

**The Resurrection of the Lord • April 9, 2023**

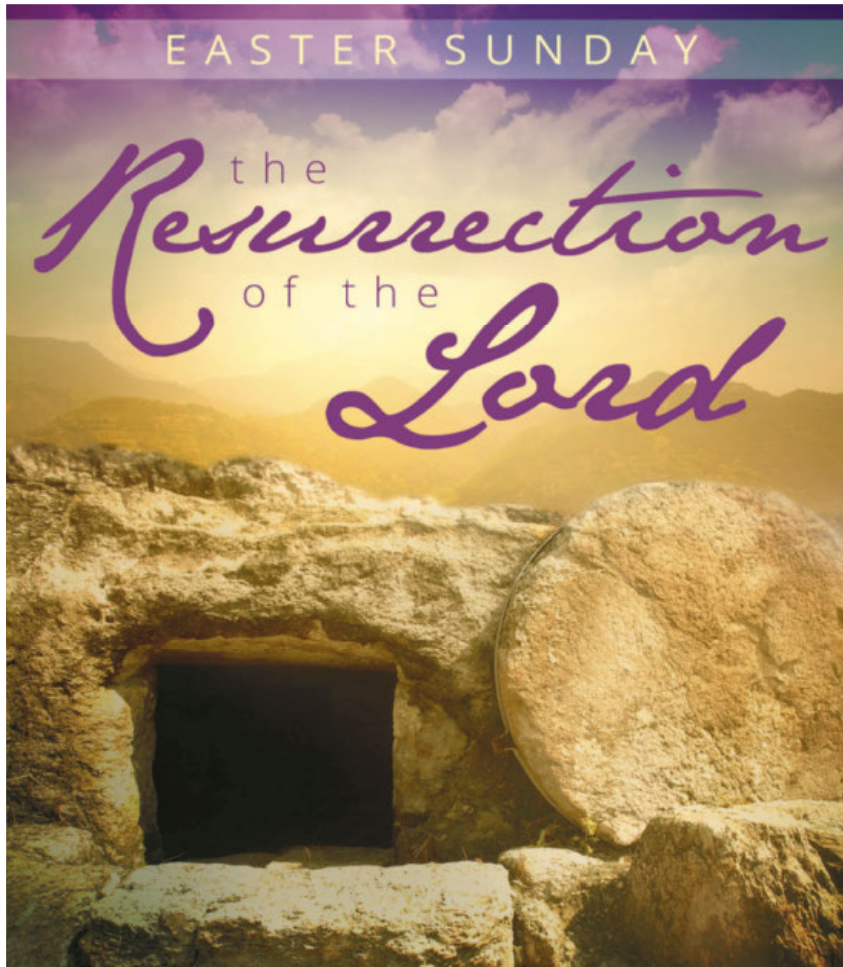


## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



### LITURGY SCHEDULE

***Weekends***

Sunday 10 am

***Weekdays***

Monday-Friday 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

#### **We will not find Him there**

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene sees the burial cloth but no body. Her human mind makes sense of the situation the best way it knows how, she assumes the Lord has been taken. We might have thought the same thing, in her position.

She cannot conceive, on her own, the reality that Christ has risen from the dead. It doesn't matter that he has told his disciples again and again that this will happen.

We still struggle with it, don't we? We looked for him in the flesh — in the stale yeast of the world — in money or success or pleasure convenience. Of course, we would not find him there, among the dead.

#### **Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

About today's feast, St. Augustine writes: "And he departed from our sight that we might return to our hearts and find him there. For he left us, and behold, he is here."

Christ's resurrected presence lives not only in the highest heaven but in the fragile human heart. Christ's life inspires us and moves us to see a future for every human being and discover our true purpose and meaning.

Every human being has a desire to live, and this cry can be heard within. There is a longing for a connection with Someone greater than ourselves that gives an import to our existence that we cannot supply. Today, our deepest questions find answers.

## A WORD FROM FR. PETER

### The Master Has Need of Them

Last week during our Passion Sunday, I reflected on Jesus's instruction to the disciples in Matthew 21:2-3. The instruction is this: "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tethered and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.'"

I reflected that Jesus's ordering of the donkey and the colt to be brought to him elucidates the fact that while the donkey and the colt belonged to an earthly owner (steward), they belonged ultimately to God. God owns all that we have and are. And whenever he has need of any of his belongings, we must not hesitate to give them back. Be it our lives, properties, skills, wealth, or knowledge.

It is not always easy to give back to God through our neighbors, communities, churches, institutions, and charitable organizations around us. It is even more challenging to sacrifice our comforts and pleasures for the suffering of Jesus in the people around us. If these are too difficult, how much more giving our own lives for others? While it sounds impossible, St. Peter, our first Pope, tells us in 1 Peter 2:21-25 that to show how possible the Christian life is, Jesus lived it fully, thereby leaving us an example to follow.

