

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 16, 2021

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

St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer
jheckemeyerooffice@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 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 May 16-23:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Becky Strope
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Vic & Rita Otto
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Ray, Marcella & Sam Herigon
Friday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Gerhard & Adela Weber Family
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Curt Stockman

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$279,587.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$246,576.75**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: –\$ 33,010.25
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

May 2 \$ 5,510.00
May 9 \$ 4,880.00
May 16 \$
May 23 \$
May 30 \$

Collection Online: \$ 5,117.00
May total to date: **\$15,507.00**
Difference for May: –\$ 9,910.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$20,162.00**

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantor / Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kelsey Kliethermes / Jackie Prenger
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Amanda Wooten / Annette Kehner

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mary Kay Brand

Mass Live Streamers:

May 23 – Dunja Wieberg
May 30 – Brooke Schell
June 6 – Lauri Luebbering
June 13 – Jeanette Schroeder

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of May 16-23:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Keith Juergensmeyer

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Eleanor Wilde

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$49,696.35**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

May 2 \$ 1,260.00
May 9 \$ 2,175.00
May 16 \$
May 23 \$
May 30 \$

May total to date: **\$ 3,435.00**
Difference for May: –\$ 1,731.67

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

May – Dale & Margie Helton
June – Marie Lueckenotto & Pam Libbert

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

St. Cecilia Reader

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe
Sunday 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 Ushers

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark Boessen & Eric Strope
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mike Buschjost & Tom Backes

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Pat Kaiser
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mattheuw Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers

Saturday 5:00 p.m. -
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Avery Libbert & Miranda Meyer

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters

May 23 –Keith & Jean Kliethermes
May 30 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
June 6 - Jennifer Schroeder & Dunja Wieberg
May 30 – Shara Buechter & Paul Becker

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas:

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– Glorious Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m.–Pat Loethen – Glorious Mysteries

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

BULLETIN NOTICES: Deadline for bulletin notices is noon on Wednesday's.

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

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S MAY PRAYER INTENTION: May we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, our spiritual mother, this month by support in charity for all mothers who struggle in poverty to raise their children.

DECREE LIFTING GENERAL DISPENSATION

Lifting the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on days of precept, and abrogating requirements, restrictions, and special allowances of previous DECREES for the COVID-19 pandemic

Whereas the number of COVID-19 positive cases has reportedly stabilized at low numbers throughout our region, and that there are reportedly sufficient medical resources to treat patients who become sick; and

Whereas the availability of government-approved vaccines for the novel coronavirus are reportedly sufficient to inoculate those desiring it; and

Whereas the State of Missouri and the officials of the various counties throughout the diocese have lifted or sharply reduced their requirements and restrictions with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas the importance of the celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life, demands in-person attendance on days of precept whenever possible (cf. canon 1248 §1); and

Whereas having consulted the Bishops of the St. Louis Province on this matter at our meeting of 4 May 2021;

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

1. The general dispensation of previous decrees from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and other days of precept is hereby abrogated. Individuals who are symptomatic, or who have been advised by medical doctors to avoid public gatherings, or who are otherwise ill or homebound, as well as their caregivers, are already dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass (cf. canon 1248 §2).
2. Those who are symptomatic for COVID-19 should not be permitted to enter church properties, in accordance with national, state and local health guidance.
3. The continuance of certain special protocols during the pandemic should be continued at the discretion of the pastor (the daily cleaning of high-contact surfaces and holy water fonts; the availability of hand sanitizer and use by ministers of Holy Communion; the observance of social distancing whenever possible; etc.). The wearing of facemasks is still encouraged, especially for those who have not been fully vaccinated.
4. Livestreaming of parish Masses and other important events has proven to be an effective pastoral means of keeping homebound and ill parishioners in contact with their parish community. Parishes are highly encouraged to continue this service in the future.
5. The offertory procession, the taking up of the collection during Mass, the sign of peace, and the offering of the Precious Blood to the faithful may resume at the discretion of the pastor, administrator, or parish life collaborator, effective immediately.
6. All legitimate national, state or local health directives must be observed. Parishes and Catholic institutions in the diocese must stand ready to adopt previous pandemic protocols in the event of a surge of infections.

