

**2nd Sunday of Lent • March 5, 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

### CONTEMPLATE

#### **Listen to Him.**

One week into Lent, we are simply told by the voice from the cloud: Listen to Jesus. He told us last Sunday to “believe in the gospel.” What does belief in this Good News look and sound like this Lent, this year? God wants us to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. We have to trust that this is where we need to be. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic.

- Since we are descendants of Abraham, how am I to behave with my cousins (that is, everyone)?
- Since we are sisters and brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom do I listen? What am I told?

#### **How is your Lent going so far?**

In changing the circumstances and order of our lives a bit, perhaps we can hear God’s voice more clearly and drink more deeply of graced moments we experience. Having God as a friend always involves several things. First, there is God’s call. We become attuned to the echo of God’s voice in the depth of our souls calling and beckoning us to listen.

Second, there is a request. We begin to see that God asks us to do certain things, to order our lives a particular way, and become more intentional in the choices we make.

Third, there is trust. Do we trust this call and request? Trust commits us to the relationship and makes a claim on who we are.

Finally, we are asked to act. We find ourselves acting, not in the way we used to, but in a transformed, more enlightened way. Things seem clearer and all that is around us shines with the brilliance of God’s presence.



## Detached or Attached to the Things around Me?

This second week of Lent, let us reflect more profoundly on how attached or detached we are from things around us. As Christians, living a life detached from our material possessions is crucial for a healthy Christian life. Our Lord Jesus suffered hunger, thirst, loneliness, slander, and persecution in the wilderness of our sins.

He reflected continuously on his upcoming passion and death on the cross. Our Lord Jesus prayed relentlessly that God's will be done. Christ did not worry about anything or anyone he left behind in all these. Instead, he focused on his mission in the world – redeeming the depraved humanity and reconciling us to God.



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

By giving up everything, Jesus received everything from the Father. These include the salvation of the broken human race whom he condescended to their likeness, suffered for, and died to redeem.

During his ministry on earth with his disciples, Jesus constantly emphasized the need to live a detached life. He preached this in both words and actions. Attachment to the things of this world, he believes, is an obstacle to the salvation that he (Christ) suffered and died on the Cross to gain for humanity. There is no mention of Jesus owning houses, vehicles, electronics, gadgets, or similar things throughout the gospels. No one ever told of Jesus going on vacation with his parents or friends. And he commanded large followership, but Jesus never abused his power or used it for his selfish interests.

While he does not condemn material things, Jesus strongly urges us to live our lives detached from

them. Because when we are detached from our earthly possessions, skills, and powers, we can better use them for God's glory and humanity's good. Living that life most perfectly, Jesus and his disciples spent the rest of their lives having little or nothing to do with private possessions. That way, they could give themselves entirely to God and his people.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us explore ways to live more detached from material possessions. This way, we can give ourselves more fully to God and his people.

Amen.

*Fr. Peter*

## A New Order of Penance

Beginning this Lent, a few changes have been made to update the English text of the prayers used in the confessional.

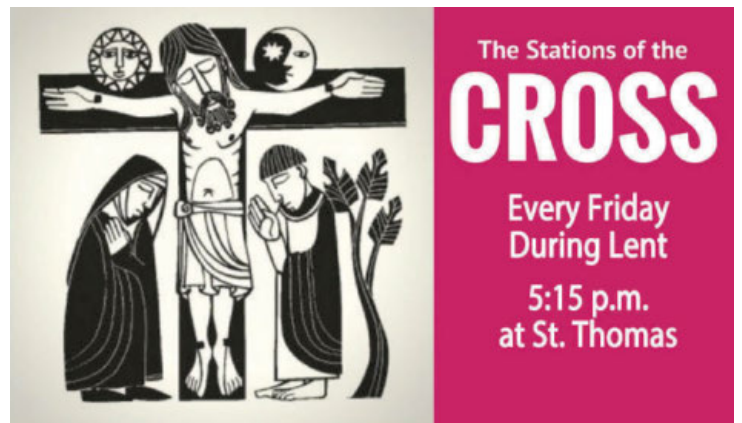
The changes basically only affect the priest confessor and not the penitent.

- There is a slightly different greeting from the priest.
- There is a new option for the Act of Contrition.
- The biggest difference is in a few words of the prayer of Absolution.

