

**The Roman Catholic Parishes of**  
**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
in St. Thomas

**St. Cecilia**  
in Meta

[www.stthomasapostle.net](http://www.stthomasapostle.net)  
[www.stthomasapostleschool.net](http://www.stthomasapostleschool.net)

[www.stceciliameta.net](http://www.stceciliameta.net)

PO Box 146  
St. Thomas, MO 65076

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 8, 2019**

**Administrator: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi**  
[frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com](mailto:frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com)  
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

**St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:**  
**Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer**  
[jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com](mailto:jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com)

**St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:**  
**Mrs. Jenny Becker**  
[jbeckeroffice@gmail.com](mailto:jbeckeroffice@gmail.com)



**School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer**  
[lheckemeyerstacs@gmail.com](mailto:lheckemeyerstacs@gmail.com)  
School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

**St. Thomas the Apostle Secretary:**  
**Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff**  
[dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com](mailto:dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com)

**St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:**  
**Mrs. Doris Stumpe**  
[dorisstumpe@att.net](mailto: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 8-15:**

**Monday 7:45 a.m.** – People of our Parishes  
Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Charlotte Braun  
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – George Buechter  
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Lawrence & Caroline Herigon Fam.  
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Butch Loethen  
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Pat Kliegel

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$152,502.00
Actual Collection for 2019-2020:	<b>\$123,536.95</b>
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 28,965.05
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

**Collection in Church:**

December 1	\$ 5,271.20
December 8	\$
December 15	\$
December 22	\$
December 29	\$

**Collection Online:** \$ 4,642.00

**December total to date:** \$ **9,913.20**

Difference for December -\$15,503.80

**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): **\$13,230.25**

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. – Mary Kay Brand / Annette Kehner

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Anne Strope / Annette Kehner

**St. Thomas the Apostle Reader**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jean Kliethermes

**St. Thomas the Apostle Altar Servers**

Weekday– Zeke Verslues, Miranda Meyer, Sadie Wolken

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mason & Clint Luebbering,

Courtney Luebbering

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Grace & Belle Boessen,

Colton Libbert, Francie Tallent

**St. Cecilia**

**Mass Schedule for the Week of December 8-15:**

**Monday, 6:30 p.m.** – Vic & Rita Otto

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Martina Goeller

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2019-2020:	<b>\$24,180.00</b>
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

**Collection in Church:**

December 1	\$ 1,088.00
December 8	\$
December 15	\$
December 22	\$
December 29	\$

**December total to date:** \$ **1,088.00**

Difference for December: -\$ 4,078.67

**St. Cecilia Collection Counters**

December – Marie Lueckenotto & Pam Libbert

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

**St. Cecilia Reader**

**Monday, 6:30 p.m.** – Jennifer Even

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Doris Stumpe

**St. Cecilia Altar Servers**

**Monday, 6:30 p.m.** – Joshua & Alex Even

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

**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 14-15**

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

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

Heckemeyer

**December 21-22**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark Luebbering, Pat Kaiser, Marshall Boessen

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Emily Luebbering, Janet Lueckenhoff

Linda Lueckenhoff

**St. Thomas Greeters/Ushers**

**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

**December 21-22**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mike Groner & Eric Strobe

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff & Larry Lueckenhoff

**St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass**

**December 14-15**

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

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

**December 21-22**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark & Lora Boessen Family

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Larry & Linda Lueckenhoff

**St. Thomas Collection Counters**

December 15 – Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman

December 22 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

December 29 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes

**Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas:**

**Monday 7:20 a.m.** – Bob Schellman - Joyful

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. – Paul Becker – Joyful

Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Tina Stockman – Joyful

**PASTOR'S MEDITATION: WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S COMING BY ALLOWING HIM TO BE REBORN DAILY IN OUR LIVES.** We can't stop praising and worshipping our God for His goodness, we thank Him for the previous week and we continue to place our trust and faith in him. As we fully endeavor to prepare ourselves for Christmas, we still follow our usual confession schedule but will also have special penance services at St. Thomas and St. Cecilia the following week, let's use that opportunity.

The first reading describes how God will reform the lives of His Chosen People by sending the Messiah. Because of the bad example of the unfaithful successors of King David, the Chosen People were wavering in their loyalty to Yahweh. Hence, the Lord God, through His prophet, Isaiah, tries to dispel their fears and to stir up *hope* among His people with His promise of a new Davidic King (a son of Jesse), who will establish peace and a glorious Kingdom of justice on earth. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 72), the Psalmist pictures the Messiah as one who will show compassion to the poor, the lowly and the afflicted. In the second reading, Paul is praying for the reformation of the Jewish Christians of Rome and instructing them to draw endurance and encouragement from the Old Testament books. They are to live in harmony with Gentile Christians, accepting them as equal, brothers and sisters, while they wait together for the second coming of Jesus. In today's Gospel, John the Baptizer urges the Pharisees and Sadducees to give evidence that they mean to reform their lives so as to recognize and be ready to meet and accept the promised Messiah. He challenges them to repentance, conversion and renewal. He tells the common people, who expect the Messiah to come soon, to act with justice and charity, letting their lives reflect the transformation that will occur when the Messiah enters their lives. In the same way, as we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas, John advises us to "*prepare the way of the Lord.*"

Advent is the time for us to prepare for Christ's coming by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and the sharing of our blessings with others. Let us remember the often repeated words of Alexander Pope: "What does it profit me if Jesus is reborn in thousands of cribs all over the world and not reborn in my heart?" He means that Jesus must be reborn in our heart during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, radiating his love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness and spirit of humble service to the world through our lives.

