

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

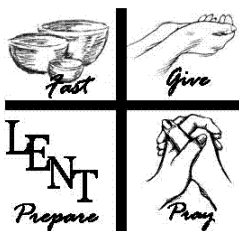
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 6 , 2022

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: Tuesdays 8:30-11:30 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 6-13:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Richard Schwartz

Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Stanley Brand

Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Wilfred & Virginia Libbert

Stations of the Cross, following Mass

Friday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Alex Heckman Family

Friday 6:30 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ben, Jim & Butch Engelmeyer

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

L&D John H. Boessen Family

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of March 6-13:

6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross before Wednesday Mass

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Anna Otto

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

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2021-2022: \$305,000.00

Offertory Goal through Month End: \$203,336.00

Actual Collection for 2021-2022: **\$192,173.00**

Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 11,163.00

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

February 6 \$ 4,805.00

February 13 \$ 2,920.00

February 20 \$ 2,785.00

February 27 \$ 5,835.00

Collection Online: \$ 6,572.00

February total to date: \$22,917.00

Difference for February: -\$ 2,500.00

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2021-2022: \$62,000.00

Collection Total for 2021-2022: **\$40,936.95**

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

February 6 \$1,055.00

February 13 \$1,020.00

February 20 \$1,355.00

February 27 \$1,180.00

February total to date: \$4,610.00

Difference for February: -\$ 556.67

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

March – Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotto

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

Church Renovation Capital Campaign

Total Pledges/Donations \$486,043.04

Total Collected \$405,965.58

Total Expenses Paid \$660,487.74

A total of 127 parishioners have returned pledge cards/or
Contributed to the renovation project.

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists

Mar. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Judy Schroeder / Alanna

Mar. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Anne Strope / Jackie

Mar. 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten / Jackie

Mar. 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Kerry Meyer / Jackie

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers

Mar. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Amanda Wooten

Mar. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering

Mar. 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Bill Luebbering

Mar. 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Larry Lueckenhoff

St. Cecilia Readers

Wednesday, March 10- 6:30 p.m.- Cathy Borgmeyer

March 13 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer

March 20 8:00 a.m.- Dorothy Rehagen

**IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFILL YOUR
LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENT, PLEASE FIND A
REPLACEMENT. YOUR FELLOW
PARISHIONERS THANK YOU!**

St. Thomas the Apostle Greeters/Ushers

Mar. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Gilbert Schellman & Richard Schellman
 Mar. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Craig Buechter & Doug Stockman
 Mar. 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Mark Boessen & Eric Strobe
 Mar. 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Jim Lueckenhoff & Larry Lueckenhoff

St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Ministers

Mar. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Mark Graessle
 Mar. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Mattheuw Prenger
 Mar. 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lora Boessen
 Mar. 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Lynne Reinkemeyer

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

Mar. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Gregory Kirby
 Mar. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Erika Luebbering,
 Francie & Hannah Tallent, Carmen Luebbering
 March 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Gregory Kirby
 March 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Klint & Kora Luebbering,
 Isabella Luebbering

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts

Mar. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark & Lora Boessen
 Mar. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Travis & Kathy Rackers Family
 Mar. 19 Saturday, 5:00 p.m. -Mark & Lauri Luebbering
 Mar. 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Tom & Carol Backes Family

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

Mar. 13 – Paul Becker & Shara Buechter
 Mar. 20 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes
 Mar. 27 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
 April 3 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder
 April 10 – Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday, 7:20 a.m.- Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries
 Wednesday, 7:20 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Glorious Mysteries
 Thursday, 7:20 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina – 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. Pat Loethen – Sorrowful Mysteries

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH CLEANERS

March 13: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer
 March 20: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering
 March 27: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman
 April 3: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter
 April 10: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS: Quilter's luncheon may be dropped off Wednesday night 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (Evening quilting) or St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Thursday, March 10 – Karen Otto & Lizzie Linhardt **Thursday, March 17** – Cheri Otto & Ashlie Otto
 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.

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or amandab_27@hotmail.com

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS NEXT SATURDAY, MARCH 13: Don't forget to set your clock forward one hour before bedtime Saturday night.

