

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 IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 17, 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 January 17-24:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Andrew Strobe Family
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Richard Schwartz
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Bernadine Groner
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Jim & Christine Luebbering
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Marie Luebbering

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$177,919.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021:	\$148,319.00
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 29,600.00
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

January 3	\$ 6,729.00
January 10	\$ 3,756.00
January 17	\$
January 24	\$
January 31	\$

Collection Online: \$ 5,117.00
January total to date: **\$15,602.00**
Difference for January: -\$ 9,815.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid: \$2,273,475.34
Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$13,584.00**

Cantor/Organist

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

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – David Schroeder

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Gilbert Schellman & Richard Schellman
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – TJ Loethen & Mattheuw Prenger

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of January 17-24:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Harold Porting

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Robert "Bob" Lueckenotto

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021:	\$29,068.35
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

January 3	\$ 935.00
January 10	\$1,025.00
January 17	\$
January 24	\$
January 31	\$

January total to date: **\$ 1,960.00**
Difference for January: -\$3,206.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

January: Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

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

St. Cecilia Reader:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:05 p.m. – Margaret Brune -Glorious Mysteries
Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen – Sorrowful Mysteries

St. Cecilia Ushers

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

Mass live streamers

January 24 – Karlie Reinkemeyer

January 31 – Jennifer Schroeder

February 7 – Brooke Schell

February 14 – Jeannette Schroeder

February 21 – 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. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe – 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, January 21 – Kelley Buschjost & Jan Carter

Thursday, January 28 – Dana Dudenhoeffer & Maureen Eggen

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 Luebbing at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strobe at 573-477-3349.

ST. CECILIA SATURDAY EVENING MASSES: The 7:00 p.m. Saturday evening Masses at St. Cecilia have been suspended until further notice.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION: For those seeking employment, that through the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker, they may find dignified work in supporting themselves and their family.

UPDATED DECREE FROM BISHOP MCKNIGHT:

Whereas the case numbers of COVID-19 infections remain at their highest levels for many counties of Mid-Missouri; and Whereas the common good demands that the public health requirements and recommendations of the state are to be observed whenever possible; and

Whereas the Presbyteral Council has provided their advice with regard to the ongoing reality of the pandemic; and

Whereas the current DECREE governing pastoral activities during the pandemic expires on the 27th day of November 2020;

I therefore declare, as the diocesan bishop, the following:

1. **All dispensations, obligations and guidance of the previous DECREE of 21 August 2020**, originally effective until 27 November 2020, shall now be extended until further notice.
2. All the faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City, and those who are present in the territory of the diocese, are therefore dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and holy days of obligation until further notice, provided that for days of precept they do one of the following:
 - o Prayerfully participate in the Sunday or holy day of obligation Mass live streamed from their parish church or chapel, the Cathedral, the Vatican, or of any Mass of the day celebrated in communion with the Roman Catholic Church.
 - o Prayerfully read and meditate on the readings of the Mass for the Sunday or holy day of obligation, and recite the rosary or Divine Mercy chaplet.
 - o The faithful still have the obligation to keep the Lord's Day holy and "to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2185)
3. Parishes are highly encouraged to live stream Masses for Sundays and holy days of obligation to maintain a pastoral connection with their parishioners during and after the pandemic.
4. Celebrations of penance services, as well as other seasonal services that entail extra gatherings of the faithful apart from Mass, are to be avoided. Instead, parish priests are asked to make themselves more available, even on a daily basis during the last week of Advent, to hear the confessions of the faithful.
5. Whenever possible, the faithful should present themselves to their parish priest for the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick before they depart for the hospital. Because of pandemic protocols at hospitals throughout the diocese, priests may not have access to patients at the hospital.
6. The vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas] on 24 December 2020 may be celebrated as early as 3 pm to accommodate an ample Mass schedule for social distancing requirements. Whenever possible, every active priest of the diocese shall celebrate a vigil Mass of Christmas at 3 pm with the faithful so as to minimize large numbers congregating at the most popular Mass of the season. The allowance for a 3 pm vigil Mass of Christmas is only for this year and not to be presumed for the future.

This decree is effective from 28 November 2020 and until further notice, anything to the contrary notwithstanding. Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City

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, **\$1,820.00** received so far

The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$10,000, **\$7,335.00** received so far

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 2020 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you for your generosity this past year. Contribution statements will be available in the back of Church the weekend of January 23-24.

ST. CECILIA 2020 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you for your generosity this past year. Contribution statements will be available in the back of Church the weekend of January 24. If your statement needs to be mailed, please notify Doris.

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 2nd Sunday in ordinary time: **DIVINE VOCATION** “*come and see.*” (1Sam. 3:3b-10, 19; 1Cor. 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn. 1:35-42)

The main theme of today's Scripture readings is Divine vocation; everyone is called by God to be a witness for Christ by doing something for others with my or your life, using my or your unique gifts and blessings. Hence, today's readings remind us of our personal and corporate call to become witnesses for Jesus, the *Lamb of God*, by leading lives of holiness and purity.

