

19th Sunday In Ordinary Time • August 13, 2023



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

[StThomasDecatur@gmail.com](mailto:StThomasDecatur@gmail.com)



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he  
“Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretche  
his hand and caught Peter. - Mt 14:30-31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPJ

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

#### *Weekends*

Sunday 10 am

#### *Weekdays*

Monday-Friday 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

August 13, 2023

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

A man at my parish was struggling to overcome a habitual sin. He said to me, “Father, I know the chance that I will commit sin again is really high. Why should I keep confessing my sins? Isn’t that dishonest?” Anyone who has felt the tyrannical power of sin — and who hasn’t? — has pondered this kind of question.

I responded to him, “What was the probability Peter would walk on the stormy water?” After some silence, he said, “Zero. But when Jesus called, he did it.” I could tell my penitent friend was re-framing the question from his own weakness to the greatness of the Lord’s love for him. The question for us should not be one of human probabilities about our sin, but rather whether or not we will trust the Lord’s grace in our lives.

This week the Lord is calling you and me to do the impossible: overcome sin with love. The only way to do that is to trust *he* is calling, and then to walk with the eyes of faith locked on him. And if we sink, he will raise us up again and again. Of that, we can be 100% sure.

— *Father John Muir*



# A WORD FROM FR. PETER

## New Parish Maintenance Manager

Last July 28, 2023, our long-time parish maintenance manager, Mr. Vern Wilson, retired after many years of service to our parish. Since then, we have been looking for a replacement for Vern. While we need someone to fill this position, we have also been patiently praying and searching for the right person who loves the St. Thomas Church. We also need someone who will help to foster the salvific mission of the Church in our parish by intentionally and joyfully radiating the love and joy of Christ in our parish church. We have found this person.

### Mr. Richard (Dick) Harding.



Dick is a faithful parishioner of St. Thomas Church. In addition to attending Masses every Sunday and holy days of obligation, Dick is also a daily mass goer. A few months after I came to Thomas as parish administrator/pastor, I saw how devout, kind, and joyful Dick was. I asked if he would like to

serve at our daily Masses. Dick quickly agreed and started serving the following day, right after a short training. Little did I know that Dick was an altar boy for our St Thomas parish under Father Thomas Masterson during his grade school and high school days in the sixties and seventies. Dick loves serving at daily Masses and preparing the sacristy alongside Juanita Rasgado and Jean Litchfield every morning. Dick grew up here in Decatur. He received all the sacraments of Christian initiation here at St. Thomas and married. Cynthia Harding, his beloved wife of almost half a century, joined the saints early this year. Together, they have six beautiful children – five boys and a girl. Dick is blessed with a wonderful family where he has been a great model of the Christian life. Last Monday, August 7, 2023, Dick officially became our new St. Thomas Parish Maintenance Manager. He works part-time Monday through Friday, 7:00AM to 12:00PM. As a maintenance manager, Dick will also be ex-officio Parish Building and Grounds Committee member. Any reports or complaints about our parish facilities and grounds should also be directed to Dick, as he will communicate such concerns to the Chair of the Parish Building and Grounds Committee and me, as the case may be.

We hope to hire a new parish secretary in the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in serving our dear parish as a parish secretary or know someone who

will be a great fit, please reach me by email or the parish phone. We are patiently waiting and searching for the right person as this is not merely a job but also a vocation.

Fr. Peter



Sunday, August 13

10 am – **Polly & Norman Hensley †**

Monday, August 14

8:15 am – **Karen Benjamin**

Tuesday, August 15

8:15 am – **Dee Midden †**

Wednesday, August 16

8:15 am – **Fr. Peter Chineke**

Thursday, August 17

8:15 am – **Polly & Norman Hensley †**

Friday, August 18

8:15 am – **Margaret Hynen †**

Saturday, August 19

*No Mass*

Sunday, August 20

10 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

† *Deceased*



## 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.**

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**Financial Report For Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

**Year Ending  
6/30/2023**

**Year Ending  
6/30/2022**

<i>Cash Balance at beginning of period</i>	\$	472,937.60	\$	406,135.00
<b>Receipts</b>				
Weekly Contributions	\$	242,745.77	\$	258,147.39
Memorial Donations	\$	-	\$	55,000.00
Other Income (Stole Fees/votives/Flowers)	\$	3,438.18	\$	4,730.00
<b>Total Parish Income</b>	\$	<b>246,183.95</b>	\$	<b>317,877.39</b>
<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>719,121.55</b>	\$	<b>724,012.39</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Salaries/Benefits/Extra Clergy & Payroll Expenses	\$	141,984.70	\$	123,162.24
Operational ( <i>Prop.Liability Ins/Utilities/R/M/Altar&amp;Ministry/etc.</i> )	\$	115,479.88	\$	94,903.55
<b>Diocesan Annual Tithe (10% of ALL income 2021-2022)</b>	\$	<b>22,940.00</b>	\$	<b>30,009.00</b>
Catholic Times	\$	3,322.00	\$	3,000.00
<b>Total Parish Expenses</b>	\$	<b>283,726.58</b>	\$	<b>251,074.79</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$	<b>283,726.58</b>	\$	<b>251,074.79</b>
<b>Total Receipts less Expenses</b> ( <i>Cash Balance at end of period Checking &amp; Diocesan Savings</i> )	\$	<b>435,394.97</b>	\$	<b>472,937.60</b>
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance Memorial Donations</b>	\$	<b>6,272.50</b>	\$	<b>6,359.94</b>

Dear St. Thomas Parishioners,

The Annual Parish Financial Report is published every year to give our parishioners a sense of where we stand financially as a parish. As you see in our weekly bulletins, it requires **\$5,000/WEEK or \$260,000** to keep things running smoothly.

This past fiscal year (FY 22-23), ***we did not meet our our annual goal of \$260,000 it was short by \$ 17,254.23.***

'Diocesan Annual Tithe Expense'. We must pay 10% on all income contributed to St. Thomas to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

We appreciate the dedication we see among the parishioners of St. Thomas! Thank you for your generosity and the stewardship that you demonstrate over our parish.

Blessings to All,  
Fr. Peter Chineke



**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.

Please call the parish office or email [StThomasDecatur@gmail.com](mailto:StThomasDecatur@gmail.com) to add or remove a name.



	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
August 6	\$ 5,862	\$5,000
<hr/>		
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$ 27,886</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$ 2,114</b>	
R/M Donations .....	\$ 230	
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$ 215	
Assistance for Needy .....	\$ 80	

**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/stthomasdecaturn>

## PARISH OFFICE

**Rev. Peter Chineke**, *Parochial Administrator*

**Mr. Joe Snow**, *Business Manager*

[jsnow@parish.dio.org](mailto:jsnow@parish.dio.org)

**Mr. Richard Harding**, *Maintenance Manager*

**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>

# 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.



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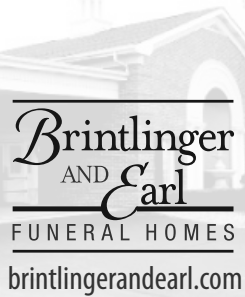
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