

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

St. Cecilia
in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net
www.stthomasapostleschool.net

www.stceciliameta.net

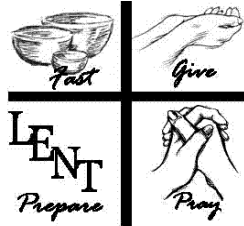
PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 22, 2026

Pastor: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi
frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315
Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer
jheckemeyerooffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:
Mrs. Theresa Veit
tveitoffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
lheckemeyer@stacs.school
School: 573-477-3322 **Fax:** 573-477-3700
Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff
dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com

St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Doris Stumpe
dstumpeoffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30-11:30 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 February 22-March 1

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of February 22-March 1

Tuesday 7:45 am	Roy & Lidwina Brockman
Wednesday – 7:45 am	Kelsey Heckemeyer
Thursday 7:45 am	Harry Lueckenhoff
Thursday – after Mass	Stations of the Cross
Friday – 7:45 am	Gerald Luebbering
Friday – 6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 5:00 pm	Gregory Veit
Sunday 10:00 am	Joe, Antonia & Richard Schwartz, Darlene Falter

Wednesday 6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 6:30 pm	Herb & Imogene Volmert
Sunday 8:00 am	People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	\$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	\$228,000.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	\$253,127.77
Offertory Difference Year to Date	\$25,127.77
Offertory Goal for February	\$28,500.00

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	\$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2026	\$51,336.00
Offertory Goal per Month for February	\$5,833.33

Collection in Church	
February 1	\$7,760.81
February 8	\$5,670.20
February 15	\$5,168.37
February 22	

Collection in Church	
February 1	\$2,065.00
February 8	\$1,765.00
February 15	\$689.00
February 22	

Collection Online	\$8,388.00
February Total to Date	\$26,987.38
Difference for February	-\$1,512.62

February Total to Date	\$4,519.00
Difference for February	-\$1,314.33

WEEKDAY SERVERS:

Weekday: Allie Siebeneck & Stella Volmert

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle

Tuesday 7:25 am	Bob Schellman - Sorrowful
Wednesday 7:25 am	Shirley Volmert - Glorious
Thursday 7:25 am	Dale Herigon - Luminous
Friday 7:25 am	Jim Lueckenhoff -Sorrowful

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia & Lector

Wednesday – No Rosary before Mass due to
Stations of the Cross
Lector: Cathy
Borgmeyer

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday	Family of Gregory Veit
Sunday	Family of Joe, Antonia & Richard Schwartz & Darlene Falter

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Sunday	Ushers
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PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$3.00.**

MASS STIPENDS: \$10.00

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call the rectory to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Please call the rectory *at least* six months prior to the desired date.

BULLETIN NOTICES is Wednesday at noon. **PARISH BULLETINS:** If you are needing a bulletin and Church is locked at St. Thomas the Apostle, there are some on the Vitae House front porch.

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or amandab27@hotmail.com

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS: Please bring snacks to the hall by 1:00 p.m.; snacks are served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strope at 573-477-3349. Quilter's luncheon may be dropped off Wednesday night 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (Evening quilting) or St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Thursday, February 26-Carla Kroll & Sharlet Kroll

Thursday, March 5 – Tiffany Lackman & Linda Lackman

Liturgical Role Schedule for February 28 & March 1			
	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Fennwald, Emerald Fennwald, Georgia Volmert, Jase Volmert, Johnathon	Derkum, Natalee Werdehausen, Gavin	Libbert, Jayden Luebbering, Isabella Luebbering, Oliver Sandbothe, Gabriel
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Graessle, Barb Graessle, Mark Schanzmeyer, Janice	Hagenhoff, Betty Rehagen, Dorothy Libbert, Pam	Kliethermes, Keith Prenger, Glenn Buschjost, Marian
Lector	Holterman, Kara	Rehagen, Dorothy	Luebbering, Doug
Rosary Leader - Sorrowful	Schanzmeyer, Janice	Schroeder, Jennifer	Stockman, Tina
Greeters/Ushers	Holterman, Adam Strope, Eric	Hagenhoff, Randy Libbert, Pam	Luebbering, Ben Loethen, Mark
Music Ministry	Schroeder, Jeanette Brand, Mary Kay	Hurst, Lydia	Prenger, Jackie Kliethermes, Jean
Live Stream			
Count Collections		Libbert, Pam Libbert, Terry	Henson, Sonya Wieberg, Millie
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Boessen, Linda - Luebbering, Lauri - Luebbering, Lindsay - Reinkemeyer, Lynne		

BASKET FOR OLD PALMS: Please don't throw blessed palms away. There is a basket in the side entrance of church at St. Thomas and the entrance of St. Cecilia Church to collect them.