BULLETIN NOTICES: Deadline for bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH BULLETINS: If you are needing a bulletin and Church is locked there are some on the Vitae House front porch.

MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANTION booklets & Rice Bowls are available for you in the entrances of both Churches.

CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: The CSA goal for St. Cecilia Parish is **\$2,550**. So far **\$1,690** has been collected. The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is **\$10,200**. So far **\$6,015** has been collected.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE FOR ST. CECILIA & ST. THOMAS PARISHES is Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. CECILIA OFFERTORY PARTICIPATION: The St. Cecilia Parish Council would love to get families more involved in participating in Masses. If family members are interested in bringing up the offertory when they turn in Mass intentions, please write a note or leave a message when you turn in your Mass intention request. Any other families who wish to bring up offertory may also let Doris Stumpe know and it will be included in the bulletin.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH HAM BREAKFAST NOTES: The Country Store has experienced a decrease in help over the past few years, impacting the baking of pies, cinnamon rolls, and sweet breads, on Friday and Saturday before the Breakfast. This year, Country Store workers will only be baking homemade pies. Anyone who could help with baking pies on Saturday morning, please contact Roseanne Boessen (573-477-0168). Any help would be greatly appreciated. Additionally, please consider baking cinnamon rolls, sweet breads, and other homemade goodies for the Country Store, at home, and drop off at the Country Store area on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. Thank you for your support and donations!

Raffle chances may be found in the back of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers

March 13 Sunday 8:00 a.m.- Dorothy Rehagen
 March 20 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

March 13 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Leon Schanzmeyer & Kenny Otto
 March 20 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Mitch Stumpe & Darin Even

St. Cecilia Servers

March 13 Sunday 8:00 a.m.-
 March 20 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts

Sunday, March 13 8:00 a.m.- Family of Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

No rosary before Wednesday Mass during Lent, due to the Stations of the Cross

March 13 Sunday 7:35 a.m.- Dorothy Rehagen–Sorrowful Mysteries
 Mar. 20 Sunday 7:35 a.m.–Margaret Brune–Sorrowful Mysteries

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$2.50**.

MASS STIPENDS: \$10.00

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call the rectory to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Please call the rectory *at least* six months prior to the desired date.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTION: For the Universal Church; that her mission of salvation may be advanced in every place under the patronage of St. Joseph.

PASTORS MEDITATION: **1st Sunday of Lent: LED BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS JESUS REMAINED FAITHFUL.** (Deut.26:4-10, Rom.10:8-13, Lk.4:1-13) Jesus' life was dominated by a single passion: to proclaim and establish on earth God's reign of justice, peace and love. His mission was not about saving people's souls by taking them out of the world and bringing them to a place called heaven. It was about bringing God's kingdom on earth and challenging people to embrace it. But how was he going to carry out this mission entrusted to him by the Father? He had no blueprint or plan of action to guide him. What he had was the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who came upon him at his baptism. This same Spirit – the spark of divine energy that brought the universe into existence and ignited the fire of life – now leads Jesus out into the wilderness where he is tempted by Satan for forty days. In this way Jesus was led to clarify the nature of his mission in the service of God's reign. Jesus' forty days in the wilderness was a decisive and defining experience for him. It determined the path his messianic mission would take. It led him to reject several false paths he could have chosen – the path of violent revolution adopted by the political revolutionaries of the day, the Zealots, and also the way of compromise adopted by the Jerusalem elite, the Sadducees and High Priests. His wilderness experience led him to choose the path of redemptive suffering instead. The way of Jesus would be to turn the other cheek, to walk the second mile and to take up his cross and give up his life on Calvary. He will defeat evil by letting evil do its worst to him, by suffering it in love and forgiving his enemies. He rejects the temptations of Satan and commits himself unreservedly to carrying out the will of his Father.

The message Jesus formulated in the wilderness and that we are called to take to heart in these days of Lent is to **'Repent, and believe the Good News'** (Mk 1:15). This means to turn away from the clutter or excess in our lives and to listen to the One who speaks to us in nature, in people and in the depths of our hearts. Lent is not a dreary (dull/lifeless), sad season to be patiently endured. It is a joyful season, as today's Lenten preface reminds us: 'Each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with renewed mind and heart. You give us a spirit of loving reverence for you, Our Father, and of willing service of our neighbor. As we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ, you bring the image of your Son to perfection within us'.

