

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 ADVENT

December 10, 2023

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

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

St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:
Mrs. Theresa Veit
tveitoffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
lheckemeyer@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 Dec. 10-17:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Monsignor Michael Wilbers
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Harold Luebbering
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Pat Kliegel
Friday, 7:45 a.m. – Jane Lindenbusch
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Ralph Hirschman
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Harry & Norma Lueckenhoff Family

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2023-2024:	\$312,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$156,000.00
Actual Collection for 2023-2024:	\$152,252.10
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	\$ 3,747.90
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 26,000.00

Collection in Church:

December 3	\$ 5,610.17
December 10	\$
December 17	\$
December 24	\$
December 31	\$

<u>Collection Online:</u>	\$ 6,229.50
December total to date:	\$11,839.67
Difference for December:	-\$14,160.33

Church Renovation Capital Campaign

Total Pledges/Donations	\$489,809.70
Total Collected	\$513,740.13
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	\$62,333.90
Loan payments to date	\$149,300.00
(principal) \$137,666.10	(interest) \$11,633.90

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists

Dec..16 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mary Kay / Jeanette
Dec. 17 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Josh Luebbering / Jackie
Dec. 23 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kelsey Kliethermes / Alanna
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Jackie

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers

Dec. 16 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Bill Luebbering
Dec. 17 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard Heckemeyer
Dec. 23 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of Dec. 10-17:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Ben Hake

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Lionel, Arharta & Bonnie Libbert

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2023-2024:	\$67,000.00
Collection Total for 2023-2024:	\$27,536.00
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,583.34

Collection in Church:

December 3	\$ 932.00
December 10	\$
December 17	\$
December 24	\$
December total to date:	\$ 932.00
Difference for December:	-\$ 4,651.34

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

December: Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotto

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

St. Cecilia Readers

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer
Sunday, Dec 17 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing
Sunday, Dec. 24 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer

St. Cecilia Organist

Sunday, Dec 17, 8:00 a.m. - Lydia
Sunday, Dec. 24 8:00 a.m. – Emilie

***YOUR LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENT,
PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT. YOUR
FELLOW PARISHIONERS THANK YOU!***

St. Thomas the Apostle Greeters/Ushers

Dec. 16 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Phil Akin & Eric Strobe
Dec. 17 Sun.10:00 a.m. – Shane & Zeke Verslues
Dec. 23 Saturday 5:00 pm– Eric & Roseanne Boessen
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Craig Buechter & Ryan Buschjost
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

Dec. 16 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Jenny Becker
Dec 17 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard Heckemeyer
Dec. 23 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Jan Carter
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Lynne Reinkemeyer

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

Weekday – Victoria Wieberg & Jason Braun
Dec. 16 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Gregory Kirby,
Ava Buschjost & Evelyn Wooten
Dec. 17 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Francie, Hannah & Levi Tallent,
Ben Otto
Dec. 23 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Carmen Luebbering, JD Volmert,
Emerald Fennwald, Miranda Meyer
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Will & Victoria Wieberg
Isabella Luebbering, Wyatt Otto

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts

Dec. 16 5:00 p.m.- Family of Ralph Hirschman
Dec. 17 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Family of Harry & Norma
Lueckenhoff

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

December 17 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder
December 24 – Ron & Theresa Veit
December 31 – Ron & Theresa Veit
January 7 - Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
January 14 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes
January 21 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

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

December 17 Brooke Schell
December 24 Jenny Becker
December 31 Karlie Reinkemeyer
January 7 Dunja Wieberg
December 14 Lauri Luebbering

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday 7:25 a.m. – Bob Schellman – 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. – Shirley Volmert – Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Joyful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe– Joyful Mysteries

St. Thomas the Apostle Church Cleaners

December 10: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost
December 17: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman
December 24: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Brenda Schell, Amy Buechter
December 31: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering
January 7: 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 Strobe at 573-477-3349.

Thursday, December 14 – Jessi Lackman & Lillian Lackman **Thursday, December 21-** Lisa Lackman & Nancy Libbert

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact, Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or amandab_27@hotmail.com

BULLETIN NOTICES: Deadline for bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: For the family; that all fathers, mothers and children of our community may follow the example of the Holy Family in practicing the virtues of family life and be bound more strongly together in the bonds of charity, we pray to the Lord.

CHRISTMAS ASSESSMENT FOR THE SEMINARIAN FORMATION AND INFIRM PRIEST FUND: St. Cecilia Parish: \$994, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish: \$3,623. Like last year, the diocese is providing an envelope for this collection. It will be inserted into the Dec. 15 issue of our Catholic Missouriian newspaper. Parishioners can use this envelope, in your monthly packet or any envelope marked for this collection, to make their gifts.

CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PACKETS: Forms may be turned in to your parish by using the self-addressed envelope, collection basket, Church Office or place it in the box on table in the back of Church. Implementation of the Catholic Stewardship Renewal Time and Talent and **Tithing forms will start January 1, 2024.** **St. Thomas parishioners may also fill out the Stewardship forms on our website to submit online.**

ST. CECILIA PARISH is in need of some volunteers to serve on the Stewardship Committee. It can be any age of parishioners that are willing to participate. If you are interested in serving on the Stewardship Committee, please contact Fr. Leonard or Dusty Stegeman 573-291-3064.

