

**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

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**JANUARY 3, 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 3-10:**

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Celeste Suthoff  
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Alfred & Angeline Berhorst  
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Agnes Wieberg & Nancy Jaegers  
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Jeremy Luebbering  
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Stanley Strope  
People of our Parishes  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Curt Stockman

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00  
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$152,502.00  
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$132,717.00**  
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 19,785.00  
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

**Collection in Church:**

December 6 \$ 5,265.00  
December 13 \$ 2,420.00  
December 20 \$ 5,945.00  
December 27 \$ 2,160.00

**Collection Online:**

December total to date: **\$21,942.00**  
Difference for December: -\$ 3,475.00

**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): **\$13,059.00**

**Cantor/Organist**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kerry Meyer / Jackie Prenger  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Judy Schroeder / Jackie Prenger

**St. Thomas the Apostle Reader**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Greg Russell

**St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark Boessen & Eric Strope  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Eric & Keith Boessen

**Saint Cecilia**

**Mass Schedule for the Week of January 3-10:**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Daniel "Danny" Scheulen

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Ben & Jason Hake

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00  
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$27,108.35**  
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

**Collection in Church:**

December 6 \$ 1,016.00  
December 13 \$ 1,575.00  
December 20 \$ 860.00  
December 27 \$ 1,840.00  
**December total to date: \$ 5,291.00**  
Difference for December: -\$ 124.33

**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. – Jennifer Even

**Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia**

Wednesday 6:05 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen -Glorious Mysteries  
Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer – Joyful Mysteries

**St. Cecilia Ushers**

Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Leonard Schulte & Harold Libbert

### **Mass live streamers**

January 3 – Dunja Wieberg

January 10 – Brooke Schell

January 17 – Lauri Luebbering

January 24 – 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 – Joyful Mysteries

Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Tina Stockman – Joyful 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 7** – Julie Buschjost & Kristin Buschjost    **Thursday, January 14** – Charlene Buschjost & Susan Buschjost  
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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to ***Dakota Ray Buechter***, son of Craig & Kaylie Buechter, who became a child of God through baptism this weekend in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

**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 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, **\$1,645.00** received so far

The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$10,000, **\$7,990.00** received so far

**2020 CHRISTMAS/SEMINARY ASSESSMENT:** Our assessment for Seminarian Formation and Priest Retirement is \$793.00 for St. Cecilia and \$4,212.00 for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Please support the formation and education of our Diocese's future priests.

**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.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE & ST. CECILIA CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** will be taken down after the Sunday Masses on January 10. Your help will be welcomed.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Classes will resume January 6th in 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 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

Week of January 10<sup>th</sup>: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of January 17<sup>th</sup>: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

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

*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.*

**PASTOR'S MEDITATION: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Is.60:1-6; Eph.3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt.2:1-12)**

