

1st Sunday in Lent • February 26, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Reflecting on Baptism and Temptations

The gospel recounts that Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, is led by that same Spirit into the desert – a place for reflection and prayer. And hunger. And temptations by diabolos, the false accuser. What happens? Strengthened by baptism at which he is called “beloved”, temptations are resisted – not easily, but resisted nonetheless. Food for our thoughtful reflections this Lent.

How does my Baptism strengthen me for Christian living?

How can I face temptations of eating, of power, of vain glory this Lent?

God is incredibly in love with all he has made

Human beings did not come to believe in God just because of someone’s private testimony about him. Rather, belief in God became real when human beings understood that all of human history is being guided and lead, kept and sustained by a God who is incredibly in love with all that he has made.

There is a great temptation for human beings to leave the truth of who they are, where they came from and who created them. Falling into this temptation we cease giving thanks to and worshipping our Creator as we pursue our own self-sufficiency, power, and prestige.

While having more may seem better, the only thing we really need more of is love. And here is found the reason for Lent. It is a wonderful opportunity to get a handle on the attractive lures of illusion that easily captivate us and bring us off track. Love of his Father gave Jesus resistance. It can do the same for us.



The Reality of Suffering

During the season of Lent, suffering is one of the most predominant themes. We know that our faith as Catholic Christians is about Jesus Christ – a man whose short life on earth was characterized by intense suffering. Our faith is centered on him because we are baptized in him and want to live a life pleasing to him while preparing to live forever with him in heaven someday.

Suffering is the state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship. It is a reality in the human condition. Everyone suffers but sometimes differently. Failing exams or failing in our relationships and businesses, jobs, and vocations and losing a loved one to death, losing a game, a lottery, a job, a position, power, and friendship, and experiencing hateful treatment, rejection, snub, or abuse and feeling unloved by people we love, longing to have or see something or someone and never realizing it and experiencing sickness, loneliness, abandonment, poverty, emptiness, and hunger. Any of these can cause a great deal of suffering.

Since suffering is a reality that people (poor and rich, young and old, wise and dumb) of all gender, ethnicity, religion, culture, and race experience, it is better to understand it is something we should prepare for and not something to dread.

As Christians, we must prepare for suffering. That means living the life of Christ - that life in which every suffering has a meaning and is directed to a noble goal. Jesus found meaning in his suffering – that he was never alone in all he underwent. Our heavenly father was always with him. And he directed all his suffering to saving sinful humanity from damnation.




Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

As we journey with Jesus more intimately this Lenten season, let us make our sufferings meaningful. May we offer our sufferings for our private intentions and those of our family, loved ones, communities, and societies. May our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered and left us an example of how to suffer with him, give us the courage and strength to embrace our sufferings. May he always transform our sufferings for our spiritual growth this Lenten season. Amen.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration!

Every first Friday is a day of Eucharistic Adoration at St. Thomas. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the main church **next Friday, March 3**, beginning at 8:15 am with Mass and concluding with Benediction at 5 pm. A signup sheet for adoration hours on first Fridays is available in the back of church.




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.



The Stations of the
CROSS

Every Friday
During Lent

5:15 p.m.
at St. Thomas

Parish Giving

| | Collected | Budgeted |
|-------------|-----------|----------|
| February 18 | \$5,764. | \$5,000. |

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Year-to-Date: | \$164,977. | \$170,000. |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|

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| Short/Ahead: | - \$5,023. | |
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|-------------------------------------|--------|
| R/M Donations | \$290. |
| Sister Parish Donations | \$235. |
| Ash Wednesday | \$120. |
| For the Needy | \$142. |
| Church in East/Central Europe | \$100. |
| Church in Latin America | \$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 26

10 am – **Polly and Norman Hensley †**

Monday, February 27

8:15 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

Tuesday, February 28

8:15 am – **Dolores Midden †**

Wednesday, March 1

8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Thursday, March 2

8:15 am – **Vivian Brosamer †**

Friday, March 3

8:15 am – **David Peterson †**

Saturday, March 4

No Mass

Sunday, March 5

10 am – **Clarence and Ruth Ireland †**

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 5:30pm Dinner 6:15pm

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

To Purchase Reservations Call:

(217) 464-1099

Reservation Flyer: wdcrradio.com

You may also purchase reservations after

Masses on March 4-5 & 11-12

Prayer Shawls Are Available

Do you know someone who
is ill or grieving a loss?

Perhaps they would enjoy

the comfort of a prayer

shawl that was created by

women of the Prayer Shawl

Group. The shawls have been blessed at Mass.

Call Deacon Kevin at the parish office or speak

to him after Mass to arrange to pick out a

prayer shawl for someone.



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.

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family of **John "Jack" Jones** (85), beloved husband of Pat Jones, who passed into eternity on Sunday, February 19.

May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

BEST LENT EVER 2.0

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 the 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!

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>

Grief Support Group

Dealing with Loss Those who have experienced the loss of a loved one often find healing and support through sharing with others with similar experiences.

Ss. James & Patrick parish is hosting a grief session on Tuesday, March 14, at 5:30 pm in the parish house at St. James. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Donna at 422-4534.



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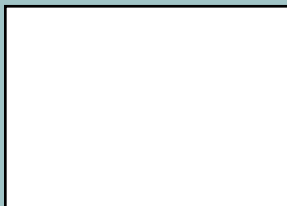
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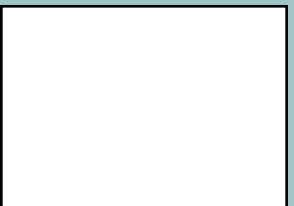
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CONTACT ME
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