

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

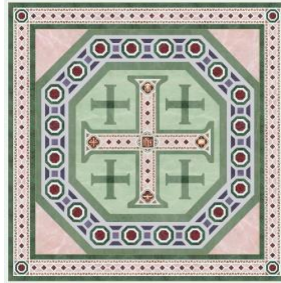
PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 20, 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 September 20-27:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Bob Luebbering
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Alice Stroyick
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Alex Heckman
Friday 7:45 a.m. – David Borgmeyer
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Teresa Kaiser
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: \$ 76,251.00
Actual Collection for 2020-2021: **\$ 61,074.00**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: –\$ 15,177.00
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

September 6 \$ 3,799.00
September 13 \$ 3,997.00
September 20 \$
September 27 \$

Collection Online: \$ 5,067.00

September total to date: **\$12,863.00**

Difference for September: -\$12,554.00

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): **\$6,172.00**

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. – Mary Kay Brand / Annette Kehner

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Jackie Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Reader

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Judy Schroeder

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff

St. Thomas the Apostle Ushers

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Gilbert Schellman & Steve Schellman

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Eric & Keith Boessen

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Picnic 2020 net profit is
\$63,149.29.

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of September 20-27:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Larry Bock

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Ben & Jason Hake

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2020-2021: \$62,000.00
Collection Total for 2020-2021: **\$11,090.00**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,166.67

Collection in Church:

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

September total to date: **\$ 1,915.00**

Difference for September: -\$ 3,251.67

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

September: Marie Lueckenotto & Pam Libbert

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

St. Cecilia Reader:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Jennifer Even

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:05 p.m. –Cathy Borgmeyer–Glorious Mysteries

Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen – Sorrowful Mysteries

St. Cecilia Ushers

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

Donations to St. Cecilia Picnic:

June - \$700.00

July - \$3,620.00

August - \$1,700.00

Total \$6,020.00

Mass live streamers

September 27 – Karlie Reinkemeyer

If anyone is interested in helping livestream the 10:00 a.m. Mass, please contact Barbara Graessle at 573-680-2954. We are installing a new system so it will be easier to stream and training will be provided. If we get two or three more signed up you will only need to assist every seven to eight weeks.

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. – Paul Becker – Sorrowful Mysteries

Sunday 9:35 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe – Sorrowful 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:

Thursday, September 24-Roseanne Boessen & Amanda Boessen Thursday, October 1 – Susan Boessen & Janet 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 Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strobe at 573-477-3349.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Tessa Marie Rademan**, daughter of Chris & Jill Rademan, who was washed in the saving water of Baptism this weekend in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: For children deprived of a safe and healthy home, that they experience the love of God through the care and concern shown by Catholics.

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

PASTOR'S MEDITATION: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020 Year A: GOD SEES OUR NEEDS AND MEETS THOSE NEEDS GENEROUSLY AND MERCIFULLY.

Today's readings are all about our sense of justice and the extravagant mercy of God. While God is both just and merciful, His mercy often seems, in our view, to override His justice, as God pardons us unconditionally.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah reminds the exiles in Babylon that their God is more merciful than they are and more forgiving. He is ready to pardon their infidelity to Him, which has resulted in their exile. Their merciful God will bless them with material and spiritual blessings. Hence, Isaiah exhorts them and us, to seek the Lord and put aside evil ways that we may receive His mercy and forgiveness. In the second reading, Paul offers himself as an example of total submission, aided by God's grace, to His will. Paul is ready to continue his mission or to die and join the Lord, whichever is God's Will. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that strange parable of a landowner who hired laborers at five different times during the course of one day to work in his vineyard, but paid the same living wage for a full day's work to all of them. This story presents God (the landlord), whose love and generosity to all of us demonstrates the difference between God's perspective and ours. God looks at us, sees our needs and meets those needs generously and mercifully. His provisions for our spiritual lives will never run out, and when we share our blessings with others, we tap into the inexhaustible Divine supply. The parable also shows the mercy, compassion, and generosity of a gracious and forgiving God in allowing the later-called Gentiles as well the first-called Jews, His Chosen People, to enjoy the same eternal bliss of His Heavenly Kingdom

Therefore friends we need to follow God's example and show loving generosity to our neighbor. When someone else is more successful than we are, let us assume that person needs it. Envy should have no place in our lives. We cannot control, and dare not pass judgment on, the way God blesses others, only rejoice that He does so, just as He blesses us.