Lent is a time to experience afresh the embrace of God's love; a time to join Jesus in the desert, at least symbolically and allow the Spirit to lead us on an inner journey. It is a time to take a good look at ourselves and, where necessary, realign our priorities. Yes, Lent invites us to repent, but repentance is not just our work. It is the fruit of the experience of God's love and a work of grace, as Fr Flor McCarthy SDB reminds us the following reflection:

Repentance of itself is not enough – grace must be available.

But if grace is offered and not accepted, then nothing comes of that either.

There is no point in putting up a sail if there is no wind.

There is no point in planting a seed if the ground is frozen.

There is no point in pruning the tree if spring does not come.

It is not enough to cut into people's hearts in order to save them; they must be touched by grace. Lord, touch our hearts with your grace. Have a blessed Lenten season. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS, UPCOMING EVENTS! Friday, March 11, End of 3rd Quarter
Monday, March 14, No School P-8, Wednesday, March 16 – Diocesan Music Appreciation Day Grades 5-8

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ESSAY: Francie Tallent 6th Grade Where do I Find Christ in my School? Could you ever imagine going to school and going to Church every morning and feeling blessed and just enjoying yourself? That is how Catholic School feels every morning when we go to Church, I feel so loved by God. Whenever I hear the words "Catholic School", I think about all of the many ways I can find Christ in my Catholic School. One of the ways that I find Christ in my school is through all of the students and teachers. Everyone is always so kind and helps everyone with anything they might need. The older students help the younger ones with tying their shoes, their homework, and when we make mistakes. The teachers also help us when we get hurt or don't know an answer on a worksheet. My school also does many fundraisers to help raise money. One fundraiser that we do is Penny Wars. Each class has a jar that they fill with pennies and at the end of the week whoever has the most pennies win. All the money is donated to a pregnancy help center. We also do the bake sale and trail mix sale with the student council. We then take that money and adopt a family for Christmas. I love my Catholic School because I can always feel loved. I can always find Christ in my Catholic School anywhere I go and through anyone I meet.

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 areas over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put payment in the collection basket at St. Cecilia Church marked "St. Thomas 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 any questions about your current or past dues at 573-338-2703.

ST CECILIA CEMETERY MEETING is Monday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. This is the time to express any concerns or questions. If you, or if you know of someone who would be interested in being on the board, please come to the meeting or let one of the present board members know. The present board members are: Charles Schroeder, president, Ron Meyer, vice president, Karyn Veltrop, treasurer and Jeany Libbert, secretary.

THE OVER 50 GROUP is gathering at the parish center on March 10, eating at noon for our monthly get together with food and visiting. You are asked to bring a covered dish to share. Membership is \$5.00 a year. If you know of someone who would like to join, feel free to ask them to join.

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 7:15 p.m. Please read the March newsletter attached to the bulletin.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH HAM & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST is Sunday, March 13, serving country ham, sausage, Scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, hashbrowns & applesauce from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Adults \$10 & children 6-12 \$5. Serving cafeteria style and carry-outs available.

WARDSVILLE/OSAGE BEND KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY is Friday, March 18, serving fish fillets, cole slaw, baked beans, hush puppies, French fries or baked potato, homemade rolls from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the St. Stan Parish gym. Please enter off Rt. W in front of Church.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY AT FATIMA is Wednesday, March 23. There will be a musical program by our students in the gym at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided to all attending at 12:40 p.m. courtesy of the Osage County RIII Board of Education. Bus Transportation will be provided from your Church: ***Bus D Meta at 10:35 a.m. Folk at 11:00 a.m.***

ST. THOMAS SPRING FLING is Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center. Over 30 vendors, Pizza Kwik 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., raffle for prizes and free admission. Proceeds to benefit St. Thomas the Apostle School Stem kits for students. For more information, please contact Kim Kliegel 573-619-9188.

SAVE THE DATES: Sunday, March 13, 2022- St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Ham Breakfast
Friday, March 25 - St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Gluten Free Fish Fry, Parish Center
Saturday, April 2 – St. Thomas Spring Fling, Parish Center

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Council Notes - February 15, 2022

Call to order and opening prayer - Father opened with a prayer.

