

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

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

November 22, 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
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: 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 November 22-29:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Sylvanus Hoecker
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Curt Stockman
Thursday 9:00 a.m. – Bob Luebbering
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Roman Plassmeyer
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – L&D Anton Herigon Family

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$127,085.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$ 103,428.00**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 23,657.00
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

November 1 \$ 5,200.00
November 8 \$ 2,769.00
November 15 \$ 2,590.00
November 22 \$
November 29 \$

Collection Online: \$ 6,052.00
November total to date: **\$16,811.00**
Difference for November: –\$ 8,606.00

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid: \$2,273,475.34

Income from parishioners for FY 2020-2021

(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$11,456.00**

Thanks to the generous support of St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners and our benefactors, the Parish has paid off the building expansion loan.

Cantor/Organist

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – Judy Schroeder / Jackie Prenger
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten / Annette Kehner
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Jackie Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – David Schroeder
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Kathy Rackers

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

Thursday 9:00 a.m. – Doug Stockman & Gilbert Schellman
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Fred Luebbering & Mark Boessen
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Ryan Buschjost & Richard Heckemeyer

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of November 22-29:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Lawrence "Dick" Rehagen

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Alma, Henry Blomberg, Mary Clark

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$20,482.35**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

November 1 \$ 1,540.35
November 8 \$ 660.00
November 15 \$ 1,365.00
November 22 \$

November total to date: **\$ 3,565.35**
Difference for November: –\$ 1,601.32

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

November: Dale & Margie Helton

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

St. Cecilia Reader:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:05 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen–Glorious Mysteries
Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer– Joyful Mysteries

St. Cecilia Ushers

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Kenny Otto & Larry Lueckenotto

Mass live streamers

November 29 – Jennifer Schroeder

December 6 – Dunja Wieberg

December 13 – Brooke Schell

December 20 – Lauri Luebbering

If anyone is interested in helping livestream the 10:00 a.m. Mass, please contact Barbara Graessle at 573-680-2954.

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle

Tuesday, 7:20 a.m. – Joann Heckman – Sorrowful Mysteries

Wednesday 7:20 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Glorious Mysteries

Thursday 8:35 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Luminous Mysteries

Friday 7:20 a.m. – Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries

Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Joyful Mysteries

Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Tina Stockman – Joyful Mysteries

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. We have new scrip that is now available to purchase: Culver's, Madison's Café, Oscar's Diner, Sonic.

Please remember to purchase Scrip Cards for your holiday shopping gift giving needs!

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS:

Anyone entering the St. Thomas Parish School building must wear a mask at all times, except when quilting. Must be fever free or no temperature of 100 or higher. Please take your temperature at home.

Tuesday, Nov. 24 – Jennifer Borgmeyer & Mary Kay Brand **Thursday, December 3** – Renee Braun & Mary Jane Budnik

Please bring snack to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strope at 573-477-3349.

BULLETIN NOTICES: Deadline for bulletin notices this week is 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 25.

A NOTE OF THANKS!

Thanks to all who purchased a "God is Good" t-shirt. We were able to raise \$1,932.80 from this fundraiser, which will be given to the Parish for any needs. People with t-shirts on back order will be contacted soon.

BIRTHDAY: Celeste Suthoff will be celebrating her birthday on November 29. If anyone would like to send her a birthday card, please send to Summit Villa, 229 Karen Dr. C/O Celeste Suthoff/Room 2 Holts Summit, Mo. 65043

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: For a greater sense of gratitude to God for all blessings received, and a greater sense of our responsibility for the mission of the Church in our parishes.

