

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

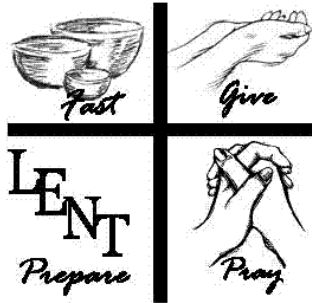
PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Administrator: 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. 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 21-28:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Betty Stegeman
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Herbert & Imogene Volmert
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Marie Luebbering
Friday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Ruth & Walter Schaefer Family

Stations of the Cross – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Gerry Luebbering

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$203,336.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$169,346.00**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 33,990.00
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

February 7 \$ 5,375.00
February 14 \$ 605.00
February 21 \$
February 28 \$

Collection Online: \$ 5,117.00

February total to date: **\$11,097.00**
Difference for February: -\$14,320.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$14,645.00**

Cantor/Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kerry Meyer / Annette Kehner
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Judy Schroeder / Jackie Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Bill Luebbering

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark Boessen & Eric Strobe
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – TJ Loethen & Mattheuw Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters:

Feb 21 – Shara Buechter & Paul Becker
Feb. 28- Keith & Jean Kliethermes
March 7 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
March 14 – Jennifer Schroeder & Dunja Wieberg

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of February 21-28:

Stations of the Cross – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Hubert Brandt

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Martina Hoeller

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$33,743.35**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

February 7 \$ 805.00
February 14 \$ 625.00
February 21 \$
February 28 \$

February total to date: **\$1,430.00**
Difference for February: -\$3,736.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

February – Dale & Margie Helton

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

St. Cecilia Reader:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

**Wednesday – No Rosary before Mass during Lent due to
Stations of the Cross**
Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Margaret Brune – Sorrowful Mysteries

St. Cecilia Ushers

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

Mass live streamers

February 28 – Dunja Wieberg
March 7 – Jennifer Schroeder
March 14 – Brooke Schell
March 21 – Lauri Luebbering
March 28 – Karlie Reinkemeyer

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
Wednesday 7:20 a.m. – Pat Loethen – 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. – Pat Loethen – 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 25 – Kathy Graessle & Leslie Green **Thursday, March 4** – Trish Green & June Groner
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.

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 VIRTUAL WINTER FANTASY UPDATE: The net profit for the parish from this event was **\$23,388.85**. All proceeds will be used to help pay for ongoing operations and projects at the Church and school. The Winter Fantasy Committee would like to thank all businesses and parishioners who contributed to this event. We couldn't have done this without your tremendous support. God is Good!

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.

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: 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT Year B: LET'S TAKE OFF 40 DAYS TO PRAY AND FAST (Gen. 9:8-15; I Pt. 3:18-22; Mk. 1:12-15)

The primary purpose of Lent is to prepare us for the celebration of Jesus' death and Resurrection. The Church tries to achieve this goal by leading her children to true "*repentance*," (*metanoia*) by reordering their priorities, and changing their values, ideals, and ambitions through fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and self-control. 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 how man irrevocably broke the *original covenant* God had made with Adam and Eve and how the merciful God selected Noah and his family to renew the covenant. Noah's rescue from the flood symbolizes how we are saved through the water of Baptism which cleanses us of sin and makes us one with Christ. Today's **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 25) is a penitential prayer, humbly acknowledging human insufficiency and our 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 scenario 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 by his forty days of prayer and penance 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.*"

Friends let us conquer our temptations as Jesus did, using the methods Jesus employed. Jesus conquered his tempter, the devil by prayer, penance, and timely use of the word of God. Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies by talking to God, by listening to Him speaking to us through 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 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 anointing of the Holy Spirit. I wish you all a blessed and fruitful Lenten season.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukibi

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**

FORMED: Looking for a way to deepen your faith this Lent? Please consider using FORMED: a Catholic platform that has thousands of movies, programs, audio, and books available on demand. The parish subscription allows this great resource to be available to you at no charge. **This week's recommendation on FORMED:**

1. *My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent* by Bishop Barron.
2. *The Search*. This is a series aimed at tackling the fundamental questions we encounter on our journey through life on Earth.
3. For families with kids - *Brother Francis: Let's Learn About Lent*

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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. CECILIA WEBSITE MAINTENANCE: If anyone is interested in taking over the maintenance/updates for the St. Cecilia website, please contact Jenny Becker at 573-690-0642.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Confirmation classes will be held in the St. Thomas K of C Hall in February. 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.

