

**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

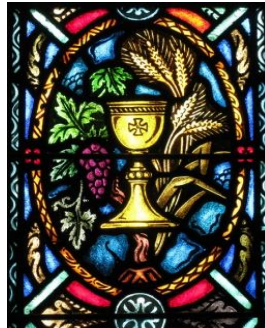
PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 24, 2019**

Pastor: Fr. Jeremy A. Secrist
jasecrist@yahoo.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
lheckemeyerstacs@gmail.com
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
dorisstumpe@att.net

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
School Office hours during school year: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. at St. Thomas; Sundays 7:30 - 7:50 a.m. at St. Cecilia;
or anytime by appointment, just call Father.

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Mass Schedule for the Week of February 23-March 3:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – August, Leona & Donald Loethen
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Herb Volmert
Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Alex Heckman

Friday 7:45 a.m. – Anthony & Ida Schellman
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jerome & Dot Buschjost

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2018-2019: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$203,336.00
Actual Collection for 2018-2019: **\$186,616.22**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 16,719.78
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

February 3 \$ 5,567.00
February 10 \$ 4,249.25
February 17 \$ 3,485.60
February 24 \$

Collection Online: \$ 5,602.00
February total to date: **\$18,903.85**
Difference for February: - \$ 6,513.15

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid: \$2,273,475.34
Income from parishioners for FY 2018-2019
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$19,394.65**
Loan payments to date for FY 2018-2019: **\$73,821.92**
(Principal) \$65,749.72 (Interest) \$8,072.20
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$243,415.51**

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantor / Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kerry Meyer / Annette Kehner
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Choir / Annette Kehner

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Alfred Kaiser
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff

St. Thomas the Apostle Altar Servers

Weekday – Austin Meyer & Molly Suthoff, Rowan Buechter
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ethan & Noah Luebbering,
Cale Luebbert
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Madi & Audrey Buschjost,
Will Otto, Luke Schroeder

St. Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of February 23-March 3:

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Martina Goeller
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – David & Phil Graessle

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Martina Goeller

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Fred Bruemmer
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Fred Hilke

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2018-2019: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2018-2019: **\$40,920.22**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

February 3 \$ 1,877.00
February 10 \$ 474.00
February 17 \$ 559.00
February 24 \$

February total to date: **\$ 2,910.00**
Difference for February: - \$ 2,256.67

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

March – Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotto

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

St. Cecilia Reader

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe
Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

St. Cecilia Altar Servers

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – servers needed
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Melina Derkum,
Sophie Bock

**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

March 2-3

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lora Boessen, Mark Luebbering, Pat Kaiser
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mike & Sheri Wieberg, Lynne Reinkemeyer

March 9-10

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Jenny Becker, Marshall Boessen
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jan Carter, Janet Lueckenhoff, Lynne Reinkemeyer

St. Thomas Greeters/Ushers

March 2-3

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mike Groner & Dave Luebbering
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Keith Kliethermes & Mike Buschjost

March 9-10

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Steve Schellman & Gilbert Schellman
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Tom Backes & Alan Cortvrient

St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass

March 2-3

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Steve & Katrina Schellman Family
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Bill & Betty Jo Luebbering

March 9-10

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Gilbert & Betty Schellman
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Cash McManus & Mary Englemeyer

St. Thomas Collection Counters

March 2-3 – Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
March 9-10 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
March 16-17 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday 7:25 a.m. – Joann Heckman – Sorrowful
Friday 7:25 a.m. – Bob Schellman – Sorrowful
Saturday 4:40 p.m. – Marilyn Herigon – Sorrowful
Sunday 9:40 a.m. – Tina Stockman – Sorrowful

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS:

Thursday, February 28 – Lillian Lackman & Lisa Lackman Thursday, March 7 – Nancy Libbert & Sheila Libbert
Please bring snack to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Strope 573-477-3349 or Emily Luebbering 573-477-3459.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION: "For the parishes and institutions of the Diocese of Jefferson City; that through all our prayers, works, joys and sufferings together, we may experience the communion of the Church and the bonds of peace."

FAREWELL RECEPTION: On behalf of the Parishes of St Thomas the Apostle and St Cecilia, a farewell reception for Father Secrist will be held on Sunday, February 24th immediately following 10:00 a.m. Mass in the St Thomas the Apostle Parish Center.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2018 will be available in the back of St. Thomas the Apostle Church & St. Cecilia Church in alphabetized boxes. Please pick up your envelope to aid in your tax preparation.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY: Holy Mass with the imposition of ashes will be offered at 7:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle and at 7:00 p.m. at St. Cecilia on Wednesday, March 6.

