouraging them to discern them.

One can also celebrate this vocations week by praying for and/or requesting Masses for these vocations. Sending financial support to the diocesan vocations office is another excellent way to celebrate vocations awareness week.



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

We can also celebrate this vocations week by supporting men and women in these vocations individually in whatever means available to us. This Thanksgiving and Christmas, we can send cards and gifts to any bishops, priests, deacons, religious sisters, and seminarians we care about. While we all make sacrifices every day for our faith, our communities, and our neighbors, these men and women in the priesthood and religious life have given themselves wholly in the service of God’s church and the members of this church.

Our love and show of support for them and their ministries is not merely an act of kindness but a spiritual sacrifice on our part. Our failure to appreciate, encourage, and support these vocations is the work of the devil, who strives relentlessly to discourage these vocations and eventually destroy our Church. Yes, because Satan does not like the Church and its ministers. He uses every opportunity available to him to fight our Church, priests, and religious.

As we celebrate this Vocations Awareness Week 2022, let us pray for and support our brothers and sisters in the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. Let us also find ways to encourage and support our young men and women to discern these vocations.

## Remember Our Beloved Dead

As the liturgical season comes to a close and the earth gives up its bounty, the Church holds the month of November in dedication and remembrance of our beloved faithful departed, and honor with great respect the memory of the dead. We believe that the ties of friendship and affection, which knit us as one throughout our lives, do not unravel with death.

### The Book of the Dead

The Book of the Names of the Dead will be placed on the table in the back of church from the Feast of All Saints (November 1st) through the Feast of Christ the King (November 25th).

Feel free to add names of your loved ones you wish to remember.

## Our St. Thomas Family...

With hope in Christ and in the resurrection to eternal life, we remember and pray for those in our parish who have died in the last year:

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| James Grant             | Isabelle Blakeman    |
| Renee Saunches          | Patricia Ann Hoffman |
| Norma Jean Wilson       | Maureen Jesse        |
| Rita Marie Beck Willems | Irene Overstreet     |
| Irene M. Crotser        | Annette Mormino      |
| Christine Kerns         | Edna Cox             |
| Lenora Nell “Sug” Lee   |                      |

*“May perpetual light shine upon them.”*

# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
October 30	\$5,596.	\$5,000.
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$90,115.</b>	\$90,000.
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>\$115.</b>	
R/M Donations.....	\$55.	
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$80.	
All Souls.....	\$30.	
Christmas Flowers.....	\$20.	
World Mission Sunday .....	\$10.	
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$20.	
Decatur Calvary Cemetery .....	\$20.	

**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.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, November 7  
8:15 am – **End of Abortion**

Tuesday, November 8  
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Wednesday, November 9  
8:15 am – **Denise Ann “Dee” Mennel and Leo and Margaret Reinhart †**

Thursday, November 10  
8:15 am – **Intentions of Vern Wilson**

Friday, November 11  
*No Mass*

Saturday, November 12  
*No Mass*

Sunday, November 13  
10 am – **Dolores Brady †**

### 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

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### 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

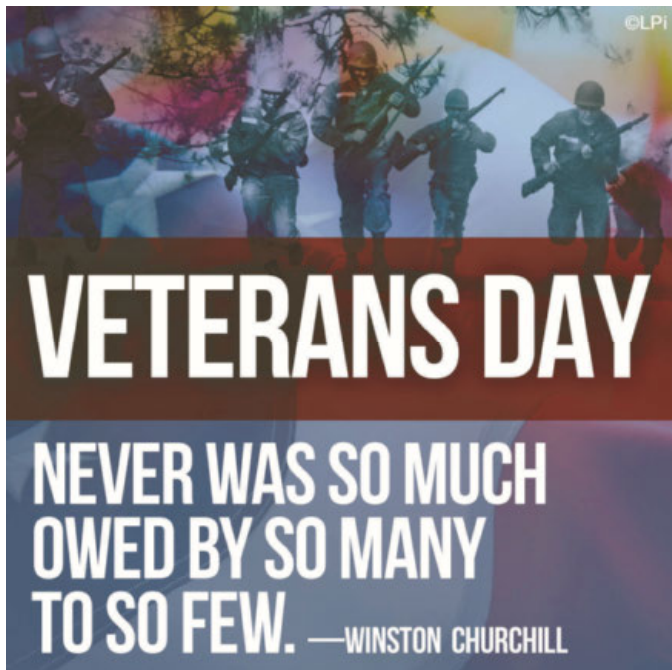
**Q: Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling?**



**A:** A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one's life. It is a realization of what one's part in God's plan could be. Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul's, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God's voice.

Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion. We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the church.

Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God's plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit and God's grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.



Thank you for  
your donations



## CHRISTMAS Food Basket Project

St. Thomas will sponsor 25 Christmas Food Baskets for Catholic Charities this year.

During the month of November, baskets in the back of church will collect donations to purchase Aldi gift cards for families. Thank you for your support and generosity!



### Update on the Rectory

The cleaning and repairs in our rectory are almost complete. This has been made possible by the generosity of the people who contributed either financially or through volunteer work. Some of the expenses come from our parish purse. I am very grateful to all of you for this.

I now ask for your help with furniture for the living room. There is nothing in it. If you have or know where we can get inexpensive or used furniture in good condition for the living room, please let me know soon.

In a few weeks, I shall be having an open house – so you can see how good the place looks because of your positive response since I told you about the condition of the rectory. Thank you. – Fr. Peter

## 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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