

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

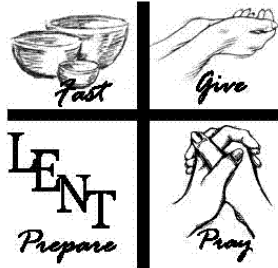
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 14, 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. Theresa Veit
tveitoffice@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: Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.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 March 14-21:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Geneva Plassmeyer
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Dennis Struempf
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Gerhard & Adela Weber Family
Friday 7:45 a.m. – L&D John H. Boessen Family

Stations of the Cross – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Curt Stockman
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Pat Kliegel

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$228,753.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$191,649.00**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 37,104.00
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

March 7 \$ 5,355.00
March 14 \$
March 21 \$
March 28 \$

Collection Online: \$ 5,117.00
March total to date: **\$10,472.00**
Difference for March: -\$14,945.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$16,729.00**

Cantor/Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kelsey Kliethermes / Jackie Prenger
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. – Tom Backes

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Fred Luebbering & Mark Boessen
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff & Larry Lueckenhoff

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters:

March 21 – Paul Becker & Shara Buechter
March 28 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes
April 4 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
April 11 – Jennifer Schroeder & Dunja Wieberg

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of March 14-21:

Stations of the Cross – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Lawrence & Scott Otto

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$37,406.35**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

March 7 \$ 950.00
March 14 \$
March 21 \$
March 28 \$

March total to date: **\$ 950.00**
Difference for March: -\$4,216.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

March – Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotto

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

St. Cecilia Reader:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

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

St. Cecilia Ushers

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

Mass live streamers: If anyone is interested in helping livestream the 10:00 a.m. Mass, please contact Barbara Graessle at 573-680-2954.

March 21 – Lauri Luebbering

March 28 – Karlie Reinkemeyer

April 1 (Holy Thursday) 7:00 p.m. – Jennifer Schroeder

April 2 (Good Friday) 7:00 p.m. – Lauri Luebbering

April 3 (Holy Saturday) 8:00 p.m. – Lauri Luebbering

April 4 (Easter Sunday) 10:00 a.m. – Karlie Reinkemeyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle

Tuesday, 7:20 a.m. – Joann Heckman – Sorrowful Mysteries

Wednesday 7:20 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Glorious Mysteries

Thursday 7:20 a.m. - Viola Boessen – Luminous Mysteries

Friday 7:20 a.m. – Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries

Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Sorrowful Mysteries

Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Tina Stockman– Sorrowful Mysteries

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Daffiny Tallent at 573-694-4408 to purchase anytime.

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS: Anyone entering the St. Thomas Parish School building must wear a mask at all times, except when quilting. Must be fever free or no temperature of 100 or higher. Please take your temperature at home.

Thursday, March 18 – Joann Heckman & April Heckman

Thursday, March 25 – Tricia Heisen & Sonya Henson

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.

VOTIVE CANDLES: \$2.50

MASS STIPENDS: \$10.00

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH: Effective March 9, 2021, we welcome Theresa Veit as the new St. Thomas Parish Administrative Assistant. The St. Thomas Apostle Parish office hours will change beginning the week of March 15, 2021 to **THURSDAYS, 8:30am to 11:30am**. If you need to contact Theresa, her email is tveitoffice@gmail.com.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PRAYER LINE REQUESTS should be emailed to Theresa Veit at tveitoffice@gmail.com or by calling 573-418-7301.

CONSTRUCTION WORK AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE: The stairs to the bell tower in Church can be accessed now.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTION: Through the example and intercession of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, may a gentle disposition rule our hearts and allow for charity, reconciliation, and mercy in our lives.

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: *This is the last week to meet the March 15 deadline for donations to the CSA.* Please donate if you haven't already done so. Your donation is greatly appreciated to help meet our goal.

The CSA goal for St. Cecilia Parish is \$2,500, **\$2,095.00** received so far

The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$10,000, **\$8,355.00** received so far

FORMED: This week's recommending viewing on FORMED: *St. Patrick: Pilgrimage to Peace-* Go beyond the Legends and cliches to discover the real Saint Patrick, a man whose life continues to call us to be the peace of Christ. *Catholic Heroes: The Story of Saint Patrick* - Family friendly story of St Patrick.

