

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Administrator: 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.; 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. 5-12:

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES IN PARISH CENTER

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Jerome & Dot Buschjost

Wednesday 7:45 a.m. –People of our Parishes
Sylvanus Hoecker

Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Herb & Imogene Volmert

Friday 7:45 a.m. – Ralph Hirschman

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

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

L&D Gregory & Lucille Veit

Sunday 10:00 a.m. –L&D Jerome Luebbering Family

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2021-2022: \$305,000.00

Offertory Goal through Month End: \$127,085.00

Actual Collection for 2021-2022: **\$115,699.00**

Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 11,386.00

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

November 7 \$ 5,266.00

November 14 \$ 2,145.00

November 21 \$ 2,704.00

November 28 \$ 2,976.00

Collection Online: \$ 6,547.00

November total to date: \$19,638.00

Difference for November: -\$ 5,779.00

Church Renovation Capital Campaign

Total Pledges/Donations \$427,534.70

Total Collected \$336,406.16

Total Expenses Paid \$398,267.84

A total of 98 parishioners have returned pledge cards/or
Contributed to the renovation project.

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec.11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kerry Meyer / Jeanette

Dec. 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Jackie

Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Mary Kay Brand / Jackie

Dec.19 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Luke Schroeder / Jackie

St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia Readers

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle

Dec. 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Ben Luebbering

Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten

Dec. 19 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Tom Backes

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of Dec. 5-12:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m.- Lawrence “Dick” Rehagen

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Ben & Jason Hake

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2021-2022: \$62,000.00

Collection Total for 2021-2022: **\$26,135.57**

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

November 7 \$ 1,861.00

November 14 \$ 1,195.50

November 21 \$ 888.00

November 28 \$ 1,124.00

November total to date: \$ 5,068.50

Difference for November -\$ 98.17

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

December – Marie Lueckenotto & Pam Libbert

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

St. Cecilia Reader

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

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

St. Thomas & St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 11 Sat. 5:00 p.m. – Eric Strobe & Gilbert Schellman
Dec. 12 Sun. 10:00 a.m. – Doug Stockman & TJ Loethen
Dec. 18 Sat. 5:00 p.m. – Mark Boessen & Dave Luebbering
Dec. 19 Sun. 10:00 a.m. – Mattheuw Prenger & Keith Kliethermes

St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers

MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Brenda Wansing
Dec 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard Heckemeyer
Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lora Boessen
Dec. 19 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Glenn Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –
Dec. 12 Sunday. 10:00 a.m. – Klint & Kora Luebbering
Carmen Luebbering
Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. -
Dec. 19 Sun. 10:00 a.m. – Avery Libbert, Miranda Meyer,
Evelyn Wooten

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

Dec. 12 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
Dec. 19 – Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
Dec. 26 - Ron & Theresa Veit
Jan. 2 – Ron & Theresa Veit
Jan. 9 - Paul Becker & Shara Buechter
Jan. 16- Keith & Jean Kliethermes

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

WEEKDAY MASSES IN ST. THOMAS PARISH CENTER

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

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS: Quilter's luncheon may be dropped off Wednesday night 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (Evening quilting) or St. Thomas the Apostle School hours.

Thursday, Dec. 9 – Noreen Luebbering & Linda Luebbering **Thursday, Dec. 16** – Joyce Luebbering & Donna Luebbering
Please bring snack to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strobe at 573-477-3349.

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

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Mass will be celebrated on December 8 at 7:45 a.m. St. Thomas Parish Center & 6:30 p.m. St. Cecilia Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE ST. CECILIA CHURCH:

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

BULLETIN NOTICES: Deadline for bulletin this week is Wednesday at noon.

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

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS: Magnificat Advent Companion booklets with daily reflections are available for you at the entrance of Church to assist your daily prayer throughout the coming season of Advent. There are some in the bulletin box on the Vitae House porch.

A NOTE OF THANKS! ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE ADOPT-A-FAMILY: Thank you to all who donated to the Adopt-A-Family. We collected enough money to support two families in need and to make their holiday season a little brighter. God Bless!

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

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH RENOVATION UPDATE: Pictures and videos of our renovation will be continuously published on the St. Thomas the Apostle Facebook page and our parish website www.stthomasapostle.net. Check it out!

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

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

St. Cecilia & St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Minister

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Pam Libbert
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Harold Libbert & Larry Lueckenotto
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Mitch Stumpe & Darin Even

St. Cecilia Servers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. –

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

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

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

MASS STIPENDS: \$10.00

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call the rectory to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Please call the rectory *at least* six months prior to the desired date

St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia Offertory

WEEKEND MASSES IN ST. CECILIA CHURCH

Dec. 8 Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Harold & Jeanie Libbert
Dec. 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Jenny Becker
Dec. 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mike & Sheri Wieberg
Dec. 18 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark & Lauri Luebbering
Dec. 19 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Brian & Katie Luebbering Fam.

CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: The CSA goal for St. Cecilia Parish is **\$2,550**. So far **\$1,375** has been collected. The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is **\$10,200**. So far **\$3,645** has been collected.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS is Thursday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. at St. Cecilia Church. This is for both parishes. There will be additional priests here for confessions.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 2nd Sunday of advent year c: JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS. (Bar. 5:1-9; Phil. 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk. 3:1-6)

The Second Sunday of Advent challenges us to prepare a royal highway in our hearts so that we may receive Jesus as our saving God on Christmas. We should also be prepared for Christ's daily coming into our lives in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Scriptures, in everyone we encounter and in the praying community. Finally, we are asked to be ready to meet Jesus as our Judge on His Second Coming, at the end of our lives and at the end of the world.

Advent is a season of discernment. We're reminded of this in the second reading for this Sunday as we hear St. Paul's words to the Philippians: "This is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ" (Phil 1:9-10). The words of the prophet Baruch and the clarion call of John the Baptist that we hear this Sunday remind us of what it is we are called to be and do. Baptist's cry to "prepare the way for the Lord" is a charge to discern the Lord's voice calling out to us in the midst of the noise and clamor that fills our daily lives and to persevere in the way of faith. Surely this is the way by which the Word of God enters our hearts. Prepare a way for the Lord by living a good life and guard that way by good works. Let the Word of God move in you unhindered and give you knowledge of his coming and of his mysteries." Hearing the voice of the Lord in the distance demands action, but this isn't only an invitation to turn away from personal choices and sins that may limit or even prevent God's coming among us. John is also calling us to turn toward God's mercy. And this turning means conversion, isn't only about what we give up, it is really about accepting the gift that we are being offered.

This Second Sunday of Advent, we are being reminded that these days of Advent demand our attention and intentionality. It is only by seeking the stillness and quiet, leaving behind the hashtags and sound bites that we can discern the distant voice of the Coming One who brings the mercy and peace which our world so desperately needs.

Therefore friends we need to prepare our hearts and lives for Jesus our Savior to be reborn in us during this Christmas time. We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls, formed from our shallow prayer life and our shaky Faith. We have to straighten whatever crooked paths we've been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harboring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, or a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the "mountains" of our pride and egocentrism by practicing the true humility of rendering humble service to others.

We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and those we have injured: John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We need to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. Next, we need to forgive others who have offended us and ask forgiveness for our offenses. Jesus explicitly declares (Mt 6:14-15): "For if you forgive others their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive them, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING is Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Vitae House.

ST. CECILIA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you want to remember your loved ones during the Christmas season, you may make a monetary donation with their names (**CLEARLY PRINTED**) in an envelope marked **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND PARISH**. There is an envelope in the December envelopes for Christmas flowers. Please place flower donation in the collection basket or mail to the parish office between now and December 19. The names will be published in the December 26 bulletin.

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

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

ST. CECILIA ADOPT A FAMILY: The St. Cecilia PSR children and Social Concerns Committee will be adopting a family for the holiday season. If you would like to donate towards gifts, please place in the collection basket in an envelope labeled-"St. Cecilia PSR-Adopt a Family". Gifts will be purchased the first week in December and the PSR students will assist with wrapping and bows.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS! UPCOMING EVENTS!

Friday, December 17 – K-8 Bowling Party Tuesday, Dec. 21 – Early Release 12:50 p.m. car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders

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

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

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

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

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS – VIRTUS/SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING: The Safe Environment Policy of the Diocese of Jefferson City requires Employees, Clergy, Religious, Seminarians, Deacons and Volunteers in the Church to be compliant with Safe Environment Regulations. The volunteers include those who work with minors and/or who participate in any ministry in the church (Greeters/Ushers, Lectors, Eucharist Ministers, Choir/Canters), working at parish fundraisers and all parents of students attending St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Information may be found on the St. Thomas Parish website on the home page and under Resources, Resources Home, and Safe Environment on St. Cecilia's website. Please follow the steps. **This is MANDATORY, effective August 1, 2021**

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the parish or school office. **Remember**, it is important that we comply with the Diocesan Policy for Safe Environment and the Diocese will be coming in September to conduct a **Safe Environment Audit**.

Safe Environment Instructions - For First Time Registrants - Volunteering with Minors

Go to www.virtusonline.org website. Click on the "First Time Registrant" button and enter your profile information.

It is vital this information remains current, ESPECIALLY your email address. Your email address is how the system will communicate with you in the future.

