

6th Sunday of Easter • May 14, 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-Thursday 8:15 am

Reconciliation

Sundays: 9:15 - 9:45 am

Wednesdays: 7:30 - 8:10 am

Decatur Catholic Radio

WDCR 88.9/96.5

SCHEDULE CHANGE

No Friday Masses

There will not be Friday morning Masses or First Friday all-day Eucharistic Adoration from Friday, May 19 through Friday, July 28. Fr. Peter will be gone for his studies. Father has made arrangements for priests to cover our Sunday and weekday Masses until he returns.

CONTEMPLATE

Come, Holy Spirit!

If we love Christ, we will keep his commandments, and the world will not accept us. But we are not left orphans — God sends us an Advocate. Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!

Blessed Mother's Day

Today we celebrate Mother's Day. This day is on our calendar to remember and honor the woman who gave us life and the opportunity to live in a wonderful world.

Perhaps we can take our mothers out for a meal, buy them a nice gift, go and visit them, or show our love to them through a phone call, email, or a card.

This is MOM'S day. We can all remember them in some special way. If our mother has gone to be with the Lord we can take some time to pray to her, tell her how life is going and how much we miss her.

We ask God to bless our Mothers...

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you give life and care for your Church.

Bless our mothers, as we celebrate this day in their honor. May they be strengthened as Christian mothers.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor and appreciate them with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed Virgin Mary, The Perfect Mother!

In 8th Grade (J.S.S.2 in Nigeria), I was part of a group of 12 students that made a presentation (songs and recitations) to mark that year's Mother's Day celebration in our school church station. One of the songs we presented in my native language (Igbo) has fine lyrics in which the composer beautifully articulated who a mother is. As we practiced that song during our practices, I gradually filtered through my mind the women that fit into the composer's description of a mother. One of the women that I immediately realized to be a mother for the first time was my 5th-grade teacher – Ms. Immaculata. Although she was never married and had no children, Ms. Immaculata fitted well into one of the composer's descriptions of a mother.

Loving and lovable, caring and willing to be cared for, and attentive to the needs of her students, Ms. Immaculata stood out as a perfect mother according to the song we practiced and presented that Mother's Day. Although a strict disciplinarian, my 5th Grade teacher made everyone (her students) feel so unique and important in and outside the classroom. Although she died suddenly a few years after my grade school, the beautiful memories and positive impacts of Ms. Immaculata live on in my heart and that of her hundreds of students.

Many of us, today, think of motherhood as exclusively for women who give birth to children or adopted and raised children. Motherhood is more than bringing a child into the world. It is more than adopting and raising a child. Many women have given birth to children or adopted children but cannot in good conscience be proud to answer mothers. But there are those who although have no natural child of theirs, have invested so much time, energy, resources, love, and attention in caring for people around them.

Knowing the indispensable place of mothers in society, our Lord Jesus Christ gave his mother to




Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

the world through John the Evangelist. Before he expired on the Cross, Jesus told Mary to take care of John. John represents the whole of humanity. Jesus entrusts us, through John, to the ever-compassionate motherly love of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Knowing her too well to be a perfect mother, Jesus, by commending humanity to the maternal care of Mary, invites all women to look up to Mary joyfully and passionately as a model of motherhood.

Today, one of the easiest ways for a woman to live a highly fulfilled life as a mother is by having a relationship with the mother of Jesus. This is for women who give birth to children or raise children or have none. Mary suffered terribly and endured pain, humiliation, mockery, and powerlessness in the face of persecution. She had only one child - Jesus. The wicked authorities forcibly took Jesus from Mary and killed him in her presence. Mary lived a chaotic life from the moment she conceived Jesus until Jesus' death. But instead of making her grow bitter against God and doubt his existence, Mary grew even closer to God and cared for the apostles, whom she mothered throughout Jesus' public ministry.

As we celebrate our mothers today, let us pray that God will continue to bless them with the grace of motherhood. This motherhood is not limited to giving birth to or adopting and raising children. But motherhood involves a deep desire to love, care, and give the gift of oneself totally for the love of God like our Blessed Mother Mary.

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
May 7	\$3,304.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$219,400. \$225,000.

Short/Ahead: - \$5,600.

R/M Donations.....	\$140.
Sister Parish Donations	\$220.
Decatur Calvary Cemetery	\$55.
Catholic Communications.....	\$40.
Retired Priests/Peter's Pence	\$100.

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. Your bank then mails a check to the parish. If interested, you might speak to your bank about the option.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, May 14
10 am – **Cindy Harding †**

Monday, May 15
8:15 am – **Bill Mahler †**

Tuesday, May 16
8:15 am – **Christopher Kennedy †**

Wednesday, May 17
8:15 am – **Marge Collett †**

Thursday, May 18
8:15 am – **Polly and Norm Hensley †**

Friday, May 19
No Mass

Saturday, May 20
No Mass

Sunday, May 21
10 am – **Pat Hayes †**

† *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:

Moses had his relatives; Jesus had the Apostles; even the Lone Ranger had Tonto. Do you have a community of friends and relatives who can back you up, and support you in your marriage and parenting?

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.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Change for LIFE



Donate in the Gathering Area

Babies need your help. Please pick up a Baby Bottle in the Gathering Area and fill with your Change, Cash or Checks. Money raised will support New Life's life changing work of meeting physical & spiritual needs of men and women facing an unexpected pregnancy...and Saves the Life of their Baby!

Begins Mothers' Day to Fathers' Day

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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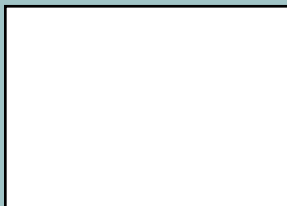
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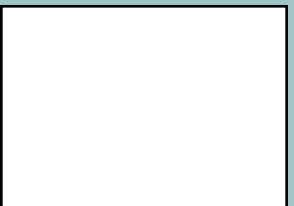
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