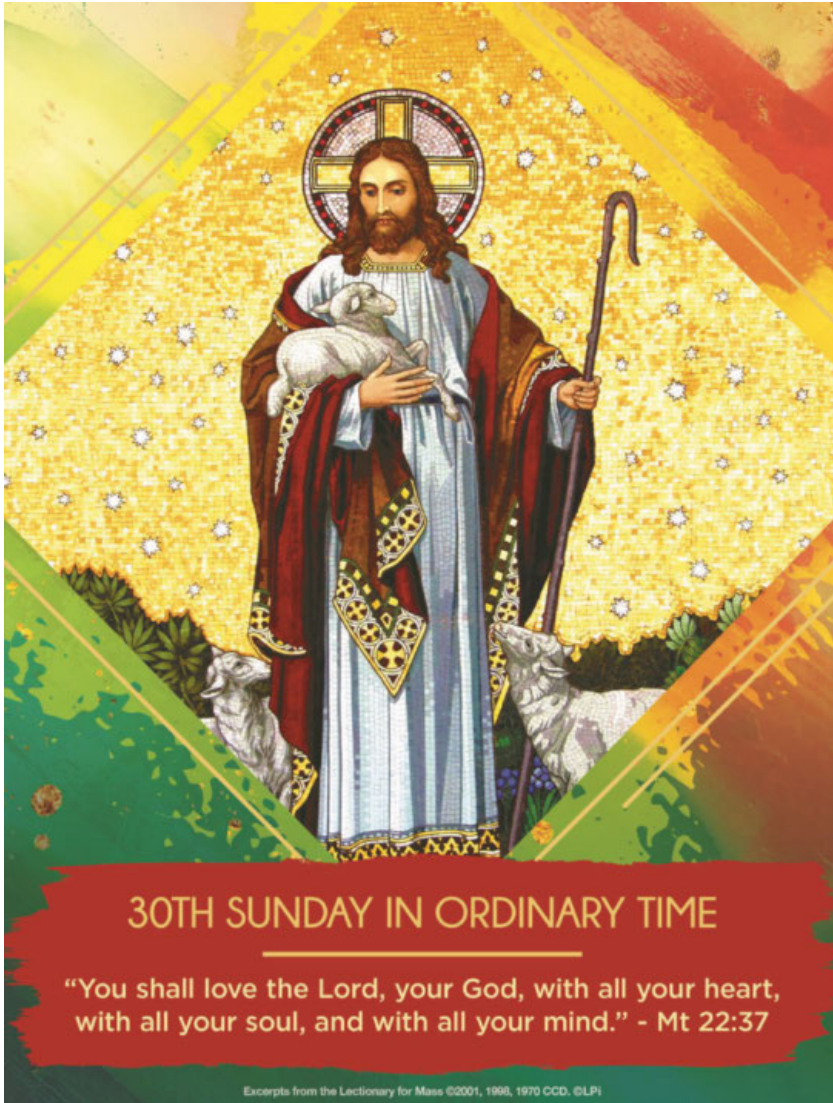


30th Sunday In Ordinary Time • October 29, 2023



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

In our secularized culture, we all struggle with belief in God, at least to some degree. An atheist man named Robert Bridges once wrote to his friend, the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, asking how he could possibly learn to believe in God. Hopkins pithily responded: "Give alms." Would that help someone tempted by atheism today, like you and me?

I think so, and here's why. This week Jesus speaks of love for God and neighbor. These dual commands were nothing new when Jesus used them to sum up the Jewish law. What is new is the way he links them together in mutual dependency. In Jesus, God and man have become one. Human-love and God-love are now inseparably married forever.

The newness of the God-man means that there is now a permanently counter-intuitive way into the knowledge and love of God: love of our neighbor. To experience charity is to know God. That's what Hopkins was getting at for his friend. How we treat our fellow human beings is inseparable from faith in God. Do you want to have a stronger sense of God's loving presence and goodness? Commit to serving someone today and this week. Love him or her. Don't wait for love for God to appear in your heart before loving others. Jesus has united divine and human love. If you want to believe more in God, give alms.