Next, sign up for a Protecting God's Children workshop. This workshop may be done online or in person (if offered) and only needs to be completed one time. However, if you choose the online version, you **MUST** commit to the entire two hours required. If you leave the workshop prior to completion, you may have difficulty resuming.

Next, you will be prompted to read the "Code of Conduct" form (which you will sign electronically).

Within days of completing the training, the Office of Child and Youth Protection will approve your account. At this time you will receive an email from Virtus stating to log into your account to complete the background check screening process.

If you have used the site in the past and simply don't remember your information, we can help you find your information and give you a chance to update the system.

RECOGNIZING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES IN THE BULLETIN. If you are a college or technical school graduate this semester, please let us know by emailing or calling the school at 573-477-3322 or the Parish Office on Tuesday morning or Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by December 19. The names will be published in the December 26 bulletin.

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

ATTENTION OVER 50 GROUP: The monthly get together for December is scheduled for Thursday, December 9 at the cabin of Harold and Jeany Libbert at 150 Hoecker Rd. We will eat our meal together at noon. You are asked to bring a covered dish. For those of you who haven't been to the cabin and need directions, please call me at 573-229-4248 or 573-644-4499. Plan for an enjoyable afternoon.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, February 5, 2022 – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Virtual Winter Fantasy
Saturday, February 19, 2022 – Blessing & Celebration of Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church newly renovated Church.

THE ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will host a children's Christmas Party on December 5 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the St. Thomas the Apostle school cafeteria. Santa and his elves will be there to assist children with their Christmas wishes! Families are asked to bring canned goods which will be delivered to the food pantry.

St. Cecilia Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, Nov 11, 2021

The meeting opened at 7:04 with a prayer by Fr. Leonard Mukiibi. Those present were Emily Libbert, Betty Hagenhoff, Dorothy Rehagen, Katy Werdehausen, JoAnn Schroeder. Absent were Janice Schanzmeyer and Bookkeeper Doris Stumpe. Minutes from the last meeting were read and had been previously approved.

Committee Reports

- Janice was not present to give the building and grounds committee report, but JoAnn shared that she had asked the firefighters to clean the gutters on the Parish center and rectory before the winter. They will be discussing it at their next meeting.
- JoAnn shared for the Liturgical and Worship Committee. She has sent a message to families about signing up servers for the 8 a.m. Masses. Server's names from St. Cecilia will start being put in the bulletin for that Mass. Father would like the new ones to have training. JoAnn also shared that she has ordered poinsettias and will follow up and check on the status of those. She will also be checking with Diane and Doris about adding family names to the bulletin to take turns bringing up offertory for the St. Cecilia Masses.
- Katy shared for the Social Concerns Committee. She has handed out a letter to the PSR families to collect donations/money for adopting a family for Christmas through the Samaritan Center. Donations are due December 10. The PSR kids will be helping wrap the gifts. Parishioners may also donate items for this worthy cause. A notice has been put in the bulletin about this collection.
- Emily shared the status of the website. More pages have been updated including the CYO page requesting an adult to sign up to start up a CYO group at St. Cecilia once again. Now that children are getting confirmed at a younger age, the ones who are still school age are losing interest in Church activities and the Parish Council would love to see them get more involved again. Emily would also like to schedule an evening to get pictures of the St. Cecilia PSR students to add to the website. This will be done the night of the gift wrapping in December. JoAnn will update the Time and Talent Forms and send to Emily to put on the website. Emily will be looking into the possibility of getting online Church donations for St. Cecilia like St. Thomas has for their parish on the website. Reconciliation times will be updated on the St. Cecilia website as well.

Old Business

- Doris was not present to answer old business questions or get an update on the status of some things discussed at our previous meeting. Those things will be discussed at the next meeting.
- JoAnn had quotes on prices for new trees to replace the big, old one put up for Christmas and will begin making purchases that stay within the allotted budget.

Father Leonard's Report

- Father is pleased that Mass attendance seems to be improving.
- He has priests lined out to cover for his upcoming vacation.
- Father also reminded the Parish Council that the Virtus Safe Environment training is a requirement. There was also continuing discussion about providing that training to those without computers and about St. Cecilia Parish Council members possibly attending the upcoming St. Thomas Parish Council meeting while the training is being discussed. Dorothy will also contact Doris to move along getting an in person training scheduled for those who can't do the online option.

New Business

- The Parish Council spent a great deal of time reviewing and discussing the Pastoral Plan that is due to the Diocese on November 15. Betty will be typing up this document and sending it to the Diocese. The Parish Council appreciates all of Betty's work on this task as it was quite extensive.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2022 at 7 p.m. The meeting was closed at 9:47 p.m. with a prayer by Fr. Leonard.

