

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 22, 2023



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



### Drop Your Nets and Be Free

Imagine what we might do on the spur of the moment if we had no obligations or worries! Life doesn't work like that, however. But when Jesus came along and asked some fishermen to drop their nets and follow him, they did just that. Wow! In some ways, they experienced true freedom. That is what Jesus offers all of us.

In living in the true freedom that Jesus offers, there are things we must do and places we must go. That is because freedom only exists in following God's will, not our own. We are called to be and called to give ourselves completely to God without reservations. We always have the free will to not respond to His call, but we will find that a negative answer may complicate our lives even further.

God's path for us calls on us to give freely of what we have been given. Saying no to that call means we carry the weight of those gifts. We were never meant to keep them. The path of God's will is the way to true freedom.

### 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

#### Answering God's Call

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry he reminds us that the kingdom of God is at hand. But it comes with a challenge to be fishers of people rather than mere fishermen.

Today he challenges us to share the good news of God's love with others.

Lord, give me the courage to put down my nets and answer your call to make a difference.

Are we willing to step up and out and bring a little heaven into the lives of those who need it the most?

## Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Following the Supreme Court decision of January 22, 1973, when abortion became legal in the United States, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB, has designated every January 22 as the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The prayer day moves to Monday whenever this day falls on a Sunday. So, tomorrow, January 23, 2023, the Church in the United States will offer Masses and special prayers for the protection of unborn babies.

I encourage all our parishioners and friends to offer special prayers (five decades of the rosary will be great) for this intention. As a parish, we will pray at Masses this week for this intention and the legal protection of all human lives from conception to natural death.

While we all know the demonic nature of the sin of abortion, every Catholic in good conscience knows that the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death is unquestionable. For this reason, as Catholics, we must continue to pray that the Holy Spirit equips our lawmakers and world leaders with the courage and grace to make and enforce pro-life laws worldwide. This involves laws that prevent the sale and distribution of harmful drugs,



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

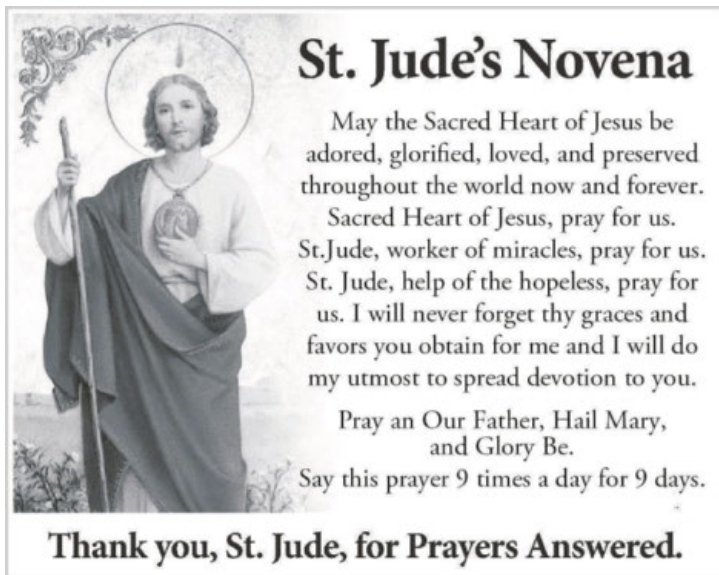
abortion, the death penalty, and careless possession of firearms and create laws that will dismantle systems and structures that enable suppression and oppression of any groups of people.

Unfortunately, we live in a time where all the above issues are overly politicized in ways that seem to lessen their gravity as sins. That is precisely what the devil wants.

Some politicians use them for campaigns and do nothing after the elections until the next elections. Others work hard to convince the less informed and vulnerable masses that these issues are not immoral and evil but merely political. Some church ministers preach against them only when it is most convenient for them. Others do not talk about them at all. In all of these, Satan continues to win the hearts and souls of many of us and turn us against ourselves by making us commit sins that destroy life – the greatest gift of God.

As we pray for the legal protection of the unborn children this week, let us continue to pray that God will instill in us the desire and courage to protect and care for human lives by all available means.

*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.**

### 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.



|            | Collected | Budgeted |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| January 15 | \$3,431.  | \$5,000. |

|                      |                   |            |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Year-to-Date:</b> | <b>\$142,256.</b> | \$145,000. |
| <b>Short/Ahead:</b>  | <b>-\$2,744.</b>  |            |

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| R/M Donations .....           | \$40.  |
| Sister Parish Donations ..... | \$600. |
| Latin America .....           | \$15.  |
| Catholic Times .....          | \$125. |

**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 22  
10 am – **Lenore “Sug” Lee †**

Monday, January 23  
8:15 am – **Greg Roarick †**

Tuesday, January 24  
8:15 am – **Sr. Jocelyn Serwatka †**

Wednesday, January 25  
8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**

Thursday, January 26  
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Friday, January 27  
*No Mass*

Saturday, January 28  
*No Mass*

Sunday, January 29  
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

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com  
<http://www.StThomasDecatur.com>

**Office Hours:** 9am-noon, Monday-Thursday



## 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

## Thanks for Christmas Cards

Many homebound parishioners have called and written to express their appreciation for the many cards and letters that they received at Christmas. Thank you everyone for your time and effort in showing our love to those who cannot join us at Mass each weekend! Bags of Christmas cards, prayers, little gifts, candy, and more were delivered to our parishioners who are homebound or in the nursing home. You were such a Christmas blessing to them!

## Parish Contribution Statements

The 2022 parish contribution statements are available in the back of church this weekend.

## Friday Masses Begin Feb. 3

Weekly Friday morning Masses at 8:15 a.m. will begin on February 3. Feb. 3 is also first Friday Eucharistic Adoration all day until 5 p.m.

## Ash Wednesday Masses

Ash Wednesday Masses will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. on February 22nd, which happens to be — a Wednesday!

## Catholic Charities Mardi Gras Party

Catholic Charities Mardi Gras Party is back! Join us at the KC Hall on Saturday February 18th. Dinner will be provided by “Mac’s Pigskin Diner” with live music by “Sushi Roll”. This annual fund raiser helps support local outreach programs including Meals on Wheels, Med Assist, Health Connect, Eldercare Options and so much more. Tickets are limited – only 300 available – at \$70/ea and this event sells out. Hope you can join the fun and support our local Catholic Charities efforts. Tickets will be for sale after Mass.

## Save the Date — WDCR Annual Dinner

**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,

## 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 — TODAY, January 22

Next weekend after Mass, please join us for  
Donut Sunday food and fellowship in the  
chapel area. We will be celebrating  
**Jan Vandercar's** 90th birthday and **Anna  
Entrikin's** 98th birthday!

In addition to our donut  
selections, Jan and Anna's  
families are providing a  
cakes to share with all who  
attend. Hope you can join us  
for the fellowship!





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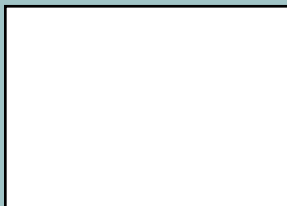
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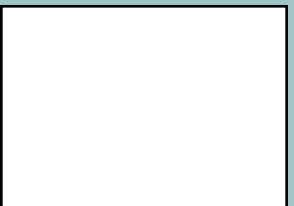
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