

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

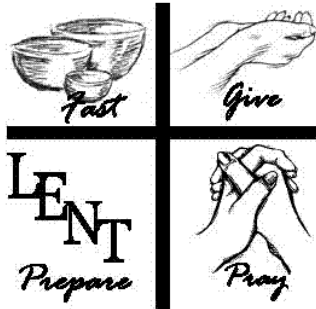
PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 29, 2020

Administrator: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi
frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer
jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:
Mrs. Jenny Becker
jbeckeroffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
lheckemeyerstacs@gmail.com
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
dorisstumpe@att.net

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 March 29-April 5:

As per direction from Bishop McKnight, all Public Masses are SUSPENDED until at least APRIL 3. Fr. Leonard will have private Masses this week. Mass intentions for this week will be as follows: Richard Schwartz, Gerry Luebbering, Sylvanus Hoecker, L& D Anthony & Ida Schellman, People of our Parishes, Alfred & Angeline Berhorst

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$228,753.00
Actual Collection for 2019-2020: **\$208,619.02**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 20,133.98
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

March 1 \$ 11,153.05
March 8 \$ 2,633.00
March 15 \$ 2,795.00
March 22 \$ 970.00
March 29 \$

Collection Online: \$ 5,602.00
March total to date: **\$ 23,153.05**
Difference for March -\$ 2,263.95

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid: \$2,273,475.34
Income from parishioners for FY 2019-2020
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$22,538.20**
Loan payments to date for FY 2019-2020: **\$64,594.18**
(Principal \$59,635.10 Interest \$4,959.08)
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$141,103.75**

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of March 29-April 5:

As per direction from Bishop McKnight, all Public Masses are SUSPENDED until at least APRIL 3. Fr. Leonard will have private Masses this week. Mass intentions for this week will be as follows: Francis J. "Fritz" Luebbert & Norman & Delphine Jaegers

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2019-2020: **\$43,526.25**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

March 1 \$ 1,414.00
March 8 \$ 806.00
March 15 \$ 1,142.00
March 22 \$ 0.00
March 29 \$

March total to date: **\$ 3,362.00**
Difference for March: -\$ 1,804.67

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

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Daffiny Tallent at 573-694-4408 to purchase anytime. A large variety of cards in various denominations are in stock and available for purchase.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTION: For the gifts of wisdom, knowledge and understanding as our local church discerns a new pastoral plan.

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 5th Sunday of Lent Year A: IF YOU BELIEVE YOU WILL SEE THE GLORY OF GOD: I hope everyone of us is keeping safe as we go through these hard times of the Covid-19 pandemic, breaking our social ties with one another more so our communion with our Lord Jesus Christ, however as we pray to God to calm down the situation let's observe the safety guidelines given to us by health experts. Stay safe.

Resurrection hope is the central theme of the Scripture readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The readings today assure us that our Faith in Jesus, who is "the Resurrection and the Life," promises our participation in his resurrection and new life.

"Roll away the stone, unbind him and let him go." We often bind ourselves with chains of addictions and uncontrollable anger, and bury ourselves in the tombs of despair. Sometimes we are in the tomb of selfishness, filled with negative feelings such as worry, fear, resentment, hatred, and guilt. If we want Jesus to visit our dark dungeons of sin, despair and unhappiness, let us ask Jesus during this time of lent especially during the Holy Mass to bring the light and the power of the Holy Spirit into our private lives and liberate us from our tombs.

When we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Jesus will call our name and command, "Come out, Leonard", "Come out, Jenny and others"! This is Good news for all of us. This can be the beginning of a new life.

We live in a world that is filled with death. Currently the Covid-19 virus, we kill each other in acts of murder, abortion, euthanasia, execution, war, and terrorist activities. We kill ourselves through suicide, drugs, smoking, overwork, stress, bad eating habits, and physical neglect. The most important question is: am I ready to face my death? All of us know that we will surely die, but each of us thinks that he or she will not die any time in the near future. Let us be wise, well-prepared and ever ready to meet our Lord with a clear conscience when the time comes to give Him a clean account of our lives. If you believe you will see the glory of God. *Have a blessed week. Fr. Leonard Mukibi*

