

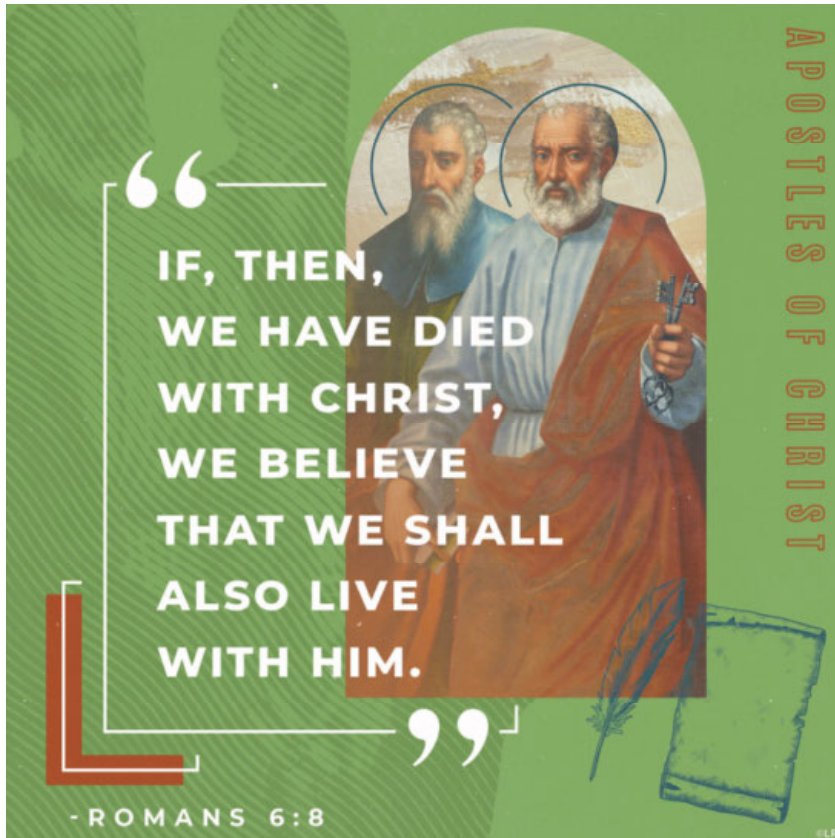


St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



Hope and Purpose in Christ

When we choose to follow Christ, we become deeply connected to Him. Just as Jesus gave His life on the cross, we are called to surrender our old selves and embrace His transforming love. This surrender leads to a new life tied to the One who conquered sin and death. Through faith, we experience His presence and resurrection power in our daily lives.

Romans 6:8 fills us with hope. Through faith in Jesus, we believe that just as He rose from the grave, we too will have eternal life with Him. This promise is firm, grounded in Christ's victory over sin and death.

In tough times, we find comfort knowing that the One who overcame all obstacles holds our lives securely. Living with Christ empowers us to persevere, knowing our eternal destiny is secure.

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

Do Not Deny Me Before Others

Today, we read from the Gospel of Matthew 10:26-33. The revised edition of the New American Bible (NABRE) gives today's gospel passage the title: "Courage Under Persecution." At the beginning of the chapter, we read about the mission of the Twelve as Christ entrusted it to them. Next is the commissioning of the Twelve. After commissioning them and instructing the apostles on where to go for their missions and what to do, Christ told them about the coming persecutions. Seeing how afraid they were becoming, Christ charged them to be courageous under persecution. But the last thing he said to them in that passage, which we read at today's Mass, is: "But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father (Matthew 10:33).



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

After seeing how fearful the apostles were becoming and charging them to be courageous in proclaiming him in word and deed in all the corners of the world, Jesus concluded the session with a threat. This is what a literal reading of the passage may suggest. But the Bible is not a novel or an ordinary literature book. So, we don't read it as such. Instead, as the living book that it is, we read it prayerfully and meditatively, attracting the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to understand what Christ intends for us.

Christ will deny before the Father whoever denies him before others means that when we deny him in the world, he becomes absent in us. Then, when we appear before the Father at the judgment and the spirit of Christ is lacking in us, God will not attend to us. His Son that has been given to us is to mark us for salvation. When that mark of salvation is absent, one should not expect salvation.

Now, how do we deny Christ before others? When we pick and choose what we want to believe and not believe in the teachings of the Church – the Bride of Christ. Living as hypocrites and making no effort to repent from our sinful habits. The habit of living in and bearing grudges without effort to

forgive people who offend us. Selfishness with one's intellectual and material wealth with refusal to use them to better the lives of others. To be unnecessarily critical of others in and out of season, even when living in more severe sins. Allowing political correctness to determine where and how one practices their faith. Our participation at Masses and other spiritual services of our faith only when convenient.