UPDATED DECREE FROM BISHOP MCKNIGHT:

Whereas the case numbers of COVID-19 infections remain at their highest levels for many counties of Mid-Missouri; and Whereas the common good demands that the public health requirements and recommendations of the state are to be observed whenever possible; and

Whereas the Presbyteral Council has provided their advice with regard to the ongoing reality of the pandemic; and

Whereas the current DECREE governing pastoral activities during the pandemic expires on the 27th day of November 2020;

I therefore declare, as the diocesan bishop, the following:

1. **All dispensations, obligations and guidance of the previous DECREE of 21 August 2020**, originally effective until 27 November 2020, shall now be extended until further notice.
2. All the faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City, and those who are present in the territory of the diocese, are therefore dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and holy days of obligation until further notice, provided that for days of precept they do one of the following:
 - o Prayerfully participate in the Sunday or holy day of obligation Mass live streamed from their parish church or chapel, the Cathedral, the Vatican, or of any Mass of the day celebrated in communion with the Roman Catholic Church.
 - o Prayerfully read and meditate on the readings of the Mass for the Sunday or holy day of obligation, and recite the rosary or Divine Mercy chaplet.
 - o The faithful still have the obligation to keep the Lord's Day holy and "to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2185)
3. Parishes are highly encouraged to live stream Masses for Sundays and holy days of obligation to maintain a pastoral connection with their parishioners during and after the pandemic.
4. Celebrations of penance services, as well as other seasonal services that entail extra gatherings of the faithful apart from Mass, are to be avoided. Instead, parish priests are asked to make themselves more available, even on a daily basis during the last week of Advent, to hear the confessions of the faithful.
5. Whenever possible, the faithful should present themselves to their parish priest for the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick before they depart for the hospital. Because of pandemic protocols at hospitals throughout the diocese, priests may not have access to patients at the hospital.
6. The vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas] on 24 December 2020 may be celebrated as early as 3 pm to accommodate an ample Mass schedule for social distancing requirements. Whenever possible, every active priest of the diocese shall celebrate a vigil Mass of Christmas at 3 pm with the faithful so as to minimize large numbers congregating at the most popular Mass of the season. The allowance for a 3 pm vigil Mass of Christmas is only for this year and not to be presumed for the future.

This decree is effective from 28 November 2020 and until further notice, anything to the contrary notwithstanding. Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: We are entering our final weeks of the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

Thank you to all who have made a gift or pledge. If you have not done so, please know that we benefit greatly by the services and support provided through diocesan ministries. We appreciate any gift you are able to make.

The CSA goal for St. Cecilia Parish is \$2,500, **\$1,065.00** received so far

The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$10,000, **\$5,040.00** received so far

2021 MISSALS are on the table in the Church entrance. You may pick up a missal to bring with you for public Mass but must take it home after Mass. Missals cannot be left in the pews. The 2020 Missals may be recycled.

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS: Magnificat Advent Companion booklets with daily reflections are available for you at the entrances to Church to assist your daily prayer throughout the coming season of Advent.

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020 Year A: CHRIST THE KING: (Ezek.34:11-12, 15-17; ICor.15:20-26, 28; Mt.25:31-46)

It was Pope Pius XI who brought the Feast of Christ the King into the liturgy in 1925 to bring Christ as Ruler and Christian values back into the lives of Christians, into society and into politics. This feast challenges us to see Christ the King in everyone, especially those whom our society considers the least important, and to treat each person with the same love, mercy, and compassion Jesus showed.

The first reading, taken from Ezekiel, introduces God as the Good Shepherd reminding us of Christ's claim to be the Good Shepherd and King, leading, feeding and protecting his sheep. In the second reading, St. Paul presents Christ as the all-powerful Ruler King Who raises the dead, to whom every form of power and authority must eventually give way. Today's Gospel describes Christ the King coming in Heavenly glory to judge us, based on how we have shared our love and blessings with others through genuine acts of charity in our lives. Jesus is present to us now, not only as our Good Shepherd leading, feeding and healing his sheep, but also as dwelling in those for whom we care. In the parable of the separation of the sheep from the goats at the Last Judgment, every person to whom we give ourselves, "whether hungry, thirsty or a stranger, naked, sick or in prison," is revealed to us as having been the risen Jesus. Our reward or punishment depends on how we have recognized and treated this risen Jesus in the needy.

