

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

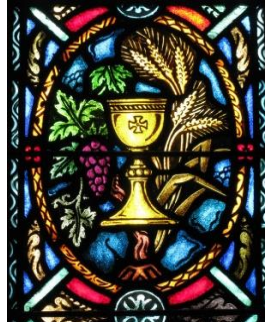
32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 8, 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 8-15:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Tom Kloeppel
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Vincent Loethen Family
Thursday 7:45 a.m. - Bob Luebbering
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Rose Schmidt
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – L&D Frank & Rose Struempf Family
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$127,085.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$ 96,884.00**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: – \$ 30,201.00
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

November 1 \$ 5,200.00
November 8 \$
November 15 \$
November 22 \$
November 29 \$

Collection Online: \$ 5,067.00
November total to date: **\$10,267.00**
Difference for November: -\$15,150.00

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): **\$8,366.00**
Loan payments to date for FY 2020-2021:
Principal \$95,840.65 Interest \$1,108.48
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$0**

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. – Kerry Meyer / Annette Kehner
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Lisa Wieberg / Annette Kehner

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mary Kay Brand

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Eric Strope & Dave Luebbering
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Mattheuw Prenger & Keith Kliethermes

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of November 8-15:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Victor Bruemmer

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Danny Wankum
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Brian Wansing

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$18,457.35**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

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

November total to date: **\$ 1,540.35**
Difference for November: -\$ 3,626.32

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

November: Dale & Margie Helton

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT

St. Cecilia Reader:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe
Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

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

St. Cecilia Ushers

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Darin Even & Randy Hagenhoff
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Anton Libbert & Terry Libbert

Mass live streamers

November 15 – Tom Backes

November 22 – Karlie Reinkemeyer

November 29 – Jennifer Schroeder

December 6 – Dunja Wieberg

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. – 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. – Tina Stockman – 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. 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.

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, Nov. 12–Lora Boessen & Joyce Boessen (Marshall) **Thursday, Nov. 19** – Nanette Boessen & Viola Boessen

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 Luebbing at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strobe at 573-477-3349.

ST. CECILIA SATURDAY NIGHT MASSES IN NOVEMBER: There will be Saturday night 7:00 p.m. Masses at St. Cecilia on November 14 and Nov. 21 for the deer hunters.

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:

Decree on pastoral activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and after 11 September 2020.

August 20, 2020 | Health, Public Health Concerns

Whereas the Department of Health and Senior Services of the State of Missouri and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States federal government continue to recommend the observance of social distancing and the use of face masks when in gatherings; that persons 65 years of age and older, as well as those with certain medical conditions, avoid public gatherings as much as possible; and the practice of frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizers; and

Whereas the common good demands that the public health requirements and recommendations of the state are to be observed whenever possible; and Whereas having received the recommendation of the Presbyteral Council to extend the current norms with regard to the pandemic; I therefore declare, as the diocesan bishop, the following:

