

20th Sunday In Ordinary Time • August 20, 2023



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526

(217) 877-4146

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



THEN JESUS SAID TO HER IN REPLY, "O WOMAN  
GREAT IS YOUR FAITH! LET IT BE DONE FOR YOU  
AS YOU WISH." —MT 15:28

20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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### 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

The suffering of a child symbolizes uniquely terrible evil as well as despair about the future. This week's Gospel gives a "limit" case in which Jesus encounters this evil in the form of a mother with a suffering daughter. What he does is stunning and massively helpful for us if we bravely ponder the details.

The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and begs his mercy. "My daughter is tormented by a demon," she declares to him. Shockingly, he responds first with silence, then with a dismissive comment, and only then finally accedes to her third request. Is this simply a lesson in perseverance in our petitions to God, who is like a genie in a bottle? Does that justify the humiliation and pain this woman suffers? Is the Lord cruel?

I don't think so. Notice how the encounter ends. She compares herself to a dog at the table of a master. Jesus responds by praising her great faith and fulfills her deep desire. Somehow this non-Israelite woman intuits that this harrowing situation is not dumb suffering. She senses that the door of God's family is, in Jesus, being opened to her and her loved ones. She trusts she is at the Lord's table, and her desires will be fulfilled and that all her sufferings — and her daughter's, too — will lead a great banquet. In our sufferings this week, the Lord wants us to treat him less like a genie in a bottle and more like the Master who has taken us — lost little dogs that we are — into his home forever. Trust that and keep praying in the face of evil.

— *Father John Muir*



## A WORD FROM FR. PETER

### New Parish Secretary

We have been posting and searching for a candidate for our parish secretary position for the last two weeks. This position became needed after Deacon Kevin Richardson retired last month for health reasons. We all know how indispensable it is for a parish like St. Thomas to have a parish secretary who will be in the parish office for at least a few hours every day.

After receiving various recommendations and applications, God has sent someone to work for our parish family as our parish secretary. She is Cynthia Hinkle.

#### Cynthia Hinkle



Cynthia is our new parish secretary. She will be a new face for many of us who joined St. Thomas or were born after 1989. Cynthia worked for our parish for about ten years before she transferred to a new job in another parish in 1989. She was the director of

sacramental programs for St. Thomas when our parish was bigger and busier.

After these many years, God has brought Cynthia back to the parish she loved and served in various capacities under Father Tracey and Father Porter. In her words, Cynthia joyfully narrated how “St. Thomas was a family where people loved each other and journeyed together.” I assured Cynthia that nothing had changed in that regard. We are even stronger and lovelier as a family, even after many transitions of priests and staff and the demographics that have changed significantly.

Cynthia will work in the office from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Monday through Friday. While she is not a new face to St. Thomas, she is certainly a new face to many of us. So, let us make time to welcome Cynthia to our parish

family and the parish office. I encourage us to be patient, loving, and understanding to Cynthia as she gradually gets to know our parish and her job in the parish office.

Welcome, Cynthia.

Fr. Peter

### Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, August 20

10 am – **Lenora “Sug” Lee †**

Monday, August 21

8:15 am – **Robert Allen**

Tuesday, August 22

8:15 am – **Pat Hayes †**

Wednesday, August 23

8:15 am – **Marie Ryan †**

Thursday, August 24

8:15 am – †

Friday, August 25

8:15 am – †

Saturday, August 19

*No Mass*

† *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.**



|                               | Collected         | Budgeted |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| August 13                     | \$ 3,045          | \$5,000  |
| <b>Year-to-Date:</b>          | <b>\$ 30,931</b>  | \$35,000 |
| <b>Short/Ahead:</b>           | <b>- \$ 4,069</b> |          |
| R/M Donations .....           | \$ 75             |          |
| Sister Parish Donations ..... | \$ 50             |          |
| Assistance for Needy .....    | \$ 30             |          |

**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>

## Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, "Christ is Alive:"

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 8:00 a. m. – 4:30 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart High School West Campus,  
 Springfield, IL.

Cathy Becker, the key-note speaker, will address "New Maps for a New Landscape." Cathy will guide participants to look at the changing landscape of people involved in our faith, find the fixed landmarks, and how to chart a new map with new routes to bring people back to the faith, engage new seekers of the faith and find hope in our Catholic Faith.

Kathy has come to us with much education and experience such as having a Masters of Arts in Pastoral Studies and is currently the Director of Faith Formation at St. Agnes. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki will be the main celebrant of the Mass at St. Agnes Church at 11:00 a.m. Registration is \$50 which includes morning refreshments and lunch. Register through your parish or find the registration form on **dio.org**.

Questions, contact Janet Zimmerman:  
[Janetzim14@yahoo.com](mailto:Janetzim14@yahoo.com) or 217-494-4743.

### 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.



## G U A T E M A L A

Please remember to pray for those in our Sister Parish,  
**Immaculate Conception,**  
 in Comapa, Guatemala, as they pray for us.

### 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.

## One Weekend Can Change Your Life

Catholic women 20-45 are invited to “Come & See”—and experience—the daily lives of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois. Whether you are discerning a vocation to vowed religious life or are just curious, you can join the sisters for a weekend immersed in the rhythms of their lives. The next weekend is September 16-17, 2023, but there are others on the schedule as well. The event, which is free of charge, begins Friday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon. Give yourself the gift of time to ponder how God might be calling you to serve. Visit <https://springfieldop.org/comeandsee> to register or call Sister Denise Glazik at (217)787-0481 ext. 6021.

### 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!



## PARISH OFFICE

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

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

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

**Mrs. Cynthia Hinkle**, *Parish Secretary*

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

**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>

## 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.



## 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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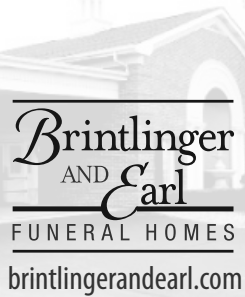
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