

21st Sunday In Ordinary Time • August 27, 2023

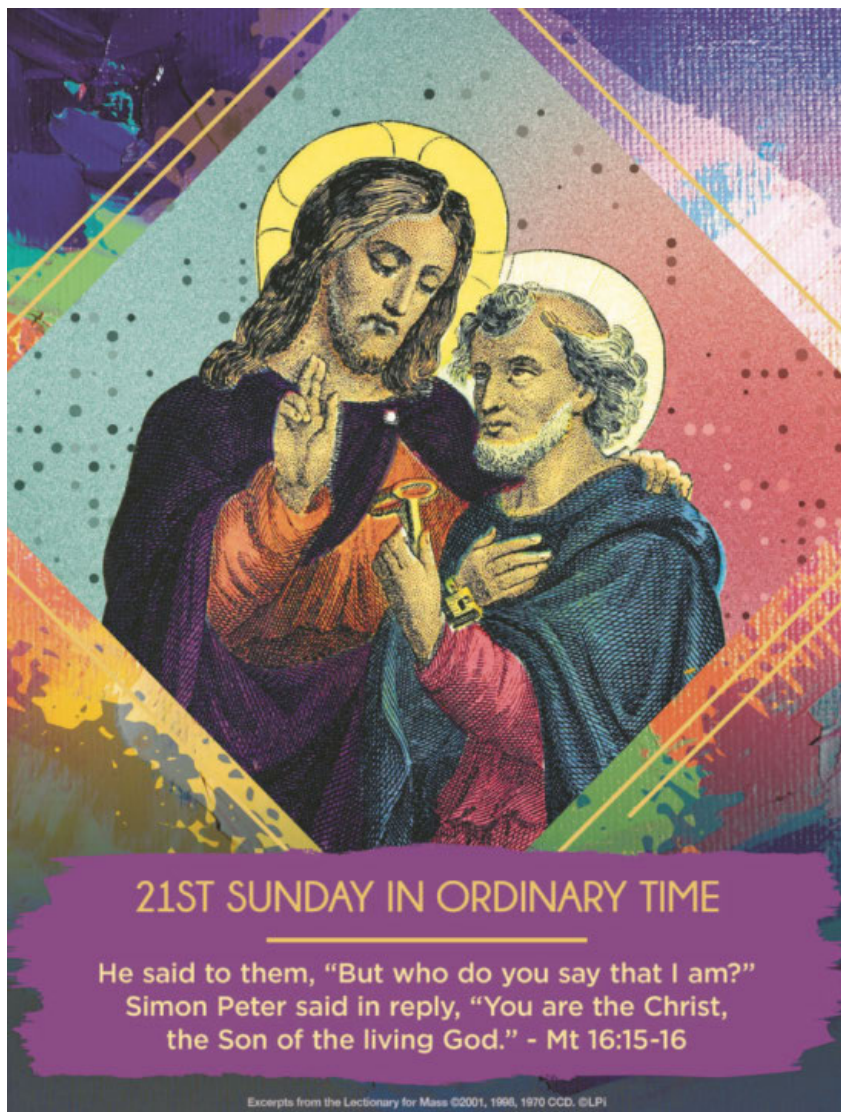


St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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(217) 877-4146

StThomasDecatur@gmail.com



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God." - Mt 16:15-16

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

Who Do You Say That I Am?

A very devout woman's adult godchild had fallen away from the practice of the faith. This godchild still believed in God, and even felt a sense of belonging in the Church. He was a good and kind person. But poor catechesis and a society that confuses pleasure with joy had left him lax in practice, without an appreciation of the sacraments. He was making choices that threatened his soul.

She was going to ask him the question Jesus poses to Peter in Matthew 16:15 — the critical question in all our lives, the question whose answer will define what we become in this world and the next.

Let our whole lives be our answer.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekends

Sunday 10 am

Weekdays

Monday-Friday 8:15 am

Reconciliation

Sundays: 9:15 - 9:50 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

Isn't it a bit weird that Catholics call the Pope "papa," father? This Sunday provides us with essential Scriptural background on the papacy, the petrine office. Jesus gives Peter the "keys to the kingdom of heaven," after witnessing to the special grace Peter has to know Jesus' true identity. Many have pointed out that the "keys" refer back to the figure of Eliakim, King David's prime minister. True enough. But notice this is not mere authority or power. It's a family relationship. The Lord says to Eliakim, "He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem" (Isaiah 22:21). David's prime minister was a spiritual father to the family of Israel. Peter, and his successors, will be spiritual fathers in the family of the Church.