1. All the faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City, and those who are present in the territory of the diocese, are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation until 27 November 2020, provided that for days of precept they do one of the following:
 1. Prayerfully participate in the Sunday or holy day of obligation Mass livestreamed 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.
 2. Prayerfully read and meditate on the readings of the Mass for the Sunday or holy days of obligation, and recite the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet.
2. Parishes are highly encouraged to livestream Masses for Sundays and holy days of obligation indefinitely.
3. Those who are symptomatic for COVID-19 are not permitted to enter church properties, in accordance with national, state and local health directives. All are asked to check their temperature at home before going to church.
4. Those who are 65 years of age or older, and those with medical conditions, are highly encouraged not to go to Mass, especially when it is likely that there will be a large number of the faithful in attendance or if social distancing and the wearing of face masks are not observed.
5. Those who do not attend Mass on Sundays are encouraged to attend Mass on a weekday if it would be easier to observe the proper social distancing and other health recommendations.
6. The celebration of weddings outside of Mass may take place outdoors on the grounds of and in proximity to the parish church or chapels, according to the judgement of the pastor, parochial administrator, or parish life collaborator.
7. Pastors, parochial administrators, parish life collaborators, and the presidents and principals of Catholic schools are strictly obliged to follow the public health requirements, directives or orders of local government officials for gatherings of the faithful, including for the celebrations of Mass, weddings and funerals, other liturgies, devotions, school and catechetical activities, social events, sports activities, and meetings.
8. All other public health recommendations of state authorities should be followed whenever possible, especially with regard to singing in church, according to the judgment of the pastor, parochial administrator, parish life collaborator, president or principal. Consultation with the bishop, vicar general, moderator of the curia, local dean, liturgy commission chairman, or superintendent is recommended.
9. **The use of face masks upon entering the church, during the celebration of Mass except when in place in the pew, during the Communion procession, and upon leaving the church is required. If social distancing cannot be maintained in the pew, then the wearing of face masks is obligatory even in the pew.**
10. The offertory procession, the sign of peace, and Holy Communion from the chalice shall continue to be suspended. One or more stationary collection baskets are to be used rather than baskets passed or taken up by ushers. Where it has been the practice, the holding of hands during the Our Father must not be done.
11. Communion ministers are to sanitize their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion, and they must use face masks during the distribution of Holy Communion.
12. Those who persist in their desire to receive Holy Communion on the tongue may do so but only after those who receive Holy Communion in the hand, or in a Communion line designated solely for Holy Communion on the tongue. Communion ministers must purify and then sanitize their fingers after distributing Holy Communion on the tongue to each household.
13. High use areas within the church must be sanitized before each service, including the pews used by the assembly, restroom facilities, door handles, push plates, and knobs. It is advisable to have entrance and exit doors propped open during high traffic volumes before and after Mass.

14. Hymnals and other books are to remain stored for the duration of the pandemic. No materials may be left in the pews or adoration chapels. The faithful are encouraged to bring their own missals, hymnals and devotional books.
15. Holy water fonts shall remain empty.
16. Hand sanitizer should be made available throughout church and school facilities.
17. Other directives from the chancery for Catholic schools and religious education programs are to be followed. This decree is effective from 12 September 2020 and until 27 November 2020, anything to the contrary notwithstanding. Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City on this 21st day of August 2020.
Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: We thank all who have given generously to the annual Catholic Stewardship Appeal. As we look at our lives and the many blessings God has given us, let us give a portion to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal as a way of saying Thank You to the Lord. Through the CSA, we make known the kingdom of God by helping each other to live our faith and share our Gospel belief. Our gifts to the CSA and ministries it supports are our grateful offerings to God.

The CSA goal for St. Cecilia Parish is \$2,500, \$865.00 received so far

The CSA goal for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is \$10,000, \$1,800 received so far

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020 Year A: **BE ALERT, WELL-PREPARED, VIGILANT AND WISE.** (Wis. 6:12-16, 1Thes. 4:13-18, Mt. 25:1-13)

Today's readings bring the usual warnings about preparation for the end of our own world, the end of our own time and our passage to another world. They tell us that a searching, watching, and growing heart is essential for a lively, dynamic Faith in God. They challenge us to check whether we are ready for these events and how we are preparing for them.

The first reading chosen for today is one which personifies wisdom as a woman. The author advises Jews in Alexandria not to envy the wisdom of the pagan philosophers, because they themselves have true wisdom in their Sacred Scripture, a wisdom which regulates not only this life but the next also. Hence, they must live their lives in strict conformity with the Divine wisdom given them so generously by God. In the second reading, Paul offers Christian wisdom, assuring those Christians who expected Jesus' second coming in their lifetime that the death and Resurrection of Jesus is powerful enough to save even those who die before Jesus' *second coming*. But they need to be alert, well-prepared and vigilant. In the Gospel parable of the ten virgins, the foolish virgins represent the "Chosen People of God" who were waiting for the Messiah but were shut out from the messianic banquet because they were unprepared. The parable teaches us that, like the five wise virgins, we should attend to duties of the present moment, preparing now, rather than waiting until it is too late.

