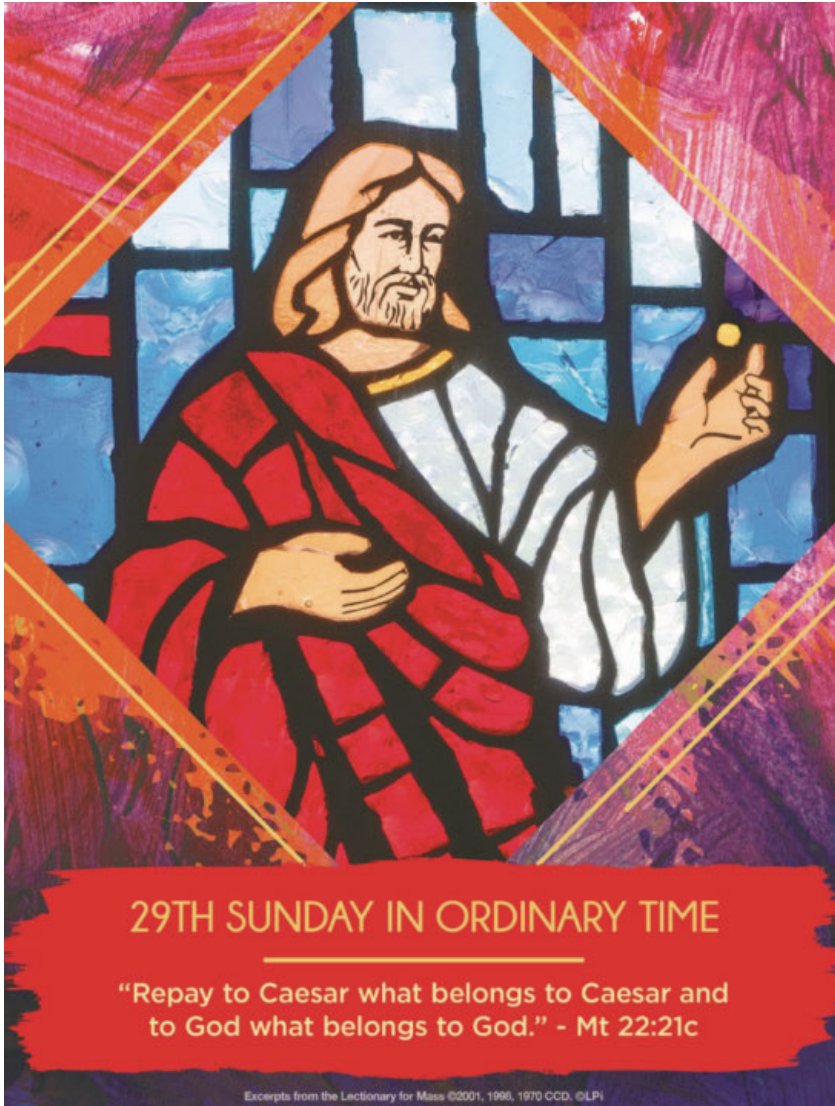


29th Sunday In Ordinary Time • October 22, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." - Mt 22:21c

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

A Rosary Story from Fulton Sheen *(recorded during a retreat)*

"One missionary told me that when he was in prison in China he was in a very narrow cell and he was not allowed any reading of any kind and could not have a Rosary. But he found in the cell on the floor a small piece of bamboo, and he broke it up into ten pieces. And he would put the ten pieces of bamboo at one end of the cell, and then as he said the Rosary, he would move one piece of bamboo over to the other side of the cell. The jailer thought that he was crazy but it was that that kept him sane. Some Protestant missionaries from China told me that they envied the priest because they were so tortured in prison that it was very difficult to say prayers. You know when you've had a high fever, you will recall it was difficult to pray. But when you had something in your hand like a Rosary, you were able to concentrate more. And these Protestant missionaries said they envied the priest who could say the Rosary, and therefore have a sequence of prayer which was denied them."

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

With little more than a year until the United States' national elections, I find myself feeling, like many Catholics, both dread and energized. How can Catholics best engage our political arena in a way which is truly helpful and worthwhile?

