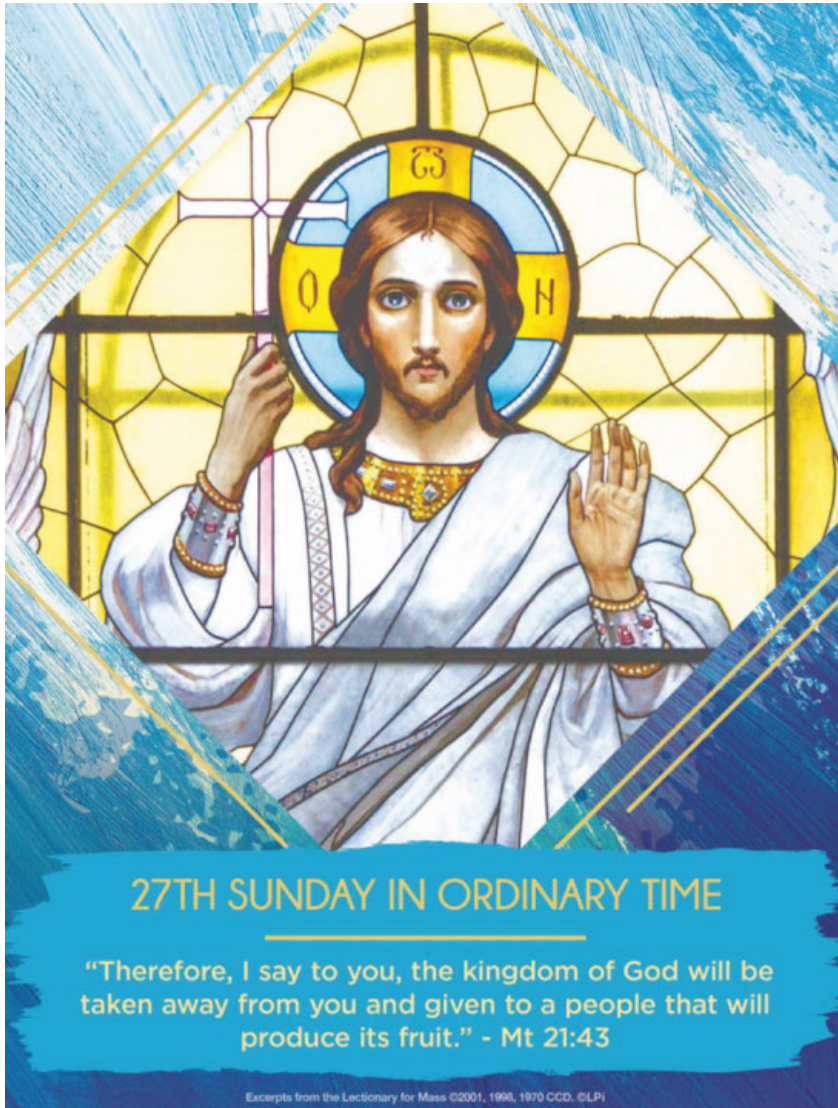


27th Sunday In Ordinary Time • October 8, 2023



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

2160 North Edward Decatur, IL 62526 (217) 877-4146 [stthomasdecaturn@dio.org](mailto:stthomasdecaturn@dio.org)



### 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.” - Mt 21:43

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

### Pope Francis on the Holy Rosary

“In the prayer of the Rosary we turn to the Virgin Mary so that she may bring us ever closer to her son Jesus, so as to know him and to love him more and more. And as we repeat ‘Hail Mary,’ we meditate on the mysteries, the joyous, luminous, painful and glorious phases of Christ’s life, but also of our lives because we journey with the Lord. This simple prayer, in fact, helps us to contemplate all that God in his love has done for us and for our salvation, and allows us to understand that our life is united to that of Christ. In prayer, we bring everything to God, our struggles, our wounds, our fears, but also our joys, our gifts, our loved ones ... all to God. By praying, we allow God to enter our time, to welcome and transfigure all that we experience.

Often make use of this powerful instrument, the prayer of the Holy Rosary, because it brings peace to hearts, to families, the Church and the World.”

