

The Roman Catholic Parishes of

St. Thomas the Apostle

in St. Thomas

St. Cecilia

in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net

PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2015

Pastor: Father Jeremy A. Secrist
jasecrist@yahoo.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Jenny Becker
jbeckeroffice@gmail.com

St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Doris Stumpe
dorisstumpe@att.net



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
lheckemeyer@embarqmail.com
School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

St. Thomas Secretary:
Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff
stthomasoffice@embarqmail.com

School Website:
www.stthomasapostleschool.net

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Thursdays 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

School Office hours during school year: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. at St. Thomas; Sundays 7:30 - 7:50 a.m. at St. Cecilia;
or anytime by appointment, just call Father.

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Mass Schedule for the Week of December 20-27:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Vic Otto
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Wm. & Rufina Boessen
Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Jim Reinkemeyer
Wednesday 6:00 a.m. **Rorate Mass** – Jim Gray
Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – L&D Anthony Schellman Family
Midnight Mass 12:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes
Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. – August, Leona & Donald Loethen
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Bernadine Groner
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Dennis Struempfler

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2015-2016:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$152,502.00
Actual Collection for 2015-2016:	\$131,513.53
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	-\$20,988.47
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

December 6	\$6,583.25
December 13	\$5,042.11
December 20	\$
December 27	\$

Collection Online: \$4,259.00

December total to date: **\$15,844.36**

Difference for December: **-\$9,532.64**

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid: \$2,273,475.34
Income from parishioners for fiscal year 2015-2016
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$14,600.00**
Loan payments to date for fiscal year 2015-2016: **\$55,366.44**
(Principal) \$43,635.66 (Interest) \$11,730.78
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$540,417.88**

St. Thomas Cantor / Organist

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten/Jackie
Midnight Mass – Choir
Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. – Lisa Wieberg/Emilie
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kerry Meyer/Elizabeth
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jean Kliethermes/Jackie

St. Thomas Reader/ Petitions (December 26-27)

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Larui Luebbering
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard Heckemeyer

St. Thomas Altar Servers (December 26-27)

Tuesday December 22 – Latham Cavin & Natalie Otto
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Andrew Luebbering, Bruno Puleo,
Emma & Olivia Boessen
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Madilyn Buschjost, Caleb Buechter,
Claire & Sabrina Luebbering

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of December 20-27:

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Fritz Luebbert
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – People of Our Parishes

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – No Mass
Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Larry Stumpe
Christmas Day 8:30 a.m. – Vic Otto

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Josephine Werdehausen
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2015-2016:	\$60,471.51
Collection Total for 2015-2016:	\$28,368.51
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,039.29

Collection in Church:

December 6	\$1,101.00
December 13	\$1,710.00
December 20	\$
December 27	\$

December total to date: **\$2,811.00**

Difference for December: **-\$2,228.29**

Please remember your parish in your last will & testament.

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

December – Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotte
January – Mary & Dominic Plassmeyer

St. Cecilia Reader / Petitions

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – No Mass
December 26-27
Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Jennifer Even
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing
January 1
Friday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

St. Cecilia Altar Servers

December 26-27
Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Joshua & Alex Even,
Carson Libbert & Gavin Holterman
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Will & Melina Derkum,
Sophie Bock
January 1
Friday 8:00 a.m. – Nicholas & Shelby Wankum
Ava & Saige Werdehausen

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

December 26-27

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark Luebbering, Pat Kaiser
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Bill Lueckenhoff, Rosalyn Wieberg,
Richard & Jan Heckemeyer

December 31

6:00 p.m. – Lora Boessen, Betty Schellman, Mark Luebbering

January 1

10:00 a.m. – Shirley Volmert, Lynne Reinkemeyer, Jan Carter

January 2-3

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Pat Kaiser, Paul & Jenny Becker
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Janet Lueckenhoff, Glenn Prenger,
Linda Lueckenhoff, Gilbert & Hermina Strobe

St. Thomas Greeters/Ushers

December 26-27

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mike Groner & Dave Luebbering
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff & Larry Lueckenhoff

December 31, 6:00 p.m. – Steve & Richard Schellman

January 1, 10:00 a.m. – Art Groner & Eric Boessen

January 2-3

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Fred Luebbering & Joe Buschjost
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Carolyn & TJ Loethen

St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass

December 26-27

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mike & Trish Green
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Brian & Katie Luebbering

December 31 6:00 p.m. – Gilbert & Betty Schellman

January 1, 10:00 a.m. – Ray & Shirley Volmert

January 2-3

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Robyn & Rebecca Schroeder
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Rosalyn Wieberg, Cole & Cooper Peters