The first reading describes how Yahweh called Samuel to His service and how the boy Samuel responded to Him, saying, “*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.*” Hence, God blessed him in the mission entrusted to him and Samuel became an illustrious figure, ranking with Moses and David as a man of God. In the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 40), the psalmist sings, “*Behold, I come to do Your will,*” indicating that his vocation is to obey and to do what God commands him to do. In the second reading, St. Paul explains to the Corinthians that their Divine call is a call to holiness and they need to keep their bodies pure and souls holy, because by Baptism they have become parts of Christ's Body and the temples of the Holy Spirit and in the Gospel, John the Baptist claims that his vocation is to introduce Jesus to his own disciples as the “*Lamb of God,*” suggesting Jesus' vocation to become a sacrificial lamb to atone for our sins. The disciples followed Jesus to his residence, accepting his invitation to “*come and see.*” They stayed with him that day. Then Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus, presenting him to Jesus as the *Messiah*. Today's Gospel also describes the call or vocation of the first apostles and challenges us to invite others to Christ by our Christian witnessing.

Therefore, dear friends our Christian vocation is to live and die like the *Lamb of God*. We live like the *Lamb of God*: 1) by leading pure, innocent, humble, selfless lives, obeying Christ's commandment of love; 2) by appreciating the loving providence and protecting care of the Good Shepherd for his Church; 3) by partaking of the Body and Blood of the Good Shepherd in the Holy Eucharist and deriving spiritual strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the Sacraments.

We are called to die like the *Lamb of God*: a) by sharing sacrificially our blessings of health, wealth, and talents with others in the family, parish, and community; b) by bearing witness to Christ in our illness, pain, and suffering through our graceful acceptance of all of it; c) by offering our sufferings for God's glory, as penance for our sins, and for the conversion of sinners. Our call is to bear witness to the *Lamb of God*. Doing this requires a personal experience of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We get this personal experience of Jesus in our daily lives through the meditative reading and study of the Bible, through personal and family prayers, and through our active participation in the Eucharistic celebration. Once we have experienced the personal presence of Jesus in our daily lives, we will start sharing with others the *Good News* of love, peace, justice, tolerance, mercy, and forgiveness preached and lived by Jesus. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING is Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle School cafeteria.

ST. CECILIA PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING is Thursday, January 21, 7:00 p.m. in the rectory.

ST. CECILIA PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING is Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 p.m. in the rectory.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Classes in January will be held in the St. Cecilia parish center with class **beginning at 7:00 and ending at 8:30. Please note the change in time.** This change in times will remain in effect until further notice. In February, classes will be held in St. Thomas Knights of Columbus hall.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of January 17th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of January 24th: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

Week of January 31st: 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:

Monday, January 18 – No School K-8

Thursday, January 28 – Early Release, 12:50 p.m. car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE VIRTUAL WINTER FANTASY AND SILENT AUCTION: Tickets can be purchased for \$75 at Speedy B's or by contacting Kim Kliegel at 573-619-9188. There are less than 100 tickets left so get your tickets now before they are gone! The Early Bird winner is Jeff Hoelscher & Kathy Hendrix who will receive \$100. Silent auction items may be donated until January 15th. Please call Sarah Luebbert 573 694 1822 for details. Thank you for your support!

HELIAS' ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE for incoming freshmen is Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

You must go to the Helias website and sign up for a time to attend - www.heliascatholic.com. Freshman applications for the 2021/22 school year are also being accepted now on the website Admissions page. Once a student has applied and enrolled, they can select one of two nights to sign up for classes; Tuesday, February 9 from 4:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. or Wed., Feb 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please contact the Helias Admissions Office with any questions 573-635-6139. We look forward to meeting the Class of 2025!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST: Due to COVID-19 concerns and the lack of advancement opportunities, the local St. Thomas/Meta Knights of Columbus annual basketball free throw contest will **NOT** be held this year. The district, regional, and state competitions have also been canceled. For more information, please contact Steve Schellman at 573-694-3471.

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.diojefcity.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: The next meeting is Tuesday January 19 at 7:00 pm in the St. Thomas School Cafeteria. New members are always welcome!

COLE COUNTY PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 5: Candidates interested in running for a three year term on the Board of Directors must notify the District by 5:00 pm, January 19, 2021 to be included on the April 6, 2021 election ballot. Please notify Sheri Wieberg at **573-477-3497** if interested. (You must reside within the district one whole year before the election and be at least 25 years of age to hold a seat on the Board.)

ST. THOMAS CITY COUNCIL: If you are interested in running for a two-year term City Council position, please contact Susan Boessen, City Clerk, at (573) 619-4424. Leave a message with your name and contact number. You must reside within the city limits of St. Thomas to hold a Council position. Must apply by January 19, 2021.

