

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 14, 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. Jenny Becker
jbeckeroffice@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 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 February 14-21:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Ralph Hirschman
Ash Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Vic & Rita Otto
Ash Wednesday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Curt Stockman
Friday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Henry & Agnes Lueckenotto Family
Stations of the Cross- 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Harry Lueckenhoff

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$203,336.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$168,741.00**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: –\$ 34,595.00
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

February 7 \$ 5,375.00
February 14 \$
February 21 \$
February 28 \$

Collection Online:

February total to date: **\$10,492.00**
Difference for February: -\$14,925.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$14,545.00**

Cantor/Organist

Ash Wednesday 5:00 p.m. – Kelsey Kliethermes / Annette
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mary Kay Brand / Jackie Prenger
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Annette Kehner

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Ash Wednesday 5:00 p.m. – Ben Luebbering
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Greg Russell

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

Ash Wednesday 5:00 p.m. – Eric & Keith Boessen
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Joe & Jonathan Buschjost
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Alan Reinkemeyer & Doug Stockman

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of February 14-21:

Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – Hubert Brune

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Henry & Bonita Kleffner

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$33,118.35**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

February 7 \$ 805.00
February 14 \$
February 21 \$
February 28 \$
February total to date: \$ 805.00
Difference for February: -\$4,361.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

February – Dale & Margie Helton

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

St. Cecilia Reader:

Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Betty Hagenhoff

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Ash Wednesday 6:35 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer-Sorrowful
Mysteries
Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen– Sorrowful Mysteries

St. Cecilia Ushers

Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – Mitch Stumpe & Darin Even
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Anton Libbert & Terry Libbert

Mass live streamers

February 21 – Karlie Reinkemeyer

February 28 – Dunja Wieberg

March 7 – Jennifer Schroeder

March 14 – Brooke Schell

If anyone is interested in helping livestream the 10:00 a.m. Mass, please contact Barbara Graessle at 573-680-2954.

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle

Tuesday, 7:20 a.m. – Joann Heckman – Sorrowful Mysteries

Ash Wednesday 7:20 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Glorious Mysteries

Ash Wednesday 4:35 p.m. – Barb Graessle – Glorious Mysteries

Thursday 7:20 a.m. - Viola Boessen – Luminous Mysteries

Friday 7:20 a.m. – Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries

Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Sorrowful Mysteries

Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Tina Stockman– Sorrowful Mysteries

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Daffiny Tallent at 573-694-4408 to purchase anytime. A large variety of cards in various denominations are in stock and available for purchase. We have new scrip that is now available to purchase: Culver's, Madison's Café, Oscar's Diner, Sonic.

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS:

Anyone entering the St. Thomas Parish School building must wear a mask at all times, except when quilting. Must be fever free or no temperature of 100 or higher. Please take your temperature at home.

Thursday, February 18 – Erica Goeller & Barb Graessle **Thursday, February 25** – Kathy Graessle & Leslie Green

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Garrett Douglas Otto**, son of Donnie & Katelyn Otto, who became a child of God through baptism this weekend in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION: For Parents: May they have the spiritual and material resources they need to provide their children a home in which charity and mercy are practiced, and knowledge of our faith is shared.

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: Thank you to all who have made a gift or pledge. If you have not done so, please know that we benefit greatly by the services and support provided through diocesan ministries. We appreciate any gift you are able to make.

The CSA goal for St. Cecilia Parish is \$2,500, **\$2,045.00** received so far

The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$10,000, **\$8,155.00** received so far

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 2020 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you for your generosity this past year. Contribution statements are available in the back of Church.

ST. CECILIA 2020 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you for your generosity this past year. Contribution statements are available in the back of Church. If your statement needs to be mailed, please notify Doris.

ST. CECILIA POINTSETTIAS: Anyone wishing to take them are welcome to take them home as they will be discarded when Lent begins February 17.

LENT IS COMING: Palms from previous years can be placed in baskets provided near the entrance of Church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT:

Stations of the Cross will be held Friday's at St. Thomas the Apostle Church 6:30 p.m. beginning Friday, February 19.

