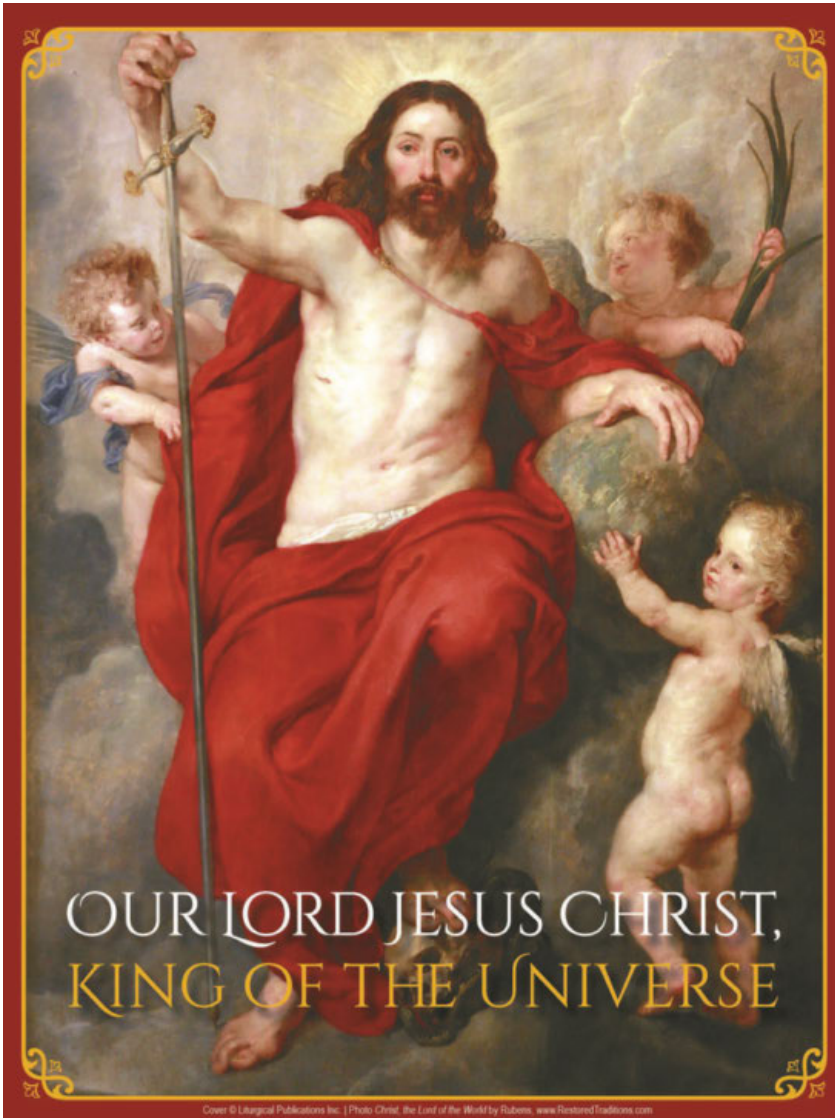


Solemnity of Christ the King • November 26, 2023



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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



Christ the King, the Incarnation, and Public Celebration

“Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both the divine Lord and the man who suffered and died on the Cross. One person of the Trinity unites himself to human nature and reigns over all creation as the Incarnate Son of God. ‘From this it follows not only that Christ is to be adored by angels and men, but that to him as man angels and men are subject, and must recognize his empire; by reason of the hypostatic union Christ has power over all creatures’ (*Quas Primas*, 13)...

Today, religious freedom for many people means that we can believe whatever we want in private, but when we enter the public square or the marketplace, we may not speak of anything that relates to our faith. However, the Church acknowledges the reign of Christ, not only privately, but publicly. **This solemnity encourages us to celebrate and live out our faith in public.**” (Source: uscbb.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 May 2023, for the first time in almost three quarters of a century, a monarch was crowned in England. A few days later a friend of mine scoffed, “What a waste of time and energy! What is the point of a king?”

I’m a proud American who wants neither theocracy nor monarchical restoration. I like our democratic republic. But the coronation of King Charles reminded me of something needed in every person and community: confidence in the future. The king’s most basic role is to symbolize the unity of the nation. In England, the parliament members handle many of the practical duties of governance. But the king or queen can do what they cannot: embody in a single person the reality and future of a whole nation. To say, “this is our king” is to say, “we exist as a community, and we have a future.” Kingship isn’t primarily about the power of one person or family. It’s about the enduring identity and unity of the whole.

To say Christ is our King is to say we exist as a people. We are one in him. We are, and we will be as long as he is. And since he will be our risen king forever, together we have a future filled with hope. Even the best countries will finally fall. But Christ and his Church will endure forever. What good news! It’s not a waste of time to crown a king. We do it all the time. Let’s be sure to crown the right one — the one whose kingdom never ends.

