

**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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 22, 2026**

**Pastor:** Fr. Leonard Mukiibi  
[frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com](mailto:frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com)  
**Rectory Phone:** 573-477-3315  
**Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer**  
[jheckemeyerooffice@gmail.com](mailto:jheckemeyerooffice@gmail.com)  
**St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:**  
**Mrs. Theresa Veit**  
[veitoffice@gmail.com](mailto:veitoffice@gmail.com)



**School Principal:** Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer  
[lheckemeyer@stacs.school](mailto:lheckemeyer@stacs.school)  
**School:** 573-477-3322 **Fax:** 573-477-3700  
**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 8:30-11:30 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 22-29**

**Saint Cecilia**  
**Mass Schedule for the Week of March 22-29**

Tuesday 7:45 am Fred & Bertha Beck  
Wednesday 7:45 am Kelsey Heckemeyer  
Thursday 7:45 am Slim & Helen Strope  
**Thursday – after Mass Stations of the Cross**  
**Thursday 6:30 pm Confirmation Candidates**  
Friday – 7:45 am Martha Strope  
**Friday – 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross**  
Saturday 5:00 pm People of our Parishes  
Sunday 10:00 am Shirley & Keith Luebbering

**Wednesday 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross**  
Wednesday 6:30 pm Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer  
Sunday 8:00 am Lawrence “Dick” Rehagen  
and 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 **\$277,789.53**  
Offertory Difference Year to Date \$21,289.53  
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 \$2,711.10  
March 22  
March 29

**Collection in Church**  
March 1 \$1,185.00  
March 8 \$1,196.00  
March 15 \$1,365.00  
March 22  
March 29

**Collection Online** \$8,388.00  
**March Total to Date** **\$21,359.01**  
**Difference for March** -\$7,140.99

**March Total to Date** \$3,746.00  
**Difference for March** -\$2,087.33

**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: Emilie Borgmeyer

**Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle**

Saturday Ushers  
Sunday Family of Shirley & Keith Luebbering

**Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia**

Sunday Family of Lawrence “Dick” Rehagen  
& 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](http://www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip) for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or [amandab27@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Strobe 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 26 – Nancy Libbert &amp; Loree Libbert

**Tuesday, March 31** – Sheila Libbert & Sara Libbert**Liturgical Role Schedule for March 28 & 29 (Palm Sunday)**

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Heckman, Addyson Heckman, Lily Volmert, Jase Volmert, Johnathon	Schroeder, Jesse Schroeder, Tucker	Luebbering, Isabella Luebbering, Oliver Verslues, Max Volmert, Stella
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Boessen, Marshall Boessen, Lora Wansing, Brenda	Plassmeyer, Dominic Plassmeyer, Mary Hagenhoff, Betty	Luebbering, Ben Prenger, Glenn Kliethermes, Keith
<b>Lector</b>	Wooten, Amanda Graessle, Barbara	Stumpe, Doris Hagenhoff, Betty	Cassmeyer, Jeff Luebbering, Ben
<b>Rosary Leader: Sorrowful</b>	Herigon, Dale	Rehagen, Dorothy	Stockman, Tina
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>	Holterman, Adam Wooten, Michael	Hagenhoff, Randy Stumpe, Mitch	McManus, Cash Stockman, Zac
<b>Music Ministry</b>	Schroeder, Jeanette Brand, Mary Kay	Hurst, Lydia	Prenger, Jackie Luebbering, Doug
<b>Live Stream</b>			Schellman, Jenny
<b>Count Collections</b>		Libbert, Pam Libbert, Terry	Henson, Sonya Wieberg, Millie
<b>St. Thomas Church Cleaners</b>	Buschjost, Charlene - Buschjost, Randy - Lueckenhoff, Janet - Lueckenhoff, Jim		

