

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 2, 2021

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: 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 2-9:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Alex Heckman Family
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. - Jim Poettgen
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Mass of Healing
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Herb & Imogene Volmert
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Becky Strope
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – John, Minnie & Steve Luebbering

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$254,170.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$231,069.75**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: –\$ 23,100.25
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

April 4 \$ 5,125.00
April 11 \$ 3,140.00
April 18 \$ 3,797.00
April 25 \$ 3,743.00
Collection Online: \$ 6,152.00
April total to date: **\$21,957.00**
Difference for April: -\$ 3,460.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$18,908.00**

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantor / Organist

Saturday 5:00p.m.– Mary Kay Brand / Annette Kehner
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Luke Schroeder / Jackie Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Ben Luebbering

Mass Live Streamers:

May 9 – Karlie Reinkemeyer
May 16 – Jennifer Schroeder
May 23 – Dunja Wieberg

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of May 2-9:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Harold Porting

Sunday 8:00 a.m. –L&D Henry & Agnes Lueckenotto Family

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$46,261.25**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

April 4 \$ 1,735.00
April 11 \$ 990.00
April 18 \$ 1,560.00
April 25 \$ 1,030.00
April total to date: **\$ 5,315.00**
Difference for April: +\$ 881.67

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

May – Dale & Margie Helton

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

St. Cecilia Reader

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Jennifer Even

**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. – Dave Luebbering & Steve Schellman
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Stockman & TJ Loethen

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lora Boessen
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Bill Luebbering

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 9 – Jennifer Schroeder & Dunja Wieberg
 May 16 – Shara Buechter & Paul Becker
 May 23 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes
 May 30 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

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. – Gilbert & Hermina – 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.

CONGRATULATIONS to ***Mark Joseph Strobe***, son of Simon & Anne Strobe, who became a child of God through baptism this weekend in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Come celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Norbert & Marilyn Veit, May 15 with an open house at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Snacks provided/please no gifts.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PRAYER LINE REQUESTS should be emailed to Theresa Veit at tveitoffice@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.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 5th SUNDAY of EASTER: REMAIN IN ME (Acts 9:26-31; 1Jn 3:18-24; Jn. 15:1-8) Today's word of God urges us to stay united to Jesus and give visibility to his presence when we gather as a church. The readings selected emphasize the need for Christians to abide in Christ as a condition for producing fruits of kindness, mercy, charity, and holiness.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. We are told how the Lord pruned the former Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, a fanatic who had persecuted the Church, to produce a fruit-bearing branch called Paul, the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles, entirely dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel. Even Paul's forced return to Tarsus for a brief period is an example of God's pruning of the vine to bring forth a greater harvest, namely, the mission to the Gentiles. In the second reading, John, in his first letter to the Church, explains that only if we remain united to Christ by putting our Faith in him and drawing our spiritual strength from him, will we be able to obey God's commandments, especially the commandment of love, loving one another as Jesus commanded us. The Gospel, taken from the Last Supper discourse, Jesus uses his favorite image of the vine and branches to help his disciples understand the need for closeness of their relationship with him and the necessity of their maintaining it. They are not simply rabbi and disciples, their lives are mutually dependent – as close as a vine and its branches. In fact, in using this image, Jesus is explaining to them and to us what our relationship with him should be like.

We therefore need pruning in our Christian life. Cutting out of our lives everything that is contrary to the spirit of Jesus and renewing our commitment to Christian ideals in our lives every day is the first type of self-imposed pruning expected of us. A second means of pruning is to practice self-control over our evil inclinations, sinful addictions and aberrations. Cordial mingling in our neighborhood and society with people of different cultures, races, religions, and orientations also enables us to prune away our selfish, judgmental, and prejudicial tendencies as we treat others in the society with Christian charity, and strengthens us, enabling us to face with the courage of our Christian convictions the pain, suffering, contradictions, and difficulties He permits to enter our lives.

We also need to abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us: The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine, drawing their life from it. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily, meditative reading of Scripture, and our loving, mutual forgiveness exchanged with everyone enable us to abide in Jesus, the true Vine, as fruit-bearing branches.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE HOLY HOUR is Friday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.

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 CHURCH will be renovating our church beginning August 2021. We are seeking estimates for floor covering and electrical/lighting. All inquiries should contact the parish office at 573-477-3315 by May 7 or emailing jheckemeyerooffice@gmail.com or tveitoffice@gmail.com.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of May 2: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of May 9: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

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

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

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. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Jennifer Even

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Terry Libbert & Tony Derkum

St. Cecilia Servers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. –

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

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

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 5 – Diocesan Virtual Vocation Day Grade 6
May 7 – Spring Flower & Popcorn pick up

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 3	Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering
Week of May 10	Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempf
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!

CITIZENS CIVIC LEAGUE, META is sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, May 4 between the hours of 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. If at all possible, schedule an appointment. Download the Blood Donor App RedCrossBlood.org. 1-800 733 2767. We will be serving hamburgers for those that want one and t-shirts (while supplies last).

OVER 50 luncheon went well in April therefore we are scheduling the May luncheon on May 13 at the St. Cecilia parish center. **We will be eating at noon. You are asked to bring a covered dish for each person attending. Everyone is welcome to join** and become a member.

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.

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

CITY OF ST. THOMAS RESIDENTIAL SPRING CLEAN-UP with Republic Trash Service is Wednesday, May 12. There are clean-up guidelines set by Republic Trash Services. These guidelines are posted on the City of St. Thomas FaceBook page or you may call Republic Trash Service at (573) 635-8805.

APPRECIATION DANCE: Jerry and Mike Groner will be hosting an open dance at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center on Saturday, May 8 in appreciation for all the years of patronage from their customers. Music by Shiloh from 8:00-11:00 PM. **Must be age 21 or older to enter.** Bring your own drinks.

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.

ON PASTORAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY:

Whereas guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Government advises: 1) the more frequently a surface is touched by multiple people, the more frequently it should be cleaned and then disinfected, and 2) frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least daily; and

Whereas many local health authorities allow for social gatherings and events when the standard protocols of social distancing and the wearing of face masks are observed;

I therefore emend, as Diocesan Bishop, the DECREES of 21 August 2020, 11 November 2020, and 2 March 2021 according to the following:

1. The Bible, hymnals, other liturgical aids or spiritual resources for the celebration of liturgies and devotions may be returned to the pews of churches and adoration chapels, effective immediately. Those who enter churches and chapels are to be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands frequently, and pews and other frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.
2. Holy Water may be returned to fonts with frequent changes of Holy Water, at least daily.
3. Social gatherings may take place on parish properties as early as 1 June 2021, but only if local health authority directives are observed. Parishes and schools are encouraged, however, to delay such events until late summer to avoid the need to cancel them if local circumstances require it.

This decree is effective immediately unless otherwise noted, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City on this 12th day of March 2021. **The Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.**

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 carmelofic.prayers@gmail.com 31920 State Highway P, Clyde, MO 64432.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER is a weekend with other engaged couples where an atmosphere is created in which each couple can concentrate exclusively on one another, free of the tensions, pressures and interruptions of the world. It is designed to give engaged couples the opportunity to discuss honestly their future lives together – their strengths and weaknesses, desires, goal, ambitions, their attitudes about money, sex, family, children, their role in the church and society – in face to face way. Engaged Encounter is designed to deepen and enrich your relationship with each other. All engaged couples are welcome, including interfaith couples and those entering a second marriage. For a list of available weekends, to register and for more information, visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/engaged-encounter

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 mantle 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.