— *Father John Muir*



Mass at 8:15am & 5:15pm

All Saints Day



The feast that we know of today as "All Saints Day" originated in May 609, when Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III changed the date to November 1 when he dedicated a chapel at the Vatican in honor of all the saints, and Pope Gregory IV later extended this celebration of all saints to the universal church.

On November 1, the Church celebrates those Christians who achieved spiritual maturity. It is a day to venerate all the holy men and women who have been canonized by the Church. A day later, on All Souls Day, the Church remembers those who have died marked with the sign of faith, especially souls in Purgatory.



The Eucharistic Congress and The Four Marks of the Church

The Eucharistic Congress event was held yesterday, Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield, IL. The event revealed, in a unique way, the four marks of the Church – *Oneness, Universality, Apostolicity, and Holiness*. At the celebration, one could see the four marks of the Church shining ever brighter to illuminate the eternal and glorious splendor of the Church bestowed to her by Christ the Lord.

Oneness – by oneness, we mean that the Church is a single, united, global institution founded by Christ the Lord.

Universality – by universality, we refer to the heavenly and eschatological nature of the Church in which all her members – those in heaven (members of Church triumphant), those in purgatory (members of Church penitent), and those of us here on earth in every part of the world (members of Church militant) are all brothers and sisters united in the salvific bond of Christ’s boundless love.

Apostolicity – by apostolicity, we remember that Christ established his Church on the Apostles. Upon Peter’s confession about the identity of Christ, Jesus established his Church and made Peter its first leader. Today, the Pope represents Peter in his overall governance of the Church. The bishops and archbishops represent the Pope in their dioceses and archdioceses. The priests represent the bishops and archbishops in their parishes. This line of representation in the leadership of the Church reminds us of the apostolic mark of the Church.

Holiness – by holiness, we recall the sinless nature of Christ, which is extended to His mystical body – the Church. Since Christ is holy by his very nature as God, the Church being his body is also holy. This holiness does not mean that any member of the Church is sinless. Instead, it means that while members of the Church – the popes, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and the Church’s lay members may have sins, the Church is incapable of sin.

The Church remains the one body of Christ on earth and the sacrament of encounter with our Lord. As the sacrament of the encounter with Christ, the Church exists to bring Christ into the world in the hearts of men and women who desire the peace and serenity that the world cannot offer and, above all, the salvation that the blood of Christ gained for all on the Cross of Calvary.

Some Christians and groups of Christians disagree with some traditional, theological, or philosophical teachings of the Church. Some felt unheard or unwanted and left the Church. Some feel wounded, estranged, or even unwanted in the Church. Some of these people start Christian communities that worship our Lord and spread some of his teachings accessible to them. The Church recognizes these brothers and sisters as members of the Body of Christ – calling to mind Christ’s response to his beloved disciple in Luke 9:49-50.



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial
Administrator

At the Eucharistic Congress yesterday, we saw the Church’s oneness, universality, apostolicity, and holiness when Catholics from across the twenty-eight counties in our diocese gathered at the Bank of Springfield Center auditorium. As one family of faith in Christ, we listened to some incredible stories of our Catholic faith, heard lectures from some prominent Catholic apologetics and speakers like Scott Hahn, and celebrated Mass officiated by our bishop and the over one hundred priests from across the parishes in our diocese who concelebrated the Mass. Gathering as priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and the lay faithful, and united under one bishop for the Eucharistic Congress, we observed our Lord’s Eucharistic mandate in Matthew 26:26-30; Luke 19:14-20; Mark 14:22-25, and John 6:53-56.

May this historic event in our Diocese yesterday, coming together as a diocese to celebrate the very source and summit of our faith, continue to unite us in Christ as a local Church and witnesses of the love of Christ in our families, communities, and the world. Amen.