PASTORS MEDITATION 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT. YES TO GOD, NO TO THE DEVIL (Gen. 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-19; Mt. 4:1-11)

Lent is primarily the time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations, using the means Jesus used during his forty days of preparation in the desert for his public life. It is also the time of repenting for our sins and renewing our lives so that we can celebrate Easter with our Risen Lord Who conquered sin and death by his suffering, death and Resurrection.

Today's readings teach us that we are always tempted by the devil, by the world, and by our own selfish interests. So, we need to cooperate actively with God's grace, if we are to conquer our temptations and practice prayer, self-control, and charity. The first reading, taken from the book of Genesis describes the "Original Temptation" "You will be like gods, knowing what is good and what is evil." Adam and Eve were given the freedom to make a choice to live for God, dependent upon, and obedient to His will, or to say no to God. The temptation to evil led Adam and Eve to an act of faithlessness and sin. In contrast, today's Gospel shows us how Jesus Christ conquered temptation by relying on Faith in God's Word and authority. In the second reading, St. Paul describes how the disobedience of Adam, who fell to Satan's Original Temptation, brought him and us sin, death, and a broken relationship with God. Paul explains that Christ regained for us a right relationship with God by his perfect obedience to God his Father. Today's Gospel teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying, and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront his temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. But Jesus rejects that temptation, not to mistrust His Father by satisfying his own immediate, temporal needs thus reducing His Divine mission to self-satisfaction! The tempter then suggests that Jesus prove that he is really the Son of God by jumping off the parapet of the Temple. Jesus rejects this as a temptation to act as God's superior and demands He prove His Trustworthiness! Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even if worshipping Satan would enrich and empower Jesus with all kingdoms of the world. So dear friends we are to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did, using the means Jesus employed. Every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth, and a position of authority, power, and glory, and to use any means, even unjust or sinful ones, to gain these things. Jesus serves as a model for us in conquering temptations by strengthening himself through prayer, penance, and the effective use of the Word of God. Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies with prayer especially by participating in the Holy Mass, with penance, and with meditative reading of the Bible. We are to grow in holiness during Lent through prayer, reconciliation, and sharing: a) by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him in fervent prayer, and listening to Him through the meditative reading of the Bible; b) by offering penitential acts of reparation for our sins; c) by getting reconciled with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and reconciled with others by asking their forgiveness for our offenses against them; d) by sharing our love with others through selfless, humble service, almsgiving, and helping those in need.

Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE FOR ST. CECILIA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISHES is Thursday, March 12, 7:00 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANION BOOKLETS are in the entrances of both Churches. **OPERATION RICE BOW:** Operation Rice Bowl is a faith in action program that helps us experience Lenten spirituality by living in solidarity with people in

need around the world. **About 25% of the money raised stays in our Diocese.** Be sure to pick up your cardboard Rice Bowl in the entrances of both Churches.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE & ST. CECILIA YOUTH GROUP: The St. Thomas and St. Cecilia Youth Group will meet the following dates and locations from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. All high schoolers are welcome to attend! February 25- St. Thomas, March 11- St. Cecilia, March 25 - St. Thomas, April 8- St. Cecilia.

ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS: St. Cecilia is in the process of setting up auto transfer for monthly tithing to St. Cecilia Church. If anyone is interested in contributing monthly to St. Cecilia for their tithing electronically from their bank account to St. Cecilia through ACH, please contact Doris Stumpe. There is a form that needs to be filled out and signed by each parishioner in order for the transfer to be done. The form will be on St. Cecilia's website eventually. If you have access to the internet you can print off the form and fill out. If anyone wants their giving statement put in the back of St. Cecilia Church or email them, please let Doris know. **DEADLINE IS MARCH 1, 2026.** Any questions, please feel free to reach out to Doris Stumpe by email at dstumpeoffice@gmail.com or cell phone 573-619-6125.

