

**The Roman Catholic Parishes of**  
**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
in St. Thomas

**St. Cecilia**  
in Meta

[www.stthomasapostle.net](http://www.stthomasapostle.net)  
[www.stthomasapostleschool.net](http://www.stthomasapostleschool.net)

[www.stceciliameta.net](http://www.stceciliameta.net)

PO Box 146  
St. Thomas, MO 65076

**27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**OCTOBER 4, 2020**

**Administrator: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi**  
[frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com](mailto:frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com)  
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

**St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:**  
**Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer**  
[jheckemeyerooffice@gmail.com](mailto:jheckemeyerooffice@gmail.com)

**St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:**  
**Mrs. Jenny Becker**  
[jbeckeroffice@gmail.com](mailto:jbeckeroffice@gmail.com)



**School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer**  
[lheckemeyer@stacs.school](mailto:lheckemeyer@stacs.school)  
School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

**St. Thomas the Apostle Secretary:**  
**Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff**  
[dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com](mailto:dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com)

**St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:**  
**Mrs. Doris Stumpe**  
[dstumpeoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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 October 4-11:**

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – No Mass  
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – No Mass  
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – No Mass  
Friday 7:45 a.m. – No Mass  
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – L&D Anton Boessen Family

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$305,000.00  
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$ 76,251.00  
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$ 67,549.00**  
Offertory Difference Year to Date: –\$ 8,702.00  
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

**Collection in Church:**

September 6 \$ 3,799.00  
September 13 \$ 3,997.00  
September 20 \$ 2,120.00  
September 27 \$ 3,370.00

**Collection Online:** \$ 6,052.00

**September total to date:** **\$19,338.00**

Difference for September: -\$ 6,079.99

**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): **\$6,857.00**

Loan payments to date for FY 2020-2021: **\$18,455.48**

Principal \$17,906.46 Interest \$549.02

Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$77,926.99**

**Cantor/Organist**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lisa Wieberg / Annette Kehner

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

**St. Thomas the Apostle Reader**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Gilbert Strobe

**St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Joe & Jonathan Buschjost

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – TJ Loethen & Mattheuw Prenger

**Saint Cecilia**

**Mass Schedule for the Week of October 4-11:**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – No Mass

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – L&D Henry & Agnes Lueckenotto Family

**Your Sunday Offering:**

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00  
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$13,335.00**  
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

**Collection in Church:**

September 6 \$ 1,115.00  
September 13 \$ 800.00  
September 20 \$ 1,200.00  
September 27 \$ 1,045.00

**September total to date:** **\$ 4,160.00**

Difference for September: -\$ 1,006.67

**COLLECTION COUNTERS:**

October: Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

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

**St. Cecilia Reader:**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen

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. – Margaret Brune – Joyful Mysteries

**St. Cecilia Ushers**

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Anton Libbert & Terry Libbert

### **Mass live streamers**

October 11 – Jennifer Schroeder

October 18 – Brooke Schell

October 25 – Lauri Luebbering

November 1 – Karlie Reinkemeyer

**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. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe – 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](http://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 KEEP FR. LEONARD IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK** as he will be attending the Diocesan Priest Institute.

**FR. LEONARD'S BIRTHDAY:** Please join us Sunday, October 4 after Mass outside of Church from 11:00 a.m. - Noon for light snacks and fellowship to celebrate Father Leonard's birthday.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH QUILTING** will not be held until further notice.

**SATURDAY EVENING MASS IN OCTOBER AT ST. CECILIA PARISH:** Fr. Leonard will be offering Saturday evening Mass at St. Cecilia in Meta October 17 at 7:00 p.m.

**BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTION:** For all citizens in our country, that our participation in the upcoming elections may lead to a world which places a preeminence on the dignity of all human life.

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 2020.

**Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight**, Bishop of Jefferson City

**PASTOR'S MEDITATION:** 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020 Year A: (Is.5:1-7; Phil.4:6-9; Mt.21:33-43) Today is a world communication Sunday, also a respect life Sunday. The common theme of today's readings is: **THE NECESSITY OF BEARING FRUIT IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.** The readings warn us of the punishment for spiritual sterility, ingratitude, and wickedness.

In today's first reading, called, Isaiah's Song of the Vineyard, the prophet describes God's care of, and expectations for, His Chosen People. God's Chosen People failed to bear fruit, in spite of the blessings lavished upon them by a loving and forgiving God. Further, they were poor tenants in the Lord's vineyard. Hence, God laments: *"I expected My vineyard to yield good grapes. Why did it yield sour ones instead?"* In the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 80), the Psalmist pleads with God to look down from Heaven and to "take care of this vine," knowing that if any good is to come of the vine, it will be God's doing, not the people's. In the second reading, Paul tells Philippians about the high expectations he has for them, reminding them that they need to become fruit-producing Christians by praying and giving thanks to God and by practicing justice, purity and graciousness in their lives.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells an allegorical parable in which the landowner is God, the vineyard is Israel, as God's special people, and the tenants are the political and religious leaders of Israel. The story emphasizes the failure of the tenants, the Chosen People of God and their leaders, to produce fruits of righteousness, justice and mercy. Giving a theological explanation of Israel's history of gross ingratitude through the parable, Jesus reminds us Christians that, since we are the "new" Israel, enriched with additional blessings and provisions in the Church, we are expected to show our gratitude to God by bearing fruits of the kingdom, fruits of the Holy Spirit, in our lives, giving Him all the Glory.

