

Solemnity of Pentecost • May 28, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



Come Holy Spirit, Fill Our Hearts!

The phrase “being filled with the Holy Spirit” may summon forth images that are a bit too intense for some folks.

They may conclude that when one is filled with the Holy Spirit that they immediately begin speaking in tongues, loudly praise God, sing alleluia from roof tops, and do other demonstrative things. In reality, being filled with the Holy Spirit means being filled with the fullness of God’s life and in touch with the power and wonder of God’s presence.

It is the Holy Spirit that draws us together as a community of faith, inspires us with wisdom and right judgment, and turns us from the darkness of sin to the virtues that bring life.

We live in a world where it is hard to discover truth. Real truth is veiled by so many imposters that it is hard to find, especially for those who are young. It is easy to get fooled and duped into walking down a path of self-absorption and destruction. The Holy Spirit, through the ministry of the church, guides us to truth and shows us the way to be the graced human beings God made us to be. Come, Holy Spirit, and fill our hearts!

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.

JESUS SENDS US

Because locked doors cannot keep him away, Jesus comes.

He gives his standard Easter greeting: *Peace be with you.*

Then he says: Go, I send you. To us, too, this very day.

We cannot stay behind in locked rooms.



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

Blessings from the Holy Land of Jesus Christ

Our This morning (Tuesday, 5/23), I arrived in Israel with a fine group of Catholics from across our Diocese of Springfield for an 11-day pilgrimage. During this time, we will visit and pray in the most important places where our Lord Jesus, his earliest disciples, and the first Christians lived and worked/walked. We will offer Masses daily in these holy sites and read the scripture passages about these places. We will also listen to and ask questions of our tour guard.

Some of these places we will visit include the Sea of Galilee in John 21:1-14, Jesus' Boat Museum in Luke 8:22-25, Mt. Beatitudes site of the Sermon on the Sea in Luke 8:22-25, the Church of the Multiplication of loaves and fishes in John 6:1-15, House of St. Peter in Capernaum in Matthew 8:14-17, the site of the Annunciation in Luke 1:26-38, Transfiguration site at Mount Tabor in Luke 9:28-36, Cana site of Jesus' first miracle in John 2:1-12, place of Jesus' baptism in Jordan river in Matthew 3:13-17, Jericho Mount of Temptation in Luke 4:1-13, the sycamore tree of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10, Church of the Good Shepherd in Jericho in John 10:1-18, Bethany and the Tomb of Lazarus in John 11:1-44, Emmaus appearance in Luke 24:13-35, and the site of Mary's visit to Elizabeth in Luke 1:39-56.

We will also visit the Shepherd's Fields in Luke 2:8-20, Hebron and the Tombs of the Patriarchs in Acts 7:9-16, the Pool of Bethesda in John 5:1-9, the site of Jesus' flagellation in John 19:1-16, Mount of Olives in Luke 22:39-46, site of Jesus' Ascension in Luke 24:50-53, Pater Noster Church in Matthew 6:9-13, Dominus Fleuit in Luke 19:41-44, Garden of Gethsemane in Matthew 26:36-46, David's Tomb in 1Kings 2:10-12, the Cenacle (Upper Room) in Acts 1:12-26, and several other places of deep scriptural and historical significance like the Church of St. John the Baptist, the Church of the Nativity, the Milk Grotto, the basilica of St. Helen in Bethlehem,



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial Administrator

the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Church of St. Anne in Jerusalem, the Bethphage, Mary's Tomb, Church of All Nations, Mt. Zion, the Dormition Abbey, and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu.

This is not my first time visiting the Holy Land, but my first time leading a group here for a pilgrimage. Some of us already know how important I consider pilgrimages in our faith and spiritual life. I have had the privilege to travel to several countries for missions, academic and evangelical conferences, and pilgrimages. Words can never be enough to articulate the oneness, apostolicity, holiness, and universality of the Church that I have witnessed in these travels. The impacts of these exposures and experiences on my life as a person, a Catholic Christian, and a priest are divine gifts I will forever cherish in my life and ministry.

If you have any specific prayer intentions you want me to pray for, please, do not hesitate to email me at pchineke@dio.org. Praying for you all – my parishioners, friends, and family is a critical part of my pilgrimage here in the Holy Land.

