

5th Sunday of Easter • May 7, 2023

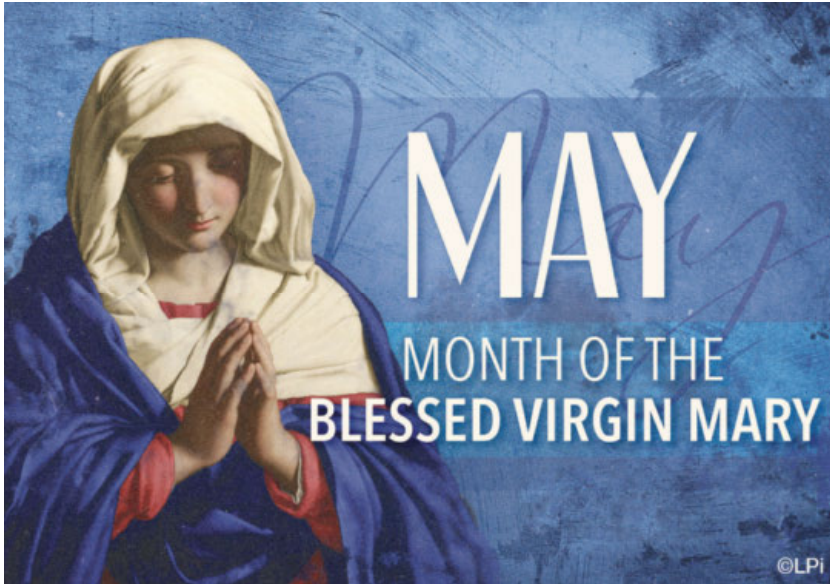


St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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

Why is May the Month of Mary?

The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Mary, came about in the 13th century. Some say because it was created to replace various pagan cults. The actual reason is the fact that this month is the time when spring is at the height of its beauty. Spring is also connected with nature renewing itself.

In her way, Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to our savior Jesus Christ. The link between Mary and the month of May became popular among the members of the Jesuit Order — by 1700 it had a firm hold among their students at the Roman College and a short time later it was publicly celebrated in the Gesu Church in Rome. From there it spread to the rest of the Church.

Devotion to Mary is one an important part of the Catholic identity. As our mother she is an example of a committed “Yes” to the will of God. Because of the devotion to her many people ask her for help in the most difficult moments of their life as any child does with his mother.

CONTEMPLATE

You are a ‘chosen race, a royal priesthood’

The baptized exercise their priesthood in many ways: at Sunday Mass, in private prayer, and in daily work.

At Mass, we offer the sacrifice of our lives with that of the priest, who symbolizes Christ the Priest. In our prayer, a “morning offering” prayer is a great way to offer up all the joys and sufferings of the day to come.

In our daily work, we sacrifice our time, comfort, money, and energy to do good for others. All this gives the deepest possible meaning to our lives: we share in the priesthood which saves the world. That’s at the core of our faith.



Parish Committees

One of the great signs of a flourishing church is the presence of various committees that are both actively engaged in their missions and religiously cooperating with their priest. Such committees need membership of parishioners who are not only competent but willing to discharge their duties for the good of their church.

One of the more common requests I received when I first arrived at St. Thomas was to help revitalize the parish. I have not only taken this request very personally, but I have also committed to making St. Thomas parishioners revitalize their parish themselves. After ten months of being your parish administrator, I can proudly say that you (St. Thomas Parishioners) have done an incredible job.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

Your parish FINANCE COUNCIL is now more serious about its duties to the parish. Chaired by Diane Sullivan, this committee has been meeting more often and stepping up to its responsibilities of working with its priest for the continued growth of the parish.

You also have a newly constituted PASTORAL COUNCIL headed by Cara Reid. The overall administration of this parish and the many beautiful things going on in the last several months have been made possible through this committee's collaborative and cooperative work.

Also, our HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE is the best in the world. This committee, led by Kathy Brown, has been responsible for the success of our parish donut Sundays, the graduate recognition, the birthdays, and many other hospitable activities and actions in the parish. It was only possible for me with such an organized and fantastic group to work with.

With the recommendation and help of the finance and pastoral council, we also have a BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE. This committee, chaired by Paul Wayne, has been proactively engaged in the overall maintenance and updating of our parish structures. I am confident in what they are doing and very hopeful about what they can accomplish in the next few years.

