

**The Roman Catholic Parishes of**  
**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
in St. Thomas

**St. Cecilia**  
in Meta

[www.stthomasapostle.net](http://www.stthomasapostle.net)  
[www.stthomasapostleschool.net](http://www.stthomasapostleschool.net)

[www.stceciliameta.net](http://www.stceciliameta.net)

PO Box 146  
St. Thomas, MO 65076

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**JANUARY 24, 2021**

**Administrator: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi**  
[frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com](mailto:frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com)  
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

**St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:**  
**Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer**  
[jheckemeyerooffice@gmail.com](mailto:jheckemeyerooffice@gmail.com)

**St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:**  
**Mrs. Jenny Becker**  
[jbeckeroffice@gmail.com](mailto:jbeckeroffice@gmail.com)



**School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer**  
[lheckemeyer@stacs.school](mailto:lheckemeyer@stacs.school)  
School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

**St. Thomas the Apostle Secretary:**  
**Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff**  
[dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com](mailto:dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com)

**St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:**  
**Mrs. Doris Stumpe**  
[dstumpeoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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 24-31:**

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Bob Luebbering  
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Mary Jane Lueckenotte  
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Curt Stockman  
Friday 7:45 a.m. – John & Norma Ullman Anniversary  
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Imogene Volmert

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$177,919.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021:	<b>\$150,930.00</b>
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 29,989.00
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

**Collection in Church:**

January 3	\$ 6,729.00
January 10	\$ 3,756.00
January 17	\$ 1,576.00
January 24	\$
January 31	\$

**Collection Online:** \$ 6,152.00  
**January total to date:** **\$18,213.00**  
Difference for January: –\$ 7,204.00

**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): **\$18,213.00**

**Cantor/Organist**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kelsey Kliethermes / Annette Kehner  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Jackie Prenger

**St. Thomas the Apostle Reader**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mary Kay Brand

**St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Fred Luebbering & Mark Boessen  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Keith Kliethermes & Mike Buschjost

**Saint Cecilia**

**Mass Schedule for the Week of January 24-31:**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Henry & Bonita Kleffner

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Brian Wansing

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021:	<b>\$29,813.35</b>
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

**Collection in Church:**

January 3	\$ 935.00
January 10	\$1,025.00
January 17	\$ 745.00
January 24	\$
January 31	\$

**January total to date:** **\$ 2,705.00**  
Difference for January: –\$2,461.67

**COLLECTION COUNTERS:**

January: Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

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

**St. Cecilia Reader:**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

**Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia**

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

**St. Cecilia Ushers**

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

### **Mass live streamers**

January 31 – Jennifer Schroeder  
February 7 – Brooke Schell  
February 14 – Jeannette Schroeder  
Ash Wednesday – Lauri Luebbering  
February 21 – Karlie Reinkemeyer  
February 28 – Dunja Wieberg

**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 – Luminous Mysteries  
Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Luminous Mysteries

**SCRIP:** Visit [www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip](http://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 28** – Dana Dudenhoeffer & Maureen Eggen **Thursday, February 4** – Marilee Fischer & Lori Fowler  
Please bring snack to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strope at 573-477-3349.

**BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**CONSTRUCTION WORK AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE:** There is a new staircase being built going to the steeple/bells in church, and tuck pointing being done on the school. Thank you to the parishioners for all their prayers and contributions.

**Blessings, Fr. Leonard**

**PASTOR'S MEDITATION:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in ordinary time year B: **SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: Jon. 3:1-5, 10; I Cor. 7:29-31; Mk. 1: 14-20**

On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. We should be reminded of the role of the Word of God in the life of the Church: In the hearing of God's word the Church is built up and grows, and in the signs of the liturgical celebration God's wonderful, past works in the history of salvation are presented anew as mysterious realities. God in turn makes use of the congregation of the faithful that celebrates the Liturgy in order that his word may speed on and be glorified and that his name be exalted among the nations. Whenever, therefore, the Church, gathered by the Holy Spirit for liturgical celebration, announces and proclaims the word of God, she is aware of being a new people in whom the covenant made in the past is perfected and fulfilled.

Baptism and confirmation in the Spirit have made all Christ's faithful into messengers of God's word because of the grace of hearing they have received. We must therefore be the bearers of the same word in the Church and in the world, at least by the witness of our lives. The word of God proclaimed in the celebration of God's mysteries does not only address present conditions but looks back to past events and forward to what is yet to come. Thus God's word shows us what we should hope for with such a longing that in this changing world our hearts will be set on the place where our true joys lie. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God"

