

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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

APRIL 5, 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 5-12:

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: William Schmidt, Richard Schwartz, People of our Parishes, Butch Loethen, Jeremy Luebbering

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$228,753.00
Actual Collection for 2019-2020:	\$212,369.02
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 16,383.98
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

March 1	\$ 11,153.05
March 8	\$ 2,633.00
March 15	\$ 2,795.00
March 22	\$ 970.00
March 29	\$ 3,750.00

Collection Online: \$ 5,602.00

March total to date: \$ **26,903.05**

Difference for March +\$ 1,486.05

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of April 5-12:

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: Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2019-2020:	\$43,946.25
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

March 1	\$ 1,414.00
March 8	\$ 806.00
March 15	\$ 1,142.00
March 22	\$ 0.00
March 29	\$ 420.00

March total to date: \$ **3,782.00**

Difference for March: -\$ 1,384.67

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): **\$22,918.20**

Loan payments to date for FY 2019-2020: **\$64,594.18**

(Principal \$59,635.10 Interest \$4,959.08)

Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$141,103.75**

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

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.

NOTES OF THANKS!

Thank you to our friends, neighbors and family for helping us celebrate our 50TH Anniversary. The cards, gifts, calls and visits were all special and greatly appreciated. God Bless all of you. **Tony and Marsha Strobe**

I wish to offer a special thank you to all for my 95th birthday greetings; the cards, phone calls and especially the honks when you drove by my home. The people of faith that we have in the St. Thomas area are awesome. This birthday was not a typical one but a memorable one. God Bless each of you. **Martha Strobe**

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

Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 p.m., Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m., Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass 8:00 p.m. & Easter Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m. These are not public Masses; only parishioners that are assisting in the liturgy may attend the private Palm Sunday Mass and the Easter Triduum Masses and Services. If you are able to assist in livestreaming Masses, please contact Fr. Leonard.

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: **Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday.** The Church celebrates this sixth Sunday of Lent as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. This is the time of year we remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. What we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own dying and rising in him, which will result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgy will deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. Today's liturgy combines contrasting moments, one of glory, the other of suffering: the royal welcome of Jesus in Jerusalem and the drama of the trial, culminating in crucifixion, death and burial for Christ.

Today's first reading is the third of Isaiah's four Servant Songs, foreshadows Jesus' own life and mission. The Refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 22), "My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?" plunges us into the heart of Christ's Passion. The Second Reading, taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians, is an ancient Christian hymn representing a very early Christian understanding of who Jesus is, and of how his mission saves us from sin and death. **The first part of today's Gospel describes the royal reception Jesus received from his admirers, who paraded with him for a distance of two miles: from the Mount of Olives to the city of Jerusalem.** In the second part of today's Gospel, we listen to/participate in a reading of the Passion of Christ according to Matthew. We are challenged to examine our own lives in the light of some of the characters in the Passion story – like Peter who denied Jesus, Judas who betrayed Jesus, Herod who ridiculed Jesus, Pilate who acted against his conscience as he condemned Jesus to death on the cross, and the leaders of the people who preserved their position by getting rid of Jesus.

Dear friends we need to answer 5 questions today: 1) Does Jesus weep over my sinful soul as he wept over Jerusalem at the beginning of his Palm Sunday procession?

2) Am I a barren fig tree? God expects me to produce fruits of holiness, purity, justice, humility, obedience, charity, and forgiveness. Do I continue to produce bitter fruits of impurity, injustice, pride, hatred, jealousy and selfishness?

3) Will Jesus need to cleanse my heart with his whip? Jesus cannot tolerate the desecration of the temple of the Holy Spirit in me by my addiction to uncharitable, unjust and impure thoughts, words and deeds; neither does Jesus praise my business mentality or calculation of loss and gain in my relationship with God, my Heavenly Father.

4) Do I welcome Jesus into my heart? Am I ready to surrender my life to him during this Holy Week and welcome him into all areas of my life as my Lord and Savior? Let us remember that we are sinners who have crucified Jesus by our sins, and we are able to turn to Jesus again and ask for his mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is through the Passion of Jesus we receive forgiveness, "through his wounds we are healed." (Isa 53:5).

