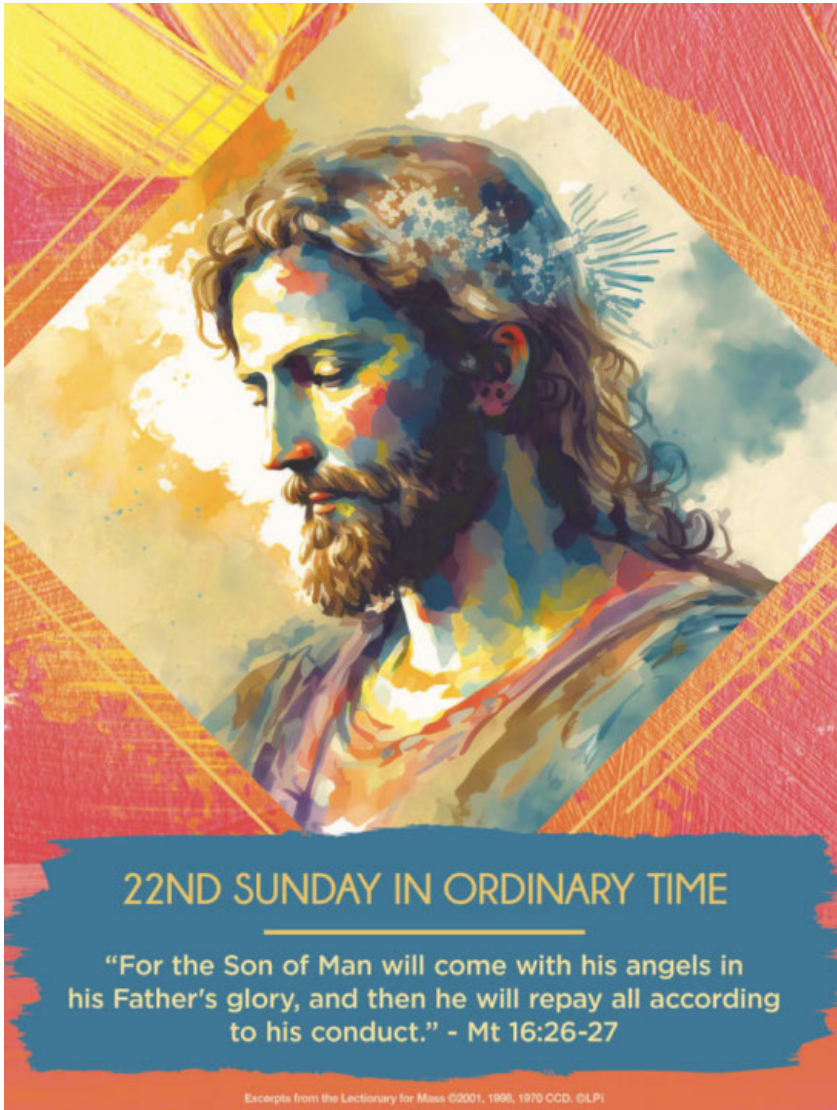


22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time • September 3, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526 (217) 877-4146 stthomasdecatur@dio.org



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.” - Mt 16:26-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Choosing the Cross

What Christ speaks of today is a choice, one we are all faced with, again and again, just as Peter is. We will not always respond perfectly; Peter does not respond well today. He does not respond well on Holy Thursday. But on his last day, on the day of the ultimate choice? On that day, he chooses the cross.

We marvel at first responders who put themselves in harm’s way for the sake of others, because to do so is not human, it is divine. Christ runs into the burning building for us, shaking off not only his own fear but the fear of everyone who loved him.

“Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God...”
— *Romans 12:1*

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 easy to relate to Peter? One moment Jesus announces Peter's deep communion with God the Father. The very next, when he rejects the logic of Jesus' suffering and death, Jesus calls Peter Satan. We Christians shouldn't be too shocked when we experience both spiritual highs and lows, when we perceive breathtaking contradictions in our hearts.

Like the great apostle, you and I are recipients of unfathomable graces. God dwells in us, calls his beloved children, and takes care of our every need. And we also continually fail to embrace our sufferings with trust in Jesus. We know the truth of the creed, but we easily scorn the weight of the cross.

The good news is that, like Peter, we are never abandoned by the Lord even at our worst moments. Peter will eventually learn the beauty of the cross when he is willingly crucified. But it took time for him to get there. And it takes time for us, too. This week let's not be too shocked at these divisions in our hearts but accept them and patiently seek to be more obedient to Jesus' cross-shaped plan for us.