—Fr. Peter



Watch Bishop Paprocki’s videos at <http://dio.org>

SPECIAL EVENT: St. Thomas parishioners will meet across from Planned Parenthood at 4pm on Nov. 2 to pray for an end to abortion. See page 4a for location details.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, October 29

10 am – **Mary Reiser**

Monday, October 30

8:15 am – **Gilda DeLeon**

Tuesday, October 31

8:15 am – **Pius Chineke †**

Wednesday, November 1

8:15 am – **Herbert Dulle †**

5:15 pm – All St. Thomas Benefactors

Thursday, November 2

5:15 pm – Deceased members of St. Thomas Parish †

Friday, November 3

8:15 am – **Polly Hensley †**

Saturday, November 4, *No Mass*

† Deceased

Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
October 22	\$ 2,568	\$5,000

Year-to-Date:	\$ 66,959	\$85,000
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Short/Ahead: - \$ 18,041

R/M Donations\$ 60

Sister Parish Donations \$ 165

A11 Souls.....\$ 20

Christmas Flowers\$ 15

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY/PROPAGATION OF FAITH \$ 1,210

CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE/HOPE-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT..... \$ 20

DECATUR CALVARY CEMETERY\$ 15

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>

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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

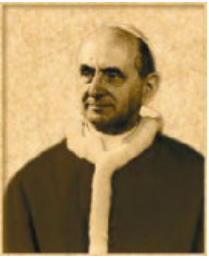
Stan Rothenbuecher, Carol Dilbeck, Rachel Flick, Kevin Henry, Jim Hertel, Ann-Marie Hillyer, Edwin Jones, Patricia Jones, Kelly McLean, Trey McLean, Christina Mooney, Lucia Mounce, Tom Mounce, Rev. Msgr. James O'Shea, Art Richard, Kay Russell, Roz Sandage, Libby Spainhour, Rev. Jason Stone, Ed Schanuel, 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 a 2006 interview with José Cardinal Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, the number of saints and blessed proclaimed by Pope John Paul II, more than those by all his predecessors since 1588 combined, was discussed. Cardinal Saraiva Martins said the pope had 3 reasons for this: following the Second Vatican Council's emphasis on holiness, the extraordinary ecumenical importance of holiness, and that "the saints and blessed manifest the charity of a local church." (Source: EWTN)

Encyclical Quote of the Week



“If evils increase, the devotion of the People of God should also increase. And so, venerable brothers, We want you to take the lead in urging and encouraging people to pray ardently to our most merciful mother Mary by saying the Rosary during the month of October, as We have already indicated. This prayer is well-suited to the

devotion of the People of God, most pleasing to the Mother of God and most effective in gaining heaven's blessings.” — Pope St. Paul VI, *Christi Matri*, 1966



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/decatu to learn more, register and sign up.



November Events

- 1 All Saints Day, Mass at 8:15am & 5:15pm
- 2 All Souls Day, Prayer near Planned Parenthood at 4pm; Mass at 5:15pm, with candlelight service
- 3 First Friday Adoration, 9am-5pm
- 19 Donut Sunday, after Mass



Love of Thy Neighbor in Classic Songs

“Lean On Me,” Bill Withers, 1972

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow
Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on
Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill
Those of your needs that you won't let show
You just call on me brother when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on
Lean on me...
You just call on me brother...
If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
Call me
If you need a friend
(Call me)...



* * * * *

“He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother,” The Hollies, 1969

... The road is long
With many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where, who knows where
But I'm strong
Strong enough to carry him
He ain't heavy, he's my brother
... So on we go
His welfare is of my concern
No burden is he to bear
We'll get there
... For I know
He would not encumber me
He ain't heavy, he's my brother
... If I'm laden at all
I'm laden with sadness
That everyone's heart
Isn't filled with the gladness
Of love for one another
... It's a long, long road
From which there is no return
While we're on the way to there
Why not share?
... And the load
Doesn't weigh me down at all
He ain't heavy, he's my brother
... He's my brother
He ain't heavy, he's my brother...





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