

**The Roman Catholic Parishes of**  
**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
in St. Thomas

**St. Cecilia**  
in Meta

[www.stthomasapostle.net](http://www.stthomasapostle.net)  
[www.stthomasapostleschool.net](http://www.stthomasapostleschool.net)

[www.stceciliameta.net](http://www.stceciliameta.net)

PO Box 146  
St. Thomas, MO 65076

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 18, 2021**

Administrator: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi  
[frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com](mailto:frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com)  
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315  
3700

St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:  
Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer  
[jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com](mailto:jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com)

St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:  
Mrs. Theresa Veit  
[tveitoffice@gmail.com](mailto:tveitoffice@gmail.com)



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer  
[lheckemeyer@stacs.school](mailto:lheckemeyer@stacs.school)  
School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-

St. Thomas the Apostle Secretary:  
Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff  
[dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com](mailto:dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com)

St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:  
Mrs. Doris Stumpe  
[dstumpeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:dstumpeoffice@gmail.com)

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; **Thursdays 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

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

St. Cecilia Rectory Office hours: Wednesdays 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Confessions:** Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. at St. Thomas; Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. and  
Sundays 7:00 - 7:45 a.m. at St. Cecilia; or anytime by appointment, just call Father.

**Saint Thomas the Apostle**

**Mass Schedule for the Week of April 18-25:**

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Geneva Plassmeyer  
Wednesday 7:45 a.m.- L&D Lawrence & Caroline  
Herigon Family  
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Joe & Teresa Kaiser  
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Margaret Buechter  
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Celeste Suthoff

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00  
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$254,170.00  
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$222,494.75**  
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 31,675.25  
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

**Collection in Church:**

April 4 \$ 5,125.00  
April 11 \$ 3,140.00  
April 18 \$  
April 25 \$

**Collection Online:** \$ 5,117.00

**April total to date:** **\$13,382.00**

Difference for April: -\$12,035.00

**St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund**

Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021  
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$18,263.00**

**St. Thomas the Apostle Cantor / Organist**

Saturday 5:00p.m.– Mary Kay Brand / Jackie Prenger  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Judy Schroeder / Annette Kehner

**St. Thomas the Apostle Reader**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jean Kliethermes

**Mass Live Streamers:**

April 25 – Brooke Schell  
May 2 – Lauri Luebbering  
May 9 – Karlie Reinkemeyer  
May 16 – Jennifer Schroeder  
May 23 – Dunja Wieberg

**Saint Cecilia**

**Mass Schedule for the Week of April 18-25:**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Caden Haslag

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Urban Voss

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00  
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$43,671.35**  
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

**Collection in Church:**

April 4 \$ 1,735.00  
April 11 \$ 990.00  
April 18 \$  
April 25 \$

**April total to date:** **\$ 2,725.00**

Difference for April: -\$ 2,441.67

**St. Cecilia Collection Counters**

April – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer  
May – Dale & Margie Helton

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR  
LAST WILL & TESTAMENT**

**St. Cecilia Reader**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer

**IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFILL YOUR  
LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENT, PLEASE FIND A  
REPLACEMENT. YOUR FELLOW  
PARISHIONERS THANK YOU!**

**St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Richard Schellman & Fred Luebbering  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Jim Lueckenhoff & Larry Lueckenhoff

**St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Pat Kaiser  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Linda Lueckenhoff

**St. Thomas the Apostle Servers**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. -  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Miranda Meyer & Avery Libbert

**St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters**

April 18 – Shara Buechter & Paul Becker  
April 25 –Keith & Jean Kliethermes  
May 2 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg  
May 9 – Jennifer Schroeder & Dunja Wieberg

**Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas:**

Tuesday, 7:20 a.m. – Joann Heckman – Sorrowful Mysteries  
Wednesday 7:20 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Glorious Mysteries  
Thursday 7:20 a.m.- Viola Boessen–Luminous Mysteries  
Friday 7:20 a.m. – Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries  
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon– Glorious Mysteries  
Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe– Glorious

**SCRIP:** Visit [www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip](http://www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip) for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Daffiny Tallent at 573-694-4408 to purchase anytime.

**SNACKS FOR QUILTERS:** Anyone entering the St. Thomas Parish School building must wear a mask at all times, except when quilting. Must be fever free or no temperature of 100 or higher. Please take your temperature at home.

**Thursday, April 22** – Sharon Kirkweg & Sandy Kliegel

Please bring snack to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strobe at 573-477-3349.

