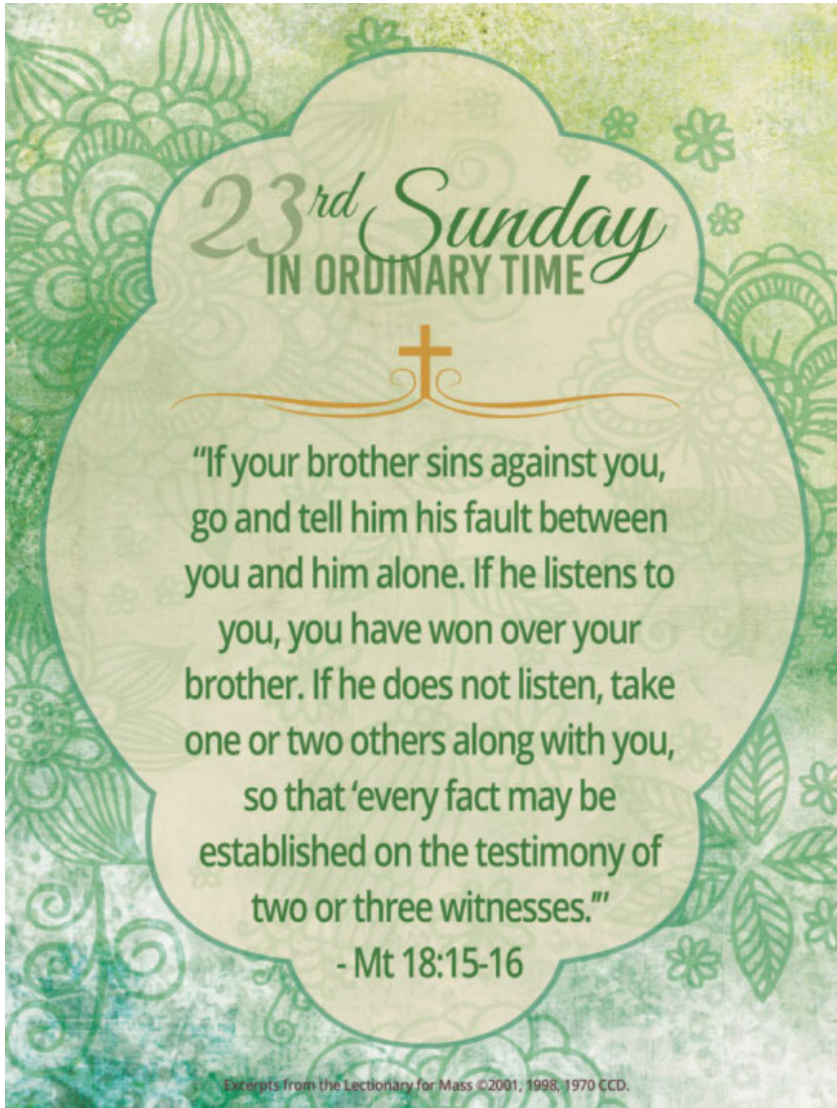


23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time • September 10, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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



The Blessing of the Community

It is a natural tendency for human beings to desire belonging to something bigger than themselves. Not everyone is fortunate enough to find the community, big or small, that fulfills that need. Unfortunately, that means that many communities suffer from not having the benefit of the gifts, skills, and talents that any member can offer. Communities are in many ways living organisms that move and breathe based upon the individuals who form that body. A community is truly the sum of its parts.

Your parish community reflects you and everyone else in that community. The more each member gives to the community, the stronger that community finds itself. If you hold back, your community suffers, and you gain little.

