



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



### Welcome to the Family of Faith, Raymond!

**Raymond Martins** (center) was welcomed into communion with the Catholic church last weekend. He was baptized on Saturday and received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist on Sunday at Mass. Many members of the St. Thomas community were present to celebrate the occasion. **Left to right:** Jean Litchfield (Ray's wife), Juanita Rasgado (Godmother), Raymond, Fr. Peter, and Deacon Kevin.

### Many Struggle With Jesus

Some who consider themselves faithful hail him in their churches but still struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. The message is somehow more palatable when it echoes pious renderings and sentiments and involves singing hosannas during worship.

It becomes a bit trickier when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct the business of our lives, becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor, and marginalized, and living as servants of our Loving Creator.

### 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

### Waving branches and standing at the Cross.

Jesus is hailed with palm branches as he comes down a street one minute and faces agonizing suffering and death on a cross the next. Does any of this make any sense? They shouted, "hosanna to our King," out of one side of their mouths and, "crucify him," out of the other.

We are pulled today toward two extremes. The utter joy of welcoming the true King in procession and the extreme grieving under the Cross. But we know the end of this story. The King is not dead!

Something to think about this Holy Week!

## PALM SUNDAY

### Baptized, Confirmed, and Received into Communion

In the catholic church, we have seven sacraments. These are baptism, confirmation, Eucharist (also known as holy communion or blessed sacrament), penance (also known as reconciliation or confession), anointing of the sick (also known as extreme unction), matrimony (also known as marriage), and holy orders (also known as ordination).

These sacraments were established or sanctified by Christ for the salvation of all peoples. They are divided into three separate categories: sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist), sacraments of healing (anointing of the sick and penance), and sacraments of service (matrimony and holy orders).

While no one need to receive all these seven sacraments to be saved, some of them are required for full membership in the Catholic Church. These are the sacraments of initiation – baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist. Baptism is the gateway of all other sacraments. It is a prerequisite for any other sacrament. While baptism does not entirely make one a full member of the church, one who is baptized can receive most of the other sacraments, especially in extraordinary circumstances.

Confirmation and eucharist complete the process of full initiation into the catholic church. Ordinarily, children receive baptism as infants. They are confirmed and given the Eucharist when they attain the age of reason. But adults, like in the case of converts, are welcomed into the church with all three sacraments of initiation administered at the same ceremony (mostly on Easter vigil) after the whole process of RCIA. But in special circumstances, the pastor can work with an adult



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

on a private catechistical process, after which he must obtain permission from the bishop to administer the sacraments of Christian initiation to an adult without the whole process of RCIA.

This happened last week in our parish with Mr. Raymond Martins, who is now one of us – a full member of the Catholic Church here at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. After many years of active involvement in our parish, discernment, and prayers, Mr. Raymond asked to be received into the Church. Let us keep Raymond and all the catechumenates entering the Church this easter in our prayers.

*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 26	\$2,162.	\$5,000.

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<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$190,168.</b>	\$195,000.
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<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$4,132.</b>	
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R/M Donations .....	\$30.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$25.
Easter Flowers .....	\$15.
Palm Sunday .....	\$20.
Seminarians .....	\$20.
Catholic Charities .....	\$75.
Catholic Relief Services .....	\$136.

**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, April 2  
10 am – **Cindy Harding †**

Monday, April 3  
8:15 am – **Paul Gordillo †**

Tuesday, April 4  
8:15 am – **Polly and Norman Hensley †**

Wednesday, April 5  
8:15 am – **For Peace**

Thursday, April 6 — Holy Thursday  
5:15 pm – **Elena Gordillo Krohn †**

Friday, April 7 — Good Friday  
5:15 pm – Solemn Intercessions

Saturday, April 8 — Easter Vigil  
8 pm –

Sunday, April 9 — Easter Sunday  
10 am – **Helen Dust †**

## 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

## Easter Cards for the Homebound

Help us bring Easter joy to parishioners who are unable to join us for Mass because they are homebound or reside in a nursing home.

Send Easter greetings and prayers to homebound parishioners using the list of names and addresses that is available on the table in the back of church. Why not make it a family project!



***What a wonderful way to express the joy of the Risen Christ!***

## Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at the airport restaurant — **Everyone's East End Grill**, 910 S Airport Rd, Decatur, on **Tues, April 11** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and conversation. Bring a friend!

## St. Teresa Scholarship Applications



Scholarship applications, for incoming freshmen (2023/24 school year), to St. Teresa High School are available.

These \$1,500 scholarships are provided by the 4th Degree KC of Decatur. Applications can be picked up in the office areas at each of the Catholic elementary schools during the month of April. Deadline for applying is May 1st, 2023.

Always pray to have eyes that see  
the best in people,  
A heart that forgives the worst,  
A mind that forgets the bad,  
And a soul that never loses faith  
in God.



## 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.

**100<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Committee  
Meeting**



Fr. Peter will hold a meeting in May with anyone who wants to be part of planning our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2025. The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20 at 6pm at the parish rectory.

The committee is open to any St. Thomas the Apostle Parishioner who is available and willing to help with all the activities that will characterize our Centenary Celebration.

**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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*Lisa Coffman*

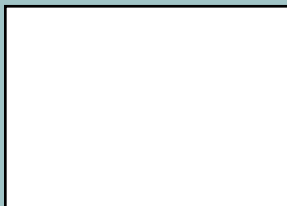
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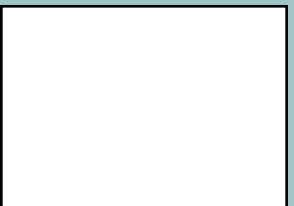
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