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 at the entrances of Church.

FIRST FRIDAY: Anointing of the Sick will be available to those in need of the Sacrament following 7:45 a.m. Mass on Friday, March 1 at St. Thomas the Apostle. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be from the conclusion of the 7:45 a.m. Mass until Benediction at **11:15 a.m.**

FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL: Everyone is invited to come for coffee, donuts and other refreshments in the Vitae House following the Anointing of the Sick on First Friday.

PRAYING A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY will be prayed at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

MINISTRY TO THE ILL & INFIRM: If you are preparing for surgery, recovering from surgery, homebound or ill, please let MaryPat Luebbering (573-477-3476) know so that you have the opportunity to receive the Sacraments and pastoral care.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRAYER LINE REQUESTS should be emailed to Jenny Becker at jbeckeroffice@gmail.com or by calling (573) 690-0642. The Prayer Line exists to communicate prayer intentions for those in need of healing.

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

March 2-3

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Doris Stumpe, Jennifer Even, Betty Hagenhoff
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Pam Libbert

March 9-10

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen, Doris Stumpe, Jennifer Even
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Pam Libbert

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

March 2-3

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lou Kloeppe, Mitch & Brendan Stumpe, Darin Even
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Leon Schanzmeyer, Kenny Otto, Dominic Plassmeyer, Larry Lueckenotto

March 9-10

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Randy Hagenhoff, Lou Kloeppe, Mitch & Brendan Stumpe
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Leonard Schulte, Harold Libbert, Anton Libbert, Terry Libbert

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. – Florentine Hagenhoff – Glorious
Saturday 6:40 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen – Sorrowful
Sunday 7:40 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer – Sorrowful

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.

PRAYER HOUR WITH MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION will be held Tuesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE HAM & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST RAFFLE TICKETS: Raffle tickets are available at the entrances of St. Thomas the Apostle Church & at B&K Quick Shoppe.

ST. THOMAS PARISH HAM & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST FLYERS are in the entrances of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS PARISH HAM & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST WORK-LIST was attached to last week's bulletin. There are additional copies in the entrances of St. Thomas the Apostle Church or on our web site.

SCRIP: **March 2-3** - Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lindsay Luebbering Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Melissa Verslues
Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Scrip is available after every other weekend Mass in St. Thomas. You can contact Lindsay Luebbering at 573-680-4920 or Karen Luebbering at 573-301-5835 to purchase anytime. A large variety of cards in various denominations are in stock and available for purchase.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRE-SCHOOL: If you have a preschool age child and have been thinking about preschool, please contact the school office at (573-477-3322) or Ms. Jaycine Bax at jbaxstacs@gmail.com. The Pre-School program *will* be offered during the summer.

BOX TOPS: Please save Box Tops for Education, Coke Points & Best Choice Labels. Please drop them by the St. Thomas School Office or in the boxes in the entrances of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, February 25 – No School, Diocesan Professional Development Day in Columbia for Teachers
Wednesday, February 27 – Local Science Fair / Bookmobile
Friday, March 1 – First Friday, Hosting Archery tournament
Saturday, March 5 – Diocesan Regional Speech Meet
Wednesday, March 6 – Ash Wednesday
Thursday, March 7 – Early Release – car riders 12:45 p.m. & bus riders 12:55 p.m.
Friday, March 8 – Diocesan Science Fair at St. Francis (Taos) End of 3rd Quarter
Sunday, March 10 – Parish Ham/Sausage Breakfast

ST. CECILIA CEMETERY INFO: Anyone interested in serving on the Parish Cemetery Committee, please call Norma Jean Libbert at (573) 229 4248. The election is held in March and we need someone to step up to serve on the committee as one person per year is to rotate off.

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: The new dues are \$10.00 per family (\$5.00 for single persons). Family members becoming the head of a separate household are not covered under their parent's membership. Also, anyone after their 21st birthday must pay their own dues of \$5.00. Please note: Anyone falling in arrears over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put your payment in the collection basket marked "Cemetery Dues" or mail to: St. Thomas Cemetery Association, c/o Lisa Lackman, 2222, Upper Bottom Road. St. Thomas, MO 65076. You may contact Lisa, if you have questions about your current or past dues, at 573-338-2703.

