

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 19, 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

Earthquakes Rock Turkey and Syria

Help families today with critical relief

On February 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated large areas of central Turkey and northwest Syria. The death toll has surpassed 40,000 and continues to climb. Later that day, the region experienced a second magnitude 7.7 quake.

Catholic Relief Services will support emergency relief efforts led by local partners in both Syria and Turkey with Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Syria in Aleppo and Lattakia—where extensive damage has been reported—and other local partners.

Already in Turkey, Caritas Internationalis, in coordination with authorities, is bringing displaced people to safe, open spaces and distributing hot meals and clothing.

Your gifts will help partners to provide safe shelter, and access to food, clean water and hygiene supplies.

Fill out the secure form to make a one-time donation to help families affected by the earthquakes.

<https://support.crs.org/donate/earthquakes>

Lenten Alms Change Lives

During Lent, we are called to give special attention to our relationship with God.

Through opportunities to deepen our prayer, practice fasting and give alms, we meet our Lord and encounter our sisters and brothers around the world.

Your almsgiving will make a difference for families trying to escape poverty and thrive.

Make a donation to CRS Rice Bowl to help communities in Honduras, the Philippines, Kenya and other countries overcome hunger and malnutrition, and poverty.



Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound

There have been a few questions regarding the announcement of taking the Holy Communion to the sick and homebound last weekend. The questions we have received and the conversations we have heard this past week about the topic have been beautiful and constructive. Please, remember to reach out for more clarification on the subject.

The Holy Eucharist is the centrality of our faith – it is our Lord Jesus Christ in consecrated hosts. So, we will do well to continually ensure best practices with the receiving, administering, and understanding of the Holy Eucharist.

The announcement was about taking only the right number of Holy Communion to our sick and homebound brothers and sisters. It is forbidden to take Holy Communion in excess and store them in our homes, cars, and other places.

The lingering practice of keeping Holy Communion in our homes for private adorations or daily distribution can be a sacrilege when it is done willfully, knowing that it is forbidden.

The Holy Communion, our Lord Jesus Christ in consecrated hosts, is not a piece of cake to express kindness nor a sacramental for private devotion.

Some people say they received permission to take Holy Communion in excess of what they administer to the sick and homebound on the same day and for private adorations. But after contacting the diocese this past week, the diocese explained that the bishop had not given such permission to any person (priest or lay faithful). He is the only one that can give such permission in rare circumstances.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial Administrator

Eucharistic ministers are highly encouraged to continue their beautiful works of bringing Jesus to our sick and homebound brothers and sisters. We are only encouraging them to do this in ways that show reverence and uphold the sacredness of our Blessed Lord in eucharistic species.

Please call the parish office if you need help administering or getting Holy Communion for your sick or homebound. Deacon Kevin and I are glad to help.

Fr. Peter



Penitential Disciplines of Lent

In addition to choosing their own penitential practices, Catholics are also asked to observe the practices of fast and abstinence during the 40 days of Lent. The Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations are as follows:

- 1.** Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to **abstain from meat** on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
- 2.** Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to **fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.** (The obligation of fasting ceases with the celebration of one's 59th birthday.)
- 3.** Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday means eating only one full, meatless meal. Two other smaller, meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.

Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

- 4.** Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
February 12	\$2,627.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$159,213. \$165,000.

Short/Ahead: -\$5,787.

R/M Donations	\$62.
Sister Parish Donations	\$82.
Ash Wednesday	\$30.
Church in East/Central Europe	\$15.

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 19
10 am – **Vivian Brosamer †**

Monday, February 20
8:15 am – **Sr. Jocelyn Serwatka †**

Tuesday, February 21
8:15 am – **Elmer and Alice Rosentretter †**

Wednesday, February 22
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Thursday, February 23
8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**

Friday, February 24
8:15 am – **The Peterson Family †**

Saturday, February 25
No Mass

Sunday, February 26
10 am – **Polly and Norman Hensley †**

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



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

St. Teresa Scholarship Dinner Thanks

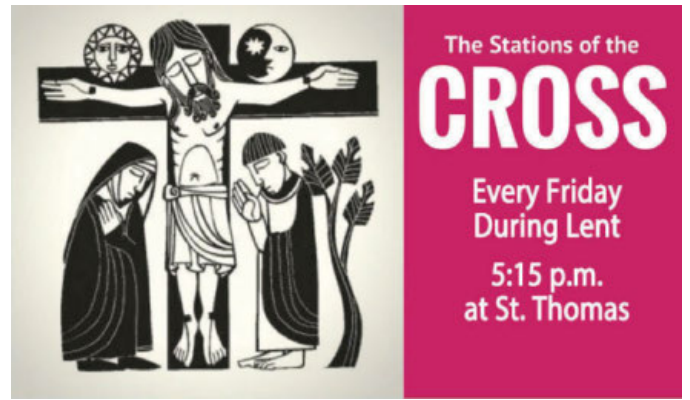
The 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus, want to express their appreciation and gratitude for your support of the 14th annual St. Teresa Scholarship Dinner. The event held on February 4th was a tremendous success both financially and community spirit-wise. Meals not picked up that evening were donated to Carriage House and Salvation Army Homeless Shelter.



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.



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!



Let's Have Our BEST LENT EVER

Are you satisfied with your life? Are you satisfied with the direction of the world?

Listen to your dissatisfaction and dare to be bold to explore new holy possibilities this Lent. It's time to awaken the greatness of the human spirit within you! This Lent you are invited to join us on a journey to discover the real you and make this your BEST LENT EVER!

What would happen if you spent the next 40 days creating as many Holy Moments as possible? Join us this Lent to find out!

Our diocese will be participating in BEST LENT EVER, a powerful program from Dynamic Catholic. It's incredibly simple and completely free.

There's no doubt that if we spend this Lent creating Holy Moments we will become more open to God and find greater meaning and purpose in our lives. Sign up today!

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html>



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**

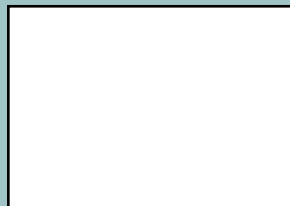
GLENDIA WILLIAMSON REALTY



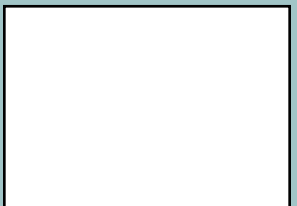
LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

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

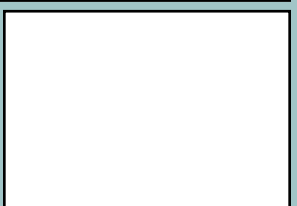
HSHS Medical Group
Health and Medical Spa

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

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