—Tracy Earl Welliver

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

What are you supposed to do about the bad behavior of the people around you? You know who I'm talking about. That family member, friend, coworker, or acquaintance who is quite immoral. On this front there are two lively options in our culture: bash the person to others (probably online) or pretend everything's fine. The former damages the person. The latter ignores reality. What to do? Jesus' strategy in the Gospel of Matthew is as wise as it is difficult: go directly to the person, and then gradually expand the circle of intervention. Simple, often effective, and hard. But what we often miss is the context of the Lord's strategy, "If your brother sins *against you...*" Notice the italicized words. Is the person in a Christian familial bond with you? And was the action in question against you? If so, proceed with the plan. Fine. But how often we fret over the sins of those who either aren't our spiritual siblings or have done nothing directly to us. This is not an invitation to ignore injustice in the world. Rather, we should build bonds of fraternal love, and carefully discern when and how others' sins are indeed our concern. Sometimes they are. Other times — frequently, perhaps — they simply are not.

— Father John Muir



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

The Joharis Window

A couple of weeks ago, I used the Joharis window psychological theory in my homily, discussing knowing oneself (self-awareness). It seemed like that homily spoke to more people than usual – so much so that I have received many requests for a copy of that homily.

Unfortunately, I do not write my homilies. I prepare them prayerfully over the Blessed Sacrament and on my study desk and deliver them unwritten. Let me recapitulate the Joharis window here.

The Joharis window is a psychological theory (more of a technique anyway) developed by Joseph Luft and Harry Ingham in 1955. Joseph Luft and Harry Ingham were good friends who were born in the same year, 1916. Being young adults and college students during the Second World War, these men had firsthand experience of the unspeakable damages that the war caused. Many people know about the deaths the war caused at home and abroad. Still, few people know the insurmountable psychological damage the war caused to too many people. Many soldiers who came back alive after the war, their families, and the families of the fallen heroes would spend the rest of their lives suffering unprecedented psychological disturbances. Since many of the advances that psychology has made today were absent then, too many people suffered these mental health issues associated with the traumatic experiences of the war with no relief until they died.

In that era of scampering helter-skelter to find solutions to these mental health issues, Joseph Luft and his friend, Harry Ingham, both psychologists, developed the Joharis window. This window is a 4-box matrix that looks at what is known and unknown to the self and others. Luft and Ingham's original window has the open area (known to the self and others), the blind spot (unknown to the self but known to others), the hidden area (Unknown to others but known to the self), and the unknown area (unknown both to the self and to others). In my slight modification of the theory from a Christian point of view, I renamed the unknown



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial
Administrator

area to the “ultimate area” since it is known to God. I also added that God knows the rest of the areas, including the ultimate spot where he has hidden such details as our departure dates from bodily existence.

This theory is good for self-awareness. I would recommend it to anyone who cares about making a journey of self-discovery in which we understand the limits to what we can and cannot know about ourselves and others. For more details on the theory, please look it up online.

Have a blessed week ahead.

—Fr. Peter



Sunday, September 10

10 am – **Mary Lou Gardner †**

Monday, September 11

8:15 am – **Pius Chineke †**

Tuesday, September 12

8:15 am – **Dan Ashenfelter**

Wednesday, September 13

8:15 am – **Everette & Marie Ryan ††**

Thursday, September 14

8:15 am – **Jeremy Mathis †**

Friday, September 15

8:15 am – **Matthew Kirby †**

Saturday, September 16

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
September 3	\$ 4,330	\$5,000
Year-to-Date:	\$ 41,262	\$50,000
Short/Ahead:	- \$ 8,738	
R/M Donations	\$ 115	
Sister Parish Donations	\$ 160	

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>

St. Thomas News

NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER BABY BOTTLE 2023 CAMPAIGN



Through your generosity to the New Life Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Campaign, St. Thomas raised \$793.41. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is compassionately being shared with hundreds of women, men, and their families that walk through the doors of NLPC seeking help. Thank you for your help promoting life!

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.

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*
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 (217) 877-4146

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

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.



“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know Himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.”

— Pope St. John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*, 1998



FAITH IN ACTION OF MACON COUNTY

Sponsored by Decatur Catholic Charities

FAITH
IN ACTION

Volunteers are needed for: Transportation to Appointments, Shopping/Errand Running, Yard Work/Mowing

- Help ensure that homebound older adults get their chemotherapy and other important medical treatments by volunteering as a Faith In Action Driver.
- Help make sure that a grandmother has enough food by becoming a Faith In Action Shopper.
- Help brighten the days of lonely and isolated older adults by reminding them that they have not been forgotten and that someone still cares about them by becoming a Faith In Action Friendly Phone Caller.
- Help provide that Faith In Action has continued success assisting homebound older adults maintain their independence, their dignity, and their quality of life by volunteering as a Faith In Action Fundraising Specialist.

