

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 12, 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

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

Why do we need rules and laws?

Why do we need rules and laws? Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter by challenging us to look beyond the letter of law. The test is the impact it will have on our relationship with God, others, creation and ourselves. Even Jesus healed on the Sabbath.

In everything we do (or don't do) we are called as missionary disciples to be a presence of God's healing love. Use the rules as guidelines but don't let them get in the way of love. Jesus wants to fill us with his love. That's what the Church exists to do.

Love demands extraordinary things. The "demands" of the Church only make sense because she is filled with Jesus' love. That wildly demanding love is why we are Catholic.

God of compassion, expand our hearts to embrace the spirit of your love.



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

St Valentine – Myth or Historical Person?

This Tuesday, February 14, we shall celebrate what has become one of the most widely celebrated feasts in the secular world and Christendom – St. Valentine’s Day. Some of us will be celebrating St. Valentine’s Day as a Christian fiesta, keeping in mind the stories of sacrificial love surrounding the figure of St. Valentine. Many others worldwide will be celebrating this feast as a day of appreciation and expression of romantic love.

Whichever way, the question about the origin of this feast, its historicity, and Christian authenticity has remained a matter of debate among authors, historians, and Christian theologians, especially outside of the Catholic faith. Whoever plans to celebrate this feast may want to know if the feast of St. Valentine is genuinely Christian and if the figure of St. Valentine is a myth or a historical person. Who was he if he existed in time and space like the rest of the saints? Did he die a martyr’s death out of love? What kind of love?

There are many stories and understandings of the figure of St. Valentine and his feast. Many people argue that this feast is one of those regular feasts of saints in the Catholic church – saints who truly existed in time and space. Some people who hold



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*


this opinion believe that the feast spread so widely beyond the Christian world in the late medieval times with lots of superstitious practices attached to it. One of these superstitions is the romantic love that this feast represents for many people all over the world.

Other people believe that St. Valentine’s Day is a Christian myth manufactured in medieval Europe to encourage fraternal charity and generosity to the poor among Christians. Several people who hold this opinion are indifferent about whether the figure of St. Valentine is a myth or a historical person. Some observe the feast as a Christian feast of sacrificial love. In contrast, others treat it as a secular feast of romantic love.

Still, people like Lisa Bitel, a history professor at the University of Southern California, have an interesting view of this feast. She believes that Valentine’s Day commemorates one of the three Valentines that lived in Rome, Umbria, and North Africa in the third century. While this opinion argues that St. Valentine’s Day remembers one of these three early Christians, it denies that any of them is associated with the romantic love that the feast has come to represent for many people.

However, there is a common belief that the saint or saints associated with St. Valentine’s Day died as martyrs. Their association with romantic love may be a superstition or a misunderstanding of the love associated with their martyrdom. But the popular understanding of St. Valentine’s Day among Christians in many parts of the world as a commemoration of sacrificial love should be highly encouraged. This is because martyrdom is one of the highest expressions of love – that love is the primary vocation of every Christian. The expression of this sacrificial love should be seen in our lives and actions as Christians.

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.

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
February 5	\$7,782.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date:	\$156,586.	\$160,000.
----------------------	-------------------	------------

Short/Ahead:	- \$3,414.	
---------------------	-------------------	--

R/M Donations	\$160.
Sister Parish Donations	\$200.
Ash Wednesday	\$165.
Church in East/Central Europe	\$110.

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.



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, February 13
8:15 am – **Polly and Norman Hensley †**

Tuesday, February 14
8:15 am – **Dolores Midden †**

Wednesday, February 15
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Thursday, February 16
8:15 am – **Vivian Brosamer †**

Friday, February 17
8:15 am – Communion Service Today

Saturday, February 18
No Mass

Sunday, February 19
10 am – **Vivian Brosamer †**

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

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!