Stations of the Cross will be held Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. before the 6:30 p.m. Mass St. Cecilia beginning Wed. Feb. 24.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: Operation Rice Bowl is a faith-in-action program that helps us experience Lenten spirituality by living in solidarity with people in need around the world. Proceeds raised will help our less fortunate brothers & sisters in our Diocese and around the world. Be sure to pick up your cardboard Rice Bowl in the entrances of both Churches.

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 6th Sunday in ordinary time year B: WE ARE CALLED TO BECOME PURE AND HOLY. (Lev. 13:1-2, 44-46; ICor. 10:31-11:1; Mk. 1:40-45)

All three readings today teach us that we are called to become pure and holy. But it's not ritual observances that make us holy. We become holy by confessing our sins to God and offering our lives for God's glory and by sharing God's love with everyone around us without discriminating against anyone based on religion, lifestyle, wealth, color, race, culture or social status.

The first reading teaches us about the freedom from bodily and ritual impurity as a sign of internal holiness. This freedom is symbolized by the precautions against contracting leprosy given in the first reading and by the healing of the leper described in the Gospel. The first reading shows the ancient Jewish attitude toward leprosy and gives the rules for the segregation of lepers.

This provides a background for Jesus' healing of a leper. God teaches us that we become holy by confessing our sins and being reconciled with God every day. The responsorial psalm today serves as a mini treatise on reconciliation, covering the meaning of the spiritual leprosy of sin and showing how we are forgiven by a Sacramental encounter with God: *"I turn to You, Lord, in times of trouble, and You fill me with the joy of salvation."* In today's **second reading**, St. Paul exhorts us to become holy by doing *"everything for the glory of God"* and by showing sensitivity toward others who are different from us, rather than passing judgment on them. **Today's Gospel** describes how Jesus heals a leper, liberating him both from the disease of leprosy and from the unjust, inhuman social, ritual, and religious isolation and ostracism to which lepers were subjected.

Friends we need to trust in the mercy of a forgiving God who assures us that our sins are forgiven and that we are clean. We are forgiven and made spiritually clean from the spiritual leprosy of sins when we repent of our sins, because God is a God of love who waits patiently for us. The only condition required of us is that we ask for forgiveness with a repentant heart. We are sure to hear His words of absolution, *"Very well your sins are forgiven, and you are clean,"* echoed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We need to tear down the walls that separate us from others and build bridges of loving relationships. Jesus calls every one of us to demolish the walls that separate us from each other and to welcome the outcasts and the untouchables of society. These include homosexuals, the imprisoned, AIDS victims, alcoholics, drug addicts and marginalized groups, the divorced, the unmarried-single mothers, migrant workers, and the mentally ill. God's loving hand must reach out to them through us. Jesus wants us to touch their lives. Let us re-examine the barriers we have created and approach God with a heart that is ready to welcome the outcasts in our society. I wish you all a blessed and fruitful Lenten season. **Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi**

LENT: To foster a greater spirit of penance, of reparation for sin, to encourage self-denial, and so guide us more closely in the footsteps of Christ, Holy Mother Church reminds us of the following obligations of fast and abstinence during Lent and also admonishes us all to deeper prayer and worship.

1. **Abstinence:** all persons who have already celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
2. **Fasting:** everyone, from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is generally understood to mean eating only one full meal each day. Two other partial meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. Voluntary fasting on other weekdays of Lent is highly recommended. But please note: when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, neither the law of fasting nor the law of abstinence obliges. These are minimal penitential practices and should not be lightly excused. If in doubt, please consult your parish priest. Other recommended forms of fasting, as regards alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, internet use, and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and strongly encouraged.
3. **Almsgiving:** The act of giving to the poor, in the most ancient tradition of the Church, is an expression of penance, a witness of fraternal charity, and an expression of Lenten conversion. Therefore, all Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church: through regular stewardship to their parish, support of charities, and their generous response to the diocesan Catholic Stewardship Appeal.
4. **Prayer:** In order to deepen one's love for Christ, Catholics are urged all the more to participate in the sacramental life of the Church during Lent by attending daily Mass and frequenting the sacrament of Penance.

