

Divine Mercy Sunday • April 16, 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

Peace and pardon

The disciples of the Lord, in great fear, locked themselves away in the upper room. Jesus breaks in upon them to declare two realities.

To be at peace is first – from him, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. To extend pardon is second – given not just to the Twelve but to all the followers. Four of the spiritual works of mercy fall into this pardoning need. There is much we can do.

- What have we to fear?
- How can I bring peace to my home and work?
- What delicate work of pardon and forgiveness will fill my words and actions?

Forgiveness has risen from the grave!

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. When experienced, we are moved to do all in our power to avoid sin and embrace the loving presence of our risen God.

We all are wounded by experiences of imperfect love. We also are tempted to demand from God proof of His fidelity and goodness. We are like St. Thomas the Apostle who, on that second Sunday of Easter, demands proof of the Lord's resurrection.

God stands ever ready to receive us and wants nothing more than for us to come home. How reluctant we are to believe this truth! We want absolute assurance that what we have been told is true. Jesus has risen from the dead and brings us peace. It is the gift of wholeness and holiness that is breathed upon us by God's life-giving and healing mercy!



Mary Magdalene's Gratitude to Jesus

One of the virtues we often do not talk about is gratitude. Yet, this virtue gave Mary Magdalene the unequalled privilege of being the first to hear the voice of Christ and see his face after the Resurrection.

We read in John 8:1-11 the story of Mary Magdalene, how she was caught in adultery and about to be stoned to death by some scribes and Pharisees.

The Jewish custom of the time required that anyone seen in adultery be stoned to death. But before the scribes and Pharisees brought Mary Magdalene to Jesus, they had already decided to stone her to death.

But desperately looking for charges against Jesus, they came to see if he would contradict the law of Moses.

Unfortunately for the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus neither opposed the law of Moses nor approved of their hypocrisy.

Instead, Jesus responded to Mary Magdalene's 'hopeless' situation in a way that the hypocrites could not stand the shame and emotional torment they felt when Jesus charged anyone who had no sin to first throw their stone against Mary Magdalene. They were all guilty of the same sin for which they wanted to stone Mary Magdalene to death.

Saving Mary Magdalene from the hands of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus charged her to go and sin no more. From that moment, Mary Magdalene will love and care about Jesus out of a deep sense of gratitude for saving her life from the hands of the hypocrites. She did this even to the point of taking the risk of spending multiple hours at the tomb of Jesus.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

Those who put Jesus to death guarded the grave in such a way that it was dangerous for any of his followers to near the tomb. But out of deep gratitude, Mary Magdalene took that risk going back and forth visiting the tomb and was rewarded with being the first to hear the voice of Jesus and see his face after the Resurrection, even before the twelve apostles.

Gratitude to Jesus for his blessings in our lives is a virtue that can attract more blessings to us. Let us, by our words and actions to one another, express our gratitude to Jesus every day for our family and loved ones, our catholic faith, material possessions, and accomplishments. For our good health and the experiences that have made us who we are today.

Fr. Peter

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.

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
April 9	\$6,126.	\$5,000.
April 16	\$6,053.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$203,047. \$195,000.

Short/Ahead: -\$1,953.

R/M Donations	.....	\$245.
Sister Parish Donations	.....	\$355.
Palm Sunday	.....	\$580.
Easter Flowers	.....	\$15.
Easter Sunday	.....	\$895.
Holy Land / Good Friday	.....	\$895
Seminarians	.....	\$1,315.
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	.....	\$90.

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 16

10 am – **Pamela Dean Gordillo †**

Monday, April 17

8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**

Tuesday, April 18

8:15 am – **Patrick Hayes †**

Wednesday, April 19

8:15 am – **Cindy Harding †**

Thursday, April 20

8:15 am – **Christopher Kennedy †**

Friday, April 21

8:15 am – **Hazel and Baby Daniel Gordillo †**

Saturday, April 22

No Mass

Sunday, April 23

10 am – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**

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, 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,
Ed Schanuel, Ron Shinall,
Brenda Sullivan, Virginia Thompson,
JoAn Wayne, Pete Wayne, Jan Vandercar,
and Tami Wittenauer

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Marriage Tip this Week:

“As I have done for you, you should also do,” Jesus tells his disciples after washing their feet. (Jn 13:15) A tall order! Talk with your spouse about ways to “wash their feet” – do small, humble acts of service for each other.

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our sympathy and prayers of comfort to Carolyn Ankrom and the family of **Jim Ankrom** (87), who passed into eternal life on Tuesday, April 4.

Jim was a lifelong member of St. Thomas Church. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Host the Vocations Crucifix

Praying for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life is a great way to pray together as a family during the year and the add to your prayer life. Why not sign up to host the Vocations Crucifix in your home for a week? The signup sheet is on a table in the back of church.



Let the Parish Pray for Your Intentions

The **parish petition book** is located on a stand in the chapel under the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. These intentions will be remembered in our intercessions at all Masses. If you would like the parish to pray for your intention, please write the intention in the book. Talk to Jesus about your special intention in prayer.

Divine Mercy Celebration, April 16

The Feast of Divine Mercy Celebration will take place this **Sunday, April 16, at 2 p.m. at St. Patrick Church.**



The presider is **Fr. Chris Comerford**. The Divine Mercy service includes Adoration and Confession from 2 to 3 p.m. and then Praying of the Divine Mercy chaplet and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please come and celebrate this special feast!

Prayer Shawls Available

Do you know someone who is ill or grieving a loss? Perhaps they would enjoy the comfort of a prayer shawl that was created by women of the Prayer Shawl Group. The shawls have been blessed at Mass. Call Deacon Kevin at the parish office or speak to him after Mass to arrange to pick out a prayer shawl for someone.

Calling All Graduates!

During the month of May several members of our parish family will be graduating from High School, College, or receiving advanced degrees. We want to celebrate these important milestones with you!



If a member of your family is graduating or has recently received an advanced degree, we would appreciate it if you would please call the parish office at **877-4146** or email at **StThomasDecatur@gmail.com** and give us the following information for your graduate:

- Name of the student
- High school or college, and
- The degree received

We would like to recognize our graduates for their achievements. Thank you!



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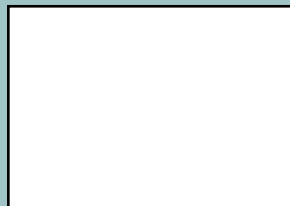
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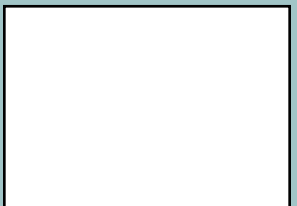
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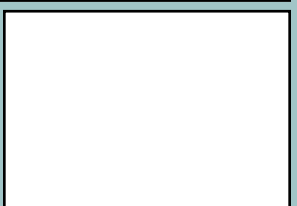
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