We need to express our gratitude to God in our daily lives. God personally calls each of us to our own ministry in this world and shows us His care by giving us His grace and eternal salvation. To God, we are more than just numbers on a payroll. Our call to His vineyard is a free gift from God for which we can never be sufficiently thankful. All our talents and blessings are freely given to us by God. Hence, we should express our gratitude to God by avoiding sins, by rendering loving service to others, by sharing our blessings with the needy, and by constant prayer, listening and talking to God at all times.

Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukibi

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. We encourage you to participate in a card shower by bringing a note card or birthday card with a kind message for Father Leonard.

Please pick up your "God is Good" shirts after 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, September 27, or Wednesday, September 30 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. by the church entrance. Thank you for your support of our parish!

PRAYER HOUR WITH MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. CECILIA HOLY HOUR is Friday, September 25, 7:00 p.m., with anointing of the sick to follow.

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 PPC 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 PARISH SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING is Tuesday, September 29, 6:00 p.m. in school library.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ST. CECILIA CONFIRMATION: After looking at the number of upcoming students to be Confirmed in the process of meeting the Diocesan recommended Confirmation age of 7th and 8th grade, while at the same time having manageable class sizes, it was determined that this year's Confirmation class will be for 9th and 10th grade students only. Next year, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students will be confirmed. Following that, Confirmation will once again take place every other year with 7th and 8th grade students receiving the sacrament. **If you are in 9th or 10th grade**, please go to the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish website (stthomasapostle.net-Sacraments-Confirmation) and complete the form to register for Confirmation class. There will be a meeting for parents of Confirmation students on Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Hall.

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. THOMAS CHURCH CLEANING TEAM ROTATION FOR UPCOMING WEEKS:

Week of September 20th: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

Week of September 27th: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter

Week of October 4th: 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.

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

Week of September 21: Mark Luebbering, Antone Luebbering and Nick Luebbering

Week of September 28: Mark Graessle, Jeff Cassmeyer and Fred Luebbering

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

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

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

Wednesday, October 21- Report Cards Go Home

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

Friday, October 23, No School K-8

CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE IN META is sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, September 22 between the hours of 2:30 and 7:00 p.m. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CivicLeagueMeta to schedule an appointment. Come to donate and receive a free T-shirt.

META CITIZENS CIVIC LEAGUE: After careful consideration it was decided to **cancel** the Meta Citizens Civic League Fall Festival that was to be held on September 20TH. The Board discussed the unknown cost or availability of food and products needed to sponsor the event. Also we considered whether or not we will be putting our community support at risk by asking them to work at the fall festival. Not knowing what the status of the virus would be at that time we felt the best decision was to cancel the fall festival and have a fund raiser at a later date. We thank and appreciate all the community support we have had in the past and hopefully will continue in the future.

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

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>.

THE OSAGE SENIOR CENTER located in Wardsville, has an urgent need for a part time general maintenance person. If you are retired or a full time worker wanting to work a few hours each week and would like to earn a little extra cash, call 573-469-8426 or email OSC@gmail.com.

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, September 29, 12-12:30 p.m., 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 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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, LOOSE CREEK: The 175th Anniversary Celebration of Immaculate Conception Parish in Loose Creek is cancelled due to COVID-19. It is rescheduled for Oct 9, 2021. The parish is selling commemorative books (including 715 family histories of people that settled in the town) for \$55. Also for sale is Vol. I,II, III of the Growing of Loose Creek. Complete set is \$200. Will ship or arrange pickup. Please contact Janice at 573-619-8149 or Joan at 573-680-1897.

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 if interested.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH DRIVE-THRU DINNER, RUSSELLVILLE is Sunday, September 20, serving sausage, Au Gratin potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, bread, applesauce, brownie from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. \$12.00, children's meal: hotdog w/bun, chips, applesauce, brownie \$5.00. Online quilt auction www.stmichaelauctions.com

VISITATION PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, VIENNA Drive Thru & Carry-Out (no dine-in), Sunday, September 27, at the KC Hall. Serving sausage, fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, coleslaw & homemade pie dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 each or 4 meals for \$40. Country store, street fair & craft vendors, beer garden/gin rickey, kettle corn, and raffle also available.

OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, FRANKENSTEIN is Sunday, September 27, serving German pot roast dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. \$12.00, drive through, walk up and seating on the grounds available. Quilt & dessert auction 4:00 p.m.

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.

