

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)

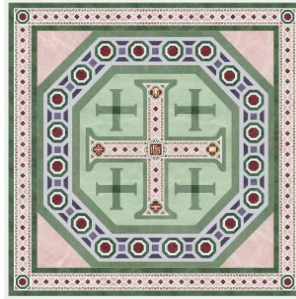
PO Box 146  
St. Thomas, MO 65076

**17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**JULY 26, 2020**

**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**  
[lheckemeyerstacs@gmail.com](mailto:lheckemeyerstacs@gmail.com)  
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 July 26-August 2:**

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. –Sylvanus Hoecker  
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. –No Mass (Summer Schedule)  
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Alfred & Angeline Berhorst,  
Larry Rehagen  
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Tom (Butch) Loethen  
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Lucille Veit

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00  
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$ 25,417.00  
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$ 18,503.00**  
Offertory Difference Year to Date: –\$ 6,914.00  
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

**Collection in Church:**

July 5 \$ 4,551.00  
July 12 \$ 5,550.00  
July 19 \$ 2,400.00  
July 26 \$

**Collection Online:** \$ 6,002.00  
**July total to date:** **\$ 18,503.00**  
Difference for July: –\$ 6,914.00

**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): **\$1,504.00**  
Loan payments to date for FY 2020-2021: **\$ 0.00**  
Principal \$0.00 Interest \$0.00  
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$95,833.45**

**Cantor/Organist**

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

**St. Thomas the Apostle Reader**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Barb Graessle  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering

**St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Richard Schellman & Mike Groner  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Eric & Keith Boessen

**Saint Cecilia**

**Mass Schedule for the Week of July 26-August 2:**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Leo & Betsy Wieberg

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Margie Luebbert  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Ben & Jason Hake

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00  
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$ 3,890.00**  
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

**Collection in Church:**

July 5 \$ 1,445.00  
July 12 \$ 950.00  
July 19 \$ 1,495.00  
July 26 \$

**July total to date:** **\$ 3,890.00**  
Difference for July: –\$ 1,226.67

**COLLECTION COUNTERS:**

August: Dale & Margie Helton

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

**St. Cecilia Reader:**

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Betty Hagenhoff

**Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia**

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

**St. Cecilia Ushers**

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Mitch Stumpe & Darin Even  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Leonard Schulte & Kenny Otto

**Mass live streamers**

August 2 – Dunja Wieberg  
August 9 – Karlie Reinkemeyer  
August 16 – Jennifer Schroeder  
August 23 – Brooke Schell  
August 30 - Lauri Luebbering  
September 6 – Jennifer Schroeder

**Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle**

Tuesday 7:20 a.m. – Joann Heckman – Sorrowful Mysteries  
Thursday 7:20 a.m. – Viola Boessen – Luminous Mysteries  
Friday 7:20 a.m. – Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries  
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Barb Graessle – Sorrowful Mysteries  
Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe – Sorrowful 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.

**BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S JULY PRAYER INTENTION:** For the unity of our country: that the God of truth may open our hearts to the truth of the Gospel, that peace may rule our hearts, and that justice may guide our nation of one people of many races.

**PASTOR'S MEDITATION:** 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time year A: **THE GREATEST TREASURE IS ACCEPTING GOD TO RULE OUR LIFE.** Today's readings teach us that Faith in Jesus as our God and Savior and sacrificing everything in life to do the will of God is equivalent to discovering and possessing the most valuable treasure or the pearl of great price. In other words, keeping a personal relationship with Christ and sharing his view of life are the most beautiful, the most precious things in the world.

The first reading tells us how the young King Solomon opted for the great treasure of accepting God to rule his life by doing God's will. That is why he requested of God for the gift of prudence, "*an understanding heart to distinguish right from wrong, so that he might govern God's people properly.*" Yahweh was pleased with his request and granted him a *wise and discerning heart* which enabled him to surpass everyone in wisdom.