St. Thomas Collection Counters:

December 26-27 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

January 2-3 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes

January 9-10 – Richard & Jan Heckemeyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday 7:25 a.m. – Viola – Sorrowful (Rebecca Schroeder)

Christmas Eve 4:25 p.m. – Barb Graessle – Joyful (Renee Stockman)

Midnight 11:10 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina – Joyful (Cassie Twehus)

Christmas Day 9:45 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Joyful (Caleb & Ashleigh Schroeder)

Saturday 4:40 p.m. – Marilyn Herigon – Joyful (Bailey Veltrop)

Sunday 9:40 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Joyful (Tyler Wankum)

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

December 26-27

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Brenda Wansing, Doris Stumpe
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

January 1

Friday 8:00 a.m. – Gerald & Phyllis Rehagen, Janice Schanzmeyer

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

December 26-27

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Tom Gragert, Lou Kloepfel, Mitch & Brendan Stumpe

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer, Larry Lueckenotto, Harold Libbert, Anton Libbert

January 1

Friday 8:00 a.m. – Tony Derkum, Leon Schanzmeyer, Kenny Otto, Dominic Plassmeyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

December 26-27

Saturday 6:40 p.m. – Alice Hake– Joyful Mysteries (Megan Werdehausen)

Sunday 7:40 a.m. – Margaret Brune– Joyful Mysteries (Josh Wieberg)

January 1

8:00 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer – Joyful Mysteries (Sarah Wolken)

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$2.50.**

**IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFILL
YOUR LITURGICAL MINISTRY,
IN YOUR KINDNESS & CHARITY,
PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT.**

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist at least six months prior to the desired date.

** The names listed after the mysteries of the rosary to be prayed before Mass are those from St. Cecilia and St. Thomas the Apostle Parishes who are preparing for the Sacrament Confirmation. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this important Sacrament.*

Christmas Mass Schedule at St. Thomas

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve;

12:00 a.m. Midnight;

10:30 a.m. Christmas morning

St. Thomas Liturgical Ministries for Christmas

St. Thomas Servers

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Andrew Luebbering, Jeremy Stockman, Ethan Rackers, Cameron & Chesney Luebbering, Lane Libbert, Henry Buschjost, Ava Morris, Cole Peters

Midnight Mass – Ely & Dawson Wieberg, Isaac Prenger, Ben & Emma Luebbering, Clint Luebbering,

Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. – Austin & Brie Heckman, Nolan & Molly Suthoff, Luke Schroeder, Emily Schell

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Mark & Barb Graessle, Leeroy Budnik, Mike & Sheri Wieberg

Midnight Mass – Emily Luebbering, Janet Lueckenhoff, Gilbert & Hermina Strobe, Keith Kliethermes

Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. – Bill & Betty Jo Luebbering, Millie Wieberg, Carolyn Loethen, Lillian Lackman

St. Thomas Greeters/Ushers

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Mark Graessle, Bill & Jason Lueckenhoff, Doug Stockman

Midnight Mass – Richard Heckemeyer & Keith Kliethermes

Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. – Mattheuw Prenger & Eric Boessen

St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Travis Rackers Family

Midnight Mass – Mark & Lauri Luebbering

Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. – Alan & Lynne Reinkemeyer Family

St. Thomas Reader/Petitions

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Kristin Buschjost

Midnight Mass – Daffiny Tallent

Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. – Alan Reinkemeyer

Christmas Mass Schedule at St. Cecilia

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve;

8:30 a.m. Christmas morning

St. Cecilia Liturgical Ministries for Christmas

St. Cecilia Servers

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Zachary, Alex & Joshua Even
Christmas Day 8:30 a.m. – Natalie & Will Otto

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Bonnie Kampeter, Brenda Wansing, Betty Hagenhoff, Lou Kloepfel, Doris Stumpe

Christmas Day 8:30 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Pam Libbert

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Tom Gragert, Lou Kloepfel, Darin Even, Randy Hagenhoff

Christmas Day 8:30 a.m. – Larry Lueckenotto, Harold Libbert, Anton Libbert, Terry Libbert

St. Cecilia Reader/Petitions

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Jennifer Even

Christmas Day 8:30 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

RORATE MASS – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23: There is an ancient custom during the Season of Advent to celebrate Mass in the early morning before sunrise accompanied only by candlelight in an otherwise dark church. Just as the entire world awaits the coming of the first light of dawn, this custom evokes the expectation of the Church prayerfully awaiting the coming of the True Light of the world. The name “Rorate” comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon *Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum*. “Drop down you heavens, from above and let the skies pour down righteousness” (Isaiah 45:8). On **Wednesday, December 23**, Mass will be offered by candlelight at **St. Thomas the Apostle at 6:00 a.m.**

HOSPITALITY FOLLOWING RORATE MASS: Coffee, juice and other hospitality will be offered in the St. Thomas Vitae House after 6:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, December 23.

