

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 ADVENT

DECEMBER 12, 2021

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. 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.; 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. 12-19:

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES IN PARISH CENTER

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Pat Kliegel
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. - Richard Schwartz
Thursday 7:45 a.m. –Becky Strope
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Rose Schmidt

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Rosalie Leutten
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Norb Luebbering

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2021-2022: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$152,502.00
Actual Collection for 2021-2022: **\$126,949.50**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 25,552.50
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

December 5 \$ 5,851.00
December 12 \$
December 19 \$
December 26 \$

Collection Online: \$ 5,399.50

December total to date: **\$11,250.50**

Difference for December: -\$14,166.50

Church Renovation Capital Campaign

Total Pledges/Donations \$459,106.04
Total Collected \$369,357.62
Total Expenses Paid \$484,431.44
A total of 100 parishioners have returned pledge cards/or
Contributed to the renovation project.

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Mary Kay Brand / Jackie
Dec.19 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Luke Schroeder / Jackie

St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia Readers

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten
Dec. 19 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Tom Backes

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of Dec. 12-19:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m.- Phil & David Graessle

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2021-2022: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2021-2022: **\$27,425.57**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

December 5 \$ 1,290.00
December 12 \$
December 19 \$
December 26 \$

December total to date: **\$ 1,290.00**

Difference for December -\$ 3,876.67

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

December – Marie Lueckenotto & Pam Libbert

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

St. Cecilia Reader

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

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

St. Thomas & St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 18 Sat. 5:00 p.m.– Mark Boessen & Dave Luebbering
Dec. 19 Sun. 10:00 a.m.- Mattheuw Prenger & Keith Kliethermes

St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers
MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lora Boessen
Dec. 19 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Glenn Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. -
Dec. 19 Sun. 10:00 a.m. – Avery Libbert, Miranda Meyer,
Evelyn Wooten

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

Dec. 19 – Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
Dec. 26 - Ron & Theresa Veit
Jan. 2 – Ron & Theresa Veit
Jan. 9 - Paul Becker & Shara Buechter
Jan. 16- Keith & Jean Kliethermes
Jan. 23 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

WEEKDAY MASSES IN ST. THOMAS PARISH CENTER

Tuesday, 7:20 a.m.– Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries
Wednesday 7:20 a.m.– Pat Loethen– Glorious Mysteries
Thursday 7:20 a.m.–Gilbert & Hermina–Luminous Mysteries
Friday 7:20 a.m. – Bob Schellman Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Joyful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina – Joyful Mysteries

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 hours.

Thursday, Dec. 16 – Joyce Luebbering & Donna Luebbering **Tuesday, Dec. 21** – Kasie Luebbering & Dee Luebbering
Please bring snack to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack 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.

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or amandab_27@hotmail.com We will be selling scrip outside of St. Cecilia Church on the following days. ***Please remember to purchase Scrip Cards for your holiday shopping gift giving needs!***

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE ST. CECILIA CHURCH:

Mass will be celebrated on December 24, 6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. and December 25, 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE: Friday, Dec. 31, 7:00 p.m. & Saturday, Jan. 1, 9:00 a.m. St. Cecilia Church.

SATURDAY EVENING MASSES: THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY EVENING MASSES ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 & JANUARY 1, 2022.

BULLETIN NOTICES: Deadline for bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

CHRISTMAS MASS MINISTRY SIGNUP SHEET is in the entrance of St. Cecilia Church. Please sign-up for Mass ministries for Christmas or please contact Joanne Schroeder at 573-229-8986.

2021 CHRISTMAS/SEMINARY ASSESSMENT: Our assessment for Seminarian Formation and Priest Retirement is \$699.00 for St. Cecilia and \$4,471.00 for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Please support the formation and education of our Diocese's future priests.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH WEEKLY BULLETINS may be found in St. Cecilia Church, Web page, St. Thomas Vitae House on front porch or school when in session.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH: The Church Renovation Committee is looking for volunteers the weekend of December 17 and 18 to tear out carpet and vacuum the floors. Help is needed on Friday evening starting at 5:00 to tear the carpet off the choir and steps and on Saturday, December 18 at 8:00 a.m. to tear the carpet out of Church. If you are not available on December 17 and 18 but would be available to assist with other cleaning projects in Church, please let us know as we have several cleaning projects coming up over the next several weeks. If you are able to help, please text or call Barbara Graessle at 573-680-2954 or Laurie Luebbering 573-619-6090.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: For our children and youth: that the example of parents and other adults of the parish may foster a sense of openness to the Holy Spirit in their lives.

CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: The CSA goal for St. Cecilia Parish is **\$2,550**. So far **\$1,440** has been collected The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is **\$10,200**. So far **\$3,845** has been collected.

St. Cecilia & St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Minister

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Leonard Schulte & Harold Libbert

St. Cecilia Servers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. –

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday–6:05 p.m.-Cathy Borgmeyer–Glorious Mysteries
Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen– Joyful Mysteries

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$2.50**.

