

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 EASTER

MAY 10, 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 May 10-17:

As per direction from Bishop McKnight, Parishes may resume public Masses beginning May 4 but must follow the instructions issued by Bishop McKnight on April 28. Please read the Bishop's letter on the parish website and important information on page two of bulletin.

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Andrew Strobe Family

Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Frank & Katherine Volmert Family

Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Gerry, Henry & Christine Luebbering

Friday 7:45 a.m. – Norbert Boessen

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Jackie Gibler Family

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

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$279,587.00
Actual Collection for 2019-2020:	\$241,170.02
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 38,416.98
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

May 3	\$ 4,304.00
May 10	\$
May 17	\$
May 24	\$
May 31	\$

Collection Online: \$ 5,017.00

May total to date: \$ **9,321.00**

Difference for May: –\$ 16,096.00

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): **\$25,362.20**

Loan payments to date for FY 2019-2020: **\$83,049.66**

Principal \$77,222.18 Interest \$5,827.48

Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$123,516.57**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

USHERS: Individuals will be contacted by members of the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council to serve as ushers beginning with May 9-10 weekend Masses, and given specific instructions to make sure Bishop McKnight's instructions for public Masses are followed.

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

May 17 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrif 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.

PARISH UPDATES: Please check St. Thomas the Apostle Parish & St. Cecilia Parish websites and St. Thomas the Apostle Church Facebook page for updates.

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of May 10-17:

As per direction from Bishop McKnight, Parishes may resume public Masses beginning May 4 but must follow the instructions issued by Bishop McKnight on April 28. Please read the Bishops letter on the parish website and important information on page three of bulletin.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Ben & Jason Hake

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2019-2020:	\$46,871.25
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

May 3	\$ 1,135.00
May 10	\$
May 17	\$
May 24	\$
May 31	\$

May total to date: \$ **1,135.00**

Difference for May: –\$ 4,031.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

MAY: Dale & Margie Helton

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

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S MAY PRAYER INTENTION: As we honor the Mother of our Lord as the "Queen of May," may there be a greater respect and appreciation for all women on earth who nourish us in mind, body and soul.

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 5th Sunday of Easter: GOOD-MOTHERS' DAY - BEARING WITNESS TO CHRIST

Today is Good-Mother's Day and we thank God for the good mothers, we pray for them, honor them by celebrating and by offering our good-mothers on the altar of God. This is a day to admit gratefully the fact that none of us is able to return, in the same measure, all the love that our good-mothers have given us. Their influence on us their children is so great that it affects the children throughout their lives. Our mothers not only gave us birth but nursed us, nurtured us, trained us in their religious beliefs and practices, taught us good manners and ideal behavior, disciplined us as best as they could, and made us good citizens of our country, our Church, and our society.

Hence, it is highly proper for us to express our love and gratitude to our mothers by our presence (although this year it is rendered difficult), gifts, and prayers on Mother's Day. We offer this Eucharistic celebration on Mother's Day for all the mothers in our church, whether they are alive here or have gone for their eternal reward.

The word "mom" is synonymous with sacrificial, *agápe* love in its purest form, as commanded by Jesus in his farewell speech: "Love one another as I have loved you." Hence, let us lavish our love on our mothers and express our gratitude for them in the form of fervent prayers offered for them before God.

Today's readings tell us how the early Church accepted the challenge of keeping Jesus' memory alive by remaining a dynamic Christian community, bearing witness to Christ by their unity, fidelity in worship and spirit of loving, humble service. Today's Gospel introduces Jesus as the Way to God, the Truth to be accepted, and the Life to be shared and lived.

