

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

St. Cecilia
in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net
www.stthomasapostleschool.net

www.stceciliameta.net

PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

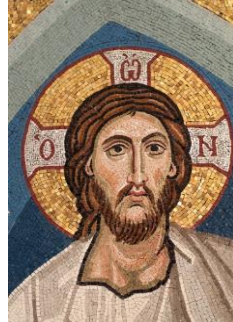
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 19, 2020

Administrator: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi
frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer
jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:
Mrs. Jenny Becker
jbeckeroffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
lheckemeyerstacs@gmail.com
School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

St. Thomas the Apostle Secretary:
Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff
dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com

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

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.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 19-26:

As per direction from Bishop McKnight, all Public Masses are SUSPENDED until at least **APRIL 30**. Fr. Leonard will have private Masses this week. Mass intentions for this week will be as follows: Geneva Plassmeyer, Richard Schwartz, Henrietta Kroll, L&D Leonard Herigon Family, Wilfred & Virginia Libbert, People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$254,170.00
Actual Collection for 2019-2020:	\$226,379.02
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 27,790.98
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

April 5	\$ 5,148.00
April 12	\$ 4,145.00
April 19	\$
April 26	\$

Collection Online:	\$ 4,717.00
April total to date:	\$14,010.00
Difference for April	–\$ 11,407.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid:	\$2,273,475.34
Income from parishioners for FY 2019-2020 (via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope):	\$24,342.20
Loan payments to date for FY 2019-2020:	\$73,821.92
Principal \$67,994.44	Interest \$5,827.48
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining:	\$132,744.41

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Daffiny Tallent at 573-694-4408 to purchase anytime. A large variety of cards in various denominations are in stock and available for purchase.

INFIRM PRIEST/EASTER COLLECTIONS: The Annual Priest Retirement & Infirm Fund assessment for St. Cecilia Parish is \$491.50 and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$1,864.50. The Diocese reduced it to half this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Please be generous.

PARISH UPDATES: Please check St. Thomas the Apostle Parish & St. Cecilia Parish websites and St. Thomas the Apostle Church Facebook page for updates.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S APRIL PRAYER INTENTION: For a stronger sense of the mission of the Church, especially among our youth and young adults in this time of pandemic and in our discernment of a new pastoral plan.

DIOCESAN CHANCERY OFFICE: If you intend to come to the Chancery office in person, you must have an appointment in advance with the person you intend to meet. Please note the Chancery will be screening all guests with a health questionnaire and temperature check. This is for the safety of all.

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of April 19-26:

As per direction from Bishop McKnight, all Public Masses are SUSPENDED until at least **APRIL 30**. Fr. Leonard will have private Masses this week. Mass intentions for this week will be as follows: Urban Voss

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2019-2020:	\$44,646.25
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

April 5	\$ 700.00
April 12	\$ 0.00
April 19	\$
April 26	\$

April total to date:	\$ 700.00
Difference for April:	–\$ 4,466.67

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

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. The opening prayer today addresses the Father as "God of everlasting Mercy." And the readings for this Sunday are about God's Divine Mercy given to us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, through our need for trusting Faith and through our need for the forgiveness of our sins. "*His mercy endures forever!*" God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, by sending His only begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord by His suffering, death and Resurrection. Divine Mercy is given to us also in each celebration of the Sacraments, which were instituted to sanctify us.

The first reading (Acts 2:42-47) tells us how the early Church grew every day because of the acts of mercy of sharing, of sacrificial *agápe* love practiced by the early Christians. In the second reading (1 Peter 1:3-9), St. Peter glorifies God, the Father of Jesus Christ, for showing us His mercy by granting His Son, Jesus Resurrection from the dead and a glorious Ascension into Heaven, thus giving us the assurance of our own resurrection. Today's Gospel vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation (penance), a sacrament of Divine Mercy. The risen Lord gave his Apostles the power to forgive sins with the words, "*Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain, they are retained*" (Jn 20:19-23). Presenting the doubting **Thomas' famous profession of Faith**, "*My Lord and my God,*" the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed his mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of Faith for everyone.

Dear friends, we need to accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy in our Christian lives: One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Finding time for **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is another good way to receive and give thanks for Divine Mercy. But it is mainly through the **corporal and spiritual works of mercy** that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.