RCIA CLASSES are going on every Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for those who have registered, also open to those that want to further enrich their faith life. Please contact Fr. Leonard Mukiibi if you are interested.



PASTOR'S MEDITATION: OUR SALVATION IS THE FREE GIFT OF A MERCIFUL GOD, GIVEN TO US SINNERS THROUGH JESUS, HIS SON. (2Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph. 2:4-10; Jn. 3:14-21)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called rejoice (*Letare*) Sunday, from the first words of today's liturgy. Rose-colored vestments may replace violet, and flowers may grace the altar, symbolizing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of Our Lord. The central theme of today's readings is that our salvation is the free gift of a merciful God, given to us sinners through Jesus, His Son. The readings stress God's mercy and compassion and remind us of the great love, kindness and grace extended to us in Christ.

In the first reading, taken from the Second Book of Chronicles, we learn the compassion and patience of God. God chose Cyrus the Great, a pagan conqueror, to become the instrument of His mercy and salvation of His chosen people exiled in Babylon. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 137), the Psalmist voices the pain of exile the captives of Judah suffered. In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus. Today's Gospel provides a theme that parallels the Gospel, but on a much higher level. Jesus, the Son of God, becomes the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but for the sinfulness of the whole world. The Gospel teaches us that God has expressed His love, mercy, and compassion for us by giving His only Son for our salvation. Nicodemus, the wealthy Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, meets Jesus by night and begins a long religious discussion. Jesus explains to him that he must believe Jesus' words because Jesus is the Son of God, and, by referring to the story of Moses and the bronze serpent (Nm 21:1-9), further explains God's plan of salvation. Just as God saved the victims of serpent bite from death through the bronze serpent, He is going to save mankind from its sins by permitting the crucifixion and death of His Son Jesus, because the love of God for mankind is that great.

We therefore need to love the cross, the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love: As a reminder not only of God's love and mercy, but also of the price of our salvation, the crucifix invites us to more than simple generosity and compassion. It inspires us to remove the suffering of other people's misery. It encourages us not only to feel deep sorrow for another's suffering, but also to try our best to remove that suffering. Hence, let us love the cross, wear its image, and carry our own daily cross with joy, while helping others to carry their heavier crosses. We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving, and merciful. Let us try to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities in sharing our love with others during Lent. Our rebirth by water and the Spirit must be an ongoing process. That is, we must lead a life of repentance and conversion which will bring us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us, to an ongoing renewal of life through prayer, Bible reading, frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist, and doing corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

LENTEN SEASON CONFESSIONS: St. Thomas the Apostle Church – Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. (no visiting priests)
St. Cecilia Church – Thursday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. (no visiting priests)

HOLY WEEK AND SACRED TRIDUUM SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Palm Sunday: March 28, no procession before Mass
Holy Thursday: April 1, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle
Good Friday Stations of the Cross: April 2, 3:00 p.m. St. Cecilia
Good Friday Service: April 2, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil: April 3, 8:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle
Easter Sunday: St. Cecilia 8:00 a.m.; St. Thomas the Apostle 10:00 a.m.

ST. CECILIA EASTER FLOWERS: Anyone interested in making a monetary donation for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones is asked to place the donation along with **PRINTED NAMES** to be remembered in an envelope and place in the collection basket or mail to the parish office by March 28. The names will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 4.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EASTER FLOWERS: Anyone interested in making a monetary donation for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones is asked to place the donation along with **PRINTED NAMES** to be remembered in an envelope and place in the collection basket or mail to the parish office by March 28. The names will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 4.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PPC MEETING is Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 in the school cafeteria. Jackie Prenger is the Parish Council President.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: March classes will be held in St. Cecilia parish center.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS WITH GUADALUPE MISSIONS is Saturday, March 20 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City. Veneration 8:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; opening Mass 8:00 a.m. & closing Mass 5:30 p.m.(Bilingual); Adoration 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Confessions 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Reflections 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.; TILMA workshops 10:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: Dues are \$10.00 per year per family and \$5.00 per year for single persons. Also, anyone after their 21st birthday must pay their own dues of \$5.00. Members who are 80+ years old and who have been members for at least 15 years will be exempt from paying further dues. Please note: Anyone falling in arrears over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put payment in the collection basket marked “Cemetery Dues” or mail to St. Thomas Cemetery Association, c/o Lisa Lackman, 2222 Upper Bottom Rd., St. Thomas, MO 65076. You may contact Lisa if you have questions about your current or past dues at 573-338-2703.

