# 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

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## April 28, 2024

Pastor: 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. Theresa Veit tveitoffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer Iheckemeyer@stacs.school

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 dstumpeoffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30-11:30 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 28-May 5:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. - Celeste Suthoff Wednesday 7:45 a.m. -L&D Norbert Boessen Family Thursday 7:45 a.m. - Bob & Donnie Luebbering Friday 7:45 a.m. - L&D Alex Heckman Family Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Gregory & Lucille Veit Sunday 10:00 a.m. - People of our Parishes **Becky Strope** 

Your Sunday Offering:

Difference for April:

Offertory Budget for 2023-2024: \$312,000.00 Offertory Goal through Month End: \$260,000.00 Actual Collection for 2023-2024: \$282,183.37 Offertory Difference Year to Date: \$ 22,183.37 Offertory Goal per month: \$ 26,000.00 **Collection in Church:** 

April 7 \$ 7.612.95 April 14 \$ 3.951.49 April 21 \$ 3,652.87 April 28 **Collection Online:** \$7,933.00 April total to date: \$23,150.31

**Church Renovation Capital Campaign** 

\$495,610.35 Total Pledges/Donations Total Collected \$531,312.78 Total Expenses Paid \$699,195.95 A total of 131 parishioners have returned pledge cards/or Contributed to the renovation project. Church Renovation Loan Balance \$48,386.91

-\$ 2,849.69

Loan payments to date \$164,160.00

(principal) \$151,613.09 (interest) \$12,546.91

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists

May 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Anne Strope /Jeanette May 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Lisa Wieberg / Alanna May 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Judy Schroeder / Alanna May 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Doug Luebbering / Jackie

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers

May 4 Saturday – 5:00 p.m. – Mary Kay Brand May 5 Sunday – 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff May 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul Becker May 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Larry Lueckenhoff

#### Saint Cecilia Mass Schedule for the Week of April 28-May 5:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - Jerome Libbert

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Nolan Schroeder

Your Sunday Offering:
Offertory Budget for 2023-2024: \$67,000.00 Collection Total for 2023-2024: \$61,045.00 Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,583.34

**Collection in Church:** 

April 7 \$2,913.00 April 14 \$1,725.00 April 21 \$ 812.00 April 28 April total to date: \$4,026.00 Difference for April: -\$1,557.34

St. Cecilia Collection Counters May: Margie & Dale Helton

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.

## St. Cecilia Readers

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Samantha Helton Sunday, May 5 - 8:00 a.m.- Betty Hagenhoff Sunday, May 12 – 8:00 a.m.- Karyn Veltrop

St. Cecilia Organist

Sunday, May 5 8:00 a.m. – Jackie Sunday, May 12 8:00 a.m. - Emilie

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

## St. Thomas the Apostle Greeters/Ushers

May 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m.-Mark Boessen & Adam Holterman May 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Stockman & Kelly Stewart May 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Phil Akin & Michael Wooten May 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Craig Buechter & Larry Lueckenhoff Parish Count for weekend Masses is on the offertory table. Collection baskets choir loft by organ, please return after use.

# St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Ministers

May 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Marshall Boessen May 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Janet Lueckenhoff May 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Mark Graessle May 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Keith Kliethermes

## St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

## St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts

May 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Family of Gregory & Lucille Veit May 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Family of Becky Strope

#### St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

May 5 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder May 12 - Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman May 19 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes May 26- Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

## Live stream Mass (10:00 a.m.) Sunday

May 5 Brooke Schell
May 12 Dunja Wieberg
May 19 Lauri Luebbering
May 26 Jenny Becker
Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday, 7:25 a.m. – Shirley Volmert – Sorrowful Mysteries Wednesday 7:25 a.m. –Bob Schellman – Glorious Mysteries Thursday 7:25 a.m. – Dale Herigon – Luminous Mysteries Friday 7:25 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff – Sorrowful Mysteries Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Glorious Mysteries Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Tina Stockman – Glorious Mysteries

## St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers

May 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Doris Stumpe May 12 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Betty Hagenhoff

## St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

May 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Terry Libbert, Leon Schanzmeyer,
Darin Even, Mitch Stumpe
May 12 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Brendan Stumpe,
Randy Hagenhoff, Kenny Otto, Otto Wankum

