

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 3, 2017

Pastor: Very Reverend Jeremy A. Secrist, V.F.

jasecrist@yahoo.com

Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas Bookkeeper:

Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer

jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas Administrative Secretary:

Mrs. Jenny Becker

jbeckeroffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer

lheckemeyer@embarqmail.com

School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

St. Thomas Secretary:

Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff

stthomasoffice@embarqmail.com

St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:

Mrs. Doris Stumpe

dorisstumpe@att.net

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

School Office hours during school year: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. at St. Thomas; Sundays 7:30 - 7:50 a.m. at St. Cecilia;
or anytime by appointment, just call Father.

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Mass Schedule for the Week of December 3-10:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Fred Stockman

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – L&D William & Rose Schmidt Family

Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Alex Heckman

Thursday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Anthony & Edna Ullman Family

Thursday 6:00 p.m. – L&D Thomas & Mary Loethen Family

Friday 7:45 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Wm. & Rufina Boessen

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Pat Kliegel

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2017-2018: \$305,000.00

Offertory Goal through Month End: \$127,085.00

Actual Collection for 2017-2018: **\$120,549.83**

Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 6,535.17

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

November 5 \$ 4,126.00

November 12 \$ 3,719.26

November 19 \$ 3,316.75

November 26 \$ 3,898.25

Collection Online: \$ 6,102.00

November total to date: \$21,162.26

Difference for November – \$ 4,254.74

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid: \$2,273,475.34

Income from parishioners for FY 2017-2018

(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$11,857.45**

Loan payments to date for FY 2017-2018: **\$36,910.97**

(Principal) \$31,225.21 (Interest) \$5,685.75

Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$365,497.05**

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantor / Organist

Thursday, December 7 – 6:00 p.m. – Annette Kehner

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten / Annette Kehner

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mary Kay Brand / Annette Kehner

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader / Petitions

Thursday, December 7 – 6:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Carolyn Loethen

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – MaryPat Luebbering

St. Thomas the Apostle Altar Servers

Weekday a.m. – Courtney Luebbering & Molly Suthoff

Dec. 7, 6:00 p.m. – Henry Buschjost, Ely & Dawson Wieberg

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Noah & Ethan Luebbering, Cale Luebbert

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Brie Heckman, Abigail Verslues, Kenadi & Jackson Braun

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of December 3-10:

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Vince Reinkemeyer

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Phil & David Graessle

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Lawrence "Dick" Rehagen

Friday, 6:00 p.m. – Fr. Frank Bussmann

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes

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

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2017-2018: \$62,000.00

Collection Total for 2017-2018: **\$27,721.45**

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

November 5 \$ 1,312.00

November 12 \$ 1,210.00

November 19 \$ 1,563.00

November 26 \$ 1,129.10

November total to date: \$ 5,214.10

Difference for November: +\$ 47.43

Please remember your parish in your last will & testament.

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

December – Marie Lueckenotto & Pam Libbert

St. Cecilia Reader / Petitions

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe

Friday, 6:00 p.m. – Betty Hagenhoff

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Doris Stumpe

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

St. Cecilia Altar Servers

Friday 6:00 p.m. – Skyla & Jesse Schroeder,

Ava & Saige Werdehausen

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Alex & Joshua Even

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Nicholas & Shelby Wankum

Ava & Saige Werdehausen

**IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFILL
YOUR LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENT,
IN YOUR KINDNESS & CHARITY,
PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT**

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

December 7, 6:00 p.m. – Lynne Reinkemeyer, Pat Kaiser, Marshall Boessen

December 9-10

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jan Carter, Mattheuw Prenger, Keith Kliethermes

December 16-17

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Jenny Becker, Betty Schellman

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Rob Henson, Rosalyn Wieberg, Emily Luebbering

St. Thomas Greeters/Ushers

**please ring tower bells 10 minutes before weekend Masses*

December 7, 6:00 p.m. – Joe Buschjost & Mike Groner

December 9-10

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – TJ Loethen & Mattheuw Prenger

December 16-17

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mike Green & Gilbert Schellman

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Keith Kliethermes & Mike Buschjost

