# 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

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# December 24, 2023

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 <u>Mass Schedule for the Week of Dec. 24-31:</u> 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 Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – NO MASS Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Stanley Strope Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Tom & Clara Schmidt Friday, 7:45 a.m. – NO MASS Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of Our Parishes, Amy Veit Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Herman & Agatha Luebbering Solemnity of Mary – 5:00 p.m. – Harold Luebbering

#### Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2023-2024:	\$312,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	: \$156,000.00
Actual Collection for 2023-2024:	\$165,534.17
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	+\$ 9,534.17
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 26,000.00
Collection in Church:	
December 3	\$ 5,610.17
December 10	\$ 7,254.17
December 17	\$ 5,025.40
December 24	\$
December 31	\$
Collection Online:	\$ 7,232.00
December total to date:	\$25,121.74
Difference for December: -	\$ 878.26

# **Church Renovation Capital Campaign**

Total Pledges/Donations\$489,809.70Total Collected\$515,138,86Total Expenses Paid\$699,195.95A total of 131 parishioners have returned pledge cards/orContributed to the renovation project.Church Renovation Loan Balance\$62,333.90Loan payments to date\$149,300.00(principal)\$137,666.10(interest)\$11,633.90

# St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists

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 Dec. 30 Saturday 5:00 p.m.– Mary Kay Brand/Jackie Dec. 31 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Josh Luebbering/Jeanette Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary 5:00 p.m. – Judy Schroeder/Jackie Saint Cecilia Mass Schedule for the Week of Dec. 24-31:

Christmas Eve- 7:00 p.m. –Larry Stumpe Christmas Day – 8:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - NO MASS

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Lawrence, Bernadine, & Scott Otto

#### Your Sunday Offering:

 Offertory Budget for 2023-2024:
 \$67,000.00

 Collection Total for 2023-2024:
 \$30,033.00

 Offertory Goal per month:
 \$5,583.34

### **Collection in Church:**

\$ 932.00
\$ 1,487.00
\$ 1,010.00
\$
\$ 3,429.00
-\$ 2,154.34

# St. Cecilia Collection Counters

December: Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotto January: Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

# PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT

#### St. Cecilia Readers

Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Doris Stumpe Dec. 25 Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – **NO MASS** Sunday, Dec. 31 8:00 a.m. – Jennifer Even

#### St. Cecilia Organist

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Choir/Organist Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. - Lydia Sunday, Dec. 31 8:00 a.m. – Emilie

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

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers 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 Dec. 30 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle Dec. 31 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary 5:00 p.m. - David Schroeder St. Thomas the Apostle Greeters/Ushers 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 Dec. 30 Saturday 5:00 pm- Phil Akin & Bob Schellman Dec. 31 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Doug Stockman & Jeff Cassmeyer Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary 5:00 p.m. - Gilbert Schellman & & Richard Schellman 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. 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) Dec. 30 Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Mark Graessle Dec. 31 Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Glenn Prenger Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary 5:00 p.m. Glenn Prenger St. Thomas the Apostle Servers 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 Dec. 30 Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Carmen Luebbering, JD Volmert, Emerald Fennewald, Miranda Meyer Dec. 31 Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Will & Victoria Wieberg Isabella Luebbering, Wyatt Otto Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary 5:00 p.m. - Evelyn Wooten, Ava Buschjost, & JD Volmert St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters 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. 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 Dec. 30 5:00 p.m.- Family of Amy Veit Dec. 31 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Family of Herman & Agatha Luebbering Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary – 5:00 p.m. Family of Harold Luebbering

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

Dec. 25 Christmas DayBrooke SchellDecember 31Karlie ReinkemeyerJanuary 7Dunja WiebergJanuary 14Lauri LuebberingJanuary 21Brooke SchellJanuary 28Jenny Becker

# Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas Tuesday 7:25 a.m. – NO MASS

Tuesday 7:25 a.m. – NO MASS
Wednesday 7:25 a.m. – Bob Schellman – Glorious Mysteries
Thursday 7:25 a.m. – Dale Herigon – Luminous Mysteries
Friday 7:25 a.m. – NO MASS
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Joyful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strope– Joyful Mysteries
Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary 5:00 p.m. – Dale Herigon Joyful Mysteries

## St. Thomas the Apostle Church Cleaners

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 January 21: 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, January 4<sup>th</sup>** – Sheila Libbert & Loree Libbert

<u>St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers</u> Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Jennifer Even Brenda Wansing (Loft) Dec. 25 Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. - Pam Libbert Dec. 31 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

#### St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

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.

Dec. 31 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Darin Even, Mitch Stumpe, Brendan Stumpe, & Randy Hagenhoff

#### St. Cecilia Servers

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Ava & Gavin Werdehausen

Dec. 25 Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Skyla, Jesse, Tucker Schroeder Dec. 31 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Bradyn & Kambrie Stegeman, Annaline Schroeder

#### St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Family of Larry Stumpe Dec. 25 Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Ushers Dec. 31 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Family of Lawrence, Bernadine & Scott Otto

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia Dec. 31 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer

Joyful 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.

**<u>SCRIP</u>**: 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.

<u>CHRISTMAS ASSESSMENT FOR THE SEMINARIAN FORMATION AND INFIRM PRIEST FUND</u>: 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.