#### St. Cecilia Servers

May 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Natalee Derkum & Gavin Werdehausen
May 12 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Henry & Annaline Schroeder

#### St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts

May 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Family of Nolan Schroeder

#### Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

May 5 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer Glorious Mysteries May 12 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer Glorious Mysteries

**<u>VOTIVE CANDLES</u>**: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$3.00**.

MASS STIPENDS: \$10.00

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

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

## St. Thomas the Apostle Church Cleaners

April 28: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost May 5: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman May 12: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Brenda Schell, Barb Graessle Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering May 26: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer

**SNACKS FOR QUILTERS:** Quilter's luncheon may be dropped off Wednesday night 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (Evening quilting) or St. Thomas the Apostle School. Please bring snacks to the hall by 1:00 p.m.; snacks served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strope at 573-477-3349.

Thursday, May 2 - Kerry Meyer & Sara Otto Thursday, May 9 – Morgan Otto & Katelyn Otto

**<u>SCRIP:</u>** Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact, Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or amandab27@hotmail.com

<u>BULLETIN NOTICES & PARISH BULLETINS:</u> Deadline for bulletin is Wednesday at Noon. If you are needing a bulletin and Church is locked at St. Thomas the Apostle, there are some on the Vitae House front porch.

<u>DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING:</u> As Father Leonard mentioned in Church, our parishes recently had an audit with the Diocese on Safe Environment/Virtus. Any parishioner that has volunteered to do a ministry during Mass must complete the Safe Environment/Virtus program. Anyone **18 years or older needs the training.**. Safe Environment/Virtus Training may be found on the Homepage of the Parish Website (<u>www.stthomasapostle.net</u>) or go directly to the Diocese Safe Environment/Virtus link (<u>www.virtus.org</u>). If you have never done any of the Virtus training please create an account and complete your training. If you have signed on before, please sign in using your existing account. The Virtus Training cannot be done on a phone, you will need a laptop or computer. If you are needing a computer or laptop to complete the training please let us know and we can make arrangements for you to use one at school. **We would like to have all training completed by May 31, 2024.** If you need help, please contact Theresa, Diane, or Doris. Thank you for your help in this matter.

<u>LIVE STREAMERS NEEDED AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH:</u> Are you someone who likes to spread our Catholic faith? Why not consider joining our St. Thomas Stream Team and help spread the Word every Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass? Operating the equipment is fun and easy! Please call or text Lauri Luebbering at 573-619-6090 if interested.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE HOLY HOUR & ANOINTING OF THE SICK is Friday, May 3, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY is Saturday, May 4, 3:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

**BISHOP MCKNIGHT MAY PRAYER INTENTION:** For those who are preparing for marriage and those who are living the sacrament of holy Matrimony: May the mutual self-giving of spouses and engaged couples bring new life into our community, we pray to the Lord.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER: REMAIN IN ME. (Acts. 9:26-31; 1Jn. 3:18-24; Jn. 15:1-8) The word of God today emphasizes the need for us Christians to abide in Christ as a condition for producing fruits of kindness, mercy, charity, and holiness. We stay united to Jesus and give visibility to his presence when we gather as church. The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. The reading tells us how the Lord pruned the former Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, a fanatic who had persecuted the Church, to produce a fruit-bearing branch called Paul, the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles, entirely dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel. Even Paul's forced return to Tarsus for a brief period is an example of God's pruning of the vine to bring forth a greater harvest, namely, the mission to the Gentiles. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 22), we sing the triumphant end of the Psalm which begins, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Therefore, friends we need pruning in our Christian life. Cutting out of our lives everything that is contrary to the spirit of Jesus and renewing our commitment to Christian ideals in our lives every day is the first type of self-imposed pruning expected of us. A second means of pruning is practicing self-control over our evil inclinations, sinful addictions and aberrations. Cordial mingling in our neighborhood and society with people of different cultures, races, religions and orientations enables us, with God's grace, to prune away our selfish, judgmental, prejudicial tendencies so that we can treat others in our society with Christian charity and openness. Jesus prunes, purifies and strengthens us by enabling us to face with the courage of our Christian convictions, the pain and sufferings, contradictions and difficulties which He permits to enter our lives. Let us abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us: The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine and how to draw their life from the vine. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily and meditative reading of the Bible, and selfless, loving acts of kindness, mercy and mutual loving forgiveness, all the fruits of God's Grace acting within us, assist us in abiding in Jesus, the true Vine, as fruit-bearing branches. Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

**ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS:** There will be nomination sheets in the pews of St. Cecilia Church for Parish Pastoral Council members and will be followed by ballots at the end of the month.