A NOTE OF THANKS: Many sincere thanks to all of you who have been so very kind and considerate in sending cards and cookies. I hope that this Advent season has been a time of deepened faith for you and your families. I pray that our celebration of the Lord’s Incarnation this Christmas may be a time of true joy, genuine peace and abundant blessings.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Our Savior – Fr. Secrist

MASS SCHEDULE FOR MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION):

ST. THOMAS:

December 31, 2015: 6:00 p.m.

January 1, 2016: 10:00 a.m.

ST. CECILIA

January 1, 2016: 8:00 a.m.

ANNIVERSARY NOTES IN CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER: If you would like your anniversary (10 years & over) or birthday (90 years & over) listed in the Catholic Missourian, please send a note to Jenny Becker at jbeckeroffice@gmail.com or call 573-477-3315.

SCRIP SALES (December 26-27) Visit www.stthomasapostleschool.net/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kelley Buschjost Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Sara Otto

TIME AND TALENT forms are still available at the entrances of Church (green color for St. Thomas; peach color for St. Cecilia). If you wish to add or change your current ministries and activities, please complete and return a form.

2015 CHRISTMAS/SEMINARY ASSESSMENT: Our assessment for Seminarian Formation & Priest Retirement is **\$1,128.00 for St. Cecilia, \$3,688.00 for St. Thomas the Apostle** Parish. Please use the envelope included in your December packet.

MINISTRY TO THE ILL & INFIRM: If you are preparing for surgery, recovering from surgery, homebound or ill, please let Fr. Secrist (477-3315) and/or MaryPat Luebbering (477-3476) know so that you have the opportunity to receive the Sacraments and pastoral care.

THE 2015-2016 CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL (CSA): The Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA) is our opportunity to come together as the Church in the 95 Catholic Parishes and 15 missions of our diocese. This year, CSA videos are available on the diocesan website www.diojeffcity.org. Please take the time to view the informational videos by clicking on the “Youtube video” link located on the upper right hand corner.

The 2016 CSA goal for **St. Cecilia Parish** is **\$3,363.00 (12 individuals have pledged \$1,040 so far)**.

The 2016 CSA goal for **St. Thomas Parish** is **\$7,945.00 (30 individuals have pledged \$4,720.00 so far)**.

Please be generous so that we can reach our CSA goals. Additional CSA envelopes are available at the entrances of Church.

ST. CECILIA CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you want to remember your loved ones during the Christmas season, you may make a monetary donation with their names (CLEARLY PRINTED) in an envelope marked “ST. CECILIA FLOWER DONATION”. Please place the flower donations in the collection basket by December 20. The names of those to be remembered will be published in the December 26-27 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Those wishing to make a monetary donation toward the Christmas flowers and decorations at St. Thomas are asked to place their donations, along with the names (CLEARLY PRINTED) of those to be remembered in the envelope provided in the December packet. Please place donations in the collection basket by December 20. The names of those to be remembered will be published in the December 26-27 bulletin.

SEND A LITTLE CHRISTMAS JOY You are encouraged to remember our parishioners who are living in nursing homes, retirement centers and in residences elsewhere with a Christmas card or note. Please find below those who would love to hear from you.

Stanley Brand, Lenoir Health Care, 3300 New Haven Rd. Columbia, MO 65201

Joe Kaiser, Golden Living Center, 3038 W. Truman Blvd. Jefferson City, MO 65109

Henrietta Kroll, Jefferson City Manor, 1720 Vieth Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109

Ginny Libbert, 1030 Edmonds St., Jefferson City, MO 65109, Room 215

Celestine Stegeman, 4214 Pinehurst Ct., Jefferson City, MO 65019

Bertha Stumpe 1215A Duane Swift Parkway, Jefferson City, MO 65109

ADULT SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: The next meeting will be **Sunday, January 10, 6:00 p.m.** in Vitae House at St. Thomas. This meeting is for those adults who are becoming Catholic. Questions? Please contact Fr. Secrist at 477-3315.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: **Wednesday, January 6, 7:30 p.m.** in St. Cecilia Parish Center.

MASS INTENTIONS...

The specific Mass intentions for each scheduled Mass are regularly published in this bulletin and are specifically requested by individual request. Every reasonable effort is made to accommodate particular times and dates, when so requested. However, when on occasion the date or time request cannot be met, the intention will be rescheduled for the next earliest date available.