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

St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia Offertor

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark & Lauri Luebbering
Dec. 19 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Brian & Katie Luebbering Fam.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS: St. Thomas the Apostle Sesquicentennial history books & glasses, Parish ornaments and cookbooks are available for purchase. Please contact the parish or school office if interested.

PASTORS MEDITATION: *3rd Sunday of Advent. THIS IS A TIME OF DECISION ABOUT WHETHER WE ARE GOING TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO CHRIST* (Zeph. 3:14-18a, Phil. 4:4-7, Lk. 3:10-18) Today's readings command us to "Rejoice!" and we are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, our renewal of life, and by doing God's will. Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, ("Gaudete in Domino semper") "Rejoice in the Lord always". Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior. We rejoice because a) we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, b) we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and c) we wait for Christ's return in glory. In today's first reading, prophet Zephaniah encourages Jerusalem and Israel to shout out for the joy of their expected deliverance by the Lord. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Is 12:6), prophet Isaiah gives the same instruction, "Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel." St. Paul too echoes this message of joy in the second reading, a letter written from imprisonment: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice..." In the Gospel today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God's Way by the doing of His will. John challenges people to generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice. According to John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others and sharing our blessings with others in need. John's call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. Repentance means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives, and it is to be reflected in our living in the ways John suggests.

Therefore, friends we are called to a change of life. First, we should examine our relationships with others. We must mend ruptures, ease or relieve frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees and employers justly. Our domestic and social lives must be put in order. We must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption and instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus' coming. We need to remember that we are, like John the Baptist, Christ's precursors: Parents, teachers, and public servants act as Christ's precursors by repenting of their sins, reforming their lives, and bringing Christ into the lives of those entrusted to their care. Parents are expected to instill in their children a true Christian spirit and an appreciation for Christian values by their own lives and behavior. We all need to remember that we are God's instruments and that we are to lead the people we serve to the feet of Jesus, so that we, too, may know him personally and accept him as our Savior, Lord and Brother. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. Vitae House

CHRISTMAS CHOIR: There will be practices for the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 14 and Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Cecilia Church. Anyone is welcome to join the choir. Any questions- text Jackie at 573-291-3558

ST. CECILIA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 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 **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND PARISH**. There is an envelope in the December envelopes for Christmas flowers. Please place flower donation in the collection basket or mail to the parish office between now and December 19. The names will be published in the December 26 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE VIRTUAL WINTER FANTASY RAFFLE – Tickets are going fast! Tickets for the Winter Fantasy Facebook Live Drawing on Saturday, February 5, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. can be purchased for \$75 at Speedy B's or by contacting Kim Kliegel at 573-619-9188 or Jan Carter at 573-477-3640. **To enter the Early Bird drawing of \$100, purchase your ticket before December 31.** The raffle includes cash prizes of \$11,000, (1-\$5,000 Winner, 3-\$1,000 Winners, 4-\$500 Winners, 10-\$100 Winners) and additional door prizes. All proceeds benefit St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE VIRTUAL WINTER FANTASY SILENT AUCTION -We are currently accepting items with a value of \$50 or more for the Winter Fantasy Online Silent Auction, which will be held from Sunday, January 30-Saturday, February 5. Please bring your item(s) to the Vitae House during parish office hours or contact a committee member for pick up. We encourage families and friends to work together to create a basket or go together on an item. For additional details and auction item ideas go to www.stthomasapostle.net and click on the Event tab. We need your help in making this a success!

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL is needing a cook's assistant/dishwasher. The start time for the day would be at 6:45 a.m. and then the end time will vary, depending on the day's menu, etc. If interested, please call the school office at 573-477-3322 and ask for Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer for more information.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS! UPCOMING EVENTS!

Friday, December 17 – K-8 Bowling Party

Monday, Dec. 20 – Advent Program 7:00 p.m. **Dress rehearsal 10:00 a.m.**

Tuesday, Dec. 21 – Early Release 12:50 p.m. car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders

SEND SOME CHRISTMAS JOY: In your charity, remember our parishioners who are residing in nursing homes, retirement centers and in residences elsewhere with a Christmas card or note.

Delphine Luebbing, 1306 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109 St. Joseph's Bluff

Bernadine Otto, 1030 Edmonds St., Jefferson City, MO 65109

Wilbert Wankum, Sr., The Timbers, Room 142, 239 Karen Dr., Holts Summit, MO 65043

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 7:15 p.m. Please see 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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by December 19. The names will be published in the December 26 bulletin.

COLE COUNTY PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO.5: Candidates interested in running for a three year term on the Board of Directors must notify the District by 5:00 p.m., December 28 to be included on the April 5 election ballot. Please notify Sheri Wieberg at 573-477-3497 if interested. (You must reside within the district one whole year before the election and be at least 25 years of age to hold a seat on the Board.

