

28th Sunday In Ordinary Time • October 15, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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



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

I confess that I have a soft spot for the scary things Jesus says because they are usually ignored. This week Jesus gives us a terrifying warning in his parable about the king who gives a marriage feast for his son and promptly goes berserk when people don't respond. The point: those who do not properly respond to God's generous invitation will face totally devastating consequences. The invitees who don't show up get their city burned to the ground. The poor homeless man is tortured for not wearing the correct clothes. Scary indeed.

Is Jesus trying to intimidate or bully us into following him? No, because that is certainly not how he treats anyone in the Gospels. A better view is this: to Jesus, your life matters. The universe is not an empty wasteland where anything goes. It is a theater of love offered and either accepted or rejected. How easy it can be to glide through life thinking my life doesn't make a difference. But it does. This should not only be sobering but exhilarating. The positive side of the negative in Jesus' scary parables is the thrill and joy that he is inviting us, therefore our lives matter a great deal. There is a reason to get up in the morning. God's generous love is relentlessly calling us. True, obstinately saying no through our indifference is a catastrophe for us and those around us. But how wonderful must the consequences of our 'yes' be?

— Father John Muir

The Luminous Mysteries

The Luminous Mysteries were introduced by Pope John Paul II in October 2002, at the start of the Year of the Rosary. Decades before his papacy, Karol Wojtyla wrote poems such as "The Song of the Brightness of Water" where light is a major theme. As Francis Cardinal George remarks in *A Godly Humanism*,

"The choice to use light as the primary verbal illumination for God's presence focuses the question about Wojtyla's inner culture; his own sense of a particular inner light. Striking evidence of that inner light is in his contribution to the devotion of the Rosary. Following on the issuance in 2002 of his apostolic letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, the Church now has five luminous mysteries, in that believers look at Christ and see him for what he is: the *Lumen gentium*, the light of the nations."

To quote the pope, "Moving on from the infancy and the hidden life in Nazareth to the public life of Jesus, our contemplation brings us to those mysteries which may be called in a special way 'mysteries of light'. Certainly the whole mystery of Christ is a mystery of light."



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

Blessing of Animals on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Last Wednesday, October 4, 2023, I had the privilege to bless the animals that parishioners brought to observe the St. Francis ritual of blessing animals. We had dogs of several breeds, fowls, and rabbits. Thanks be to God, no one brought my less favorite animals, which I will not mention here. While a few dogs got mad at seeing each other, like even we humans sometimes do, no dog misbehaved beyond control.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial
Administrator

The blessing took only about 15 minutes, but we had a fun evening that lasted over 90 minutes, where we interacted with one another and enjoyed the company of these beautiful creatures. The most beautiful part for me was seeing some of our young parishioners



bring their pets for blessing and asking questions about the possibility of these animals going to heaven.

In my little reflection during the blessing, I explained those animals have immortal souls that cannot go to heaven by themselves. However, if we, as human beings, strive to make heaven, we can easily ask God to bring our animals to us in heaven. Being the all-merciful and all-loving God that He is, God will surely bring our animals to us in heaven. Therefore, while animals, as immortal beings, cannot make heaven alone, their owners, humans with immortal souls, can make heaven and have their animals with them.

I am incredibly thankful for Lydia Worsham, one of our young parishioners in the parish who



personally instructed me to plan on blessing her fowls on the Feast of St. Francis. Lydia, a few other young parishioners, and many adults who attended the event had so much fun that I already promised to do the blessing of animals on the feast of St. Francis every year for as long as I am here at St. Thomas.

May God, the Creator of these animals and all creatures, continue to make us see the beauty of creation through these animals. Amen.

—Fr. Peter



ATTENTION LECTORS

Fr. Peter invites you to join him on **Wed., October 25 at 6:00 pm in the Rectory Meeting Room** for training and practice



(Not showing up means you don't want to be a lector)



	Collected	Budgeted
October 8	\$ 2,351	\$5,000
Year-to-Date:	\$ 57,365	\$75,000

Short/Ahead: - \$ 17,635

R/M Donations	\$ 40
Sister Parish Donations	\$ 55
Assistance for Needy	\$ 11
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY/PROPAGATION OF FAITH ..	\$ 5

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*
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Mr. Chris Hoffman, *Communications Coordinator*
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Rev. Peter Chineke, *Parochial Administrator*

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Sunday, October 15
 10 am – **Matthew Kirby** †
 Monday, October 16
 8:15 am – **Pat Hayes** †
 Tuesday, October 17
 8:15 am – **Samuel & Helen Stotesbery** ††
 Wednesday, October 18
 8:15 am – **Carolyn O'Dell**
 Thursday, October 19
 8:15 am – **Margaret Hynen** †
 Friday, October 20
 8:15 am – **Gene & Teresa Schroll** ††
 Saturday, October 21, *No Mass*
 † *Deceased*

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.



Please Remember in your Prayers

All who are Ill at Home or in the Hospital and their Families and Caregivers

Ruth Frazier, Stan Rothenbuecher, Carol Dilbeck, Rachel Flick, Kevin Henry, Jim Hertel, Ann-Marie Hillyer, Edwin Jones, Patricia Jones, Kelly McLean, Trey McLean, Christina Mooney, Lucia Mounce, Tom Mounce, Rev. Msgr. James O'Shea, 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.

The Lord knows how to contact you. Make sure that we can too. Please call Cynthia Hinkle in the Parish Office at (217) 877-4146 with any changes to:





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.



“There was a certain rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen; and feasted sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar, named Lazarus, who lay at his gate, full of sores, desiring to be filled with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, and no one did give him... And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. And the rich man also died: and he was buried in hell... And he said: Then, father, I beseech thee, that thou wouldst send [Lazarus] to my father's house, for I have five brethren, that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of

torments. And Abraham said to him: They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. But he said: No, father Abraham: but if one went to them from the dead, they will do penance. And he said to him: If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they believe, if one rise again from the dead.” (Luke 16:19-31)

O God, whose only begotten son, by His Life, Death, and Resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation, grant we beseech you, that meditating upon these mysteries in the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christian Attitudes Towards Others in Literature

“And earthly power doth then show likest God’s
When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,
Though justice be thy plea, consider this:
That in the course of justice none of us
Should see salvation. We do pray for mercy,
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy.”

— William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*,
Act 4, Scene 1 (Portia), 1596-1598

* * *

“Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.”

— John Donne, “Meditation XVII,” 1624

* * *

“Can I see another’s woe,
And not be in sorrow too?
Can I see another’s grief,
And not seek for kind relief?”

— William Blake, “On Another’s Sorrow,”
in *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, 1789

* * *

“‘But you were always a good man of business, Jacob,’
faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.
‘Business!’ cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again.
‘Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my
business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were
all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of
water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!’”

— Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*, 1843

* * *

“He only says, ‘Good fences make good neighbors.’
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder
If I could put a notion in his head:
‘Why do they make good neighbors? Isn’t it
Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.
Before I built a wall I’d ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offense.
Something there is that doesn’t love a wall,
That wants it down.’”

— Robert Frost, “Mending Wall” in *North of Boston*, 1914

Encyclical Quote of the Week



“Emphatically, therefore, the
work of redemption, which in
itself is independent of our
will, requires a serious interi-
or effort on our part if we are
to achieve eternal salvation. “

— Pius XII, *Mediator Dei*, 1947



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