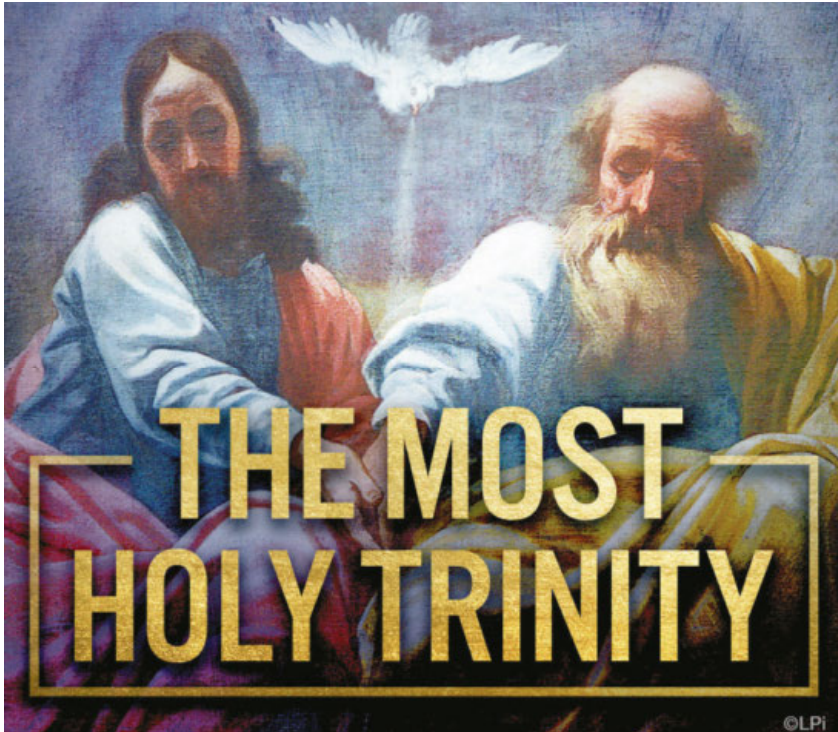




## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526 (217) 877-4146 StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



### **God Is Greater Than We Expect!**

God's presence is so vast and powerful that it's hard for our minds to comprehend. Sometimes, we try to fit God into our own expectations and end up limiting Him. This can make it difficult for us to truly understand and accept God for who He is. Some people even lose their faith because God doesn't meet their expectations.

The Holy Trinity is a concept that is best experienced rather than analyzed. Only by being close to the Trinity can we truly feel the immense and unique presence of God, as well as the loving closeness of the God who wants us to see Him as a father figure.

God guides us with love, helping us move from fear to confidence. He is a God who exists in the past, present, and future, and His presence is felt in every era, season, and moment. God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, surpasses any expectations we may have if we simply allow Him to be who He truly is.

### **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 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 ASSURES US**

What doubt do I have about God, about belief, about Church, about living in this world?

Remember, we are not alone. Matthew ends with Jesus declaring, "I am with you always" just as this gospel began with the Virgin's birth of Emmanuel (God is with us). Turn to the Lord in prayer when in doubt.

## A WORD FROM FR. PETER

### Peaceful, Not Violent!

One of the challenging obstacles for American Christians (Catholics and non-Catholic followers of Christ) to visit the Holy Land is the idea that it is a violent place. The nation of Israel and most Palestinian territories Christians call the Holy Land may not be the most peaceful place on earth. Still, these places are more peaceful than most American cities like Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, New York, and many others. But the modern world, in its anti-Christianity agenda, leaves no stone unturned in convincing the rest of Christendom through its propagandist media that the Holy Land is a war zone where every life is at risk.

When you want people to enjoy the rich cultural, religious, and spiritual heritages of our faith in the Holy Land and invite them for a pilgrimage, it becomes a herculean task to convince them of their safety when they go. For this reason, most priests who lead these pilgrimages often go with friends and parishioners who trust the priest. But it should not be so. Every Christian, especially Catholics, who can afford it, should make a pilgrimage to the holy land at least once in their lifetime.