(Message to the Bishop of Gozo, Malta at the Marian shrine Ta’Pinu, April, 2022)

### 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

Jesus’ parables are much stranger than most people realize. This week is an attention-getting example. He tells the religious leaders a parable about a completely absurd situation. Blood-thirsty and insane tenants violently abuse and kill the servants of their landlord. Inexplicably, the owner keeps sending them more victims of increasing value — up to and including his own son. Weird.

Usually, we hear this parable and assume it’s an allegory: Jesus is the murdered son, the servants the prophets, etc. Fair enough.

If we stay with this tough parable, perhaps this truth emerges: God wants us to have an over-the-top obsession with a totally undeserved inheritance. Of course, we are forbidden to use violence. But the parable’s violence gets our attention because it highlights the crazy goodness of the landowner. Jesus reveals that God is not merely in the business of rewarding the good and punishing the bad. He is playing a much stranger game — one marked by a kind of over-the-top mercy, a breathtaking giving of what is not deserved. What would our week look like if we embraced this kind of desire for God’s kingdom on earth, even if others think we’re nuts? This week let’s seek God’s kingdom with a passionate confidence in God’s desire to give the good things we don’t deserve.

— *Father John Muir*



## Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

In this week's message Fr. Peter shares an article on the Rosary from the Catholic News Agency (<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/feast-of-our-lady-of-the-rosary-617#>).

\* \* \*

On October 7, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the yearly feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Known for several centuries by the alternate title of "Our Lady of Victory," the feast day takes place in honor of a 16th century naval victory which secured Europe against Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe.

The feast always occurs one week after the similar Byzantine celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, which most Eastern Orthodox Christians and Eastern Catholics celebrate on October 1 in memory of a 10th-century military victory which protected Constantinople against invasion after a reported Marian apparition.

Pope Leo XIII was particularly devoted to Our Lady of the Rosary, producing 11 encyclicals on the subject of this feast and its importance in the course of his long pontificate.

In the first of them, 1883's *Supremi Apostolatus Officio*, he echoed the words of the oldest known Marian prayer (known in the Latin tradition as the *Sub Tuum Praesidium*), when he wrote, "It has always been the habit of Catholics in danger and in troublous times to fly for refuge to Mary."

"This devotion, so great and so confident, to the august Queen of Heaven," Pope Leo continued, "has never shone forth with such brilliancy as when the militant Church of God has seemed to be endangered by the violence of heresy ... or by an intolerable moral corruption, or by the attacks of powerful enemies." Foremost among such "attacks" was the battle of Lepanto, a perilous and decisive moment in European and world history.

Troops of the Turkish Ottoman Empire had invaded and occupied the Byzantine empire by 1453, bringing a large portion of the increasingly divided Christian world under a version of Islamic law. For the next hundred years, the Turks expanded their empire westward on land, and asserted their naval power in the Mediterranean. In 1565 they attacked Malta, envisioning an eventual invasion of Rome. Though repelled at Malta, the Turks captured Cyprus in the fall of 1570.

The next year, three Catholic powers on the continent - Genoa, Spain, and the Papal States - formed an alliance called the Holy League, to defend their Christian civilization against Turkish invasion. Its fleets sailed to confront the Turks near the west coast of Greece on October 7, 1571.

Crew members on more than 200 ships prayed the Rosary in preparation for the battle - as did Christians throughout Europe, encouraged by the Pope to gather in their churches to invoke the Virgin Mary against the daunting Turkish forces.


Some accounts say that Pope Pius V was granted a miraculous vision of the Holy League's stunning victory. Without a doubt, the Pope understood the significance of the day's events, when he was eventually informed that all but 13 of the nearly 300 Turkish ships had been captured or sunk. He was moved to institute the feast now celebrated universally as Our Lady of the Rosary.

"Turkish victory at Lepanto would have been a catastrophe of the first magnitude for Christendom," wrote military historian John F. Guilmartin, Jr., "and Europe would have followed a historical trajectory strikingly different from that which obtained."



