

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 3, 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 3-10:

As per direction from Bishop McKnight, all Public Masses are SUSPENDED through May 3. Parishes may resume public Masses beginning May 4 but must follow the instructions issued by Bishop McKnight on April 28 (see letter attached to the bulletin) and state and local government restrictions.

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Jim Poettgen

Wednesday 7:45 a.m. - Ben Engelmeyer

Thursday 7:45 a.m. - Becky Strobe

Friday 7:45 a.m. John, Minnie & Steve Luebbering

Saturday 5:00 p.m. -People of our Parishes &Henrietta Kroll

Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Jeremy Luebbering

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$254,170.00
Actual Collection for 2019-2020:	\$231,849.02
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	-\$ 22,320.98
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

April 5	\$ 5,148.00
April 12	\$ 4,145.00
April 19	\$ 1,980.00
April 26	\$ 2,505.00

Collection Online: \$ 5,702.00

April total to date: \$ **19,480.00**

Difference for April -\$ 5,937.00

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): **\$24,712.20**

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**

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 10 – Paul Becker & Shara Buechter

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.

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.

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of May 3-10:

As per direction from Bishop McKnight, all Public Masses are SUSPENDED through May 3. Parishes may resume public Masses beginning May 4 but must follow the instructions issued by Bishop McKnight on April 28 (see letter attached to the bulletin) and state and local government restrictions.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Rita Schuttenberg

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2019-2020:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2019-2020:	\$45,736.25
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

April 5	\$ 700.00
April 12	\$ 0.00
April 19	\$1,090.00
April 26	\$ 0.00

April total to date: \$ **1,790.00**

Difference for April: -\$ 3,376.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

MAY: Dale & Margie Helton

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

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 4th Sunday of Easter: GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY AND VOCATION SUNDAY:

All of us have the opportunity to become leaders because we have people to care, to tend and to lead. For example, our pope is the leader of the universal church. The bishop is the leader of the local church called diocese. The parish priest is the leader of the parish. Government officials, managers, parents and others are also leaders in their own field of activities.

Every Fourth Sunday of Easter is called the Good Shepherd Sunday. It is because the readings used talk about the Good Shepherd who is Jesus Christ, ready to lay down His life for us, ready to defend life, ready to spread life, ready to give His whole life for His sheep every day. A true leader, models his/her leadership on the Good Shepherd. Jesus gives us the criteria of a true and genuine leadership.

First is dedication. A true leader is ready to give his life for all no matter what. Unlike our modern leaders, who take advantage and care for themselves instead of tending and looking after people's welfare. A dedicated leader must be **Competent**. Being competent is not only referred to as competent in leading the people but he/she must have knowledge of God and for God. A dedicated leader must be **Commitment**, that is, donating oneself for the sake of others, willing to share his/her Time, Talent and Treasure. A dedicated leader is **Consecrated** in a way which means that as leaders, they are set apart for the service of God. Their main purpose why he/she serves the people is because this is the best way on how to serve God. A dedicated leader must be ready to forgive whatever wrongdoings others have done against you (**conversion**)

Second criterion is knowledge. The true leader knows his/her people (John 10:3). Which includes knowing them by their names, works, ambitions, plans, feelings, sharing their life's conditions, backgrounds and identifying oneself in their struggle. As a priest am a spiritual leader of a parish and I must know the people. How many parishioners go to Mass on Sunday? Where are the others if not all attend? Are they un-churched or nominal Catholics? Do they go to the Church only when they are hatched (or during their Baptism), matched (or during their wedding) and dispatched (during the funeral Mass of their burial). Where are they now? Do I know where they may be when they are not in Church. If I happen to see them do I tell them that God is good all and looking for them especially in the Church. Each of us has the opportunity to become a leader and a shepherd, so be a good shepherd to them and look for them.

Lastly, a leader must be or give a good example in his/her community by words and deeds. Like us priests, you address us as "Father" because we have a big role to play as shepherds. All of us must follow the criteria of leadership: **dedication, knowledge and exemplar**. Have we cared enough for the flock God has entrusted to us? This Sunday is an opportunity for us to pray for all the leaders starting with ourselves that we can be good. *Have a blessed week. Fr. Leonard Mukibi*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:za

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 is attached to our bulletin, found on the Church website page and on our Facebook page. "We have highlighted the most important sections (Before Mass, During Mass, and After Mass) for you to review about how Mass will be re-established at St. Thomas the Apostle." Since the bulletin and letter are printed in black and white, the highlights will appear as gray shading and not stand out so I think we need to mention the sections. "We have highlighted the most important sections (Before Mass, During Mass, and After Mass) for you to review about how Mass will be re-established at St. Thomas the Apostle." Since the bulletin and letter are printed in black and white, the highlights will appear as gray shading and not stand out so I think we need to mention the 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 this 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.

The St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council and some of the Parish staff recently met to discuss how to implement these guidelines and future instruction will be forthcoming. In addition, our ushers will play a big part of helping ensure these guidelines are met and a special meeting will be called in the future to help instruct ushers are on these new changes. The changes will commence with the Saturday 5:00 p.m. evening Mass on May 9th. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Fr. Leonard or one of the Parish Council Members.

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*

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 THE APOSTLE SCHOOL: FROM THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL OFFICE: With a formal decree suspending the public celebration of the liturgy and devotions, our schools must remain closed. Schools within the Diocese of Jefferson City **must remain closed** through the remainder of this school year.

The school and parish **playground** is **CLOSED!** Please do your part and stay off the playground.

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: The dues are \$10.00 per family (\$5.00 for single persons). Family members becoming the head of a separate household are not covered under their parent's membership. Also, anyone after their 21st birthday must pay their own dues of \$5.00. Please note: Anyone falling in areas over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put your payment in the collection basket marked "Cemetery Dues" or mail to St. Thomas Cemetery Association, c/o Lisa Lackman, 2222 Upper Bottom Road., St. Thomas, MO 65076. You may contact Lisa, if you have questions about your current or past dues, at 573-338-2703.

THE CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE IN META has been asked to sponsor a much needed blood drive on May 5, 2020 2:30 to 7:00 p.m. Red Cross will do appropriate spacing and setting up stations. They are asking, if you have a face mask to wear it, or if you don't have one, one will be provided upon arrival. If you have the capability to make an appointment to do so and use Rapid Pass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history. Another request was not to bring children or any other guest.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of May 3rd: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

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 4: Mark Luebbering, Antone Luebbering and Nick Luebbering

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

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 Whitehouse. 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.