

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2019

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 December 1-8:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Francis Wescott
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Bob Luebbering
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Fr. Charles Pardee
Friday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Alex Heckman Family
Anointing of the Sick following Mass
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Gregory & Lucille Veit
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$127,085.00
Actual Collection for 2019-2020: **\$103,623.75**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 13,461.25
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

November 3 \$ 3,897.30
November 10 \$ 3,960.00
November 17 \$ 2,602.00
November 24 \$ 4,435.00

Collection Online:

November total to date: **\$20,496.30**
Difference for November –\$ 4,435.00

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): **\$11,840.25**
Loan payments to date for FY 2019-2020: **\$36,910.96**
(Principal \$33,679.72 Interest \$3,231.24)
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$167,059.13**

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantor / Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten / Jackie Prenger
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Annette Kehner

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mary Kay Brand

St. Thomas the Apostle Altar Servers

Weekday–Miranda Meyer, Kora Luebbering, Abigail Verslues
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ethan & Noah Luebbering,
Cale Luebbert, Rowan Buechter
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Madi & Audrey Buschjost,
Gregory Kirby, Henry Buschjost

St. Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of December 1-8:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Urban Voss

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

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2019-2020: **\$23,092.00**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

November 3 \$ 679.00
November 10 \$ 962.00
November 17 \$1,575.00
November 24 \$1,169.00
November total to date: \$4,385.00
Difference for November: –\$ 781.67

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. – Doris Stumpe
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer

St. Cecilia Altar Servers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Sophie & Reagan Bock

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

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

December 7-8

Saturday, 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Jenny Becker, Marshall Boessen

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mattheuw Prenger, Keith Kliethermes, Rob Henson

December 14-15

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark & Barb Graessle, Lora Boessen

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Rosalyn Wieberg, Richard & Jan Heckemeyer

St. Thomas Greeters/Ushers

December 7-8

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Dave Luebbering & Steve Schellman

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mike Buschjost & Tom Backes

December 9 Monday 7:45 a.m. – Gilbert Schellman & Richard Schellman

December 14-15

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Fred Luebbering & Mark Boessen

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Ryan Buschjost & Richard Heckemeyer

St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass

December 7-8

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Gilbert & Betty Schellman

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – TJ & Erica Loethen Family

December 14-15

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark & Barb Graessle

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard & Jan Heckemeyer

St. Thomas Collection Counters

December 8 – Jennifer Schroeder & Dunja Wieberg

December 15 – Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman

December 22 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas:

Tuesday 7:20 a.m. – Joann Heckman - Sorrowful

Wednesday 7:20 a.m. – Pat Loethen - Glorious

Thursday 7:20 – Pat Loethen – Luminous

Friday 7:20 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe – Sorrowful

Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Barb Graessle - Joyful

Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Joyful

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: The 1st Sunday of Advent year A: **WE ARE CHALLENGED TO MAKE SPIRITUAL PREPARATIONS FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH IN OUR LIVES.** I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day, indeed we have a lot to thank God for most especially the life we have and our beautiful country. I also hope by now every family that hunted for a deer has some deer meat by now, congratulations, If, you haven't killed any deer yet, hard luck for you.

Today we begin our yearly pilgrimage through the events of our history of salvation starting with the preparation for the birthday celebration of Jesus and ending with the reflection on his glorious "second coming" as judge at the end of the world. We are entering the Advent season. Advent means coming. We are invited to meditate on Jesus' first coming in history as a baby in Bethlehem, his daily coming into our lives in mystery through the Sacraments, through the Bible and through the worshipping community and finally his *Second Coming* at the end of the world to reward the just and to punish the wicked. We see the traditional signs of Advent in our Church: violet vestments and hangings, dried flowers or plain green plants and the Advent wreath. These signs remind us that we must prepare for the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives, enabling him to radiate his love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness around us.

