

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

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Pastor: Very Reverend Jeremy A. Secrist, V.F.

jasecrist@yahoo.com

Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas Bookkeeper:

Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer

jheckemeyeroffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas Administrative Secretary:

Mrs. Jenny Becker

jbeckeroffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer

lheckemeyer@embarqmail.com

School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

St. Thomas Secretary:

Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff

stthomasoffice@embarqmail.com

St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:

Mrs. Doris Stumpe

dorisstumpe@att.net

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

School Office hours during school year: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. at St. Thomas; Sundays 7:30 - 7:50 a.m. at St. Cecilia;
or anytime by appointment, just call Father.

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Mass Schedule for the Week of November 5-12:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Carol Ann Riley

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – *No Mass, Fr. at convention*

Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – *No Mass, Fr. at convention*

Thursday 10:30 a.m. – *No Mass, Fr. at convention*

Friday 7:45 a.m. – *No Mass, Fr. at convention*

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark Strope

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Fred Stockman

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2017-2018: \$305,000.00

Offertory Goal through Month End: \$101,668.00

Actual Collection for 2017-2018: **\$ 98,977.57**

Offertory Difference Year to Date: - \$ 2,690.43

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

October 1 \$ 5,815.00

October 8 \$ 3,589.00

October 15 \$ 2,866.00

October 22 \$ 4,041.40

October 29 \$ 3,114.35

Collection Online: \$ 6,102.00

October total to date: **\$25,527.75**

Difference for October +\$ 110.75

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

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

Income from parishioners for FY 2017-2018

(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$ 9,678.45**

Loan payments to date for FY 2017-2018: **\$27,683.22**

(Principal) \$23,604.95 (Interest) \$4,078.27

Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$373,117.31**

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantor / Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Jean Kliethermes / Annette Kehner

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mary Kay Brand / Jackie Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader / Petitions

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Alfred Kaiser

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Bill Luebbering

St. Thomas the Apostle Altar Servers

Weekday a.m. – No servers this week

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Dawson & Ely Wieberg,

Lilly Schulte

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Molly Suthoff, Abigail Verslues,

Jackson & Kenadi Braun

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of November 5-12:

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Ann Marie Ruetters

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Celestine & Louis Stegeman, Jr.

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – *No Mass, Fr. at convention*

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Josephine Werdehausen

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2017-2018: \$62,000.00

Collection Total for 2017-2018: **\$22,507.35**

Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

October 1 \$ 1,492.00

October 8 \$ 1,574.00

October 15 \$ 821.00

October 22 \$ 1,110.00

October 29 \$ 1,458.00

October total to date: **\$ 6,445.00**

Difference for October: +\$1,278.33

Please remember your parish in your last will & testament.

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

November – Dale & Margie Helton

St. Cecilia Reader / Petitions

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – No Mass

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Doris Stumpe

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer

St. Cecilia Altar Servers

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Alex & Joshua Even

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Will & Melina Derkum, Sophie Bock

**IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFILL
YOUR LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENT,
IN YOUR KINDNESS & CHARITY,
PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT**

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
November 11-12

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Betty Schellman, Lora Boessen, Mark Luebbering
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Rob Henson, Rosalyn Wieberg, Emily Luebbering

November 18-19

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Pat Kaiser, Paul & Jenny Becker
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard & Jan Heckemeyer, Janet Lueckenhoff

St. Thomas Greeters/Ushers

**please ring tower bells 10 minutes before weekend Masses*

November 11-12

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mike Green & Gilbert Schellman
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Alan Cortvrient & Ryan Buschjost

November 18-19

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Richard Schellman & Fred Luebbering
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard Heckemeyer & Jim Lueckenhoff

St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass

November 11-12

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark & Lauri Luebbering
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – David & Linda Boessen Family

November 18-19

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ralph & Kathy Graessle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug & Tina Stockman Family

St. Thomas Collection Counters

November 11-12 – Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
November 18-19 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
November 25-26 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

No Masses Tuesday through Friday
Saturday 4:40 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Luminous
Sunday 9:40 a.m. – Pat Loethen - Luminous

SCRIP: November 11-12 Saturday – Kristi Luebbering Sunday – Melissa Verslues

Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrif for more information about the Scrip program. You can contact Lindsay Luebbering at 573-680-4920 or Karen Luebbering at 573-301-5835 to purchase anytime. **Please remember to purchase Scrip cards for all your holiday shopping gift giving needs! A large variety of cards in various denominations are in stock and available for purchase.**

SNACKS FOR ST. THOMAS QUILTERS:

Thursday, November 9 – Jennifer Schroeder & Rachel Schulte
Thursday, November 16 – Samantha Schulte & Elaine Sloan
Please bring snack to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Strobe or Emily Luebbering.

