

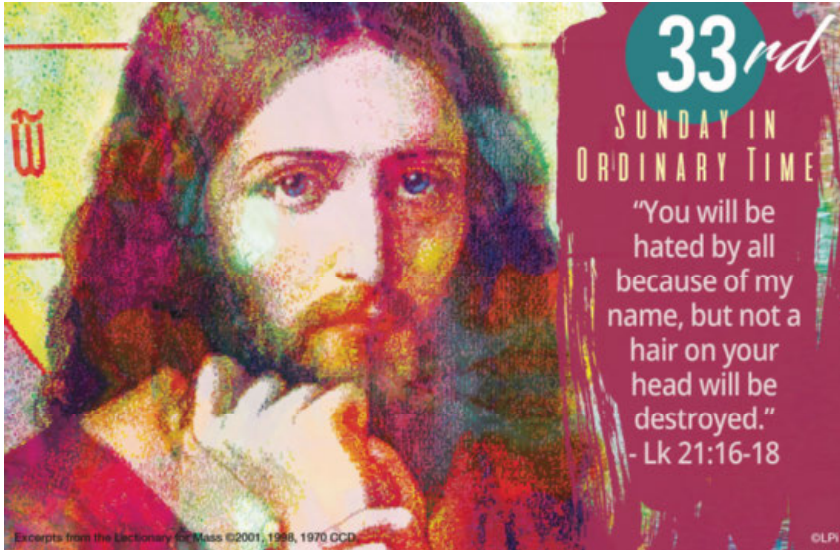


St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When Is the End-Time Coming?

The liturgical year of 2022 ends in 14 days. These past weeks have kept our focus on living in the Kingdom of God and living for its completion.

Who knows when this world will end. None of us! It will come when God is ready. We know it ends here for each of us at death. And then perdures for ever in the eternal presence of God.

Rather than fret about when the end will come, let us behave rightly now.

We must remain ready and vigilant

Jesus assures us that the world, as we know it, will one day come to an end. When will this be? In one sense, having an answer to that question really does not matter. Faith is faith and either we have it or we do not. Secure in that faith, we know that when one thing ends, another begins.

In the meantime, we are asked to persevere and remain strong through all of life's inevitable challenges and obstacles. What we see and experience as we journey to the day when all is one in Christ, may cause our faith to be shaken and tested.

Trust and endurance are what are needed as world events unfold. Even though life can be uncertain and terrifying at times, faithful people will be protected. It does not matter what day or hour the end will come. We must remain ready and vigilant anyway.

God is a God of salvation and new beginnings. God never leaves us with dead ends. There is always hope, and there is always something new to come. As Julian of Norwich reminds us, "God made us, God loves us and God keeps us." This wisdom holds true whether life is stable and profitable or challenging and uncertain. If we remember this simple truth, we will be ready regardless of the day or the hour.



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

Why do we celebrate Sabbath on Sunday instead of Saturday?

One of the major concerns we have today as Catholics is the fleeing of our Catholic brethren from the faith. While some of our brothers and sisters leave the faith for other religions or churches, most of those who walk away avoid religious identification or affiliation. A good number of them, directly or indirectly, prefer to be identified as “non-practicing Catholics.” In addition, I recently found out that some people leave the Catholic faith because of their doubts over some of our Catholic Christian teachings and practices.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

I recently met a young adult who stopped attending Masses and other Church activities when she discovered that Saturday is the Sabbath according

to the Bible. Still, Christians ignore it and observe their Sabbath on Sundays. I gently inquired from her what efforts she made to find out why this “wrong practice.” She explained that she came across that in her study of the Bible and never bothered to make a further inquiry from anyone since the Bible is the highest source of truth for Christians. I appreciated her efforts to read her Bible – a practice that is, unfortunately, rare among many Catholics today. But I also encouraged her not to limit her search for the truth in her Bible studies. Sometimes, asking questions for clarifications from Catholic friends and families or sharing ideas with them can be helpful.

This advent, one of the activities or events we will have in our parish is “Hour of Catechesis with Fr Peter.” This event will be a Q&A Session. I will invite our parishioners and friends to come and sit around the table to ask some of the most pressing questions they have about our faith. While I will not promise to answer all the questions, I will ensure I get an answer for every question, if not that day, on a later date. Please, expect the date and time for this “Hour of Catechesis with Fr. Peter” in next week’s bulletin. 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.”



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

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!

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
November 4	\$6,621.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$96,461.	\$95,000.
Short/Ahead:	\$1,736.	
R/M Donations.....	\$235.	
Sister Parish Donations	\$215.	
All Souls.....	\$280.	
Christmas Flowers.....	\$275.	
World Mission Sunday	\$5.	
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$55.	
Decatur Calvary Cemetery	\$100.	

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 13
10 am – **Dolores Brady †**

Monday, November 14
8:15 am – **Edna Cox †**

Tuesday, November 15
8:15 am – **Greg Kuse †**

Wednesday, November 16
8:15 am – **Isabelle Blakeman †**

Thursday, November 17
8:15 am – **Leona and Austin Nichols †**

Friday, November 18
No Mass

Saturday, November 19
No Mass

Sunday, November 20
10 am – **Leona Nichols †**

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



**Knights of Columbus
Darrell W. Beck
Council 577**



All-you-can-eat Breakfast

\$10.00 for Adults

\$5.00 for children 5 to 12

Free for children under 5

Sunday, November 20

8:30am until 12:00pm

No carry outs or to go orders



520 E. North St.
Decatur, IL 62523

Host the Vocations Crucifix

Praying for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life is a great way to pray together as a family during the week.

Why not sign up to host the Vocations Crucifix in your home for a week. The signup sheet is on a table in the gathering area of church.



**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.

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!



Sunday, Nov. 20... baskets at the doors **Bread Sunday Second Collection**

We will have a "Bread Sunday" second collection on Sunday, Nov. 20th. **See the marked baskets at the entrances to church.**



The Bread Sunday collection supports the Faith in Action program of Catholic Charities.

Faith in Action program volunteers provide transportation, friendly visits, letter writing and reading, minor home and yard maintenance, grocery shopping, occasional meal preparation and respite care to homebound seniors to help them maintain their independence, dignity, and quality of life within their home environment. Thank you for your generous support.



**Pray for Pope Francis'
Monthly Prayer Intention**

NOVEMBER

We pray for all children who suffer.

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