In the second reading, Paul teaches that wisdom to perceive God's grace and use it, is essential for those who want to follow Him and to do His will, thus remaining in His Kingdom. He assures Rome's Christian community that "*all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.*"

In the Gospel, using three mini parables, Jesus teaches us that God's Kingdom (the rule of God in us, accepting Jesus as our God and Savior, putting our Faith in God and doing His will), is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl, and that possessing it calls for a total commitment to preserve it. The Kingdom of God is God's reign in our hearts, in our lives, in our homes, in our society, and in our world. Only those who develop a searching mind and a heart willing to give up everything for the great treasure of God's Kingdom will be rewarded. Through the first and second parables of the treasure and pearl, Jesus teaches us that identifying God's will and living according to the Gospel (both with His grace), are the most precious and worthwhile things in life. Through Jesus and his Gospel, we come to know and understand the real meaning of life, the will of God for us each day, and the most important things we must do to secure our eternal salvation. Dear friends we should live every moment in view of our precious goal. Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, social status or worldly pleasures and the real valuable "pearl" of sharing in God's life through Jesus here on earth and later in Heaven, is never found. Let us always remember that Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God, following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world's joys and pleasures within the framework of God's Commandments. When we do this, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth.

We need to take all precautions to keep our greatest treasure safe: We will be able to keep safe the treasure of our personal relationship with Jesus by accepting him every day as our God and Savior, by allowing him to have total control over our lives through our loving obedience to his will, by asking him daily for the strengthening and guidance of his Holy Spirit, by talking to him daily in prayer, by listening to him in our meditative reading of the holy scriptures, by getting reconciled to him and others every day, asking pardon and forgiveness for our sins, by offering Him our lives on the altar during the Holy Mass, and by allowing Him to nourish our souls frequently, by receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

**NOTE TO ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISHIONERS "MASS CHANGES AFTER JUNE 16, 2020":** As you may have heard, Governor Parson lifted the statewide health order beginning June 16, 2020. Shortly thereafter, the Diocese of Jefferson City issued an updated Decree On Pastoral Activities which loosens some of the previous restrictions. The Decree document is on page 4 of the bulletin and also on the website and Facebook page. With these considerations in mind, the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish will be implementing new guidelines starting immediately:

- Masks are encouraged.
- If you are symptomatic for COVID-19 please do not enter church.

**SEATING:**

- The Blessed Virgin Mary side of the church will remain roped off for the next few weeks to allow for continued social distancing for those who prefer it.
- The St. Joseph side of the church and balcony will be open for seating as normal. Usher and Reader assignments will return to normal. Please watch the bulletin. If you do not wish to be assigned, please contact Diane Lueckenhoff at 573-645-5794, [dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com](mailto:dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com) or the Parish Office. Special instructions (checklist) for Ushers will be in back of church at each entrance. You are responsible for finding a replacement.
- Please maintain social distancing during Communion. The floor is marked for this purpose.
- There will be no offertory procession or sign of peace.
- Stationary basket(s) are available for offertory collection envelopes. The baskets are currently located in the aisle near handicap pew.
- Communion ministers are to sanitize hands before **and** after distributing Holy Communion and must use facemasks during distribution of Holy Communion.
- Missals are at the back of church. If you take one, please take it home with you as this becomes your personal missal.
- Hand sanitizers and masks are available in back of church.
- Holy water fonts will remain empty.
- If you are uncomfortable in returning to Mass at St Thomas the Apostle, Bishop McKnight has dispensed the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligations until September 11, 2020 provided you follow one of the three (3) obligations found in his decree. St Thomas the Apostle will continue to live stream the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass for you to view. Thanks for your patience!

**PLEASE READ: ST. CECILIA CHURCH MASS CHANGES AFTER JUNE 16, 2020:** With the uplifting of the statewide health order that began on June 15, 2020 and the update from the Diocese of Jefferson City on Decree on Pastoral Activities, the following will apply to St. Cecilia Church. The Decree document is located on page 4 of the bulletin and is posted on the website.