Dear friends we need to accept Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life: We accept Jesus as the Way by walking his narrow way of loving, humble, sacrificial service. We accept Jesus the Truth by learning and practicing what he has taught us, as given in the scriptures and in the teachings of the Church. We share the Divine life of God through making use of the means Jesus has established in his Church: by actively participating in the Eucharistic celebration and properly receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion; by the worthy reception of the other Sacraments; by the meditative and daily reading of the Word of God; by allowing the Holy Spirit living in the Church and within us to guide and strengthen us; and by communicating with God the Source of Life, in personal and family prayers. Happy Mothers' day to all the mothers and May God bless your 5th Sunday of Easter. *Have a blessed week. Fr. Leonard Mukiibi*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

We ask that St Thomas Parishioners read Bishop's McKnight's recent instruction on re-establishing Masses as the Governmental restrictions are being lifted. This letter can be found on the Church website page and on our Facebook page. Please carefully read the (Before Mass, During Mass, and After Mass) sections.

Please keep in mind that all of the faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass through June 30, 2020. If you decide to attend Mass you will need to follow the strict guidelines mentioned in Bishop McKnight's letter including practicing social distancing, wearing of protective face masks or face coverings (you must provide your own) and understanding that limited seating will be available. St Thomas the Apostle will continue to live stream the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass for you to view. We are not encouraging you to attend. If you are uncomfortable or have concerns about attending Mass then please stay home.

Fr. Leonard, the St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council and some of the Parish staff recently met to discuss how to implement these guidelines. Below are further instructions and information for attending Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Fr. Leonard or any of the Parish Council Members.

PLEASE READ

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING ALL PUBLIC MASSES
(INCLUDING WEEKDAY MASSES)**

- We are re-establishing public Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle following Diocese guidelines. Please review Bishop McKnight's instructions on the parish website under the Resources page.
- We have limited seating (50-60) available and will be first come, first served. When the capacity limit is reached, no additional parishioners will be allowed to enter church.
- 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
- You are required to wear a face mask or face covering when entering and exiting church and going to and from Communion. Face masks or coverings are not required to be worn when you are in the pews. When receiving Communion, pull down your mask or covering, place the Eucharist in your mouth, and immediately replace your mask or covering before returning to your pew.
- Please maintain appropriate social distancing of 6 feet. Follow floor markings when receiving Communion.
- Do not sit in pews that are roped off. Also, only the organist and cantors are allowed to be on the balcony.
- Family members may sit together.
- Place tithe/offertory in basket near center of church.
- Please refrain from using restroom if possible.
- Missals have been removed from the pews and are available on a table at the church entrance. If you want a missal, please take it home with you. Do not leave the missal in the pew. This will become your personal missal to use until after the restrictions are released.

MUSIC: Music is an integral part of worship. It is a joyous sound when the people in the congregation raise their voices together to sing their praises to God!

In the Bishop's instructions for getting cautiously together during this pandemic, the hymnals and missals, along with any other items in the pews, have been removed. Missals are on a table in the church entrance. You may pick up a missal to bring with you to public Mass **but must take it home after Mass.** Missals cannot be left in the pews. If you missed your opportunity to pick up a missal to keep with you, how am I supposed to sing, you may ask? For the immediate future, we will be using hymns that most in the congregation will likely know by heart, at least for the first verse. For others, we will use hymns with a refrain that is easy to remember, so even if you don't know the verses, you can join in on the refrain. So please, PLEASE, join in song where you can, and do the best you can. It's a brand new experience for us all. We might find singing from the heart – instead of the book – to be a very freeing experience! --*Annette Kehner*

PLEASE READ

**ST. CECILIA CHURCH
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING ALL PUBLIC MASSES**

- We are re-establishing public Mass at St. Cecilia Church following Diocese guidelines. Please review Bishop McKnight's instructions on the parish website under the Resources page.
- Entrance is thru front door only. Side doors will be locked.
- We have limited seating (50-60) available and will be first come, first served. When the capacity limit is reached, no additional parishioners will be allowed to enter church.
- 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**
- You are **required to wear a face mask or face covering** when entering and exiting church and going to and from Communion. Face masks or coverings are not required to be worn when you are in the pews. When receiving Communion, pull down your mask or covering, place the Eucharist in your mouth, and immediately replace your mask or covering before returning to your pew. Distribution of communion will be in a single row only by Fr. Leonard.
- Please **maintain appropriate social distancing of 6 feet**. Follow floor markings when receiving communion.
- Please sit in pews that are marked. Also, only the organist and cantors are allowed to be on the balcony.
- Family members may sit together.
- Place tithe/offertory in basket near entrance of church on table.
- Please refrain from using restroom if possible.
- Missals have been removed from the pews and are available on a table at the church entrance. If you want a missal, please take it home with you. Do not leave the missal in the pew. This will become your personal missal to use until after restrictions are released. Please bring back with you for the next mass.