St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass

December 7, 6:00 p.m. – Steve & Katrina Schellman Family

December 9-10

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mike & Trish Green

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Alan & Stephanie Cortvrient

December 16-17

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

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

St. Thomas Collection Counters

December 9-10 – Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman

December 16-17 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

December 23-24 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday 7:25 a.m. – Joann Heckman – Sorrowful

Wednesday 7:25 a.m. – Pat Loethen - Glorious

Thursday 7:25 a.m. – Viola Boessen – Luminous

Thursday 5:40 p.m. – Tina Stockman - Luminous

Friday 7:25 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe - Sorrowful

Saturday 4:40 p.m. – Barb Graessle– Joyful

Sunday 9:40 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe - Joyful

SCRIP: December 9-10 Saturday – Lindsay Luebbering Sunday – Karen Luebbering

Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. You can contact Lindsay Luebbering at 573-680-4920 or Karen Luebbering at 573-301-5835 to purchase anytime. **Please remember to purchase Scrip cards for all your holiday shopping gift giving needs! A large variety of cards in various denominations are in stock and available for purchase.**

SNACKS FOR ST. THOMAS QUILTERS:

Thursday, December 7 – Martha Strobe & Marsha Strobe.

Thursday, December 14 – Karen Struempff & Tracy Suthoff Please bring snack to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Strobe or Emily Luebbering.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:

Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, **December 7 at 6:00 p.m.** (Vigil) at St. Thomas the Apostle

Friday, **December 8 at 7:45 a.m.** at St. Thomas the Apostle

Friday, **December 8 at 6:00 p.m.** at St. Cecilia, Meta

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS: *Magnificat Advent Companion* booklets with daily reflections are available for you at the entrances to Church to assist your daily prayer throughout the season of Advent.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY for our parishioners who will be making their First Confessions during this season of Advent.

First Confessions will be at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday December 6 at St. Cecilia Parish and at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday December 13 at St. Thomas the Apostle.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHES' CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: Haylee Bax, Brooke Boessen, Drew Boessen, Emma Boessen, Cole Brenneke, Caleb Buechter, William Derkum, Mason Francis, Teagan Humphrey, Ashlyn Kroll, Claire Luebbering, Isaac Prenger, Brayden Schaben, Kaleb Schaben, Emily Schell, Jeremy Stockman, Nolan Suthoff, Adam Veltrop, Nicholas Wankum, Brianna Wieberg.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION will be on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the **St. Cecilia Parish Center.**

FOOD DRIVE: The St. Thomas / Meta Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a food drive beginning this week through December 17. 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!

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

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Friday 6:00 p.m. – Betty Hagenhoff, Jennifer Even, Doris Stumpe

December 9-10

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Brenda Wansing, Doris Stumpe, Jennifer Even

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Gerald & Phyllis Rehagen, Janice Schanzmeyer

December 16-17

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Betty Hagenhoff, Dorothy Rehagen, Lou Kloepfel

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Pam Libbert

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

December 9-10

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Mitch & Brendan Stumpe, Darin Even, Randy Hagenhoff

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer, Larry Lueckenotto, Harold Libbert, Anton Libbert

December 16-17

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Lou Kloepfel, Mitch & Brendan Stumpe, Darin Even

Sunday 8:00 am. – Terry Libbert, Tony Derkum, Leon Schanzmeyer, Kenny Otto

December 16-17

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Lou Kloepfel, Mitch & Brendan Stumpe, Darin Even

Sunday 8:00 am. – Terry Libbert, Tony Derkum, Leon Schanzmeyer, Kenny Otto

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. – Florentine Hagenhoff – Glorious

Friday 5:40 p.m. – Mary Plassmeyer – Sorrowful

Saturday 6:40 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer – Joyful

Sunday 7:40 a.m. – Margaret Brune – Joyful

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist at least six months prior to the desired date.