— *Father John Muir*



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

Jesus IS STILL the King

Sometimes, it takes a simple re-wording of a phrase or sentence to re-emphasize its meaning or bring more life. The title of this week's bulletin article should be "Solemnity of Christ the King." However, since that may sound too familiar, rephrasing it as "Jesus IS STILL the King" may be better to remind us of what the feast is genuinely about. What is the origin and essence of this Solemnity?

Many of us know what history says about the first couple of decades of the twentieth century. Prominent among these were the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905; WWI of 1914-1918; the revolutionary ideas of modernism that infiltrated the Church, intellectual life, and the arts; the radical psychological, technological, and scientific theories – some of which inspired mass production of chemical weapons; the Scramble for Africa that saw the invasion and destruction of the African continent; the Great Depression that followed WWI in the United States; the tumultuous revolutions that changed the political and economic landscapes of Mexico, Germany, Egypt, Russia, and many other countries, the Russian Typhus epidemic, and the very deadly Spanish Flu that killed almost one hundred million people worldwide.

The world changed rapidly during these health, intellectual, military, political, and economic crises. There were so many questions challenging the actual existence of God and his supremacy over Creation as people suffered an insurmountable amount of tragedies. Political, economic, and intellectual dictators were rising and imposing themselves on humanity. While some were abandoning God and religion, others asserted themselves in worship positions for their subjects.

As these confusions and crises raged on, Pope Pius XI instituted the Solemnity of Christ - King of the Universe. This was part of his efforts to reinstate Christ in his rightful place and to remind the Church and the world about Christ's preeminent lordship over Creation. He made this institution through his encyclical letter, *Quas Primas*, issued in 1925. Like other encyclical letters of the popes, *Quas Primas* circulated the Pope's new teaching worldwide. The letter's name, *Quas Primas*, is a Latin translation of the phrase "in the first." In this encyclical letter, Pope Pius XI beckoned the world to



Fr. Peter Chineke,
Parochial
Administrator

acknowledge the kingship of Jesus without reservation despite the distractions and sufferings that the current political, military, socioeconomic, cultural, and intellectual revolutions had brought upon humanity. In his words, the Pope says:

"Jesus Christ must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, 'as instruments of justice unto God.'" -Quas Primas, 33

As we end this beautiful liturgical year, may God be praised forever. May He usher us into the new liturgical year with all the blessings to live holy, healthy, and happy lives as individuals and members of the body of Christ – the Church. Amen. — Fr. Peter



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, November 26
10 am – **Polly Hensley †**
Monday, November 27
8:15 am – **Joe Rupnick**
Tuesday, November 28
8:15 am – **Joe Rupnick**
Wednesday, November 29
8:15 am – **Joe Rupnick**
Thursday, November 30
8:15 am – **William Hoffman, M.D.**
Friday, December 1 **No First Friday All-Day Adoration**
8:15 am – **Son-ae Hoffman**
Saturday, December 2, *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.



Pastoral Council Meeting

Mon. Dec. 18 at 6pm



	Collected	Budgeted
November 12	\$ 12,029	\$5,000

Year-to-Date: \$ 89,787 \$100,000

Short/Ahead: - \$ 10,213

R/M Donations	\$ 192
Sister Parish Donations	\$ 60
Christmas Flowers	\$ 100
All Souls	\$ 60
CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE & HOPE	\$ 60
DECATUR CALVARY CEMETERY	\$ 101

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

Mr. Joe Snow, Business Manager

Mr. Chris Hoffman, Communications Coordinator

Rev. Richard Weltin, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Peter Chineke, Parochial Administrator

Open Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm ← **NEW HOURS**

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Christmas Basket Drive



Once again it is time for the parish's annual Christmas Basket Drive for Catholic Charities. Parishioners are encouraged to place donations in the special "lighted" baskets located at the back of the church. The money collected will go to Catholic Charities to purchase \$50.00 gift cards to be given to families in need. Your kindness and generosity will be much appreciated.

Christmas Card Donations



This year St. Thomas is continuing the tradition of taking Christmas gift bags to its parish members who are homebound or in senior facilities. If you have any unused or new Christmas cards, with envelopes, that you would like to donate, use the box at the back of church during the weeks of Nov. 26th & Dec. 3rd.

Keeping in Touch



A visit, phone call or even a handwritten card can brighten anyone's day. St. Thomas parish misses those who can no longer join in celebrating the Sunday Eucharist each week. If you are homebound or in a senior facility, please contact the parish office and give your name, address and phone number so your info can be added to the parish's visitation/contact list.



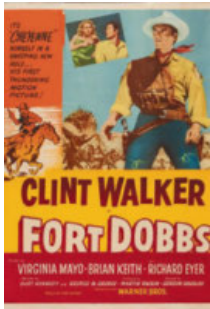
Please Remember in your Prayers

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 stthomasdecatu@dio.org to add or remove a name.

Advent Activity Idea: Making a 22-Day Act of Kindness Advent calendar can be a fun activity not only for families but also for individuals. The calendar can be as simple or as decorative as you want. Write an act of kindness on each calendar date. Once the kindness is completed write what your family or you did on a small piece of paper. Put the pieces of paper in a jar, box or even a manger. At the end of Advent take them out and read them aloud. What a wonderful gift to Jesus showing Him how much kindness you gave others in preparation for the celebration of His birth!