All other requirements, restrictions, or special allowances contained in previous decrees regarding the pandemic are hereby abrogated. This decree is effective from 1 June 2021, unless otherwise indicated. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City

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.

PLEASE REMOVE ALL FLOWERS & ARRANGEMENTS from in front of the stones in the St. Thomas Cemetery during the grass cutting season. Thank you for your cooperation.

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Mitch Stumpe & Darin Even

St. Cecilia Servers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. –

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

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

PASTORS MEDITATION: ASCENSION OF OUR LORD: JESUS ENTRUSTS US WITH HIS MISSION. (AA.1:1-11; Eph.1:17-23; Mk.16:15-20) Today's feast is a celebration of Jesus' final glorification after his suffering, death and Resurrection, a glory in which we also hope to share.

The first reading gives an account of the event of the Ascension as recorded in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. First, Jesus instructed his apostles to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the baptism by the Holy Spirit so that they might become his "witnesses to the ends of the earth" by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then a cloud took Jesus from the sight of the disciples and two Heavenly messengers in white garments gave them the assurance of Jesus' "second coming" or return in glory. In the second reading, Paul explains the theological meaning of Jesus' exaltation, giving us the assurance that one day, we too will be ascending to Heavenly Glory, provided we fulfill the mission entrusted to us by the ascending Lord.

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus ascended to Heaven after giving his final blessing and missionary command to his disciples. The command was to proclaim the Good News to the whole creation, "to be his witnesses," and "to make disciples of all nations."

Therefore friends we need to be proclaimers and evangelizers: To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. We preach with words, but we proclaim with our lives. Let us ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we bear witness to Jesus by our transparent Christian lives.

We have a teaching mission: Jesus taught us lessons of Faith, Hope, Love, forgiveness, mercy and salvation by his life and preaching and gave us the mission to teach these to others. Hence, let us learn about Jesus and his teachings by our daily study of the Bible and the teachings of the Church, experience Jesus in personal prayer, reception of the Sacraments and works of charity, and convey to others Jesus whom we have experienced with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The ascended Jesus is our source of strength and encouragement: We will be able to overcome doubts about our Faith, as well as baseless fears, anxieties and worries, by meditating on Jesus' Ascension and the lesson it teaches, that we too, are called to share his glory in Heaven. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

THE ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL would like to thank Jan Carter, Brian Luebbering, Theresa Veit and Ryan Wieberg for their service to the Parish Pastoral Council for the past three years. Your service is greatly appreciated.

THE ST. THOMAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL would like to welcome: Fred Boessen, Julia Cassmeyer, Jacob Graessle and Dunja Wieberg to the council. Thank you for volunteering to serve on the council.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of May 16: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

Week of May 23: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

Week of May 30: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

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 PARISH SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS will be the weekend of May 22-23.

ST. THOMAS PRESCHOOL: If you have a child ages 3 or 4 and have been thinking about preschool, please call Jaycine Bax 573-821-1179 or email jbax@stacs.school or the school office 573-477-3322. 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:

May 18 – 8th Grade Graduation May 20 – Preschool Graduation, Last day of school, 11:05 Dismissal

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

WEEKS: It is once again time for care and maintenance of the parish property. Many thanks to all those who volunteer their time and effort to keep our parish property looking nice. The following dates are assigned for grass cutting.

Week of May 17 Alan Reinkemeyer, Richard Heckemeyer and Dave Schroeder

Week of May 23 Mark Luebbering, Antone Luebbering and Nick Luebbering

Week of May 30 Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter

WANTED – ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE GRASS CUTTING TEAMS: Grab a friend or neighbor and consider forming a grass cutting team (2-3 people) to help with the care and maintenance of our beautiful parish grounds. Teams rotate on a weekly basis so your time commitment is not large. The parish lawn mower(s) are available for use when cutting. Please text or call Alan Reinkemeyer at 573-694-6984 if interested.