LENTEN REGULATIONS 2021: A reminder/refresher regarding the Lenten pandemic regulations:

1. **Ash Wednesday distribution of ashes February 17:** for this year only, all of us are expected to distribute and receive ashes by sprinkling on the head, not by signing the forehead. Please alert the faithful to this change this weekend. No other manner of distributing the ashes has been approved for this year. The ashes are blessed, sprinkled with holy water, one of the two formulas is proclaimed aloud once to the whole assembly, and then the ministers (and lay ministers may help) sprinkle the ashes without saying anything (all should wear a mask).
2. **Holy water stoups** are to remain empty for the pandemic, but it is encouraged that holy water be made available to the faithful to take home.
3. The **Rite of Election** will take place once at 3pm at the Cathedral on Feb. 21. It is limited to the catechumens/candidates/baptized but uncatechized, plus the RCIA leader and pastor. Current numbers allow for easy seating with social distancing. There will NOT be a reception afterward.
4. **Palms** will be blessed and put out for the taking this year. Caution should be used in their distribution.
5. **For Holy Thursday**, we shall omit the foot washing; and a reminder that exposition in the monstrance on this night is strictly prohibited.
6. **The Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday** will be done without touching the crucifix/cross.
8. **Baptisms on Holy Saturday** will be done with separate doses of water for each candidate.

NB: We will close recruiting candidates for RCIA for this year 2021 by February 16 in both parishes. Those interested can call Fr. Leonard or any of the Parish council members. Thanks.

JOB OPENING – ST. THOMAS PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: There is a job opening for an administrative assistant position in the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Office. The person in this position will work closely with Fr. Leonard. Job duties include: recording parishioners' giving envelopes and ACH contributions; pre-school billing and payments; sacramental record keeping; helping to set up baptisms, weddings, and funerals; website maintenance; scheduling Mass intentions; Parish hall rental, and others duties. Interested candidates should contact Jenny Becker at 573-690-0642 or Fr. Leonard at 573-477-3315 no later than February 15, 2021.

FREE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR: A great idea for couples to do together during Lent—from your home, at your pace. MarriageinChrist.com is an easy to use online program with video presentations, a downloadable workbook, discussion starters etc. It is simple, practical and fun! Just five sessions. Free for couples who register by March 31 (\$40 value). If you need more encouragement, you may enjoy the **testimonials** found here on their website from couples who have gone through the program. And, just in case you missed the earlier email, I have included a description of the program and offer below. Finally, for those who have asked: a Spanish version of the program is in development but is not available yet.

CONSTRUCTION WORK AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE: Tuck pointing is being done on the school. The clocks, bells and staircases to the steeple are out of bounds until further notice. Thank you to the parishioners for all their prayers and contributions. **Blessings, Fr. Leonard**

ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS, WE NEED YOU! The St. Cecilia Pastoral Council is in need of 4 new members. Because we did not have council elections in 2020 due to the pandemic, we have 4 members that are due (and past due) to rotate off the council. Two of the positions will be for 2 year terms and two of the positions will be for 3 year terms. The council meets 6 times per year. We would like to have an election of new members in May. If you are interested in serving on the council or know of someone that you think would be willing to serve please contact one of the current Pastoral Council Members; Emilie Borgmeyer, Don Wansing, Mary Plassmeyer, Dorothy Rehagen or Betty Hagenhoff. Or you may contact Father Leonard or Doris Stumpe.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE & ST. CECILIA PARISHES: Any adults or young adults from both parishes that want to get baptized on Easter vigil or to join the Catholic Church can contact Fr. Leonard or Parish office to start preparations in the RCIA classes.