In the first reading (Is 2:1-5), Isaiah describes his prophetic vision of all nations making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, affirming their Faith in the one true God. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 122), is a joyous hymn originally sung as pilgrims journeyed to the Temple in Jerusalem. They prepare us for our yearly pilgrimage. In the second reading (Rom13:11-14), Paul exhorts the Roman Christian community to get ready to meet Jesus in his *Second Coming* by discharging their duties properly and by freeing themselves from their former pagan tendencies toward excessive drinking, sexual promiscuity, jealousy and rivalry. **We, too, are challenged to make spiritual preparations for Christ's birth in our lives.** In today's Gospel (Mt 24:37-44), Jesus warns us of the urgency of vigilant preparation on our part that we may meet him as our Judge both at the end of our lives on earth and on the day of the Last Judgment when he comes in his glory. Jesus reminds us of how the unrepentant and ill-prepared evil people were destroyed by the flood in the time of Noah and of how a thief would break in and plunder the precious belongings of an ill-prepared house owner. Using the additional examples later, **Jesus repeats his warning for us to be vigilant and well-prepared all the time, doing the will of God by loving others.**

We need therefore to be alert and watchful while spiritually preparing for Christmas by offering our daily work to God for His glory, by practicing more self-control in resisting evil habits and inclinations, by seeking reconciliation daily with God and our fellow-humans, and by asking God's pardon and forgiveness as we extend our unconditional forgiveness to those who have hurt us. Let us begin each day by praying for the strength and power of the Holy Spirit to prepare ourselves for Jesus' rebirth in our hearts and lives. Have a blessed week, **Fr. Leonard Mukiibi**

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Monday, December 9 – 7:45 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle
Monday, December 9 - 6:30 p.m. St. Cecilia

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

St. Thomas the Apostle

December 24 5:00 p.m.

December 24 10:00 p.m.

December 25 10:00 a.m.

St. Cecilia

December 24 7:00 p.m.

December 25 8:00 a.m.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: As we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Family, may our Churches and schools support parents in the raising of their children in the faith.

SCRIP: December 7-8 Saturday – Amy Luebbering

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Daffiny Tallent

Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Daffiny Tallent at 573-694-4408 to purchase anytime. **Please remember to purchase Scrip Cards for your holiday shopping gift giving needs!** A large variety of cards in various denominations are in stock and available for purchase.

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

December 8

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen,

Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

Monday, December 9, 6:30 p.m. – Pam Libbert, Doris

Stumpe, Bonnie Kampeter

December 15

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Jennifer Even, Betty Hagenhoff,

Dorothy Rehagen

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

December 8 – Anton Libbert, Terry Libbert, Tony Derkum,

Leon Schanzmeyer

Monday, December 9 6:30 p.m. – Mitch & Brendan Stumpe,

Darin Even, Randy Hagenhoff

December 15

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

Anton Libbert, Terry Libbert

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:05 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer– Glorious

Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Margaret Brune– Joyful

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

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.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Tuesday, December 3.

CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$10,000. \$4,765.00 received so far. The CSA goal for St. Cecilia Parish is \$2,500. \$920.00 received so far.

ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS – Fr. Leonard will be at the St. Cecilia Parish office (rectory) and be available to parishioners on Wednesdays from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., or by appointment by calling 573-999-9927. Confession hours at St. Cecilia are Wednesdays from 5:00 - 6:15 p.m. and Sundays from 7:00 – 7:45 a.m., or by appointment.

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS:

Thursday, December 5 – Kathy Rackers & Jill Rademan Thursday, December 12 – Lynne & Rosella Reinkemeyer
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 Strobe at 573-477-3349.

FIRST FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH: Anointing of the Sick following 7:45 a.m. Mass; Benediction at 11:10 a.m. and Holy Hour at 7:00 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL AT ST. THOMAS: Please join us for coffee, donuts and other hospitality in the Vitae House after Mass on Friday, December 6.

A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY will be prayed on Wednesday, December 4 at 5:00 p.m. St. Thomas Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHRISTMAS CHOIR: There will be choir practice for the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass on Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 22 and 8:00 a.m. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Jackie at 477-3558 if you have any questions.

