

32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time • November 12, 2023



## St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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



32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You know neither the day nor the hour."  
- Mt 25: 13

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

### More from the Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

*(from a recorded retreat)*

"Now how this story got down to Earth I have no idea. But it seems that one day Our Lord was walking through the Courts of Heaven and saw some souls that had gotten into Heaven very easily. And He went to Peter and He said, 'Peter, I have given you charge of the Kingdom of Heaven. How did these souls gain entry into my Kingdom?' Peter said, 'Don't blame me, Lord. Every time I close a door, your Mother opens a window!' So if you're devoted to Our Lady, you'll never lose your soul. And we say to her in the language of Mary Dixon Thayer, 'Lovely Lady dressed in blue...'" (poem continues on the right)

### 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

#### **Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue**

by Mary Dixon Thayer, 1926

Lovely Lady dressed in blue -----  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little boy,  
Tell me what to say!

Did you lift Him up, sometimes,  
Gently on your knee?  
Did you sing to Him the way  
Mother does to me?

Did you hold His hand at night?  
Did you ever try  
Telling stories of the world?  
O! And did He cry?

Do you really think He cares  
If I tell Him things -----  
Little things that happen? And  
Do the Angels' wings

Make a noise? And can He hear  
Me if I speak low?  
Does He understand me now?  
Tell me -----for you know.

Lovely Lady dressed in blue -----  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little boy,  
And you know the way.



## A WORD FROM FR. PETER

### We Are Individually Parts Of One Another

Last Tuesday, our first reading was from St. Paul's letter to Romans 12:5-16. In the entire chapter, the Apostle to the Gentiles focused on the duties of Christians in general. However, in the passage we read, he talked specifically about how we (Christians) are individually parts of one another. As parts of one another, we complete each other by a faithful and passionate discharge of our various societal functions. Hence, he explains that we have all received different gifts according to the graces that Christ has bestowed upon us.



Fr. Peter Chineke,  
Parochial  
Administrator

Paul's message to the people of Rome some two thousand years ago still applies to us even two thousand years later. The message is simple: whatever you do in life (profession), do it to the best of your abilities. Here in our parish community, we have medical professionals, legal personnel, scientists, bankers, traders, bakers, teachers, scholars, politicians, carpenters, truck drivers, repairers, plumbers, social workers, and many more. Being very good at whatever we do for a living does not only help us as individuals. It also allows others to benefit directly or indirectly from the services of our professions. In the same way, when we perform our duties poorly in whatever career we practice, it does not only affect us negatively as individuals. It also affects other people since we are connected in various ways.

Besides the things we do (our professions), St. Paul also includes what we are (our vocations). Here in our St. Thomas the Apostle Church, we have mothers, fathers, grandparents, priests, sons and daughters, grandchildren, friends, and many more. These are vocations. They are who we are. Whichever one we find ourselves to be, being the best of it in the best possible way is a moral

obligation that, when lived out well, we and the entire society flourish. Again, this is because we are all connected in mysterious ways as children of God and members of the one Body of Christ—the Church.

As we begin this week, may God help us to find new ways to give our best in whatever we do (our professions) and be the best of who we are (our vocations) for the good of all and the greater glory of God. Amen.

—Fr. Peter



## READ THE BIBLE



Sunday, November 12

10 am – **Norman Hensley †**

Monday, November 13

8:15 am – **Braulio Enriquez †**

Tuesday, November 14

8:15 am – **Braulio Enriquez †**

Wednesday, November 15

8:15 am – **Marrieta Enriquez**

Thursday, November 16

8:15 am – **Madonna Wingert †**

Friday, November 17

8:15 am – **For the People of St. Thomas**

Saturday, November 18, *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.**

# Parish Giving

	Collected	Budgeted
November 5	\$ 6,968	\$5,000
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>\$ 77,758</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>
<b>Short/Ahead:</b>	<b>- \$ 17,242</b>	
R/M Donations .....		\$ 215
Sister Parish Donations .....		\$ 270
Christmas Flowers .....		\$ 175
All Souls .....		\$ 300
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY/PROPAGATION OF FAITH .....		\$ 100
CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE & HOPE .....		\$ 85
DECATUR CALVARY CEMETERY .....		\$ 132

**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  
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## Food for the Hungry

Just a reminder that we have a Food Drive for Catholic Charities every weekend of the year. A few cans and boxes of food make a big difference to people who may otherwise go hungry (put items in the basket by the coat rack).