Jesus gave everything, even his own life, when the master (God) needed it. Just the same way, the owner of the donkey and the colt did not hesitate to let the disciples take them to Jesus. As followers of Christ, let us learn by the example that Christ has left us through his own life. This Easter, let us resolve to engage in a lifestyle of material detachment. Let us use our lives, knowledge, skills, material possessions, and accomplishments for the greater glory of God.



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

*Fr. Peter*



### Q: Why do we bless ourselves with holy water when we enter church?

**A:** Holy water is a sacramental, a reminder of the life of the Church expressed and celebrated through the sacraments.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our origins, humbly created from the dust. But by blessing ourselves with holy water, we are reminded of Easter and our baptism — our rising from the waters of death to life! We are baptized sons and daughters of God.

This is also a call to conversion, to live more fully our baptismal call to live as disciples of Jesus. Blessing ourselves with holy water reminds us that we are baptized into a community faith, and always in need of turning from sin and toward God. Holy water is a visible sign of our baptism!

### Request a Mass Intention

If you would like to have a weekday or weekend Mass offered for a deceased loved one or friend, or for another intention, please call **Deacon Kevin at 877-4146**. The typical offering for a Mass intention is \$10.



**Mass Intention Envelopes** are now available on the table with the Rosaries in the back of church.



### 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.**

## REFLECT THIS WEEK

### HAPPY EASTER!

When we awoke this morning, we found ourselves blessed with another day. It is Easter Sunday. As that thought crossed our minds, did we find ourselves saying “so what” or “alleluia”? For many, today is truly a day of alleluia. For others, it is just another day of “so what.” Faith makes a huge difference. It not only makes a difference in how we understand today and the significance of what we celebrate, it also makes a huge difference in terms of how we understand ourselves.



Succeed, live well, be productive, find your niche, follow your dreams, make money, protect your social status, be politically correct, and keep your preferences to yourself are pretty good examples of the messages our secular life wants us to hear. In and of themselves, they don't sound all that harmful. But when really examined, they are. The life of resurrection embodied in the Gospel tells us a much different story.

Sadly, we live as if the grave is the end. While we may give the wonder of heaven a blink now and then, its glory really doesn't impress us or matter all that much. It's all about the here and now and what I need to do today to get where I want to be tomorrow. We tend to put off considering the one significant “tomorrow” that will come the millisecond after we take our last breath. When that happens, will we want to be thinking “so what?” or “alleluia”?

There is only one Jesus, one mission, and one resurrection. There is also only one of us. Have you ever pondered what one solitary, humble human life can do? Faith, not our world, tells us how special we are. We are not robots. We are not replaceable. We have one shot. There are no do-overs. Love is at our core and unites us together as one with the God of love who so desperately wants us to be with Him forever. This may not match our secular agenda, but it ought to make our true inner agenda leap for joy. There doesn't need to be an end. I can live forever. Alleluia!

## Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, April 10  
8:15 am – **Laurie Anne Sullivan †**

Tuesday, April 11  
8:15 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

Wednesday, April 12  
8:15 am – **Jeanne Vighi †**

Thursday, April 13  
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**

Friday, April 14  
8:15 am – **Hazel and Baby Daniel Gordillo †**

Saturday, April 15  
*No Mass*

Sunday, April 16  
10 am – **Pamela Dean Gordillo †**



## 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

# 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!

## New Members Are Welcome!

If you've been joining us at St. Thomas for Mass and you would like to become a member of our St. Thomas Parish family, we welcome you with open arms! So if you're looking for a parish family we'd love to have you make ours yours! Be sure to introduce yourself to us so we can get to know you and serve you better!



## A Daily Prayer for Justice and Mercy

Jesus, united with the Father and the Holy Spirit, give us your compassion for those in prison.



Mend in mercy the broken in mind and memory. Soften the hard of heart, the captives of anger. Free the innocent; parole the trustworthy. Awaken the repentance that restores hope. May prisoners' families persevere in their love.

*I was in prison and you visited me.  
(Mat 18:32-33)*

Jesus, heal the victims of crime. They live with the scars. Lift to eternal peace those who die. Grant victims' families the forgiveness that heals.

Give wisdom to lawmakers and to those who judge. Instill prudence and patience in those who guard. Make those in prison ministry bearers of your light, for all of us are in need of your mercy! Amen.

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### **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.

### **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.

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



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*Lisa Coffman*

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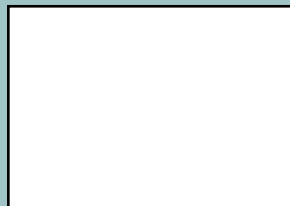
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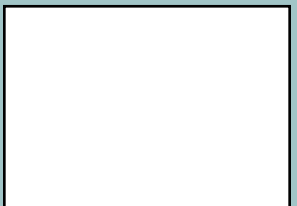
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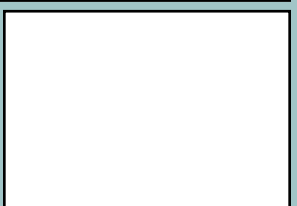

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