These are some ways we can kick Christ out of our lives. Then, when we appear before God in judgment, He will not find the mark of salvation in us, which is Christ himself. This is what Christ means by: "But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

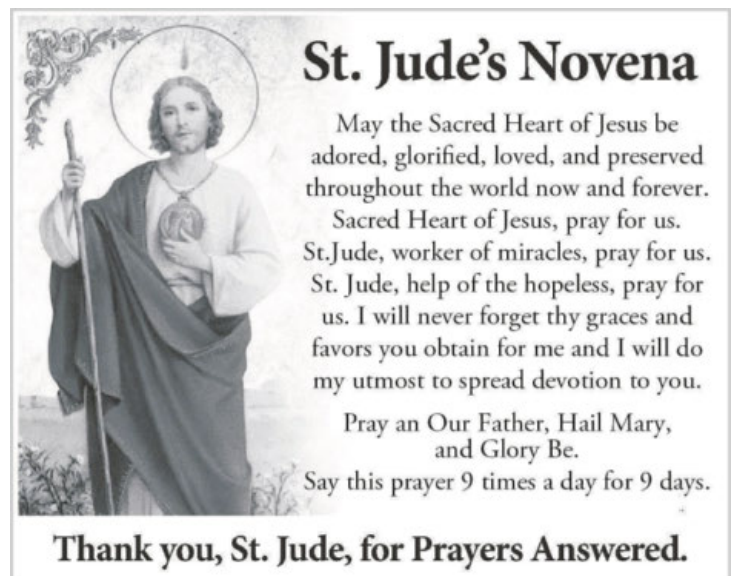
May God grant us the grace and courage to acknowledge him in word and deed this week and all the rest of our lives. Amen. Have a blessed week ahead!

Fr. Peter

Prayer Shawls Are Available

Do you know someone who is 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. The shawls have been blessed at Mass. Call Deacon Kevin at the parish office or speak to him after Mass to arrange to pick out a prayer shawl for someone.





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 18	\$2,121.	\$5,000.

Year-to-Date: \$243,024. \$255,000.

Short/Ahead: - \$11,976.

R/M Donations.....	\$23.
Sister Parish Donations	\$45.
Peter's Pence	\$10.

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 25
 10 am – **Jane Welch †**

Monday, June 26
 8:15 am – **Cherie Moran**

Tuesday, June 27
 8:15 am – **Glenann Schultz †**

Wednesday, June 28
 8:15 am – **Richard Harding**

Thursday, June 29
 8:15 am – **Polly and Norm Hensley †**

Friday, June 30
No Mass

Saturday, July 1
No Mass

Sunday, July 2
 10 am – **Mary Lou Gardner †**

† *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, Kay Russell, Roz Sandage, Libby Spainhour, Rev. Jason Stone, Carolyn Thorpe, Ed Schanuel, Ron Shinall, Brenda Sullivan, JoAn Wayne, Pete Wayne, Jan Vandercar, and Tami Wittenauer

Q: What is Lectio Divina, and how is it associated with the Benedictine Monastic tradition ?



A: Benedict desired his monks to live in community, praying the Liturgy of the Hours together, contemplating sacred texts, and doing manual labor. The monks developed a technique to facilitate a spiritual and devotional reading of the Bible known as Lectio Divina, the holy reading of a text. This method encourages the reader to hear the biblical text with an open heart and focus on whatever God wants to highlight and then apply it to daily life.

There are variations on Lectio Divina, but essentially, the technique consists of a three-step process of reflection. When the reflection is done with a group, the responses are shared by all the participants.

Once the text is selected, it is read meditatively, and the following are then explored: a word or phrase that attracts you; how and where the content of this reading touches your life today; what you believe that God wants you to do during this coming week (month, year, lifetime).

Thanks to Benedict, the Christian community has been gifted with this special way of entering into the biblical text. This week, use the Lectio Divina process on one of the readings for the coming Sunday and make a note of how this reflection is drawing you closer to God and others.

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.

Do you have St. Thomas treasures in your garage or basement?

Our 100th Anniversary of the founding of St. Thomas is in 2025. We've been collecting items of historical interest to be included in the celebration.

So you can imagine our surprise when a parishioner came by the rectory a few weeks ago with a small piece from the original altar of the church! Do you know of any other altar furnishings from the former church?

It sure has been a mystery as to what happened to everything. Please let us know! Talk to Deacon Kevin after Mass if you have any info.



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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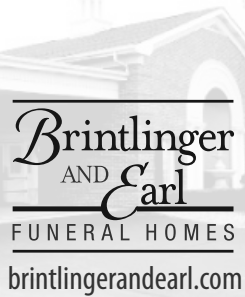
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