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

ST. CECILIA PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING is Wednesday, March 17 after 6:30 p.m. Mass in the rectory.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of March 14th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter
Week of March 21st: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman
Week of March 28th: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter
Thanks to all who volunteer to help keep our Church looking beautiful! Anyone else interested in helping out, please contact Lynne Reinkemeyer at 573-690-7113 and we can add another group.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER: Basket & patio planters, sun and shade flowers. New this year is \$10 gift certificate to Trinkleins. They must be used by June 30, 2021. Orders due March 15, plant pickup is Friday, May 7 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please call the school office at 573-477-3322 or contact St. Thomas school student.

ST. THOMAS PRESCHOOL: If you have a child ages 3 or 4 and have thinking about preschool, please call Jaycine Bax 573-821-1179 or email jbax@stacs.school or the school office 573-477-3322. Due to COVID-19 we will not be hosting a group sneak peek for the upcoming preschoolers. If you have any questions or would like to set up a one on one meeting and school tour please contact Jaycine or the school office.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 18-20 – State Archery, Branson
Friday, March 19 - Report cards go home

JOB OPENING: St. Thomas the Apostle School is seeking a custodian to clean the school campus for around 10-15 hours per week. It would be Monday-Friday starting at 3:30 p.m. and then working until the cleaning is done each day. Some days you may work longer, and some days may be shorter will depend upon what needs to be completed for the day. This would be for the remainder of this school year. This position would be for the months of August through May. You would have your summers off. The hourly wage will depend upon experience. Applicants should complete and submit an application to the Catholic School office at <https://diofeffcity.org/blog/2019/06/17/employment-in-our-catholic-schools/> and contact Principal Leroy Heckemeyer at 573-477-3322.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PARK BOARD: St. Thomas / Meta registration for softball and baseball is now open. Boys and girls ages 6-15 are eligible. Registration fees are \$50.00 for first child, \$30.00 for second child, and \$10.00 for third child with a cap of \$90.00 per family. After March 14 there will be a \$10.00 late fee per child. Registration for Fun League will also be held for boys and girls ages 5-6 at this time at this time & the fee is \$20.00 per child. Please check out our Facebook group page St. Thomas Ball Park for any updates. If you need a registration form or if you have any questions, please contact Lisa Wieberg at (573) 999-7351 or lisawieberg@hotmail.com.

ARGYLE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DRIVE THRU LENTEN FISH FRY is Friday, March 19, serving Swai filets, Au gratin potatoes, baked beans, slaw from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \$10.00 per meal at the Argyle K of C Hall.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH CHICKEN DINNER, WESTPHALIA is Sunday, March 21, **DRIVE THRU ONLY**, \$12.00 per meal, (follow the signs to the drive thru entrance). Serving fried chicken, with real mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, corn and coleslaw. Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN DRIVE THRU BARBEQUE, HONEY CREEK is Sunday, March 21 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Menu BBQ pork steak or BBQ chicken, slaw, baked beans, potato salad, cake. Dinners \$11.00, meat only \$9.00

**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, March 14 – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Drive thru BBQ Event 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
June 27-July 2 – Totus Tuus**

PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FOR PROTECTION FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you" took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your mantel of protection all who provide care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

DECREE: Lenten, Holy Week and the Easter Triduum 2021

Whereas the common good demands that the public health requirements and recommendations of the state are to be observed whenever possible; and

