

4th Sunday of Easter • April 30, 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

Listen to the Voice of the Lord!

When you wake up in the morning, whose voice is the first one you listen to? Your own? Someone else's? Or God? We all listen to someone and follow some sort of guidelines and principles.

Comparing his disciples to sheep and himself to a shepherd, Jesus says, "They recognize his voice." He speaks to us and wants us to respond. When we hear his voice, we follow. Throughout this coming week, we will experience many interior promptings to receive God's love, and to love Him in return. That's his voice. Follow it into the safe and tender arms of Christ.

Some voices we will hear do not convey God's concern and love for us, but rather produce fear, despair, and other harmful mischief. Jesus calls these voices those of robbers. Does an idea or thought make it harder for you to love God? If so, run away. Let it go. It is most likely not the voice of the Risen Lord. Keep waiting for him to speak. You will recognize his voice. Then run to him as fast as you can.

"I Am the Gate"

Doorways and gates can protect those within. This is the image of Jesus today – gate and protector, shepherd and guide.

There is only one gate that leads to everlasting life.

Let Psalm 23 fill our prayer every day this week.

- Because I am protected by the Good Shepherd, whom will I protect this week? How will I do it?
- On what right paths will I let myself be guided?
- What goodness and kindness will shine through my thoughts and actions this week?



Pray For Our Graduates and Wish Them Well.

Before he died almost three years ago, my dad, Pius Chineke, often said, "The young look up to the old so they can attain old age, while the old nurture the young so they can have people to take their place when they are gone." This expression is one of my father's many statements I will not forget in a hurry. It reminds me of the need to love and care for older people and why as a young man (at least in my mind), I should be open to the nurturing words of advice and the caring support of older people.

Beyond the individual level, our societies, organizations, and communities will do well to abide by the philosophy of that expression. Our young should look up to the old, while the old must do well to care about the young for continuity. Any human institution where the young do not look up to the old or where the old do not care about the young, that institution has little or no chance of survival.

As a parish with a mostly older population, we must do well to encourage our young people, get them involved in our parish life, and show them as much love and support as we can if we must have people to worship in this sacred space in a few decades from now. To do this, we are recognizing our young graduates today. Two are graduating from high school and one from middle school.

Grant Reid, a young man with a great love for our Lord Jesus and his Church, has been one of our altar servers since I came here almost a year ago. Coming from a devout catholic family where the catholic faith is important, Grant is serious with his faith. Knowing his parents and grandparents, I know the bars are high enough, but Grant is equal to the task. He will be graduating from high school this May.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

Mary Kate Lehmann, a young lady from St. Teresa HS, is one of our student leaders in the school. Very devout, pious, and disciplined, Mary Kate carries herself with dignity and decorum in school and beyond. She is one of our best students at St. Teresa. Mary Kate has been a regular member of our Church with her mom, who obviously has given Mary Kate an excellent foundation and love for our Lord Jesus. She will be graduating from high school this May.

Lydia Worsham, a graceful young lady with the best smile in the world, Lydia will be graduating from 8th grade at St. Patrick School this May. She is blessed to have her mom, grandma, and great-grandma, all active and devout Catholics. Lydia's joyful personality and excitement in attending Masses with her family says so much about the beautiful upbringing she enjoys from her family.

Please, keep these students in your prayers and support them with best wishes as they make these transitions. They are the future of our church, country, and world. May God continue to bless them, their families, and their teachers. Amen.

Fr. Peter



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 23	\$4,714.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$211,447.	\$215,000.
Short/Ahead:	- \$3,553.	
R/M Donations.....	\$50.	
Sister Parish Donations	\$55.	
Palm Sunday.....	\$23.	
Easter Sunday	\$333.	
Holy Land / Good Friday	\$35.	
Seminarians.....	\$45.	
Catholic Home Missions Appeal.....	\$35.	
Retired Priests/Peter's Pence	\$20.	

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 30
10 am – **James Ankrom †**
- Monday, May 1
8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**
- Tuesday, May 2
8:15 am – **Pat Hayes †**
- Wednesday, May 3
8:15 am – **Mary Epping [L]**
- Thursday, May 4
8:15 am – **Cindy Harding †**
- Friday, May 5
8:15 am – COMMUNION SERVICE
- Saturday, May 6
No Mass
- Sunday, May 7
10 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

† Deceased [L] Living

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, 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, JoAn Wayne, Pete Wayne, Jan Vandercar, and Tami Wittenauer

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Marriage Tip this Week:

“Romance is an important part of marriage, but so is friendship. Be sure to cultivate both aspects of your relationship. No couple is perfect, but in the best marriages, both partners are always working to make the relationship better. Don’t give up!”

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.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Grant Reid son of Cara and Steve Reid and grandson of Ginny and Ed Reid. Grant is graduating from Maroa-Forsyth High School in May.



Mary Kate Lehman, daughter of Bill and Michelle Lehman. Mary Kate is graduating from St. Teresa High School on May 14.

Lydia Worsham, daughter of Lisa and Shane Balding and Granddaughter of Cheri Knotts and great-granddaughter of Ilene Nolan will be graduating from St. Patrick School on May 12.

Our parish family is proud of our graduates and are happy to honor them at our Mass today and coffee and doughnut gathering following.

In further recognition of their achievements in reaching these milestones, bags will be placed in the back of the church for parishioners to put cards to express their personal congratulations and well wishes.

The bags will be available next Sunday through Mass on May 14, the weekend of their respective graduation ceremonies. They will be presented to them that day.

Please join us after Mass to celebrate with our "almost graduates" and their families!

If there any other grade school, high school, or college graduates from St. Thomas, please call the Rectory (217-877-4146).

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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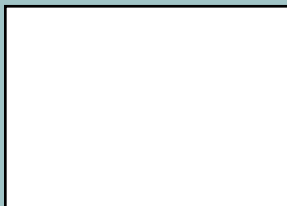
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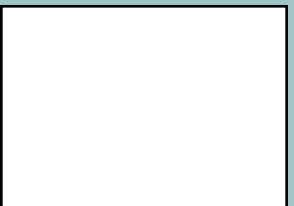
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