ST. THOMAS/META REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER BALL: St. Thomas / Meta will be having registration for softball & baseball on the following dates and times. Registration will be held Saturday, February 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 24 from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the St. Thomas Cafeteria. Boys & 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 14 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. If you are unable to make it to one of the registration times or have any questions, please contact Lisa Wieberg at 573-999-7381 or lisakorte@hotmail.com

ST. STANISLAUS PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL: Part-time hours are available: Sunday 2:00-3:00 a.m.; 1st & 3rd Sunday 1:00-2:00 p.m.; 3rd and 5th Sunday 3:00-4:00 p.m.; 3rd and 5th Thursday 2:00-3:00 p.m.; every other Friday 2:00-3:00 p.m. Please call Donna if you would like to sign up for an hour. 680-1470 or 635-2095.

VITAE FOUNDATION'S 27TH ANNUAL PRO-LIFE EVENT will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. The featured speaker is Monica Crowley, political and foreign affairs analyst for the Fox News Channel, and host of the nationally syndicated radio program The Monica Crowley Show. Tickets are \$100 for dinner and \$50 for luncheon. For reservations, visit our website at www.VitaeFoundation.org/events or call 573-634-4316.

MISSOURI RIVER REGIONAL BOOKMOBILE will be in St. Thomas from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Monday, February 25. The bookmobile will stop on the Church parking lot located at Park Street and Highway B.

PRO-LIFE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Missouri Right to Life is seeking a bookkeeper. This individual should have knowledge of bookkeeping practices, experience with Quick Books and preparation of monthly reports for multiple accounts. Also responsible for accounts payable. Need general computer skills. Hours somewhat flexible and average 30 per week. Vacation/sick leave benefits. Please send resume to Missouri Right to Life, PO Box 651, Jefferson City MO, 65102.

SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Sunday, March 10, 2019 – St. Thomas the Apostle Ham & Sausage Breakfast
Sunday, May 5, 2019 – St. Thomas the Apostle School 30th Anniversary Celebration
June 1-7, 2019 – TOTUS TUUS Summer Camp in St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia Parishes
Saturday, June 29, 2019 – 4:00 p.m. Sesquicentennial Mass with Bishop McKnight at St. Thomas the Apostle; catered dinner and dance for parishioners who RSVP.
Sunday, July 14, 2019 - St. Cecilia Parish Picnic
Sunday, August 18, 2019 – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Picnic

ST. GEORGE CHURCH, LINN MISSION: Journey to Joy starring Frank Runyeon is March 19, 20 & 21 at 7:00 p.m. Come & enjoy the dramatic interpretation on a variety of topics. The event is free to the public, but a goodwill offering will be taken for those wishing to help defray the cost to St. George Parish.

ARGYLE VFW POST 8045 ANNUAL BREAKFAST is rescheduled for February 24 at Post Home in Argyle serving whole hog sausage, fried eggs, pancakes, morning pastries, coffee, milk & orange juice. Serving from 7:30 - 11:30. Adults \$8.00, children 6-12 \$4.00. Carry outs available, Raffle, Veterans Service Officer.

WESTPHALIA AMERICAN LEGION #544 BREAKFAST is Sunday, February 24, serving ham, biscuits & gravy & fried eggs & pastries, at the K of C Hall in Westphalia from 8:00 a.m. - 12 (Noon). Adults-8:00-children-5:00, under 5 is free

LOOSE CREEK K of C COUNCIL BREAKFAST is Sunday, February 24 serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, all you can eat from 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Loose Creek school basement.

WESTPHALIA K of C PRE-LENTEN FISH FRY: is March 1, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the Westphalia K of C Hall. Adults \$10.00 children \$5.00. Diet sensitive items will be available.

BLAIR OAKS CLASS OF 2019 – PROJECT GRADUATION FUNDRAISER is March 3, serving fried chicken dinners & silent auction at Wardsville Lions Club, serving 2 - 6 pm. Meal includes fried chicken, mash potatoes/gravy, green beans, cole slaw and dinner roll. Dine-In and carry-out available. Tickets can be purchased from any Blair Oaks Senior or at the door.

ST. ELIZABETH CYO BREAKFAST is Sunday, March 3, serving sausage, biscuits & gravy, hash-browns, scrambled eggs from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Adults \$10.00, children 6-12 \$5.00 at the St. Elizabeth Community Center.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CHILI SUPPER BABBTOWN is Sunday, March 3, serving chili, chili dogs, hot dogs, homemade chicken noodle soup, cinnamon rolls, pie and other desserts. Adults \$6.00, children 4-10 \$3.00.

ST. MARGARET'S PARISH FISH FRY OSAGE BEND is Friday, March 8, serving catfish fillets, hush puppies, baked potatoes, French Fries, baked beans and Cole Slaw from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Adults \$12.00, children 6-12 \$5.00. Carry-outs available \$12.00 per plate.