PENANCES SERVICES AROUND THE AREA DURING ADVENT:

December 5 St. Anthony, Folk

December 6 Immaculate Conception, Loose Creek

December 10 St. Stanislaus, Wardsville

December 11 St. Cecilia, Meta

December 12 Holy Family, Freeburg

December 13 St. Aloysius, Argyle

December 13 Immaculate Heart, Chamois

December 15 St. Louis, Bonnots Mill

December 18 St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Thomas

December 19 St. Joseph, Westphalia

December 20 Mary, Help of Christians, Frankenstein

December 21 St. George, Linn

RORATE MASS – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22: There is an ancient custom during the season of Advent to celebrate Mass in the early morning before sunrise in anticipation of the coming of the Light of the World at Christmas. Mass will be offered by candlelight at St. Thomas the Apostle **at 6:00 a.m. on Friday, December 22.** Hospitality will be offered in the Vitae House following the Rorate Mass.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Mass will celebrated on Sunday, **December 24** at 5:00 p.m. & Midnight at St. Thomas the Apostle

Sunday, **December 24** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Cecilia

Monday, **December 25** at 10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle

*Kindly note that the weekend Mass schedule for December 23-24 (4th Sunday of Advent) will remain as usual.

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: We're nearing the end of this year's Catholic Stewardship Appeal. For all those who have chosen to join their diocesan brothers and sisters by making a commitment to this year's campaign, we thank you very much. Opportunities will continue to be available to those who have not yet made a pledge. If you no longer have a pledge card, look for a CSA envelope in church at the end of the pew, or in the back of church—or go online to www.diojeffcity.org. Any gift you can make will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

The CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP GOALS for 2017 are:

St. Cecilia Parish: **\$2,500.** So far \$1,170 (47%) has been contributed.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish: **\$8,000.** So far \$5,703 (72%) has been contributed.

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 the flower donations in the collection basket between now and December 17. The names will be remembered will be published in the December 23-24 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Those wishing to make a monetary donation toward the Christmas flowers and decorations 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 the donations in the collection basket between now and December 17. The names will be remembered will be published in the December 23-24 bulletin.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS CHOIR: There will be practice for the Midnight Mass Choir on Sunday, December 17 at 8:00 a.m. and Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Church. Anyone is welcome to join us.

SEND SOME CHRISTMAS JOY: You are encouraged to remember our parishioners who are living in nursing home, retirement centers and in residences elsewhere with a Christmas card or note. Please find below those who would love to hear from you. Teresa Kaiser, Jefferson City Nursing & Rehabilitation, 1221 Southgate Lane, Jefferson City, MO 65101
Ginny Libbert, 1030 Edmonds St., Jefferson City, MO 65109

ST. CECILIA PARISH PHOTOS: Photographs will be taken **Sunday, December 10**, at 9:15 a.m., for all those that volunteer for the church ministries and activities. If you are participate with any of the volunteer groups (Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, Ushers, Choir, Organists, Finance Committee, Pastoral Council, Cemetery Committee, Knights of Columbus, Prayer Chain, Quilters, etc.), please attend for group pictures on **December 10** after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. These group photos will be included in the Church Directory. If you have any questions, contact Joanne Schroeder, 573-229-8986.

ST. CECILIA PSR (Religion Class) and CONFIRMATION MEMBERS: Photographs will be taken **Wednesday, December 6**, at 7:15 p.m., for all those that attend PSR and Confirmation with St. Cecilia Parish. PSR will still start at 7:00 p.m., the students will go to the church as a group/class for the photos. Confirmation students - photos will be taken BEFORE Confirmation class begins. If you are a student or teacher, please attend for group pictures on December 6 after the 6:30 p.m. Mass. These group photos will be included in the Church Directory. If you have any questions, contact Joanne Schroeder, 573-229-8986.

ST. CECILIA PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING: 6:00 p.m. Thursday, January 4 at rectory.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRAYER LINE REQUESTS should be emailed to Jenny Becker at jbeckeroffice@gmail.com or by calling (573) 690-0642. The Prayer Line exists to communicate prayer intentions for those in need of healing.

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL & PSR DROP OFF & PICK UP: For the safety of our children, please remember to **ENTER** from **PARK STREET** and **EXIT** from the **Church parking lot onto Highway B.** This will keep our children safe and the traffic flowing smoothly.