- Entrance is thru the front door and after mass you may exit thru front door and side doors.
- If you have a fever, cough, sore throat, symptomatic or been exposed to someone with the virus within the last 14 days- PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS.
- Masks are encouraged.
- SEATING: The left side of church is open with the right side of the church with pews marked for seating in every other row as previous. Feel free to set where you feel most comfortable. Social distancing is still encouraged.
- There will be no offertory or sign of peace.
- Maintain social distancing during communion, the floor is marked for the distancing.
- The tithing/offertory basket is located in the aisle in entrance of church.
- Missals are located in the back of church, if you take one, please take home after mass and bring back with you to the next mass Please do not put back on the table.
- Holy Fonts will remain empty of holy water.
- If you are uncomfortable in coming back to Mass, Bishop McKnight has dispensed the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday's and Holy Days of Obligations until September 11, 2020 provided you follow one of the three (3) obligations found in his decree.

**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>.

**MENTORED IN CHRIST** is a full day workshop for anyone serving a catechetical role in parishes is Friday, August 14, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral Undercroft. Light breakfast & full lunch are provided and there is no cost to participate. Please register on line on the Diocese of Jefferson City website - Upcoming Workshops.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE RECTORY HOUSE CLEANING:** St Thomas the Apostle is looking for someone to conduct a monthly (or as needed) deep cleaning of Fr. Leonard's house. This could be for contract hire (on a per cleaning basis) or as part of your monthly stewardship. Anyone interested feel free to contact the St. Thomas Parish Office or call Alan Reinkemeyer at 573-694-6984 by August 1, 2020. Additional details on the size and scope of the cleaning duties will be shared once interested parties make contact. Thanks!

**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 HOLY HOUR** is Friday, July 31, 7:00 p.m. St. Cecilia Church.

**MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION** is Tuesday, July 28, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

**A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY** will be prayed on Tuesday, August 4, 5:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING** is Tuesday, July 28, 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Many items will be on this agenda. We welcome our newest members, Bob Schellman, Sarah Luebbert and Debbie Stroe.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH** will be having a picnic on Sunday, August 16. We will be serving cafeteria style. Menu will be the same. If you cannot work or do not feel comfortable working, please contact Larry Lueckenhoff by text, phone or email 573-619-6783, [lueckenhoff@embarqmail.com](mailto:lueckenhoff@embarqmail.com). The Picnic Committee will be reaching out to the Cole County Health Department for any input/restrictions that they might have.

**ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS:** The parish is asking each family to donate \$100 and each single household member to donate \$50 to the St. Cecilia Picnic Fund. The Quilt Auction will be held at the Citizens Civic League Fall Supper in September. Proceeds from Quilt Auction will be split as usual. Please put donations in an envelope marked "St. Cecilia Picnic" and checks should be made payable to St. Cecilia Picnic also.

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

Week of July 26<sup>th</sup>: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of August 9<sup>th</sup>: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

*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.*

**GRASS CUTTING ROTATION: THE ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH GROUNDS "GRASS CUTTING TEAM ROTATION" FOR THE UPCOMING WEEKS:**

Week of July 27: Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempff

Week of August 3: Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL** is looking for a full time preschool aide for the 2020-2021 school year. If interested, please contact Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer or Miss Jay Bax on the school number, which is 573-477-3322. Please leave a message if no one answers and we will get back to you.

**SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Picnic – August 16, 2020

St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Farm tractor pull – September 12, 2020

St. Thomas Garden tractor-pull – September 19, 2020

**ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH, WARDSVILLE CHAPEL HOURS:** Although the chapel isn't open yet (except Adoration in church M-F, 8-6--and optional for the other times outside those hours) here are the hours that will be available when it does open. Thanks. Saturday morning 4:00-5:00 a.m.; Saturday morning 10:00-11:00 a.m.; Sunday morning 1:00-2:00 a.m.; Sunday morning 2:00-3:00 a.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday only); Monday morning 1:00-2:00 a.m.; Monday morning 3:00-4:00 a.m. Please call Donna if you would like to sign up for any of these hours. 680-1470 or 635-2095. Thank you!

**THE OSAGE SENIOR CENTER** located in Wardsville, has an urgent need for a part time general maintenance person. If you are retired or a full time worker wanting a to work a few hours each week and would like to earn a little extra cash, call 573-469-8426 or email [OSC@gmail.com](mailto:OSC@gmail.com).

**WKCSO FALL SOCCER SIGN-UPS** will be held at the Westphalia KC hall on Monday evening, July 27 from 4:00-6:00 PM. All kids ages 3-14 (on 8/1/20) welcome. Email [wksoccerclub@gmail.com](mailto:wksoccerclub@gmail.com) with any questions.

