



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

She Kept All of These Things in Her Heart

“What was my first word? Who was there when I was born? When did I start to walk? Which toys did I play with? What made me cry when I was a baby?”

Parents have most of it documented either in writing or in photos, but even if it's a detail that wasn't scribbled in a baby book or saved to a digital cloud, it's a memory that we can quickly summon and make real for our children as we talk to them about who they are and who they may become.

The Blessed Mother knew more about God before opening a book than most of us could discover after a lifetime of study and prayer. There is no one whose knowledge of Christ was so intimate, so deep, so simultaneously ordinary and extraordinary, as the human woman who bore him, birthed him, nursed him, raised him and eventually gave him up.

In the way that I can tell our children everything there is to know about the early parts of their lives, Mary can tell us everything we need to know about Christ.

All we have to do is ask.

This Child Is Blessed

The shepherds returned from Bethlehem “glorifying and praising God.”

They were affected deeply by the sight of the infant Messiah and the message of the angels.

What would the world look like, if we allowed ourselves to be likewise impacted by the word of God?

- How will I care for a child today even if not related to me?
- How can I help children be holy?
- How will I be holy because of the blessedness of children?



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

New Year Resolutions

Many of us plan for a new year resolution as we begin a new year. Some already have resolutions waiting for the new year to start. Still, some of us either have no plans for a new year's resolution or have been discouraged from having new year's resolutions for many reasons.

Sometimes, one of these reasons is our failure to keep up with our new year's resolutions in the past years. Other times we are discouraged from new year's resolutions because we are not overly positive about the incoming year due to some unfortunate incidents in our lives the past year. These incidents make us despondent and somewhat pessimistic about the new year.

In all these, the real question for many people is, "what really is a new year's resolution? Well, as someone who has had the privilege to spend some time in most of the world's continents, new year's resolution is a widespread tradition across the globe. It is the practice of resolving to inculcate new virtues, strengthen new strengths, and eradicate or weaken old bad habits. While this definition may not encompass all that can be said about new year's resolution, it summarizes the main ideas surrounding the age-long tradition in human history.

Individuals, institutions, and organizations make new year's resolutions to improve their lives and add meaning to their existence. While it is often a challenge to keep up with new year's resolutions, as Christians, we should never be discouraged by our failure to keep up with our resolutions.

We should never be dissuaded by the strength of our weaknesses in exerting more effort to improve our lives. Each time we fail in our resolutions, it is important to recall Christ's falls on his way to the calvary with the heavy wooden cross on his shoulders. Jesus never stopped each time he fell. Instead, he stands up, adjusts the cross, and continues walking. That is the most excellent



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

example he has left for us for our journeys back to the father through him. Never give up when we fail but try harder.

May Christ give us the grace to make the best new year's resolutions, the strength to keep up with them, and the courage to keep trying even after we fail. Amen.


A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS.

Fr. Peter

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 new year.

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

St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us.
St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. I will never forget thy graces and favors you obtain for me and I will do my utmost to spread devotion to you.

Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.
Say this prayer 9 times a day for 9 days.

Thank you, St. Jude, for Prayers Answered.

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.

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
December 18	\$1,871.	\$5,000.
December 24/25	\$7,349.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$128,482. \$130,000.

Short/Ahead: -\$1,518.

R/M Donations	\$70.
Sister Parish Donations	\$160.
Christmas Donation	\$1,160.
Retired Religious	\$95.
Catholic Children's Home	\$255.

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, January 1 — *Mary, Holy Mother of God*
10 am – **Rachel Croner**

Monday, January 2
8:15 am – **Lu Aylward †**

Tuesday, January 3
8:15 am – **Sr. Jocelyn Serwatka †**

Wednesday, January 4
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Thursday, January 5
8:15 am – **Gary Ransdell †**

Friday, January 6
No Mass — No First Friday Adoration

Saturday, January 7
No Mass

Sunday, January 8 — *Epiphany*
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

Alfred, Betty Althoff, Rachel Flick,
Kevin Henry, Jim Hertel, Darlene,
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

A Special Thank You!

A special thank you to **Dan Ashenfelter, Sheri Holohan, Barbara Hertel and others** for the beautiful Christmas decorations throughout the church. Dan and Sheri spent many hours to help enhance the beauty of the Christmas season.



Thank you also to everyone who made a Christmas Flower Offering to provide such beautiful decorations. We truly appreciate all of your efforts.

Many thanks to all who sent cards, gifts and food for Christmas. May the Lord continue to bless all of you for your generosity throughout the year.

Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at the **Royal International Buffet**, 2036 Mount Zion Rd, Decatur, on **Tues, Jan. 10** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation.



During Christmas season, please remember to pray for those in our Sister Parish, Immaculate Conception, in Comapa, Guatemala.

GUATEMALA

Let the Parish Pray for Your Intentions



The **parish petition book** is located on a stand in the chapel under the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. These intentions will be remembered in our intercessions at all Masses. If you would like the parish to pray for your intention, please write the intention in the book. Talk to Jesus about your special intention.

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

If you are planning your New Year's schedule:

Sunday, Jan. 1,
New Year's Day —
Solemnity of Mary, the
Holy Mother of God

- **Sunday Mass at 10 a.m.**

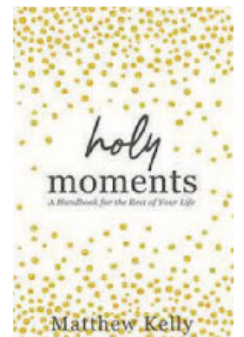
There is no New Year's Eve Mass at St. Thomas .



A Special Christmas Gift for You!

Pick up a copy of Matthew Kelly's newest book, *Holy Moments*, from the table in the back of church. It's a special Christmas gift for you from **a generous parish family.**

You have so much more to offer. You know it. You have sensed it for some time now. This sacred truth has been bubbling up in your soul. But you have never known quite what to do about it. All that is about to change. Some ideas are so powerful that simply becoming aware of them, changes our lives forever. Holy Moments is such an idea. It is profoundly simple, astonishingly practical, and once you discover it, your life will finally make sense. It's time to let Holy Moments show you what is possible. It's time to explore your soul-potential.



Merry Christmas

E keresimesi Oma

Feliz Navidad

Maligayang Pasko!

Felicem Diem Nativitatis Christi

Joyeux Noel

Nollaig Shona Dhuit

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