2017 OCTOBER COUNT MONTHLY AVERAGE FOR MASSES

At. St. Cecilia: 7:00 p.m. Vigil: 80 souls, 8:00 a.m. Sunday: 137 souls
2017 weekend average: **217** souls, 2016 weekend average: **217** souls
At. St. Thomas the Apostle: 5:00 p.m. Vigil: 119 souls, 10:00 a.m. Sunday 160 souls
2017 weekend average: **279** souls, 2016 weekend average: **278** souls

ST. THOMAS SIDEWALK & CONCRETE WORK:

After months of delays, late this past week, notification was finally received that the concrete subcontractor for the Route B project is planning to begin work during the week of November 6. The scope of work is the replacement of the side walk and steps from in front of church north to National Street. I wish that would have more details to share, but I have not received any. –Fr. Secrist

MASS FOR THANKSGIVING DAY: 9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:

Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. (Vigil Mass) at St. Thomas the Apostle
Friday, December 8 at 7:45 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle
6:00 p.m. St. Cecilia, Meta

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Mass will celebrated on December 24 at 5:00 p.m. & Midnight
December 25 10:00 a.m.

ST. CECILIA

December 24, 7:00 p.m.

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: We're nearing the end of this year's Catholic Stewardship Appeal. For all those who have chosen to join their diocesan brothers and sisters by making a commitment to this year's campaign, we thank you very much. Opportunities will continue to be available to those who have not yet made a pledge. If you no longer have a pledge card, look for a CSA envelope in church at the end of the pew, or in the back of church—or go online to www.diojeffcity.org. Any gift you can make will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

The CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP GOALS for 2017 are:

St. Cecilia Parish: **\$2,500**. So far \$1,095 (44%) has been contributed.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish: **\$8,000**. So far \$4,138 (39%) has been contributed.

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
November 11-12

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Jennifer Even, Betty Hagenoff, Dorothy Rehagen
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Janice Schanzmeyer

November 18-19

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Bonnie Kampeter, Lou Kloeppe, Brenda Wansing
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Gerald & Phyllis Rehagen, Pam Libbert

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

November 11-12

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Lou Kloeppe, Mitch & Brendan Stumpe, Darin Even
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Kenny Otto, Dominic Plassmeyer, Larry Lueckenotto, Harold Libbert

November 18-19

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Randy Hagenhoff, Lou Kloeppe, Mitch & Brendan Stumpe
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Anton Libbert, Terry Libbert, Tony Derkum, Leon Schanzmeyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. – No Mass
Saturday 6:40 p.m. – Alice Hake – Luminous
Sunday 7:40 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer – Luminous

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$2.50**.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist at least six months prior to the desired date.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION is **Wednesday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.** in the **St. Cecilia Parish Center**.

PARISH TIME & TALENT: Please also consider what ministries you are participating in at Mass and how you share your time and talents with your parish and fellow parishioners.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRAYER LINE REQUESTS should be emailed to Jenny Becker at jbeckeroffice@gmail.com or by calling (573) 690-0642. The Prayer Line exists to communicate prayer intentions for those in need of healing.

ST. THOMAS FALL FESTIVAL COLLECTION: There was an envelope in your September packet. Each family or single wage earner is asked to contribute \$50.00. This collection was instituted years ago to replace the Fall Festival which St. Thomas Parish use to have. It is part of our overall parish budget, helping with ongoing expenses.

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL GLASS BLOCKS: 1940's-era glass blocks from the St. Thomas School building are available for \$5.00 per block. Please email Father at jasecrist@yahoo.com or call the School Office (573-477-3322) if interested.

ST. THOMAS CYO MEETING is Monday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Thomas the Apostle School cafeteria.

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL & PSR DROP OFF & PICK UP: For the safety of our children, please remember to **ENTER** from **PARK STREET** and **EXIT** from the **Church parking lot onto Highway B**. This will keep our children safe and the traffic flowing smoothly.

