

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 9, 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

The love of Jesus Christ and the life of the spirit can pick us up, refresh us.

“The flesh is our old self of yesterday and the one we left behind in baptism. It is the self of doubts and fears, sin and error, reluctance, untamed passion, and errors in judgment. It is also the self of missed opportunities and roads untraveled.

Although we were baptized many years ago, every day is another day to live, not according to the flesh of yesterday with its regrets and misgivings, but rather to live the life of the spirit of today and tomorrow. The burdens of our personal baggage and of life itself can weigh us down.

The love of Jesus Christ and the life of the spirit can pick us up, refresh us, and provide us with the hope for new opportunities and discoveries. Because we have been baptized in Christ, we need not be anxious about what we did or did not do yesterday or anxious about what will come.

St. Thomas the Apostle Feast Day: July 3

Often when St. Thomas the Apostle is mentioned the first thing we recall is his doubt upon hearing of Jesus' resurrection and tremendous return to faith when Jesus invited him to touch the wounds of His crucifixion, crying out "My Lord, and My God!" We see him depicted reaching towards Jesus' wounds, and rightly meditate on doing so ourselves. Why were Jesus' wounds not healed away? Why does God carry scars? These are beautiful places to pray into, but I would like to propose an additional meditation for all of us this week. In 1945, awaiting execution in a Berlin jail cell for his resistance to the Nazi regime in Germany, the Jesuit priest Fr. Alfred Delp wrote this reflection:

There are hours when we can do only one thing: gather up all our woe and extreme plight into one imploring shout, one simple cry for mercy and help. And to cry it out or scream it or weep it or whimper it to the God who wants to save. To moan out all the woe within us into the sacred space where God touches our self and loves it and is good to it. Sooner or later all thinking and all attempts at flight must cease. Then we must lie very still so that the thorns of the thicket into which we have fallen won't inflict new wounds. Lie very still and know our impotence and seek for God's healing hand. There are the wounds of affliction, but then again there are the wonders of affliction. Even in our most extreme distress we must not give up trust. We should remember that the Lord God shares our life, that the Holy Spirit calls us into intimacy with God.... God's creating and healing Spirit is present to every fiber of our being.[Alfred Delp, from his meditation on the Veni, Sancte Spiritus.]

Notice what this great priest realizes before his being murdered by the Gestapo: that our wounds are the places where Christ allows us to come closest to Him. Certainly Thomas encountered Jesus in a new way when he touched Jesus' wounds, but Jesus also met Thomas in a new way when the doubting apostles allowed Jesus to touch his wounds!

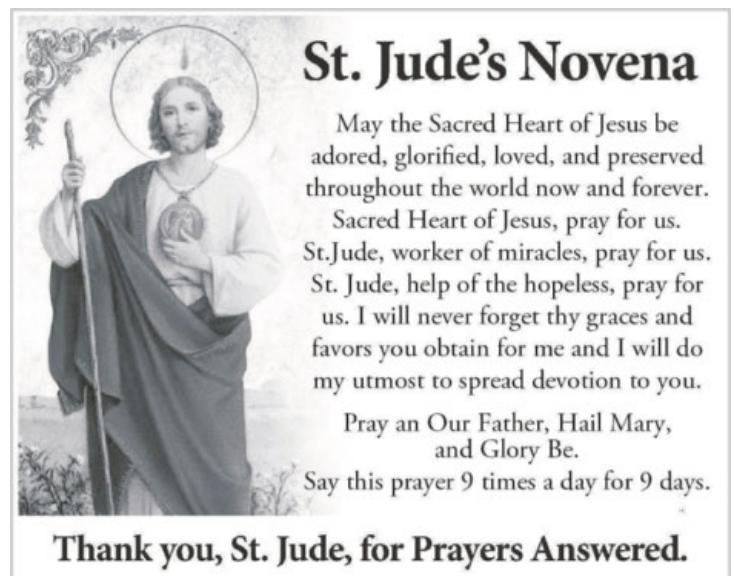
Why was St. Thomas not in the upper room? A boy once conjectured to Fr. Alford that perhaps Thomas was out shopping, or at the barber, and perhaps St. Thomas was! I think that Thomas is just the kind of guy to have the guts to go out and do necessary things while all the other apostles were

petrified in fear. Glancing back to an earlier passage in St. John's Gospel, we see Thomas boldly challenging the other disciples to "go [to Bethany, where Lazarus had died], that we might die with him", with Jesus (John 11:16). He does seem to have been given a greater gift of courage!

Similarly, on an earlier occasion in the upper room, on the evening of Holy Thursday, Jesus told the apostles: "Let not your hearts be troubled ... I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." (John 14:3-4) Recall Thomas's response: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" It's a good question! It again shows a man with the gumption to follow Jesus, come what may – but with an important caveat – as long as he knows the way.

I suspect all of us are willing to follow Christ when the road is flat, clear, and obvious, but what about when He just says "keep your eyes on me and keep walking", and we can't see a thing? When the storms are crashing around and He asks "Is it enough that I'm in the boat?" What about when I'm about to preach and still have nothing to say? When someone is sick, and nothing is helping? When the day's duties feel heavy, or insignificant, or I feel incapable, or unloved? Are we willing, with Thomas, to step up to Jesus, to see His wounds, and let Him see ours?

Fr Dominic Rankin



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.

Q: What is the Church's view on prenuptial agreements?



A: Why would a couple want a prenuptial agreement if marriage is “until death do us part”? If the prenuptial agreement specifies how assets and liabilities will be assigned in the case of a divorce, would that not suggest that one or both of the spouses does not accept that marriage is indissoluble? If so, there would already be a serious crack in the foundation of the marriage.

While the term “prenuptial agreement” isn’t used in canon law, the notion is expressed in Canon 1102: “A marriage subject to a condition about the future cannot be contracted validly.”

Nevertheless, there may be some circumstances where a prenuptial agreement would not contradict Church teaching, and that would be the case where the disposition of assets and liabilities is assigned according to the parties’ wishes, but only in the case of death. Such a prenuptial agreement would be acceptable.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, July 9

10 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

Monday, July 10

8:15 am – **Marge and Delmer Collett †**

Tuesday, July 11

8:15 am – **Matthew Kirby †**

Wednesday, July 12

8:15 am – **Pat Hayes †**

Thursday, July 13

8:15 am – **Rita Faith †**

Friday, July 14

No Mass

Saturday, July 15

No Mass

Sunday, July 16

10 am – **Matthew Kirby †**

† *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)

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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

Next 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 next Sunday.

Please be as generous as possible. Thank you!

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Marriage Tip this Week:

We often take the ones we love for granted on small things. Be courteous! Always say 'please', 'thank you' to your spouse, even for small things... like making dinner or taking out the garbage. Give the one you love the same courtesy you give to a stranger.

Fr. O'Shea's Address

Fr. O'Shea has moved into assisted living in Springfield. He would love to hear from you, I'm sure. Let's also continue to pray for him.

Rev. Msgr. James O'Shea
Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities
2005 West Lawrence Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704

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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