

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 2, 2023



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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



### 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

#### **Embrace the Gift: True Freedom from God**

As we celebrate our country's independence, let's think about the amazing gift of freedom. We appreciate the freedoms our country gives us, but where does real freedom come from? It is a special gift from God, not the world.

The world deceives us into believing success requires money, power, and popularity. We're trapped by a system that disregards Jesus' teachings. God's freedom resides within our hearts, requiring us to let go of worldly attachments. With a heart filled with God's peace, no one can take that away.

Jesus taught his followers to travel light, emphasizing that the Gospel transcends material possessions and worldly influence. Choosing to live for Christ means choosing true freedom bringing lasting joy.

So, let's not be fooled by the surface-level idea of freedom. Instead, let's seek the true freedom that comes from following Christ. When we do that, we will experience a freedom that goes beyond what the world offers. It will free our hearts and give us a deep and lasting peace.

**Saints Peter & Paul –  
Messengers of the Gospel**

Last Thursday, June 29th, we celebrated the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, the preeminent apostles and the two spiritual pillars upon which the Church of Christ is built. These men of grace, while humans in every sense of the word, responded to their call to discipleship with all they had and were when Christ came into their lives. One of the most profound things about them is that they were not perfect when they received the privileged call to walk/work with Christ.

Before their call to discipleship, there was nothing perfect about Peter and Paul – the call that brought them to perfection. In his words in Romans 7:1-25, Paul narrated his struggles with sin and how he would end up, even after his conversion, often doing the things he did not want to do. Though seldom speaking in a rather theological language, Paul expressly confessed his weaknesses and limitations in his life of discipleship. But in all those spiritual struggles, Paul did not stop giving himself in word and deed to the discipleship of Christ every day for the rest of his life after his conversion.

Similarly, reading the Gospels, we see Peter as a man of many weaknesses. First, he could not keep a few hours of vigil praying with Christ during his agony in the garden. Second, he could not defend the master he loved so dearly when the master was captured. Instead, he denied Jesus not once nor twice but three times.

As if that was not enough, the same guy would often take Christ aside and rebuke him for predicting his passion. However, despite these acts that reveal the depth of his brokenness, Peter did not hesitate to give his life entirely for the Gospel when he was called upon to do so (John 21:15-19).

What can we learn from these men of grace and exemplary Christian virtues? My favorite phrase, as some of us may already know when preaching



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

about the saints, is: “They used all they had and were for the gospel of Christ.” This is precisely true with Peter and Paul. They did not only give their lives for the enthronement of the Gospel. They also shared their moral strengths and intellectual, material, and spiritual riches in touching the lives around them until their last breath on earth.

May Saints Peter and Paul intercede for and obtain the graces to selflessly continue to serve God and the people in our lives with our spiritual, material, intellectual, and moral gifts. And may we continue to grow in our spiritual lives. Amen.

Happy and Blessed New Month to YOU.

*Fr. Peter*

*Congratulations* We're proud of **Mary Lou De Vera** for being named as the *Woman of Distinction* for Saint Thomas Parish by the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Our honoree was selected in appreciation for her service to God, parish, and community. She will be recognized this month by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki at a Mass and reception in Springfield. Congratulations, Mary Lou, we appreciate all you do for our parish!

**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 25	\$2,766 .	\$5,000.
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$245,790.</b>	<b>\$260,000.</b>
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$14,210.</b>	

R/M Donations ..... \$35.  
 Sister Parish Donations ..... \$35.  
 For the Needy ..... \$237.