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 17 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Doris Stumpe
Dec. 24 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Betty Hagenhoff

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

Dec. 17 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Leon Schanzmeyer, Darin Even,
Mitch & Brendan Stumpe
Dec. 24 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Randy Hagenhoff, Kenny Otto,
Leonard Schulte, Tony Derkum

St. Cecilia Servers

Dec. 17 Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Ava & Gavin Werdehausen
Dec. 24 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Sara & Eliabeth Backes,
Jesse Schroeder

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts

Dec. 17 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Family of Lionel, Arharta &
Bonnie Libbert

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Dec. 17 Sunday 7:35 a.m.–Cathy Borgmeyer
Joyful Mysteries
Dec. 24 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer
Joyful Mysteries

VOTIVE CANDLES: 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.

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

PASTORS MEDITATION: 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B. PREPARE FOR THE GOOD NEWS. (Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8) Advent is the time to return to the basics and put Jesus Christ first in our lives. Which we can call “Homecoming” and this is the central theme of the Scripture readings for the Second Sunday of Advent. All three readings focus on the absolute necessity of getting ready for Christ’s “Homecoming” into our hearts and lives by true repentance, reparation, prayer and the renewal of our lives. They also remind us that the past coming of Jesus, some 2000 years ago, the present daily coming of Jesus into our lives through the Eucharistic celebration, through the Scriptures and through the praying community, and his future coming (the Second Coming) are actually the fulfillment of God’s saving plan for us from all eternity. The first reading, taken from the prophet Isaiah, tells us about the Babylonian exiles coming home to their native country, Judah, and their holy city, Jerusalem. Isaiah assures his people that the Lord will lead them in a grand procession to their homeland and take care of them as a shepherd cares for his sheep. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 85) describes how perfect peace (shalom) is coming home with the Lord’s coming. The second reading, taken from the second letter of St. Peter, invites us to get ready to go home to Heaven with Jesus at his Second Coming. Peter tells those who doubt the Second Coming of Jesus that God’s way of counting time is different from ours and that God has His own reasons for delaying the Second Coming of Christ. The Gospel tells us through John the Baptist how we should prepare to receive Jesus our Savior’s “coming home” into our lives during the Advent season by repentance and the renewal of life. John preached that the appropriate behavior for those preparing “the way of the Lord” was to be baptized “as they confessed their sins.” He wanted the Jews to prepare their lives for the Messiah by filling in the valleys of prejudice, leveling the mountains of pride and straightening out their crooked paths of injustice and immorality. John recommended a baptism of repentance in the river Jordan to the Jews who were familiar with ritual and symbolic washings. The most amazing thing about John’s baptism was that, as a Jew, he was asking fellow-Jews to submit to the baptism of repentance which only a Gentile was obliged to undergo. So dear friends, we need to prepare for the rebirth of Jesus, and we are invited by the Church to prepare for Christmas by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives so that Jesus may be reborn in us. Let us remember that “Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem, but all in vain until He is born in me.” We need to allow Jesus to be reborn in our lives. People around us should recognize Jesus’ rebirth in our lives by our sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, compassionate and merciful heart, and spirit of humble and committed service. Let us accept the challenge of John the Baptist to turn this Advent season into a real spiritual “homecoming” by making the necessary preparations for the fresh arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus into our hearts and lives.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

HOLIDAY COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED: St. Thomas the Apostle Social Concerns Committee is asking for donations during this holiday season to give back to our local community. Many families continue to struggle financially in the current economy. Please consider any monetary donation to help those in need in our school or parish. We will be collecting cash/checks from Dec. 3 - Jan. 1. Donations can be turned in to the Parish office or in the collection basket in an envelope labeled “Holiday Collection.” If you know of a local family in need, please reach out to Fr. Leonard or the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity! For it is in giving that we receive — St. Francis of Assisi

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE!!! St. Thomas the Apostle Parish has selected Universal Church Directories to help us with our new church directory. Universal is widely known for top quality directories and photography. Their photographer will take pictures and you will view your proofs electronically immediately following your photography. Our dates for photography are **January 3-6!** Schedule early for the time that best suits your family! Simply go to the St. Thomas Website or Universal website, www.ucdir.com, click on the box to the right that says "photography appointment scheduling login", enter mo253 in the Church Code field and enter photos in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. Please make sure to include your email so you will get a reminder closer to the picture date. Each family in the directory will receive a free 8X10 photo and a complimentary copy of the directory. Please contact Melissa Verslues 338-3433 or Theresa Veit 418-7301, if you have any questions or need assistance signing up.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISHIONER NOTIFICATION TEXT: Several St. Thomas the Apostle Parishioners have notified us that they would like to receive a text when upcoming parish announcements need to be sent out and so we are going to use the Remind App which allows us to send a mass text to our parishioners. You do NOT have to have the app to receive text messages. You will receive an individual text. If you reply to the text, it will come only to the parish (other parishioners will not get it). Several groups in the parish are already using this and we are going to try to do it with the Parish. If you would like to receive a text message on upcoming parish announcements, please go to the following link and fill out your name and cell phone number. If you have any questions or need help, please contact Theresa Veit at (573) 418-7301.