— *Father John Muir*



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

Mass Intentions

Offering every Mass for a particular intention is a sacramental spiritual practice with a long history in the Catholic Church. Knowing that the Eucharistic celebration is the greatest of all spiritual sacrifices under heaven, the Church rightly provides that each Mass is offered for a particular intention. This way, the faithful can offer this noble sacrifice for their family and loved ones and other causes and people dear to them.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial
Administrator

In practice, offering the Holy Mass for a particular intention has been widely understood as exclusively for people who have died. Because of how widespread this practice has become, many young people now think Masses are offered only for the dead.

Recently, during a Mass at a church in Springfield, a young child heard my name mentioned for the Mass intention. Confused, she furiously asked her mom if Father Peter was dead. The mother was shocked and said no. She tried to explain to her daughter that Masses can be offered to anyone – living or dead. But it would take the young girl a lunch visit with her parents over here with me a few days later to be convinced I was not dead.

Unfortunately, even many of our adults somehow think that Masses are offered only for dead people. The simple reason behind this idea is the wrong practice that has become a tradition for many of us. We do not request Mass for our family and friends until they die. While this practice is wrong, it also alters the traditional teachings of the Church that Masses can be offered for both the living and the dead and any worthy causes dear to the faithful.

Let us learn to request Masses for ourselves, our family, and loved ones, and for causes we care about. The Holy Mass is the highest form of spiritual sacrifice on earth. Offering the Eucharistic sacrifice for someone or something is a beautiful way to express our love for people and approval of noble causes.

One can request a Mass for \$10.00 or more here in our diocese of Springfield in Illinois. As good members and friends of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, we achieve two spiritual goods when we request Masses

for ourselves, our loved ones, and for any causes. First, we support our parish sacramental life. Second, we realize the spiritual benefit of receiving the abundant graces that flow from the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass.

—Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, September 3

10 am – **Norma Wilson †**

Monday, September 4

8:15 am – **Norma Wilson †**

Tuesday, September 5

8:15 am – **Lenora Shug Lee †**

Wednesday, September 6

8:15 am – **Pat Hayes †**

Thursday, September 7

8:15 am – **Jennifer Allen**

Friday, September 8

8:15 am – **Carol Jones**

Saturday, September 9

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 27	\$ 3,337	\$5,000

Year-to-Date: \$ 36,932 \$45,000

Short/Ahead: - \$ 8,068

R/M Donations	\$ 35
Sister Parish Donations	\$ 35
Holy Day-Assumption	\$ 20
Assistance for the Needy	\$ 75

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>

PARISH OFFICE

Mrs. Cynthia Hinkle, *Parish Secretary*
Mr. Richard Harding, *Maintenance Manager*
Mr. Joe Snow, *Business Manager*
Mr. Chris Hoffman, *Communications Coordinator*
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: stthomasdecatu@dio.org
 Website: <http://www.StThomasDecatur.com>
 Facebook: St. Thomas the Apostle Church,
 Decatur, IL

St. Thomas Events Sept-Oct 2023



- 9/24 Donut Sunday, after Mass
- 10/6 First Friday Adoration, 9am- 5pm
- 10/28 Bus to Springfield Eucharistic Congress, 10am-6pm

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.

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 stthomasdecatu@dio.org to add or remove a name.



Read Bishop Paprocki's biweekly column in *Catholic Times* and/or watch his videos here:
<https://dio.org>

Get the latest news from the Vatican, read the Encyclicals and Letters of Pope Francis here:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>



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/comesee> to register or call Sister Denise Glazik at (217)787-0481 ext. 6021.



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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 11** Knights of Columbus Silver Rose Ceremony, 6 PM, Holy Family
- 12** Grief Session, 5:30 PM, St. James Parish House
- 15-17** Dominican Sisters Weekend for Catholic Women Age 20-45, Springfield
- 21** WDCR Night at the Movies, 6:30 PM, Avon Theatre
- 24** St. Thomas Donut Sunday, after Mass
- 27** SDCCW Convention, 8 AM-4:30 PM, Sacred Heart High School, West Campus, Springfield

Remember this song we sang with Father Peter?...

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
All to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,
There will be no need for prayer—
Rapture, praise, and endless worship
Will be our sweet portion there.

Read the inspiring story behind this famous song in the next bulletin.

Note To the Parish

"I had a great 90th birthday party. Thanks & Love & Blessings." — Cynthia





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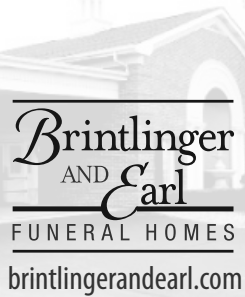
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