<u>ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISHIONERS:</u> Volunteers Needed - The St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council is looking for 5 new committee members. The council meets every 2 months. The term runs for 3 years. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to the parish office.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PSR PROGRAM TEACHERS NEEDED:** PSR will begin in August or late September. In order to make this program possible, there are volunteer positions that must be filled: PSR Coordinator and 2 Teachers. Please reach out to the Parish Council if you are interested.

<u>ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS:</u> Wednesday, May 1 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Vocation Day Thursday, May 2 – Diocesan 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mass, Cathedral Friday, May 3 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards 2:15 p.m.

**RECOGNIZING OUR 2024 GRADUATES:** If you are a 2024 graduate (elementary, high school, college, or technical school). Please let us know by emailing or calling the school office at 573-477-3322 or the Parish Office, Tuesday mornings (8:00-11:30 a.m.) or Wednesday's (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) 573-477-3315. The names will be published in the May 19 bulletin.

<u>DIVINE MERCY SPEAKER – MICHAEL McGLINN:</u> Join us as for a talk from Michael McGlinn, international award winning film producer, musician, founder of Sistine Films and Face of Mercy, speaker for Catholic Athletes for Christ, former lineman, father, and husband, as he helps us unveil the mystery of Divine Mercy. Michael will be speaking at St Joseph Church in Westphalia on May 1 at 6:00 p.m., and at St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville on May 2 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will join us as we dive deeper into our Lord's Divine Mercy!

<u>THE CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE</u> is sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, April 30 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CivicLegueMeta to schedule an appointment.

ROSARY AND ROSE: All women are invited to attend a Rosary and Rose` event May 1, 2024 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus hall, hosted by See City Women's Ministry and St. Thomas/ St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary. Doors open at 6:00, and the event begins at 6:30. Join in praying the rosary, listen to reflections of the glorious mysteries, and hear guest speaker Felicia Anunoby's testimony. Light refreshments and adult beverages will be provided. BYOB if desired.

<u>LIFE TEEN GROUP:</u> St. Stanislaus & St. Francis Xavier are organizing a youth group for high schoolers in the area. They are starting a Life Teen Group that will meet every Sunday night 7:00 p.m. in the St. Stanislaus Parish Center. Those who are currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade from St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia are more than welcome to attend.

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ST. ELIZABETH REDEDICATION PIPE ORGAN CONCERT is Sunday, April 28, 4:00 p.m. Featuring Matt Palisch, Professor of Organ, Southeast Missouri State University. All are welcome.

**RUMMAGE SALE:** Friday, May 3 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 4 8:00 a.m. to Noon. 15433 Route B, St. Thomas (Home of Peggy Volmert) Lots of household items, crafts, and toys. Girls clothing sizes 12 months to 3T and sizes 12 to 16. Boys clothes size 6/7. Other misc. sizes also.

**SPRING FESTIAL, VISITATION PARISH, VIENNA** is Sunday, May 5, serving fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, green beans, coleslaw & dessert from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. \$15.00 per dinner. Dine in & carry out available.

<u>TOTUS TUUS - JUNE 23 - 28</u>: Sign-up for Totus Tuus is now available. You can do this either online at <a href="http://www.stthomasapostle.net/totus-tuus.html">http://www.stthomasapostle.net/totus-tuus.html</a> or use the paper form that is a part of the bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Veit (573) 418-7301. Thank you for your continued support and participation in this summer program.