Looking for volunteers to be **LAY MARRIAGE FACILITATORS** from our two parishes to assist in preparing new couples for marriage, these volunteers will be trained by the diocese to equip themselves for this ministry. Please contact Father Leonard if you or someone you know is interested in joining the Catholic Church and participating in RCIA classes. For St. Cecilia Parish, please contact Fr. Leonard, Mary Plassmeyer, Betty Hagenhoff.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Confirmation classes will be held in the St. Thomas K of C Hall in February. There will be NO CLASS on February 17, Ash Wednesday. **Instead, Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday Mass.** In March, classes will be held in St. Cecilia parish center.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH HAM BREAKFAST/SPRING EVENT: Due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19 and COVID protocols for social events, it has been decided to host a Spring Event, but to forego the traditional Ham Breakfast in favor of a Drive-Through-only Bar-B-Que Event, for Spring 2021 only. This type of event will limit both community and visitor proximity and exposure, while requiring far fewer workers than the traditional Ham Breakfast. The Picnic/Ham Breakfast Committee is in the process of planning this event. The event will be scheduled for Sunday, March 14, with serving times

between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. As was the case with the 2020 Picnic, preliminary worklists will be posted in the Bulletin beginning this weekend, with a few versions anticipated. Workers with conflicts or unwilling to serve due to COVID concerns are asked to notify their Stand Chair, or contact Larry Lueckenhoff at (573) 619-6783, at their earliest opportunity. Please monitor upcoming Church Bulletins for worklist updates. Thank you.

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: Dues are \$10.00 per year per family and \$5.00 per year for single persons. Also, anyone after their 21st birthday must pay their own dues of \$5.00. Members who are 80+ years old and who have been members for at least 15 years will be exempt from paying further dues. Please note: Anyone falling in arrears over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put payment in the collection basket marked "Cemetery Dues" or mail to St. Thomas Cemetery Association, c/o Lisa Lackman, 2222 Upper Bottom Rd., St. Thomas, MO 65076. You may contact Lisa if you have questions about your current or past dues at 573-338-2703.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of February 14th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of February 21st: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

Week of February 28th: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

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.

BOX TOPS: Please send in Box Tops by February 21 for submission. Please continue to save Box Tops for Education, Coke Points & Best Choice labels. Please drop them off at school or in the boxes at the entrances of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, February 15 – No School P-8

Thursday, March 4 – Early Release K-8, 12:50 car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL ESSAY WINNERS:

TOPIC GRADES K-2 – How Can I Be Kind To Others?

I can be kind to others by helping them up then they fall. Oliver Luebbering, Kindergarten

I can be kind to others by loving them and helping. I help with the farm and with milking. I help my dad Work. I do dishes for my mom. I stack wood for my papa. **Jason Braun, 1st Grade**

It is important to be kind to others because God wants us to grow up like him with kindness. You should hold the door open for others. It is nice to help when someone is hurt. When you see someone carrying stuff hold their bags if their hands are full. If everyone was kind God would be very happy. **Evelyn Wooten, 2nd Grade**

TOPIC GRADES 3-8 – How Can I Love My Neighbor?

How Can I love my Neighbor? What are ways to love your neighbor? Here are some ways you can. If they are sick, pray for them to get better. If someone is being mean, stand up for and stop bullying. Give them compliments. When you play a game and there are two teams if the other team wins don't give up and don't be sad. It is just a game. Then say good game if someone is feeling sad help them feel happy. If your neighbor is raising money to save endangered animals you should help. You should always say kind words to be nice. Help you neighbor raise money for the school that is very important. Never kick, hit, or even punch. Keep your hands to yourself. Always obey your parents. You shouldn't say the word "hate" instead say "I don't like". Don't steal people's stuff. It is against the 7th commandment. That was a lot of ways to love your neighbor. I hope you love your neighbor. **Victoria Wieberg, 3rd Grade**

How Can I love my Neighbor? Have you ever wondered how to love your Neighbor? Well this is how I would do it. Anytime you see your neighbor be nice. Every time you go to Mass pray for someone. It is an act of kindness. When you are somewhere use kind words. God loves you because you are being nice. When you see someone trying to cross the road, help them, you will be thanked a lot. When you are at school or out in the park don't exclude people it is the right thing to do. If you see someone excluded ask if they want to join so they don't feel sad like you would. When at school before you leave clean the room. When you are at school or at home you need to listen or you are being rude. When you are playing at recess or at home, have good sportsmanship when the other team or your team wins. Say good job you'll do better next time. When you see someone that needs help, help them. That is my ten ways to love my neighbor. **Miranda Meyer, 4th Grade**

How Can I love my Neighbor? Has someone ever done something nice or a kind gesture to you and all you wanted to do was pay it forward? That feeling is called kindness. It's because kindness is a chain reaction. It's a wave that keeps rolling, and all it needs is one person to start it. One small kind act can cause a ripple effect that impacts an entire community. If we are all focused on being kind, we are creating a movement of change. Do you know that famous quote, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." That quote just isn't all about change in our world, and it isn't only just about one person being able to change their world. It's bigger; it's about a movement that can be started with one person acting with intention.

