

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 17, 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. 17-24:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Ray, Marcella, & Sam Herigon
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Herb & Imogene & Dave Volmert
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Roy & Lidwinna Brockman
Friday, 7:45 a.m. – Jim Reinkemeyer
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Rosemary Buschjost
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes
Christmas Eve -5:00 p.m. – Rudolph & Josephine Veit Fam.
Christmas Eve – 10:00 p.m. –L&D Philip & Alma Boessen
Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2023-2024:	\$312,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$156,000.00
Actual Collection for 2023-2024:	\$159,506.27
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	+\$ 3,506.27
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 26,000.00

Collection in Church:

December 3	\$ 5,610.17
December 10	\$ 7,254.17
December 17	\$
December 24	\$
December 31	\$

Collection Online: \$ 6,229.50

December total to date: **\$19,092.84**

Difference for December: -\$ 6,906.16

Church Renovation Capital Campaign

Total Pledges/Donations	\$489,809.70
Total Collected	\$514,893.86
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. 23 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kelsey Kliethermes / Alanna

Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Jackie

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. –Amanda Wooten/Alanna

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. –Choir/Jackie

Dec. 25 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. –Lisa Wieberg/Jackie

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of Dec. 17-24:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Danny Libbert

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Anna Otto & Marsha Meyer

Christmas Eve- 7:00 p.m. –Larry Stumpe

Christmas Day – 8:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2023-2024:	\$67,000.00
Collection Total for 2023-2024:	\$29,023.00
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,583.34

Collection in Church:

December 3	\$ 932.00
December 10	\$1,487.00
December 17	\$
December 24	\$

December total to date: **\$ 2,419.00**

Difference for December: -\$3,164.34

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. – Doris Stumpe

Sunday, Dec. 24 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer

Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Doris Stumpe

Dec. 25 Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Need a lector

St. Cecilia Organist

Sunday, Dec. 24 8:00 a.m. – Emilie

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Choir/Organist

Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. - Lydia

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

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers

Dec. 23 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. – David Schroeder
Dec. 25 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. – Darrel Buechter
St. Thomas the Apostle Greeters/Ushers
Dec. 23 Saturday 5:00 pm– Eric & Roseanne Boessen
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Craig Buechter & Ryan Buschjost
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Mattheuw Prenger & Gilbert Schellman
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m.- Shane Verslues & Keith Kliethermes
Dec. 25 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. – Alan Reinkemeyer, Matthew Massen, Richard Heckemeyer, Josh Schroeder
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. 23 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Jan Carter
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Lynne Reinkemeyer
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Barb Graessle Mattheuw Prenger (Loft)
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. –Keith Kliethermes Marshall Boessen (Loft)
Dec. 25 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. – Janet Lueckenhoff Lynne Reinkemeyer (Loft)

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

Weekday – Francie & Levi Tallent
Dec. 23 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Carmen Luebbering, JD Volmert, Emerald Fennewald, Miranda Meyer
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Will & Victoria Wieberg Isabella Luebbering, Wyatt Otto
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Evelyn Wooten, Ava Buschjost, Gregory Kirby
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. – Gregory Kirby, Valerie, Zeke & Max Verslues
Dec. 25 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. -Victoria & Will Wieberg, Francie & Hannah Tallent

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

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
January 28 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts

Dec. 23 5:00 p.m.- Family of Rosemary Buschjost
Dec. 24 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Ushers
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve – 5:00 p.m. Family of Rudolph & Josephine Veit
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve – 10:00 p.m. Family of Philip & Alma Boessen
Dec. 25 Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. – Ushers

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

December 24 Jenny Becker
December 31 Karlie Reinkemeyer
January 7 Dunja Wieberg
January 14 Lauri Luebbering
January 21 Brooke Schell

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 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
January 14: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

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 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

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 24 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Betty Hagenhoff
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Jennifer Even Brenda Wansing (Loft)
Dec. 25 Christmas Day 8:00 a.m.- Pam Libbert

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers
Dec. 24 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Randy Hagenhoff, Kenny Otto, Leonard Schulte, Tony Derkum
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Mitch Stumpe, Randy Hagenhoff, Darin Even
Dec. 25 Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Leonard Schulte
We would like one more usher to help Leonard.

St. Cecilia Servers

Dec. 24 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Sara & Eliabeth Backes, Jesse Schroeder
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Ava & Gavin Werdehausen
Dec. 25 Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Skyla, Jesse, Tucker Schroeder

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts

Dec. 24 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Family of Anna Otto & Marsha Meyer
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Family of Larry Stumpe
Dec. 25 Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Ushers

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

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.

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 was inserted in the Dec. 15 issue of our Catholic Missourian 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.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B. **PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD. (Is. 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1Thes. 5:16-24; Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28)** John is the Messiah's "Advance man", urging us to get ready, the Messiah is coming. The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday" because the Mass for today begins with the opening antiphon: "Gaudete in Domino semper" –"Rejoice in the Lord always." To remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle on the Advent wreath, and the priests wear rose vestments. The common theme of the day's Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present, and future, is the reason for our rejoicing. Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God, Yahweh, is their strong Guide, Provider and Protector. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Lk. 1:46ff.) Mary rejoices in the great blessing given to her, exclaiming: "My soul glorifies the Lord; my spirit finds joy in God my Savior." St. Paul, in the second reading, advises the Thessalonian Christians to "rejoice always" by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ's second coming is near, and he is faithful in his promise to reward them. The Gospel today tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. John wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, the light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. We rejoice at the humility of John the Baptizer, who tells the Sanhedrin members challenging him that he is unworthy even to become the slave of Jesus the Messiah. We also rejoice in the sincerity and commitment of John who spent himself completely in preparing people for the long-awaited Messiah. We have an additional reason to rejoice because, like John the Baptizer, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. So, friends we need to bear witness to Christ the Light. Our mission, as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of his Church, is to reflect Christ's Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ's sharing love and his unconditional forgiveness through our lives. There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom because of their evil addictions and bad choices. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of the world. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized. Let us bring the true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. We will be able to accomplish this witnessing mission of radiating Christ's Light only by repenting of our sins, asking God's pardon every day, and by renewing our lives through our daily prayers, by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending and taking part in the Eucharistic celebration, by reading the Bible daily in meditative, prayerful fashion, and by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHRISTMAS CHOIR for 10:00 p.m. will have practices in Church on Monday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m. New members are welcome to join us.

