

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 28, 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 28-March 7:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Joe & Antonia Schwartz
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Anthony & Ida Schellman
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Tom & Clara Schmidt
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Curt Stockman

Stations of the Cross – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Rose Mary Buschjost

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$203,336.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021:	\$176,626.00
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 26,710.00
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

February 7	\$ 5,375.00
February 14	\$ 605.00
February 21	\$ 6,245.00
February 28	\$

Collection Online: \$ 6,152.00
February total to date: **\$18,377.00**
Difference for February: –\$ 7,040.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021
(via the yellow “Building Fund” envelope): **\$15,255.00**

Cantor/Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten / Jackie Prenger
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Luke Schroeder / Annette Kehner

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Judy Schroeder
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Alan Reinkemeyer

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

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

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters:

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 28-March 7:

Stations of the Cross – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Lawrence “Dick” Rehagen

Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Victoria G. Muenks

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021:	\$35,056.35
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

February 7	\$ 805.00
February 14	\$ 625.00
February 21	\$1,313.00
February 28	\$

February total to date: **\$2,743.00**
Difference for February: –\$2,423.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

February – Dale & Margie Helton

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

St. Cecilia Reader:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

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

St. Cecilia Ushers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Kenny Otto & Larry Lueckenotto

Mass live streamers

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. – 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, March 4 – Trish Green & June Groner

Thursday, March 11 – Debbie Groner & Jan Heckemeyer

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.

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, 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.

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.

CONRAD SCHMITT STUDIOS will present their proposed painting design for St. Thomas the Apostle Church on **March 7** following the 10:00 a.m. Mass in Church. The presentation will be live-streamed for those parishioners who cannot attend in person. Please plan to join us as we look to begin a new chapter for our historic Church.

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: The point of fasting during lent

Fasting is a powerful and fundamental part of the Christian life, God commanded it, Jesus practiced it and the Church Fathers preached the importance of it. But for many of us Catholics today, it's more of an afterthought, something we grudgingly do on Ash Wednesday and perhaps on Good Friday if we remember it.

Would we fast more, especially during Lent, if we understood how helpful it is for our lives? The answer to this is a resounding "yes." The essence of fasting is "the deprivation of the good, in order to make a decision for a greater good," It is most commonly associated with abstention from food, although it can also take the form of giving up other goods like comforts and entertainment. The current fasting obligation for Catholics is this: all, over the age of 14 must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays in Lent. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, adults (18 to 59) must fast, eating no more than one full meal and two smaller meals that together do not add up in quantity to the full meal. "The whole purpose of fasting is to put the created order and our spiritual life in a proper balance. As bodily creatures in a post-fallen state, it's easy to let our lower passions for physical goods supersede our higher intellect, we take good things for granted and reach for them whenever we feel like it, without thinking, without reference to the One Who gives us the food. **Thus, fasting helps us "make more room for God in our life,"** While fasting can take many forms, abstaining from food is especially important.

The Bible talks about fasting as so important in the life of the Church and the roots of the practice in Scripture originate from the very first fast ordered by God to Adam in the Garden of Eden, when God instructed Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). This divine prohibition was not because the tree was bad, it was made good like all creation, but its fruit was meant to be eaten in the right time and the right way. In the same way, we abstain from created goods so we may enjoy them in the right time and the right way.

The fast is the weapon of protection against demons, St. Basil the Great said. Fasting is also good because it is submission to God, by fasting from the fruit of the tree, Adam and Eve would have become partakers in the Divine Nature through their obedience to God. Instead, they tried to take this knowledge of good and evil for themselves and ate the fruit, disobeying God and bringing Original Sin, death, and illness upon mankind.

At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus abstained from food and water for 40 days and nights in the desert and thus reversed what happened in the Garden of Eden, Like Adam and Eve, Christ was tempted by the devil but instead remained obedient to God the Father, reversing the disobedience of Adam and Eve and restoring our humanity. Following the example of Jesus, Catholics are called to fast, and the Church Fathers preached the importance of fasting.

Why fasting is so powerful: Fasting is the weapon of protection against demons, taught St. Basil the Great. Our Guardian Angels stay more really with those who have cleansed their souls through fasting. Fasting is more powerful because by setting aside this (created) realm where the devil works, we put ourselves into communion with another realm where the devil does not work, he cannot touch us. Fasting disposes better us for prayer, because we feel greater hunger or thirst when we fast from food and water, it reminds us of our frailty and helps us be more humble. Without humility and prayer our experience of God really can't be unlocked."

A brief history of fasting: The current fasting obligations were set in the 1983 Code of Canon Law, but in previous centuries, the common fasts among Catholics were stricter and more regularly observed. Catholics abstained from meat on all Fridays of the year, Easter Friday excluded. *During Lent, they had to fast, one main meal and two smaller meatless meals, on all days*

excluding Sunday, the day of the Resurrection. They abstained from meat on Fridays and Saturdays in Lent, the days of Christ's death and lying in the tomb, but were allowed meat during the main meal on the other Lenten weekdays. The obligations extended to other days of the liturgical year. Catholics fasted and abstained on the vigils of Christmas and Pentecost Sunday and on Ember Days, the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the Feast of St. Lucy on Dec. 13, after Ash Wednesday, after Pentecost Sunday and after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in September, corresponding with the four seasons. In centuries past, the Lenten abstention was more austere. Catholics gave up not only meat but also animal products like milk and butter, as well as oil and even fish at times.

