

**St Thomas the Apostle Parish**  
**PO Box 146**  
**St. Thomas, MO 65076**

**St. Cecilia Parish**  
**105 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Meta, MO 65058**

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia,

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is affecting our nation and parish communities in many ways. In an effort to help slow the spread of this virus, the St Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia parishes are following the guidance and recommendations being put forth by Bishop McKnight of the Diocese of Jefferson City.

Bishop McKnight's message can be found at <https://diojeffcity.org/public-health/>

Please make note of the following:

Information can be found on the St Thomas Parish website at <http://www.stthomasapostle.net/> and St. Cecilia website at <http://www.stceciliameta.net/>

**Church:** Our churches will remain open during normal hours (St. Thomas 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM and St. Cecilia 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM) and remain as a place of prayer and comfort. Private stations of the cross, prayer and adoration are welcome. Please use social distancing of 6 to 8 feet from others, refrain from handshakes and cover mouth/nose when coughing or sneezing.

**Masses:** Effective immediately, all public Masses have been suspended. Bishop McKnight has provided a dispensation for attendance of Sunday Mass, but we have not been dispensed of honoring the Lord's Day. Join the weekend Mass online at 10:00 AM each Sunday at St. Thomas the Apostle Church facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/St-Thomas-the-Apostle-Church-109903037307741/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/St-Thomas-the-Apostle-Church-109903037307741/?modal=admin_todo_tour). The link is also on St. Thomas the Apostle parish website. Mass is also available on the EWTN channel.

Fr. Leonard will be praying the Sunday and daily Masses privately for scheduled intentions. Please watch the bulletin for those weekend/other Mass intentions that have to be rescheduled.

**Parish Offices:** If you need to reach Father Leonard, contact him at 573 477-3315 or [frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com](mailto:frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com). St. Thomas the Apostle parish office will be staffed as normal, but closed to outside visitors until further notice. Jenny Becker may be contacted at 573-477-3315 or 573-690-0642 or [jbeckeroffice@gmail.com](mailto:jbeckeroffice@gmail.com). Jan Heckemeyer may be contacted at 573-477-3315 or 573-619-8432 or [jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com](mailto:jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com). Doris Stumpe may be contacted at 573-619-6125 or [dorisstumpe@att.net](mailto:dorisstumpe@att.net).

**Baptisms and Weddings:** Are postponed through April 3 and will be dealt with on case by case basis following current recommendations of the Diocese.

**Funerals:** Funeral will be restricted to immediate non-symptomatic family members with gatherings no larger than 10 persons. Funeral lunches are suspended at this time.

**Parish Small Groups** participating in the planning process are encouraged to have conference calls with members, use social media or individually answer questions and submit to the group leader for compilation. In addition, we are allowed to postpone meetings until a later date after April 3. Information and on line forms are available at <https://diojeffcity.org/better-together-pastoral-planning-process>

**Confessions and Anointing:** The obligation of Lenten Confession has been dispensed but confession and/or anointing will be available at the regular scheduled times at St. Thomas the Apostle (Saturdays

4:00 – 4:45 PM) and St. Cecilia (Sundays 7:00 – 7:45 AM and Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:15 PM). The communal Lenten penance services have been cancelled but Father Leonard will be available for individual confessions on March 24 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at St. Cecilia and on March 31 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at St. Thomas the Apostle. All confessions will be private/behind a screen until further notice.

**Parish Events:** All parish events scheduled through April 3 are postponed or cancelled.

**Parish Hall/Center Rentals:** If you have the parish hall/center rented during this time, you will be contacted you about rescheduling or refunding the hall rental deposit and fee.

**St Thomas the Apostle School** is suspending in-school instruction and all extracurricular activities are cancelled until April 6 when school reopens. <https://diojeffcity.org/blog/2020/03/16/diocese-of-jefferson-city-closing-catholic-schools-march-18-april-3/>

**Tithe/Financial Commitment:** Please strive to keep up with your financial commitment to the parish during this time when public worship and events have been suspended. The work of our parishes and staff continues with ongoing expenses and financial obligations. St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners can mail contributions to the parish office at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, PO Box 146, St. Thomas, MO 65076. Or you may sign up for electronic giving through ACH payments. Blank ACH forms are available in St. Thomas the Apostle Church entrances and on the parish website. Call or email the St. Thomas the Apostle parish office if you have questions about ACH payments. St. Cecilia parishioners can mail contributions to St. Cecilia Church, Attention: Doris Stumpe, PO Box 146, St. Thomas, MO 65076.

**Outreach to our parish community/vicinity:** Please contact the parish offices, Father Leonard or a PPC member of your needs or the needs of others. If you wish to volunteer, the Diocese enrollment is at <https://diojeffcity.org/parish-disaster-responders-team-volunteer-form>. If you know of a someone needing assistance, please don't hesitate to call.

**Updates and Communications:** Ongoing updates will be communicated through the following: St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia parish websites, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and School Facebook pages, marquee signs at both churches, and church bulletins.

**Other Information:** The CDC's COVID-19 page is an accurate, credible source that is consistently updated with directives from the Whitehouse. The webpage is found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

We encourage all parishioners to pray,

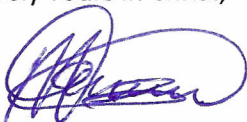
***O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.***

***Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.***

***We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.***

***Amen.***

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and St. Cecilia Parish