After the priest absolves you for your sins, he will then say: "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good."

You respond: "For his mercy endures forever."

Don't worry a bit about this, Father will help you!



# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
February 26	\$4,831.	\$5,000.
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$169,808.</b>	\$175,000.
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$5,192.</b>	

R/M Donations .....	\$20.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$1,015.
Ash Wednesday .....	\$170.
Easter Flowers .....	\$20.
Church in East/Central Europe.....	\$30.
Catholic Times.....	\$20.
Catholic Charities .....	\$20.
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$20.

**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.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

- Sunday, March 5  
10 am – **Clarence and Ruth Ireland †**
- Monday, March 6  
8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**
- Tuesday, March 7  
8:15 am – **Paulino Gordillo †**
- Wednesday, March 8  
8:15 am – **Sr. Jocelyn Serwatka †**
- Thursday, March 9  
8:15 am – **Louis Vighi †**
- Friday, March 10  
8:15 am – **Elnora Gordillo †**
- Saturday, March 11  
*No Mass*
- Sunday, March 12  
10 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

## 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**

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner**

**Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

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](http://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

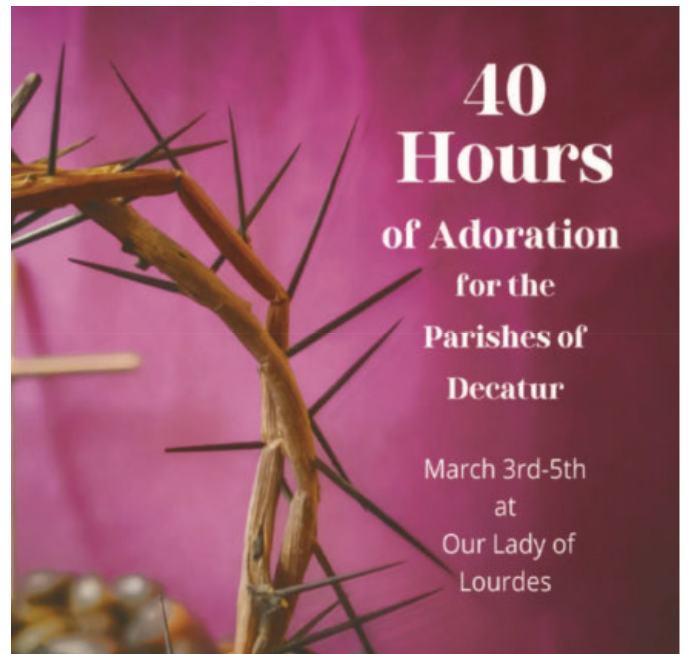
To report allegations of sexual abuse of a  
minor by clergy or other church personnel—  
even if it is in the past—individuals are  
encouraged to call the Diocese's Child Abuse  
Reporting and Investigation number at  
217.321.1155. Individuals may also contact  
Illinois Department of Children and Family  
Services Child Abuse Hotline at  
1.800.25.ABUSE.



**Join Fr. Peter after Mass on Fridays** during Lent for an informal question and answer discussion in the chapel area in the church. The gathering will last about an hour.

There is a basket in the back of church to collect questions for the discussion Fridays. Think of a question (or several) that you'd like Fr. Peter to discuss, write it on an index card, and drop it in the basket.

The Question and Answer sessions will be held on **Friday, March 10, 17, 24, and 31**. Please join us!



### **Sign up for the 40 Hours of Adoration**

There are many slots available for the 40 Hours of Adoration at Our Lady of Lourdes **this weekend, March 3-5**.

Please take this opportunity to spend some time with our Lord in the Eucharistic Presence. Just call the parish Office at Our Lady of Lourdes at 217-877-4404 Thank you!



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*Lisa Coffman*

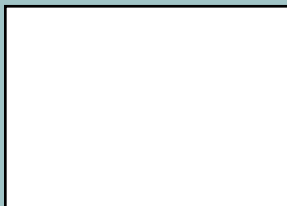
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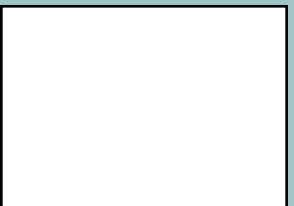
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