The Roman Catholic Parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle

in St. Thomas

St. Cecilia in Meta

www.stceciliameta.net

www.stthomasapostle.net www.stthomasapostleschool.net

PO Box 146 St. Thomas, MO 65076

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 7, 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
<u>Confessions</u>: 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 7-14:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Sylvanus Hoecker Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – People of our Parishes Thursday 7:45 a.m. – People of our Parishes Friday 7:45 a.m. – Tom (Butch) Loethen Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes Marilyn Herigon Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jane Lindenbusch

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2023-2024:	\$312,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	d: \$234,000.00
Actual Collection for 2023-2024:	\$259,033.06
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	\$ 25,033.06
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 26,000.00
Collection in Church:	
March 3	\$ 6,723.55
March 10	\$ 1,687.80
March 17	\$ 4,457.56
March 24	\$ 3,043.18
March 31	\$5,603.17
Collection Online:	\$ 7,933.00
March total to date:	\$29,448.26
Difference for March:	+\$ 3,448.26

Church Renovation Capital Campaign

Total Pledges/Donations \$494,936.62 Total Collected \$528,549.05 **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 \$51,892.16 Loan payments to date \$160,445.00 (principal) \$148,107.84 (interest) \$12,337.16 St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists April 13 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Lisa Wieberg / Jeanette April 14 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Doug Luebbering / Jackie April 20 Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Amanda Wooten / Jackie April 21 Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Josh Luebbering / Jeanette

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers

April 13 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kara Holterman April 14 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – David Schroeder April 20 Saturday – 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle April 21 Sunday – 10:00 a.m. – Jennifer Schroeder Saint Cecilia Mass Schedule for the Week of April 7-14:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - Francis J. (Fritz) & Margie Luebbert

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Victor & Rita Otto

Your Sunday Offering:

\$67,000.00
\$54,106.00
\$ 5,583.34

Collection in Church:

March 3	\$ 1,707.00
March 10	\$ 1,372.00
March 17	\$ 730.00
March 24	\$ 1,372.00
March 31	\$ 2,913.00
March total to date:	\$ 9,244.00
Difference for March:	+\$ 3,660.66

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

April: Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.

St. Cecilia Readers

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen Sunday, April 14 – 8:00 a.m.-Doris Stumpe Sunday, April 21 - 8:00 a.m.- Betty Hagenhoff

St. Cecilia Organist

Sunday, April 14 8:00 a.m. – Lydia Sunday, April 21 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

April 13 Saturday 5:00 p.m. -Adam Holterman & Mark Boessen April 14 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Richard Heckemeyer & Kelly Stewart April 20 Saturday 5:00 p.m.-Gilbert Schellman & Al Carter April 21 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Josh Schroeder & Craig Buechter **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

April 13 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Lora Boessen April 14 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Richard Heckemeyer April 20 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Jan Carter April 21 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Marian Buschjost

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

Weekday servers: Gannon Reeves & Austyn Christian April 13 5:00 p.m. – Jude Luebbering, Kora Luebbering, Miranda Meyer, Gannon Reeves April 14 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Valerie, Zeke & Max Verslues, Virgil Lackman April 20 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Sadie & Ellie Boessen, Ava Buschjost & Evelyn Wooten April 21 10:00 a.m. – Francie, Hannah & Levi Tallent, Angelina Veltrop

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts

April 13 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Family of Marilyn Herigon April 14 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Family of Jane Lindenbusch

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

April 14 - Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman April 21 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes April 28- Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg May 5 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder

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

April 14	Dunja Wieberg
April 21	Lauri Luebbering
April 28	Jenny Becker
May 5	Brooke Schell

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. – Barb Graessle – Glorious Mysteries Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Shirley Volmert– Glorious Mysteries

St. Thomas the Apostle Church Cleaners

April 7 Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Brenda Schell, Barb Graessle

April 14: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering

April 21: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer

April 28: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

May 5: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

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, April 11** – Rachel Hopkins & Janet Lueckenhoff **Thursday, April 18** – Linda Lueckenhoff & Diane Lueckenhoff

<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*

BULLETIN NOTICES & PARISH BULLETINS: 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.

