



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



Our awesome universal journey to Christ

God is wonderfully and surprisingly creative! He turns the tables on our understanding of what it means to be a king by sending us a king who embraces poverty, insults, suffering, ridicule, rejection, and even death.

This is our king. Jesus is not the king of prestige or grandeur but the king who brings light to darkness, hope to despair, sinners to mercy, and new life out of death. God dances on, around, in and through all of the silliness and ugliness of the world bringing all of creation to the eternal dance of new life and hope.

Whether we accept it now or hope that we one day do, Christ is king of the universe. Christ is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. Every human being, even those who scorned and rejected him and failed to see him in the least of our brothers and sisters will look upon him.

Only those who understand truth will understand that we are on this awesome universal journey to Christ. It is a journey of surprises but also a journey of enlightenment when we will one day see and experience with the deepest joy our being in Christ. We will be restless until we are all one day together united in Christ our King.

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

CONTEMPLATE

Alpha and Omega

Alpha and Omega. Go look at the parish Easter Candle near the baptismal font. You see an Alpha (A) and an Omega (W), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They remind us that Christ, yesterday and today, is the Beginning and the End. To him belongs all time, all the ages, and glory and power for ever. Amen. Since he is more powerful than me:

- What will I believe about God's Kingdom?
- What truth do I need to hear Jesus speak?
- What action will I do because it is right and true?



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

Do you celebrate Thanksgiving in Nigeria?

As Thanksgiving draws near, many people ask me if we celebrate Thanksgiving in Nigeria and how? It is a natural curiosity for people to ask questions like this to those they know come from cultures and places other than the United States. While American Thanksgiving is more popular, most cultures worldwide celebrate Thanksgiving in various ways and at different times throughout the year.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

In the Igbo nation of Nigeria, the former Republic of Biafra, the "New Yam Festival," known as the "Iri Ji or Iwa Ji" in the Igbo language, is the Igbo people's Thanksgiving. Like the American Thanksgiving, the Iri Ji is a thanksgiving festival to God for a good harvest at the beginning of the harvesting period. It takes place for about three days in different towns and kingdoms across the Igbo nation, anytime between July and September. It is not a national holiday like the American Thanksgiving since it is primarily a town and kingdom-based celebration.

The American Thanksgiving and the Igbo Iri Ji are similar in cultural origins and essence. American Thanksgiving is farmers-based in origin. It lasted for three days in the early stages of the holiday. In the same way, the Igbo Iri Ji was farmers-based and somehow still is. And it typically lasts for three days. Both fiestas focused primarily on thanking God for his blessings upon humanity. In his words, President Abraham Lincoln explained in the document that made the American Thanksgiving a national holiday that Thanksgiving is a time to render "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

This Thanksgiving, let us remember to embrace and enjoy the holiday for what it stands for – a time to thank God in a particular way for his blessings in our lives. We also express gratitude to the people and institutions that have or continue to impact us positively.

I will thank God for the gift of life, priestly vocation, family, and friends. I will also thank God for the institutions and people who have played notable roles in who I am today. I will offer Mass for all my St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners (living and dead). I am incredibly grateful for the people who have helped in various ways to make me feel so welcomed and loved here at St. Thomas. Remember me in your prayers the Friday after Thanksgiving – 11/25, as I celebrate my birthday.

May you and yours have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

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!



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

Request a Mass Intention

If you would like to have a Mass offered for a living or deceased loved one or friend, or for another intention, please send Deacon Kevin an email at deaconkev@gmail.com, or call the parish office at 217-877-4146.

ADVENT EVENTS

1. **St. Thomas Parish Confessions** on Friday 12/2 3:00pm to 5:00pm
2. St Thomas Parish **Day of Reflection Sunday** 12/11 at 4:00pm
3. **City-Wide Confessions** at St. Patrick's Church on Sunday 12/18 at 2:00PM (all Decatur priests).

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.



Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
November 13	\$2,711.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$99,172. \$100,000.

Short/Ahead: \$828.

R/M Donations.....	\$35.
Sister Parish Donations	\$60.
All Souls.....	\$20.
Christmas Flowers.....	\$80.
World Mission Sunday	\$540.
Decatur Calvary Cemetery	\$60.

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 20
10 am – **Leona Nichols †**

Monday, November 21
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Tuesday, November 22
8:15 am – **Denise Ann “Dee” Mennel and Leo and Margaret Reinhart †**

Wednesday, November 23
8:15 am – **Bernie Custin †**

Thursday, November 24 — **Thanksgiving Day**
8:15 am – **Norma Wilson †**

Friday, November 25
No Mass

Saturday, November 26
No Mass

Sunday, November 27
10 am – **For all parishioners**

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

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!



DOING THE MOST GOOD



Sign Up to Be a Bell Ringer

Fr. Rick is recruiting bell ringers for the Salvation Army. If you're interested, you can choose the location and time when you're

available. To register, please go to:

<http://RegistrarToRing.com>

and pick any place and time.

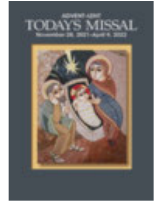
Thank you for your help! — Fr. Rick

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.

Help Needed Changing the Missals

We need volunteers to help change the Missalettes on **Tuesday, November 22** after morning Mass. Can you spare some time to help?



Also... **after Sunday Mass THIS weekend**, could you please help us by removing BOTH the missalettes and Music books from the book covers in the racks in your pew? It would be a real timesaver! Thank you so much!

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

Thank you to everyone who donates to the annual **BREAD SUNDAY**



collection this weekend. There is a marked basket in the vestibule for these donations. This We will have a "Bread Sunday" second collection this Sunday, Nov. 20th. **Marked baskets are placed 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.

New Members Are Welcome!

If you've been joining us at St. Thomas for Mass and you would like to become a member of our St. Thomas Parish family, we welcome you with open arms!

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