SAVE THE DATES: Totus Tuus – June 23-28 – held at St. Stanislaus Church July 14 – St. Cecilia Parish Picnic

## St. Thomas the Apostle Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Notes - April 16, 2024

- 1. Meeting Called to Order
- a. Attendance: Father, Shane Verslues, Dunja Wieberg, Andi Reynolds, Lynne Reinkemeyer, Fred Boessen, Jacob Graessle, Linda Boessen, Richard Heckemeyer
- b. Not in Attendance: Carol Backes, Sam Luebbering, Julia Cassmeyer
  - 2. Principal's Report / School Advisory Council
- a. Leroy read through his notes from the previous month through the end of the school year. He stated events that happened or that will be happening.
- The cock roaches are still an issue. There are about 25-35 a day getting swept up. Shane Verslues is going to look into doing something different in hopes to get this issue resolved.
  - 3. Pastoral council commission reports

## Worship

- i.Richard said they are meeting next Tuesday the 23rd.
- ii. The parish is looking for a PSR coordinator and 2 teachers for this next school year. It was suggested that we team up with St. Cecilia on this.
  - b. Social Concerns
- i. Social Concerns served dinner to Father and visiting priest who came to hear confessions before Easter.
- ii. Social Concerns also helped serve refreshments after Confirmation.
- iii. Social Concerns also would like to see if an ice maker machine could be purchased by the parish and put in the kitchen somewhere for events.

#### c. Administration

- i.School is in need of a new roof over the "old gym" part of school. Three places came to bid on the project. MO Buildings Services had the lowest bid. Jan has applied for the Schwartze Grant. Father is waiting to hear back from them. We also need to talk to the Diocese so that we can get this job approved. Shane Verslues is going to look into the approval paperwork.
- ii.A drain in the kitchen needs to be fixed in the water heater room.
  - An outdoor trash can will be purchased and placed in the playground area. iii.
  - iv. Father asked about the maintenance position. A good report was given to him on the work that Keith is doing.
  - d. Finance Committee Jan applied for the Schwartze Grant for the roof. They are waiting to hear back on that.

#### 4. Pastor's Report

- Youth Ministries Father is wanting the parish youth members to join events when they are taking place.
- Stewardship Father is going to make sure these events are in the bulletin next time so that people know about it.
- There will be an ordination on June 1.
- Father will be gone from June 24 29 on a retreat. d.
- There will be a Deanery Meeting on May 14.
- There will be a second collection on Easter, Christmas and Missionary Sunday. These collections will go towards priest f. retirement, etc.
- g. Safe environment The school is 100% compliant. The parish is between 70-80% compliant with the Safe Environment regulations.

#### **New Business**

- CSR They need to meet. The next meeting needs to be set.
- b. Parish directory
- i.180 families took pictures out of the 250 families. The parish council decided that if a landline phone number was given then they could put that number in the back of the directory. If cell phone numbers were given, then they could add those. Everyone will get a directory that had pictures taken.
- c. Parish Pastoral Council Elections The council is needing 5 new members. Dunja Wieberg, Jacob Graessle, Julia Cassmeyer, Fred Boessen, and Carol Backes terms have ended. Elections are in May. Dunja Wieberg is going to place nomination papers in pews this weekend at Mass.

## Varia

- Donna Luebbering talked to the PPC about putting a marguee or some sort of sign in the cemetery that will show who is buried where in the cemetery. She wants to use memorial money from Harold Luebbering. There will be no cost from the parish. The PPC has given them approval to start the design process. They are going to make a marquee out of sheet metal.
- b. Richard passed about information about the Giving Tree. We are going to discuss this at the next meeting.
  - 7. Next meeting May 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. Closing prayer We closed with a prayer Adjournment

# MidWest March For Life

# WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 2024

To honor and glorify Jesus Christ and defend innocent life.



## MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL

South Lawn • 201 W. Capitol Ave. • Jefferson City, Missouri Activities planned from 8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Capitol Grounds Over 30 life-affirming exhibitors!

> Fundraising lunch 11 am to 1 pm sponsored by Knights of Columbus • St. Peter Church • Fulton, MO

### WEAR RED FOR LIFE!



Melissa Ohden



Reagan Barklage



Ivv Almon



Bridget VanMeans Brandy Meeks





8:00 am - Prayer Walk in Capitol

8:00 am - Rosary and Divine Mercy North Lawn

8:15 am - Book Signing • Melissa Ohden 8:45 am - Live Performance • Claire Huntley Capitol South Steps

9:15 am - Announcements and Rally South Lawn

MARCH BEGINS FOLLOWING RALLY 11:00 am - Book Signing • Melissa Ohden Outside St. Peter's Selinger Center

11:45 am - Live Performance • Claire Huntley

Capitol South Steps 12:15 pm - Youth Rally Capitol South Steps

12:15 pm — Ballot Initiative Update and What You Can Do — Capitol Rotunda

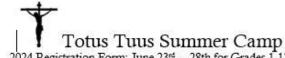
1:30 pm — Holy Mass • St. Peter Church Bishop Edward Rice

