

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

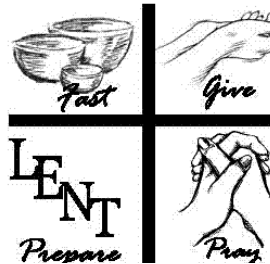
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 26, 2023

Pastor: 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. Theresa Veit
theitoffice@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 February 26-March 5:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Gerald Luebbering

Wednesday 7:45 a.m.- Greg Russell

Thursday, 7:45 a.m. – Joe, Antonia & Richard Schwartz

Stations of the Cross immediately following Mass

Friday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Anthony & Ida Schellman Family

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

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – L&D Jerome & Lucy Luebbering Family

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

Joe Veit

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of February 26-March 5:

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

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. -Victoria Muenks

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Lawrence “Dick” Rehagen

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2022-2023: \$305,000.00

Offertory Goal through Month End: \$203,336.00

Actual Collection for 2022-2023: **\$198,229.56**

Offertory Difference Year to Date: -\$ 5,106.44

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

February 5 \$ 5,185.84

February 12 \$ 4,483.27

February 19 \$ 3,456.34

February 26 \$

Collection Online: \$ 6,972.00

February total to date: **\$20,097.45**

Difference for February: -\$ 5,319.55

Church Renovation Capital Campaign

Total Pledges/Donations \$485,477.70

Total Collected \$470,405.31

Total Expenses Paid \$699,195.95

A total of 130 parishioners have returned pledge cards/or

Contributed to the renovation project.

Church Renovation Loan Balance \$149,128.05

Loan payments to date \$58,435.00

(principal) \$50,871.95 (interest) \$7,563.05

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists

March 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m.–Kelsey Kliethermes / Jeanette

March 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Josh Luebbering / Alanna

March 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lisa Wieberg / Jackie

March 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mary Kay Brand / Jeanette

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers

March 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mary Kay Brand

March 5 Sunday 10:00 p.m. – Rosalyn Wieberg

March 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle

March 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2022-2023: \$65,000.00

Collection Total for 2022-2023: **\$41,965.21**

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,416.67

Collection in Church:

February 5 \$1,665.00

February 12 \$ 894.99

February 19 \$ 783.00

February 26 \$

February total to date: **\$3,307.00**

Difference for February: -\$2,109.67

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

March – Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotto

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

St. Cecilia Readers

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer

Sunday, March 5 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

Sunday, March 12 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer

St. Cecilia Organist

March 5 8:00 a.m. – Lydia

March 12 8:00 a.m. – Emilie

***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

March 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Eric & Roseanne Boessen
March 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Tom Backes & Alan Reinkemeyer
March 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m.-Doug Stockman & Richard Schellman
March 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m.-TJ Loethen & Mattheuw Prenger
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

March 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Brenda Wansing
March 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Keith Kliethermes
March 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Marshall Boessen
March 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Janet Lueckenhoff

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

Weekday – Levi Tallent & Francie Tallent
March 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Miranda Meyer, Ellie Boessen,
Carmen Luebbering, Emerald Fennewald
March 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Fayeth Prenger, Victoria Wieberg,
Erika Luebbering, Isabella Luebbering
March 11 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Evelyn Wooten, Ava Buschjost,
Kora Luebbering
March 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Valerie & Zeke Verslues,
Stella Volmert, Aliyah Buechter

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts

March 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ralph & Kathy Graessle
March 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Larry & Linda Lueckenhoff
March 11 Saturday, 5:00 p.m. – Family of Jerome &
Lucy Luebbering
March 12 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Family of Joe Veit

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

March 5 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder
March 12– Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
March 19 - Paul Becker & Shara Buechter
March 26 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes
April 2 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

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

March 5 Brooke Schell
March 12 Dunja Wieberg
March 19 Jenny Becker
March 26 Karlie Reinkemeyer
April 2 Lauri Luebbering

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday, 7:25 a.m. – Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries
Wednesday 7:25 a.m.- Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries
Thursday 7:25 a.m. –Gilbert & Hermina – Luminous Mysteries
Friday 7:25 a.m. – Shirley Volmert – Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Sorrowful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Tina Stockman – Sorrowful Mysteries

St. Thomas the Apostle Church Cleaners

Feb. 26: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer
March 5: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost
March 12: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman
March 19: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter
March 26: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering

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 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 Strobe at 573-477-3349.