There is a tradition in the Church that today, on the Epiphany; the Magi are placed at the manger scene in the Church or in people's homes. Some will actually have the Magi begin Christmas in the back of the Church or in an obscure room in their house and each day move the statues closer to the manger scene as to symbolize their journey to Bethlehem as they give the Lord the gifts of Frankincense, Myrrh, and Gold. In some cultures, they give gifts on Epiphany and not Christmas as a way to remember the gifts of the magi to Jesus Christ. Epiphany is not only about the Magi and gift-giving, Truly, today the Epiphany is about the revelation of God to all of mankind. It is about his entering into visibility so that we might know him as God. Epiphany is about the birth of Jesus Christ, it is about the revelation to the magi, it is about the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan, it's about the changing the water into wine at the Wedding Feast of Cana, and it's about the transfiguration of Jesus Christ before Peter, James, and John. All of these are deliberate moments when God revealed himself to us. This feast is about all of these and more, for God continues to reveal himself, even at this Mass, he reveals himself to us. This is what today's feast is about. It's about our Epiphany of God's existence. I would like to make mention of today's Gospel. We have King Herod and the Magi. King Herod symbolizes all that about pride and self-preservation. Everything in Jerusalem revolved around him. People watched his move; they talked about where he spent money or exercised his power. They wondered what he knew. And everything in Herod's life revolved around keeping himself propped up to be in power and influential. He wanted to keep his wealth, he wanted to keep his power, he wanted to keep his knowledge and anything that is a threat to this he wanted to do away with. We know what he did after the birth of Jesus. He killed all the babies two years old and younger in Bethlehem and the surrounding area to end the threat to his power. We know that when living a life of pride and self-preservation, the end result will not be life and will not be joy, but one of a slow death and sorrow. Sometimes we are like Herod and not the Magi. The Magi represent those who are of humility and generosity. They know that what they have, they have received from something greater than them. They have received from God. Their wealth, symbolized by the gold, their power symbolized by the frankincense and their knowledge symbolized by the Myrrh all come from God. They knew this and therefore were aware of the birth of the savior. They had seen it in the sky. They knew this truth and therefore went to pay homage. How different their attitude was from Herod. Herod who was bent on keeping himself in power and wealth saw everything as a threat but the magi saw that they had received as a gift from God all they had and therefore saw the birth of the King as something which they could rejoice and offer back to God what they had. Whenever we get good things let us remember the creator and not the creature. We will be doing the exact same thing that the Magi represent in today's Gospel. This is the way of humility, the way to life, joy and happiness. One of the things that I like to do is to ask children what their favorite gift they gave to someone for Christmas. It usually stumps them because they want to tell me what they received from others. Yet, if we follow the Magi's example the giving will bring us greater joy. The Magi came to the crib and offered the Lord and Savior their treasures out of humility and generosity because of what God had done. We too do this when we give out of gratitude for what God has blessed us with. Finally, I want to mention the last phrase of the Gospel. We hear that the Magi after paying homage to Jesus and giving their gifts went home by another way. Indeed, they could not go home by the same way. They had been changed by their encounter with Jesus and so had to go home a different way. We too when we encounter Jesus we will be changed and transformed. The question for us to ask is which way will we go? We need to take the way of truth, faith, love, peace and generosity. Today's feast of the Epiphany is all about our being "a light brightly visible" to the surrounding community, as with the wise men of old, we see by faith the star that hovered over the stable where Christ, the Savior of the World was born. Let us use this feast to rededicate ourselves to the work of evangelization. Happy New Year.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:**

January 4 – School Resumes

January 8 – Report cards go home

**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. The 2021 Virtual Winter Fantasy Silent Auction needs your donations today! The auction will be opening soon and we need your auction items by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please take a moment to pull together your donation (basket, service, etc.) and notify Sarah Luebbering at 573-694-1822 when it's ready. Additional details and donation ideas are available at <https://spark.adobe.com/page/6EqhJ4qePwjOg/>.

**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.

**BENEFIT:** Tina Bischoff Family Benefit- Tina adopted her nephew Coty when he lost both of his parents back in 2010-2011. In 2015, her son Josh was diagnosed with aplastic anemia. This year 2020, Josh had to have a bone marrow transplant. Tina's other son, John, was a match. In August this year, Coty passed away from an UTV accident and John had surgery to be the donor for his brother. In September, 2020, Josh had his transplant in St. Louis. Tina and Josh will have to stay in St. Louis until January, 2021 so the hospital can monitor his progress. We are asking the community to please join "WE GOT THIS BISCH" by providing any donations (items and/or cash) to be auctioned or to go towards a meal during the benefit which will be held **January 30, 2021** at the St. Thomas Parish Hall. Your donations will assist in raising funds to help a wonderful family with their travel, lodging, medical and funeral expenses. Call or text Loree Libbert at (573) 619-7359 or email her at [Loree.Libbert@gmail.com](mailto:Loree.Libbert@gmail.com) if you would like to donate. More information will be forthcoming regarding the meal and live/silent auctions. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**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. 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)

**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