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: Dues are \$10.00 per family and \$5.00 per year for a single person. Also, anyone after their 21st birthday must pay their own dues of \$5.00. Members who are 80+ years old and who have been members for at least 15 years will be exempt from paying dues. Please note: Anyone falling in areas over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put payment in the collection basket at St. Thomas the Apostle Church or St. Cecilia Church marked "St. Thomas Cemetery Dues or mail to St. Thomas Cemetery Association, c/o Lisa Lackman, 2222 Upper Botto, Rd, St. Thomas, MO 65076. You may contact Lisa if you have any questions about your current or past dues at 573-338-2703.

ST. CECILIA HOLY HOUR & ANOINTING OF THE SICK is Friday, February 27, **7:30 pm** St. Cecilia Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS: Thursday, March 5, End of 3rd Quarter, Early Release 12:50 pm car riders, 1:00 pm bus riders
Friday, March 6, No School Prek-8, Diocesan Professional Development Day

2026 WILLIAM H. (BILL) SIMON SCHOLARSHIP: The Diocese of Jefferson City is pleased to offer our parish families college scholarship opportunities through a generous donation from the family of William H. (Bill) Simon, funding is available to high school seniors or current college students with financial needs who commit to practicing their faith. The deadline to apply is March 27. Find eligibility details and application at diojeffcity.org/scholarships

HEART OF A HERO MEN'S CONFERENCE is April 10 & 11 at Cana Hall, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City. Featuring presenters Pete Burak from Renewal Ministries in Michigan, Msgr. Morris, Rector of the Oratory of Ss. Gregory & Augustine in St. Louis, Fr. Jones, rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph & young men Thomas McCauley, Austin Stewart and Alex Mittendorf from the St. John Newman Catholic Church in Columbia.

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE RETREAT is March 13-14 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Our retreat will be led by two inspiring couples from the Marianist Retreat Center. Registration is now open for married couples. Childcare will be available.

A LIVING FAITH – YOUNG ADULTS LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – AGES 18-40 SOMETHING: Uncovering the practical steps to participate with God and his Church to experience a living faith. Discussion & Catechesis, Thursdays 2/26-3/26, 6:00-8:00 pm St. Joseph Cathedral, Cana Hall. Please contact Jared Horban (574) 400-9100.

VITAE FOUNDATION ANNUAL PRO-LIFE LUNCH & DINNER is Thursday, March 26 at the Capital Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City. Keynote speaker Riley Gaines, NCAA Swimmer & Advocate for Women. For information or questions re: attendance/table sponsor etc., please contact Jenn Hammann at jenn.hammann@vitaefoundation.org

COR GATHERING FOR CATHOLIC MEN: All Catholic men are invited to attend our next **COR gathering on Tuesday, February 24, at 7:00 PM** at the **K of C Hall**. COR, meaning "heart" and rooted in *courage*, centers on **prayer, formation, and fraternity**. We will continue the *Into the Breach* series with the topic **Sacramental Life**, exploring how the sacraments strengthen us in our daily callings as men, husbands, fathers, and disciples. The evening includes prayer, a video presentation, group discussion, and fellowship. **Bring a friend** and grow together in faith and brotherhood.

FATIMA HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB PLAY: Please join us for our reminiscent trip back to the mall scene of the 1980s with the 2-act comedy *Mall Madness* by Todd Wallinger. Shows will begin at 6:00 PM on both Friday, March 6, and Saturday, March 7. Tickets for just the show either night are \$5 and can be purchased at the door. The Saturday performance will also offer the option for dinner theater with a meal of lasagna or white chicken lasagna, salad, dinner rolls, and cheesecake prepared by our FACS students. Tickets for both the show and the meal are \$15; doors will open at 4:30 with dinner service at 5:00. If you are interested in the dinner, please email Levi Maxwell at MaxwellL@fatimacomets.org by Friday, February 27, to reserve your spot. All tickets can be paid for at the door. Please come out and support our local students and enjoy a fun evening of entertainment!

"SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY AT FATIMA is Thursday, March 19. There will be a musical program by our students in the gym starting at 11:30 am. Lunch will then be provided to all attending starting at 12:40 pm in the cafeteria (courtesy of the Osage County R-III Board of Education. Bus Transportation will be provided from in front of Church, Meta 10:35 am/Folk at 11:00 am. The buses will drop off in front of the new gym entrance. We will have student escorts to guide you to the old gym. We encourage everyone to take advantage.

ST. ANTHONY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST is Sunday, February 22, serving sausage, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs and applesauce from 7:30 am -11:30 am. Adults \$12.00, children 6-12 \$6.00. Dine in or carry outs available.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN (BABBTOWN) CHURCH, CHILI OR SOUP is Sunday, February 22, serving chili, chili dogs, hot dogs, chicken noodle soup, cinnamon rolls and desserts from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

ST. MICHAEL PARISH, RUSSELLVILLE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRIES are March 6 & 20, serving catfish filets, coleslaw, fried & boiled potatoes, baked beans, mac & cheese & dessert, from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Adults \$14, children 7-12 - \$6.00 in the Parish Hall.

LENTEN FISH FRIES EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT, INCLUDING GOOD FRIDAY, 11:00-1:00 pm, \$15 per plate, fish, fries, slaw and dessert at the American Legion Post 5, 1423 Tanner Bridge Rd.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BISHOP MCAULIFFE COUNCIL #12992 FISH FRIES, March 6 & 20, serving white fish fillets, mac & cheese, French fries, green beans, cole slaw, Ice cream & beverages from 4:30-7:00 pm in Cathedral Cana Hall. Drive thru, dine in & carry outs available \$15 for adults, \$6 children, 6-12, \$42 family maximum (family living in same household for dine in only)

SAVE THE DATES: Friday, February 27, K of C Fish Fry, St. Thomas Parish Center

Thursday, March 26, Confirmation at St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Thursday, April 30, – Midwest March for Life, Jefferson City

Sunday, July 12 – St. Cecilia Parish Picnic Totus Tuus - St. Stanislaus Parish - July 12 through July 17

DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMPS! Our Diocese offers multiple summer camps for our youth! These camps offer our youth an opportunity for a fun and fruitful experience to deepen their faith and make memories with the friends they meet. The week will be filled with

- Outdoor activities, like hiking and outdoor water activities
- Games
- Other activities depend on which camp
- The sacraments
- Small groups

There are three different camps based on age and gender:

Camp Lolek: Going into 6th-8th grade

Boys: June 7-11 (Camp MoVal, Union, MO)

Girls: July 14-18 (Camp MoVal, Union, MO)

Camp Siena: Young women going into 9th-12th grade of high school

Session 1: June 28 - July 3rd (North Location - Shelbina, MO)

Session 2: July 19 - 24 (South Location - Camdenton, MO)

Camp Macabee: Young men going into 9th-12th grade of high school.

Session 1: June 21 - 26 (North Location - Shelbina, MO)

Session 2: July 12 - 17(South Location - Camdenton, MO)

For more information and to register visit, <https://diojeffcity.org/youth-camps/>

- If interesting in being a counselor/youth missionary or Adult Volunteer, you can also find information on this page or contact Clara Lackman at 573-645-2360.

ST. THOMAS FISH FRY



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL # 2149



Gluten Free Hand-breaded,
Fish fillets

Hushpuppies (Not Gluten Free)

Baked potatoes

French fries

Baked beans

Coleslaw

Dessert

All You Care to Eat

Adults: \$14

Dine In or Carry Out

Children: \$6

5 & younger: free

February 27, 2026

4:30-7:00 pm

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH CENTER ST. THOMAS, MO 65076

HELIAS CATHOLIC'S SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN. Helias has launched its Spirit of Excellence Campaign to raise \$14 million to build a performing arts center, a baseball/softball complex and an addition to the existing James L. Rackers Field house including necessary updates to its athletic and strength conditioning facilities. The campaign will run through the end of August. For more information and to support the campaign, please visit heliascatholic.com/spiritofexcellence or contact Helias+ Catholic President Ron Vossen at rvossen@heliascatholic.com or 573-635-6139.

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