For many reasons, St. John Paul II encouraged Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land. First, it is one of the most charitable ways for the rest of Christendom to support the Christian minorities in the Holy Land who face extinction. If Christians vanish entirely from the Holy Land, retaining the holy sites in Israel and the Palestinian territories would be impossible.

The Muslims are doing everything they can to ensure that Christianity phases out from the Holy Land. They keep buying the church properties and the homes of Christians with large sums of money. They also sponsor fake news and anti-Christian secularist activities of world media to distract Christians from the rest of the world in extending fraternal support to the Christians in the Holy Land.



**Fr. Peter Chineke,**  
*Parochial  
Administrator*

The Holy Father, St. John Paul II, also encouraged pilgrimages to the Holy Land because such visits to the historical places where it all began help deepen our Christian faith and solidify our relationships with Christ.

While I was there these last two weeks with thirty men and women from across our diocese, we saw about twenty other groups worldwide, including the United States. Another group from our diocese, led by Fr. Chris House of Christ the King in Springfield, arrived in the Holy Land while we were there. In these two weeks, we visited and prayed in many sites and shrines across Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem, Jericho, Cana, Bethlehem, Jordan Valley, and Mount of Olives. During this time, we enjoyed a peaceful time of spiritual renewal, time away from the noisiness of our daily routines, and fraternity. The Holy Land is peaceful, not violent.

*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**

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday, and it's a time for us to think about the concept of God as a unity—as a Lover, a Beloved, and a shared Love. Or, as we also proclaim, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If we allow it, this mystery heals our temptation toward self-hatred and destruction.



We all know how terrible it feels to look in the mirror and not recognize the person staring back at us. It's equally awful to know ourselves but still have a strong dislike for who we are.

Jesus, the Son of God, teaches us how to truly understand and love ourselves. On this Trinity Sunday, we can ask the Holy Trinity to guide us in seeing ourselves honestly and to help us love the person we see in the mirror.



	Collected	Budgeted
May 28	\$4,519.	\$5,000.
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	\$230,900.	\$240,000.
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$9,100.</b>	

R/M Donations.....	\$75.
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$55.
Catholic Communications.....	\$5.
Retired Priests/Peter's Pence .....	\$670.
Decatur Calvary Cemetery .....	\$87.

**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.



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

Monday, June 5  
8:15 am – **Polly and Norm Hensley †**

Tuesday, June 6  
8:15 am – **Elvira Anita Sansone †**

Wednesday, June 7  
8:15 am – **Jean Litchfield**

Thursday, June 8  
8:15 am – **Paul Vighi †**

Friday, June 9  
*No Mass*

Saturday, June 10  
*No Mass*

Sunday, June 11  
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



## 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

## Q: What is the role of Catholics in society?



**A:** God wants us in the hospitals, the board rooms, the law offices, the food pantries, and the little league games! We are to engage in the affairs of the world. But when we're there, we should live the plan of God. We need to respect those around us, engage in just business and legal practices, and love our children. We should care for the earth, use our money wisely, and get to know our neighbors. We must advocate for social policies that respect human dignity and human freedom. No matter our state in life, we are invited to build the kingdom of God!

## Lunch Bunch

The St. Thomas Lunch Bunch will meet at **El Rodeo** by WalMart north on **Tues, Jun 13** at 11:15 a.m. Join us for food and great conversation! Come join us!

## 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 will be provided for those unable to walk the distance. )
- **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 13<sup>th</sup> 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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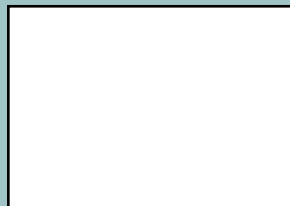
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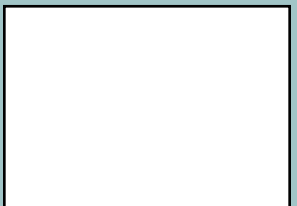
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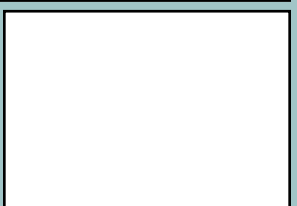
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