

**Second Sunday of Advent • December 4, 2022**



## 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

### CONTEMPLATE

### God gives us the encouragement we need

The God in whom we believe is “the God of endurance and encouragement.” Have you ever thought about God in those terms? Our sight can become limited by the concerns of the world and our individual lives.

We can look to the past and see what is happening in the present, but the future is primarily left to our imaginations. God has a clear vision for the future. It is one where the “wolf shall be a guest of the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.”

There is something more going on in life than what we can see with human eyes. It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one. We see what we may be, what may come, and who we can become.

Preparing the way for the Lord means moving beyond the limitations of ideology, time, space, preference, and self-focused concern so that we can see as God sees. God will give us what we need to endure whatever comes, and the encouragement we need to get where we can be.

### Prepare the Way of the Lord!

The message of John the Baptist becomes the calling of every baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is asked to prepare the way of the Lord. We can more readily take up the task of our lifework by clearing our lives of unnecessary, distracting clutter.

By conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, we can speak volumes to those we meet. Not by preaching actual words, but by living lives that communicate the comfort God wants His people to know. We can be people of patience who show others that it's okay to wait for God's gift to come.



## A WORD FROM FR. PETER

### Hidden Figures

We often hear about people who, although we do not know much about them, are among the most significant influences on the prominent figures we hear more about. Because of utmost humility and love for God, such persons choose to impact lives and influence humanity in a virtuous quietness. Like St. John the Baptist, they prefer to decrease, for our Lord to increase (John 3:30). In the history of our salvation in Christ, I call such men and women - the Hidden Figures.



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

Our Blessed Mother, The Virgin Mary, is one of these hidden figures. While we know some things about her, we do not know enough compared to the role she played in the human life of Jesus and the history of our salvation. We all know and believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior today. We should

remember that everything came to us through the Blessed Virgin Mary, even Jesus.

Another important figure that was fully human and ordinary, like any of us, is St. Ambrose. Besides being known as a great theologian and a holy bishop in early medieval Europe, St. Ambrose played a critical role in the life of St. Augustine. St. Augustine, the Church's finest intellectual clergy for centuries until St. Thomas Aquinas came along about 800 years later, was taught, converted, and baptized by St. Ambrose. Whereas St. Augustine remains one of the most influential people in the history of Christianity, there might never have been a St. Augustine without St. Ambrose.

This week, we celebrate these icons of humility, who gave all they had and allowed themselves to be used in fulfilling God's plan in others. On Wednesday, December 7th, we will celebrate the memorial of St. Ambrose. Then on Thursday, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother. Because it's a solemnity, every Catholic should attend Mass and stay away from strenuous work, just like on Sundays.

Happy Feast of the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception to all our parishioners and friends.

### 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.



*Holy Day on Thursday:*

### Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Thursday, Dec. 8,** is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at St. Thomas is at 8:15 am.



Please pray for our Sister Parish, Immaculate Conception, in Comapa, Guatemala as they pray for us.

### ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

## Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at **Pop's Place on Tues, Dec. 13** at 11:15 a.m., 4335 W Main St, Decatur. Join us for food and conversation!



### 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.



# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
November 27	\$2,607.	\$5,000.

**Year-to-Date: \$104,964.** \$110,000.

**Short/Ahead: - \$5,036.**

R/M Donations.....	\$80.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$20.
All Souls.....	\$280.
Christmas Flowers.....	\$350.
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$110.
Decatur Calvary Cemetery .....	\$40.

**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, December 4

10 am – **Fred Luckenbill †**

Monday, December 5

8:15 am – **End of Abortion**

Tuesday, December 6

8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Wednesday, December 7

8:15 am – **Elmer and Alice Rosentretter †**

Thursday, December 8

*Holy Day — Immaculate Conception*

8:15 am – **Austin Nichols †**

Friday, December 9

*No Mass*

Saturday, December 10

*No Mass*

Sunday, December 11

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



## 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, 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

## Rectory Housekeeper Wanted

St. Thomas Parish is seeking a person to clean the rectory for three to four hours each week. Flexible days and hours. Please see Fr. Peter for more information, pay, and hours. Thank you!



## 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://RegisterToRing.com>

and pick any place and time.

Thank you for your help! — Fr. Rick

## The Knights of Columbus Council 577 Sunday Breakfast

Please join us on **Sunday December 11** from 8:30am until Noon at the KC Hall located at 520 E. North St. behind St. Patrick Church. The **All You Can Eat** Menu will consist of Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Pancakes, Biscuits & Gravy, Hashbrowns with Coffee, Orange Juice & Milk. Adults \$10, Children under 12 \$5 and free for children 5 and under. No Carry Outs or To Go Orders.



## The Knights of Columbus Council 11582 — Mt. Zion Breakfast with Santa

Council 11582 will be holding an **All You Can Eat** Pancake & Sausage Breakfast with Santa on **Saturday, Dec. 10th**. Serving times will be from 7:00am to 11:00am in Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Parish Hall. Everyone is invited. Adults \$6, Children 5-12 \$3 and free for children 5 and under.



# Advent Activities

## Christmas Card Lists

If you would like to mail Christmas Cards to our parishioners who are Homebound or in the Nursing Home, **a list is available in the back of church.** You can mail them directly, or place them by **Sun., Dec. 18** in the Christmas bag with the person's name on the table in the back of church. Thank you!



## Warm Hats, Socks, and

**Mittens** of all sizes can be brought in and placed on the Christmas Tree by **Sun., Dec. 11.** They will be dropped off at Catholic Charities and Oasis for distribution to adults and children in need. Thank you for your generosity.



## Confession Schedule

### St. Thomas Church:

Sundays: 9:15 - 9:45 am

Wednesdays: 7:30 - 8:10 a.m.

### Citywide Penance Service:

St. Patrick Catholic Church

December 18 at 2 p.m.

5 priests will be available for confessions

***Rejoice in God's love and mercy!***



## Next Weekend

### Traditional Blessing of the Baby Jesus Figurines

Next weekend, Dec. 11, we celebrate the beautiful tradition of the Blessing of the Christ Child figurines that will be placed in the nativity sets in our families' homes.

Please bring the Christ Child from your home nativity set and have it blessed at the end of Sunday Mass.



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