

4th Sunday of Lent • March 19, 2023

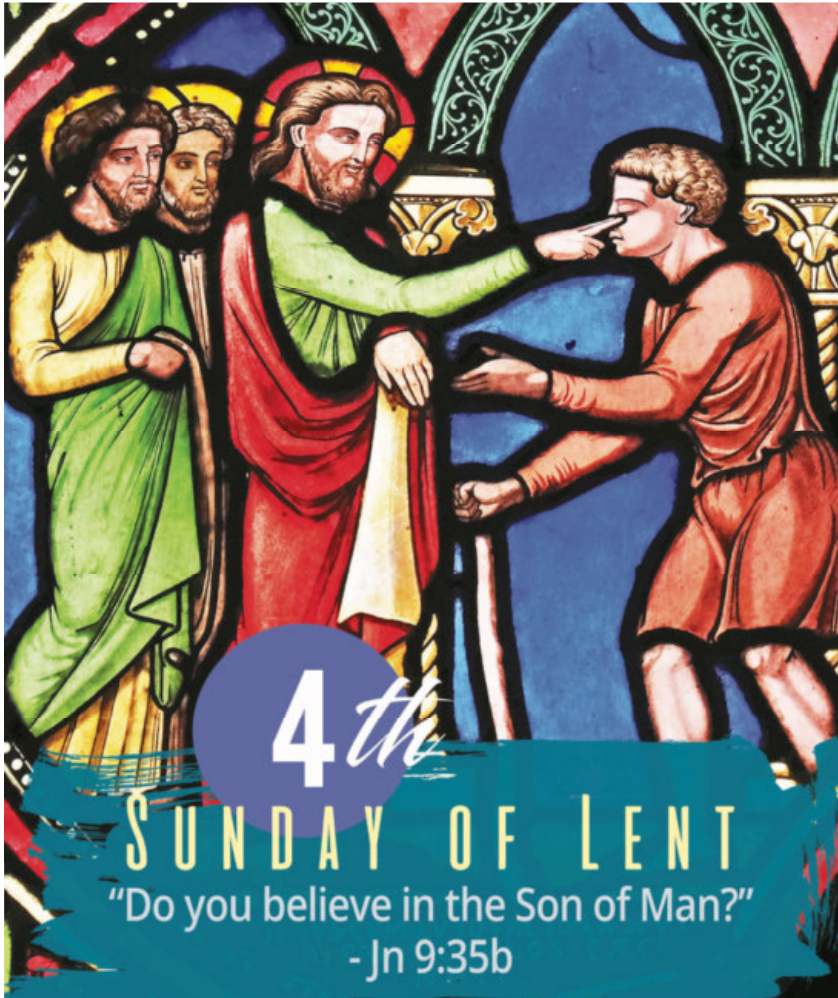


St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

CONTEMPLATE

Seeing Christ.

Today we have the story of a man born blind. In Jesus' time, blindness was viewed as a punishment for sin. Lent is all about looking inward and rooting out sinful desires and actions. So this story of a blind man and Jesus restoring his sight is a story about the forgiveness of sin.

The blind man in today's gospel sees Christ – and does what he is told by him. Listening and then doing – even in the face of opposition – brings sight and insight.

- How will I look for Christ in every person and in every action this Lenten week?
- What is God asking me to do? How will I do it?

Lord, free us from darkness.

We cannot travel into the darkness without a source of light. When Jesus heals the blind man, he not only gives to him a physical sight that is real, but he also provides for him a new spiritual lens through which he can see the world.

Those of us who have been baptized have this gift of new sight, but too often we either choose to put on glasses of sin or despair or act like we cannot see that which exists clearly in front of us.

As we listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel proclaiming he is the Light of the World, let us resolve to allow God to provide a light for our path so that we may share the good news of this Light with all around us.



More than Halfway Through Lent

We just began the fourth week of Lent. In the beginning, some of us decided to abstain from certain foods or activities. Others resolved to add some foods to their diets or activities to their daily routines.

Still, many people choose to consolidate some additions or subtractions that they already have in their lifestyles. Many of us simply have been doing something since the beginning of our Lenten journey. Even as a parish, we agreed to work on curtailing our longstanding habit of chatting before Mass.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

Where are we now? Have we stopped with our Lenten observances? Have we forsaken Jesus in the wilderness? Have we forgotten that he is still in the desert preparing himself for the ultimate price of our salvation? A price that must involve severe tortures, persecution, beatings, whipping, spitting, and individual and public condemnations?

Have we quickly forgotten that he is still in the wilderness, lonely, hungry, thirsty, weak, and isolated? We have only two weeks more to conclude our Lenten journey.

The whole idea of making Lenten observances is to deepen our relationship with Christ, to unite ourselves in fraternal solicitude to the suffering Christ. His sufferings and all the hardships he endured are to free us from our sins and show us how to embrace suffering for salvific reasons.

The scripture puts it better when it says:

For this, you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in

his mouth." When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds, you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls." (1 Peter 2:21-25)

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us increase efforts to stay firm in our Lenten observances. Let us remember that those sacrifices and mortifications must be geared toward bringing us closer to Jesus Christ. Because of this noble reason, we must not entertain any distraction or discouragement in fulfilling our Lenten resolutions.

May God continue to bless our efforts with more strength, courage, and desire to persevere in our Lenten resolutions. Amen.

Fr. Peter

A graphic for "The Stations of the Cross". On the left is a black and white illustration of the Crucifixion. On the right is a pink vertical bar with white text. The text reads: "The Stations of the CROSS", "Every Friday During Lent", "5:15 p.m. at St. Thomas".

The Stations of the
CROSS
Every Friday
During Lent
5:15 p.m.
at St. Thomas

A graphic for "St. Jude's Novena". On the left is a black and white illustration of St. Jude holding a staff and a heart. On the right is a white background with black text. The text reads: "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."

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.



	Collected	Budgeted
March 12	\$5,434.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$185,272.	\$185,000.
Short/Ahead:	\$272.	

R/M Donations	\$70.
Sister Parish Donations	\$55.
Ash Wednesday	\$165.
Easter Flowers	\$95.
Catholic Children's Home	\$20.
Catholic Charities	\$125.
Catholic Relief Services	\$60.

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 19
10 am – **Luis Gordillo †**
- Monday, March 20
8:15 am – **Patty Hoffman †**
- Tuesday, March 21
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**
- Wednesday, March 22
8:15 am – **Cindy Harding †**
- Thursday, March 23
8:15 am – **Polly and Norman Hensley †**
- Friday, March 24
8:15 am – **Michael Gordillo †**
- Saturday, March 25
No Mass
- Sunday, March 26
10 am – **Roger Esteban †**

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

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!

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



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

GUATEMALA

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family and friends of:

- Dick Harding on the death of his wife **Cynthia Lynne Harding**, 65, of Decatur, on March 14;
- John Thompson on the death of his wife **Sharon Sue Thompson**, 80, of Decatur, on March 10; and
- Judy Gentry on the death of her husband **James "Mike" Michael Gentry**, 75, of Decatur, on Feb. 25.

May God shower these families with His peace and comfort, and may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.



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!

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.



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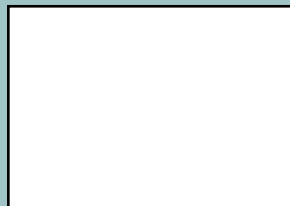
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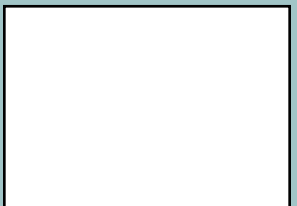
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