This means we have a serious obligation to not only recognize the Pope's authority, but also to love him with the affection of children for their papa. We should never speak about him with disrespect or rancor. We should listen to him with trusting hearts, and ignore the slander thrown at him in various media. When we show the world we are loving and obedient to our Holy Papa, perhaps they'll see more clearly that the Church is indeed God's beloved family.
— *Father John Muir*



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

Maintaining Our Parish Buildings

It is always a blessing to have leaders with foresight – leaders who can predict and prepare for the future. Some twenty-five years ago, our parish was blessed with such a great leader as Father Denis Kohlrus, who knew so well that our parish church building and rectory would need some maintenance in a couple of decades. To prepare for this maintenance, he campaigned for some money and saved enough for such maintenance when the time came. Now is the time. Our church building is falling apart. When I arrived at St. Thomas last year, our then-maintenance manager, Vern Wilson, quickly called my attention to the roof of the church building, which was fast falling apart. Knowing too well it is not my expertise, I quickly formed a new committee to help make a thorough study of our parish buildings and grounds. This committee, led by Paul Wayne and Dave Hillyer, has taken enough time to study our parish church's facilities. They have submitted their studies, recommendations, and bids from different companies to repair the roof of the church building and carry out some masonry repairs for both the church building and the rectory. After studying these recommendations and bids, the parish finance council has asked me to request permission from the diocese to let us embark on these repairs before the buildings get even worse. I have submitted this request and hope to hear from the diocese in the next few weeks. We hope to have these repairs done and our church building and rectory in good shape. We also need to be grateful to the late Father Denis Kohlrus and the St. Thomas congregation of his time for being such great stewards of the blessings of God in their lives. Without such excellent stewardship that they exemplified by saving such money, we may not be able to make these repairs that will now cost almost two hundred thousand dollars.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial
Administrator

Where do we go from here?

We need to replace this money. We need to prepare the future generation of our dear parish like Father Kohlrus, whose congregation prepared it for us. Please consider donating specifically for “parish maintenance” to St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Also, it will be an incredible act of faith and charity to include St. Thomas the Apostle Church in your will. Without our generous stewardship of God’s blessings,

we may deprive future generations of a church called “St Thomas the Apostle” here in Decatur. May God continue to bless and replenish our pockets as we consider this heartfelt request to keep our parish open and alive.

—Fr. Peter



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, August 27

10 am – **James Nolan, Jr.**

Monday, August 28

8:15 am – **Matthew Kirby †**

Tuesday, August 29

8:15 am – **Anthony Grason**

Wednesday, August 30

8:15 am – **Raymond Martin**

Thursday, August 31

8:15 am – **Sheila Allen**

Friday, September 1

8:15 am – **Cynthia Hinkle**

Saturday, September 2

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 20	\$ 2,664	\$5,000
Year-to-Date:	\$ 33,595	\$40,000
Short/Ahead:	- \$ 6,405	

R/M Donations\$ 45
 Sister Parish Donations \$ 165

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 95th 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 or 217-494-4743.

Millikin Newman Student Sunday

Thank you for your generous support of last week's appeal for Millikin University's Newman Catholic Community. If you missed the appeal, it's not too late to give! Visit munewman.org or contact campus minister Tom Prior: tprior@millikin.edu / (309) 846-3949.



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

Stan Rothenbuecher, Carol Dilbeck, 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 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

Mrs. Cynthia Hinkle, *Parish Secretary*
Mr. Richard Harding, *Maintenance Manager*
Mr. Joe Snow, *Business Manager*
Mr. Chris Hoffman, *Coordinator of Communications*
Rev. Richard Weltin, *Pastor Emeritus*
Rev. Peter Chineke, *Parochial Administrator*

Open Mon-Fri, 8am-noon
2160 N. Edward Street, Decatur, IL 62526
(217) 877-4146

Email: StThomasDecatur@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.StThomasDecatur.com>
Facebook: St. Thomas the Apostle Church,
Decatur, IL

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.



SAVE THE DATE!
Annual Night at the Movies
Thursday, September 21st
6:30 p.m.
Avon Theatre
“MOTHER TERESA –
No Greater Love”
Inspiring Documentary Movie
About the Life of St. Teresa of Calcutta

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!

Our parish office has arranged for a bus to take us to Springfield for this Eucharistic Congress. We will leave St. Thomas at 10am that morning and come back around 6pm.

All you need to do is **SIGN UP** and **SHOW UP**. The parish will cover the cost.



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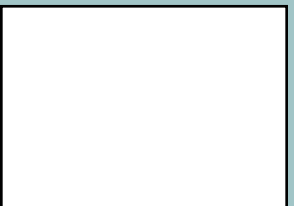


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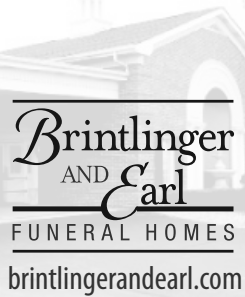
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