COPY PAPER: St. Thomas the Apostle School is in need of copy paper, clean on one side and staple free. Please drop off paper at school or call the school office, 573-477-3322.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE: Box Tops for Education, Coke points & Best Choice Labels.



ST. THOMAS SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGES are available for your information and browsing via a link at the school website's homepage: www.stthomasapostleschool.net

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6 – Diocesan Professional Day – No School

November 10 – Team Training 8th grade

November 15 – Picture Retakes, Bookmobile

November 16 – Mid-Quarter, Home & School Meeting 6:30 p.m.

META OVER 50 CLUB will meet on Thursday, November 9 at noon in the Parish Center. Please bring a dish and join us for lunch, fun & fellowship.

SEEKING CHRIST FOR OUR NATION MASS is Tuesday, November 7, 6:30 p.m. St. George Church, Linn.

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER OF CENTRAL MISSOURI 7TH ANNUAL BANQUET: An exciting evening of fine food, music, and comedic relief by renowned comedian Robert G. Lee. Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Reservations may be made at www.friendsofphc.org or by calling the Pregnancy Help Center at 573-644-6635.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH BLOOD DRIVE is Sunday, November 26, 8:00 a.m. to noon at the St. Thomas K of C Hall. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: StThomasParish to schedule an appointment. Come to donate and receive a FREE American Red Cross T-shirt (while supplies last).

ATTENTION: MISSOURI BIRTH PARENTS AND ADOPTEES: Missouri adoption law is changing!

On **January 1st, 2018**, adult adoptees (ages 18 and older) will be granted access to their original birth certificate. Birth parents have the right to protect their confidentiality under the new law, but they *must act before January 1st*. For more information, **contact the Missouri Bureau of Vital Records** by phone at **(573) 751-6387** OR by email at vitalrecordsinfo@health.mo.gov. Visit the Bureau's website at www.health.mo.gov/data/vitalrecords/adopterightsact.php for more detailed information about the new law.

PASTORAL PLANNING UPDATE

With the feedback and input of our diocese's faithful, on Pentecost 2010, Bishop Gaydos established the Pastoral Plan priorities of **faith, family, reaching out** and **planning** for the future as a shared path for ministries and activities of our parishes and the Catholic Center (chancery office) in Jefferson City. The 2010 plan provided for a review after five years; the review concluded last year.

After the review, the diocese has re-committed to the 2010 Pastoral Plan. During the last year, parishes and the Catholic Center have intentionally engaged in a process that will help us: 1) to support each other regarding these planning priorities; and 2) to be more accountable in offering assistance and ministries that correspond to the Pastoral Plan priorities and to better address the needs of individuals and families in parishes.

Related to this effort is our initiation of a new phase of pastoral planning—a study and a process to evaluate **parish vitality and viability**. We want to share this information with you so that you will be aware of the general process and a pastoral goal that we, at the Catholic Center, want to do our best to abide by and respect.

A sobering situation that we are trying to do our best to prepare for has to do with our priestly resources. The average age of priests active in the diocese continues to rise; it's now 57. And by 2022—only five years from now—we could have as many as 20 fewer priests serving in the diocese due to projected retirements. This would reduce the current active number from 66 to 46. Some difficult questions and discussions will need to take place to prepare for the future.

Our goal is to complete this year's vitality and viability study in January 2018, so that diocesan administration and parishes will have sufficient time to develop plans in preparation for this new reality. Please know and be assured that local parish leadership and representatives will again take part in this planning process at both a parish and a deanery (regional) level. Broad consultation has already taken place at parishes through meetings with parish councils and leadership teams.

This intent of this update is not only to keep you informed, but to encourage your prayers and support for your parish and deanery and its leadership during this important process. Thank you for your prayers for, and participation in, this pastoral planning process to date, and the initiatives that have come to life and light as a part of this process. Please keep praying for our Local Church, your deanery, and your parish.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who clearly points the way to her son, Jesus Christ, be for us a sign of courage and devotion to set our sights firmly on our Lord, Jesus Christ, in spreading the good news of salvation to all people. May God bless you for your goodness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Corel, Vicar General; Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND, Chancellor; and Fr. Gregory Meystrik, Vicar of Administration