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!!! CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE: An additional day has been added to the photography dates: **Thursday, February 29, 2:00 - 8:30 pm.** A few slots are still open for the **January 3 - 6** dates. Please sign up for the St. Thomas Church Directory! Simply go to www.stthomasapostle.net to find "Universal Church Directories" or Universal's 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. This is also an opportunity to purchase additional family photos, without the sitting fee.** Contact Melissa Verslues 338-3433 or Theresa Veit 418-7301, if you have any questions or need assistance signing up. Thank you for your participation for a successful parish directory!

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>

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 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.
Tuesday, Dec. 19 – K-8 Christmas bowling party Wednesday, Dec. 20 – Early dismissal PreK – 8 12:50 car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders, NO EDP

MEN OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ST. CECILIA PARISHES: You are invited to the December gathering of the Men of *Signum Crucis*, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 20, at Helias Catholic High School. For men who would like to engage in a **Study** on our faith, you will be able to attend a session on December 20 on Church History, taught by Helias Coach Chris Hentges. For those who prefer to immerse themselves in a **Devotion** in our faith, Larry Jansen of the Men of *Signum Crucis* will offer a reflection on the "O Antiphons" in the Chapel. These concurrent sessions will run from 6:30 p.m. until approximately 7:15 p.m. Afterwards, we will all assemble in the Commons for brief concluding remarks, food and fellowship, and the Litany of St. Joseph at 7:55 p.m. to end the evening. As always, enter the school on the east end of the front Swifts Highway parking lot to sign in. Our Hospitality men will greet you right inside the door and direct you to the appropriate location. Feel free to come early to pray the Scriptural Rosary, reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries, at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The presence of each man makes an impact on others in our fraternity. If you have not attended yet, be confident that your presence will make a difference to someone there—this is all part of God's plan. The mission of the Men of *Signum Crucis* is to provide Fraternity through Study, Devotion, and Service to help us become more Christ-like husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, and friends. For more information, contact Jeff Cassmeyer at 573-690-7546, or visit us at www.menofsignumcrucis.com.

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.

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.

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 & February 29.**

St. Cecilia Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Cecilia Parish Council meeting was held on Monday, November 27. Those present were Father Leonard, Dusty Stegeman, Cordel Schroeder, Katy Werdehausen and Doris Stumpe. Janice Schanzmeyer, Lydia Hurst and Shirley Bock were absent. The meeting was opened at 6:45 p.m. with a prayer by Father Leonard.

Building and Grounds No bids have been received for the bathroom remodels in the rectory. Cordel will get the key from Doris sometime to see the work involved. He mentioned he may be able to assist with stripping down the bathroom(s) and see if a contractor would be interested in only the remodel without the teardown.

The council is looking into buying an energy efficient freezer for the parish center that could be plugged in year round. This will allow us to move items from the refrigerator and store in freezer, so the refrigerator could be of more use to those renting the building.

We would still like to see about putting a handrail by the lector podium in Church. Doris commented that the rail in St. Thomas looks really nice. Parishioners have mentioned the floor may not be able to support, due to the flooring material under concrete layer, but the council hopes to find someone who can assist with securely adding a rail.

Liturgical and Worship and Father's report Father spoke about the start of the Advent season on December 3rd and mentioned the penance service for St. Thomas and St. Cecilia will be held on December 5th at St. Cecilia. Several priests will be available and the parish will provide a meal. Father mentioned the Immaculate Conception Mass will be held on December 7th and no Mass on Wednesday, December 6th. The times for Christmas Mass were also noted and will be posted in the upcoming bulletins.

Father will be taking vacation starting January 1 and will be gone for five weeks. He will have a Mass at St. Thomas on 12/31 at 5:00 pm.

Confirmation date has been determined and will be April 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Father gave an update from the last Deanery meeting for the diocese, where the Parish Pastoral Plan was discussed and projects highlighted. The diocese will focus on ministries for the youth, support groups, women in ministry and work together with other parishes in the diocese.

Finance/Stewardship There are a lot of Stewardship envelopes that have not been picked up. Some will be hand delivered and others will be mailed out. Doris will be contacting St. Thomas to mirror the tracking of all the form data sent back. As of now, she is only collecting the envelopes. Dusty noted we are still in need of a Stewardship Committee like other parishes are putting together. A notice will be put in bulletin encouraging parish members to volunteer and help coordinate.

Father mentioned there are some that are concerned with the portion of the weekly donations that goes back to the diocese. He noted that the budget for the diocese is printed in the Catholic Missourian and is also on the diocese website.

The Finance Committee had proposed a wage increase for our parish Bookkeeper position, from \$250 to \$400 per month after taking into account the number of hours devoted each month. Father was asked to run by the Parish Council. Since so many were absent from the meeting, a vote was conducted by phone after the meeting and all approved this raise.

Social Concerns Participating with St. Thomas in the Food Drive. A tub is available in the back of Church through 12/10. Food donations will go to a local food pantry.

Website With Theresa Veit's assistance, we've added a new page to the webpage to list the Finance Committee members, as this was not previously on the site. The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for January 16th at 6:30 p.m.