## Mass Intentions for the Week

- Sunday, October 8  
10 am - **Paul Vighi †**
- Monday, October 9  
8:15 am - **Rosie Harris**
- Tuesday, October 10  
8:15 am - **Carol Jones**
- Wednesday, October 11  
8:15 am - **Edwin Jones**
- Thursday, October 12  
8:15 am - **Lucia Mounce**
- Friday, October 13  
8:15 am - **Stephen O'Dell**
- Saturday, October 14  
*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
October 1	\$ 4,220	\$5,000
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$ 55,014</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$ 14,986</b>	
R/M Donations .....	\$ 165	
Sister Parish Donations .....	\$ 245	

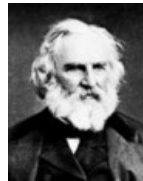
**Thank you** for your continued generosity in supporting the church. Envelopes may be mailed to the parish office, or slipped through the mail slot on the office door.

**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>

## God calls both young & old...

“Something remains for us to do or dare;  
 Even the oldest tree some fruit may bear...  
 For age is opportunity no less  
 Than youth itself, though in another dress,  
 And as the evening twilight fades away  
 The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.”



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
*Morituri Salutamus*, 1875

## 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

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## 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](mailto:stthomasdecatu@dio.org) to add or remove a name.



“...blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it (Lk 11:27-28). So that is why Mary, too, is blessed, because she heard the word of God and kept it. She kept truth safe in her mind even better than she kept flesh safe in her womb. Christ is truth, Christ is flesh; Christ as truth was in Mary’s mind, Christ as flesh in Mary’s womb; that which is in the mind is greater than what is carried in the womb.”  
 — St. Augustine, Sermon 72/A, 7, Circa 400 A.D.

## Angelus

The Angelus is traditionally prayed in a call and response format, with a leader announcing the versicle (V) and everyone present saying the response (R).

V/. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

R/. Be it done unto me according to your

Word. Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made flesh,

R/. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Go to <https://www.usccb.org> for this & other prayers)



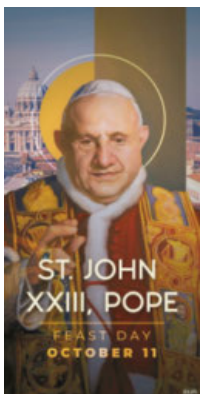
## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

From September 27<sup>th</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

You are also invited to stand and peacefully pray during the 40-day vigil across the street from the local abortion clinic – Planned Parenthood at 3021

N. Oakland Avenue. If you

would like more information or to volunteer, please call Cecilia Kehoe at 217-412-0063 or email her at [prayersforyou8384@gmail.com](mailto:prayersforyou8384@gmail.com). **Please visit the campaign website** at [www.40daysforlife.com/en/decatour](http://www.40daysforlife.com/en/decatour) to learn more, register and sign up.



### Encyclical Quote of the Week

“Among the pleasant recollections of Our younger days are the Encyclicals which Pope Leo XIII used to write to the whole Catholic world as the month of October drew near, in order to urge the faithful to devout recitation of Mary’s Rosary during that month in particular. These Encyclicals had varied contents, but they were all very wise, vibrant with fresh inspiration, and directly relevant to the practice of the Christian life. In strong and persuasive terms they exhorted Catholics to pray to God in a spirit of faith through the intercession of Mary, His Virgin Mother, by reciting the holy Rosary.” *Grata Recordatio*, 1959

## **Fifteen Promises Of The Blessed Virgin To Christians Who Faithfully Pray The Rosary**

Alanus de Rupe, a 15th century Dominican friar , received the following 15 promises from the Blessed Virgin Mary herself through a private revelation.

1. Those who faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell. It will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. The recitation of the Rosary will cause virtue and good works to flourish. It will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God. It will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.
6. Those who recite my Rosary devoutly, applying themselves to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. In His justice, God will not chastise them; nor shall they perish by an unprovided death, i.e., be unprepared for heaven. Sinners shall convert. The just shall persevere in grace and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Those who have a true devotion to the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who faithfully recite the Rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of His graces. At the moment of death, they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
11. By the recitation of the Rosary you shall obtain all that you ask of me.
12. Those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of their death.
14. All who recite the Rosary are my beloved children and the brothers and sisters of my only Son, Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion for my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

**Pray the  
Rosary**





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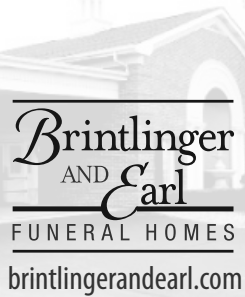
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