PARISH VITALITY PRAYER

Eternal God, Father most holy, whose Son established the Church, promising that the power of evil would never prevail against her, stir up our faith and bolster our perseverance, that our faith may vitalize our parishes and our perseverance maintain our outreach. You have taught us that dying to self and obedience to the Church are essential to holiness, peace and unity. Preserve our unity as one Diocesan Church, and may the spouse of the Holy Spirit, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, protect us with her mantle and intercede for us with her prayer. Through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

CATHOLICISM 101: SAINTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Many popular devotional practices involve veneration of the saints. The saints have a special place in the Body of Christ, which includes both the living and the dead. Through Christ we on earth remain in communion both with the saints in heaven and with the dead who are still in Purgatory. We can pray for those in Purgatory and ask the saints to pray for us. Through their prayers of intercession, the saints in heaven play an integral role in the life of the Church on earth. "For after they have been received into their heavenly home and are present to the Lord, through Him and with Him and in Him they do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, showing forth the merits which they won on earth through the one Mediator between God and man." The saints, the members of the Church who have arrived at perfect union with Christ, join their wills to the will of God in praying for those in the Church who are still on their pilgrimage of faith.

Besides what the saints can do for us by their prayers, the very practice of venerating the saints does great good for those who are devoted to the saints. By practicing love of the saints we strengthen the unity of the entire Body of Christ in the Spirit. This in turn brings us all closer to Christ. "For just as Christian communion among wayfarers brings us closer to Christ, so our companionship with the saints joins us to Christ, from Whom as from its Fountain and Head issues every grace and the very life of the people of God." Love of the saints necessarily includes and leads to love of Christ and to love of the Holy Trinity. "For every genuine testimony of love shown by us to those in heaven, by its very nature tends toward and terminates in Christ who is the 'crown of all saints,' and through Him, in God Who is wonderful in his saints and is magnified in them."

Beatification & Canonization

The process of declaring one a saint in the Catholic Church is called canonization. The canonization process is a canonical (Church law) procedure by which the Church through the Pope solemnly declares a Catholic to be united with God in heaven, an intercessory to God on behalf of the living, and worthy of public and universal veneration.

A cause of canonization examines a person's life and death to determine if they were either martyred or lived a virtuous life. Every cause of canonization has two phases: the diocesan and Roman phase. The diocese responsible for opening a cause is the diocese in which the person died/was martyred. The diocese, religious order, association or lay person(s) requesting (petitioning) for the cause asks the diocesan bishop, through a person known as the postulator to open an investigation into the martyrdom or life of the person.

The diocesan bishop investigates how the person lived a heroic virtuous life, exemplifying the virtues of faith, hope and love through the calling of witnesses and the theological examination of the candidates' writings. If the cause is based on martyrdom, the diocesan bishop investigates the circumstances surrounding the alleged martyrdom, which is also done through the calling of witnesses to the martyrdom and the examination of the candidates' life.

Once the diocesan investigation is complete, the documentation (evidence) that has been collected is sent to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints and the Roman phase begins. The first step in the Roman phase is the examination of the diocesan documentation. If the congregation's theologians find the documentation convincing, it is sent for review by the cardinal and bishop members of the congregation. If they also find the documentation favorable, it is sent to the pope. With the pope's approval a decree is issued stating that the person lived a virtuous life thereby conferring the title "Venerable" on the person.

The next step in the process is being named "Blessed." For beatification, a miracle must be attributed to the Venerable. The miracle is verified through an examination by a team of medical experts and theologians. The three traditional standards for judging the authenticity of a miracle are: *complete* – meaning a total healing of the disease, it is not enough for the person to "just" feel better; *instantaneous* – meaning the healing occurred all at once and not over the course of several days or months; and *durable* – meaning the person remains permanently free from the illness that afflicted them. Once the miracle has been verified, the pope issues a decree declaring the miracle and the person receives the title of "Blessed." The pope can dispense, though he does not always do so, from the requirement of a miracle for the beatification of a martyr.

A second miracle must be attributed to the Blessed in order for him or her to be canonized a saint. A proven miracle is required, even for martyrs, for canonization. The verification of the second miracle follows the same procedure as the first. Once the person is declared a saint, he or she is worthy of universal veneration by the Church.

There are many steps to be named a saint in the Church and the canonization process is lengthy and detailed. This process ensures that the role models held up as witnesses to Christ and the Gospel as worthy of our emulation.