

5th Sunday of Lent • March 26, 2023



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526 (217) 877-4146 StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."  
- Jn 11:25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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### What's your comfort zone?

We all have a comfort zone. But did you realize that you can have one spiritually? Think about what you like and what you don't particularly enjoy when it comes to church, prayer, and liturgy. We all have "those songs" we crinkle our noses at, either because they're too modern or too old-fashioned.

We may know people at church whose ideas we aren't so sure about, whether that's because they're trying to change too much or because they seem always to be looking toward the past. Well, when was the last time YOU sat on the OTHER side of the church during Mass?

As much as we may not want to admit it, even (and especially) as people of God, we get deeply attached to our own personal comfort zones — and we tend to view those outside with distrust. Thankfully, our God is a God who "opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters." Our God is a God who does "something new" — and challenges us to "make a way" out of our comfort zone.

### 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

### Dying with Christ; Dying to Self

Even when his friends are disappointed with him and his disciples misunderstand him, Jesus is clear and resolute.

No one's death is everlasting. We believe that just as Baptism graces us with new life in Christ, physical death transmits us to newer life with God for ever.

- What "death" is sucking the life out of me? What will I do about it?
- What will I do, as one loved by Christ beyond all measure, for those in need of mercy works?



## Mass Attendance

Since the last few months, I have noticed an increased number of people at our Masses, especially our daily Masses. Many of us have seen this increased number of people in our Masses. This is mainly for the last weekend's Mass, where we had almost a 25% increase in the number of people who attended our Sunday Mass.

I want us both as individuals and as a parish community to take pride in the fact that we are bringing our brothers and sisters back to Mass to worship our dear Lord with us. But more importantly, I want us to continue spreading the message of our Lord Jesus Christ's love and mercy through our words and actions.



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

Today, we live in a world and time where so many people are worried about the activities of our elected leaders. Some are very concerned about their future and their children's future because of an unpredictable economy.

Many of us also face seeing our families and friends battling devastating mental health problems. We also have people who are afraid of the future of our church because of the activities of some church hierarchies who may be more concerned about human approval than divine approval. Still, many people are continually disturbed by the many despicable political, economic, and social unrests happening worldwide. This is especially in eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Nigeria.


These problems continue to cause sadness, anger, misery, hopelessness, and anxiety. Amid all these, we continue to discover how material things and worldly pleasures cannot give us the peace of mind and hope we need. We also continue to understand that only a relationship with Christ can guarantee

this hope and peace of mind, even amid all the chaos and crisis in our world and families.

This relationship with Christ cannot be actualized outside of the Church because the Church is the mystical body of Christ – outside which, we wallow in crisis and confusion.


So, as your brother, friend, and spiritual father, I continue to encourage us to reach out to our brothers and sisters and invite them back to the Church. We are doing this already, and we see the result in our daily and weekend Mass attendance and our social and spiritual bonds through the many activities in our Church. May God continue to bless us. Amen.

*Fr. Peter*



During this Lenten season, please remember to pray for those in our Sister Parish, **Immaculate Conception**, in Comapa, Guatemala, as they pray for us.

**G U A T E M A L A**




The Stations of the

# CROSS

Every Friday  
During Lent

5:15 p.m.  
at St. Thomas



## 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.**

# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
March 19	\$3,433.	\$5,000.
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$188,706.</b>	\$190,000.
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$1,295.</b>	

R/M Donations .....	\$99.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$5,069.
Easter Flowers .....	\$65.
Catholic Times .....	\$20.
Catholic Charities .....	\$195.
Catholic Relief Services .....	\$40.

**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.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

- Sunday, March 26  
10 am – **Roger Esteban †**
- Monday, March 27  
8:15 am – **Tennie Gordillo †**
- Tuesday, March 28  
8:15 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**
- Wednesday, March 29  
8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**
- Thursday, March 30  
8:15 am – **End of Abortion †**
- Friday, March 31  
8:15 am – **Birthday Blessings for Bernadine Metzger**
- Saturday, April 1  
*No Mass*
- Sunday, April 2  
10 am – **Cindy Harding †**

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

## Q: Why are sacred images in church veiled in violet?



**A:** The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss and they serve as a reminder to get ready!

The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing. When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted through Christ's Resurrection.



**Join Fr. Peter after Mass on Friday, March 31** 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.

## 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.



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Sunday, April 2 — 10 a.m.**

Palm Sunday

**Thursday, April 6 — 5:15 p.m.**

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper  
*No morning Mass on Holy Thursday.*

**Friday, April 7 — 5:15 p.m.**

Good Friday Service of the Lord's Passion  
*There will be no Mass on Good Friday.*

**Holy Saturday, April 8 — 8 p.m.**

Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday, April 9 — 10 a.m.**

Make time to be at church and to give thanks to Christ for what He did for us.

### **THIS AFTERNOON — Decatur Area Penance Service at St. Thomas**

**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!



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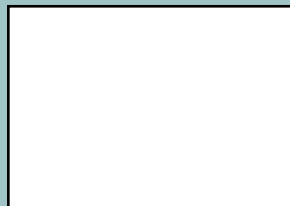
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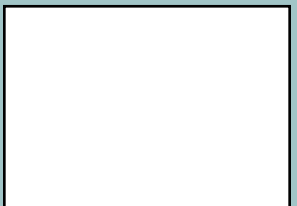
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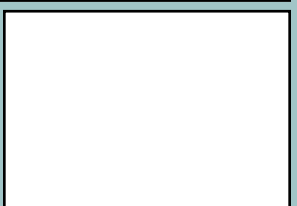
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