Thursday, March 2 – Janet Boessen & Donna Boessen **Thursday, March 9** -Lora Boessen & Joyce (Marshall) Boessen

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: Deadline for bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: The CSA goal for St. Cecilia Parish is \$2,550 Received \$1,065.00
The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$10,400 Received \$5,925

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH is looking for volunteer to serve on the Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR) & looking for a volunteer to serve as a Liaison for Vocation If interested, please contact Fr. Leonard.

MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANION booklets & Rice Bowls are in the entrances of both Churches.

USED PALMS: Please use the baskets in the entrances of our Churches to place your used palms.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE is Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers

March 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer
March 12 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Jennifer Even

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

March 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Darin Even, Mitch &
Brendan Stumpe, Randy Hagenhoff
March 12 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Kenny Otto, Otto Wankum,
Leonard Schulte, Tony Derkum

St. Cecilia Servers

March 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Skyla, Tucker &
Jesse Schroeder
March 12 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Sarah & Elizabeth Backes
Jesse Schroeder

Please arrive 10 minutes before Mass.

Servers who have questions or would like to practice, may do so after 8:00 a.m. Mass. Please contact Joanne Schroeder 573-229-8986.

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts

March 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m.- Family of Lawrence "Dick" Rehagen

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

No rosary before Wednesday Mass during Lent, due to the Stations of the Cross.

March 5 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen
Sorrowful Mysteries

March 12 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Janice Schanzmeyer
Sorrowful Mysteries

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$3.00**. **Please note the cost change for both parishes.**

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.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT MARCH PRAYER INTENTON: For a greater respect for the dignity of all human life; may our Catholic Faith inspire us to recognize all human beings – no matter their age, race, or condition – as our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

PASTORS MEDITATION: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT I [A] SAY YES TO GOD NO TO THE DEVIL (Gen. 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-19; Mt. 4:1-11) Lent is primarily the time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations, using the means Jesus used during his forty days of preparation in the desert for his public life. It is also the time for repenting of our sins and renewing our lives for the celebration of Easter with our Risen Lord who conquered sin and death by his suffering, death and Resurrection. Today's readings teach us that we are always tempted by the devil, by the world and by our own selfish interests. So, we need to cooperate actively with God's grace to conquer our temptations and practice prayer, self-control and charity. The first reading, taken from the book of Genesis describes the "**Original Temptation**", "You will be like gods, knowing what is good and what is evil." Adam and Eve were given the possibility of making a choice to live for God, dependent upon Him and obedient to His will or to say no to God. The temptation to evil led Adam and Eve to an act of faithlessness and sin. In contrast, today's Gospel from Matthew shows us how Jesus Christ conquered temptation by relying on Faith in God's Word and authority. In the second reading, St. Paul describes how the disobedience of Adam, who fell to Satan's Original Temptation, brought him and us sin, death and a broken relationship with God. Paul explains that Christ regained for us a right relationship with God by his perfect obedience to God his Father. Today's Gospel teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront his temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. But Jesus rejects that temptation to mistrust His Father by satisfying his own immediate, temporal needs, **thus reducing His Divine mission to self-satisfaction!** The tempter then suggests that Jesus prove that he is really the Son of God by jumping off the parapet of the Temple. Jesus rejects this as a temptation to act as God's superior and demand He prove His Trustworthiness! Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even if worshipping Satan would enrich and empower Jesus with all kingdoms of the world. So friends we are to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did, using the means he employed. Every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth and a position of authority, power and glory and to use any means, even unjust or sinful ones to gain these things. Jesus serves as a model for us in conquering temptations by strengthening himself through prayer, penance, and the effective use of the Word of God. Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies with prayer (especially by participating in the Holy Mass), with penance and with meditative reading of the scriptures. We are to grow in holiness during Lent by prayer, reconciliation and sharing: a) by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him in fervent prayer and listening to Him through the meditative reading of the Bible; b) by penitential acts; c) by getting reconciled with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and reconciled with others by asking their forgiveness for our offenses against them; d) by sharing our love with others through selfless and humble service, almsgiving, and helping those in need.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY is Saturday, March 4, 3:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE HOLY HOUR is Friday, March 3, 7:00 p.m. with anointing of the sick after benediction.

