

**The Transfiguration of the Lord • August 6, 2023**



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



### THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

And he was transfigured before them;  
his face shone like the sun and his clothes  
became white as light. - Mt 17:2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

### 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

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

First Friday from 9 am - 5 pm

#### **Decatur Catholic Radio**

WDCR 88.9/96.5

### CONTEMPLATE

#### **Transfigured**

We have all had moments when we seem to get a glimpse of Heaven.

For me, they come with the sacraments: in the pew following my First Communion, kneeling before the bishop as he sealed my forehead with oil at my Confirmation, standing opposite my husband on our wedding day, cradling my newborns as the priest poured holy water over their little foreheads, claiming them for Christ.

Moments when the veil between this world and the one to come is pulled away, and our hearts cry out: "Lord, it is good we are here."

Like Peter at the Transfiguration, we desperately wish the feeling would last forever. We want to hang onto the certainty, the confidence and the joy that radiates from our souls. We want to spend forever looking upon the transfigured face of Christ.

But we are not in heaven yet. We raise our eyes, seeing only this world before us, the words of Jesus ringing in our ears: "Rise, and do not be afraid."

*"His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed." — Daniel 7:14*



## A WORD FROM FR. PETER

### It Is Good We Are Here!

Every August 6th, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. The event that this feast commemorates is one of the most powerful and life-changing experiences that Peter and the two sons of Zebedee had during their three years of discipleship with Jesus Christ. In his words, Peter explained in the second reading this Sunday the authenticity, efficacy, and majesty of Jesus and his gospel message. Peter emphatically admitted how he and the disciples were eyewitnesses of Christ's majesty and the glory and honor he received from God.



Fr. Peter Chineke,  
Parochial  
Administrator

Many notable events occurred during their ministry and discipleship of our Lord, which can be referenced in today's second reading. However, the Church picks the Transfiguration event and links it to Peter's testimony in the reading. To understand the weight of this testimony and the rationale behind associating his testimony with the Transfiguration event, one must prayerfully reflect on the prophetic utterance of the apostle upon the glorious and mystical sight of Moses and Elijah on Mount Tabor. Peter exclaimed: LORD, IT IS GOOD WE ARE HERE!

Overwhelmed by that mystical encounter of the divine bodies conversing with Jesus, the radiance of their faces and garments, and the mysterious voice of God bearing witness to the divinity of Jesus, Peter, intoxicated with joy, screamed: LORD, IT IS GOOD WE ARE HERE! It is good we are here to witness the divine declaration of your divinity, and to see how the heavenly bodies keep watching over you – Lord and Redeemer of humanity.

At Mass, we witness a similar event – a mystical event in which divinity converses with humanity. At Mass, we have the privilege to witness the divine exchange where our Lord transforms himself in the eucharistic species at consecration so we can receive him. When this happens, we exclaim like St. Peter: LORD, IT IS GOOD WE ARE HERE! It is good we witness the glorious exchange and receive you in the hallowed species of Holy Communion.

After that miracle of transfiguration, Peter and the other disciples went forth and lived and preached what they experienced. That way, the thousands of generations after them receive and continue to practice the faith. In the same way, our Lord wants us to go forth after each Mass, encouraged to live out and preach the miracle of the Eucharist. We do this as faithful Catholics by allowing our lives and actions to be a testimony of the majesty of Christ and his gospel

message. When we do this, the generations coming after us will still have the Catholic faith and enjoy the divine riches of the Eucharist. Happy Feast of Transfiguration to all our parishioners and friends.

### Reporting Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse

To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy or other church personnel—even if it is in the past—individuals are encouraged to call the Diocese's Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number at 217.321.1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE.

### 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.**



	Collected	Budgeted
July 30	\$ 5,807	\$5,000
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$ 22,204</b>	\$25,000
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$ 2,796</b>	

R/M Donations .....	\$ 70
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$ 70
Assistance for Neezd .....	\$ 85

**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>



- Sunday, August 6  
10 am – **Cynthia Harding †**
- Monday, August 7  
8:15 am – **Delmer Collett †**
- Tuesday, August 8  
8:15 am – **Lenora Lee †**
- Wednesday, August 9  
8:15 am – **Margaret Hynen †**
- Thursday, August 10  
8:15 am – **Matthew Kirby †**
- Friday, August 11  
8:15 am – **Fr. Nick Husain**
- Saturday, August 12  
*No Mass*
- Sunday, August 13  
10 am – **Polly & Norman Hensely †**

† *Deceased*

## PARISH OFFICE

**Rev. Peter Chineke, Parochial Administrator**  
[pchineke@dio.org](mailto: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  
 (217) 877-4146

[StThomasDecatur@gmail.com](mailto:StThomasDecatur@gmail.com)  
<http://www.StThomasDecatur.com>

**Office Hours:** 9am-noon, Monday-Thursday



## 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

# CYNTHIA TURNS 90!!!

Please stop by!!  
Saturday August 19th, 2023!!!  
2-6 pm Open House  
KC Hall (Hall at 520)  
520 E North St, Decatur, IL  
**NO GIFTS PLEASE!!!**  
Food/drinks available.

*Birthday Celebration*



## **Part-Time Parish Secretary Needed**

The position of part-time parish secretary is needed at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

Office hours are as follows:

**8am to 12pm  
Monday through Friday**

If you are interested please speak with Fr. Peter Chineke in person or call **217-877-4146** or email the parish at: **[stthomasdecaturn@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasdecaturn@gmail.com)**

## **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.

## 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 the parish office 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 of the church.

## Coming Back to Church

**Question:** I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

**Answer:** If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

## Part-Time Parish Maintenance Needed

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is needing a part-time maintenance person.

Hours of Operation:

**7am-12pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

If you are interested please speak with Fr. Peter Chineke in person or call **217-877-4146** or email the parish at: **stthomasdecatgur@gmail.com**



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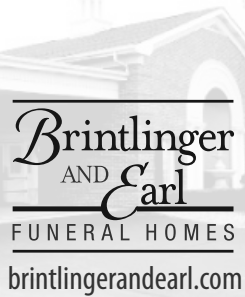
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