CITY OF ST. THOMAS COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Notice for any applicants interested in running for a two-year term City Council/Board position on the April 5, 2022 election. If you interested in running for a two-year term Board 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 28, 2021.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, January 16, 2022 – St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Breakfast 8:00-11:30 a.m. K C Hall

Saturday, February 5, 2022 – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Virtual Winter Fantasy

Saturday, February 19, 2022 – Blessing & Celebration of Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church newly renovated Church.

St. Thomas Parish Council Meeting - November 30, 2021

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer Father led
 2. Diocese Representatives to speak on Safe Environment
 - a. Ladies from the diocese came to go over the rules and outlines of the Virtus training.
 - b. Diocese will send people out to the parishes to lead classes for individuals that do not want to do the training online.
 3. Principal's Report / School Advisory Board
 - a. Mr. Heckemeyer went through the highlights.
 4. Finance Committee Report
 - a. No Report
 5. Pastoral Council Commission Reports
 - a. Worship
- i. Church Blessings - Feb 19th 1. Remember that this is coming up.
- ii. Participation 1. The idea was thrown out that we could go to individuals and invite them back to Mass.
- iii. Father's tree 1. 7th and 8th graders are going to decorate Father's tree.
 - a. Social Concerns Adopt a family - Christmas
 1. Last day to donate was November 30th.
 2. The parish collected over \$900.
 3. Dunja Wieberg and Sarah Luebbert went shopping on December 1st for the gifts.
 4. The social committee got \$100 from the charity fund from the parish, making the donation amount over \$1000.
 5. The parish adopted two families this year.
- i. Virtual Winter Fantasy
 1. Good amounts of cash donations are coming from the businesses.
 2. The committee is looking for baskets to be donated.
 1. The committee has sold over 100 tickets.
 2. \$75 dollars a ticket
- ii. Catholic Schools Week Dinner: No dinner this year.
 - b. Administration - Church renovation
 1. The painting is almost done.
 2. Dec 13th - scaffolding coming down
 3. 10% paid back after scaffolding comes down and all scuffs, scratches. and paint touch ups are complete.
 4. Track lighting is up
 5. Spot lighting was replaced with track lighting
 6. Main lights are being rebuilt
 7. Stations of the cross are being painted, damages fixed, and restored.
 8. Volunteers - We will be looking for people to clean, put pews back, and put statues back before the church is ready for the church blessing.
 9. Open house - May be offered to the parishioners before the church blessing. This will be before everything is put back into Church.
 10. Side altars and electricity are still in progress.
- i. Ovens 1. There was a sign on the ovens that stated they were not working. If items are needing to be fixed on the parish grounds, the correct people need to be notified so that the items can be checked.
- ii. Handicap spots: It was asked that we put handicap spots near the entrance of the parish hall. The parish council decided that we would put a drop off spot there, but then the car can be moved for others that need the area.
- iii. Donations List Make a list of things we want done, so we know projects people can donate to when they come with money to the Church.
 1. Anyone that has ideas of donations or things that need to be done on the parish grounds, please let Father or the parish council know.
 2. Jan is making a list of projects for Father.
 3. Metal picnic benches are being placed in the playground area. These were donated. They are like the ones that are in front of the parish hall.
 4. We may want to consider putting rubber mats in the play area instead of rocks. This idea could be put on the donation list.
- iv. AC in church 98,000 is roughly the cost of a new unit for Church.
 1. In the early 80s, the church had a new unit put in.
 2. Virgil has been limping this unit along. It needs to be in the works about replacing it.
 3. It will take at least 4 months to get a new one. Then once the unit arrives, it will take 2 weeks to replace the units.
- v. Snow removal Looking for volunteers.
 1. Be in contact with Mark Luebbering if you want to help.
- vi. Appliances in buildings Jake, Fred, and Mark are making a list of appliances on the parish ground. This list will have serial numbers, part numbers, and routine maintenance that needs to be done so that people know what is going on with the items.
 - c. Pastors Report

.Father hopes everyone had a nice thanksgiving.

 - i. The Advent season has started.
 - ii. Father wants everyone to be safe with the new covid variant.
 - iii. Confessions
 1. Visiting priests are coming to St. Cecilia on Dec. 9th at 7 pm.
 2. Doing confessions with school age kids at St. Thomas in the spring
- iv. Father wants a donation list. Jan is working on one for him. He also wants to make sure things get approved by him before projects are started.
- v. Steam tables - Father is wondering if they need to be fixed and updated?
- vi. Father wants the parish hall rental agreement papers to be looked at. He wants to make sure that people are paying the correct amount when renting the hall. If people are coming up for extra days, then the rental agreement needs to state what the payment is for those dates.
- e. Other Business
 1. Time and Talent Survey
 1. These groups need to be added to the sheet - marriage facilitator, ladies ministry
 2. Forms will be sent to Jan or Theresa for them to tally results.
 2. Discussion, Clarification, questions Ham Breakfast
 1. We can have it!
 2. Google workspace for parish. Use this as a platform for documents to be saved and stored for others to look at and use.
 1. Fred Boessen is working on this.
- f. Closing Prayer, Father led
- g. Adjournment
- h. Next Meeting
- .January 25th at 7:00 p.m.