Let us also ask God for the Faith that culminates in self-surrender to God and that leads us to serve those we encounter with love. Living Faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each one our loving service. The spiritual Fathers prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic Faith of **St. Thomas the Apostle**:

- a) First, we must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible.
- b) Next, we must strengthen our Faith through our personal and communal prayer.
- c) Third, we must share in the Divine Life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. **St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) presents it this way: "If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action."** May you have a Blessed Divine Sunday and Second Easter Sunday. *Have a blessed week. Fr. Leonard Mukiibi*

ADDITIONAL EASTER FLOWER'S: Judy Bax, Jackie Strope Gibler, Deceased Members of Joe & Katie Holzer Family, Deceased Members of Ben & Emma Luebbering Family, , Larry Rehagen, Bernice Stokes, Urban Strope.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS for four positions will be held in the coming months. If you would like to volunteer to be on the ballot or nominate someone to be on the ballot, please contact Theresa Veit at 573-418-7301 or by e-mail at rtbv05@embarqmail.com.

CONFIRMATION on April 22 has been cancelled at this time, and will be rescheduled.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON APRIL 26 has been cancelled at this time, and will be rescheduled.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL: FROM THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL OFFICE: With a formal decree suspending the public celebration of the liturgy and devotions, our schools must remain closed. Schools within the Diocese of Jefferson City **must remain closed** through the remainder of this school year.

The school and parish **playground** is **CLOSED!** Please do your part and stay off the playground.

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: The dues are \$10.00 per family (\$5.00 for single persons). Family members becoming the head of a separate household are not covered under their parent's membership. Also, anyone after their 21st birthday must pay their own dues of \$5.00. Please note: Anyone falling in areas over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put your payment in the collection basket marked "Cemetery Dues" or mail to St. Thomas Cemetery Association, c/o Lisa Lackman, 2222 Upper Bottom Road., St. Thomas, MO 65076. You may contact Lisa, if you have questions about your current or past dues, at 573-338-2703.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS

Week of April 19th: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering and Lisa Lackman

Week of April 26th: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

Week of May 3rd: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of May 10th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of May 17th: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

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.

GRASS CUTTING ROTATION – ONE MORE TEAM NEEDED!

It would be great if we had **one more grass cutting team** to assist with the 2020 grass cutting responsibilities. Please consider finding a friend, neighbor or family member to create a team. What better place to donate your time and talent than right here in our own parish and community. Help keep St Thomas the Apostle a thriving and beautiful parish! A parish lawnmower is available for use so you don't have to haul your own equipment. If anyone is interested please feel free to contact Alan Reinkemeyer at 573-694-6984 or Mark Luebbering at 573-694-6393.

THE ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH GROUNDS "GRASS CUTTING TEAM ROTATION' FOR THE UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of April 20: Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter

Week of April 27: Alan Reinkemeyer, Richard Heckemeyer and Dave Schroeder.

SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Confirmation – Wednesday, April 22 has been **CANCELLED** and will be rescheduled.

TOTUS TUUS – June 14-19, 2020

St. Cecilia Parish Picnic – July 12, 2020

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Picnic – August 16, 2020

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT COVID-19 PANDEMIC REMINDERS:

Please check the Diocesan webpage at <https://diojeffcity.org/public-health/>

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. The link is also on St. Thomas the Apostle Parish website. Mass is also available on the EWTN channel.

Parish Offices: If you need to reach Father Leonard, contact him at 573 477-3315 or 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. Jan Heckemeyer may be contacted at 573-477-3315 or 573-619-8432 or jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com. Doris Stumpe may be contacted at 573-619-6125 or dorisstumpe@att.net.

Baptisms and Weddings: Are postponed through April 30 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.

Confessions: St. Thomas the Apostle (Saturdays 4:00 – 4:45 PM) and St. Cecilia (Sundays 7:00 – 7:45 a.m. All confessions will be private/behind a screen until further notice.

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

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.

For St. Cecilia Parishioners that would like to contribute towards their weekly/monthly Tithe, please feel free to do so. The contribution envelope can be mailed to St. Cecilia Parish, P.O. Box 146, St. Thomas, MO 65076 to the attention of Doris Stumpe. Your contribution will be graciously appreciated to keep the upkeep/expenses of the parish going during this time of COVID-19.

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 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.***

Catholic Home Missions Appeal - April 25-26, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Home mission dioceses are those dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services to Catholics without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass and other sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priest, deacons, religious sisters, and lay people. Right now, more than 40 percent of dioceses are considered home missions.

The Diocese of Jefferson City is largely a rural diocese that bears the face of the rural poor. The Hispanic population continues to increase over the years and poverty disproportionately affects this community. Through your support of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, the Diocese is able to expand and provide a robust Hispanic ministry program. Last year, the Diocese of Jefferson City collected more than \$85,000 through the Catholic Home Mission Appeal. Because of your generosity, we received a \$70,000 grant from the appeal to support our Hispanic ministry office. The remaining funds went to help other rural dioceses throughout the United States.

Your support of this appeal makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in our local diocese and 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.

Thank you for strengthening the Church at home. Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D. Bishop of Jefferson City

