

6th Sunday of Easter • May 14, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



Our pilgrimage trip on May 5-6 to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, was a huge success. It was safe, enjoyable, and well-attended. Most importantly, it was a fruitful time of prayer and fostered community among the pilgrims.

The Ascension of Jesus

Today we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus, when the one who came from heaven now returns to heaven. It also signifies his exaltation and glorification, as He is seated at the right hand of God

"When he [Jesus] had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-51) Jesus Ascension demonstrates His authority and power, affirms His divinity, and paves the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which is celebrated ten days after the Ascension. It provides hope for believers, as it promises Jesus' eventual return to earth in the Second Coming.

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

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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.

JESUS SAYS TO US

Go. Proclaim. Jesus going to heaven did not give the disciples permission to go home, put up their feet, and dream about the good old days.

Jesus said: Go everywhere! Proclaim the gospel! I will work with you.

A WORD FROM FR. PETER

A Pilgrimage of Prayer and Community

Our pilgrimage trip on May 5-6 to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, was a huge success. It was safe, enjoyable, and well-attended. Most importantly, it accomplished the three primary goals of being a pilgrimage and a time of prayer and fostered community among the pilgrims.

A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place. Our trip was a pilgrimage because the place we visited was a Shrine. Raymond Cardinal Burke, a prominent cardinal in the Church and a native of Wisconsin, founded the shrine some fifteen years ago. Whom we were so privileged to interact with and receive his apostolic blessings. The shrine is consecrated and dedicated to our Lady of Guadalupe. The Nobertine fathers – a religious group of priests – currently manages the shrine.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

As a pilgrimage of prayer, we were graced with the opportunity to celebrate Masses those two days, had confessions, and prayed the complete twenty decades of the rosary on the bus to and from the pilgrimage. We also had a prayerful scripture reflection session at the shrine with a holy hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on both days – moments of incredible spiritual encounters with God.

Being a pilgrimage intended to foster community life, we got to know each other better. The beautiful interactions, sharing of meals, memorizing each other's names, taking pictures and selfies even with the cardinal are moments of bonding and socialization. It was refreshing and inspiring to see our people spending real time with others, even with people they had never interacted with before the trip. We made new friends and fostered fraternal solicitude even with people from other places and parishes who joined the trip.

Because of the generous donations of some of our parishioners, we could pay for more than what we promised to pay for the group. We also have some

leftover funds after the pilgrimage. We agreed on the bus with the suggestion to help Henry's family with some of the surplus funds from the pilgrimage for Henry's orthopedic surgery. But on second thought, I decided we create a pilgrimage account with the parish and deposit the remaining funds there since we hope to make more pilgrimages like this in the future from the parish. As for Henry, if anyone feels moved to help his family financially to save Henry's life, please get in touch with me for details of his situation and needs.

In the next few weeks, we will find a way to get some of our fine pilgrimage pictures to all those who participated in this year's pilgrimage. What a blessing to have made this trip with a fine, loving, and supportive group of people from our dear parish and neighboring parishes. May God's love and blessings continue to multiply in your lives. Amen.



Thank you so much for the Rosary, Bible, and generous gift card. It is really appreciated. My parents and I have really enjoyed going to St. Thomas these past few

months. The community created at this church is very welcoming and bright. I will always feel welcome here even after I go to college. Thanks for the gifts again. The church and community are in my prayers!

— **Mary Kate Lehmann**
2023 graduate of St. Teresa High School



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 14	\$4,576.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$223,976. \$230,000.

Short/Ahead: - \$6,024.

R/M Donations.....	\$160.
Sister Parish Donations	\$320.
Decatur Calvary Cemetery	\$130.
Catholic Communications.....	\$120.
Retired Priests/Peter's Pence	\$80.
Seminarians	\$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.

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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, May 22
8:15 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

Tuesday, May 23
8:15 am – **Robert Midden †**

Wednesday, May 24
8:15 am – **James Ankrom †**

Thursday, May 25
8:15 am – **Cheri Knotts**

Friday, May 26
No Mass

Saturday, May 27
No Mass

Sunday, May 28
10 am – **Christopher Kennedy †**

† *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:

A trip down memory lane: Recall the first full day of your marriage. Did you go on a honeymoon? Was it exhilarating or exhausting? Remember your first home as a married couple. What did you like best about it? Are you still in it? Reminisce together.



Corpus Christi Procession
Feast of the Body and Blood
of Jesus Christ
Sunday, June 11, 2023

City Wide Event - Sponsored by All Parishes

Come and join us during the Year of Eucharistic Revival

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament—1:30 pm
- St. James Church
- Sermon on the Eucharist—2:15 pm
- Procession from St. James to St. Patrick Church
- with the Holy Eucharist—2:30 pm
- Benediction—3:00
- The Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit
1:00—5:00 pm
- St. Patrick Church Basement
- Refreshments at the Knights of Columbus
- Following the Service



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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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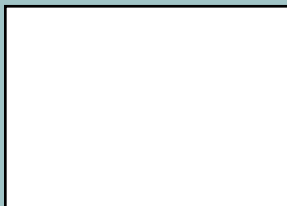
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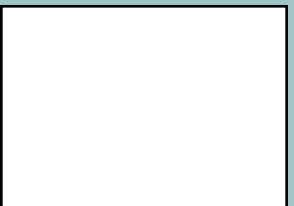
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