Jesus says, "Render therefore to Caesar the things are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." This riddle forces us to answer for ourselves a hidden question: what is the relationship between political and divine authority? If we answer that the two are equivalent, politics becomes our absolute authority. If we answer that the two are totally unrelated, we end up with an unchecked aggressive secularist state as we often experience now.

At our best, Christians hold that political authority does indeed have its own legitimate autonomy but is nested within God's all-encompassing authority. Think, for example, of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s respect for politics while also being able to criticize unjust human laws because he recognized a higher heavenly law. In other words, Caesar owns politics — and God owns Caesar. So, we should allow Jesus' words to lead us to have a deep respect and willingness to peacefully engage in politics without making that engagement our religion. We bring our faith to bear on our politics knowing confidently that Caesar isn't God — but he is indeed God's. — *Father John Muir*



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

Day of Prayer for Peace in The Holy Land

Seeing the crowd that attended Mass and Adoration last Tuesday morning, October 17, 2023, was an absolute joy. Following the outbreak of the war in the Holy Land (Israel and Palestine) the previous week, some catholic prelates in the Holy Land and the United States declared last Tuesday, October 17, 2023, as a day of prayer and fasting for Peace in the Holy Land. Upon seeing this news, we announced last Sunday at Mass that our St. Thomas the Apostle Church would participate in the Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in the Holy Land.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial
Administrator

Knowing that the notice was too short and not in the bulletin, our communications coordinator also sent emails to our dear parishioners on Monday night. (Note: if you did not receive that email, please call or visit the parish office and drop off your email address. You can also send it to stthomasdecaturn@dio.org or stthomasdecaturn@gmail.com. You do not have to be a registered parishioner to be on our parish email list).

That Tuesday morning, many St. Thomas parishioners and friends responded by attending the daily 8:15 a.m. Mass and participating in the Rosary, Adoration, and Benediction that followed the Mass. As your priest, I was deeply moved by such a massive response to prayer for such a noble cause. I am proud to say that I have awesome parishioners and friends whose thirst for Christ and His peace is unquenchable.

Dearest friends, as this violence in the holiest sites of our faith unfortunately persists, let us relentlessly pray for a change of heart for all the perpetrators and masterminds of these evils. Let us also remember to offer Masses and other prayers for the victims of these mayhems, especially the Palestinian Christians. This minority group of Christ's followers has suffered tremendously over many decades in the hands of their fellow Palestinians and the host of Islamic nations around

them. While our prayers and alms often go to our Christian and Jewish brethren in Israel, this group of Christians in Gaza, Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, Jericho, and other Palestinian territories are often ignored.

As we continue to offer our prayerful and material support for the restoration of peace in the Holy Land, may God continue to bless us with peace of mind and peace in our families and communities. 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)



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, October 22

10 am – **Marge & Delmer Collett** ††

Monday, October 23

8:15 am – **Leora Nichols** †

Tuesday, October 24

8:15 am – **Sharon Shinall**

Wednesday, October 25

8:15 am – **J. D. Shinall**

Thursday, October 26

8:15 am – **Steve Thorpe**

Friday, October 27

8:15 am – **Vicki York**

Saturday, October 28, *No Mass*

† *Deceased*

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
October 15	\$ 7,026	\$5,000

Year-to-Date: \$ 64,391 \$80,000

Short/Ahead: - \$ 15,609

R/M Donations\$ 95

Sister Parish Donations\$ 95

Assistance for Needy\$ 40

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY/PROPAGATION OF FAITH \$ 105

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/stthomasdecaturn>

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: stthomasdecaturn@dio.org

Website: <http://www.StThomasDecatur.com>

Facebook: St. Thomas the Apostle Church,
Decatur, IL



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.

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, 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 stthomasdecaturn@dio.org to add or remove a name.