EVIL WILL NOT WIN! At this time of crisis linked to the Covid-19 virus, the family today becomes the sacred place par excellence, where to welcome and live the mystery of God. Christ was incarnated in a family, making the Holy Family the first Domestic Church. This remains to be the basic ecclesial community, born from the impossibility of Christians to meet normally in traditional structures for divine worship. Traditional Christianity today, with its structures, has turned into a kind of Christianity without churches. With the confinement of people in their homes, a return to the ecclesiological model of the family as a 'Domestic Church' is more than necessary. If already with the crisis of faith, Churches, Cathedrals, and Basilicas were turning low on the crowds, today they are completely closed. The ecclesiological model developed by the Fathers of the Church, and taken up forcefully by the Second Vatican Council and in particular by Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Francis, finds its roots in the mystery of the incarnation itself "The Covid-19 tragedy must bring us closer to each other. Humanity will win this fight only by involving itself in a strong dynamic of solidarity between scientific research, material and spiritual support. The isolation measures established by governments, which include, among others, the social distancing, closing of borders, must remain strictly preventive medical measures, and should not become paths that favor exclusion, stigma. The Covid-19 pandemic must not become a territory in which living together involves the sacrifice of identity, social fractures and an increasingly exclusive nationalism. Today, we must remain focused on the essence of the problem, which essentially consists in working and praying for a solution that can save our humanity from this tragedy. In the name of our faith, evil cannot have the last word in people's lives. God is stronger". The ecclesiological model of the family as a domestic Church remains fundamental for a Christianity without a Church. A family built on rock, on Christ is a precious gift for the universal Church and for all humanity. Everything must be rebuilt according to the very principle of the family. Yes to solidarity, the family is the Domestic Church. **Stay safe. Fr. Leonard**

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP W. SHAWN MCKNIGHT – DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I know you join me in concern for all who are being affected by the rapid spread of the coronavirus. Today, I am announcing that all public Masses will be suspended in the Diocese of Jefferson City, beginning on Wednesday, March 18 until at least April 3.

This is in keeping with the federal directives and other public entities in our area. We offer this decision as part of our effort to help stem the spread of the coronavirus.

This means all Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass in person. Online opportunities are listed at diojeffcity.org/public-health and some local parishes will be able to provide online Masses. Catholics are encouraged to check with their local parish regarding online Masses.

In addition, parishes have been instructed to make the following changes, beginning March 18: All public gatherings are cancelled or postponed. This includes public weddings. More information on baptisms, funerals and other liturgical protocols can be found at <https://diojeffcity.org/blog/2020/03/13/liturgical-protocols-for-public-health-safety/>. Confirmation Masses will be rescheduled to be celebrated after Easter Sunday. During this time, Churches will remain open as places of prayer and comfort. Priests will be available in the parishes to offer anointing of the sick before you go to the hospital, if possible. I ask you to be mindful of your responsibility to serve the community, in your time, talent and treasure in this extraordinary hour of need. You may register your volunteer capacity at <https://diojeffcity.org/parish-diaster-responders-team-volunteer-form/>. Parishes are organizing disaster responder teams to serve those immediately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Please continue your tithes to your parishes by postal mail or online, if the parish offers that option.

Diocesan schools, which are suspending in-school instruction from March 18-April 3, are providing ongoing instruction either online or packet-based, on a case-by-case basis. While diocesan offices and parish offices will remain open, some employees may work remotely or need to take leave to care for themselves or their families. Some parishes may reduce office hours. Regardless, all diocesan and parish employees will continue to receive compensation. I am grateful to all who are working tirelessly to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. I pray the efforts we are doing, as a people of faith, will provide tangible support, encouragement and spiritual hope to our communities.

With prayers for the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
Diocese of Jefferson City
www.diojeffcity.org

ST. THOMAS BETTER TOGETHER PASTORAL PLANNING:

In light of Bishop McKnight's request that we cease public gatherings, the diocese has asked that:

- 1) Groups participating in the Better Together pastoral planning consider using other alternatives for discussion, such as social media platforms or group calls.
- 2) Individuals fill out the discernment reports. Any parishioner, not just those in established groups, can participate. The discernment reports can either be mailed to the parish office, or submitted online on the diocesan website. To find the discernment reports, or for more information regarding the Better Together program, please visit www.diojeffcity.org/better-together or contact Brian Luebbering at 913-951-7222 .

St. Thomas FORMED movie night has been cancelled due to the stopping of public gatherings. Parishioners are encouraged to utilize our parish's FORMED subscription to enhance their Lenten experience.

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CHRISM MASS: A video of the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral will be posted approximately 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 2, at www.diojeffcity.org. Please plan to join us in prayer and celebration by tuning in.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASS - CANCELLED

ST. CECILIA AND 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 mailed to the Parish Office by **April 5**. The names will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 12.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL: ALL EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: The dues are \$10.00 per family (\$5.00 for single persons). Family members becoming the head of a separate household are not covered under their parent's membership. Also, anyone after their 21st birthday must pay their own dues of \$5.00. Please note: Anyone falling in areas over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put your payment in the collection basket marked "Cemetery Dues" or mail to St. Thomas Cemetery Association, c/o Lisa Lackman, 2222 Upper Bottom Road., St. Thomas, MO 65076. You may contact Lisa, if you have questions about your current or past dues, at 573-338-2703.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS

Week of March 29th: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger & Amy Buechter

Week of April 5th: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost and Randy Buschjost

Week of April 12th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert and Darrel Buechter

Week of April 19th: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering and 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 – One More Team Needed!