Clint Walker's Prayer

Western TV and movie star Clint Walker had to rely on his faith after a very serious skiing accident back in 1971. "I shoved off down the slope, gathering speed as I followed the contours of the twisting, irregular terrain," Walker recalled. "I still don't know how it happened, but all at once I was tumbling out of control, and then—an abrupt, violent stop."

In that moment, Walker said he knew he was dying. As he waited for help to arrive, the actor prayed to God to help him stay alive. "I said, 'God, I'm really in trouble! I can't help myself. I'm not going to make it, unless You will see me through—and I would like to stay around for a while. With that, I seemed content to let go,'" he said.

Walker made it to the hospital but had no recordable pulse or blood pressure and was pronounced dead. However, the doctors kept working and performed open-heart surgery on Walker. "... I left the hospital walking, eight days later," Walker marveled. "I spent three days at the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles and then went home. The end, you might say, of a remarkable experience." (Source: movieguide.org) [Walker died in 2018 at age 90]

"Put Your Hand in the Hand," Ocean, 1971



In the 1971 musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the chorus asks Christ the question "Do you think you're what they say you are?" Like St. Peter, we know who He is. Ocean's song, also from 1971, is about His strength and our weakness.

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee

Every time I look into the Holy Book I want to tremble
(tremble)
Or when I read about the part where the carpenter cleared
the temple (temple)
For the buyers and the sellers were no different fellas than
what I profess to be
And it causes me shame to know we're not the people we
should be

So, put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the wa-
ter...

My mama taught me how to pray before I reached the age of
seven
She said, "there'll come a time when there'll probably be
room in heaven"
But I'm feeling kinda guilty 'bout the number of times to do
what we must do
But we forget what he said, then we figure that he'll still make
room

So, you gotta put your hand in the hand of the man who
stilled the water...

Prayer in the Movies

It's A Wonderful Life, 1946

George Bailey (James Stewart) sitting at a bar counter asks God "Dear Father in heaven. I'm not a praying man but if you're up there and you can hear me, show me the way. I'm at the end of my rope. Show me the way, God." He leaves the bar and then plans to jump off a bridge, but sees someone in the water below, Clarence, his guardian angel.

Patton, 1970

General Patton (George C. Scott) orders the chaplain to write a prayer. Patton goes outside where there is a light snow falling and says: "Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain this immoderate weather with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen." The weather became excellent.

Godfather, Part 2, 1974

Fredo says a Hail Mary to catch a fish. At the end of the movie, he gets killed right at the part "at the hour of our death."

A Bridge Too Far, 1977

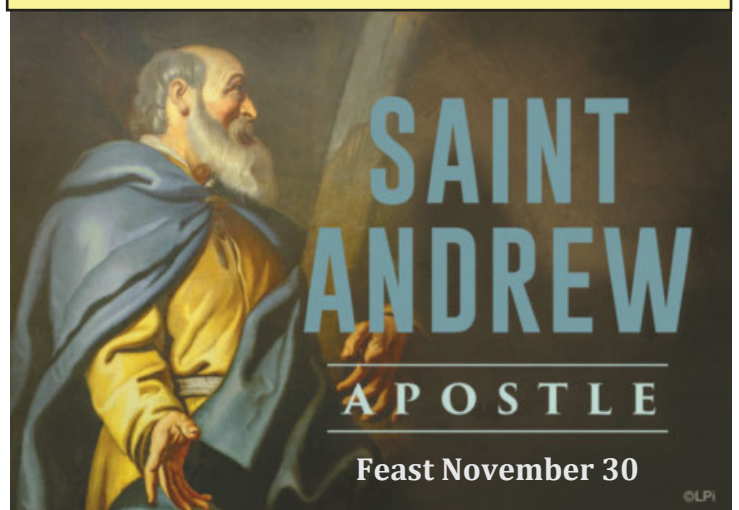
Robert Redford keeps saying "Hail Mary, full of grace" as he paddles across a river under enemy fire. He makes it across. At the end of the film, the wounded British soldiers start singing the hymn "Abide With Me."

Gettysburg, 1993

Robert E. Lee (Martin Sheen) says this prayer in the morning of the first day of battle: "Bow down Thy Heaven O' Lord, and come down and touch the mountains and they shall smoke. Blessed be the Lord, my strength, which teaches my fingers to fight and my hands to war. Amen." (derived from Psalm 144)

Gravity, 2013

Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) says in despair: "No one will mourn for me ... No one will pray for my soul. ... I've never prayed. ... Nobody has taught me how."





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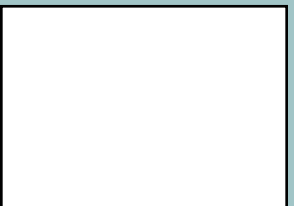


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