The word of God today underlines our absolute need of repentance and our immediate need for a prompt response to God's call. The first reading tells us how God had to deal with the disobedient, fleeing prophet Jonah to turn him around (convert him), so that he would go to Nineveh to preach repentance there. The wicked people of Nineveh, however, accepted Jonah as God's prophet at once, and promptly responded to God's call for repentance as Jonah preached it. In the second reading, Paul urges the Christian community in Corinth to lose no time in accepting the message of the Gospel and in renewing their lives with repentance because Jesus' *second coming* may occur at any moment. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus came to Galilee and began preaching, challenging people to "*repent and believe in the Gospel.*" Just as John did, Jesus also called for *repentance*, meaning a change in one's mind or in the direction of one's life and setting new priorities. Repentance also means hating sin itself, not just being sorry for the consequences of one's sins. *Believing* in the Gospel demands from the hearers a resolution to take Jesus' words seriously, to translate them into action, and to put trust in Jesus' authority. Jesus preached the *Gospel*, or Good News, that God is a loving, forgiving, caring and merciful Father Who wants to liberate us and save us from our sins through His son Jesus. By describing the call of Jesus' first disciples, Andrew, Peter, James, and John, today's Gospel also emphasizes how we, sinners, are to respond to God's call with total commitment by abandoning our accustomed style of sinful life. Jesus started his public ministry immediately after John the Baptist was arrested. According to Mark, Jesus selected four fishermen, Andrew and his brother Peter with James and his brother John, right from their fishing boats. Jesus wanted these ordinary, hard-working people as assistants for his ministry because they would be very responsive and generous instruments in the hands of God.

**Friends we** need to appreciate our call to become Christ's disciples: Every one of us is called by God, both individually, and collectively as a parish community, to continue Jesus' mission of preaching the Good News of God's Kingdom and healing the sick. 2) We are called individually to a way of life or vocation: – a religious commitment (priest, deacon, missionary, religious Sister or Brother, marriage partner, or single person), plus a particular occupation rising from our talents (medicine, law, teaching, healing, writing, art, music, building and carpentry, homemaking, child-rearing ....). Our own unique vocation should enable us to become what God wants us to be. As St. Francis Sales puts it, we are expected to bloom where we are planted. 3) Our call, of course, begins with our Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation. It is strengthened through the years with the Eucharist and Reconciliation, healed and consoled by Anointing and, for those so called, made manifest in the sacraments of Matrimony or Holy Orders. The amazing truth is that God is relentless in calling us back to Himself even when we stray away from Him. 4) Let us be thankful to God for His Divine grace of calling us to be members of the true Church. Let us remember that it is our vocation in life as Christians to transmit Christ's Light through our living, radiating Jesus' unconditional love, mercy, forgiveness, and humble service to all in our society. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukibi***

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

**ST. CECILIA HOLY HOUR** is Friday, January 29, 7:00 p.m.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Confirmation classes will be held in the St. Thomas K. of C. Hall in February. There will be NO CLASS on February 17, Ash Wednesday. **Instead, Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday Mass.** In March, classes will be held in St. Cecilia parish center.

**ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:**

Week of January 24<sup>th</sup>: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman  
Week of January 31<sup>st</sup>: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter  
Week of February 7<sup>th</sup>: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost  
Week of February 14<sup>th</sup>: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter  
Week of February 21<sup>st</sup>: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman  
Week of February 28<sup>th</sup>: 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, January 28 – Early Release, 12:50 p.m. car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders  
Catholic School s Week – January 31-February 5  
Friday, February 5 – Mid Quarter

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE VIRTUAL WINTER FANTASY AND SILENT AUCTION:** Thank you to all parishioners that have so kindly donated items for the online silent auction! The generosity of this community is a blessing. If you would like to contribute please reach out to a committee member or the Parish office and let them know what you will be donating. As a reminder, the online silent auction will begin January 30 and run through February 6. Please check future bulletins, the Facebook page and the Winter Fantasy website ([www.stthomasapostle.net](http://www.stthomasapostle.net)....under Events tab) for more information.

**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.

**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](http://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!

**THE WILLIAM SIMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND** awards scholarships to Catholic students in the Jefferson City Diocese who are in financial need for attending an accredited college of the student's choice. The scholarship is \$1,000 per semester. Please see Jan, Jenny, Diane or Doris for the application or [www.diojeffcity.org/scholarships](http://www.diojeffcity.org/scholarships). Students from St. Thomas have been awarded this scholarship in the past. Applications must be returned to the Chancery by March 31, 2021. All applicants will be notified of the results by May 1, 2021.

**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](mailto:Loree.Libbert@gmail.com) or Brenda Schell at 301-4907 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](mailto:director@stnick.org)

**SAVE THE DATE: 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 Church  
 Budget Summary  
 July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020**

<b>Income</b>	
General (Sunday collections, fundraisers, gifts from benefactors) (Includes Picnic profit of \$63,278.57)	\$252,628.07
Special (Includes Building & Improvement Fund contributions and CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program funding)	\$ 77,927.78
Diocesan collections	\$ 6,115.00
Universal Church collections	\$ 2,954.00
Parish School (includes grants and gifts from benefactors)	\$169,683.34
Pre-School	<u>\$ 30,112.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$539,420.19</u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Church & Rectory General (Includes \$5,804.26 for Rectory deck replacement)	\$ 64,845.18
Church & Rectory Special (loan payment, improvements projects)	\$115,353.57
Diocesan collections	\$ 5,127.00
Universal Church collections	\$ 1,690.00
Parish School	\$299,630.53
Pre-School	\$ 35,339.47
Religious Education (PSR)	\$ 1,683.64
Vitae House	\$ 1,403.66
Parish Center (Includes \$5,160.00 for new A/C unit)	<u>\$ 32,997.29</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$558,070.34</u>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<u>\$ 18,650.15</u>

