

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

St. Cecilia
in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net
www.stthomasapostleschool.net

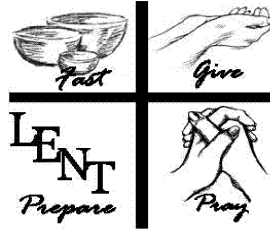
www.stceciliameta.net

PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 15, 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
teitoffice@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 March 15-22

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of March 15-22

Tuesday 7:45 am Virgil Kirkweg
Wednesday 7:45 am Geneva Plassmeyer
Thursday 7:45 am Henry & Christine Luebbering
Thursday 6:00 pm Special Intention
Thursday – after Mass **Stations of the Cross**
Friday – 7:45 am L&D Sylvanus Hoecker Fam.
Friday – 6:30 pm **Stations of the Cross**
Saturday 5:00 pm People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 am Pat Kliegel

Wednesday 6:00 pm **Stations of the Cross**
Wednesday 6:30 pm Danny Libbert
Sunday 8:00 am Henry, Alma & Gerald
Blomberg, Mary Clark

Your Sunday Offering
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026 \$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End \$256,500.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026 **\$273,545.93**
Offertory Difference Year to Date \$17,045.93
Offertory Goal for March \$28,500.00

Your Sunday Offering
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026 \$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2026 **\$55,842.00**
Offertory Goal per Month for March \$5,833.33

Collection in Church
March 1 \$6,452.81
March 8 \$3,807.10
March 15
March 22
March 29

Collection in Church
March 1 \$1,185.00
March 8 \$1,196.00
March 15
March 22
March 29

Collection Online \$6,855.50
March Total to Date **\$17,115.41**
Difference for March -\$11,384.59

March Total to Date \$2,381.00
Difference for March -\$3,452.33

WEEKDAY SERVERS:

Weekday: Isabella Luebbering & Ben Otto

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: Samantha
Helton

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday Ushers
Sunday Family of Pat Kliegel

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Sunday Family of Henry, Alma & Gerald
Blomberg, Mary Clark

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, March 19-Lisa Lackman & Katie Lackman **Thursday, March 26** – Nancy Libbert & Loree Libbert

Liturgical Role Schedule for March 21 & 22			
	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Otto, Benjamin Otto, Luke Reynolds, Jacob Reynolds, Samuel	Derkum, Natalee Werdehausen, Gavin	Buechter, Aliyah Buechter, Gavin Libbert, Cadyn Sandbothe, Gabriel
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Graessle, Barb Reynolds, Andrea Schanzmeyer, Janice	Rehagen, Dorothy Stumpe, Doris Libbert, Pam	Lueckenhoff, Linda Lueckenhoff, Janet Buschjost, Marian
Lector	Herigon, Dale	Rehagen, Dorothy	Luebbering, Ben
Rosary Leader: Sorrowful	Schanzmeyer, Janice	Schroeder, Jennifer	Lueckenhoff, Jim
Greeters/Ushers	Boessen, Keith Strope, Eric	Stumpe, Mitch Schulte, Leonard	Groner, Art Buechter, Craig
Music Ministry	Schroeder, Jeanette Wooten, Amanda	Borgmeyer, Emilie	Stockman, Alanna Luebbering, Josh
Live Stream			Schell, Brooke
Count Collections		Libbert, Pam Libbert, Terry	Kliethermes, Jean Kliethermes, Keith
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Boessen, Lora - Buechter, Darrel - Heckemeyer, Jan - Heckemeyer, Richard		

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

Palm Sunday, March 29 – 8:00 a.m. procession with palms from Parish Center into Church at St. Cecilia (weather permitting)
10:00 a.m. Procession with palms from St. Thomas the Apostle School **ENTRANCE** into Church at St. Thomas

Tuesday, March 31 – 7:45 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church

3:00 pm – Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Jefferson City, all is welcome.

Spy Wednesday, April 1– 7:45 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church and 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross & 6:30 p.m. Mass at St. Cecilia Church

Holy Thursday, April 2 – 7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Adoration until 11:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3 – 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross, St. Cecilia Church; 7:00 p.m. Good Friday services, St. Cecilia Church

Holy Saturday, April 4 – 8:00 p.m. Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Easter Sunday, April 5 – 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Cecilia Church; 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH MASSES, Thursday, March 19, 7:45 am & 6:00 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES from both parishes who will be confirmed on Thursday, March 26, 6:30 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

KofC FISH FRY RESULTS: We wish to sincerely thank all who supported the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry on February 27. We served 657 adults and 32 children making it our second largest fish fry on record. Winners of the 50/50 raffle were 1st place – Michelle Kolb (donated back her winnings back), 2nd place – Doug Moeller and 3rd place – Steve Korsmeyer. All proceeds from the fish fry will be donated to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church.