A NOTE OF THANKS!

Thank you to our St. Thomas the Apostle PSR & Confirmation Teachers: Another year of PSR and Confirmation classes came to a close on April 3rd. I want to thank all of our teachers for their dedication, time, and commitment to teaching the students each week! They have spent many Wednesday evenings teaching the future of our faith and their work should not go unnoticed. Thanks again to our wonderful teachers: Kellyn Ayer, Lauri Luebbering, Jackie Prenger, Erin Fennewald, Trish Green, Mary Kay Brand, and Jeff & Julia Cassmeyer. *-Karlie Reinkemeyer*

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will provide donuts and "REMEMBER The Unborn" magnets after Masses on Sunday April 14.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES FROM ST. CECILIA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

PARISHES: Wyatt Ayer, Elizabeth Backes, Eli Bock, Rowan Buechter, Brody Buschjost, Wade Buschjost, Aiden Goeller, Alexzander Kirby, Jaimz Kirby, Landon Kliegel, Hannah Lackman, Levi Lackman, Eli Libbert, Hunter Libbert, Kora Luebbering, Megan Luebbering, Miranda Meyer, Wyatt Otto, Blake Schellman, Annaline Schroeder, Tucker Schroeder, Bradyn Stegeman, Francie Tallent, Ezekiel Verslues, Valerie Verslues, Gavin Werdehausen, Brian Wieberg.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH: Noah Akin,

Leni Berhorst, Gavin Buechter, Kaycie Christian, Georgia Fennewald, Jayden Libbert, Hank Luebbering, Emmary Prenger, Kasen Reeves, Jacob Luebbering, Gabriel Sandbothe, Lucas Schulte, Kenzie Siebeneck, Jase Volmert.

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers

April 14 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer April 21 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

April 14 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Tony & Will Derkum, Terry Libbert, Leon Schanzmeyer April 21 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Darin Even, Mitch Stumpe, Brendan Stumpe, Randy Hagenhoff

St. Cecilia Servers

April 14 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Sarah & Elizabeth Backes April 21 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Bradyn, Kambrie & Matthew Stegeman

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts

April 14 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Family of Victor & Rita Otto

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

April 14 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer Glorious Mysteries April 21 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer Glorious Mysteries

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

MASS STIPENDS: \$10.00

<u>BAPTISM PREPARATION</u>: 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.

EASTER FLOWER NAMES: The following names were received this week: Jerome Buschjost, Harold Buschjost, Charlie Buschjost, Jim Mabey, Margaret Veltrop, Marie Risse, and Angeline Veltrop..

<u>BISHOP MCKNIGHT APRIL PRAYER INTENTION</u>: For a greater awareness of and respect for our common home in building an authentic human ecology: May we be good stewards of the gift of creation in defending all human life, we pray to the Lord.

PASTORS MEDITATION: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. Witness of a New Life in Jesus. (Acts 4:32-35, I John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31) The readings for this Sunday show us our need for God's Divine Mercy, which is offered to us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the forgiveness of our sins, and through each celebration of the Sacraments all instituted to sanctify us, when we receive them in trusting Faith. The opening prayer addresses the Father as "God of everlasting Mercy." In the first section of the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118), we repeat three times, "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. The first reading (Acts 2:42-47) tells us how the early Church grew every day because of the acts of mercy, sharing, sacrificial agápe love, practiced by the early Christians. In the second reading (1 Pt 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, 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. Therefore, 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 Holy Mass and 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 in our daily lives the Mercy we have already received and become eligible for God's merciful judgment. Let us ask God for the Faith that culminates in self-surrender to God and leads us to serve those we encounter with agape love. Living Faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each other our loving service. The Spiritual Fathers prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living, 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." *Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi*

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING: 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 (*www.stthomasapostle.net*) or go directly to the Diocese Safe Environment/Virtus link (*www.virtus.org*). 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>ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS</u>: 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.