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH is March 20. Please join us in praying the St. Joseph Novena beginning March 12 through March 20. Also, join us for Mass at 6:00 p.m. on March 20, St. Thomas the Apostle Church. You can go to **praymorenovenas.com** to sign up for the novena or printed copies are available in Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH HAM BREAKFAST NOTES: Country Store workers will be baking homemade pies at the hall, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Anyone who could help with baking pies on Saturday morning, please contact Roseanne Boessen (573-477-0168), any help would be greatly appreciated. Gooseberries are needed for pies if anyone has any to donate. Additionally, please consider baking cinnamon rolls, sweet breads, and other homemade goodies at home, and drop off at the Country Store area on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. Thank you for your support and donations! Raffle chances may be picked up in the back of St. Thomas the Apostle Church next weekend, March 4/5. Reminder to parishioners that parking is available at the Knights of Columbus Hall, with shuttle service available between the Knights Hall & Church parking lot. This service is convenient for workers, while leaving adequate reserve parking for our guests. Work-list is attached to the bulletin or may be found on our website

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS: Thursday, March 2, early release 12:50 p.m. car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRESCHOOL: If you have a child, ages 3 or 4 and have been thinking about preschool, please call Lizzie Linhardt, linhardt@stacs.school 573-645-5605 or the school office 573-477-3322. If you have any questions or would like to set up a one on one meeting and school tour please contact the school office. Please check out and like St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool Facebook page

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 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 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.

THE WILLIAM H. SIMON SCHOLARSHIP & JOHN WARACK SCHOLARSHIP: For more information or to complete the application at www.diojeffcity.org/scholarships. Applications must be returned to the Chancery by March 31, 2022.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 25, 2023. Patsy Luebbering is turning 85 and the family would like to invite you to help us celebrate and wish her a Happy Birthday. An open house will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in St. Thomas.

META RUMMAGE SALES: Meta area rummage sales will be held Thursday, April 20 through Saturday, April 22. There will be a multi-family sale at the firehouse, along with various sales at community members' residences. Specific sale times and a list of addresses will be provided closer to the event. If you would like to host a rummage sale and have your address added to the list, please contact Samantha Helton via call or text at (573) 469-8649. This does not have to be limited to Meta. St. Thomas residents are welcome to join in!

SAVE THE DATES: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Ham/Sausage Breakfast – Sunday, March 12
St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Gluten Free Fish Fry & Art Show – Friday, March 24 in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center.
Totus Tuus – June 4-9.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council Notes - January 31, 2023

- Call to Order and Opening Prayer, Father led a prayer.
- Principal's Report / School Advisory Board, Leroy read through his notes.
 - Financial Committee Report
 - Shane shared with us the income and expenses from July 2022 to December 2022.
 - Shane gave a report of the account balances as of the end of December.
 - The new AC unit is coming.
 - The rectory is being updated. The cost of the project is estimated to cost about \$51,000.
 - We had to postpone the lights on the ballpark. The Diocese did not accept the grant money for the lights.
 - Pastoral Council Commission Reports
 - Worship

The Mass schedule for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Easter will be in the bulletin.

Stations of the Cross will take place on Thursday mornings in St. Thomas & Wednesday evenings at St. Cecilia.

The feast of St. Joseph will be celebrated at St. Thomas on March 20 at 6:00 pm. The statues will be covered after the Mass in Meta & St. Thomas.