WESTPHALIA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL R.I.B. DINNER AND DANCE: The Annual Westphalia KC Catholic Religious Information Bureau (R.I.B.) Dinner and Shiloh Dance fundraiser is scheduled for March 9, 2019 at the KC Hall in Westphalia with 6:30pm dinner, 8:30pm dance. This event is to support the availability and distribution of Catholic information and materials to aid in Catholic education and evangelization. Contact Russell Voss at 573-619-1324 or Ron Berhorst at 573-619-8213 for tickets or more information.

COUNTRY HAM & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST, ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH is Sunday, March 10, serving ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, hash browns, applesauce, biscuits & gravy from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Adults \$10.00, children 6-12 \$5.00. Country store, craft stand & raffle. Carry-outs available.

MOST PURE HEART OF MARY PARISH SEAFOOD BUFFETS CHAMOIS is Friday, March 15 & Friday, April 5, serving fish, frog legs & shrimp from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$15.00, ages 5-12 \$8.00. Buy a full-priced adult meal on March 15 and receive a coupon worth \$1.00 off adult meal on April 5.

MID AMERICA BANK is collecting Gently Used or New Bicycles. Bikes collected will be sent to Ghana for transportation needs. Donations also welcome! Bicycles or donations may be dropped off at any of our 5 locations! Collecting until February 28th.

LOOSE CREEK 175TH BOOK FOR SALE: The Loose Creek Book Committee is taking orders for Volume IV of the "Growing of Loose Creek". This hardbound book contains over 700 family histories of people who lived in Loose Creek from the early settlers until the present day and will be available during the parish's 175-year celebration in October, 2020. The pre-paid cost of this book is now \$55 until Oct. 1, 2019, then cost will go up to \$60. Also for sale is volumes I, II, of the "Growing of Loose Creek" and volume III (available in June, 2019). These volumes contain pictures of the life and times of parish people. For more information contact, Janice Backes at 573- 619-8149 or Janice@midmomicro.com.

LETTER FROM FR. STEPHEN JONES

February 25, 2019

Dear people of St. Cecilia and St. Thomas the Apostle,

I know that times of transition are often difficult, and I am sure that there is a sense of uncertainty as our beloved pastor has been called to a new ministry at St. Peter in Jefferson City.

I am, however, very thankful for the opportunity to serve the parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia as your Parish Administrator.

Having done fill-in work in your parishes I know what lively and vibrant communities you are, and I am excited to be a part of the strengthening and growth of our Catholic faith as we engage in ministry together. Coupled with my enthusiasm to be serving you, however, are the stark realities in front of us. We all know that this sudden change in pastoral leadership is but a by-product of the shortage of priests we face in our diocese, a shortage which will affect all of us.

We have to face these realities with a fervent hope and an understanding that, while the Lord will never abandon His Church, we need to step up our efforts to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to not only pray for vocations, but also to work pro-actively to foster them in our parishes, schools, and communities. This should be one of our primary areas of focus as we move forward.

As far as my ministry in your midst is concerned, I promise to work hard to meet the needs of both parishes to the best of my abilities. However, I would remind you that I am a man divided, and I owe equally fervent dedication to not only the parishes, but also to Helias Catholic School, and to my wife and four children.

So, in order to accommodate all of these jobs and roles, there are modifications to the schedules of the parishes which will have to be made. Some will be made immediately, and some only after a period of prayerful reflection and collaboration with the leadership of the parishes.

The main "immediate" change will be in the daily Mass schedule, as both the daily Mass at St. Thomas and the one at Helias take place at similar times. Beginning the week of February 25th I will offer morning Mass at St. Thomas at 7:45 a.m. on Tuesday and Fridays. I will offer Mass at Helias on the mornings of Mondays & Wednesdays. The evening Mass on Wednesdays at St. Cecilia (6:30 p.m.) will not change. My "day off" is currently Thursday, and I intend to have it remain that way for the time being. The weekend Masses will continue as they are currently scheduled for the foreseeable future.

I very much look forward to being with you in all the coming days and weeks. My first weekend Masses will be on Sunday, March 3rd. Fr. Roberto Ike will be covering the Masses on Saturday the 2nd, as I have a commitment to attend the Annual Helias Gala in Jefferson City. I know that the changes in the daily Mass schedule may disappoint some of you, and I am sorry about that. As we move forward together, I know that we will have to be diligent in exercising patience with one another. I ask you to pray for me and my family and I promise to pray for you and yours. And doing this we will persevere and grow together!

Faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Stephen W. Jones