It would be great if we had **one more grass cutting team** to assist with the 2020 grass cutting responsibilities. Please consider finding a friend, neighbor or family member to create a team. What better place to donate your time and talent than right here in our own parish and community. Help keep St Thomas the Apostle a thriving and beautiful parish! A parish lawnmower is available for use so you don't have to haul your own equipment. If anyone is interested please feel free to contact Alan Reinkemeyer at 573-694-6984 or Mark Luebbering at 573-694-6393.

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

Week of March 30: Mark Luebbering, Antone Luebbering and Nick Luebbering

Week of April 6: Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering

Week of April 13: Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempf

Week of April 20: Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter

Week of April 27: Alan Reinkemeyer, Richard Heckemeyer and Dave Schroeder

SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Confirmation – Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m. St. Cecilia Church

TOTUS TUUS – June 14-19, 2020

St. Cecilia Parish Picnic – July 12, 2020

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

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM FR. LEONARD

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia,

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is affecting our nation and parish communities in many ways. In an effort to help slow the spread of this virus, the St Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia parishes are following the guidance and recommendations being put forth by Bishop McKnight of the Diocese of Jefferson City.

Bishop McKnight's message can be found at <https://diojeffcity.org/public-health/>

Please make note of the following:

Information can be found on the St Thomas Parish website at <http://www.stthomasapostle.net/> and St. Cecilia website at <http://www.stceciliameta.net/>

Church: Our Churches will remain open during normal hours (St. Thomas 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM and St. Cecilia 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM) and remain as a place of prayer and comfort. Private stations of the cross, prayer and adoration are welcome. Please use social distancing of 6 to 8 feet from others, refrain from handshakes and cover mouth/nose when coughing or sneezing.

Masses: Effective immediately, all public Masses have been suspended. Bishop McKnight has provided a dispensation for attendance of Sunday Mass, but we have not been dispensed of honoring the Lord's Day. Join the weekend Mass online at 10:00 AM each Sunday at St. Thomas the Apostle Church Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/St-Thomas-the-Apostle-Church-109903037307741/?modal=admin_todo_tour. The link is also on St. Thomas the Apostle Parish website. Mass is also available on the EWTN channel.

Fr. Leonard will be praying the Sunday and daily Masses privately for scheduled intentions. Please watch the bulletin for those weekend/other Mass intentions that have to be rescheduled.

Parish Offices: If you need to reach Father Leonard, contact him at 573 477-3315 or frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com. St. Thomas the Apostle Parish office will be staffed as normal, but closed to outside visitors until further notice. Jenny Becker may be

contacted at 573-477-3315 or 573-690-0642 or jbeckeroffice@gmail.com. Jan Heckemeyer may be contacted at 573-477-3315 or 573-619-8432 or jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com. Doris Stumpe may be contacted at 573-619-6125 or dorisstumpe@att.net.

Baptisms and Weddings: Are postponed through April 3 and will be dealt with on case by case basis following current recommendations of the Diocese.

Funerals: Funeral will be restricted to immediate non-symptomatic family members with gatherings no larger than 10 persons. Funeral lunches are suspended at this time.

Parish Small Groups participating in the planning process are encouraged to have conference calls with members, use social media or individually answer questions and submit to the group leader for compilation. In addition, we are allowed to postpone meetings until a later date after April 3. Information and on line forms are available at <https://diojeffcity.org/better-together-pastoral-planning-process>

Confessions and Anointing: The obligation of Lenten Confession has been dispensed but confession and/or anointing will be available at the regular scheduled times at St. Thomas the Apostle (Saturdays 4:00 – 4:45 PM) and St. Cecilia (Sundays 7:00 – 7:45 AM and Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:15 PM). The communal Lenten penance services have been cancelled but Father Leonard will be available for individual confessions on March 24 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at St. Cecilia and on March 31 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at St. Thomas the Apostle. All confessions will be private/behind a screen until further notice.

Parish Events: All parish events scheduled through April 3 are postponed or cancelled.

Parish Hall/Center Rentals: If you have the parish hall/center rented during this time, you will be contacted you about rescheduling or refunding the hall rental deposit and fee.

St Thomas the Apostle School is suspending in-school instruction and all extracurricular activities are cancelled until April 6 when school reopens. <https://diojeffcity.org/blog/2020/03/16/diocese-of-jefferson-city-closing-catholic-schools-march-18-april-3/>

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 suspended. The work of our parishes and staff continues with ongoing expenses and financial obligations. **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 a 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 Whitehouse. The webpage is found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

We encourage all parishioners to pray,

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

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard Mukiibi
Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and St. Cecilia Parish