Jan Heckemeyer is ordering the palms and Bill Boessen is ordering the Easter lilies.

There will be a procession from the school hallway to Church on Palm Sunday.

Barb Graessle is organizing the list of liturgical obligations for the Holy Week and Easter Masses.

St. Thomas and St. Cecilia will hold separate confirmation classes this year.

2. Social Concerns

The council decided the Fall Fantasy will serve as the school fundraiser and the picnic will be the parish fundraiser. These are the two fundraisers we will use under the new Stewardship model. Debbie Strope let Larry Lueckenhoff know to move forward with the planning of the picnic. Shane Verslues is letting Kim Kliegel know that the Fall Fantasy can take place this fall.

We are moving forward as normal with the Ham Breakfast this year since we are not under the new stewardship model yet. Debbie Strope is letting Larry Lueckenhoff know that the Ham Breakfast will take place. The council talked about the price of the meal. They decided that it may need to be raised. If the ham breakfast committee feels the same, then the parish council will stand behind it.

The parish raised \$520 at the Holiday Drive. The money was able to go to 2 local families.

Debbie Strope updated the Welcome Handbook for new parishioners in the PPC google drive. Her term is over in July. The handbook is placed there for future needs.

The council is suggesting that the family names being put on the offertory list go with the family of who the Mass is being held for.

That family can bring up the offertory. Dunja Wieberg will let Diane know of this change. It was also asked that it be mentioned to Diane to try and schedule family members for the same Mass on weekends for liturgical obligations.

c. Administration

Part time maintenance position. Shane and the committee are setting up a meeting to make decisions on this position.

1. Rectory renovation

Fathers house has started. The remodel has started in the kitchen. Clinton Luebbering is coming in to frame walls. Ryan Buschjost is doing the electrical work along with a few others. A plumber is also coming. Lillian Lackman cleans the rectory and asked to move the washer and dryer upstairs. It is currently in the basement. They decided to add a closet off the kitchen to put the washer and dryer. Mark Luebbering wants to talk to the finance committee about getting new appliances for the kitchen. These were not in the initial budget. The new flooring, cabinets, half bath, and the new shower in the guest bathroom were all in the budget.

The steam table was installed over Christmas break.

The HVAC system is ready to install. They are going to install it sometime this spring.

Mark Luebbering is wanting to get a permanent ladder installed on the roof, so maintenance people do not have to keep putting up & taking down ladders.

5. Pastor's Report

Father wished us a Happy New Year. He shared with us information on Bishop McKnight visiting Uganda.

Father Jones is coming on February 11th and 12th to share information on the new stewardship model.

St. Thomas will be hosting confessions on March 16th at 7 pm. There will need to be dinner for the priest for that night.

Father is looking for a liaison to help promote vocations. He wants this on the next Time and Talent sheet. He also asked for a liaison to coordinate with Catholic Charities. Andi Reynolds volunteered to serve in this role.

Father asks that we host a reception to welcome the new parishioners after the Easter Vigil. The Social Concerns Committee is going to organize this event.

Father asked the council if we minded if the 4H used the kitchen for a cooking class after school. The council voted that the 4H could use the kitchen but the children needed to be from St. Thomas and Meta and they needed to be under supervision.

Father asked the council if we could donate the tall Christmas trees to St. Cecilia. The council voted that the trees could be given to St. Cecilia.

6. New Business

1. Stewardship

Jacob Graessle is going to represent the parish council on this committee. Kathy Graessle is going to represent the finance committee. If anyone else wants to be on this committee from the parish, please let the parish office know. Shane is putting something in the bulletin. Dunja Wieberg will put something on Facebook.

Parish directory. We are going to use Universal Church Directories for the new parish directory book. We will make more decisions on this by the end of this year.

7. Varia, Discussion, clarification question, N/A, Next Meeting is March 30 at 7:00 pm in the school library.

9. Closing Prayer, Father led the closing prayer. Adjournment.



