

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

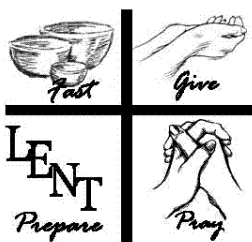
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 18, 2024

Pastor: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi
frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer
jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:
Mrs. Theresa Veit
tveitoffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
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. 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 Feb. 18-25:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Sylvanus Hoecker

Wednesday 7:45 a.m. -Margie Goeller

Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Harold Libbert

Stations of the Cross immediately following Mass

Friday 7:45 a.m. – Joe & Teresa Kaiser

Friday 6:30 p.m. – Stations of the Cross

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2023-2024:	\$312,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$208,000.00
Actual Collection for 2023-2024:	\$220,932.12
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	+\$ 12,932.12
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 26,000.00

Collection in Church:

February 4	\$ 8,426.04
February 11	\$ 3,716.17
February 18	\$
February 25	\$

Collection Online: \$ 6,760.50

February total to date: **\$18,902.71**

Difference for February: -\$ 7,097.29

Church Renovation Capital Campaign

Total Pledges/Donations \$490,847.89

Total Collected \$520,073.32

Total Expenses Paid \$699,195.95

A total of 131 parishioners have returned pledge cards/or
Contributed to the renovation project.

Church Renovation Loan Balance \$55,396.74

Loan payments to date \$156,730.00

(principal) \$144,603.26 (interest) \$12,126.74

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists

Feb. 24 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Kelsey Kliethermes / Jackie

Feb. 25 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Josh Luebbering / Jackie

March 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m.– Jean Kliethermes / Jeanette

March 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Jackie

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers

Feb. 24 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Jan Carter

Feb. 25 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard Heckemeyer

March 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten

March 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Larry Lueckenhoff

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of Feb. 18-25:

6:00 p.m. –Stations of the Cross before Wednesday Mass

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Jackie Luebbert

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Ben & Jason Hake

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2023-2024:	\$67,000.00
Collection Total for 2023-2024:	\$45,914.00
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,583.34

Collection in Church:

February 4	\$ 2,226.00
February 11	\$ 889.00
February 18	\$
February 25	\$

February total to date: **\$ 3,115.00**

Difference for February: -\$2,468.34

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

February: Dale & Margie Helton

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

St. Cecilia Readers

Sunday Feb. 25 8:00 a.m. – Betty Hagenhoff

Sunday, March 3 8:00 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen

St. Cecilia Organist

Sunday. Feb. 25 8:00 a.m. – Emilie

Sunday, March 3 8:00 a.m. –Lydia

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

St. Thomas the Apostle Greeters/Ushers

Feb. 24 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Richard Schellman & Phil Akin
Feb. 25 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Richard Heckemeyer & Art Groner
Mar. 2 Saturday 5:00 pm. – Al Carter & Eric Boessen
Mar. 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Josh Schroeder & Kelly Stewart
Parish Count for weekend Masses is on the offertory table.
Collection baskets choir loft by organ, please return after use.

St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Ministers

Feb. 24 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Jan Carter
Feb. 25 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Janet Lueckenhoff
Mar. 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Barb Graessle
Mar. 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard Heckemeyer

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

Weekday servers: Francie Tallent & Luke Otto
Feb. 24 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – JD Volmert, Carmen Luebbering,
Gregory Kirby, Gannon Reeves
Feb. 25 10:00 a.m. – Fayeth Prenger, Erika Luebbering,
Isabella & Oliver Luebbering
Mar. 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Emerald Fennewald,
Jude Luebbering, Ellie & Sadie Boessen
Mar. 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Valerie, Zeke & Max Verslues,
Angelina Veltrop

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts

Saturday, Feb. 24 – Ushers
Sunday, Feb. 25– Ushers

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

February 25 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder
March 3 - Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
March 10 – Ron & Theresa Veit
March 17 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes
March 24– Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday, 7:25 a.m. – Shirley Volmert – Sorrowful Mysteries
Wednesday 7:25 a.m. –Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries
Thursday 7:25 a.m. – Dale Herigon – Sorrowful Mysteries
Friday 7:25 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff – Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Sorrowful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Jennifer Schroeder– Sorrowful Mysteries

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

February 25	Brooke Schell
March 3	Jenny Becker
March 10	Brooke Schell
March 17	Dunja Wieberg
March 24	Lauri Luebbering

St. Thomas the Apostle Church Cleaners

February 18: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost
February 25: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman
March 3 Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Brenda Schell, Barb Graessle
March 10: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering
March 17: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS: Quilter's luncheon may be dropped off Wednesday night 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (Evening quilting) or St. Thomas the Apostle School. Please bring snacks to the hall by 1:00 p.m.; snacks served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Stroepe at 573-477-3349.