We need to answer the call for a change of life. John the Baptist challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that, while obeying the commandments faithfully, we must correct our relationships with others, mend ruptures, soothe frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat others justly. Let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. "Do small things but with great love" from St. Theresa of Lisieux and St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa). Therefore, following John's advice, let us celebrate the memory of Jesus' first advent, prepare for Jesus' daily advent into our lives through the Sacraments and the Bible, then wait confidently for his second advent at the end of the world.

Have a blessed week, **Fr. Leonard Mukibi**

**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.

**St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

**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

**December 22**

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

**St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers**

**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

**December 22**

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Tony Derkum, Leon Schanzmeyer,

Kenny Otto, Larry Lueckenotto

**Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia**

Monday 6:05 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer - Joyful

Wednesday 6:05 p.m. – Margaret Brune – Glorious

Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer - 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.

**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.

**POPE FRANCIS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION:** Pope Francis celebrates his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on Friday, December 13. May his example of long and faithful service be an inspiration to bishops, priests, and the faithful throughout the world. #PrayforPopeFrancis

**2019 CHRISTMAS/SEMINARY ASSESSMENT:** Our assessment for Seminarian Formation & Priest Retirement is \$843.00 for St. Cecilia and \$3,199.00 for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Please support the formation and education of our Diocese's future priests.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to ***Annabell Joann Stockman***, daughter of Zachary & Alanna Stockman, who was washed in the saving waters of Baptism this weekend in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

**SCRIP:** **December 14-15** Saturday – Lindsay Luebbering Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Melissa Verslues  
Visit [www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip](http://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.

**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. \$940.00 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 12 – Lynne & Rosella Reinkemeyer Thursday, December 19 – Darlene Russell & Lori Schaefer  
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 Strope at 573-477-3349.

**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. at 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.

**PRAYER HOUR WITH MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION** is Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m. in the St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASS** will meet on Wednesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m. St. Thomas.

**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:**

Monday, December 16 – Advent program 7:00 p.m. Dress rehearsal 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center  
Wednesday, December 18 – Bowling party for K-8 at Osage Beach  
Friday, December 20 – End of quarter, early release 12:50 p.m. car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders  
December 21-January 5 – Christmas Vacation  
Monday, January 6 – School resumes

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES IN THE AREA:**

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 8: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter  
Week of December 15: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost  
Week of December 22: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert and Darrel Buechter  
Week of December 29: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman  
*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

**THE ST. THOMAS PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE** will be meeting on Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Vitae House.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS:** St. Thomas the Apostle Sesquicentennial history books and commemorative glasses are still available for purchase. History books are \$50 and glasses are \$5. These items would make wonderful Christmas gifts.

**THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING** is Tuesday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 7:15 p.m. Please read the December newsletter attached to the bulletin.

**THE META OVER 50 CLUB** is gathering Thursday, December 12 at the parish center at noon for a Christmas luncheon. Chicken will be furnished with side dishes prepared by those attending.

**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.

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOPS:** The Catholic Church in the United States is committed to providing safe environments in all of our ministries and activities, especially those involving children and youth. One aspect of our commitment is that anyone who works with minors in our parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations in the Diocese of Jefferson City receive training. For a full list of trainings currently available, please visit our [Virtus site](#) and select "Jefferson City, MO (Diocese)," or go to our Events page and filter by "Protecting God's Children."

**ST. NICHOLAS ACADEMY** is a supportive living experience for boys from families that are under-resourced who want to give their sons every opportunity to succeed in school and life. St. Nick's partners with families and St. Peter Interparish School to provide this opportunity. St. Nick's is seeking Christian, married couples or single individuals who are willing to be part of a pool of relief parents. The role of relief parents is to care for the boys and home when the full-time house parents are off duty or away. Typically, the full-time house parents are off duty every fourth weekend from 9:00 AM Friday through 7:00 PM Sunday. Relief parents, on a rotational schedule, fill in during this time. They may also be asked to be on a call list to help fill in when the house parents are on vacation and/or sick. Relief parents receive an hourly wage, all legally mandated benefits and a compensation package that includes a private suite and all meals for the days on duty. Please contact Sister Susan Renner, SSND at 573-635-7719 or [director@stnick.org](mailto:director@stnick.org)

**SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** It is hard to believe, but winter is just around the corner. The St. Thomas Parish and School will be in need of snow removal services for the church/school entrances, parking lots and sidewalks. If you are willing to assist, please contact Alan Reinkemeyer at 573-694-6984 or Mark Luebbering at 573-694-6393.

**SAVE THE DATE!** The Blair Oaks FFA Alumni & Supporters is hosting a "Cowboy Boots & Country Roots" Dinner & Dance on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at the Wardsville Lions Club with music from Shiloh. Tickets will be available in January 2020. Tickets \$40 per person or \$320 for a table of 8. For more information contact Linda Lackman @ 573-375-0001, Jennifer Borgmeyer @ 573-338-0049 or TJ Loethen, 573-690-8809. We hope to see you there!

**SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

**TOTUS TUUS** – June 14-19, 2020

**St. Thomas Parish Ham Breakfast** – Sunday, March 8, 2020