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

Monday, July 3  
 8:15 am – **Christopher Kennedy †**

Tuesday, July 4  
 8:15 am – **Matthew Kirby †**

Wednesday, July 5  
 8:15 am – **Vern Wilson**

Thursday, July 6  
 8:15 am – **Jeanne Vighi †**

Friday, July 7  
*No Mass*

Saturday, July 8  
*No Mass*

Sunday, July 9  
 10 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

† *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**

Betty Althoff, Rachel Flick, Kevin Henry, Jim Hertel,, Ann-Marie Hillyer, 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, Libby Spainhour, Rev. Jason Stone, Ed Schanuel, Ron Shinall, Brenda Sullivan, JoAn Wayne, Pete Wayne, Jan Vandercar, and Tami Wittenauer

## **Mission Sunday, July 16 for the Archdiocese of Kampala in Uganda**

On Sunday, July 16, the missionary from the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda, East Africa will be visiting us to ask for your prayers and financial support for the mission work of the Archdiocese. Fr. Dennis Kasule will be with us to share information about the ministry.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Kampala is one of the 19 dioceses in Uganda, East Africa,



covering 3,644 square kilometers. It has a total population of 4.9 million people, and 1.9 million (41%) are Catholics.

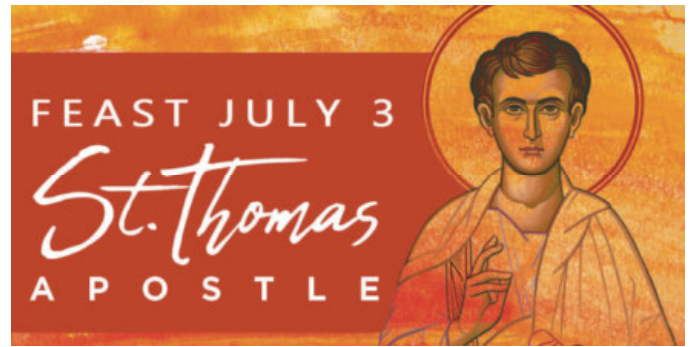
The Archdiocese has both rural and urban areas. They have a strong team of 387 priests and a dedicated cohort of both lay and religious leaders. The Archdiocese serves 74 parishes, 443 mission/village churches, 67 schools, 4 hospitals, 19 health centers and several social service units.

Fr. Dennis says that although their need for financial support is quite extensive, for the 2023 Missionary Cooperation Plan they are focusing on the pastoral ministers who serve the parishes and Institutions.

God has blessed them with a number of priestly vocations. However, the parishes in rural areas are not self-sufficient, and there is a need for a consolidated fund to ensure a priests' monthly stipend. Many rectories need repair and renovation to install running water and sanitary facilities.

Fr. Dennis says that they are so grateful for your gracious and generous support for the Archdiocese. He looks forward to praying with us and making an appeal on behalf of the Archdiocese of Kampala on July 16.

Please be as generous as possible. Thank you!



## **St. Thomas the Apostle ~ Prayer for Faith**

Almighty and ever living God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with sure and certain faith in your Son's resurrection:

Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight;

Through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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## **Save the Date for Diocesan-Wide Celebration of the Eucharist**

To celebrate the Year of the Eucharist and the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the See city of our diocese from Alton to Springfield, a Eucharistic Congress is taking place Saturday, October 28 at the BOS Center in Springfield.

This event will include talks from nationally recognized Catholic speakers, adoration, confession, and Mass. Stay tuned for how to get free tickets. There will be no Masses at parishes on Saturday, Oct. 28. You're wanted in Springfield!

St. Thomas Parish has been given 25 tickets for our parishioners for the Eucharistic Congress in Springfield at the BOS Center on October 28.

These are available on a first come first served basis. Please contact Deacon Kevin in the Parish Office starting July 5 to reserve your tickets. Please be prepared to share your name, email address, mobile phone number, primary language and any disabilities that may need accommodations.



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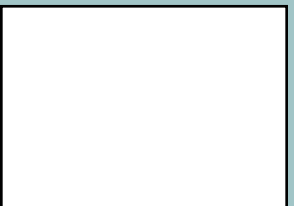


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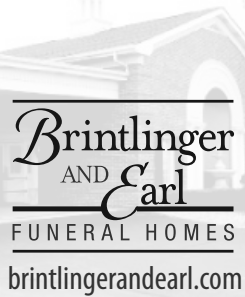
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