Thursday, February 22 – Noreen Luebbering & Linda Luebbering Thursday, Feb. 29 – Joyce Luebbering & Donna Luebbering

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact, Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or amandab_27@hotmail.com

BULLETIN NOTICES & PARISH BULLETINS: Deadline for bulletin is Wednesday at Noon. If you are needing a bulletin and Church is locked at St. Thomas the Apostle, there are some on the Vitae House front porch.

A NOTE OF THANKS! *The family of Monica Luebbering* would like to express our heartfelt thanks for organizing the food honoring the death of our Mother. We know she would have appreciated your efforts so much. It was a lovely meal and a blessing in the difficult time of her passing. Thanks so much for the chance to share time and good food in her memory with her family and friends.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION: For the depressed and those suffering from mental illness; may the active compassion of the Church bring healing and consolation to those who are tempted to despair, we pray to the Lord.

ST. CECILIA HOLY HOUR & ANOINTING OF THE SICK is Friday, February 23, 7:30 p.m. St. Cecilia Church.

MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANION booklets are in the entrances of both Churches. **OPERATION RICE BOWL:** Operation Rice Bowl is a faith in action program that helps us experience Lenten spirituality by live in solidarity with people in need around the word. **About 25 percent of the money raised stays in our Diocese.** Be sure to pick up your cardboard Rice Bowl in the entrances of both Churches.

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers

Feb. 25 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer
March 3 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Jennifer Even

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

Feb. 25 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Leon Schanzmeyer, Darin Even,
Mitch Stumpe, Brendan Stumpe
March 3 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Randy Hagenhoff, Kenny Otto,
Otto Wankum, Leonard Schulte

St. Cecilia Servers

Feb. 25 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Henry & Annaline Schroeder
March 3 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Sarah & Elizabeth Backes,
Annaline Schroeder

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts

Feb. 25 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Family of Ben & Jason Hake

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Feb. 25 Sunday 7:35 a.m. –Dorothy Rehagen
Sorrowful Mysteries
March 3 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer
Sorrowful Mysteries

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$3.00**.

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.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 1st SUNDAY of LENT (B). REFORM YOUR LIVES. (Gen. 9:8-15; 1Pt. 3:18-22; Mk. 1:12-15)

First, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to you all for your prayers as I made a trip home, I had a safe trip home and back, I had some good time with my mother, siblings, nephews and nieces. They all sent you warm regards, lots of prayers and blessings. The primary purpose of Lent is to prepare us for the celebration of Jesus' death and Resurrection. The second purpose is to bring us to renew our Baptismal promises of rejecting Satan and accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, allowing him to rule our lives. Both of these aims demand purification of minds and hearts. The Church tries to achieve this goal by leading her children to a metanoia or true "repentance," and by renewal of life through fasting, prayer, almsgiving, self-control, and practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. During Lent, we talk to God through personal, family, and liturgical prayers; we listen to Him by meditative Bible reading. We serve the Lord by **giving alms**, and we practice self-control through **fasting**. Since by Baptism we share the death and Resurrection of Jesus, today's readings refer to Baptism directly or indirectly. The first reading tells us that, although man irrevocably broke the original covenant God had made with Adam and Eve, the merciful God selected Noah and his family to renew that covenant. Noah's rescue from the flood waters symbolizes our being saved through the water of Baptism which cleanses us of sin and makes us one with Christ. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 25) is an exquisite penitential prayer, humbly acknowledging our human insufficiency and radical dependence upon God, His mercy, and His forgiveness. The psalmist lists some of God's Own characteristics that will shape the life of the forgiven penitent: Truth, Compassion, Love, Kindness, Goodness, Uprightness, Humility, and Justice. In the second reading, St. Peter shows us how Noah's episode prefigured Baptism. He reminds us that, as Noah and his family were saved from the waters of the deluge, so we are saved through the waters of Baptism. Baptism is an outward sign of the New Covenant that God has made with His people. It makes us adopted children of God, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, we are told that Jesus faced and defeated the tempter at the end of his forty days of prayer, penance, and communion with the Father in the desert immediately following his baptism. It also tells us how Jesus started preaching his Messianic mission: "The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent. Believe in the Gospel." So, friends let us conquer our temptations as Jesus did, using the methods Jesus employed: prayer, self-denial, and timely use of the word of God. During this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies by talking to God, by listening to Him speaking to us though the Holy Bible, and by practicing self-control to subdue our evil tendencies. Let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity by: a) participating in the Mass each day, or at least a few days in the week; b) setting aside some part of our day for personal prayer; c) reading some Scripture, alone or, better still, with others. d) setting aside some money we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment, or clothes and giving it to an organization which takes care of the less fortunate in our society; e) abstaining from smoking, alcohol, and other evil addictions; f) receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent and participating in the "Stations of the Cross" on Fridays; g) visiting the sick and those in nursing homes, and h) doing some acts of charity, kindness, and mercy every day in the Lent. Let us use Lent to fight daily against the evil within us and around us by practicing self-control, relying on the power of prayer, and seeking the assistance and the daily anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukibi

ST. CECILIA PARISH GIVING STATEMENTS: St. Cecilia Parish Giving Statements will be available in the back of the Church in an envelope. If you need your copy mailed, please contact Doris Stumpe at 619-6125 or email at dstumpeoffice@gmail.com.

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

ST THOMAS CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE: **Wednesday, February 28** is the next available day for directory photos. If you have not signed up yet, please go to www.stthomasapostle.net to find "Universal Church Directories" or Universal's website, www.ucdir.com, click on the box to the right that says "photography appointment scheduling login", enter mo253 in the Church Code field and enter photos in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. Please make sure to include your email so you will get a reminder closer to the picture date. **Each family in the directory will receive a free 8X10 photo and a complimentary copy of the directory. This is also an opportunity to purchase additional family photos, without the sitting fee.** Contact Melissa Verslues 338-3433 or Theresa Veit 418-7301, if you have any questions or need assistance signing up. Thank you for your participation in a successful parish directory!

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS: Monday, February 19 – President's Day – No School
Thursday, February 29 – Early Release 12:50 p.m. car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED: St. Thomas Home and School is hosting an online auction benefitting the school. If you would like to donate a basket or items to the auction, please contact Jessica Braun (573) 301-8163 or Amanda Wooten (573) 694-1735. All donations need to be collected by March 1.

St Thomas the Apostle School Silent Auction: This event will take place on March 13-16 on Bidding Owl. Bidding starts at 8:00 a.m. on the 13th and closes at 3:00 p.m. on the 16th. The link to the auction will be posted on the school website under upcoming events and on the parish Facebook page.

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: Dues are \$10.00 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 dues. Please note: Anyone falling in areas over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put payment in the collection basket at St. Thomas the Apostle Church or St. Cecilia Church marked "St. Thomas 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 any questions about your current or past dues at 573-338-2703.

ST. CECILIA CEMETERY NEWS: The annual meeting of the St Cecilia Cemetery Association will be held in the basement of the parish center on Monday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss current business and elect one new committee member to replace Karyn Veltrop whose term as Treasurer will expire in March. If you are interested in serving on the committee or have any other questions, please contact Dominic Plassmeyer, President.

The St Cecilia Cemetery Association is also taking bids for grass cutting/grounds maintenance for 2024. Anyone interested in submitting a bid should do so in writing at the annual Association meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Dominic Plassmeyer.

MEN OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ST. CECILIA PARISHES: You are invited to the February gathering of the Men of Signum Crucis, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 21, at Helias Catholic High School. Feel free to come early to Pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. For more information, please contact Jeff Cassmeyer at 573-690-7546, or visit us at www.menofsignumcrucis.com.