These flexible volunteer opportunities can be tailor-made to fit your lifestyle and schedule. And friendly phone calls can be done without even leaving home!

Contact Carol, Faith In Action Coordinator Assistant, at (217) 428-0013 or at logan_dec@cc.dio.org



Silver Rose Service

Please plan to attend a special Rosary service sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at Holy Family Catholic Church on Monday, September 11 at 6:00 PM.

Mother Mary appeared to Juan Diego on December 9, 1531. Mary instructed him to have a church built in her honor at that site. Bishop Zumarraga asked for proof of the apparition. Mary provided out of season flowering roses not native to the area along with a portrait of herself imprinted on the inside of Juan Diego's cloak.

The Silver Rose is a traveling icon which commemorates Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to Juan Diego. The Silver Rose symbolizes Mother Mary's dedication to the sanctity of human life as we ask for Her intercession to restore the respect for human life throughout the world.

BIBLE STUDY

Why attend Mass? Our very lives depend on it! It's the summit of God's plan for our salvation. So where do we find the Mass in the Bible? What's the relationship between the two?

Parousia: The Bible and the Mass, an interesting and informative 10-lesson video-study featuring Scott Hahn, answers these questions and more.

Sign up for this Bible Study hosted by Catholic Spirit Radio. It begins Thursday **October 12th at 6:30pm**. Attend in-person at Catholic Spirit Radio (108 Boeykens Place in Normal) or participate using "Zoom" program. \$25 materials fee. Contact Tony Pecora (309-750-9062) for registration and to pay by September 30.

The Story Behind "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"



Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819–1886) was born in Seapatrick, Ireland (now Northern Ireland,). He fell in love with a young lady who was eager to spend her life with him. However, on the day before their wedding she fell from her horse while crossing a bridge over the River Bann and was drowned in the water below. Scriven stood helplessly watching from the other side.

To try to overcome his grief, he moved to Woodstock, Canada West (now Ontario) in 1844, where he led a Plymouth Brethren fellowship and taught. He organized a private school in 1850 in Brantford and preached in the area.

Moving near Clinton in Huron County in 1855, he read the Bible to railway construction workers who were building the Grand Trunk Railway across the Canada West. By 1857, he relocated to Bewdley, supporting himself as a private tutor to the family of Robert Lamport Pengelly, a retired naval officer.

It was there he met a wonderful young lady, Elisa Catherine Roche, and again fell in love. They had exciting plans to be married. However, tragedy struck once again and she died of pneumonia before they could wed. Scriven then returned to ministry among the Plymouth Brethren in Bewdley, near Rice Lake.

On an occasion when Scriven became ill, a friend who was visiting with him discovered a poem near his bed and asked who had written it. Scriven said, "The Lord and I did it between us." He might have written the poem for his mother when she was ill, but it is clear that he did not intend for anyone else to see it.

On August 10, 1886, Scriven's body was pulled from a spring near Bewdly, Ontario. Two monuments have been erected in his honor. Each has the first stanza of his song engraved on it. Charles Converse, an attorney and composer, wrote the music used today.

Joseph Scriven was not born to greatness. He was a simple man who, like many of us, suffered tragic losses. But he did not lose faith in God, he continued to help his neighbors, and wrote the words to one of the most famous religious songs.

Dealing With Loss

Those who have experienced the loss of a loved one often find healing and support through sharing with others with similar experiences.

Ss. James & Patrick Parish is hosting a grief session on Tuesday, September 12, at 5:30 pm in the parish house at St. James. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Donna at (217) 422-4534



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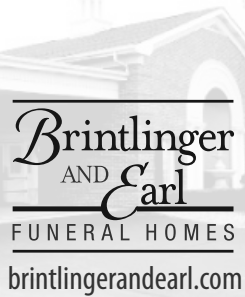
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