1:30 pm — Ecumenical Prayer Service
Dr. Wes Fowler — MBC — Capitol Rotunda

Dr. Wes Fowler



**Nate Robertson** for Life



2024 Registration Form: June 23rd = 28th for Grades 1-12
Register online: http://www.stthomasapostle.net/totus-tuus.html

Grades 1-6: Monday through Friday 7:45 am – 1:30 pm at St. Stanislaus, Wardsville Grades 7-12: Sunday through Thursday 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at St. Stanislaus. Wardsville

none:	225	Work/cell:
hildren being en	rolled in Totus Tuus at St. S	tanislaus:
ame:	Grade (In fali):	Medical info/ food allergies to be aware of
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	20 20 7	
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Totus Tuus Volunteers 2024

Food

We are providing meals for the 4 Missionaries (plus the priest if they wish to come) each Evening at 5:30 pm in the Wardsville's school cafeteria. If you wish, the missionaries would love for you to eat with them, but it is also fine to just drop the food off.

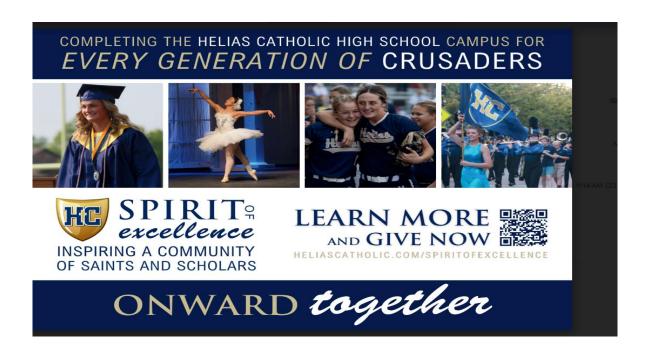
	Food	
ing on conserv	Name	Contact number
Thursday, June 27th	190002	9-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-

Day Volunteers

To support the missionaries, we are asking for volunteers to be available during the day to help check in, check out and host for the day.

	Name	Contact
Thursday, June 27th	1	
Friday, June 28th		

<u>HELIAS CATHOLIC'S SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN.</u> Helias has launched its Spirit of Excellence Campaign to raise \$14 million to build a performing arts center, a baseball/softball complex and an addition to the existing James L. Rackers Field house including necessary updates to its athletic and strength conditioning facilities. The campaign will run through the end of August. For more information and to support the campaign, please visit *heliascatholic.com/spiritofexcellence* or contact Helia Catholic President Ron Vossen at *rvossen@heliasatholic.com* or 573-635-6139.



#### Statement of the Missouri Catholic Conference on the **Abortion Initiative Petition**

The Catholic Church supports and defends society's most vulnerable, especially women and children, through accompaniment, social services, and material assistance.

A misleading proposed amendment to the Missouri Constitution suggests that a "right to an abortion" is needed to protect women, while the amendment could actually put women at risk and endanger preborn children. This ballot initiative would legalize abortions in this state and remove long standing health and safety standards for women. In addition, this initiative does nothing to reduce or eliminate the underlying social causes for abortion and does not further a true culture of life in the state.

Groups are currently collecting citizen signatures to add the amendment to the November 2024 ballot. We encourage all Catholics and people of good will to not sign any petition that would put this amendment on the ballot.

The Catholic Church in Missouri will continue to provide spiritual and material support to expectant mothers and their families through our parishes and ministries, and to advocate on their behalf and on behalf of their preborn children. For those women suffering from the pain of an abortion, the Church will continue to offer true healing and hope through its Post Abortive Healing Ministries. We ask all to help us in these efforts to safeguard the right to life.

We look forward to the day when every child, born and unborn, has the love and support needed to thrive and reach his or her full potential. Let us pray for a greater recognition of the gift of each and every human life in our society.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI

+ Mithell T Prend.
Most Reverend Mitchel T. Rozanski

General Chairman Archbishop of St. Louis

+ James V. Johnston, J.
Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr. Vice Chairman Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph

7 Shaun Yillis Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight Executive Chairman Bishop of Jefferson City

+ Fduesd M. Rice Most Reverend Edward M. Rice Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Approved February 22, 2024