Loving your neighbor as yourself is literally found in the bible more than eight times. Not once, not twice but eight times. God wants you to love your neighbor forever. No matter how old or how young, he loves you and he will do whatever he needs to do to let you love your neighbor as yourself. Hopefully you yourself because God has created you how he wants you to be, and that is the first step of loving your neighbor as yourself. So to top it all off, we are humans, and therefore, we make mistakes. So if you practice loving your neighbor as yourself...you might increase kindness and patience in our world. Like love, it takes time to understand and especially to feel it too. **Valerie Verslues, 5th Grade**

JOB OPENING: St. Thomas the Apostle School is seeking a custodian to clean the school campus for around 10-15 hours per week. It would be Monday-Friday starting at 3:30 p.m. and then working until the cleaning is done each day. Some days you may work longer, and some days may be shorter will depend upon what needs to be completed for the day. This would be for the remainder of this school year. This position would be for the months of August through May. You would have your summers off. The hourly wage will be depended upon your experience. Applicants should complete and submit an application to the Catholic School office at <https://dioeffcity.org/blog/2019/06/17/employment-in-our-catholic-schools/> and contact Principal Leroy Heckemeyer at 573-477-3322.

THE WILLIAM SIMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND awards scholarships to Catholic students in the Jefferson City Diocese who are in financial need for attending an accredited college of the student's choice. The scholarship is \$1,000 per semester. Please see Jan, Jenny, Diane or Doris for the application or www.dioeffcity.org/scholarships. Students from St. Thomas have been awarded this scholarship in the past. Applications must be returned to the Chancery by March 31, 2021. All applicants will be notified of the results by May 1, 2021.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PARK BOARD: St. Thomas / Meta will be having registration for softball and baseball on the following dates and times. Registration will be held Saturday, February 20, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Sunday,

February 21, 2021 from 11:00 AM to noon in the St. Thomas School Cafeteria. Boys and girls ages 6-15 are eligible. Registration fees are \$50.00 for first child, \$30.00 for second child, and \$10.00 for third child with a cap of \$90.00 per family. After March 14th there will be a \$10.00 late fee per child. Registration for Fun League will also be held for boys and girls ages 5-6 at this time at this time & the fee is \$20.00 per child. Please check out our Facebook group page St. Thomas Ball Park for any updates. If you are unable to make it to one of the registration times or have any questions, please contact Lisa Wieberg at (573) 999-7351 or lisawieberg@hotmail.com.

BISCHOFF BENEFIT: Tina Bischoff Benefit- The planning committee would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to everyone that supported and helped make the benefit on Jan. 30 a big success! The small communities around this area pulled together to make a BIG difference for the Bischoff family. We would like to especially thank all the families that helped plan and prepare, the individuals that spent all day Saturday out in the rain to BBQ the pork steaks, the families/individuals that donated food and items for the auctions, those who helped prepare and serve the food, those who donated the BBQ Grills, those who helped set up and clean up, those who helped with the auctions, our auctioneers, and all the fine individuals who attended the event and purchased food and/or auction items. This benefit would not have been successful without ALL OF YOU! Thank you EVERYONE for your generosity!! **Loree Libbert and the planning committee members**

THE CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE OF META is sponsoring a blood drive on February 18 between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. **(NOTE THE TIME)** Appointments are required. You may call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CivicLeagueMeta to schedule an appointment.

ST. ANTHONY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CARRY OUT BREAKFAST is Sunday, February 14, serving sausage, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs and applesauce from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the St. Anthony Parish Hall. Adults \$9.00, children 6-12 \$4.00. Raffle will be held.