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH: Prayer service at St. Stanislaus Church for the healing of our nation will be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome! Please join us!

THE STANISLAUS LEGION OF MARY is sponsoring a prayer service including Rosary, Novena, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and songs on the 1st and 3rd Monday nights of each month. The intention is the end of the Coronavirus. Service begins at 7 p.m. and will be held in St. Stanislaus Church, Wardsville. If you can't stay for the whole time (approximately one hour), please come and join us for whatever time you are available! Thank you!

RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES: If you are a 2021 graduate (elementary, high school, college or technical school) please let us know by emailing or calling the school at 573-477-3322 or the Parish Office on Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. –4:30 p.m. or Thursday morning 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 573-477-3315. **The names will be published in the May 29-30 bulletin.**

OSAGE SENIOR CENTER: The Osage Senior Center, located in Wardsville, MO is now under new local management. The Center is looking for interested seniors to fill possible vacancies and/or be placed on the wait list. If you are interested or know people who may be interested, call (573) 632-2712, leave a message and our manager will call you back. Thank you.

HELIAS LADY CRUSADER BASKETBALL CAMP is June 7-10 at Helias Catholic High School. Grades & Times K-5th 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., 6th & 7th 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Cost K-5th \$35.00, 6th – 8th -\$55.00. Instructors: Head Coach – Garrett Wiggins, Head Assistant Coach – Chris Wyrick, Assistant Coach – Ryan Bax and current & former Lady Crusader Alumni.

BLOOD DRIVE: There is a Blood Drive May 19 from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. host by the Osage County 911/Emergency Management Center. It will be at the Linn Fire Station #1 at 210 W. Main Street. Give them a call to make you appointment.

SAVE THE DATE: June 27-July 2 – Totus Tuus

CARMELITE NUNS: The ministry of our Carmelite Nuns is to offer prayer and sacrifice for the Church and the people of the Diocese of Jefferson City. To make a prayer request, write or email the Carmelite Nuns at carmelofjc.prayers@gmail.com 31920 State Highway P, Clyde, MO 64432.

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

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

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.

DIOCESAN SPECIAL COLLECTION for the Catholic Communication Campaign and The Catholic University of America.

23 May 2021

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City,

With the great feast of Pentecost here, I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting two special collections which fund modern-day efforts to spread the Good News, similar to how the outpouring of the Holy Spirit encouraged the first Christians to proclaim Christ's salvation "to the ends of the earth."

During our liturgies on the weekend of Pentecost, May 23, we will take a special collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign and The Catholic University of America.


During the pandemic, many Catholics turned to radio, television and the Internet to remain connected to their communities, around the world. For many in developing countries, the only news they could trust regarding health measures, the only way for their children to be educated, and the only way they could participate in Mass and prayers of the Church was through modern communications. The Catholic Communication Campaign supports these efforts, and half of your donations remain in our diocese to support our efforts to be missionaries on what Pope Benedict XVI called the "Digital Continent."

The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. shares the Good News by engaging its students to discover knowledge and truth through excellence in teaching and research. With its 12 schools and 23 research centers, the University provides an exceptional Catholic education to almost 7,000 students annually. By way of its many programs, such as those in ethical business practices; classical architecture; intelligence studies; neuroscience; nursing; Spanish language and Hispanic ministry; social service; and Catholic bioethics the University prepares students to respond to the many issues facing the Church and society today. Again, some of your donation supports students from our diocese who attend CUA, including three of our priests who are studying canon law.

Your generous support for the Catholic Communication Campaign and for The Catholic University of America ensures that many people, from villagers on remote islands to the next generation of lay leaders being educated at CUA, can receive the Gospel and have their lives transformed. Thank you for your prayerful support of these two special collections.

With my prayers that God bless you richly with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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