**Thursday, April 29** – Jean Kliethermes & Carla Kroll

**CONGRATULATIONS** to ***Axel Jameson Williams***, son of Daron & Felicia Williams who became a child of God through baptism this weekend in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PRAYER LINE REQUESTS** should be emailed to Theresa Veit at [tveitoffice@gmail.com](mailto:tveitoffice@gmail.com) or by calling 573-418-7301.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANT AT ST. CECILIA PARISH:** Daniel Wieberg

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH:**

Ellie Boessen	Isabell Hoffman	Kylee Schulte
Aliyah Buechter	Lyza Lackman	Allie Siebeneck
Jace Bunch	Kalli Libbert	Stella Volmert
Emerald Fennewald	Hattie Luebbering	Evelyn Wooten
Annabelle Gass	Sydney Peters	
Chelsey Herigon	Emmett Rackers	

**BISHOP MCKNIGHT’S APRIL PRAYER INTENTION:** Let us pray for a renewed understanding of our baptismal dignity as sons and daughters of God the Father, and a commitment to living in peace with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

**PASTORS MEDITATION: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of EASTER: THE RISEN LORD SHARES HIS POWER WITH US AND THROUGH US WITH OTHERS. (Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; I Jn. 2:1-5a; Lk. 24:35-48)**

As Jesus said “I will not leave you as orphans” (Jn. 14:18), with that I wish to congratulate and appreciate the new member that joined the children of God, **Axel Williams** who got baptized, all the brides of Jesus, that received their **First Holy Communion** this week and all those that received **Confirmation** to be bold witnesses of Christ, Christ is counting on you, we will always pray for you and support for you, not to let him down by defecting.

The common theme of today’s readings is the challenge to adjust our lives to the living presence of the risen Lord as we grow daily more aware of the presence of His Holy Spirit within us and surrounding us. This awareness should strengthen our hope in His promises, bring us to true repentance for our sins and the renewal of our lives, and lead us to bear witness to Christ by our works of charity. The readings also remind us that the purpose of the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus was to save us from our sins.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, gives us Peter’s second sermon addressing the Jewish assembly at the Portico of Solomon in Jerusalem. Peter forcefully shows how the messianic prophecies have been fulfilled in the crucified and risen Jesus and challenges the Jews to repent and turn toward God so that their sins may be wiped away. In the second reading, John answers doubts raised by the heretics of his time, asserting the fundamental Christian doctrine that Jesus’ death was a sacrifice offered as expiation for our sins.

Today’s Gospel describes Jesus’ appearance on the evening of His Resurrection to his apostles who were in the locked Upper Room, the Cenacle. We see Jesus remove the doubts of his apostles about his Resurrection by inviting them to touch him and by eating a piece of cooked fish. Jesus explains how the prophecies have been fulfilled in him. Then he commissions them to bear witness to him and preach “repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name” after receiving the Holy Spirit.

Dear friends, we need to share the apostles’ “Upper Room Experience” in the Holy Mass: The same Jesus who, in the Upper Room, the Cenacle, prepared the disciples for their preaching and witnessing mission, is present with us in the Eucharistic celebration. In the “Liturgy of the Word” of God, Jesus speaks to us. In the “Liturgy of the Eucharist,” Jesus becomes our spiritual food and drink. Thus, today’s Gospel scene is repeated every Sunday on our parish altar. Like the early disciples, we come together to repent of our sins, express our gratitude for blessings received, listen to God’s word, and offer our lives to God along with our petitions and His gifts of consecrated Bread and Wine. We also consume the spiritual food Jesus supplies, thus gaining the strength necessary for sharing Christ’s message with the entire world, mainly by living transparent Christian lives.

Jesus needs us as witnesses to continue his mission. Jesus needs Spirit-filled followers to be his eyes, ears, hands, and feet, to bear witness to his love, mercy and forgiveness by our interactions with our brothers and sisters.

Our daily lives are meant to serve as a means for us to experience and share the risen Lord with others. Just as the disciples experienced the risen Lord in their community, let us learn to recognize the presence of Jesus in our own homes, social service

**St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

**St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers**

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Mitch Stumpe & Darin Even

**St. Cecilia Servers**

Sunday 8:00 a.m. –

**Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia**

Wednesday–6:05 p.m.–Margaret Brune –Glorious Mysteries  
Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer –Glorious Mysteries

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

**MASS STIPENDS: \$10.00**

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** Please call the rectory to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION:** Please call the rectory *at least* six months prior to the desired date.

centers, nursing facilities, hospitals, workplaces, and schools. Jesus wants us to be a community which shares and cares, a community which knows how to recognize Jesus in the poor, the marginalized, the sick, that is, in everyone.

Witnessing Jesus is testifying by our lives that the power of the risen Lord has touched us and transformed us in the most remarkable way imaginable. Witnessing Jesus is letting Jesus speak through us to other people. The most powerful force in the world is someone touched and transformed by the power of the risen Lord. **Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukibi**

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** election of new members will be held in May. We are looking for volunteers willing to serve a three year term. If interested please call the parish office or Jackie Prenger at 573-477-3558.

**ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:**

Week of April 18<sup>th</sup>: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

Week of April 25<sup>th</sup>: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

Week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of May 9<sup>th</sup>: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

*Thanks to all who volunteer to help keep our Church looking beautiful! Anyone else interested in helping out, please contact Lynne Reinkemeyer at 573-690-7113 and we can add another group.*

**ST. THOMAS PRESCHOOL:** If you have a child ages 3 or 4 and have thinking about preschool, please call Jaycine Bax 573-821-1179 or email [jbax@stacs.school](mailto:jbax@stacs.school) or the school office 573-477-3322. If you have any questions or would like to set up a one on one meeting and school tour please contact Jaycine or the school office.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:**

April 21 – Diocesan Spelling Bee at St. Martin, Mid-Quarter

**THE ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH GROUNDS “GRASS CUTTING TEAM ROTATION’ FOR THE UPCOMING**

**WEEKS:** It is once again time for care and maintenance of the parish property. Many thanks to all those who volunteer their time and effort to keep our parish property looking nice. The following dates are assigned for grass cutting.

Week of April 19	Mark Luebbering, Antone Luebbering and Nick Luebbering
Week of April 26	Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter
Week of May 3	Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering
Week of May 10	Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempf
Week of May 17	Alan Reinkemeyer, Richard Heckemeyer and Dave Schroeder

**CITIZEN’S CIVIC LEAGUE, META** is sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, May 4 between the hours of 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. If at all possible, schedule an appointment. Download the Blood Donor App RedCrossBlood.org. 1-800 733 2767. We will be serving hamburgers for those that want one and t-shirts (while supplies last).

**PLEASE REMOVE ALL FLOWERS & ARRANGEMENTS** from in front of the stones in the St. Thomas Cemetery during the grass cutting season. Thank you for your cooperation.

**CITY OF ST. THOMAS RESIDENTIAL SPRING CLEAN-UP** with Republic Trash Service is Wednesday, May 12. There are clean-up guidelines set by Republic Trash Services. These guidelines are posted on the City of St. Thomas FaceBook page or you may call Republic Trash Service at (573) 635-8805.

**APPRECIATION DANCE:** Jerry and Mike Groner will be hosting an open dance at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center on Saturday, May 8 in appreciation for all the years of patronage from their customers. Music by Shiloh from 8:00-11:00 PM. **Must be age 21 or older to enter.** Bring your own drinks.

**SAVE THE DATE: June 27-July 2 – Totus Tuus**

**ON PASTORAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY:**

Whereas guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Government advises: 1) the more frequently a surface is touched by multiple people, the more frequently it should be cleaned and then disinfected, and 2) frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least daily; and

Whereas many local health authorities allow for social gatherings and events when the standard protocols of social distancing and the wearing of face masks are observed;

I therefore emend, as Diocesan Bishop, the DECREES of 21 August 2020, 11 November 2020, and 2 March 2021 according to the following:

1. The Bible, hymnals, other liturgical aids or spiritual resources for the celebration of liturgies and devotions may be returned to the pews of churches and adoration chapels, effective immediately. Those who enter churches and chapels are to be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands frequently, and pews and other frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.
2. Holy Water may be returned to fonts with frequent changes of Holy Water, at least daily.
3. Social gatherings may take place on parish properties as early as 1 June 2021, but only if local health authority directives are observed. Parishes and schools are encouraged, however, to delay such events until late summer to avoid the need to cancel them if local circumstances require it.

This decree is effective immediately unless otherwise noted, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021. **The Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.**

**Catholic Home Missions Collection - April 24-25, 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Home Mission Appeal primarily supports home mission dioceses, that is, those dioceses in the United States that are unable to offer their people the basic pastoral ministries of word, worship, and service without outside help. The appeal also gives grants to other dioceses in the U.S. for particular projects, and to organizations and religious communities engaged in missionary work. The primary focus of funding includes evangelization activities, ministry training for priests, deacons, and religious sisters and brothers, and laypeople. It also provides support to poor parishes across the country to help in their pastoral needs.

Currently about 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are mission territories. In fact, the Diocese of Jefferson City is a mission diocese. Last year, our diocese received \$70,000 in a grant from the appeal to help support our Hispanic ministry office. The remaining funds were sent on to the national office to help support other rural dioceses. Your support of this appeal makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the appeal this year. To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions). Thank you for strengthening the Church at home.

**Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City**

## St. Thomas the Apostle Church Renovation Meeting Notes April 8, 2021

A meeting was held April 8<sup>th</sup> with the Finance Committee, Parish Council and the Renovation Committee to review the renovation project, and determine an estimated start date. Father Leonard opened the meeting with a prayer. Present at the meeting was Brian Luebbering, Theresa Veit, Bill Lueckenhoff, Lauri Luebbering, Jan Heckemeyer, Barb Graessle, Mark Luebbering, Janet Lueckenhoff, Kathy Graessle, Patrick Luebbering, Jackie Prenger, Father Leonard, Bill Boessen, Sam Suthoff & Debbie Strope. The Renovation Committee presented the following project summary:

- History of renovation
  - Father Secrist started discussion in late 2018, renovation committee was formed.
  - The first in-person meeting with the existing renovation committee and Conrad Schmitt was August, 2019
  - Covid hit in 2020, causing delays and minimal in-person meeting. The committee received the first draft of the design in October, 2020
  - In 2021, the committee has built up steam and are making good progress. In-person meetings resumed, and the final design was received.
  - The committee's original goal was to be complete by the end of 2021.
- Project Organization

The project was broken down into key-areas and a committee member has been assigned to each of the areas:

  - Planning – Brian Luebbering
  - Preparation – Lauri Luebbering
  - Electrical – Bill Lueckenhoff
  - Sound – Sam Suthoff
  - Statues – Bill Boessen
  - Side Altars – Janet Lueckenhoff
  - Flooring – Janet Lueckenhoff
- Each of these key-areas were then presented:
  - Planning
    - Lauri is working on project management and Communication, with the assistance of Sam. Regular updates will be provided to the Finance Committee and the Parish Council. Meeting minutes will be posted in the bulletin. Our goal is to improve communication between these 3 committees and the Parish.
    - Brian is managing the contract, finance/funding and approvals.
      - The contract is being reviewed by Rudy Veit. We have requested a few updates.
      - Finance/Funding – Brian, Lauri and Sheri will help the Finance Committee plan a pledge drive. It has been suggested to hold this during the May/June timeframe. We intend to continue the use of the yellow envelopes. We are looking at a 5-year pledge drive.
      - Approvals – Brian and Jan Heckemeyer are working with the Diocese in obtaining approvals. The Parish plans to apply for approval for a loan through the Diocese.
  - Preparation
    - The parish is responsible for removing and storing all items within the Church. Mark Luebbering discussed using the parish storage area for storing the Church benches and will plan a spring cleaning drive to free up some space. Janet Lueckenhoff, Barb Graessle and Bill Boessen will be managing the clearing of the Stations of the Cross, entryways, back of Church and the altar areas.
    - The parish is also responsible for protecting the floors of the altar area since this floor is not being replaced.
  - Electrical - The scope of electrical has been finalized and includes lighting, upgrade of wiring, identify new electrical outlets. Bill is working on getting an estimate of effort from Ryan Buschjost.
  - Sound - The scope of sound includes a new sound system, sound treat on the walls and millwork for applying the sound boards to the walls. Will West Sound provided estimates on the new sound system and sound treatment on the walls. Sound boards will be installed below the windows on both sides of the church and will have the appearance of a continuous paneled wall. Bill Luebbering Cabinetry has provided samples of trim that will be installed above the sound boards and in-between to give the wall the paneled look.
  - Statues

Much consideration and thought has gone into deciding what statues are appropriate next to the Crucifix. Two new statues will be purchased to be placed at the foot of the Crucifix, St. John and Mary. The angels will be moved to the side walls and set on stands.
  - Side Altars

The Parish will have side altars made. We are verifying the proportion with Conrad Schmitt and looking into design options.
  - Flooring

All floors that are carpeted now will have new carpet installed. We are looking at options at this time.
- Master Schedule

Each of these areas have been put into a Master Schedule, and broken down into manageable tasks. Once we know a start date, we will begin to apply dates to the tasks. The committee feels these tasks are in good shape and progress is being made in every area. We are ready to determine an estimated start date.
- Summary

The team is working on all areas of this project at once, and it boils down to authorization, finance/cost and schedule.

Authorization:  
The authorization of this project is moving along, and the Parish is communicating closely with the Diocese and believe we will obtain authority in a reasonable amount of time.

Finance/cost: The Finance Committee feels we are in good shape with the cost also. There is 50% of the project cost in savings earmarked for this renovation. With a pledge drive, the committee feels are looking good to start this project. They have applied for grants, and will hear fairly soon on these.

Schedule: All options were looked at and discussed to determine a start date. Factors such as Christmas, Easter, and scheduled events were taken into consideration. A large consideration was if we wait too long, the committee will need to obtain updated bids and feel fairly confident that the cost will go up. We are looking at coordinating with 6-7 different contractors for a 22 week project. Conrad Schmitt is now estimating 16-18 weeks, and the Parish could have as much as 2 weeks before painting starts for preparation and 2 weeks after painting is complete to move everything back into Church. The Parish is also responsible for deep-cleaning once the painting is complete.

After much discussion, it was decided that we will start in late August/early September. Since this date has been determined, the committee will move forward in finalizing all areas of the project and confirm that all contractors can be coordinated at the same time.

Father Leonard ended the meeting with a prayer.