Today's obligations are so minimal because the Church is setting clear boundaries outside of which one cannot be considered to be practicing the Christian life. **That is why intentionally violating the Lenten obligations is a mortal sin.** Catholics should perform more than the minimum penance that is demanded because the minimum may be what is due to God out of justice, but we are called not only to be just to God, but also to love God and to love our neighbor. Charity would call us to do more than just the minimum that is applied to us by the Code of Canon Law.

In Jeremiah 31: 31-33, God promises to write His law upon our hearts, we must go beyond following a set of rules and love God with our hearts, and this involves doing more than what we are obliged to do.

Be wary of your motivation: fasting must be stirred up by charity. A Catholic should not fast out of dieting or pride, but out of love of God. It's always dangerous in the spiritual life to compare yourself to other people, the Gospel of John where Jesus instructed St. Peter not to be concerned about the mission of St. John the Apostle but rather to "follow Me." (John 21: 20-23). In like manner, we should be focused on God during Lent and not on the sacrifices of others.

Lent is meant to be a joyful season; it's the joy of loving Him more. We will often fail to be joyful because if we do fail, this is the opportunity to realize our utter dependence on God and His grace, to seek His mercy and forgiveness, and to seek His strength so that we can grow in virtue and do better. By realizing our weakness and dependence on God, we can discover anew the depths of God's mercy for us and can be more merciful to others.

Giving up good things may seem onerous and burdensome, but we can and should fast with joy. It's referred to in the preface of Lent as a joyful season and it's the joy of deepening our relationship with Christ, and therefore coming closer to Him. It's the joy of loving Him more, and the more we love God the closer we draw to Him. Lent is all about the Cross, and eventually the resurrection, if we make an authentic, real sacrifice for Christ during Lent, we can come to that day of the crucifixion and say 'Yes Lord, I am willing with you, to accept the cross. I wish you a fruitful and blessed Lenten season.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

LENTEN SEASON CONFESSIONS:

St. Thomas the Apostle Church – Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. (no visiting priests)

St. Cecilia Church – Thursday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. (no visiting priests)

FORMED: This week's recommending viewing on FORMED:

Shroud of Turin - This film uses scientific, historical, medical, and archaeological research on the Shroud to argue for its authenticity as the burial cloth of Christ.

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 Robert 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 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: 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.

PRAYING A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY is Thursday, March 4, 5:00 p.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH HOLY HOUR is Friday, March 5 following Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.

REMINDERS FOR PARISHIONERS that every First Friday of the month, we have a Holy Hour/Adoration followed by Benediction at St. Thomas and at St. Cecilia the last Friday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ST. CECILIA PARISH CEMETERY MEETING is scheduled for March 15, at the parish center at 7:00 p.m.

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 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

Friday, March 12 – End of Third Quarter

Monday, March 15 – No School K-8, Diocesan Professional Day

March 18-20 – State Archery, Branson

Friday, March 19 - Report cards go home

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://diofeffcity.org/blog/2019/06/17/employment-in-our-catholic-schools/> and contact Principal Leroy Heckemeyer at 573-477-3322.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PARK BOARD: St. Thomas / Meta registration for softball and baseball is now open. 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 need a registration form or if you have any questions, please contact Lisa Wieberg at (573) 999-7351 or lisawieberg@hotmail.com.

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:

Sunday, March 14 – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Drive thru BBQ Event 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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 mantel 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 WINTER VIRTUAL FANTASY 2021 DOOR PRIZE WINNERS:

Norma Ullman – Two St. Thomas Sesquicentennial shirts and wine glasses

Marilyn Veit – Cutting board and Gift Card Schulte's

Kevin Kolb – Congressional Cookbook

Shane & Melissa Verslues – Two St. Thomas God is Good Shirts and wine glasses

Jill Schulte – Potpourri goodies and \$25 Lowes gift card

Mark & Sandra Kloepfel – Two St. Thomas God is Good Shirts & wine glasses

Tom Herigon - \$20 Pizza Haus Gift certificate with spices

Adam & Kara Holterman – Two Christmas mugs with hot cocoa and chocolates

Al Carter – Two St. Thomas God is Good shirts and wine glasses

Jeff Cassmeyer – Coca Cola Clock

Dennis & Doris Kempker – Spring basket with Easter plates, and napkins, calendar, reed diffuser, coffee mug, home sign

Theresa Verslues – Two St. Thomas God is Good shirts and wine glasses

Cody & Terra Luebbering - \$20 Pizza Haus gift certificate with spices

Jessica Kliegel – Three Budweiser Collector Holiday Steins

Dave Mueller – Bottle of Crown Royal with two shot glasses

Mike & Sheri Wieberg – wine, chocolate and \$20 lottery tickets

Todd Libbert – Buckley Powder hat with two Browning knives

Clayton Graessle – Miss Kittys gift certificate, dinner for two

Tom & Carol Backes – Anna's Help Book

Jason & Michelle Kolb – Anna's Help Book

Quentin & Megan Wright – Anna's Help Book

Travis Rackers – Gift certificate for pie of choice (gooseberry, cherry, peach or blackberry) from Emily Luebbering