ST. THOMAS SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGES are available for your information and browsing via a link at the school website's homepage: www.stthomasapostleschool.net

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13 – First Reconciliation 7:30 p.m.

December 14 – Advent Program 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center

December 20 – K-8 caroling at Mid-America Bank, Bowling Party

December 21 – Early Release

BOX TOPS: Please continue to Box Tops for Education, Coke Points & Best Choice Labels. Drop them by the St. Thomas School office.

COPY PAPER: St. Thomas School is in need of paper, clean on one side and staple free. Please drop off paper at school or call the school office.

ST. THOMAS QUILT GROUPS: We are working on the quilts for the 2018 Parish Picnic. If you have a quilt top along with lining ready, please let us know. The quilt top needs to be marked for quilting. If you have any questions, please call Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strobe at 573-477-3349. Batting is available for \$10.00.

ST. THOMAS CRAFTS: If anyone is interested in quilting baby quilts for the 2018 Parish Picnic, please call Diane Lueckenhoff at 573-645-5794 or Charlene Buschjost at 573-477-3480.

ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST is Sunday, December 3, serving 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the St. Thomas K of C hall.

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 on Wednesday from 8:30-5:30 p.m. at 573-477-3315. The names will be published in the December 23-24 bulletin.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL KITS: If you have old medication that needs to be disposed of safely (and kept out of the environment), please stop by the St. Thomas School Office to pick up a disposal kit. These kits have been made available free from the Cole County Sheriff's Department.

COLE COUNTY PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 5: Candidates interested in running for a three year term on the Board of Directors must complete an application by 5:00 p.m. January 16, 2018 to be included on the April 3, 2018 election ballot. Please notify Sheri Wieberg at 573-477-3497 if interested. (You must reside within the district one year before the election and be at least 25 years of age to hold a seat on the Board.)

THE BONNOTS MILL COMMUNITY BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION will be hosting their annual Live Nativity along with Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 3 from 6 - 8 PM in beautiful Bonnots Mill. It is a drive through nativity scene featuring many of our own parishioners.

ST. RAYMOND SOCIETY – PREGNANCY HELP CENTER: The founders of St. Raymond's Society will speak at Sacred Heart Parish, Rich Fountain at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. St. Raymond Society operates pregnancy help centers in the Mid Missouri area.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO MID-AMERICA BANK: Santa Claus is coming to Mid America Bank just in time for Christmas! Santa's sleigh will be landing at the Wardsville branch on Thursday, December 21 from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. All parents and grandparents are invited to bring their children or grandchildren to visit Santa in the Wardsville Branch lobby. For more information, please call 573-635-0019.

PARISH VITALITY PRAYER

Eternal God, Father most holy, whose Son established the Church, promising that the power of evil would never prevail against her, stir up our faith and bolster our perseverance, that our faith may vitalize our parishes and our perseverance maintain our outreach. You have taught us that dying to self and obedience to the Church are essential to holiness, peace and unity. Preserve our unity as one Diocesan Church, and may the spouse of the Holy Spirit, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, protect us with her mantle and intercede for us with her prayer. Through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

ADVENT LETTER FROM BISHOP GAYDOS, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Jefferson City

December 3, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the beginning of a new Year of Grace! If it seems to you that this year's Advent season is unusually short, you are correct. This Advent is as brief as it could possibly be, a mere three weeks and then one day, the Fourth Sunday of Advent. It is a good reminder that we must always be preparing for the coming of Christ with a sense of urgency.

The Gospel readings for the Second and Third Sundays of Advent provide us with the familiar, motivating message of John the Baptist: prepare the way of the Lord and make straight His paths. We can open wide the doors of our hearts to receive Christ by the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can provide Christ a warm welcome into our hearts by beautifully decorating them with acts of charity for the poor and the lonely. These are things we normally do during Advent, and should continue to do throughout the entire year, in order to remain ever watchful for our Savior's coming in glory.

Then our very lives will be an expression of our longing for God's Kingdom. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus! With my best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend John R. Gaydos
Apostolic Administrator, Diocese of Jefferson City