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. CECILIA PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING is April 9, 6:30 p.m.in the parish center.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING is April 16, 7:00 p.m. school library.

ST. CECILIA PRAYER LINE REQUESTS can be made by calling Katie Lueckenotto at 573-229-4318 or 573-619-6454.

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

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>: Thursday, April 11, Early Release 12:50 car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders Friday, April 12, Mid-Quarter

LIFE TEEN GROUP: 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 starting April 21. Those who are currently in 8th-12th Grade from St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia are more than welcome to attend. Kickoff event for Life Teen is Friday, April 19. This event is a graduation party for all graduating 8th graders in the area. We encourage all 8th graders to join us and celebrate with lots of fun activities, games, dinner and a bonfire.

THE OVER 50 GROUP will be meeting Thursday April 11 at the parish center for our monthly get together, eating at noon. No one will need to bring a covered dish as the meal will be provided by the bank. Still time to join, bring your annual dues of \$5.00 and visit and eat with the group.

THE CITZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE 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.

<u>ST. CECILIA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION</u> will be holding its annual clean-up day on Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. (Rain make-up day will be April 21). Everyone is welcome and all help is appreciated. Please bring yard tools if you have them for trimming shrubs and cleaning up yard debris. Please contact Dominic Plassmeyer if you have any questions.

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

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 7:15 p.m. Please read the April newsletter attached to the bulletin.

HEART OF A HERO, MEN'S CONFERENCE is April 19 & April 20 at Cana Room, Cathedral of St. Joseph. April 19 sessions are from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and April 20 8:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m. This men's conference is hosted by the Men of Signum Crucis. Includes midday Mass and Adoration and confessions during the lunch break. \$30 for either day, \$40 for both days, \$20 for students and no charge for priests and seminarians. Please visit *www.menofsignumcrucis.com/mensconference* for more info.

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.

VIGIL OPPOSING STATE EXECUTION VIGIL: Catholic teaching strongly opposes the use of the death penalty because it disregards the sanctity and dignity of human life. Brian Dorsey is scheduled to be executed on April 9. The Missouri Catholic Conference will host a respectful protest on Tuesday, April 9, at noon outside the governor's office (Room 216, State Capitol Building, Jefferson City) to witness against the execution. The public is invited. For more information, contact 573-635-7239. **NEED HELP WITH FILING TAXES?** A free service is provided by AARP on Tuesday and Friday from 9 am to noon at the Salvation Army Building, 927 Jefferson Ave., Jefferson City MO. Your return will be prepared by trained preparers and reviewers. All age taxpayers are welcome. "First come, First served!"

TOTUS TUUS - JUNE 23 - 28 - Due to the rising cost of Totus Tuus, we have decided to join with St. Stanislaus and St Francis Xavier this year. Totus Tuus will be held at St. Stanislaus the week of June 23- 28. We will have sign-ups available in the next few weeks both online and paper. Thank you for your continued support and participation in this summer program.

<u>GUARDIAN ANGELS PARISH SPRING DINNER, BRINKTOWN</u> is Sunday, April 7, serving fried chicken & baked ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, bread and dessert from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults \$15.00, children 6-12 \$7.00, all carry-outs plates \$15.00.

ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH & ST. BONIFACE CHAPEL, KOELTZTOWN, FRIED CHICKEN & BAKED HAM DINNER is Sunday, April 21, dine in or drive thru - \$15.00 per meal, serving 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St. Boniface Annex building, behind St. Boniface Church, Koeltztown.

SAVE THE DATES: Totus Tuus – June 23-28 – held at St. Stanislaus Church

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

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Hithell T. Prynd. Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski General Chairman Archbishop of St. Louis

t Sharry filly Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight Executive Chairman Bishop of Jefferson City

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

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

Approved February 22, 2024