DECORATING ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: St. Thomas the Apostle Church will be decorated on Sunday, December 22 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Chili will be served after decorating. All are welcome to help decorate.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASS will meet on Wednesday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. St. Cecilia.

THE JUNIOR CYO in Cathy Borgmeyer's class will have a bake sale after Mass on December 1 at St. Cecilia Church. We are raising money for supplies and activities. Your support is appreciated. Thanks so much!!

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 in the flower donations in collection basket between now and December 22. The names will be remembered & published in the December 29 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Those wishing to make a monetary donation toward the Christmas flowers and decoration at St. Thomas 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 22. The names will be remembered & published in the December 29 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, December 6 – First Friday, Adoration & Confessions grades 3-8, Benediction 11:10 a.m.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES IN THE AREA:

Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 p.m. – Sacred Heart Parish, Rich Fountain
Thursday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.- St. Louis of France Parish, Bonnots Mill
Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m. – St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia
Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 p.m. – Immaculate Conception Parish, Loose Creek
Thursday, December 12, 7:00 p.m. – Our Lady of Help of Christians, Frankenstein
Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, St. Thomas
Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 p.m. – St. George Parish, Linn
Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. – St. Cecilia Parish, Meta

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of December 1: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman
Week of December 8: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter
Week of December 15: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost
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!

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.

Rose Mary Buschjost, 1899 Highway 63, Westphalia, MO 65085
Florentine Hagenhoff, 239 Karen Dr., Holts Summit, MO 65043
Delphine Luebbering, 1002 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109 St. Joseph's Bluff
Marie Luebbering, 12813 Rt. B, St. Thomas, MO 65076
Shirley Luebbering, C/O Jefferson City Manor, 1720 Vieth Dr., Room 209, Jefferson City, MO 65109
Jackie Luebbert, 1899 Highway 63, Westphalia, MO 65085
Margie Luebbert, 1899 Highway 63, Westphalia, MO 65085
Celeste Suthoff, 220 Karen Dr., Holts Summit, MO 65043

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE is next Sunday, December 1, 8:00 a.m. to noon at the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Hall. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter StThomasParish to schedule an appointment.

PIANO: If anyone is interested in the piano that was previously at St. Cecilia in the parish center and was later stored in the old rectory, please contact Doris Stumpe. Would like to see if anyone is interested in the piano before proceeding on with donating it elsewhere.

FOOD DRIVE: The St. Thomas / Meta Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a food drive beginning this week through December 22. The food collected will be delivered to the Helping Hands of Central Missouri food Pantry located near St. Elizabeth in Miller County. Food collection boxes are located in the entrances of St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia Churches. As we approach the winter season, please take this opportunity to help those in need. Thank you!

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 8:30-5:00 p.m. at 573-477-3315. The names will be published in the December 29 bulletin.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH, FALL SUPPER, FREEBURG is Sunday, December 8, serving fried chicken and sausage dinners from 11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Adults \$12.00, children 6-12 \$6.00. Carry outs available.

PICTURES WITH SANTA is Friday, December 13, 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Mid-America Bank, Wardsville.

**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
November 19, 2019**

PPC Goal: Develop a more inclusive sense of community in our Parish by encouraging the growth of our relationships with each other and with God.

Members present: Fr. Leonard, Alan Reinkemeyer, Mark Luebbering, Barb Graessle, Jackie Prenger, Leroy Heckemeyer, Jan Carter, Jason Buschjost, Paul Becker, Curt Goeller, and Theresa Veit **Absent:** Steve Schellman, Brian Luebbering, and Ryan Wieberg
Father led the Parish Pastoral Council in prayer.

