

Epiphany • January 8, 2023

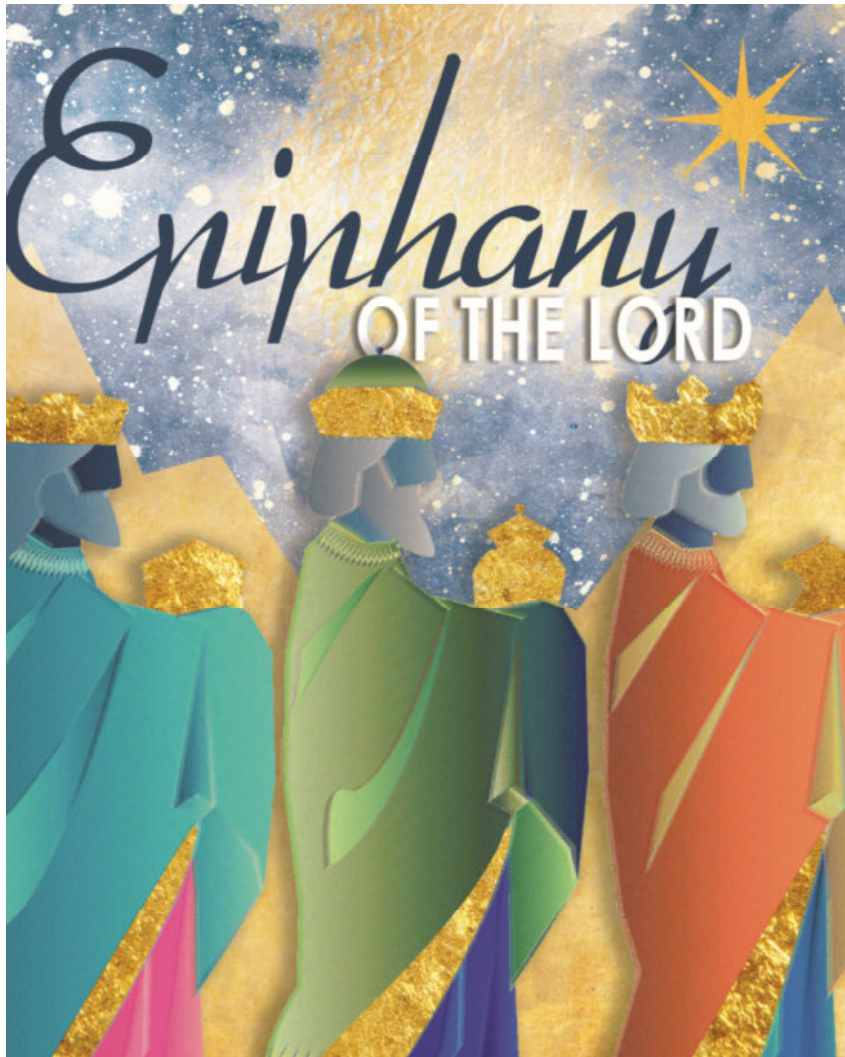


## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



### Light — to Those Who Dwell in Darkness.

Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?

### 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

#### **Gifts.**

The Magi, these foreign interpreters of dreams, do the following: follow a star, travel a great distance, trust the words of others, bring and give gifts. In some countries, Epiphany and not Christmas is gift-giving day. This twelfth-day (when on the traditional 6th of January) brings to completion the manifestation of Christ – first to the Jews and today to everyone. No one is foreign to God's good grace.

- How will I search diligently for Jesus?
- What gifts will I give to others in need?



## A WORD FROM FR. PETER

### The World Is a Stage

Last Sunday afternoon, after Mass and several quick visits with some parishioners, I left for my short vacation in Chattanooga, TN. Sitting by the window on the plane from Bloomington, I was reflecting on the day's Mass and how I almost dismissed the people of God without the final blessing. Crazy! Too many announcements, I guess?

Sitting on that plane, besides the day's Mass, which was already on my mind, I was also thinking about Pope Benedict XVI and his incredible legacies. He was indeed a humble man and a great example of pastoral leadership. In the words of Bishop Paprocki:

"Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was an authentic example of faithfulness to God and Catholicism, living and preaching the Gospel message with truth and passion. Always writing and teaching, his warm smile, gentle demeanor, and pastoral approach to explaining and living out the Catholic faith inspired millions and brought people closer to Christ."

Thinking about his life and the many good things he did for the Church, I also remember other notable people who passed away recently. Edson Nascimento (Pele), who loomed large in




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

the football (soccer) world for many decades, passed on Dec. 29, 2022. Barbara Walters, who reigned supreme in the media world for over half a century, died on Dec. 30, 2022.