THE DIOCESE HAS UPDATED THE PRAYER FOR A COMMUNION OF DESIRE: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, renew my heart now with the power of Your Spirit. I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Unite me more closely to Your Body, the Church. And never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS for four positions will be held in the coming months. If you would like to volunteer to be on the ballot or nominate someone to be on the ballot, please contact Theresa Veit at 573-418-7301 or by e-mail at rtbv05@embarqmail.com.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of May 10th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of May 17th: 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 – ONE MORE TEAM NEEDED!

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

Week of May 11: Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering

Week of May 18: Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempf

Week of May 25: Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter

THE META OVER 50 CLUB will not meet this month (May). If all goes well, we plan to resume our gatherings in June.

RECOGNIZING OUR 2020 GRADUATES: If you are a 2020 graduate (elementary, high school, college, technical school), please let us know by emailing or calling the Parish Office on Tuesday morning or Wednesday business hours at 573-477-3315. The names will be published in the May 23-24 bulletin.

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 7:15 p.m. Please read the May newsletter attached to the bulletin.

DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY: 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, the FBI website address to file an online Internet crime complaint is <https://www.ic3.gov>.

ST. NICHOLAS ACADEMY is a supportive living experience for boys from families that are under-resourced who want to give their sons every opportunity to succeed in school and life. St. Nick's partners with families and St. Peter Interparish School to provide this opportunity. St. Nick's is seeking Christian, married couples or single individuals who are willing to be part of a pool of relief parents. The role of relief parents is to care for the boys and home when the full-time house parents are off duty or

away. Typically, the full-time house parents are off duty every fourth weekend from 9:00 AM Friday through 7:00 PM Sunday. Relief parents, on a rotational schedule, fill in during this time. They may also be asked to be on a call list to help fill in when the house parents are on vacation and/or sick. Relief parents receive an hourly wage, all legally mandated benefits and a compensation package that includes a private suite and all meals for the days on duty. Please contact Sister Susan Renner, SSND at 573-635-7719 or director@stnick.org

CITY OF ST. THOMAS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS SPRING CLEAN-UP will be Wednesday, May 13. All clean up items will be picked up on the normal residential collection day. All items must be bagged or bundled so one person can easily handle them and be at the curb by 5:00 a.m. All lumber, guttering and other items of length must be tied in bundles and cut in 4 foot lengths so one person can easily handle the materials. NO HAZARDOUS WASTE, NO LIQUID WASTE of any type such as paints, pesticides, oil, etc. NO YARD WASTE such as brush, limbs, grass or leaves. NO CAR PARTS such as tires, motor oil, batteries, etc. NO WHITE GOODS (refrigerators, stoves, hot water heaters, washing machines or dryers) NO CONCRETE or large solid items that could damage our equipment. Any items in question will be left by the Republic Services driver. If you have any questions concerning these guidelines, please contact our office at 573-635-8805.

OSAGE SENIOR CENTER: Is your home getting too big? Do you need to be closer to Jefferson City or away from the city? If so, the Osage Senior Center, located in Wardsville, MO, is looking for interested seniors to fill possible vacancies and/or be placed on our waitlist for USDA or MHDC units. For more information call 573-469-8426.

SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

TOTUS TUUS – June 14-19, 2020

St. Cecilia Parish Picnic – July 12, 2020

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

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/>

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.

Confessions: St. Thomas the Apostle (Saturdays 4:00 – 4:45 PM) and St. Cecilia (Sundays 7:00 – 7:45 a.m. All confessions will be private/behind a screen until further notice.

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. "When weekend public Masses begin, 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>

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.