35 Warm Blankets to Oasis

Serving others in our community has always been an important part of St Thomas Parish life. Last week Carol Brinkerhoff delivered 35 tied-fleece blankets she had made for guests at Oasis Day Center. Cheri Moran also donated several blankets. The staff and guests were very excited to receive the unexpected gift. Does this give you some ideas for Lenten giving?

Mardi Gras Party Tickets for Sale

Catholic Charities Mardi Gras Party is back! Tickets will be for sale **after Mass today**. Join us at the KC Hall on Saturday Feb. 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.



Collecting Your Blessed Palms

The palm branches we received on Palm Sunday last year were set apart by a blessing from the priest and made into a “sacramental,” an object that is meant to draw us closer to the celebration of the seven sacraments. Throwing them in the trash ignores their sacred purpose and treats them like any other object we no longer need.

Bring your old palm branches to church next weekend and place them in the basket in the back of church. They will be burned and used for the ashes on Ash Wednesday. Afterwards, surplus ashes will be returned to the earth.

Happy 102nd Birthday!

Happy birthday to **Cecelia Wessbecker** who celebrated her 102nd birthday last week! May God continue to bless you with a strong faith, a loving family, good health, and abundant happiness all the days of your life!

Thank you for being such a blessing to us. Love, your St. Thomas parish family.



Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at the **Benny's Grill, 1770 E Pershing Rd, Decatur** on **Tues, Feb. 14** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation.



Join us as we welcome
Keynote Speaker

Kramer Soderberg

Head Coach – Millikin University
Men's Basketball
Catholic Motivational Author

WDCR Decatur Catholic Radio

12th Annual Dinner

Tuesday, March 21st

Mt Zion Convention Center

Doors open 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:15 p.m.

Reservations \$50pp or \$400 Table of 8

To Purchase your Reservations

Please call 217-464-1099 or for a reservation flyer go to wdcrradio.com



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

GUATEMALA



FREE AD DESIGN
with purchase of this space

CALL 800-950-9952

Here with *you.*




HSHS St. Mary's Hospital

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider SafeStreets **833-287-3502**



Graceland/Fairlawn

www.gracelandfairlawn.com
217-615-0769

Moran & Goebel

www.moranandgoebel.com
217-615-0793

Lisa Coffman

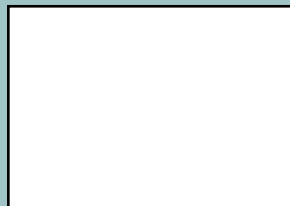
BROKER ASSOCIATE REALTOR®
CELL: 217-433-5081
GLENDA WILLIAMSON REALTY



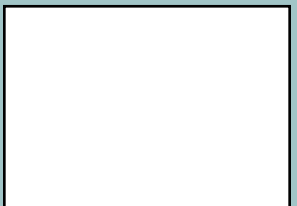
LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Brandy Stivers

bstivers@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2609



B & W II
ASPHALT PAVING & SEALCOAT CO.
877-8362
P.O. Box 448 Forsyth, IL



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

NEVER MISS OUR BULLETIN!




SUBSCRIBE

Have our bulletin emailed to you every week.

Visit www.parishesonline.com

A service as unique as your loved one.

Honor the life of your loved one with the experts at helping you say goodbye.



Brintlinger AND Earl FUNERAL HOMES
brintlingerandearl.com

HSHS Medical Group
Health and Medical Spa

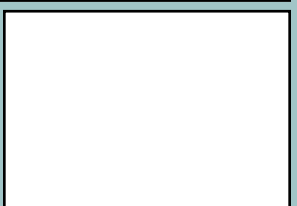
WORK ONE-ON-ONE
with Weight-Loss Coach
Natalie Feriozzi, MS

GAIN Joy

HSHSMedicalGroup.org/weight-loss
217-321-7281 • MG-healthandspa@hshs.org



WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!



WE'RE HIRING!
AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF.
BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid training
- Some travel
- Work-life balance
- Full-Time with benefits
- Serve your community



Contact us at careers@4lpi.com or www.4lpi.com/careers

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!

Instantly create and purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO



 4lpi.com/adcreator