

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 5, 2023



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



### Be Salt, not Salty.

Do you notice how chefs are very careful about when and how much salt they add to their dishes? Chefs know that without salt, even the best dishes don't taste very good. It's the same with lighting.

The right lighting can change a room and make it more attractive. In today's Gospel Jesus invites us to be the salt and the light of the earth. He doesn't want us to be the star or to draw attention to ourselves. Instead, he wants us to help other people shine. He wants us to make a difference in the lives of others.

Lord, thank you for inviting us to be salt and light for the world. Teach us to notice when others need help. Give us the courage to reach out and help them quietly without drawing attention to ourselves. Help us to glorify you by living lives of service and by being salt and light to others.

### 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

#### 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 year and the add to your prayer life.

Why not sign up to host the Vocations Crucifix in your home for a week?

The sign up sheet is on a table in the back of church. Extra vocations prayer books are available in the sacristy.





## A WORD FROM FR. PETER

### Share your bread with the hungry

Helping the poor, especially feeding the hungry, is an idea that permeates most moral codes and social creeds of nearly all world religions and religious organizations. Jesus Christ, the founder of the largest world religion, Christianity, gave his undivided attention to the poor. One day, during the beginning of his public ministry, he visited Nazareth, his native town. He went to the synagogue to worship with his people. Upon entering the synagogue, he was given the scroll to read. (The synagogue and the scroll at the time were to the Jews what the church and bible are for us Christians).

Opening the scroll, Jesus stumbled upon Isaiah 61, which begins with God's preferential treatment of the poor. In that passage, Jesus declared how God had anointed him as the Messiah to bring glad tidings to the poor. (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18). Jesus will spend the rest of his time urging his listeners and disciples to always stand up for the poor at all costs. This important message of Christ has moved from generation to generation, and we have it today.

However, as Catholic Christians, do we understand who is the poor that Jesus talks about? Do we limit our understanding of the poor to the materially




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

impoverished people of the world who have little or no food, clothing, clean water, and other material amenities? These people are poor and are included in Jesus's exhortation. But the poor in Jesus's teachings include our brothers and sisters all over the world who are emotionally, spiritually, and socially impoverished. Some of these people have lots of money and material possessions but no peace.

Many of these people are sad, angry, lonely, miserable, and sometimes hopeless, even amid material affluence. They are hungry. We all know some of them, where they are, what they look like, and where they live.

In the first reading today, Jesus encourages us to share our bread with them and those who are materially poor. How can we share our bread with them? Watch out for our upcoming Lenten presentations on the three pillars of our Catholic Christian Spirituality – Fasting, Prayer, and Alms Giving.

*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 29	\$1,833.	\$5,000.

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**Year-to-Date:     \$148,804.     \$155,000.**

**Short/Ahead:     - \$6,196.**

R/M Donations .....	\$35.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$45.
Ash Wednesday .....	\$20.
Catholic Times .....	\$100.
Church in Latin America .....	\$10.
Church in East/Central Europe .....	\$10.

**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, February 5  
10 am – **Sr. Jocelyn Serwatka †**

Monday, February 6  
8:15 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

Tuesday, February 7  
8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**

Wednesday, February 8  
8:15 am – **Ronald Ireland †**

Thursday, February 9  
8:15 am – †

Friday, February 10  
8:15 am – **Norma Wilson †**

Saturday, February 11  
*No Mass*

Sunday, February 12  
10 am – **Mary Lou Gardner †**

## 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, **Art Richard**,  
Kay Russell, Carolyn Thorpe, Roz Sandage,  
Ed Schanuel, Ron Shinall, Brenda Sullivan,  
Virginia Thompson, JoAn Wayne,  
Pete Wayne, **Jan Vandercar**, and  
Tami Wittenauer

### 100th Anniversary 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!

### 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. Motivational Catholic Author, and Family Man.



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

**GUATEMALA**

## Request a Mass Intention

If you would like to have a weekday or weekend Mass offered for a deceased loved one or friend, or for another intention, please call

**Deacon Kevin at**

**877-4146.** The typical

offering for a Mass intention is \$10.



**Mass Intention Envelopes** are now available on the table with the Rosaries in the back of church. You can fill out an envelope and drop it into the basket during the collection.

## FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

### Marriage Tip this Week:

What's the most romantic trip you can take? Perhaps it's a trip down memory lane. On this day of love, remember how you met, your first date, your first kiss, your proposal/acceptance, your first night as a married couple, etc.

## 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!





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*Lisa Coffman*

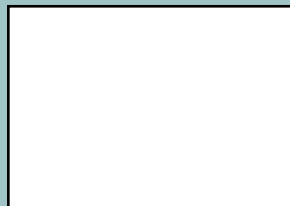
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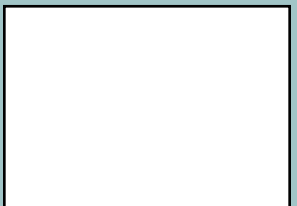
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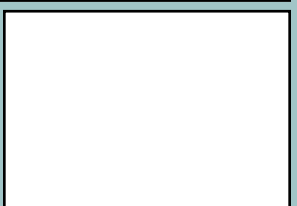
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