**LITURGICAL ROLES SCHEDULE FOR HOLY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY**

	Holy Thursday, 7:00 PM St. Thomas	Good Friday, 7:00 PM St. Cecilia
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Fennwald, Emerald Fennwald, Georgia Volmert, Jase Volmert, JD Please arrive 30 mins prior to Mass for special instructions	Schroeder, Jesse Schroeder, Tucker Derkum, Natalee Please arrive 30 mins prior to service for special instructions.
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Graessle, Barb Buschjost, Marian Prenger, Glenn	Plassmeyer, Mary
<b>Lector</b>	Herigon, Dale	Even, Jennifer – Narrator & Intercessions Plassmeyer, Dominic - Speaker
<b>Rosary Leader</b>	Herigon, Dale - Luminous	
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>	Boessen, Keith Wooten, Michael	
<b>Music Ministry</b>	Schroeder, Jeanette Choir	Borgmeyer, Emile Choir
<b>Washing of Feet</b>	Keith Boessen, MaryKay Brand, Emily Luebbering, Larry Lueckenhoff, Kathy Rackers, Judy Schroeder, Eileen Brune, Kambrie Stegeman, Betty Hagenhoff, Eli Bock, Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer	

**Stations of the Cross – Good Friday - 3:00 pm St. Cecilia – Servers: Jesse and Tucker Schroeder**

## Liturgical Role Schedule for April 4 & 5 (Holy Saturday & Easter)

	Holy Saturday, 8:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Verslues, Ezekiel Verslues, Max Volmert, Stella <b>Please arrive 30 mins prior to Mass for special instructions.</b>	Bock, Eli Schroeder, Tucker Werdehausen, Gavin	Akin, Noah Wieberg, Victoria Wieberg, William (Ryan) Wooten, Evelyn
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Wansing, Brenda Prenger, Glenn Kliethermes, Keith	Even, Jennifer Libbert, Pam Stumpe, Doris	Lueckenhoff, Janet Lueckenhoff, Linda Boessen, Marshall
<b>Lector</b>	Cassmeyer, Jeff Brand, MaryKay Schroeder, David	Plassmeyer, Dominic	Schroeder, Jennifer
<b>Rosary Leader: Glorious</b>	Stockman, Tina	Plassmeyer, Mary	Lueckenhoff, Jim
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>	Boessen, Keith Luebbering, Doug	Schulte, Leonard Libbert, Pam	Maasen, Matthew Lueckenhoff, Larry
<b>Music Ministry</b>	Prenger, Jackie Choir	Hurst, Lydia	Stockman, Alanna Wooten, Amanda
<b>Live Stream</b>			Wieberg, Dunja
<b>Count Collections</b>		Plassmeyer, Dominic & Mary	Veit, Ron Veit, Theresa
<b>St. Thomas Church Cleaners</b>	Boessen, Linda - Luebbering, Lauri - Luebbering, Lindsay - Reinkemeyer, Lynne		

### 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. (A light reception will follow Mass in Cana Hall, please RSVP by March 27, [diojeffcity.org/chrism-mass-rsvp](http://diojeffcity.org/chrism-mass-rsvp))**

**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.  
Please return **RICE BOWL CONTRIBUTIONS** to Church, Holy Thursday. Thank you!

**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

**LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR GOOD FRIDAY:** Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. Only one full meal is permitted along with two smaller meals, but no snacks are allowed for all ages between 18-59. No meat is permitted for 14 years of age and over. Liquids are allowed.

**HOLY WEEK CHOIR:** We will have practice on Monday, March 23 at 7:00 pm and Tuesday, March 24 at 8:00 pm in St. Thomas the Apostle Church. All are welcome to join us.

**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.

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

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PPC MEETING** is Tuesday, March 31, St. Thomas School library.

**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.

**MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION** is Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

**SPECIAL EASTER COLLECTION-OUR RETIRED PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS.** This collection will be taken up in all parishes during the Easter Masses on April 4-5. This collection is to benefit our retired priests and religious. We ask that you prayerfully reflect and consider making this part of your giving this Easter. The Diocese will include a special envelope for this collection in an upcoming Catholic Missourian or please use the envelope in your April monthly packet. Thank you for your generosity.

**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.

**PASTORS MEDITATION:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent: **JESUS IS THE TRUE LIFE FOR THE BELIEVER** (Ezek. 37:12-14; Rom. 8:8-11; Jn. 11:1-45) Jesus' humanity inspires us, his divinity empowers us. Jesus gives us new life and hope. Death with hope in our Resurrection, challenging us to be alive and not spiritually dead by mortal sin, is the central theme today. Jesus challenges us to live in a loving relationship with him every day, so that he may raise us up at our death to inherit eternal life with him.