META FIRE & RESCUE FPD BOARD: Is seeking candidates interested in serving on the Board of Directors to fill 2 positions, each one for a term of six years. Candidates must be a registered voter for at least one year, and must file by 5 p.m. on January 19, 2021 to be on the April 6, 2021 election ballot. PLEASE contact Board Secretary, Allen Wansing, at 573-690-8442 if interested.

GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMORIAL MONUMENT: Groundbreaking was held on Veterans Day for the God Star Family Memorial Monument near the Missouri State Capitol. This monument honors families that have lost loved ones while serving our country. This monument consists of 4 panels made of black granite. It reaches seven feet at its highest point and stretches 12 feet long. It will be built on city property adjacent to the Missouri Veterans Memorial at the Capitol and next to the entrance of the planned Bicentennial Bridge. Granite benches will be placed in the area for those who wish to reflect on the meaning of the monument. It will be completed by August 10, 2021 the anniversary of Missouri's admission to the union. Donations are welcome and will be graciously accepted. Please make checks payable to Mid-Missouri Gold Star Family Memorial Monument (MMGSFMM) Please send donations to Legends Bank, c/o Rosie Verslues, 130 E. McCarty St. Jefferson City, MO 65101

ST. ANTHONY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CARRY OUT BREAKFAST is Sunday, February 14, serving sausage, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs and applesauce from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the St. Anthony Parish Hall. Adults \$9.00, children 6-12 \$4.00. Raffle will be held.

THE OSAGE SENIOR CENTER, located in Wardsville, MO, is looking for interested seniors to fill possible vacancies and/or be placed on our waitlist for USDA or MHDC units. For more information call the office at 573-632-2712 and leave a message or email at osageseniorcenter@gmail.com. The Center is now under local management to better serve our residents.

BENEFIT for the Tina Bishoff Family- Saturday, January 30, 2021 at St. Thomas Parish Hall. The meal will be served from 4-7 pm (Carry out or Dine-in). Choice of Pork Steak, Cheesy Hash Brown Potatoes, Baked Beans, and Cole Slaw for \$12 or Hotdog, Baked Beans and Chips for \$5. Tea or lemonade will be served for dine-in only. Silent Auction will end at 7:00 pm, Live Auction will start at 7:30 pm. We are still accepting donations towards food, silent action, and the live auction. Tickets sold in advance, but only a limited amount will be sold at the door. Please contact Loree Libbert at 573-619-7359 or Loree.Libbert@gmail.com to donate or purchase tickets. Money raised will be given to the family for travel, lodging, medical and funeral expenses. Tina adopted her nephew Coty when he lost both of his parents back in 2010-2011. Tina had 5 biological children of her own before adopting Coty. Tina's son, Josh, was diagnosed with aplastic anemia. In August, 2020, Coty passed away from an UTV accident. A few weeks later, Josh had a bone marrow transplant in St. Louis. Numerous trips were taken to St. Louis before the transplant. Post transplant, Tina and Josh had to stay in St. Louis for 3 months. They are now home and Josh is doing well. We hope you are able to join us on January 30 for the fundraiser. If you are able to donate an item/items for the auctions, please contact Loree at the number or email listed above. Thank you for your generosity!

ST. NICHOLAS ACADEMY is a supportive living experience for boys from families that are under-resourced who want to give their sons every opportunity to succeed in school and life. Thanks to St. Nick's partners with families and St. Peter Interparish School to provide this opportunity. St. Nick's is seeking Christian, married couples or single individuals who are willing to be part of a pool of relief parents. The role of relief parents is to care for the boys and home when the full-time house parents are off duty or away. Typically, the full-time house parents are off duty every fourth weekend from 9:00 AM Friday through 7:00 PM Sunday. Relief parents, on a rotational schedule, fill in during this time. They may also be asked to be on a call list to help fill in when the house parents are on vacation and/or sick. Relief parents receive an hourly wage, all legally mandated benefits and a compensation package that includes a private suite and all meals for the days on duty. Please contact Sister Susan Renner, SSND at 573-635-7719 or director@stnick.org

THE DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY warns the public of what appears to be an ongoing phishing **scam** involving emails and texts purportedly from priests or parish/Chancery staff. This scam has hit many parishes across the United States. The email or text purports to be from a person the target knows, such as one's pastor, a parish staff member, the bishop or someone else from the Church. If the target responds to the fake email or text, the sender will follow up with a request for some sort of monetary assistance, often for gift cards or iTunes cards. It is truly unfortunate cyber criminals will attempt to exploit the generous nature of our community. Sending emails or texts asking for cash or gifts cards is not how priests, parishes or the Diocese of Jefferson City seeks financial assistance for our work. If you receive an email or text from a trusted church personnel asking for assistance, confirm by calling that person and do NOT respond to the email or text. For more information on phishing scams and email security, or The FBI website address to file an online Internet crime complaint is <https://www.ic3.gov>.

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