<https://www.remind.com/join/c2chf2>

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24, 5:00 & 10:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. St. Cecilia

Christmas Day – December 25, 8:00 a.m. St. Cecilia Christmas Day – December 25, 10:00 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE: Sunday, December 31 – 5:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle

This year the Solemnity of Christmas falls on a Monday and is a holyday of obligation. All the faithful are obligated to participate in two Masses, from the anticipated Mass of the 4th Sunday of Advent on Saturday evening Dec. 23 through the evening of Dec. 25. In the “Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar,” no. 34 states, “The Vigil Mass of the Nativity is used on the evening of December 24, either before or after First Vespers (Evening Prayer I). On the day of the Nativity of the Lord, following ancient Roman tradition, Mass may be celebrated three times, that is, in the night, at dawn, and during the day.” The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, falls on a Monday (Jan. 1) and so is NOT a holyday of obligation. As a Solemnity, however, it still outranks the Feast of the Holy Family, which will be celebrated that Sunday Dec. 31. Any Masses celebrated on the evening of Dec. 31 should be for Mary, Mother of God.

SEND SOME CHRISTMAS JOY: In your charity, remember our parishioner who is residing in a nursing home with a Christmas card or note. Patricia Loethen, Jefferson Manor, 1720 Vieth Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109

ST. CECILIA CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you want to remember your loved ones during the Christmas season, you may make a monetary donation with their names (**CLEARLY PRINTED**) in an envelope marked “**ST. CECILIA FLOWER DONATION**”. Please place flower donations in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office **between now and December 24**. The names will be published in the December 31 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Those wishing to make a monetary donation toward the Christmas flowers and decorations at St. Thomas the Apostle are asked to place their donation, along with names (**CLEARLY PRINTED**) of those to be remembered in the envelope provided in the December packet. Please place the donations in the collection basket **between now and December 24**. The names will be published in the December 31 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL is looking for a part time music teacher, either one full day or two half days.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS: Advent Program PreK-8 – Monday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. Parish Center, Dress rehearsal is at 10:00 a.m. inviting anyone who would prefer to come in the day instead of the evening.

SHROUD OF TURIN PRESENTATION: We are very pleased to announce that on **Wed., January 3**, Fr. Andrew Dalton will be at the Cathedral of St. Joseph to give two presentations on the Shroud of Turin, the burial cloth of Jesus Christ. Both of these presentations will be held in Cana Hall and will contain the same information. There are two sessions being offered to give as many people as possible a chance to hear it and to allow for one session to be held during daylight hours. The first session will be held in Cana Hall from 2 - 4 p.m. The second session will be held in Cana Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Dalton is an American priest who now teaches at the Pontifical University in Rome.

NOTICE FOR OVER 50 GROUP: Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will not be having a Christmas get together this month. Dorothy has an impending surgery and I can't leave Harold for an extended period of time. Hopefully, we can catch up next month. Sorry!

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, December 12, 7:30 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 7:15 p.m. Please read the December newsletter attached to the bulletin.

RECOGNIZING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES IN THE BULLETIN: If you are a college or technical school graduate this semester, please let us know by emailing or calling the school at 573-477-3322 or the Parish Office on Tuesday morning or Wednesday from 8:30-4:30 p.m. by December 24. The names will be published in the December 31 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS CITY: If you interested in running for a two-year term City of St. Thomas position, please email saintthomascity@gmail.com. You must reside within the City Limits of St. Thomas to hold a Council position. Must apply by December 26, 2023.

ST. THOMAS HOMETOWN HOLIDAY MARKET is Sunday, December 10, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center. Free admission, over 30 vendors, raffle for prizes, Pizza Kwik 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit St. Thomas the Apostle School. For more information, please contact Kim Kliegel, 573-619-9188.

ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS/LADIES AUXILIARY KIDS CHRISTMAS EVENT is Sunday, December 10. Come anytime between 2-5. Santa will be there for pictures! Cookies for a snack. Ornament making, pinecone bird feeders and gingerbread house decorating. We also want to invite our senior citizens for fellowship and card playing. Rides to & from are available. Please contact Jeff Cassmeyer, 573-690-7546 ahead of time for a ride. Accepting coats for kids, new or gently used, also food for families.

SAVE THE DATES: (RESCHEDULED) St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Blood Drive is Thursday, December 28, 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the K of C Hall.
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Pictorial Directory – January 3-6, 2024

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, leading the ewes with care.
Isaiah 40:11

God's love is so great for us that he gave us the gift of his Son. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us turn towards God in loving gratitude for the gifts he gives to us.



Christmas Special Collection
for seminarian education and infirm priests

During this holy time of giving,
please remember our clergy.

Christ was born to share God's good news. Today, our Catholic clergy dedicate their lives to sharing this same message with the world.

Your gift will help us educate our seminarians and provide for the needs of our infirm priests.



Look for your envelope
in the December 15 issue of
The Catholic Missourian