Fr. Peter



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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the birth of the Church when the Risen Christ poured out His Spirit upon the first disciples to begin the preaching of the gospel.

As we gather on this very beautiful feast of Pentecost we are reminded that God has not abandoned us but has left us the gift of the Holy Spirit as an advocate and guide. Pray that the Holy Spirit shows you where you need love and healing today and, perhaps, the courage and confidence to tackle something that has been burdening your heart and mind.

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
May 21	\$2,405.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$226,381. \$235,000.

Short/Ahead: - \$8,619.

R/M Donations.....	\$1,055.
Sister Parish Donations	\$50.
Catholic Communications.....	\$60.
Retired Priests/Peter's Pence	\$40.
Operation Rice Bowl	\$298.81

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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, May 29
8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**

Tuesday, May 30
8:15 am – **Bill Mahler †**

Wednesday, May 31
8:15 am – **Mary Jane Shimp †**

Thursday, June 1
8:15 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

Friday, June 2
No Mass

Saturday, June 3
No Mass

Sunday, June 4
10 am – **Louis Vighi †**

† *Deceased*

PARISH OFFICE

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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, **Rev. Jason Stone**, Carolyn Thorpe, Ed Schanuel, Ron Shinall, Brenda Sullivan, JoAn Wayne, Pete Wayne, Jan Vandercar, and Tami Wittenauer

Cards for Our Graduates

Our parish family is proud of our 2023 graduates! We recognized their achievements after Mass a few weeks ago. Bags with their names have been placed in the back of the church for cards to express your personal congratulations and well wishes to these young people.

The bags will be available through THIS Sunday, May 28.

Grant Reid, son of Cara and Steve Reid and grandson of Ginny and Ed Reid, Grant graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School.

Mary Kate Lehman, daughter of Bill and Michelle Lehman, Mary Kate graduated from St. Teresa High School.

Lydia Worsham graduated from St. Patrick School, She is the daughter of Lisa and Shane Balding, and Granddaughter of Cheri Knotts and the great-granddaughter of Ilene Nolan.

Savannah Mounce, daughter of Tom and Tracy Mounce, and granddaughter of Lucia Mounce, graduated from St. Teresa High School.

**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

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

Come and join us in a city-wide Corpus Christi procession during this Year of Eucharistic Revival. The procession is sponsored by all parishes.

- **Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament—
1:30 pm at St. James Church
- **Homily** on the Eucharist—2:15 pm
- **Procession** from St. James to St. Patrick Church with the Holy Eucharist—2:30 pm
(Transportation provided for those unable to walk.)
- **Benediction** at St. Patrick Church —3 pm

Please join us at a **social gathering** at the Hall at 520 afterwards, provided by the Knights of Columbus.

You are invited to visit the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit that will be on display in St. Patrick Church basement.

Vatican International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

Saints James and Patrick Parish will host the Eucharistic Miracles exhibit June 10-11 and June 17- 18 in St. Patrick Church basement.

- Saturday hours are 10 am - 6 pm
- Sunday hours are 9:30 am -4 pm.

Please make some time to come and tour this special exhibit.

Dealing with Loss

Those who have experienced the loss of a loved one often find healing and support through sharing with others with similar experiences. Ss. James & Patrick Parish is hosting a grief session on Tuesday, June 13th at 5:30 pm in the parish house at St. James. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Donna at 422-4534



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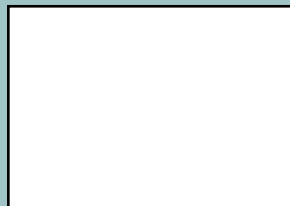
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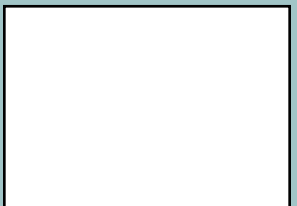
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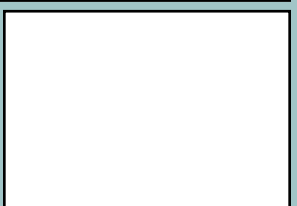
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