

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 23, 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

Friday Masses will Resume

Friday morning Masses and First Friday all-day Eucharistic Adoration will resume on Friday, August 4.

CONTEMPLATE

When the disciples cannot understand something, they approach Jesus, and beseech him to explain.

Let us be this forthcoming when we are discerning the will of God or struggling with a decision. Let us ask him to explain in words we can understand.

Lord, You say that faith needs only be the size of a mustard seed but even that seems like a lot some days. Increase our faith!

God's Radiant Promise to Us

Being righteous means aligning our thoughts, words, and actions with God's will. It's more than rules; it's living with faith, love, and integrity, becoming bearers of God's light.

Jesus promises that the righteous will shine like the sun in God's kingdom. It's a beautiful transformation after our earthly life. In that kingdom, unimaginable joy and closeness to God await the righteous, as His divine light fills and radiates through them.

As disciples of Jesus, we're called to let God's light shine through us. Through prayer, sacraments, and acts of kindness, we become vessels of God's love and mercy. Our lives should reflect God's presence, leading others towards righteousness.

Living righteously doesn't shield us from challenges. Our faith may be tested, but Jesus' promise strengthens us. Let this promise inspire us to persevere, no matter what we face.



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

One More Week

I will finish my summer classes here in DC in one week and return to Decatur at St Thomas Church. After ten weeks of absence from St. Thomas for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and summer classes here at the Catholic University in Washington, DC, I am ready to return to my parishioners. Pastoral and administrative circumstances at St Thomas may not be the most palatable.

However, they are not extraordinary situations in the parish ministry, instead ordinary and very common ones.

Coming back, together with our dear parishioners, I will face the challenge of looking for volunteer persons for the parish office and the maintenance until we hire a part-time parish secretary and a maintenance manager.

The parish secretary will be a part-time staff working five days a week from morning to noon. The job descriptions will be posted in a week or so for advertisement. With the help of the good people of St Thomas, as usual, this challenge will be resolved as smoothly and as soon as possible.

The other challenges will be continuing to strengthen and consolidate the beautiful changes we have made in the past year. Some of these are our first Friday adorations, daily Masses Monday through Fridays, quarterly meetings with our parish finance and pastoral councils, bi-monthly meetings with our building and ground, 100th anniversary and hospitality committees, and strengthening our parish monthly donut Sundays and Monday breakfast socials. Helping our various parish committees and councils work to the best of their abilities in delivering their respective services to our parish is a task I am so passionate about. We have been doing some of these even while I am away for studies this summer.

So far, here in DC, I live in the religious house of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, where I have the privilege of living with holy priests and brothers in community life. I eat and pray with them as often as my class schedules permit. I have



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

classes all mornings and most afternoons, Monday through Friday. Most weekends, I help with Confessions and Masses at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception and the National Shrine of St. John Paul II, two blocks from the campus. These experiences and my many encounters with the diverse and vibrant communities here have made an incredible impression on me.

See you soon, St Thomas! Peace and Blessings.

Fr. Peter

Host the Vocations Crucifix

Please sign up today! The church needs your prayer. The signup sheet is on a table in the gathering area of church.

Families and individuals are encouraged to sign up to host the Vocations Crucifix and pray for the week.

God bless you!



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
July 15	\$4,144.	\$5,000.
Year-to-Date:	\$14,118.	\$15,000.
Short/Ahead:	- \$882.	
R/M Donations	\$130.	
Sister Parish Donations	\$150.	
Needy	\$126.	

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 23
10 am – **Norman Hensley †**
 - Monday, July 24
8:15 am – **Pat Hayes †**
 - Tuesday, July 25
8:15 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**
 - Wednesday, July 26
8:15 am – **Norman Hensley †**
 - Thursday, July 27
8:15 am – **Christopher Kennedy †**
 - Friday, July 28
No Mass
 - Saturday, July 29
No Mass
 - Sunday, July 30
10 am – **Margaret Hynen †**
- † *Deceased*

PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Peter Chineke, Parochial Administrator
 pchineke@dio.org (217) 877-4146

Rev. Richard Weltin, Pastor Emeritus

Parish Office
 Open Mon-Thurs., 9am-noon
 2160 N. Edward Street, Decatur, IL 62526
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<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

Annual Parish Potluck Picnic

Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thomas the Apostle
Sunday, August 13 from Noon to 3:30 pm
on the grounds of OLOL

This event is hosted annually by the Family, Faith, Formation Committee and is being done so to foster inclusion, bringing young and old together, good fellowship, and old-fashioned fun. It's also a great kick off to the new school year so we encourage EVERYONE to join us and celebrate our parishes

Sign-up sheets for VOLUNTEERS can be found in the back of church at St. Thomas. It takes a village to make this day happen, so please sign up to help us make the day a success.

Sign-up sheets for attending the Picnic.

There is another sign-up sheet to let us know that you plan to attend and what you think you might bring to the potluck.

Speak to **Barbara Hertel** if you have any questions! Thank you!

Tickets Available Now 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. There will be no Masses at parishes on Saturday, Oct. 28. You're wanted in Springfield!

Please contact the Parish Office to reserve your tickets. St. Thomas Parish has been given 25 tickets for our parishioners for the Eucharistic Congress in Springfield at the BOS Center on October 28.

Tickets are available on a first come first served basis. Please be prepared to share your name, email address, mobile phone number, primary language and any disabilities that may need accommodations.

We're Proud of Our Graduates!



Yes, we are so proud of our young adults who recently graduated from college.

As a parish family, we celebrate with **Isabella Sia** and **Angela DeLeon** the completion of their Associate's Degrees from Richland and wish them the best as they move on to their respective universities!

Isabella and Angela are cousins and we often see them together on the altar serving Mass. They are both life-long members of St. Thomas parish.

Bags for each graduate will be at the back of the church for cards to celebrate their graduations and offer well wishes to them for the next few weeks. Please bring cards to show them your support.

To help you know them just a bit better:

Isabella Sia is the daughter of Ronald and Ana Sia and granddaughter of Gilda DeLeon. She recently completed her Associate's Degree in Science from Richland Community College.

This fall she will continue her studies at Millikin where she intends to study bio-chemistry. Her interests and studies are leading to a career in pharmacy.

Angela DeLeon is the daughter of Paulo and Maria DeLeon and granddaughter of Gilda DeLeon. She recently completed her Associate's Degree in Science from Richland Community College.

This fall she will continue her studies University of Illinois, Springfield Campus, where she intends to study medical laboratory science.

Congratulations, Angela and Isabella, and best wishes in your future. We are praying for both of you as you take the next steps in your lives!



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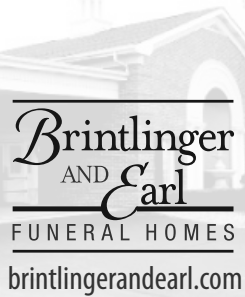
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