Friends, are we good fruit-producers in the vineyard of the Church? Jesus has given the Church everything necessary to make us fruit-bearing: the Bible to know the will of God, the priesthood to lead the people in God's ways, the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the remission of sins, the Holy Eucharist as our spiritual food, the Sacrament of Confirmation for a dynamic life of Faith, the Sacrament of Matrimony for the sharing of love in families a fundamental unit of the Church, role models in thousands of saints. We are expected to make use of these gifts and produce fruits for God.

Are we fruit-producers in the vineyard of the family? By the mutual sharing of blessings, by sacrificing time and talents for the members of the family, by humbly and lovingly serving others in the family, by recognizing and encouraging each other and by honoring and gracefully obeying our parents we, become producers of "good fruit" for the Vine (Christ) in our families and so give Glory to God. **Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi**

**A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY** will be prayed on Sunday, October 4, 5:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

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

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH FALL FANTASY EVENT UPDATE:** The Parish Pastoral Council has decided that our second largest fundraiser will be **CANCELLED** this year due to COVID concerns. However, it was decided to explore hosting a "Virtual Event" in January 2021. The PPC is looking for anyone who would like to serve on the event planning committee. Please contact the parish office or one of the PPC members if you are interested. Tech savvy and marketing parishioners particularly needed. We hope to bring the traditional Fall Fantasy back in November 2021.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE FALL FESTIVAL COLLECTION:** There is 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 used to have. It is part of our overall parish budget, helping with ongoing expenses.

**ST. CECILIA RELIGION CLASSES:** Religion classes for 1<sup>ST</sup> through 8<sup>TH</sup> grade are planned to start on Wednesday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. All new/first time students are asked to please sign up. Accurate counts are needed for ordering books and materials. Please contact Jennifer Even at 680-6945 (text or call) to sign up or with any questions.

**ST. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:**

Week of October 4<sup>th</sup>: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman

Week of October 11<sup>th</sup>: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Jackie Prenger, Amy Buechter

Week of October 18<sup>th</sup>: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of October 25<sup>th</sup>: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel 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.*

**GRASS CUTTING ROTATION: THE ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH GROUNDS "GRASS CUTTING TEAM ROTATION" FOR THE UPCOMING WEEKS:**

Week of October 5: Richard Schellman, Pat Schellman and Paul Struempfler

Week of October 12: Paul & Jenny Becker, Eric & Shara Buechter

Week of October 19: Alan Reinkemeyer, Richard Heckemeyer and Dave Schroeder.

Week of October 26: Mark Luebbering, Antone Luebbering and Nick Luebbering

Week of November 2: Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering

**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 December 31, 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 STUDENTS** is selling Mrs. Fields cookie dough and more baked goods. If you are interested in looking through a brochure or want to order, please call the school office at 573-477-3322, Mrs. Siebeneck 573-301-7508 or Mrs. Tallent 573-694-4408. Thank you for your support.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:**

October 5-9 – Achievement Testing week

Thursday, October 8 – K-8, Early Release 12:50 car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders

Friday, October 16 – End of First Quarter

Tuesday, October 20 – Picture retake day

Thursday, October 22, Early Release 12:50 p.m. car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders K-8, PAT Conferences to be determined.

Friday, October 23, No School K-8

**A ROSARY** will be prayed in honor of Our Lady of Fatima on Saturday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Thomas the Apostle flower garden (weather permitting). Please bring a chair, everyone is welcome!

**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.

**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, October 13, 4-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 27, 12-12:30 p.m., 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](http://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.

**NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS MISSOURI** will be holding a NAMI Family to Family course in Jefferson City beginning Tuesday, October 6 and running through Tuesday, November 24. Classes will be held virtually via Zoom video conferencing, and will meet every Tuesday for 8 weeks from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Link to join the course will be provided upon registration. Please contact Eric Pahl at [namimoeric@gmail.com](mailto:namimoeric@gmail.com) if interested.

**ST. GEORGE PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, LINN** is Sunday, October 4, serving fried chicken & German pot roast dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Drive thru & carry out only, \$12.00 per meal. Handmade quilt auction 4:00 p.m.

**GUARDIAN ANGELS PARISH FALL DINNER, BRINKTOWN** Curbside Pick Up & Carry-Out (no indoor seating is Sunday, October 11, serving sausage, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, sweet potatoes, sauerkraut & coleslaw from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 per plate. No Live Quilt Auction, but an online Quilt Sale on Guardian Angels Facebook Page.

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, WESTPHALIA** is Sunday, October 18, serving German pot roast, sausage, real mashed potatoes, sauerkraut & green beans, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. DRIVE THRU ONLY \$12.00 per meal. Live quilt & pie auction 2:00 p.m. School gym. To view quilts or obtain bid forms, please go to [www.stjosephwestphalia.org](http://www.stjosephwestphalia.org)