

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 29, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



Beatitudes: His joy, wisdom, beauty, and strength

The beatitudes of Jesus are a kind of self-portrait. But it is a strange picture. At first, the blessings of being poor, mourning, and hungering and thirsting for righteousness may seem bizarre or, worse, a religious delusion.

Who wants to look like that? But if we look again, we begin to see the characteristics of Jesus' form. He becomes poor and fills it with his riches for us, he weeps and mourns for us, and fills it with his joy, he hungers and thirsts for us to be righteous, and so satisfies us. And so on. It's the way he appears on the cross.

Perhaps we should put on our bedroom room walls the words of the beatitudes next to a crucifix of the Lord Jesus. Then we can do what the beatitudes are designed for, to gaze at the joy, wisdom, beauty, and strength of the one who is our origin, and who is with us every day. And little by little, we'll start to look like him.

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

FAMILIES IN MISSION

"God Bless You."

We probably have all had someone say to us "God bless you" or simply "bless you." It is a way to wish us goodness and health. To be blessed by someone else can make us feel grateful and even loved.

In today's Gospel, Jesus blesses many different types of people — the poor, those who are sad, the merciful, and the peacemakers to name a few.

By blessing them, Jesus reminds us that he is present in and with those who suffer and that by serving them, we are also serving Him. How can we become a blessing to others?

“Father, What Else Can I Do?”

Recently in one of my homilies, I explained the need to be present in one’s parish church in some concrete ways and encouraged people to find more ways to be a strong presence in their Church. I found it necessary to deliver this sermon for a couple of reasons.

First, I have had several encounters with people who explain that they do not feel any strong connection to their parish church. Many of these people attend Masses regularly and receive the sacraments. Some of them are even so generous to the Church with their resources.

Another reason to reflect on this topic is that many of us have forgotten how a parish church should be a community. As a community of Christ’s faithful, members need to know each other and grow in friendship.

This friendship with each other encourages and strengthens a relationship with Christ. A one-hour church service every week can hardly achieve this friendship goal with each other, a goal that is a critical element in our lives as members of the Body of Christ.

Making financial contributions to the parish, attending Masses, and receiving the other



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

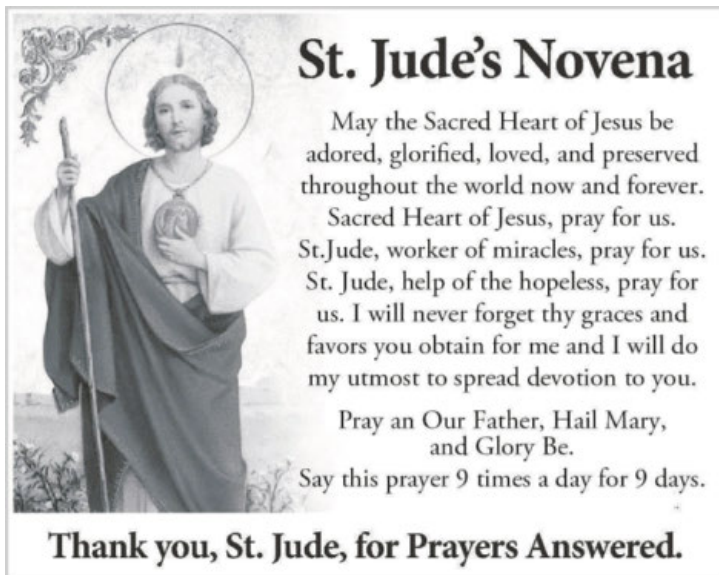
sacraments in the Church is very important in our membership in the Body of Christ. But are these enough? Or is there something else we can do?

Recently after that homily, a parishioner reached out to me and asked what they could do in addition to contributing financially to the Church, attending Masses, and receiving other sacraments as needed.

I explained to them that there are too many ways to be a strong presence in one’s Church. This visible presence creates opportunities for friendships with fellow brothers and sisters in the faith, enabling a stronger relationship with Christ.

We need ALTAR SERVERS, GREETERS, LECTORS, and new members in our choir and various church committees. While membership in these committees and volunteer roles have increased noticeably in the last six months, we have room for more volunteers. So, if you feel called to expand your service to God and your parish in any of these volunteer roles, please reach out to Deacon Kevin or me.

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.

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
January 22	\$4,715.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date:	\$146,971.	\$150,000.
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Short/Ahead:	- \$3,029.	
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R/M Donations	\$70.
Sister Parish Donations	\$25.
Latin America	\$115.
Catholic Times	\$55.
Catholic Children's Home	\$25.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, January 29

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

Monday, January 30

8:15 am –

Tuesday, January 31

8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Wednesday, February 1

8:15 am –

Thursday, February 2

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

Friday, February 3 — *Feast of St. Blaise*

8:15 am – **Jeremy Mathis †**

Saturday, February 4

No Mass

Sunday, February 5

10 am – **Sr. Jocelyn Serwatka †**

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

100th Anniverary Committee

In 2025 St. Thomas will celebrate 100 years as a parish. Maybe you remember the 75th anniversary celebration? We're looking for people who would like to help plan for this celebration. If you'd like to serve on the planning committee, or serve as a resource. Will you join with us in planning this yearlong celebration? Let Deacon Kevin or Father Peter know of your interest. Thank you!

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, Head Millikin University Basketball Coach.

St. Teresa Scholarship Dinner

Tickets on sale after Mass this Sunday.

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 half of a 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 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).

Blessing of Throats, Friday, Feb 3

Friday, February 3 is the **Feast of St. Blaise**. The blessing of throats will be given at **8:15am Mass**.

Popularly known as the saint who protects from ailments of the throat, *Saint Blaise* was a bishop and martyr of the fourth century. We know little else about the saint himself, other than Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316.





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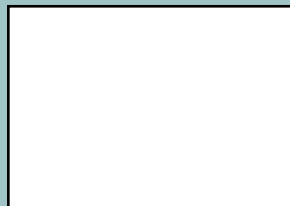
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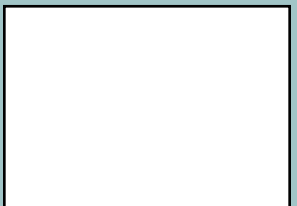
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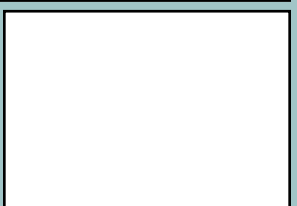
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