Therefore dear friends we need to be wise enough to remain ever prepared: Wise Christians find Jesus in the most ordinary experiences of daily living, in the people they meet, the events that take place, and the situations in which they find themselves, and they carefully make their daily choices for God. They are ready to put the commandment of love into practice by showing kindness, mercy and forgiveness.

Let us be sure that our Lamps are ready for the end of our lives: Spiritual readiness, preparation, and growth are the result of intentional habits built into one's life. We cannot depend on a Sunday Mass or morning service alone to provide all our spiritual needs. We cannot depend on Christian fellowship alone to provide us with spiritual development. The meeting of spiritual needs and spiritual development itself come through routine, mundane attention to ordinary spiritual disciplines making sure we have enough oil or spiritual fuel: oil of compassion and mercy, oil of patience, sympathy, and forgiveness. We open ourselves to receive these graces by taking time for prayer, and being alone with God; by reading God's Word; by living a sacramental life; by offering acts of service to others; by moral faithfulness, by loving obedience, and by spending time with other Christians for mutual prayer, study and encouragement. As taking these ways becomes habitual, they cease to be a struggle and begin to be a source of strength and blessing. They make our lives powerful against the onslaught of the world.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

THANKSGIVING DAY MASSES: Masses will be offered on Wednesday, November 25, 6:30 p.m. St. Cecilia and Thursday, November 26, 9:00 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING is Tuesday, November 17, 6:00 p.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle School Library.

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

PRAYER HOUR WITH MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

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.

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.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of November 8th: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

Week of November 15th: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of November 22th: 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.

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. 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:

Wednesday, November 18 - Mid-Quarter

Thursday, November 19 – Home & School Meeting 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Field's Delivery TBA

Wednesday, November 25 – No School K-8

Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day, No School P-8

Friday, November 27 – No School K-8

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 7:15 p.m. Please read the November newsletter attached to the bulletin.

THE META CITIZENS CIVIC LEAGUE has a used commercial refrigerator for sale. It is a "Superior" Model T-49 brand manufactured by the Superior Products Mfg. Co. The compressor was replaced June 2018. The thermostat is out. We will accept sealed bids and open them at the November Board meeting. If interested in placing a bid or need more information please contact Darin Even (573) 680-6946.

BLAIR OAKS CLASS OF 2021 PROJECT GRADUATION DRIVE-THRU BBQ is Sunday, November 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pork steak plate or bratwurst plate, advanced tickets can be purchased for \$10.00 by contacting a senior from the Class of 2021 and tickets will also be available on site.

AMERICAN RED CROSS (MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS): Please join us from the comfort and safety of your home for a Virtual Volunteer Fair. Upcoming Volunteer Fair Dates: Tuesday, November 10 4-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 24, 12-12:30 p.m. Please RSVP by registering at www.redcross.org/ARCVolunteerFair You will then receive the necessary information you will need to join by phone and/or online. Volunteer opportunities for nearly everyone from 14-114 years old.

OSAGE SENIOR CENTER: Is your home getting too big? Do you need to be closer to Jefferson City or away from the city? If so, the Osage Senior Center, located in Wardsville, MO, is looking for interested seniors to fill possible vacancies and/or be placed on our waitlist for USDA or MHDC units. For more information call 573-469-8426. Osageseniorcenter@gmail.com

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 7:00 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!

RENOVATION PLANS AT ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL, JEFFERSON CITY: Join us for a presentation on "The Timeless Expression of Catholic Architecture: The Cathedral of St. Joseph." As architect William Heyer presents the design proposal for our Cathedral on Monday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will be livestreamed on our diocesan Facebook page, www.facebook.com/diojeffcity. All are welcome.

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 daytrip 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>.

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. Thanks to 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