Whereas the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has issued a NOTE (N.96/21) renewing the mandate given in the previous year to guide Diocesan Bishops in their task of providing for the spiritual welfare of pastors and faithful for the celebrations surrounding Holy Week;

I therefore decree, as the Diocesan Bishop, the following:

1. All dispensations, obligations and guidance of the previous DECREE of 21 August 2020, as modified by the DECREE of 11 November 2020, remain in effect except for the following:
2. Parish communal penance services and other seasonal services (e.g., Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, rosaries and novenas) may be celebrated while following all the normal protocols for social distancing and/or the wearing of face coverings.
3. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation continues for all the faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City and those who are present in the territory of the Diocese, provided that for days of precept they do one of the following:
 - a. Prayerfully participate in the Sunday of 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.
 - b. Prayerfully read and meditate on the readings of the Mass for the Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation, and recite the rosary of Divine Mercy chaplet.
4. 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)
5. Parishes are highly encouraged to live stream Masses for Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, and Holy Week liturgies to maintain a pastoral connection with their parishioners during and after the pandemic.
6. The Chrism Mass will be live streamed from the Cathedral on Tuesday, March 30 at 10:00 a.m. with clergy participating. Any faithful unable to attend are encouraged to participate spiritually by watching the live stream of this Mass which celebrates our unity as a priestly people. Priest of the diocese will renew their priestly promises at this Mass.
7. On Palm Sunday, the commemoration of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated. Parish priests will use their pastoral judgement in choosing whether the second form (solemn entrance) or third form (simple entrance) as given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted. Blessed palms may be made available this year for the benefit of the faithful. Care should be taken that this distribution is done with safety precautions.
8. For the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the procession with the Blessed Sacrament may take place (the use of a monstrance is strictly prohibited), but the place of reservation of the Blessed Sacrament after the procession should be the normal place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved throughout the year (no special altar of repose). On this day the faculty to celebrate Mass in the parish church or a chapel, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally granted to all priests.
9. On Good Friday, the addition of the following intention is to be added: XI. For an end to the pandemic. Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them and help us all to persevere in faith.
Prayer in silence. Then the Celebrant says: Almighty and merciful God, source of all life, health and healing, look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease; protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us and in your fatherly providence grant recovery to the stricken, strength to those who care for them, and success to those working to eradicate this scourge. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen
10. The adoration of the Cross by a kiss shall be limited solely to the celebrant. The faithful who come forward to adore may individually genuflect or bow to the Cross (which may be a crucifix).
11. The Easter Vigil is to be celebrated only in the Cathedral and parish Churches. A simplified *lucernarium* may take place with the blessing of the fire and the candle inside the church; or a representative group of the faithful (for the purpose of social distancing) may join the celebrant outside for the blessing of the fire, lighting of the candle, and procession into the church. The incensation of the paschal candle and chanting of the *Exsultet* follow. For the "Baptismal Liturgy." Each Baptism should be done using a fresh pouring of water (not by dipping into the font). When confirming, the ministering Priest shall sanitize his thumb after each Confirmation. Holy Communion for those initiated may be given under both species only if there is a small enough number to accommodate a separate chalice for each one. Pastoral judgment should be used. For the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, the rite as presented in the Roman Missal may be used.
12. Congregational singing is allowed only with the permission of the Pastor, taking into account the safety of the faithful and the capacity for having adequate safeguards in place in accord with local health directives.
13. Persons, whether Catechumens or not, who are in danger of death but are not at the point of death and so are able to hear and answer the questions involved, may be baptized with the shorter rite in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (cf."Christian Initiation of a Person in Danger of Death"). If they are at the point of death, "Christian Initiation for the Dying" in the *Pastoral Care of the Sick* is to be observed (cf.no.277). Candidates for full communion who are in danger of death may be received into full communion, confirmed and given First Communion immediately, even outside of Mass, with the celebration of the Rite of Penance beforehand.

This decree is effective from 2 March 2021 and until further notice, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.
Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City on the 2nd day of March 2021.

The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D. Bishop of Jefferson City