Principal's Report / School Advisory Board

- Debbie read over Leroy's notes. Mostly talked about past events that took place and events that are coming up.

Financial committee report

- Renovation
 - The committee had to approve LED lights and the soundboard of the Church. Most of the items that needed to be approved were easy to approve.
 - There were some special donation requests for items in the Church. This money went towards cabinets in the sacristy and the new streaming video equipment.
- The parish did go ahead and ask the Dioceses for money to cover a new AC unit.
- The roof on the old part of the school is getting fixed. There were some leakage issues. The company is standing behind the product and fixing it.
- There are members in the parish that are coming up with a list of things that need to be repaired or items that are needed. This list will be in the Parish Office. This will allow parishioners to check the list before donating money to the Church. The parishioners can pick an item from the list to donate the money to. When donations are given, there needs to be an approval process to ensure that the donation money is going to things that need to be completed.

Pastoral Council Commission Reports

- Worship
 - Church blessing on February 19
 - Dinner and Mass is set up for Saturday, February 19. The bishop is coming.
 - The hall set up for the dinner is at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 19.
 - The committee plans to clean up the hall the evening of the event.
 - There are just under 300 people who RSVPed for the meal.
 - Time and talent
 - There are forms in the back of Church and online for parishioners to fill out.
- Social concerns
 - Winter Fantasy
 - The net profit for the event was \$21,770.
 - The profit on the silent auction went up 40% from last year.
 - There was discussion about what to do with this event next year. Do we still want to keep it virtual or does the parish want to make it an in person event again? If so there will need to be a committee formed to plan the event.
 - Safe environment
 - Parishioners from St. Cecilia and St. Thomas are welcome to attend. Please let the parish office know if you are interested.
 - Feb. 24 8:30 - 10:30 - school library
 - Feb. 28 6:30-8:30 - school library
 - Adopt a family review
 - Do we want to do this next year?
 - Other ideas could be Food for the Poor or doing a canned food drive.
 - The PPC decided that we needed to hold off a year and ask again in 2 years. The people of the parish have been very generous with the Winter Fantasy and Renovation.
 - Ham breakfast
 - The breakfast is on March 13. There will be carry outs but no drive through. There will be a serving line instead of serving family style.
 - The committee is working on finalizing the work list.
- Administration
 - Renovation
 - The cabinets in the sacristy are still being refinished.
 - There are still a couple statues that are being painted that will not be here for a while.
 - The Holy Water holders are still in the process of arriving too.
 - The Angels that sit on the sides of the Cross are getting placed elsewhere in the Church. They are getting new statues to put in their place. These are still coming since they are getting painted as well.
 - Sam Suthoff and Lauri Luebbering are working with Will West on the live streaming equipment in the Church.
 - There will be a final cleaning of the Church on Wed. February 16.
 - The project stayed close to the budget. They are ahead on pledges. The donations that were given really helped cover the increased amounts of the renovation.
 - Other projects
 - Father's front door on his house needs to be fixed. The storm door is not closing properly.

Pastors Report

- St. Joe Cathedral has created a list of items they are getting rid of since they are remodeling. The parish has the opportunity to obtain items from the list if they want.
- Father thanked the parish for the Winter Fantasy.
- Father thanked the parish for organizing the Ham Breakfast.
- We may be asked to contribute to the Diocese for the Church renovation since St. Joseph Cathedral is the Mother Church of our Diocese. Father is checking with Jan to see if there is a certain amount that we need to give or if we just need to give a donation.
- There is a Deanery meeting on February 22.
- Lent is coming up.
- Father shared with us his greetings from Uganda. He was able to celebrate Mass with his Archbishop.
- Father thanked the parish for the wonderful donations for his trip.

New business

- Father is checking to see if Meta billed us for using the Church during the renovation.
- The council is still discussing the need for a maintenance system or person to work on the parish complex. We will still use volunteers for snow removal, grass cutting and other things but could use a person for all the other maintenance jobs around Church and school. Another option would be a team of parishioners set up as a team to work on projects.
- Thanks to the quilters - they do a lot for us!

Varia - Discussion, clarification, question

Next meeting - March 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library.

Closing prayer - Father led the closing prayer.

Adjournment

