

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 15, 2023



## 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

### What is unique about the way Catholics are exposed to the Bible at Mass?

Catholics are exposed to Scripture primarily through the Sunday readings from a book known as the Lectionary. The Lectionary is a book of selected passages from the Bible set in the context of a liturgical season, such as Advent, Lent, or ordinary time. There are four readings assigned to any Sunday: the first reading (usually from the Old Testament), the responsorial psalm, the second reading (usually from a New Testament letter), and the Gospel reading.

These readings together give them a new context. The selected readings relate to one another in a unique manner that is not present in the Bible text itself. Together, these readings now have the opportunity to relate to each other in a way that would have not been possible before. A homilist pays attention to all four readings, preparing a reflection that speaks of this conversation among the readings, enabling us to zero in on what this unique combination of God's word has to say to us this particular Sunday.

Next time you attend Sunday liturgy, try reading the Scripture ahead of time and see how this new relationship among the readings addresses and challenges you to be a better Christian here and now.

### CONTEMPLATE

#### **Are our eyes open?**

John the Baptist had been told that he would see the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. And so, he kept his eyes open for the Word.

John the Baptist sees Jesus coming toward him and announces, "Behold the lamb of God." His Jewish listeners knew what he meant. God's lamb is the thing that is sacrificed at the Jewish Passover and consumed by the participants.

The Baptist was saying in effect, "This man will be ritually sacrificed and consumed so that God's people may be free from sin and united to God."

## Behold, the Lamb of God!

In the Gospel this Sunday, we come across one of the most dominant phrases in the scriptures – “Behold, the Lamb of God!” John the Evangelist recorded this visionary exclamation. But it was the forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist, who made this prophetic utterance when he saw Jesus coming toward him and his followers.

Proclaiming Jesus as the Lamb of God and pointing him to his followers, the Baptist also explained whom Jesus was to his followers when he added: “...behold he who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29).

The followers of John the Baptist have heard about Jesus from John, from earlier prophets, and from sacred texts before that incident. But their whole world changed when John showed them Jesus, as the Messiah, the Lamb of God. Some of them would leave John almost immediately to follow Jesus. Some would leave John to go into the towns and villages to announce what had happened. Still, others would take some time, either with John or back on their own, to contemplate the mystery proclaimed to them. For them to behold with their eyes the fulfillment of the prophecies, the Savior who was to come and save the whole of humanity from their sins, is both



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

a mystery and a miracle. But what is unique about John the Baptist’s prophetic proclamation of Jesus as the Lamb of God?

By proclaiming Jesus the Lamb of God to his followers, the Baptist has left us all (Christians) an example to follow. In our baptism, we were all made prophets. Sharing in that prophetic ministry, we have all been commissioned to lead people to Jesus. We must attract others with our good and exemplary lives of faith and holiness. Then direct them to Jesus – the Lamb of God, as John the Baptist did.

Our priests share more fully in this prophetic ministry. They have been commissioned in a more special way to lead us to Jesus daily in their lives and in the eucharistic celebration, where they elevate Jesus at the altar and proclaim: Behold the Lamb of God!



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

**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 in prayer.

### 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.



## 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.**



	Collected	Budgeted
January 8	\$5,048.	\$5,000.

**Year-to-Date: \$138,825.** \$140,000.

**Short/Ahead: -\$1,175.**

R/M Donations .....	\$85.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$190.
Latin America .....	\$100.
Catholic Times.....	\$510

**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.

If interested, you might speak to your bank about the option.



Sunday, January 15

10 am – **Robert and Dolores Midden †**

Monday, January 16

8:15 am – **Polly and Norman Hensley †**

Tuesday, January 17

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

Wednesday, January 18

8:15 am – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**

Thursday, January 19

8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Friday, January 20

*No Mass*

Saturday, January 21

*No Mass*

Sunday, January 22

10 am – **Lenore “Sug” Lee †**

## 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

## Save the Date

### Decatur Catholic Radio's 12th Annual

**Dinner**, Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at the Mt. Zion Convention Center. Doors Open 5:30 p.m. The Keynote Speaker is Kramer Soderberg, Head Millikin University Basketball Coach, Motivational Catholic Author, and Family Man.

## Thank You!

Thank you my dear St. Thomas family for the beautiful card. You are the salt of the earth.  
— God bless you, Ann Midden

## Thanks from Catholic Charities

On behalf of Catholic Charities and our Food Pantry, I want to thank all of the generous parishioners for your contributions in support of our 2022 Christmas Basket program. This year we were able to assist 93 families consisting of 147 men, women, and children. These families could choose either a \$50 Food Gift Card or a pre-filled basket bursting with food and household products. All families also received a meat item and a blanket from Catholic Charities. Thanks to your support, these families were blessed with a Christmas gift that helped to lessen any burden to provide a Christmas meal for their table. It was a joy to see happy faces on the day we distributed these gifts. May you and your families have a Blessed and Safe New Year. With much gratitude, Robin Murray

## 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! So if you're looking for a parish family we'd love to have you make ours yours!

Be sure to introduce yourself to us so we can get to know you and serve you better!



## St. Teresa Scholarship Dinner

On Saturday,  
**February 4th**, 2023,  
from 5-7p.m., the  
Knights of Columbus  
4th Degree will be  
holding the 14th  
annual Scholarship  
Dinner at St. Teresa  
High School with **all** proceeds going to the  
support of St. T. scholarships. During the first  
13 years, over \$70,000 has been raised for  
student scholarships.



Due to the Covid concerns the menu has  
changed. This will be a **CARRYOUT ONLY**  
chicken dinner supplied by Nelson Catering.  
The meals will consist of ½ baked chicken,  
mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, and a  
cookie.

This is a **PRE-SALE ONLY**; no tickets will be  
sold at the door, and we **REALLY** need your  
support by purchasing tickets or **donations**.  
Tickets are \$12 each and being sold by 4th  
Degree KC members now and after each Mass  
on the weekends of Jan 21/22 and Jan 28/29  
at all Decatur & Mt. Zion parishes.

Please plan on supporting Catholic High  
School education by participating in this  
event with friends & family.

For additional information, please contact  
Larry Clark (620-6799) or  
Steve Bowman (791-6951).

## Donut Sunday — January 22

Next weekend after Mass, please join us for  
Donut Sunday food and fellowship in the  
chapel area. We will also be celebrating  
**Jan Vandercar's 90th birthday!**

Her family is sponsoring this Donut Sunday —  
thank you so much!

Anyone interested in  
helping should contact  
Kathy Brown from our  
parish Radical Hospitality  
Committee. Thank you!





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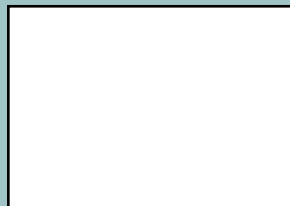
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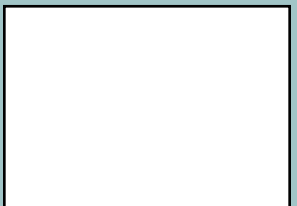
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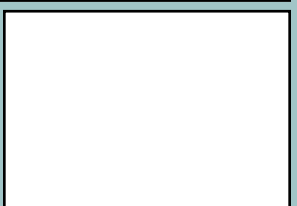
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