With the recent deaths of these men and women who achieved enviable heights in their vocations and careers, one understands more precisely that the world is a stage. William Shakespeare is correct, as always. The world is truly a stage. People climb it and play their roles, then bow out. Some are remembered forever for how beautifully and courageously they played their roles. Others are remembered for always being more interested in power, wealth, and their immediate families alone. Still, some vanish from the stage forever, leaving no impact.

As we embrace the new year with many dreams and goals to accomplish, let us pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of Pope Benedict XVI and these other men and women who passed recently. Let us also allow their deaths to remind us that the world is a stage. We are on it now. Posterity will be blessed to be positively impacted by the roles we are playing and how we are playing these roles.

*Fr. Peter*



**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.

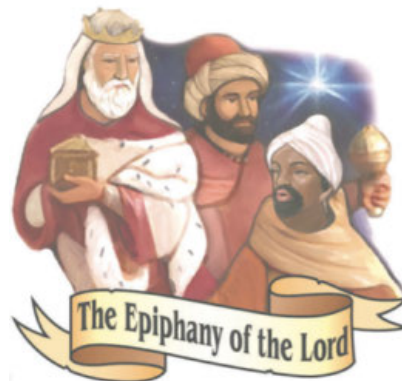
St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us.

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.**



### EPIPHANY

In the three wise men from different lands and different religions, we understand that in Jesus Christ, all are welcome.

The Catholic

Church teaches us that the Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God, and savior of the world

The Epiphany is the third manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation, following the Annunciation, and the birth of Christ.

Today is truly the beginning of the paschal mystery!

# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
January 1	\$5,395.	\$5,000.

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<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$133,777.</b>	\$135,000.
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<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$1,223.</b>	
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R/M Donations .....	\$80.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$160.
First Offering.....	\$20.
Retired Religious.....	\$5.
Catholic Children's Home.....	\$40.
Catholic Times.....	\$205.

**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 8 — *Epiphany*  
10 am – **Norma Wilson †**

Monday, January 9  
8:15 am – **End of abortion**

Tuesday, January 10  
8:15 am – **Mary Welch †**

Wednesday, January 11  
8:15 am – **Lenore “Sug” Lee †**

Thursday, January 12  
8:15 am – **Sr. Jocelyn Serwatka †**

Friday, January 13  
*No Mass*

Saturday, January 14  
*No Mass*

Sunday, January 15  
10 am – **Robert and Dolores Midden †**

### 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

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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 Christmas and Epiphany Gift to St. Thomas!

You might have noticed the beautiful new set of bells mounted near the door of the sacristy in the back of church. These sacristy bells were a generous gift from a parishioner. The bells will be rung to signal the start of Mass as the priest leaves the sacristy.



The design of the bells matches the design of the Sanctuary Lamp on the wall near the tabernacle. We thank almighty God for this gift and pray for many blessings upon our anonymous brother or sister in Christ.

## 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.



### Epiphany Blessing of Our Homes

Throughout Germany at this time of year, you will find most main doorways inscribed with the following: **20+C+M+B+23**.

Children known as Sternsinger (star singers) dress up as the Magi and go door to door, requesting candy for themselves and money for the Church. As they leave, the house is blessed, and the inscription written in chalk.

The 20 and 23 refer to the year, the CMB are said to represent either:

- **Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar**—the Magi; *or*
- the Latin phrase: **Christus Mansionem Benedicat**, which means "Christ, bless this home."

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, in which we remember the adoration of the newborn Christ by three wise men from the East.

This should leave no doubt in anyone's mind just how far and wide the promise of a Savior had spread. These representatives of religions from other lands were determined to pay their respects; it was as if they were born to do this—to acknowledge in some way the beginning of the greatest reign of the greatest king of all.

**Take some blessed chalk home from Mass this weekend** and mark the main doors of your home. As you are writing, pray:

May all who come to our home this year  
rejoice to find Christ living among us;  
and may we seek and serve,  
in everyone we meet, that same Jesus  
who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.



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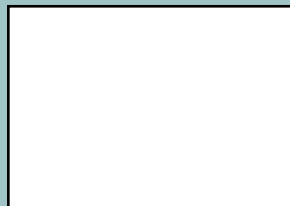
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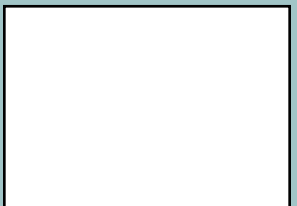
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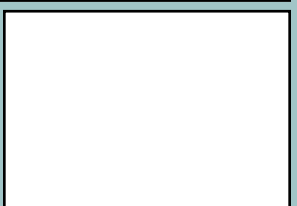
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