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH PICNIC WESTPHALIA is Sunday, August 2 – DRIVE THRU ONLY.** Dinners will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fried chicken and German pot roast, real mashed potatoes, & gravy, green beans & cole slaw – family style carry-out meals. 4 meals \$40.00, single meals \$12.00. Raffle & Kettle Corn available for purchase in the drive through line.

**SACRED HEART PARISH PICNIC, RICH FOUNTAIN** is Sunday, August 9. Dinners will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Fried chicken & German pot roast, mashed potatoes, green beans & slaw (no dessert or bread) \$12.00. Carry-outs & drive through but outdoor picnic tables available. Quilt auction 6:00 p.m., no bleacher seating, please feel free to bring a lawn chair. NO kids games, bingo, country store or kiddie tractor pull.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT COVID-19 PANDEMIC REMINDERS:** Please check the Diocesan webpage at <https://diojeffcity.org/public-health/Information> can be found on the St Thomas Parish website at <http://www.stthomasapostle.net/> and St. Cecilia website at <http://www.stceciliameta.net/>

**Tithe/Financial Commitment:** Please strive to keep up with your **financial commitment** to the parish during this time when public worship and events have been restricted or suspended. The work of our parishes and staff continues with ongoing expenses and financial obligations. There will be a basket in Church to place your envelope in if you attend Mass." **St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners** can mail contributions to the parish office at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, PO Box 146, St. Thomas, MO 65076. Or you may sign up for electronic giving through ACH payments. Blank ACH forms are available in St. Thomas the Apostle Church entrances and on the parish website. Call or email the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish office if you have questions about ACH payments.

**For St. Cecilia Parishioners** that would like to contribute towards their weekly/monthly Tithe, please feel free to do so. The contribution envelope can be mailed to St. Cecilia Parish, P.O. Box 146, St. Thomas, MO 65076 to the attention of Doris Stumpe. Your contribution will be graciously appreciated to keep the upkeep/expenses of the parish going during this time of COVID-19.

**Outreach to our parish community/vicinity:** Please contact the parish offices, Father Leonard or a PPC member of your needs or the needs of others. If you wish to volunteer, the Diocese enrollment is at <https://diojeffcity.org/parish-disaster-responders-team-volunteer-form>. If you know of someone needing assistance, please don't hesitate to call.

**Updates and Communications:** Ongoing updates will be communicated through the following: St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia parish websites, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and School Facebook pages, marquee signs at both churches, and church bulletins.

**Other Information:** The CDC's COVID-19 page is an accurate, credible source that is consistently updated with directives from the White House. The webpage is found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

#### **ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PICNIC UPDATE:**

Our annual St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday August 16th. The Picnic Committee has met several times in order to plan the best and safest picnic possible following local Cole County Health Department Guidelines.

Over the last several weeks parishioners were asked (via church bulletin) to contact Larry Lueckenhoff at 573-619-6783 if they had concerns about attending and/or working the picnic. Those who have contacted Larry have been respectfully released from this year's worklist. We do have fewer volunteers than previous years, but do have a strong contingent of parish volunteers to host a successful event.

While we have fewer volunteers, we still have an extensive group willing to help host a successful event. Some modifications and changes have been made. They include:

- Close consultation with the Cole County Health Department has taken place throughout the picnic planning process.
- No "family style" meal. We will be utilizing a serving line system.
- Desserts will be served in a covered container.
- Less tables in the dining room to allow additional spacing. Tables will be wiped down with a disinfectant after each use.
- No silverware. We will be using plastic plates and sturdy plastic ware.
- We are considering a Drive Thru Carry-Out system. More details to follow.
- No Kidsville, Craft Stand or Cake Walk (for this year).
- The Concession Stand will be moved back up to the area by school.
- There will be a 50/50 raffle added.
- With no Craft Stand, the Quilt Auction area can be expanded to allow for greater social distancing.
- Hand sanitizing stations available.
- Masks are encouraged for those who want to wear them.

Please pray for good weather and a successful picnic!

**Respectfully – The St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Picnic Planning Committee**