WESTPHALIA LIONS CLUB PANCAKE, EGG & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST is Sunday, February 14 at the Lion's Den in Westphalia from 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There will be dine in and drive thru.

ST. MARGARET'S PARISH DRIVE THRU ONLY FISH FRY, OSAGE BEND is Friday, February 19, serving catfish fillets, hush puppies, French fries, baked beans and cole slaw from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \$12.00 per plate.

ARGYLE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) POST 8045 ANNUAL BREAKFAST "DRIVE THRU ONLY" is Sunday, February 21, serving from 7:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. or until we run out, at the Post Home in Argyle, Meal \$10

ST. ANDREW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DRIVE THRU FISH FRYS are February 19, 26, March 5, 12 & 19 serving catfish, French fries, baked beans, spaghetti, slaw, applesauce, cornbread & dessert from 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$12.00 per meal.

DRIVE THROUGH FISH FRY - The AK Crusaders Relay for Life team will be having a Drive Through Only Fish Fry on February 19 & March 5 at the St. Boniface Center in Koeltztown. We will be serving fish, potatoes, Mac & cheese, salad and cookies from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Price is \$12/plate, there will be no substitutions. Please follow signs for the drive through entrance.

ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DRIVE THRU FISH FRY is Friday, February 26, 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Gluten Free Meal \$11.00. Serving Fish fillets, Hushpuppies (Not gluten free) Baked Potatoes, French Fries, Baked Beans and Coleslaw **Drive Thru Only** at the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center.

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, February 26- St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Drive thru Fish Fry, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center
Sunday, March 14 – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Drive thru BBQ Event
June 27-July 2 – Totus Tuus

PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FOR PROTECTION FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you" took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE VIRTUAL WINTER FANTASY UPDATE:

Congratulations to the following cash prize winners from the raffle drawing:

Early Bird Ticket \$100 – Jeff Hoelscher

\$100 – Bill/Millie Wieberg; Danny Hoecker; Shane Hoecker; Brenda Veit; Pam/Loren Luebbert; Paul/Jessica Moyer; Adam Boessen; Tom & Julie Kampeter who were winners of 3-\$100 prizes

\$500 – Wilhelmina Washington/Pat Tatum/Mildred Gasper; Megan Graessle; Ryan Buschjost; Leon/Karen Luebbering

\$1,000 – Bob Ewers Construction; Leeroy Budnik; Josh Luebbering

\$5,000 – Mark/Lauri Luebbering

In addition, there were 22 door prize winners. We will update you soon on the final amount the parish made from the raffle & Silent Auction. Thank you for your support of this event!

St. Cecilia Parish Pastoral Council Meeting ---January 20, 2021

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM with a prayer by Fr. Leonard Mukiibi. Those present were Fr. Leonard, Betty Hagenhoff, Dorothy Rehagen, Mitch Stumpe, and Mary Plassmeyer. Absent were Don Wansing and Emilie Borgmeyer.

Minutes from the last meeting of May 27, 2020 were not available but had been approved after the last meeting.

Old business:

-Mitch reported that the tuck pointing to the Parish Center had been completed.

-Mitch has located sturdy toggle pins to install the second changing table in the parish center bathroom.

-As a result of the Better Together Small Group Discernment last spring, Betty submitted a Parish Pastoral Plan to the Diocese in July 2020. A copy was passed out for review and to be discussed at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Liturgy/Worship Committee:

-Mary reported a joint meeting with St. Thomas Worship Committee was held January 19, 2021 at St. Thomas Church to plan Lent and Holy Week Services
 Ash Wednesday February 17
 St. Thomas Masses: 7:45 AM and 5:00 PM
 St. Cecilia Mass: 7:00 PM
 COVID guidelines for distribution of ashes will be posted in the bulletin prior to Ash Wednesday

Penance Services

St. Thomas: March 16 7:00PM, **St Cecilia:** March 18 7:00 PM

Fr. Leonard will be the only priest at the penance services.

Triduum Schedule:

In order to live stream these liturgies, all Triduum services will be held at St. Thomas.