Principal's Report (Mr. Heckemeyer):

- The Cole County flu shot clinic was held on Monday, September 30th at 9:00 a.m. We had 38 students and 1 adult who received the flu shot.
- Achievement testing was held on October 7-11 for grades 2-8.
- October 11th was the end of the 1st quarter and it was 40 days long.
- Wednesday, October 16th was our Picture Day.
- Thursday, October 17th was an early release day and Parent/Teacher Conferences and there was no school on Friday, October 18th.
- There was a Safety Kids Performance for grades K-6 on Thursday, October 24th at 1 PM. This is part of the Council for Drug Free Youth.
- There was a field trip for K-4 on Friday, October 25th to the Cave Pumpkin Patch in Brumley.
- The Trunk or Treat event was held on Sunday, October 27th.
- The Three Rivers Electrical safety assembly was held on Monday, October 28th. It was put on by Keith Mueller.
- STUCO's trail mix sale brought in a little under \$400. All the proceeds go to the STUCO Adopt-a-Family program from the Samaritan Center. This money will be used for the chosen family's Christmas presents.
- Our preschool numbers have gone from 14 to 15 and that brings our total enrollment up to 88 students.
- We had our Red Ribbon Week from October 28 – November 1.
- There was NO SCHOOL for grades K-8 on Monday, November 4th because of a PD Day at Helias Catholic High School.
- STUCO bake sale occurred on Friday, November 8th with a little over \$500 being raised. This money will go towards the adopt a family for their Christmas presents.
- There was a Home & School meeting on November 14th at 6:30 PM.
- Amanda Schlottach from the Red Cross will talk with our students on Monday, November 25th about the K of C Blood Drive on Sunday, December 1st.
- There will be NO SCHOOL for grades K-8 on November 27-29 for Thanksgiving break.
- The 7th & 8th Grade will visit Helias on December 4th.
- We have our Advent Program on Monday, December 16th at 7:00 PM.
- The Christmas Bowling Party for K-8 will be on Wednesday, December 18th at Osage Beach from 11:45 AM to 1:45 PM. We will also be able to bring our cookies to the bowling alley.
- Early release on Friday, December 20th at 12:50 and 1:00 PM.
- Christmas break will run from December 21, 2019 – January 5, 2020 for Grades K-8. School will resume on Monday, January 6th.
- **Pastor's Report (Father Leonard):**
- Fr. Leonard said thank you for paving his driveway.
- Catholic Stewardship Campaign – Father encouraged everyone to support it.
- Father would like to add a picture of the parish council on the website.
- Fr. Leonard will be gone during the month of January.

Worship Committee Report:

- The parish reconciliation service is scheduled for December 17th. Parish Council will assist in preparing and serving the meal. Menu is pulled pork, slaw, buns, chips and dessert.
- Decorating of church will be on Sunday, December 22nd after 10:00 mass. Chili will be served after decorating.
- The worship committee will help monitor some of the items needed for church.
- The website will be updated with names of people who usher, communion ministers, etc.

Christian Education Report:

- February 8th Steve Angrisano is coming to Columbia (Our Lady of Lourdes) – we want to take confirmation kids and freshmen up to Columbia to listen to him.

Social Concerns Report:

- Fr. Leonard will talk to Fr. Jones about the incense he used when he was here.
- The Birthright drive in September was a huge success.

Administration Report:

- Project Updates
 - Paving was completed in Father's driveway.
 - Tuck Pointing on school will need to be done. Getting bids.
 - Carbon monoxide detector needs to be added to Fr. Leonard's house.
- Snow Removal
 - Attempting to get volunteers. Matt Kliegel will plow the parking lot, Father's driveway, and the road above the ballpark.

Old Business:

- Sesquicentennial Recap
 - All went good.
- Fall Fantasy Recap
 - Need new committee (four people)
- Church Sanctuary/Ceiling Project
 - No update.

New Business:

- Time and Talent Sheet
 - They will be placed in the back of church in the near future.
- Parish meal at Catholic's Schools Week, January 25, 2020 – Chili and Hot Dogs

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Vitae House. The meeting was adjourned & Fr. ended with a prayer.