**THANK YOU:** Our family would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU for all the prayers, support, love, and kindness shown to us since Harold's passing. Thank you to all who came by the house to visit and bring food, also for the donations of food to the luncheon. Thanks to those who set up and served the luncheon and cleaned up afterward. The memorials received were heartwarming! Harold would have been humbled! Thank you to Father Porterfield for the beautiful homily and Mass that was so fitting for a farmer's life. Thank you to Father Leonard for concelebrating. We know first hand that the people in small rural towns truly care ,,,, may God bless each of you. Donna Luebbering, Sandra & Mark Kloeppel, Lynn & Patrick Taggart, Angela & Willy Rowden and grandchildren

<u>CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PACKETS</u>: 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.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 2023 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS**: Thank you for your generosity this past year. To receive your 2023 contribution statement, you may complete the statement request form on the St. Thomas the Apostle Church website or call the parish office at 573-477-3315 during parish office hours. The form can be found online at www.stthomasapostle.net/contribution-statement or by clicking the Contribution Statement tab at the top of the home page.

### NOTICE FROM FATHER LEONARD

Dear parishioners of **St. Thomas the Apostle** and **St. Cecilia, Meta** Parishes, **MERRY CHRISTMAS**. I also want to let you know that I will be taking a vacation for one month starting **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024** and I will return the first week of February, I will keep you in my prayers as you also pray for me. **Fr. James Finder** (Retired) has offered to fill in for me for the weekend masses while I am away, and **Fr. Chris Aubuchon** (pastor at St. Lawrence parish, St. Elizabeth) and **Fr. Mark Porterfield**, (St Francis Xavier, Taos) will assist with emergencies and with funerals during my absence. The secretaries for both parishes will guide you during the times when you need those Priests. May God keep you safe and bless you all through the New Year. **HAPPY NEW YEAR**. **Fr. Leonard** 

## PASTORS MEDITATION

CHRISTMAS DAY YEAR B. GOD ENTERS THE LIFE OF HIS PEOPLE. (Is. 52:7-10; Heb. 1:1-6; Jn. 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14)

On Christmas we celebrate the coming of Jesus in the world. Maybe more than any other time of the year, we feel God's closeness to us for it seems to be easier to open our hearts to Him. Actually Christmas is the right time to give thanks to God for giving us His only begotten Son to be our Savior. If we owe thanks to people for doing good to us, how much more should we do for God? Today, we celebrate the birthday of Christ, a Day of Thanksgiving for the greatest gift that God exchanged for us, and we celebrate Christmas with great rejoicing because:

**First**, Christmas is the Feast of God's sending us a Savior: God undertook the Incarnation of Jesus as True God and true man to save us from the bondage of sin. "God so loved the world that He sent His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life." We celebrate the Incarnation of God as a Baby today, as Good News because we have a Divine Savior.

As our Savior, Jesus liberated us from slavery to sin and atoned for our sins by his suffering, death and Resurrection. So, every Christmas reminds us that we need a Savior every day, to free us from our evil addictions and unjust, impure and uncharitable tendencies. Christmas also challenges us to accept Jesus in the manger as our saving God and personal Savior and to surrender our lives to him, allowing him to rule our hearts and lives every day in the New Year.

**Second,** Christmas is the Feast of God's sharing His love with us. Jesus, as our Savior, brought the "Good News" that our God is a loving, forgiving, merciful, rewarding God and not a cruel, judgmental, punishing God. He demonstrated by his life and teaching how God our Heavenly Father loves us, forgives us, provides for us, and rewards us. All his miracles were signs of this Divine Love. Jesus' final demonstration of God's love for us was his death on the cross to atone for our sins and to make us children of God. Each Christmas reminds us that, sharing love with others is our Christian privilege and duty, every time we do that, Jesus is reborn in our lives. "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born in me." Hence, let us allow Jesus to be reborn in our hearts and lives, not only during Christmas, but every day, so that he may radiate the Light of his presence from within us as sharing and selfless love, expressed in compassionate words and deeds, unconditional forgiveness, the spirit of humble service and, overflowing generosity.

Third, Christmas is the Feast of the Emmanuel (God living with us and within us): Christmas is the feast of the Emmanuel because God in the New Testament is a God Who continues to live with us in all the events of our lives as the "Emmanuel" announced by the angel to Mary. As Emmanuel, Jesus lives in the Sacraments (especially in the Holy Eucharist), in the Bible, in the praying community, and in each believer as the Holy Spirit, residing in us, makes us His "Temples." Christmas reminds us that we are bearers of God with the missionary privilege and duty of conveying Jesus to those around us by loving them as Jesus did, through sacrificial, humble, committed service. Sharing with others Jesus, the Emmanuel living within us, is the best Christmas gift we can give, or receive, today. So it is really pacessary for us to give thanks to God for this wonderful and loving action in us.

So it is really necessary for us to give thanks to God for this wonderful and loving action in us. But do we give thanks to Him sincerely? It is really necessary to give gratitude to God the giver of the gift of his begotten son.

May the LORD bless you and keep you! May the LORD let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you! May the LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Book of Numbers 6: 24-26).

# MERRY CHRISTMAS and A BLESSED NEW YEAR 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!!! 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 <u>mo253</u> in the Church Code field and enter <u>photos</u> 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 Holy Day 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 Holy Day 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.

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 <u>"ST. CECILIA FLOWER DONATION"</u>. 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.

HOLY HOUR & ANOINTING OF THE SICK is Friday, December 29, 7:00 p.m. St. Cecilia Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS: Thursday, January 4th School Resumes

**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: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Pictorial Directory - January 3-6, 2024 & February 29.

TASTE OF ITALY ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC PARISH is Saturday, January 20, 2024, tickets are \$15.00 in advance and \$17.00 at the door. Serving from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Meal catered by Argyle Catering, Iasagna, fettucine, chicken parmesan, salad, breadsticks, and cheesecake. Advanced ticket sales end on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:38

As the first disciple, Mary shows us that while you might not always know God's plan, you should always TRUST in his plan because he will walk with you every step of the way.



