

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time • June 18, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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



Sharing God's Unconditional Love

In the world that we live in, it is easy to forget the powerful truth that has been bestowed upon us by God: "Without cost we have received, without cost we are to give." It's a simple, profound message that encapsulates the very essence of our faith, and the guiding principle behind the way we're called to live our lives.

As followers of Christ, we have been given an abundance of love, grace, and mercy that knows no bounds. This boundless love is not earned, nor is it given to us as a reward for good deeds.

Rather, it is freely bestowed upon us by God in all his magnificence, who asks for nothing in return. God's love is our greatest treasure. Let's take that love and share it with the world, freely, abundantly, and unconditionally, just as He has done for us.

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.

MAIL for FR. PETER

Fr. Peter's Summer Address in Washington, DC:

Rev. Peter Chineke

Marian Scholasticate

3885 Harewood Road, NE

Washington, DC 20017



Three Years in the Priesthood of Christ

What a blessing to have been a priest these last three years! Tomorrow, June 19, 2023, my seven classmates in the Diocese and I will be three years in the priesthood. Fr. Dominic Vahling in Springfield; Fr. Michael Berndt in Effingham; Fr. Piotr Kosk in Taylorville; Fr. Pawel Luczak in Newton; Fr. Michael Meinhart in Nokomis; Fr Michael Trummer in Edwardsville, Fr. David Beagles in Robinson; and I here in Decatur.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial Administrator

The priesthood is a mystery, but we can glimpse of what it is when we prayerfully read Hebrew 5:1-14. In this passage, the author explains that it is not a profession that anyone can pursue but a vocation that one can only receive from God to offer oneself for the service of the people of God. Aaron in the Old Testament and others like Samuel received this call.

In the New Testament, having instituted the sacred priesthood at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20), the apostles became the first people that Jesus called to the priesthood to continue His saving ministry (Christus prolongatus) on earth. In the two thousand years history of our Catholic faith, Christ has raised priests from every race and tongue, people, and nation to continue this saving ministry.


The priesthood as a vocation has always been challenging as it requires the entirety of the one who answers the call. And because we live in times where priesthood has become the sole target of the devil and his human, organizational, and institutional agents, the priesthood is fast becoming undesirable. The mistakes and failures of some of our brother priests have worsened this

problem. Unfortunately, Satan seems to be gradually achieving his goal of ridding humanity of the Catholic priesthood.

But thankfully, the good example and witness of many of our priests in the diocese, the holy and courageous leadership that our diocese has enjoyed these last thirteen years of Bishop Paprocki's episcopacy, has done us so much good in the diocese. In addition to about thirty young priests that Bishop Paprocki has ordained for our diocese since 2010, we also have about thirteen young men in the seminary preparing for the priesthood.


On the third anniversary of my priesthood, I sincerely ask for your prayers for me and my seven classmates and our bishop, priests, and seminarians. Pray also for our deacons and religious brothers and sisters in the Diocese. Let God's grace, love, and mercy always be abundant in our lives and ministries, and all the people entrusted to our pastoral and spiritual care will continue to experience the love of God in their lives. Amen.

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



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
June 11	\$3,705.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$240,903.	\$250,000.
Short/Ahead:	- \$9,097.	

R/M Donations..... \$80.
 Sister Parish Donations\$235.
 Retired Priests/Peter's Pence \$70.

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.

Online giving is also available:
<https://parishgiving.dio.org/stthomasdecatu>

Mass Intentions for the Week

- Sunday, June 18
10 am – **Pat Hayes †**
- Monday, June 19
8:15 am – **Barbara Hertel**
- Tuesday, June 20
8:15 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**
- Wednesday, June 21
8:15 am – **Matthew Kirby †**
- Thursday, June 22
8:15 am – **Christopher Kennedy †**
- Friday, June 23
No Mass
- Saturday, June 24
No Mass
- Sunday, June 25
10 am – **Jane Welch †**

† *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, Tom Mounce, Rev. Msgr. James O’Shea, Joe Perry, Art Richard, Kay Russell, **Roz Sandage**, Rev. Jason Stone, Carolyn Thorpe, Ed Schanuel, Ron Shinall, Brenda Sullivan, JoAn Wayne, Pete Wayne, Jan Vandercar, and Tami Wittenauer

Q: Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting?



A: Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means “to bend the knee.” For many Catholics, it’s an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of “bending the knee” is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept.

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 to arrange to pick out a prayer shawl for someone.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

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The 2023 Campaign Ends Today on Father's Day

Please return your Baby Bottle to the bassinette in the Gathering Area.

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New Members Are Welcome!

If you've been joining us at St. Thomas for Mass and you would like to become a member of our St. Thomas Parish family, we welcome you with open arms!



So if you're looking for a parish family we'd love to have you make ours yours! Be sure to introduce yourself to us so we can get to know you and serve you better!

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.



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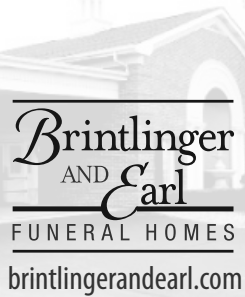
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