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. Finally, for those who have asked: a Spanish version of the program is in development but is not available yet.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of February 21st: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman
Week of February 28th: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter
Week of March 7th: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost
Week of March 14th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter
Week of March 21st: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman
Week of March 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.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:

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:

How Can I love my Neighbor? "We rise by lifting others" Robert Ingersoll once said. Yes, by building others up we make them happier and it should brighten your mood too. By just simply saying cool shoes, or cool shirt you can make someone's day. We should all try to act more like Jesus and kindness is a start. By being kind to others will help us get into heaven later on. Today our world needs a little more kindness and if you start, it might start a chain effect and kindness will bounce from people to people. Some ways to show kindness at school are if someone drops their books just help them pick it up. If someone is getting bullied stand up for them. Don't laugh, you wouldn't want someone laughing at you if someone hurts your feelings. When someone says hello say hello back and don't ignore them unless you are told to not talk. Don't call other people names not even if you are joking because they many laugh but on the inside they are offended. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" said Jesus of Nazareth. Kindness is the sincere and voluntary use of one's time, talent and resources to better the lives of others, one's own life and the world through genuine acts of love,

compassion, generosity and service. Kindness involves choice. Kindness is something we all need to do more of. It might take a little more time but it's free and worth it. **Jack Libbert, 6th Grade**

How Can I Love my Neighbor? Loving your neighbor means receiving God's love. It also means showing grace to your neighbors, showing compassion, and being forgiving. Loving your neighbor as yourself means that you should love yourself, but you have to love your neighbor too. We need grace because knowing God is love and that this love is for you is not enough. It needs to be developed. I imagine if you had a field of good soil and a bag of really good seeds. Would they produce a crop all by themselves? No. The seeds must be planted and cared for. Grace takes the seed of His love and the soil of our heart and creates fruit for the kingdom of God.

Compassion is about putting yourself in the other person's shoes. Without compassion, this world would be pretty sad, not to mention all the bad things that would happen to the world. The first thing to do to help me have more compassion is that I need to put myself in the other person's shoes. I need to think of something to do or say that will make them happier to do or say that will make them happier. I love making people happy, so I will be doing his. I think that everyone needs to be forgiving because you will not be a really person if you hold a grudge for something that a person did months or years ago. Forgiveness is a big deal to God. The Bible says He planned it for us from the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). Jesus frequently spoke forgiveness over others that resulted in the healing of their bodies. I will definitely take some advice that I just put down and use it in real life. This paper has been so helpful. I am so glad we did this paper. It has truly helped me to be a better person. Just remember, treat people how you would want to be treated. **Kylie Hoeller Rademan 7th Grade**

How Can I Love my Neighbor? How can I love my neighbor? I can love my neighbor in so many ways. One way I can love my neighbor is by helping out the younger ones around me in my school. I can also write letters or give gifts to the older people in our community and parish. There are lots of other ways as well. The first thought I think of is going and helping the younger kids around my school. I can volunteer in their classrooms to read them books or help them do homework. Another way is to play with kids at recess when their friends won't play with them. I can also look for friends who are alone and look sad. I can go talk to them and become better friends with them and learn more about them or get to know them better. The other way is I can go visit elders in our parish community. I can show love by baking the cookies or other food, maybe even some gifts. When someone loses their husband/wife, I can go visit them regularly. Getting to know them and just talking with them sometimes they feel lonely. I can be there for them because they do a lot for our school and Church. I don't have to do a lot because once they get older they enjoy seeing/talking to different people and visitors. I can't do too much by myself for I'm still growing and learning, but if I gather some friends or my parents we can do a lot for people. God always wants us to show love no matter what, so that's what I strive for, is always love others as yourselves just like Jesus did during this persecution, What do you do to love your neighbors? **Dylan Kliegel, 8th 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://diojeffcity.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.diojeffcity.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.

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. 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.

DRIVE THROUGH FISH FRY - The AK Crusaders Relay for Life team will be having a Drive Through Only Fish Fry on 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.

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