Therefore friends we need to recognize and appreciate Christ's presence within us and surrender our lives to Christ's rule: Since Christ, our King, lives in our hearts with the Holy Spirit and His Heavenly Father and fills our souls with His grace, we need to learn to surrender our lives to Him, live in His Holy Presence, and do God's will by sharing His forgiving love with others around us. Aware of His presence in the Bible, in the Sacraments, and in the worshipping community, we need to listen and talk to Him.

We need to learn to be servers: Since Christ was a Servant-King we are invited to be His loyal citizens by rendering humble service to others and by sharing Christ's mercy and forgiveness with others.

We need to use our authority to support the leadership of Jesus. This feast is an invitation to all those who have power or authority in the public or the private realms to use it for Jesus by bearing witness to Him in the way we live. Parents are expected to use their God-given authority to train their children in Christian ideals and in the ways of committed Christian living.

We need to accept Jesus Christ as the King of love, who came to proclaim to all of us the Good News of God's love and salvation, gave us His new commandment of love: "*Love one another as I have loved you,*" (Jn.13:34), and demonstrated that love by dying for us sinners. We accept Jesus as our King of love when we love others as Jesus already loves us unconditionally, sacrificially and with *agape* love. Happy Thanksgiving Day and May you stay safe.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

PRAYER HOUR WITH MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING is Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: November classes will be held in St. Cecilia Parish Center basement. Class will **NOT** be held Wednesday, November 25th. In December, classes will be held at St. Thomas Knights of Columbus hall. Class will **NOT** be held Wednesday, December 23 and Wednesday, December 30th.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES:

Monday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle
Tuesday, December 8, 7:45 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle
Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. St. Cecilia

ADVENT SEASON CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle (no visiting priests)
Thursday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. St. Cecilia (no visiting priests)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

St. Thomas the Apostle

December 24, 5:00 p.m.
December 24, 10:00 p.m.
December 25, 10:00 a.m.

St. Cecilia

December 24, 7:00 p.m.
December 25, 8:00 a.m.

ST. CECILIA CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you want to remember your loved ones during the Christmas season, you may make a monetary donation with their names (**CLEARLY PRINTED**) in an envelope marked "ST. CECILIA FLOWER DONATION". Please place flower donations in the collection basket or mail to the parish office between now and December 20. The names will be remembered & published in the December 27 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Those wishing to make a monetary donation toward the Christmas flowers and decorations at St. Thomas the Apostle are asked to place their donation, along with names (**CLEARLY PRINTED**) of those to be remembered in the envelope provided in the December packet. Please place the donations in the collection basket between now and December 20. The names will be remembered & published in the December 27 bulletin.

ADOPTED FAMILIES FOR CHRISTMAS: This year, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is adopting five families for Christmas through the Samaritan Center. The giving tree will be in Church starting Saturday, November 14. Gift tags on the giving tree list an item or items on the wish list of a particular individual within the family. If there are several items on a tag, you choose what you would like to purchase for the individual from the suggested items. We also have gift tags requesting cash donations as the cash is used to purchase grocery gift cards as a gift for the entire family. If you choose a gift tag for a cash donation, please return the cash in an envelope with the gift tag taped to the outside of the envelope. If you choose a gift tag for an item(s), please wrap the item(s) and tape the tag to the gift. Return your donations back to the giving tree no later than Sunday, December 6, immediately following Mass. Thank you so much for your generosity! If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Becker at 573-690-0642.

REMINDERS FOR PARISHIONERS that every First Friday of the month, we have a Holy Hour/Adoration followed by Benediction at St. Thomas the Apostle and at St. Cecilia the last Friday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ST. CECILIA HOLY HOUR is Friday, November 27, 7:00 p.m. with anointing of the sick.