5) Are we like the humble donkey that carried Jesus, bringing Jesus' universal love, unconditional forgiveness and sacrificial service to our families, places of work and communities by the way we live our lives? God is good All the time. Have a Blessed Holy week and Stay safe. Have a blessed week. Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

LETTER FROM BISHOP SHAWN W. MCKNIGHT: The following decree was issued by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight on March 31, 2020. It is effective April 1-30, 2020. Below are some excerpts from the decree. You can find the full decree & additional information on the Diocese of Jefferson City website at <https://diojeffcity.org/public-health/>

In light of the guidance from the United States Federal Government, the State of Missouri, the directives of county health officials, the special Decree from the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. N. 153/20 and "Update" of 25 March 2020), and for the benefit of the common good, I hereby mandate as the Diocesan Bishop the following directives on all pastoral activity in the Diocese of Jefferson City:

Masses without a congregation that are livestreamed for the benefit of the faithful may have up to nine asymptomatic assisting ministers (musicians, lector, acolyte, deacon, etc.) for only the following solemn occasions: The Holy Week services of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil; the Sundays of the Easter Season; the solemn Masses on the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Altar or Church and the Parish Patronal Feast Day. Social distancing must be observed for these Masses, with no offertory procession or the exchange of the sign of peace, and assisting ministers are encouraged not to present themselves for Holy Communion.

Public celebrations of the liturgy and devotions are expressly forbidden. Families and individuals who are asymptomatic may make visits to their parish church for private prayer as long as no more than ten people are present in the church at the same time and social distancing (at least six feet in between persons) is observed. Families and individuals are encouraged to pray at home especially the Liturgy of the Hours, the Scriptures, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and to participate spiritually in sacred celebrations live-streamed from the Holy See, our Cathedral, and their local parish church.

Funeral rites may be celebrated with no more than ten people present (including the ministers and funeral home staff). Graveside services may take place immediately with no more than ten people present, and the celebration of a memorial Mass can take place once the prohibition of public Masses is lifted. Live streaming funeral rites would benefit the faithful who are not able to attend in person.

Weddings should be rescheduled for a later time. However, wedding liturgies may take place with no more than ten persons present (including the ministers). Live streaming the wedding liturgy is encouraged for the benefit of those who cannot attend in person.

All confirmation Masses will be rescheduled.

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

All in-person meetings greater than ten persons or which cannot guarantee proper social distancing of at least six feet are strictly prohibited whether indoors or outdoors. This prohibition includes and is not limited to the following activities: education, catechesis, youth programming, devotional activities, socializing, and other similar pastoral activities. Outdoor or indoor playground equipment shall not be open for use.

Charitable activities of the Church are to follow the diocesan safe environment policies (Virtus) and the guidance of the local county health director.

ST. THOMAS BETTER TOGETHER PASTORAL PLANNING:

In light of Bishop McKnight's request that we cease public gatherings, the diocese has asked that:

1) Groups participating in the Better Together pastoral planning consider using other alternatives for discussion, such as social media platforms or group calls.

2) Individuals fill out the discernment reports. Any parishioner, not just those in established groups, can participate.

The discernment reports can either be mailed to the parish office, or submitted online on the diocesan website. To find the discernment reports, or for more information regarding the Better Together program, please visit www.diojeffcity.org/better-together or contact Brian Luebbering at 913-951-7222.

Parishioners are encouraged to utilize our parish's FORMED subscription to enhance their Lenten experience.

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

ST. CECILIA AND ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EASTER FLOWERS: Anyone interested in making a monetary donation for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones is asked to place the donation along with **PRINTED names** to be remembered in an envelope and mailed to the Parish Office by **April 5**. The names will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 12.

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 April 30, 2020.

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 5th: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost and Randy Buschjost

Week of April 12th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert and Darrel Buechter

Week of April 19th: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering and 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 6: Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering

Week of April 13: Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempf

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 - **CANCELLED at this time, 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 and Anointing: The obligation of Lenten Confession has been dispensed but confession and/or anointing will be available at the regular scheduled times at St. Thomas the Apostle (Saturdays 4:00 – 4:45 PM) and St. Cecilia (Sundays 7:00 – 7: 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.*