In 1926 Pope Pius XI instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide Mission Sunday collection taking place in October 1927. The Mission Sunday collection is always taken on the next to last Sunday during the month of October. That day is celebrated in all the local Churches as the feast of catholicity and universal solidarity so Christians the world over will recognize their common responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world. (from uscbb.org)



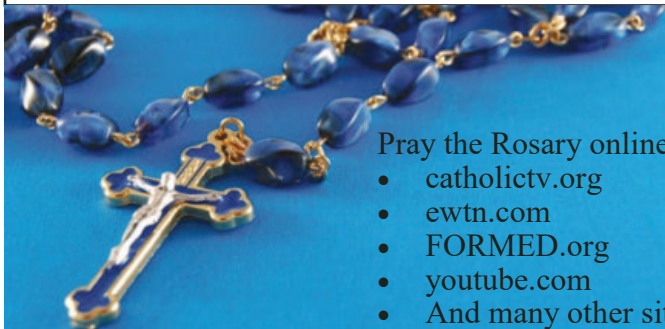
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

REMINDER: Our bus to the Springfield Eucharistic Congress is on Oct. 28. Those who signed up should arrive at St. Thomas by 9:45am. Will return at 6pm.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

From September 27th through November 5th, 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. **Please visit the campaign website** at www.40daysforlife.com/en/decatour to learn more, register and sign up.



Pray the Rosary online at:

- catholictv.org
- ewtn.com
- FORMED.org
- youtube.com
- And many other sites

The Wonder of God's Creation



The Mysteries of the Rosary fill us with wonder. Creation itself is a source of wonder. As C. S. Lewis notes in *Letters to Malcolm*, only man can fully appreciate God's handiwork, since the beasts lack intelligence and the angels lack bodies.

"I will with confidence cry out from Your oracle, How wonderful are Your works, O Lord, in Wisdom have You made them all. And this Wisdom is the Beginning, and in that Beginning have You made heaven and earth." — St. Augustine, *Confessions*, Book 11, Chapter 9, Circa 400 A. D.

* * *

TRIO: "In all the lands resounds the word,
(Gabriel, Never unperceived, ever understood.
Uriel, The heavens are telling the glory of God,
Raphael) The wonder of His work displays the firmament."
—*The Creation*, Franz Josef Haydn (music), Gottfried van Swieten
(libretto), 1797-98

* * *

"O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!"
— Katharine Lee Bates, "America the Beautiful," 1911

* * *

"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree." — Joyce Kilmer, "Trees", 1913

* * *

"I see skies of blue
And clouds of white
The bright blessed day
The dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world"
— "What A Wonderful World," sung by Louis Armstrong, 1967



FREE AD DESIGN
with purchase of this space

CALL
800-950-9952

Here with *you.*



**HSHS
St. Mary's
Hospital**

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets



833-287-3502

Graceland/Fairlawn

www.gracelandfairlawn.com
217-615-0769

Moran & Goebel

www.moranandgoebel.com
217-615-0793

Lisa Coffman

**BROKER ASSOCIATE
REALTOR®**

CELL:
217-433-5081



GLENDIA WILLIAMSON REALTY

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME
Brandy Stivers**

bstivers@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2609

B & W II
ASPHALT PAVING
& SEALCOAT CO.
877-8362
P.O. Box 448 Forsyth, IL

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

**NEVER MISS
OUR BULLETIN!**




SUBSCRIBE

Have our bulletin emailed
to you every week.

Visit www.parishesonline.com


**A service as
unique
as your
loved one.**

Honor the life of
your loved one
with the experts
at helping you say
goodbye.




**Brintlinger
AND Earl**
FUNERAL HOMES
brintlingerandearl.com

**LOOKING FOR A
DOCTOR?
LET ME HELP.**



Contact our patient advocate today.
Kim Schneider
844-520-8897
Kimberly.Schneider@hshs.org



HSHS Medical Group

WE'RE HIRING!
AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF.
BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid training
- Some travel
- Work-life balance
- Full-Time with benefits
- Serve your community



Contact us at
careers@4lpi.com or
www.4lpi.com/careers

**WE APPRECIATE OUR
ADVERTISERS!**

**Place Your Ad Here and
Support our Parish!**

Instantly create and
purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO




4lpi.com/adcreator