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.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH OFFICE if you would like Communion brought to your home by Wednesday at 4:00 pm.

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! March 25 - St. Thomas, April 8- St. Cecilia.

ST. CECILIA PRAYER LINE REQUESTS can be made by calling Katie Lueckenotto at 573-229-4318 or 573-619-6454.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PRAYER LINE REQUESTS should be emailed to Theresa Veit at veitoffice@gmail.com or by calling 573-418-7301.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 4th Sunday of Lent: JESUS IS THE TRUE LIGHT FOR THE BELIEVER. (1Sam. 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph. 5:8-14; Jn. 9:1-41) The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as “Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday,” expressing the Church’s joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. Today’s readings remind us that it is God Who both gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul and instructs us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness. By describing the anointing of David as the second king of Israel, the first reading, illustrates how blind we are in our judgments and how much we need God’s help. It reminds us that those whom God involves in his saving plans are not necessarily those whom the world perceives as great. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds the Ephesians of their new responsibility as children of light “to live as children of the light, producing every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.” In today’s Responsorial Psalm, (Ps 23), we celebrate the care of God, our Good Shepherd, who keeps us safe in the darkness of this world. Presenting the miracle of Jesus’ giving of sight to a man born blind, today’s Gospel teaches us the necessity of being willing to have our eyes opened by Faith, and warns us that those who assume they see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness are given clear vision. In this episode, the most unlikely person, namely the beggar born blind, receives the light of Faith in Jesus, while the religion-oriented, law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind. To live as a Christian is to see and to grow continually, gaining clearer vision about God, about ourselves and about others. Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices should help to heal our spiritual blindness so that we can look at others, see them as children of God, and love them as our own brothers and sisters, saved by the death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. So friends, we need to allow Jesus to heal our spiritual blindness. We all have blind-spots in our marriages, our parenting, our work habits, and our personalities. We are often blind to the presence of the Triune God dwelling within us and fail to appreciate His presence in others. Even practicing Christians can be blind to the poverty, injustice, and pain around them. Let us remember, however, that Jesus wants to heal our blindness. We need to ask him to remove from us the root causes of our blindness: self-centeredness, greed, anger, hatred, prejudice, jealousy, addiction to evil habits, hardness of heart, and the like. Let us pray that “God our Father, helps us to see Christ more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly” day by day. We need to get rid of cultural blindness. Our culture also has blind-spots. Often it is blind to things like selfless love, happiness, fidelity with true, committed sexual love in marriage, and the value of human life from birth to natural death. Our culture has become anesthetized to the violence, the sexual innuendo, and the enormous suffering in the world around us. Let us counteract this cultural blindness as, with His grace. We experience Jesus dwelling within us and within others, through personal prayer, meditative reading of the Bible, and a genuine Sacramental life. ***Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

ST. CECILIA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EASTER FLOWERS: Anyone interested in making a monetary donation for Easter Flowers in memory of loved ones is asked to place the donation along with **PRINTED NAMES** to be remembered in an envelope provided in your March Monthly packet and place in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office by March 29. The names will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 5.

ST. CECILIA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION will be holding its annual meeting on Monday, March 30 at 7:00 pm in the basement of the St Cecilia School. All members are encouraged to attend as we will be discussing upcoming projects and electing a new board member. We will also be accepting bids for lawn care and maintenance for the next year. If you, or someone you know, are interested in placing a bid, please have it turned in to a member of the board at or before the start of the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the meeting or the cemetery committee, please contact one of our current board members. Thank you! Dominic Plassmeyer, President, Will Derkum, Vice President, Eileen Brune, Treasurer, Michelle Derkum, Secretary

ST. CECILIA PARISH PICNIC DESSERTS AND MORE AUCTION: We will once again be having the Desserts and More Auction following the Quilt Auction at our Picnic on July 12. If anyone would like to make a dessert or donate other items for the auction, please contact Betty Hagenhoff at 573-645-6565.

ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS: St. Cecilia Parishioners - If you are interested in doing an ACH Authorization for your monthly tithing to the church, the form is now loaded on St. Cecilia's website. If you are unable to retrieve the document on the website, please contact Doris Stumpe for a form. There has been a delay on the starting date for the ACH due to a new online banking product with Mid America Bank. The deduction will not start until May 3. That will give enough time for the conversion to be finalized and the deductions will start on the new system versus on the old and then convert to the new system. I apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused in the plan to start March 3 for ACH. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your patience. 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. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS:

Friday, March 20 – No School PreK-8, state archery tournament
Monday, March 23, No School PreK-8, Regional 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 the 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.

THIS IS THE HOUR – LIVING THE CATHOLIC FAITH WITH COURAGE, CLARITY & CONVICTION is Wednesday, April 29, 6:00-8:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. A powerful one-night parish mission to awaken hearts, renew faith, and inspire Catholics to live the Gospel boldly in today’s world. Speakers: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Dr. Marcus Peter.