Holy Thursday Mass 7:00PM

Good Friday Services 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 8:00 PM

Good Friday Stations at St. Cecilia 3:00 PM

Easter Sunday Masses to remain the same

St. Cecilia 8:00 AM St. Thomas 10:00 AM

Buildings & Grounds:

-Plastering in church by the old chimney needs repairing. Suggested companies to call were Castrop Plastering and Schaben Drywall.

-Luecke's Roofing is scheduled to inspect the church roof Friday January 29. It was suggested they also inspect the rectory roof as nobody knew when it has been replaced.

-Mitch asked for suggestions for removing the wall fan in the parish center basement and filling in the space. It was suggested to contact a general contractor, (Verslues did the bathroom renovations), or Schanzmeyer Home Improvement, and Wieberg Red-E-Mix about filling in the space with concrete or concrete blocks.

-We also need contractors estimates for replacing the railing on the front entrance of the parish center, and replacing the rectory side entrance porch.

-Mitch reported that the City of Meta has installed a water testing station by the fire hydrant on church property. This was due to a chlorination system being installed on the city water system.

Finance Committee:

-Betty reported the finance committee met on January 20 and presented financial figures for fiscal year 2020 and the first 6 months of this fiscal year. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, fiscal year 2020 ended with a negative balance of \$1, 37836 in the general revenue fund. As of December 31, 2020, this fiscal year has a negative balance of \$4,024.27 in the general revenue fund.

-Betty will get with Doris and prepare the last 6 months financial report to be posted in the bulletin.

-Diamond Pet Foods made a sizable contribution to the parish in July 2020 to assist with the loss of revenue from our annual parish picnic which was canceled due to the COVID pandemic.

Father Leonard's report:

-The Diocese has asked the parishes to identify lay men and women to facilitate marriage preparations for new couples. Mary will have an announcement put in the bulletin.

-Father would like volunteers to establish a RCIA program in the parish. Betty will have an announcement put in the bulletin.

-Confirmation for St. Thomas and St Cecilia will be April 15, 2021 at St. Thomas.

New Business:

-Betty reported it is time to submit an application for the annual Schwartz Foundation Grant.

Some suggestions for need are:

-Replace railing at front entrance of parish center

-Replace rectory side entrance porch

-New chairs for parish center basement

-New Christmas trees for around the crib in church

-New outside Nativity statues (NOTE: A family wishing to leave a memorial contribution for a loved one has inquired about an outside Nativity set. Betty will contact the family for more details.)

-The Pin Oak tree between church and rectory has grown very large and there is concern that it is causing damage to the roofs, gutters, and foundations of the church and rectory. Mitch will obtain a quote from Feeler Tree Service on removing the tree.

-Our next parish picnic is scheduled July 11, 2021. Having a drive thru/carry out meal and quilt auction were discussed and generally decided upon. We will invite the picnic coordinator, Norma Jean Libbert, to attend our next meeting to discuss the details.

-Since there was no parish pastoral council election last year, there will be four positions to fill this year. The terms of Emilie Borgmeyer and Don Wansing expired May 2020, and the terms of Mitch Stumpe and Mary Plassmeyer will expire May 2021. Betty will put a notice in the bulletin asking for volunteers and/or nominations to be placed on the ballot.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM with a prayer by Fr. Leonard.

**St. Cecilia Church - Budget Summary
 July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020**

Income:

General (Sunday Collections)	33,558.35
(Includes Memorial Donations of \$855.00)	
Special Income (Parish Center Rental, Misc)	100.00
Diocesan Collection Income	500.00
Universal Church Collection	1,141.00
Special Church Receipts	2,098.51
Checking Interest Income	16.11
Transfer f/Picnic Account	<u>17,500.00</u>

Total Income: \$54,913.97

Expenses:

Church & Rectory General	41,191.95
(Includes Parish Ctr & Church Chimney Tuckpointing)	
Church & Rectory Special	10,844.95
Diocesan Collections	793.00
Religious Education (Supplies & Tuition)	<u>6,108.34</u>

Total Expenses: \$58,938.24

Net Income (Loss) (4,024.27)

