

3rd Sunday of Lent • March 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

CONTEMPLATE

Seek a Well of Living Water

As Christians, we are called to follow the example of the Samaritan woman — to rush out, and proclaim what we have seen, that by our testimony and our belief, others may know Christ.

Or sometimes, like the Samaritan woman, we can scarcely believe that God would meet us here in this fallen world.

The truth of what he speaks and the beauty of what he proclaims is like a well of spring water in a dry desert.

Do we dare accept the gift?

Why do we continue to seek something else?

The story of the woman at the well speaks to all of us of everlasting water that heals us and gives us strength for the journey.

There are those among us who long for this, but we who have been marked for Christ a long time ago already possess it. But too often we continue to climb high hills looking for something else to satisfy us.

The Samaritan woman leaves behind her container at the well when she leaves, for there is no reason for her ever to return. You and I have left our vessels at the well also. Stop climbing that hill — drink from that everlasting water God has given to us.

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.



Some Guidelines for Our Parish Community Mass Celebrations.

Dear Parishioners, to ensure a continued beautiful and spirit-filled experience and for a more conducive spiritual atmosphere for our Eucharistic celebrations, I encourage us to pay attention to these guidelines.

If you are sick or have difficulty walking or using a wheelchair, please sit in any of the four front pews during Masses. That way, I or Deacon Kevin or any of our Eucharistic Ministers can bring you communion first before others during communion.

I understand how difficult it is for some of us to let go of our age-long sitting positions in the Church. As good and faithful Catholics, this great and charitable sacrifice should be considered.

- 1) If you are caring for someone who is sick or has difficulty walking, or is in a wheelchair, you can sit with them in the front pew.
- 2) For these two reasons, I will encourage us to leave the front pews for people who qualify for the above categories.
- 3) If you need a gluten-free Holy Communion, please let Deacon Kevin or me know when you come to Mass. You can stop by the sacristy when we are vesting and let us know of this.
- 4) If you have difficulty hearing, please ask for a hearing aid. We have some in the Church that you can use during Mass. Also, while our sound system is good, sitting in any of the two central rows makes hearing the priest much easier.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

- 5) If you have little children, please sit closer to the cry room and use it when necessary. But please, come to Church with your little children. I AM NOT DISTRACTED BY THEIR HOLY NOISE, nor should anyone be.
- 6) Lastly and most importantly, talking before or during Mass is VERY disrespectful to God and other Church members. We can talk as loud and long as we want after Mass.

May God continue to bless us all as we try to observe all these and make our worship a more beautiful and profound experience for all.

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.

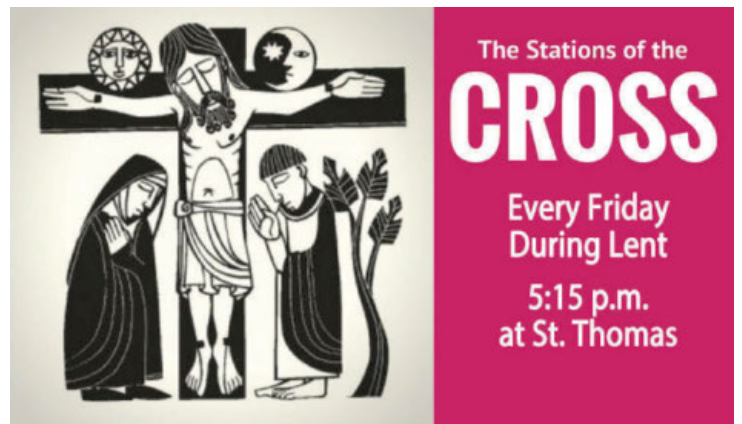
The changes basically only affect the priest confessor and not the penitent.

- 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!





	Collected	Budgeted
March 5	\$10,030.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$179,838.	\$180,000.
Short/Ahead:	- 162.	