Reporting his prophetic vision in the first reading, Ezekiel bears witness to the reanimation of the dead Israel in preparation for the return of the exiles to the Promised Land. He assures them that God's life-giving Breath will restore them, His people, will give them new life, and will resettle them in their land. St. Paul, in the second reading, assures the early Roman Christians who were facing death by persecution (and us who live surrounded by a culture of death), that the same Spirit Who raised Jesus from the dead and Who dwells within us, will raise our mortal bodies to life on the Last Day. Paul considers the Resurrection of Jesus the basis for our Hope of sharing in Jesus' Resurrection. For John, in today's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus, the "sixth of seven Signs" that Jesus will work to demonstrate that he is the promised Messianic Deliverer, is a symbolic narrative of his Final Victory over death at the cost of his human life, and a sign anticipating his Resurrection. Describing this great miracle, the Church assures us that we, too, will be raised into eternal life after our battle with sin and death in this world. Thus, Resurrection Hope is the central theme of the Scripture readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The readings assure us that our Faith in Jesus, who is "the Resurrection and the Life," promises our participation in his Resurrection and new life.

Dear friends, we often bind ourselves with chains of addiction to alcohol, drugs, sexual deviations, slander, gossip, envy, prejudice, hatred, and uncontrollable anger, and bury ourselves in the tombs of despair. Sometimes we are in the tomb of selfishness, filled with negative feelings, like worry, fear, resentment, hatred, and guilt. If we want Jesus to visit our dark dungeons of sin, despair, and unhappiness, we need to ask him during this Holy Mass to bring the light and the power of the Holy Spirit into our private lives and liberate us from our tombs. Are there times when we refuse to let God enter into our wallets, fearing that faithful tithing will endanger our savings? When we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Jesus will call our name and command, "Come out, Mary," and "Come out, Joel!" This is Good News for all of us: "Lazarus, come out!" This can be the beginning of a new life. We need to be ready to welcome death any moment. We live in a world that is filled with death. We kill each other in acts of murder, abortion, Euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide, execution, war, and terrorism. We kill ourselves indirectly through suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, overwork, stress, bad eating habits, and physical neglect. The most important question is: "Am I ready to face my death now?" All of us know that we will surely die, but each of us foolishly thinks that he or she will not die any time in the near future. Let us be wise, well-prepared and ever ready to meet our Lord with a clear conscience when the time comes, and to give Him a clean account of our lives. **Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi**

**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 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](mailto: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 21<sup>st</sup> 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:** Monday, March 23, No School PreK-8, Regional Professional Development Day

**COR GATHERING FOR CATHOLIC MEN:** All Catholic men are invited to attend our next **COR gathering on Tuesday, March 24, at 7:00 PM** at the **Wardsville KofC Hall**. COR, meaning "heart" and rooted in *courage*, focuses on **prayer, formation, and fraternity**. We will continue the *Into the Breach* series with the topic **Spiritual Warfare**, exploring how men are called to stand firm in faith and lead with strength in today's world. The evening includes prayer, a video presentation, group discussion, and fellowship. **Bring a friend** and grow together in faith and brotherhood.

**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.

**TOTUS TUUS VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for volunteers to help provide evening meals for our Totus Tuus missionaries and/or help them during the day program with things like check in/out, serve snacks, apply a band aid etc. The program starts on July 12. We will need evening meals for 5-6 that Sunday through Thursday. The day program starts July 13. We will need 1-2 adult helpers Monday through Friday from 7:15am to 1:45 pm. To volunteer, please contact Cathy Singer at 573-690-1491.

**ST. CECILIA PARISH** is looking for bids for someone to mow the grass this summer. Please contact Lydia at 573-821-1370.

**THE META CITIZENS CIVIC LEAGUE** is having a monthly meeting on Monday, March 23 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**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.

**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.

**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.



**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](http://heliascatholic.com/spiritofexcellence) or contact Helias+ Catholic President Ron Vossen at [rvossen@heliascatholic.com](mailto:rvossen@heliascatholic.com) or 573-635-6139.

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