FALL QUIK PIK is **CANCELLED** on Sunday, November 22.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of November 22nd: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of November 29th: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

Week of December 6th: 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. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS: All Students at St. Thomas the Apostle School will receive FREE breakfasts & lunches through the DESE Seamless Summer Option and the USDA. According to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), this program is scheduled to run through June 30, 2021, or until funding runs out – whichever occurs sooner. This program is also available to all children in the community from the ages of 1-18. If you wish to order meals for children 1-18 in the community, you will need to contact Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff at 573-477-3322 by 9:00 a.m. Then you may pick up your meals at 11:30 a.m. by the cafeteria door, which is next to the Parish entry double doors. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 573-477-3322 for more information.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 23-27 – No School K-8 (Thanksgiving Break)

Tuesday, December 22, Early Release, car riders 12:50 p.m., bus riders 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 23-January 3 – No School K- 8 Christmas break

Monday, January 4 – School Resumes K-8

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE is Sunday, November 29, 8:00 a.m. to noon at the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Hall. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: St.ThomasParish to schedule an appointment.

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 to the end of the Coronavirus. Service begins at 7:00 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!

TIME EXTENDED TO OBTAIN INDULGENCES: Plenary or full indulgences traditionally obtained during the first week of November for the souls of the faithful in purgatory can now be gained throughout the entire month of November, due to the impact of the pandemic. You can read more about the changes made by the Vatican in the Catholic Missourian or online at bit.ly/CathMo.

EWTN TRIP: Join Fr. Joe Corel on a 4 day trip to EWTN (Eternal Word Televised Network) April 20-23, 2021. Enjoy a studio tour & Mass, taping of "EWTN LIVE", tour of Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, "Lourdes Grotto" and John Paul II Museum. Includes motor coach transportation from Jefferson City, three nights hotel, five meals. Cost is \$680.00 per person based on double. Please call Travel Answers (573) 893-5262 for more details or to reserve a spot.

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 on phishing scams and email security, or The FBI website address to file an online Internet crime complaint is <https://www.ic3.gov>.

GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMORIAL MONUMENT: Groundbreaking was held on Veterans Day for the God Star Family Memorial Monument near the Missouri State Capitol. This monument honors families that have lost loved ones while serving our country. This monument consists of 4 panels made of black granite. It reaches seven feet at its highest point and stretches 12 feet long. It will be built on city property adjacent to the Missouri Veterans Memorial at the Capitol and next to the entrance of the planned Bicentennial Bridge. Granite benches will be placed in the area for those who wish to reflect on the meaning of the monument. It will be completed by August 10, 2021 the anniversary of Missouri's admission to the union. Donations are welcome and will be graciously accepted. Please make checks payable to Mid-Missouri Gold Star Family Memorial Monument (MMGSFMM) Send donations to Legends Bank, c/o Rosie Verslues, 130 E. McCarty St. Jefferson City, MO 65101

RECOGNIZING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES in the bulletin. If you are a college or technical school graduate this semester, please let us know by emailing or calling the school at 573-477-3322 or the Parish Office on Tuesday morning or Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 573-477-3315. The names will be published in the December 27 bulletin.

9 November 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Diocese will soon take up the national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Your support for this collection brings change to communities across the country and empowers those living in poverty to transform the places where they live into reflections of the Kingdom of God. In addition to making an impact nationally, those living in poverty in our own diocese are empowered through the 25% share of our collection that stays here. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to economic circumstances that are stressful for all and dire for many. For essential workers who must be on the job and away from home, there is increased danger of being exposed to the coronavirus. This has been especially true for many migrant farm and factory workers. Here in the Diocese of Jefferson City, the CCHD-funded Rural Community Workers Alliance (RCWA) has helped organize workers to ensure that their health and safety are being prioritized, allowing them to continue the vital work that helps feed America. During the pandemic the RCWA has provided the tools and training necessary for workers to be proactive in advocating for the personal protective equipment, workplace modifications, and safety protocols that keep them safe and on the job. In doing so, they ensure and enhance the inherent dignity of each person, a core tenet of our Catholic Social Teaching. Your support for this collection makes a difference for individuals and families living in poverty across our diocese and the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you are able to help CCHD this year. If you would like more information about the collection and the people it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cchd/collection. Thank you for joining us to work on the margins. Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

I am sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D. Bishop of Jefferson City