ST. THOMAS CYO will meet on Monday, January 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The St. Thomas CYO will be hosting an open gym on Sunday, January 10 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Please join our youth in volleyball, basketball & other activities.

FIRST FRIDAY OF JANUARY: Because the Holy Day of Mary, the Mother of God (January 1) falls on the first Friday of the month, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Anointing of the Sick and Confessions will be held on **Friday, January 8, 2016**.

PARISH CALENDARS FOR 2016 are available at the entrances to church. These free calendars indicate our parish’s Sunday Mass times and the dates for Holy Days of Obligation throughout the coming year.

ST. THOMAS PSR CLASSES are usually held on Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:00 p.m. for grade & high school students. There will be no PSR on December 23 or 30; classes resume next year.

Everyone involved in the PSR program is asked to please sign up for the Remind text messaging. This is the primary form communication we will use should classes need to be cancelled. Text @stthomaspsr to 81010 to receive messages. Also, please follow our "St. Thomas the Apostle PSR" page on Facebook for messages and notifications of events.

ST. CECILIA SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School classes for St. Cecilia immediately follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Parish Center. Sunday School classes are open to any children in kindergarten, or those who will be entering kindergarten next year (fall of 2016). Please contact Jennifer Even at 573-680-6945, 573-229-8976 or evenfamily6@att.net with any questions.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School is for children preschool age (2 years prior to Kindergarten) and will meet on Sundays from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. in the St. Thomas School Kindergarten room. Please contact Daffiny Tallent at 573-694-4408 or email ddtallent@embarqmail.com if interested and/or for more information.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE YARD SIGNS & WINDOW STICKERS: Show your support for our local Catholic school by purchasing a sign for your front yard and a window sticker for your vehicle, boat or tractor. Yard signs and window stickers are \$5.00 each. Please contact the School Office at 573-477-3322.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 21 – K-8 Caroling at Mid-America Bank, Bowling in the afternoon.
22 – Early Release K-8 1:20 p.m. – Car riders, bus 1:30 p.m. End of 2nd Quarter.
23 – January 3 – Christmas Vacation Kindergarten – 8th Grade.
January 4 – School Resumes

The St. Thomas the Apostle School Self-Study will be held on April 10-12, 2016.

BOX TOPS: Please continue to save Box Tops for Education, Coke Points & Best Choice labels.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL is still accepting registrations for ***Preschool through 8th grade***. Please call the school office to register at 573-477-3322.

RECOGNIZING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES in the bulletin. If you are a college or technical school graduate this semester, please let us know by e-mailing or call the school at 573-477-3322, or the Parish Office at 573-477-3315. The names will be published in the December 26-27 bulletin.

COLE COUNTY PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 5: Candidates interested in running for a three year term on the Board of Directors must complete an application by 5:00 pm, January 20, 2016 to be included on the April 7, 2016 election ballot. Please notify Sheri Wieberg at [573-477-3497](tel:573-477-3497) if interested. (You must reside within the district one whole year before the election and be at least 25 years of age to hold a seat on the Board.)

ST. THOMAS PARISH PARK BOARD TRIVIA NIGHT is Saturday, January 23, 2016 in the St. Thomas Parish Center.

RETRouvaille: You Can Help Your Marriage: 25% of surveyed couples say they are "Happily Married". For everyone else there is Retrouvaille. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Does talking only make it worse? For information on the Retrouvaille Program, visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. The next program begins the weekend of January 29-31, 2016.

JOB OPENING--COLE R-II BLAIR OAKS DISTRICT: Food service/Part time kitchen assistants 3-4 hours per day, 2 positions available. Please contact Tony Reinkemeyer at 573-634-2053 or District Office at 573-636-2020 for more information.

CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM THE BISHOP:

Christmas 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the peace of this Christmas season be with all of you! One of the traditional images of Christmas that readily comes to our minds is the star, shining brightly above the manger where Jesus was laid. The thought of light dispelling the darkness brings a sense of happiness.

We only need to drive around on Christmas Eve and see houses lit up in colorful displays to realize how light has a way of lifting our spirits. Christ Jesus came into our world to be the light of the human race, as the beginning of John's Gospel proclaims. No matter what the coming year may bring, it is my hope that each of us may find comfort in knowing that the light of God's Love shines in our hearts. With my best wishes for a joyous and Merry Christmas, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend John R. Gaydos, Bishop of Jefferson City

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

The origins of the Christmas tree are found in the medieval plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up before Christmas and remains in place until at least the Solemnity of Epiphany, or in some parts of the world, even until the Feast of the Presentation. In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, perhaps in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

