

3rd Sunday of Easter • April 23, 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

Jesus Has Time for You!

Look at the stunning “Road to Emmaus” story we hear this week. It’s the day Jesus rose from the dead. And the Risen One appears in disguise to two disciples.

He walks with them, chats with them, and eventually eats with them. When Christ spoke the words of blessing over the bread the eyes of the disciples were opened, and they saw him for who he was — God in flesh and blood before them.

It could have been hours he spends with them — two unnamed persons — in the middle of nowhere. On the day he rose from the dead!

Take this to heart: The Risen Jesus is not too busy to spend time with you! He doesn’t have “better things to do.” You and I are members of this crucified and risen Body.

He therefore has all the time in the world to be with us. So, approach him confidently in prayer and conversation. After all, being with you and me is the reason he rose from the dead.

Show Us the Path

We have all had jobs that leave us feeling unfulfilled. Bored. Dreading the next day. Most of us have also been lucky enough to have a job that we love — a calling that makes us look in the mirror and think, “this is who I’m supposed to be. I recognize this person.”

Perhaps that work is the work of marriage and motherhood. The hours are terrible, the pay is even worse. But when you look in the mirror every morning you think to yourself: “I recognize this girl. I was born to do this.”

I hope that whatever work you are doing, you can look in the mirror and feel your heart burning within you. Let’s ask Jesus to show us the path of life.



What was Jesus doing after Resurrection and before Ascension?

One of the things I have observed as a priest is that people from various age groups usually ask certain kinds of questions. Working in the parish, one will quickly get used to the questions that adults and seniors ask because they are usually more visible in most parishes. But to get used to the questions that young people ask, one must be privileged to work in ministerial settings involving young people – grade school, high school, college, and so on.

Being a priest for almost three years now, I have had the privilege of doing ministries where there are young people. This is especially of high school, where I can predict what kind of questions to expect when a student approaches me to ask a question. Since I have been a high school chaplain for almost three years as a priest, I am more used to teenagers and their questions about our faith and life. But college chaplaincy has been new to me. I started being a college chaplain at Millikin University last summer.

Of the many incredible experiences that I have had at Millikin this past year, one that I find most insightful was the question a student asked me a few weeks before Easter at lunch with a couple of them. The question was about what Jesus was doing after his Resurrection and before his Ascension, whether he spent time with his mother or not.

It was easier to answer the first part of the question. But whether Jesus met and spent any time with our Blessed Mother after the Resurrection and before Ascension or not, I never thought about it. That question aroused my curiosity to find out more about the activities of Jesus after the Resurrection and before the Ascension.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial Administrator

By now, you expect me to answer the question for you. Since Easter, we have read from the Acts of the Apostles daily at Mass. I invite you to take some time and read the whole Acts of the Apostles and find out for yourself the answers and more beautiful insights about the activities of Jesus after his Resurrection and before his Ascension. Or, much better, attend daily Masses – where we have been diving deeper into the Acts of the Apostles.

Fr. Peter

How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy


Use an ordinary rosary.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross
2. Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and The Apostles' Creed
3. On the Our Father beads say:
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
4. On the Hail Mary beads say:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
5. Repeat for the five decades.
6. Conclude by repeating this prayer 3 times:
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



During this Easter 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



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 16	\$3,686.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$206,733.	\$210,000.
Short/Ahead:	- \$3,267.	

R/M Donations	\$195.
Sister Parish Donations	\$165.
Palm Sunday	\$30.
Easter Sunday	\$895.
Holy Land / Good Friday	\$30.
Seminarians	\$145.
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	\$30.

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, April 23
10 am – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**
- Monday, April 24
8:15 am – **Polly and Norm Hensley †**
- Tuesday, April 25
8:15 am – **Christine Kerns †**
- Wednesday, April 26
8:15 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**
- Thursday, April 27
8:15 am – **Lori Anne Sullivan †**
- Friday, April 28
8:15 am – **Bill Mahler †**
- Saturday, April 29
No Mass
- Sunday, April 30
10 am – **James Ankrom †**

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:

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed!” (Jn 20:29) While we don’t see the Risen Lord like Thomas did, we still encounter Him in the Eucharist. Thank God for the gift of His mercy which is ever abundant and ever new.

Join Us for Bible Study at St. Thomas

Looking to grow in your faith? You’re invited to try out our Bible Study!



Deacon Kevin leads the Bible Study group on Tuesday mornings, from 9:15 -10:15 am in the chapel at church. We’ve been studying the post-resurrection appearances of the Risen Lord in all the Gospels.

In addition, we’re diving deeper into the scriptural background and identities of the “Three Marys” and unidentified women who are variously featured in Gospel stories. It’s easy to mix them up!

Please join us in learning from scripture in a fun, informative, and friendly setting. If you’ve never joined a bible study group before, no problem! You’ll feel right at home. You’re warmly invited!

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.

Calling All Graduates!

Please Let Us Know **THIS SUNDAY**

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



If a member of your family is graduating, please **speak to Kathy Brown after Mass** on Sunday in the back of church. You can also 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

100th Anniversary Committee Meeting **THURSDAY, APRIL 27**



Fr. Peter will hold a meeting in NEXT WEEK with anyone who wants to be part of planning our 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2025. The meeting will be held **NEXT THURSDAY, APRIL 27 at 6pm** in the rectory basement. (Apologies for the previously published incorrect date in May.)

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.

Prayer Shawls Are Available

Do you know someone who is the Gospels are often confusing and 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. Call Deacon Kevin at the parish office or speak to him after Mass to arrange to pick out a prayer shawl for someone.



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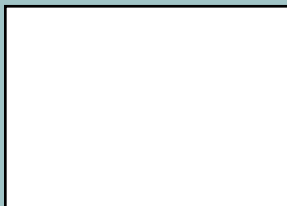
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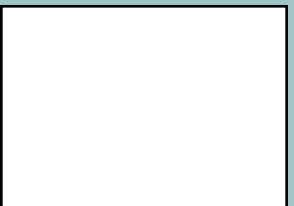
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