R/M Donations	\$225.
Sister Parish Donations	\$355.
Ash Wednesday	\$165.
Easter Flowers	\$623.
Church in East/Central Europe.....	\$10.
Catholic Charities	\$190.
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$140.

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.



- Sunday, March 12
10 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**
- Monday, March 13
8:15 am – **The Ireland and Foster Families**
- Tuesday, March 14
8:15 am – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**
- Wednesday, March 15
8:15 am – *Communion Service*
- Thursday, March 16
8:15 am – *Communion Service*
- Friday, March 17
8:15 am – *Communion Service*
- Saturday, March 18
No Mass
- Sunday, March 19
10 am – **Luis Gordillo †**

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



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, **Phil Smethers**,
Brenda Sullivan, Virginia Thompson,
JoAn Wayne, Pete Wayne, Jan Vandercar,
and Tami Wittenauer

OLOL - St. Thomas PSR: Eucharist Classes are Thursdays, March 16, 23, and 30. Please contact the OLOL Parish Office or Mary Lou Walker if interested.

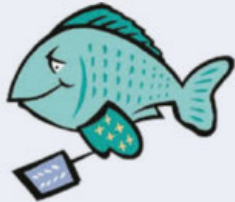
Next Community 55+ Gathering: Save the Date! Join us on Tuesday, April 18 at Our Lady of Lourdes.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE at OLHS: Thursday March 30th 8am to 5pm, Friday March 31st 8am to 5pm, Saturday April 1st 8am to Noon!

RUMMAGE SALE of Scout Troop 134 at Our Lady of Lourdes will be hosting a Rummage Sale, Saturday, April 15, from 8 a.m to 1 p.m in the OLOL Gym.

Lenten Fish Fry

Our Lady of Lourdes school gym



Mar. 17, from 5-7 pm.

Carry-out orders available. Call a 877-4408 to place your order beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Dine in and Carry Out Options are baked cod dinner, fried walleye dinner, fried catfish dinner or fried shrimp dinner for \$12. All meals include French fries or baked potato, coleslaw, bread and drink. Kid's meals of fried walleye dinner or hot dog meal available for \$7.

Illinois March for Life in Springfield

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois invites you to join us for the Illinois March for Life,

Tuesday, March 21. The day will start with Mass, 10:00 am, Sangamon Auditorium, on the UIS Campus, 1 University Plaza, Springfield.

At noon, the Illinois March for Life will hold a rally in front of the State Capitol, 2nd Street, at the Lincoln Statue. A march around the State Capitol complex will begin after the rally.

The Mass, rally and march are intended for 7th-12th graders, college students, and adults.

To register to attend the Mass and March go to: illinoismarchforlife.org



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 24, and 31**. Please join us!

Decatur Area Penance Service at St. Thomas Church

Sun., March 26 at 2 p.m.
with 5 priests available

The season of Lent is a special time when we are reminded of our call to conversion. If you haven't gone to confession in a while, don't worry! Lent is the perfect time to reconcile yourself with God and the Church.



Don't stress about going to confession, rejoice in God's love and mercy! Just tell the priest it's been a long time, and he will guide you through the process. Participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation allows you to experience the healing gift of God's love!

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Lacrosse, Wisconsin

with Fr. Peter. We leave from St. Thomas at 7 am on Friday, May 5 and return at 7 pm on Saturday, May 6. For more information ask Fr. Peter or Deacon Kevin. Spaces filling up quickly. Act now if you want to join us!



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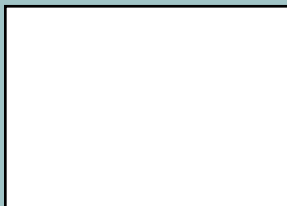
GLENDIA WILLIAMSON REALTY



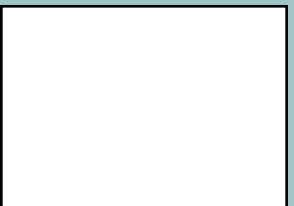
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