

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 26, 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 26-May 3:

As per direction from Bishop McKnight, all Public Masses are SUSPENDED until at least **JUNE 30**. Fr. Leonard will have private Masses this week. Mass intentions for this week will be as follows: Aloysius Wieberg, Jim Reinkemeyer, L&D Lawrence & Caroline Herigon, Bob Luebbering, People of our Parishes, Richard Schwartz

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$254,170.00
Actual Collection for 2019-2020:	\$229,825.00
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 24,825.00
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

April 5	\$ 5,148.00
April 12	\$ 4,145.00
April 19	\$ 1,980.00
April 26	\$

Collection Online:	\$ 5,702.00
April total to date:	\$ 16,975.00
Difference for April	– \$ 8,442.00

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):	\$24,477.20
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.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Claire Schanzmeyer & Christopher Callan**, who were united in the bonds of Holy Matrimony on Saturday, April 25 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Amber Sturtz & Austin Rehagen**, who were united in the bonds of Holy Matrimony on Saturday, April 18 at St. Lawrence Church, St. Elizabeth.

A NOTE OF THANKS!

I want to thank each and every one of you who kept me in your prayers during and after my surgery. Thank you for the cards, phone calls, and especially the prayers. I will forever be grateful for your kindness. May God bless you all. **Marilyn Herigon**

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.

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of April 26-May 3:

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

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2019-2020:	\$45,736.25
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

April 5	\$ 700.00
April 12	\$ 0.00
April 19	\$ 1,090.00
April 26	\$

April total to date:	\$ 1,790.00
Difference for April:	– \$ 3,376.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

MAY: Dale & Margie Helton

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

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.

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER: THE RISEN JESUS IS ALWAYS WITH US, EMMAUS TRIP. (AA.2:42-47, 1Pt. 1:3-9, Jn 20:19-31)

No matter what happens in our lives, the risen Jesus is always with us. God is always near to those who seek Him and who want to live in His presence, doing His will.

The message of today's Scripture readings is that the followers of Jesus are to maintain contact with their Risen Lord through prayer, the Eucharist, and the Bible. The readings also remind us that our belief in Jesus' presence in the consecrated Bread and Wine should help us to understand better his presence in the scriptures and in the believing and worshipping community.

Putting the two appearance (to the Emmaus disciples and to Peter), together, it is clear that risen Jesus wanted Peter to act as spokesman for him, and that the faithful who seek to follow Jesus should seek his company in prayer, the Eucharist, and the Bible under the direction of Peter and his successors.

Dear friends Jesus meet us on our Emmaus Road, both in the ordinary experiences of our lives, and in places to which we retreat when life is too much for us. The story promises us, however, that Jesus will come to us in unfamiliar guises to support and strengthen us when we least expect the risen Lord. Emmaus moments come to us when we meet the risen Christ on our life's journey through rough times.

The Church instructs us to hear Jesus on a daily basis through prayer, through the faithful reading and meditation on the scriptures, through our experience of Jesus as we participate in the Eucharistic celebration where the risen Lord gives us Himself as our spiritual Food and Drink, through our personal and family prayers and through our family meals. When we meet Jesus in all those instances in daily life, we renew our relationship of mutual love for him.

Do our hearts burn when we listen to the risen Lord in the scriptures? Christ comes to us most clearly in the Word and the Eucharist. The Lord is risen Alleluia, Alleluia! *Have a blessed week.* **Fr. Leonard Mukiibi**

THE DIOCESE HAS UPDATED THE PRAYER FOR A COMMUNION OF DESIRE: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, renew my heart now with the power of Your Spirit. I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Unite me more closely to Your Body, the Church. And never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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.

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 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!

THE ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH GROUNDS "GRASS CUTTING TEAM ROTATION' FOR THE UPCOMING WEEKS: Week of April 27: Alan Reinkemeyer, Richard Heckemeyer and Dave Schroeder.

Week of May 4: Mark Luebbering, Antone Luebbering and Nick Luebbering

Week of May 11: Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering

Week of May 18: Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempfler

Week of May 25: Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter

THE CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE IN META has been asked to sponsor a much needed blood drive on May 5, 2020 2:30 to 7:00 p.m. Red Cross will do appropriate spacing and setting up stations. They are asking, if you have a face mask to wear it, or if you don't have one, one will be provided upon arrival. If you have the capability to make an appointment to do so and use Rapid Pass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history. Another request was not to bring children or any other guest.

SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Confirmation – 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 mantel 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