

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 29, 2020



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. 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 Nov. 29 - Dec. 6:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Bob Luebbering
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Marie Luebbering
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Loreen Volmert
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Vic Otto
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Gregory Veit

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$127,085.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021:	\$107,393.00
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	– \$ 19,692.00
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	\$ 3,965.00
November 29	\$

Collection Online: \$ 6,052.00
November total to date: **\$20,776.00**
Difference for November: –\$ 4,641.00

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): **\$12,010.00**

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

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

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Tom Backes

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Joe & Jonathan Buschjost
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff & Larry Lueckenhoff

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of Nov. 29 - Dec. 6:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Fred Hagenhoff

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Lionel, Arharta, Bonnie & Sandy Libbert

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021:	\$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021:	\$21,152.35
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	\$ 670.00

November total to date: **\$ 4,235.35**
Difference for November: –\$ 931.32

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

December: Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotto

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

St. Cecilia Reader:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

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

St. Cecilia Ushers

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

Mass live streamers

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 7:20 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. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe – 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.

Thursday, December 3 – Renee Braun & Mary Jane Budnik **Thursday, December 10** – Amy Buechter & Kaylie Buechter

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 Strobe at 573-477-3349.

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

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: For the sons and daughters of the Church: that we may be the light of God's love for the world by our sacrificial gifts for those in need, especially the children of our world.

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, **\$1,615.00** received so far

The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$10,000, **\$6,390.00** 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: 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B: BE ALERT, WATCHFUL AND PREPARED (Is.63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7, 1 Cor.1:3-9, Mk.13:33-37)

I hope you all had a happy and safe Thanksgiving Day; we can't cease appreciating God for his goodness to us. The central theme of today's readings is Jesus' warning to us to be alert, watchful and prepared because Christ's *Second Coming*, coinciding with the end of the world, can occur at any time. People, in general, used to have a paranoid fear about the end of the world. They expected it in A.D. 204, 999 and 2000. But Jesus, in today's Gospel, gives us the assurance that we need not be afraid of the end of the world, Christ's Second Coming and the Last Judgment if we remain alert and prepared. The Church invites us on this first Sunday of Advent to prepare for Christ's Second Coming, first by properly celebrating during this Christmas season the fond memory of Christ's first coming over 2000 years ago, second, by experiencing Christ's daily advent or coming in the Eucharistic celebrations, in the Holy Bible and in the worshipping community and third, by preparing for Jesus' Second Coming which, for us, will happen at the moment of our deaths or at the end of the World.

In the first reading, prophet Isaiah prays for God's active presence so that the Jewish community, returned from Babylonian exile, may remain faithful to their God. In the second reading, St. Paul prays for the reconversion of Christians in Corinth who have misused their gifts and charisms and remain ill-prepared for Christ's Second Coming. In today's Gospel, using the short parable of the servants and gatekeeper of an absentee master who could return at any time, Jesus instructs his followers to be alert and watchful while doing their Christian duties with sincerity. The gatekeeper and the household servants are expected to be ever vigilant because their master is sure to return. Although the time of his return is uncertain, the reward or punishment is sure and certain.

So the message today is that we should live in the living presence of Jesus every day waiting for his Second Coming. We can experience Christ's living presence in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible, in our worshipping community in our parish, in our family, in our own souls and in everyone around us. May God bless you and keep you ever prepared for Christ's *second coming*, may you have a blessed and fruitful Advent season. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

CONFIRMATION CLASS: 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.

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.

A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY will be prayed Friday, December 4, 5:00 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE HOLY HOUR is Friday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

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

Week of December 6th: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

Week of December 13th: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of December 20th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of December 27th: 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.

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:

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

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!

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.

TOTUS TUUS APPLICATIONS: Are you a Catholic young adult interested in bringing the Gospel to kids and teens across our diocese? Please consider applying to be a Totus Tuus missionary. Download the materials at diojeffcity.org/totus-tuus/ and return your application to khartman@diojeffcity.org. We do hire on a rolling basis, so the earlier the better! The application packet includes a job description, application, and instructions for a letter of recommendation. Totus Tuus Missionaries serve from May 27 – Aug 1. This is a full-time, paid position.

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) Please 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.

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

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

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. Amen