

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

MAY 24, 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 24-31:

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. – Richard Schwartz
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – No Mass (Summer Schedule)
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Sylvanus Hoecker
Friday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Alex Heckman Family
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Bob Luebbering

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$279,587.00
Actual Collection for 2019-2020:	\$251,318.43
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 28,268.57
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

May 3	\$ 4,304.00
May 10	\$ 6,773.41
May 17	\$ 2,390.00
May 24	\$
May 31	\$

Collection Online: \$ 6,002.00

May total to date: \$ **19,469.41**

Difference for May: –\$ 5,947.59

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): **\$26,445.20**

Loan payments to date for FY 2019-2020: **\$92,277.40**

Principal \$86,449.92 Interest \$5,827.48

Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$114,288.83**

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff

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

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.

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of May 24-31:

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 two of bulletin.

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – L&D Hedwig Holtmeyer Family

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Celestine Stegeman

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2019-2020:	\$49,286.25
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

May 3	\$ 1,135.00
May 10	\$ 415.00
May 17	\$ 2,100.00
May 24	\$
May 31	\$

May total to date: \$ **3,650.00**

Difference for May: –\$ 1,516.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

MAY: Dale & Margie Helton

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

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

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: 7th Sunday of Easter: THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Today's Feast is a celebration of Jesus' glory after his suffering and death, a glory in which we also hope to share. The ascended Jesus promised the Apostles, "***I am with you always; to the end of time,***" and keeps that promise *through* the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit as their source of Heavenly power, He commanded them to bear witness to him by their lives and by preaching the good News throughout the world.

As Christians, we need to be proclaimers and evangelizers. The difference between preaching and proclaiming is that we preach with words, but we proclaim with our lives. Let us ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we may 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 both by living and by preaching them. Our mission is to bring them to others in the same ways. Hence, let us learn all Jesus did and taught through daily study of the scriptures and the teachings of the Church, experience Jesus in personal prayer, reception of the Sacraments and works of charity, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, convey to others Jesus whom we have experienced.

The ascended Jesus is our source of strength and encouragement: We will be able to overcome doubts about our Faith and baseless fears, anxieties and worries by meditating on Jesus' Ascension and the lesson it teaches that we too, are called to share Jesus' glory in Heaven. May the Spirit of God guide you and protect you. *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.

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. CECILIA PARISH PASTORIAL COUNCIL MEETING is Wednesday, May 27 immediately following 6:30 p.m. Mass in the parish center.

ST. CECILIA HOLY HOUR is this Friday, May 29, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with Holy Hour.

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.

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 24th: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

Week of May 31st: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of June 7th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of June 14th: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Linda 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 25: Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter

Week of June 8: Alan Reinkemeyer, Richard Heckemeyer and Dave Schroeder.

Week of June 15: Mark Luebbering, Antone Luebbering and Nick Luebbering

Week of June 22: Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering

Week of June 29: Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempf

CONGRATULATIONS to the St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool graduates: Beau Goeller, Jude Luebbering, Oliver Luebbering, Luke Otto, Gannon Reeves, Matthew Stegeman

CONGRATULATIONS to our grade school & high school graduates:

St. Thomas the Apostle 8th Grade: Colton Libbert, Jacob Luebbering, Noah Luebbering, Gavin McDonnell, Ava Morris, Will Otto, Fayeth Prenger

Blair Oaks 8th Grade: Latham Cavin, Brooklyn Heislen, Abby Hoecker, Clara Lackman, Dorothy Lackman, Chase Luebbering, Cole Peters, Sam Schaefer, Maggie Wieberg

Blair Oaks High School: Austin Heckman, Andrew Luebbering, Robert Luebbering, Samuel Luebbering, Natalie Otto

Fatima 8th Grade: Skyla Schroeder

St. Elizabeth 8th Grade: Ava Werdehausen

Fatima High School: Joshua Even, Madalyn Veltrop

St. Elizabeth High School: Nicole Massman, Alicia Wankum

CONGRATULATIONS to our college & technical school graduates:

Samantha (Even) Helton – Masters from East Carolina University

Karlie Reinkemeyer - Missouri State University.

Brent Heckemeyer – Missouri Valley College

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

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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH LOOSE CREEK BBQ FUNDRAISER: Due to COVID-19 pandemic, we are having a Curbside BBQ (Pork Steak and Cheeseburger Meals), on Sunday, June 14, 2020 from 11:00 am - 6:00 PM. In conjunction with this, we will be having our regular picnic raffle and a 50/25/25 money pot. Please help support our parish and pick up some good BBQ.

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/>

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. 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.