DIOCESAN CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN: Camp Registration is NOW Open and Registration is coming in quickly! Please help spread the word on this great opportunity for our young people, entering 6th through 12th grade. Volunteer signups are also now available. If parishes are interested in covering a portion of the cost for their parishioners who go to camp the Youth Office can now set up coupon codes. Please reach out to the Youth Office at diojeffcity.org

DIOCESAN SUMMER MISSIONARIES: Any young Adult Catholics between 18-25, who would be interested in helping out the Diocese this Summer with various youth activities, please visit <https://diojeffcity.org/summer-missionaries/> to find out more.

TOTUS TUUS - July 12 - 17: Sign-up for Totus Tuus is now available. You can do this online at <http://www.stthomasapostle.net/totus-tuus.html>. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Veit (573) 418-7301. Thank you for your continued support and participation in this summer program.

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 thru-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

MEN OF ST. THOMAS & ST. CECILIA PARISHES: You are invited to join the Men of Signum Crucis at our next gathering, which begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City. This month, we will be treated to a presentation by Levi Frisbie, a Wardsville native and a new FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary who is currently completing his studies at the University of Missouri Science and Technology in Rolla this Spring. Levi will be presenting on the topic of "The State of the Youth in the Church." Feel free to come early to pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Refreshments and fraternity in the Commons will follow Levi's presentation. We hope you can come every or any third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. to deepen your knowledge of and devotion to our faith in fellowship with the best men in mid-Missouri. The mission of the Men of Signum Crucis is to provide Fraternity through Catholic Study, Devotion, and Service. For more information about the Men of Signum Crucis, contact Jeff Cassmeyer at 573-690-7546, or visit us at www.menofsignumcrucis.com.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OFFERS VIDEO SERIES: Men and women, young and old, strengthen and grow in your faith for your families with five short videos produced by the *Knights of Columbus* called the "Mission of The Family." The videos can be found on the *Knights of Columbus* website for free! Here is the link and QR Code to find "The Mission of The Family" videos: <https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html> The five videos are less than 14 minutes in length.

"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.

WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FR. FERDINAND HELIAS: Please join the Westphalia Historical Society to hear featured speaker, Professor James Farris. He will discuss the life of Fr. Ferdinand Helias and his work in the translation of Helias' diary from Latin to English. Additionally, "The Memoirs of Fr. Ferdinand" provided by Jenny Smith of the Historic City of Jefferson will be for sale at the event. The Presentation is Sunday, March 22, 1:00 p.m. Norton Roo, 130 E. Main. Street, Westphalia. The Historical Society Business Meeting will take place following the presentation. There is no cost to attend, but donations are appreciated.

TAOS KOFC FISH FRY is March 27, serving fried fish or boiled shrimp, baked potato or fries, slaw, hushpuppies, baked beans, ice cream, \$15.00 per meal from 4:30-7:30 pm. Kids burger & fries \$7.00. Cash or check only at the Taos KC Hall.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH, RUSSELLVILLE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY is March 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 FRY, is March 20, serving white fish fillets, mac & cheese, French fries, green beans, coleslaw, 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)

ST. LOUIS OF FRANCE PARISH CHICKEN DINNER is Sunday, March 15, serving fried chicken, real mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, slaw, homemade bread & desserts from 12:00-6:00 pm. \$16.00 per plate in the Bonnots Mill Parish Hall.

ST. ANTHONY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY is Friday, March 27, serving fried fish, fried potatoes, baked beans, hush puppies, coleslaw and applesauce from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Adults \$12.00, children 6-12 \$6.00. Carry-outs available.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE is Sunday, March 15, 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at the St. Stanislaus Gym, Wardsville. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter StStanislaus to schedule an appointment.

BREAKING THE SILENCE OF ABUSE: As a Diocese, we are committed to breaking the silence of abuse. When someone is reporting abuse, we must acknowledge their pain and how difficult it is to talk about it. False allegations are very rare. Our initial response to someone who is disclosing abuse for the first time must be compassionate. For those who need to report abuse, encourage them to contact our Victims Assistance Coordinator, Jacqueline Baldwin, (573-694-3199) and to make use of the appropriate State of Missouri hotline (1-800-392-3738) or the Attorney General's clergy abuse online form. All of this information is also on our website, under the 'report abuse' tab. For those who want information or want to convey a message to Bishop McKnight, please encourage them to write to us at reportabuse@diojeffcity.org

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.

COMPLETING THE HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS FOR
EVERY GENERATION OF CRUSADERS



SPIRIT[™]
excellence

INSPIRING A COMMUNITY
OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS

**LEARN MORE
AND GIVE NOW**



HELIASCATHOLIC.COM/SPIRITOFEXCELLENCE

ONWARD *together*