**Here are some ideas:**

- dry pasta, macaroni & cheese, jars of pasta sauce
- canned fish and meat (salmon, tuna, ham, chicken, turkey - pop-top cans are best)
- canned vegetables, fruit, soup, and stew
- instant potato packets
- peanut butter, jam and jelly, cereal
- canned beans, and pork & beans

**Thanks for your caring and generosity!**

## 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

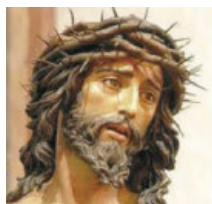
**Please Remember in your Prayers**  
**All who are Ill at Home or in the Hospital and their Families and Caregivers**

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



**Donut Sunday**  
 (& Birthday Party) Nov. 19





## The Hour of Great Mercy

In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord asked for a special prayer and meditation on His Passion each afternoon at the three o'clock hour, the hour that recalls His death on the Cross.

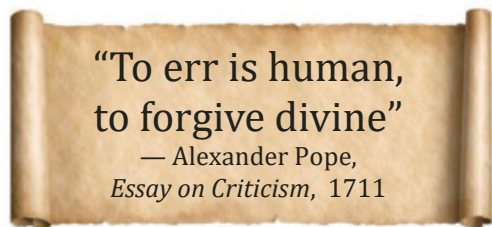
“At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion.” (*St. Faustina's Diary*, 1320)

From these instructions, it's clear that Our Lord wants us to turn our attention to His Passion at the three o'clock hour to whatever degree our duties allow, and He wants us to ask for His mercy.

We can all mentally pause for a "brief instant," think of His total abandonment at the hour of agony, and say a short prayer such as "Jesus, Mercy," or "Jesus, for the sake of Your Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

### Notes:

1. Sources: (a) <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/hour>; (b) Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Stockbridge, MA 01263 (1987); (c) ewtn.com
2. Watch the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on EWTN at 2 PM Central time.



## Song of the Week

“Why Me,” Kris Kristofferson, 1972

Why me Lord, what have I ever done  
To deserve even one  
Of the pleasures I've known  
Tell me Lord, what did I ever do  
That was worth loving You  
Or the kindness You've shown



Lord help me Jesus, I've wasted it  
So help me Jesus, I know what I am  
Now that I know that I've needed you  
So Help me Jesus, my soul's in Your hand

Tell me Lord, if you think there's a way  
I can try to repay  
All I've taken from You  
Maybe Lord, I can show someone else  
What I've been through myself  
On my way back to You

Lord help me Jesus...  
Lord help me Jesus...

Jesus, my soul's in Your hand

# Hopes, Poets, & Paprocki On Hell

Pope Francis has made his personal vision of Hell quite clear on several occasions. During a homily in the Vatican in 2016, he said Hell is not “a torture chamber.” Rather, it is the horror of being separated forever from the “God who loves us so much.” His predecessor, Pope St John Paul II, said something similar in 1999: not so much a physical place, he explained, “Hell indicates the state of those who freely and definitively separate themselves from God, the source of all life and joy.”

The poet Christopher Marlowe also described Hell as a state rather than a specific place, when in his 1592 play *Doctor Faustus*, the character Mephistophilis says:

Hell hath no limits, nor is circumscribed  
In one self-place; for where we are is Hell,  
And where Hell is, there must we ever be.

Satan, in Book IV of Milton’s *Paradise Lost* (1667), has made his escape from Hell so he can destroy mankind on Earth, but he can never escape his torment:

Me miserable! which way shall I fly  
Infinite wrath, and infinite despair?  
Which way I fly is Hell; myself am Hell

Dante’s vision of Hell in the *Divine Comedy* (circa 1300) is an elaborate series of levels, but the words on its gate reveal the inner agony of the souls there. It reads: “ABANDON ALL HOPE, YE WHO ENTER HERE.”

It was Pope Benedict XVI, in 2007, who said that Hell “really exists and is eternal...even if nobody talks about it much anymore.” When he was still Cardinal Ratzinger, he was responsible for much of the work involved in updating the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). The same Catechism not only affirms the existence of Hell and its eternity, but confirms that “the chief punishment of Hell is eternal separation from God.”

In the April 4, 2021 issue of *Catholic Times*, Bishop Paprocki reviewed the many statements in recent articles and books denying the existence of Hell. He had previously quoted the Catechism to refute such views on August 18, 2019.

Sources: Vatican News, 30 March 2018; dio.org

## Encyclical Quote of the Week



“The Cross on Calvary, the Cross upon which Christ conducts His final dialogue with the Father, emerges from the very heart of the love that man, created in the image and likeness of God, has been given as a gift, according to God’s eternal plan.” — Pope St. John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, 1980



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