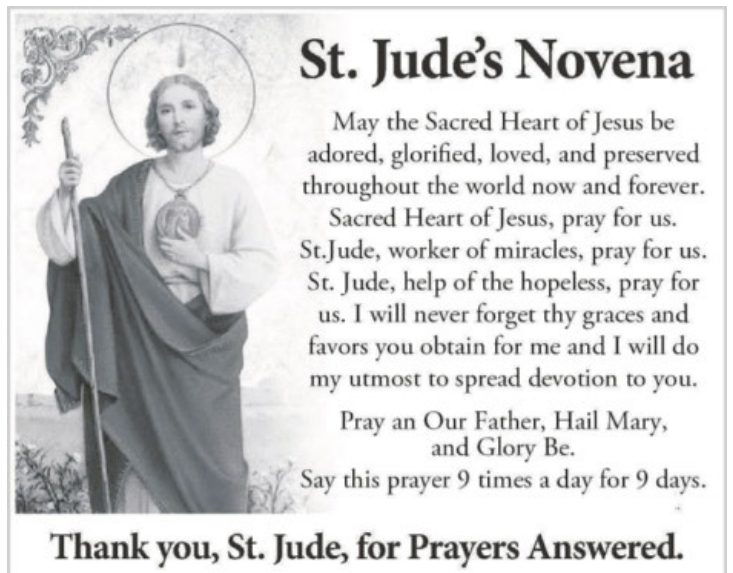
Finally, is our 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE. This committee is still in its formative stage. Currently headed by Susie Wayne, this committee is still open to new members and will meet for the second time in August to establish its mission and vision as a parish committee specifically responsible for the planning and execution of the activities that will characterize our parish centenary celebration in 2025.

These groups and their members are mainly responsible for the tasks of their committees. But I want to encourage us as a parish and as individuals to do all we can to support them in any way they need us to continue working for our parish.

The spiritual and physical growth of any parish is not the responsibility of any priest or bishop but that of the members of the parish. The parish belongs to you. And I challenge you to continue your great work to revitalize your parish, whose future is your responsibility.

May God continue to bless us all. Amen.

Fr. Peter



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 30	\$3,304.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date:	\$214,751.	\$220,000.
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Short/Ahead: - \$5,249.

R/M Donations.....	\$26.
Sister Parish Donations	\$50.
Palm Sunday.....	\$2.
Easter Sunday	\$12.
Decatur Calvary Cemetery	\$20.
Catholic Communications.....	\$20.
Catholic Home Missions Appeal.....	\$560.
Retired Priests/Peter's Pence	\$60.

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, May 7

10 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

Monday, May 8

8:15 am – **Cynthia Peterson**

Tuesday, May 9

8:15 am – **James Ankrom †**

Wednesday, May 10

8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**

Thursday, May 11

8:15 am – **Elvira Anita Sansone †**

Friday, May 12

8:15 am – **Matthew Kirby †**

Saturday, May 13

No Mass

Sunday, May 14

10 am – **Cindy Harding †**

† *Deceased*

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:

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things." (Lk 10:38-42) What things are stopping you from being like Mary, at peace at the feet of the Lord? Talk about it with your spouse.

Food for the Hungry

Just a reminder that we have an on-going Food Drive for Catholic Charities every weekend of the year. A few cans and boxes of food makes a big difference to people who may otherwise go hungry.



Here are some ideas:

- dry pasta, jars of pasta sauce,
- canned fish and meat (salmon, tuna, ham, turkey —pop-top cans are best),
- canned vegetables and fruit,
- instant potato packets,
- peanut butter, jam and jelly,
- and canned beans.

Thanks for your caring and generosity for people in our community!

Reporting Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse

To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy or other church personnel—even if it is in the past—individuals are encouraged to call the Diocese's Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number at 217.321.1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE.

May Crowning THIS Sunday

Our annual May Crowning will take place after Mass this **Sunday, May 7.**

It is a Catholic tradition to honor Mary, our Mother, during the month of May by placing on her statue a crown of flowers. The

May Crowning gives our parish family an opportunity to honor the Blessed Mother of Jesus, and to give thanks to her for bringing our Savior into the world.

We invite family and friends to share in this devotion, and we ask families to bring flowers to place before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima on the south lawn of the rectory.



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.

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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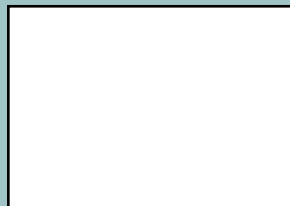
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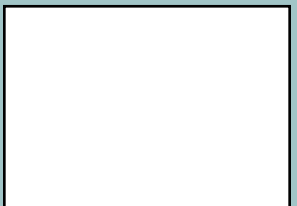
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CONTACT ME
Brandy Stivers

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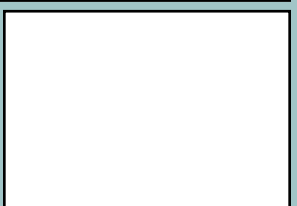
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