

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

St. Cecilia
 in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net

www.stceciliameta.net

PO Box 146
 St. Thomas, MO 65076

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

Pastor: Very Reverend Jeremy A. Secrist, V.F.
jasecrist@yahoo.com
 Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Jenny Becker
jbeckeroffice@gmail.com

St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Doris Stumpe
dorisstumpe@att.net



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
lheckemeyer@embarqmail.com
 School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

St. Thomas Secretary:
Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff
stthomasoffice@embarqmail.com

School Website:
www.stthomasapostleschool.net

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Thursdays 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 School Office hours during school year: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. at St. Thomas; Sundays 7:30 - 7:50 a.m. at St. Cecilia;
 or anytime by appointment, just call Father.

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Mass Schedule for the Week of November 27-December 4:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Roman Plassmeyer
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Pat Kliegel
 Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Anton & Alma Boessen Family
 Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Roy & Ludwina Brockman
 Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Henrietta Kroll
 Friday 7:45 a.m. – Ray & Lorraine Luebbering Family
Anointing of the Sick following Mass, Adoration until 5:45 p.m.
 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Gregory Veit

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2016-2017:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$ 127,085.00
Actual Collection for 2015-2017:	\$112,066.20
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	- \$ 15,018.80
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

November 6	\$ 5,115.00
November 13	\$ 2,397.75
November 20	\$ 3,707.00
November 27	\$

Collection Online: \$ 5,244.00
November total to date: **\$16,463.75**
 Difference for November - \$ 8,953.25

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid:	\$2,273,475.34
Income from parishioners for FY 2016-2017 (via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope):	\$12,220.00
Loan payments to date for FY 2016-2017: (Principal) \$37,536.01 (Interest) \$8,602.69	\$46,138.70
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining:	<u>\$458,559.96</u>

St. Thomas Cantor / Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kerry Meyer / Annette Kehner
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering / Annette Kehner

St. Thomas Reader/ Petitions

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff

St. Thomas Altar Servers

Weekday – Carson Libbert & Morgan Luebbering
 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Chase & Grace Luebbering,
 Owen Schellman
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Natalie & Will Otto
 Dorothy & Clara Lackman

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of November 27-December 4:

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Roman & Geneva Plassmeyer
 Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Fred Hagenhoff

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – John Wansing
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Vincent Reinkemeyer

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2016-2017:	\$60,500.00
Collection Total for 2016-2017:	\$25,353.99
Offertory Goal per month:	\$ 5,041.00

Collection in Church:

November 6	\$ 1,892.00
November 13	\$ 969.00
November 20	\$ 988.00
November 27	\$

November total to date: **\$ 3,903.00**
 Difference for November: - \$ 1,138.00

Please remember your parish in your last will & testament.

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

December – Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotto

St. Cecilia Reader / Petitions

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe
 Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Betty Hagenhoff
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

St. Cecilia Altar Servers

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Zachary & Joshua Even,
 Ben & Henry Schroeder
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Will & Melina Derkum
 Sophie Bock

**IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFILL YOUR
 LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENT,
 IN YOUR KINDNESS & CHARITY,
 PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT.**

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

December 3-4

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Jenny Becker, Leeroy Budnik

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Bill & Betty Jo Luebbering, Lynne

Reinkemeyer

December 10-11

Saturday 5:00 p.m.–Carolyn Loethen, Mark & Barb Graessle

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jan Carter, Mattheuw Prenger Keith

Kliethermes

St. Thomas Greeters/Ushers

December 3-4

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Arthur McManus & Carolyn Loethen

December 10-11

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Richard Schellman & Fred Luebbering

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Alan Reinkemeyer & Doug Stockman

St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass

December 3-4

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Gregg & Susan Boessen Family

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – David & Linda Boessen Family

December 10-11

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Steve & Katrina Schellman Family

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – TJ, Andrew & Alex Loethen

St. Thomas Collection Counters

December 3-4 – Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg

December 10-11– Keith & Jean Kliethermes

December 17-18 – Richard & Jan Heckemeyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday 7:25 a.m. – Alex & Joann Heckman – Sorrowful

Wednesday 7:25 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Glorious

Thursday 7:25 a.m. – Viola Boessen – Luminous

Friday 7:25 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe – Sorrowful

Saturday 4:40 p.m. – Dale Herigon– Joyful

Sunday 9:40 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe – Joyful

SCRIP: December 3-4 Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program.

Saturday – Lindsay Luebbering Sunday – Melissa Verslues

Please remember to purchase Scrip cards for all your holiday shopping and gift giving needs! We have a large variety of cards in various denominations in stock and available for purchase. Scrip is available for purchase after every weekend Mass in St. Thomas and available during the week by contacting the school office at 573-477-3322. You can also contact Lindsay Luebbering at 573-680-4920 or Karen Luebbering at 573-301-5835 to purchase anytime.

LADIES TO BRING SNACK TO ST. THOMAS QUILTERS:

Thursday, Dec. 1 – Carolyn Loethen & Pat Loethen Thursday, Dec. 8 – Pat (Andrew) Luebbering & Katie (Brian) Luebbering

Please bring to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Strobe or Emily Luebbering.

A NOTE OF THANKS!

The family of Fr. Arthur Lueckenotto, M.S., would like to convey a sincere thank you to everyone for your expressions of sympathy in the loss of our brother and uncle. Your kindness and generosity will always be remembered. A special thank you to Fr. Secrist for his warm welcome and support of the LaSalette clergy here at Meta to celebrate Fr. Art's many years of Missionary life and send him to his final reward. Thank you also to the K of C Honor Guard for making the occasion a most solemn one. THANK YOU again to all who helped out in any way at this time and over the years for supporting Fr. Art in his many mission projects. God bless!

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS: Magnificat Companion booklets with daily reflections are available for you at the entrances to Church to assist your daily prayer throughout the season of Advent.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:

Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 7 at **6:30 p.m.** (Vigil) at St. Cecilia, Meta

Thursday, December 8 at **7:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.** St. Thomas

RORATE MASS – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23: There is an ancient custom during the season of Advent to celebrate Mass in the early morning before sunrise in anticipation of the coming of the Light of the World at Christmas. Mass will be offered by candlelight at St. Thomas the Apostle at **6:00 a.m.** on **Friday, December 23.** Hospitality will be offered in the Vitae House following the Rorate Mass.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS:

Mass will be celebrated on December 24, 5:00 p.m. & Midnight

December 25, 10:00 a.m.

ST. CECILIA:

December 24, 7:00 p.m.

December 25, 8:00 a.m.

2016-2017 CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL (CSA): The Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA) videos for this year's Catholic Stewardship appeal is available at: www.diojeffcity.org. Please click on the YouTube logo button in the top right hand corner of the web page. The CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP GOALS for 2016 are:

St. Cecilia Parish: \$2,000.00. So far **\$853.00** (42%) has been contributed.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish: \$8,000.00. So far **\$4,299.00** (54%) has been contributed.

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

December 3-4

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Doris Stumpe, Jennifer Even,

Betty Hagenhoff

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Gerald & Phyllis Rehagen, Pam Libbert

December 10-11

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen, Lou Kloepfel,

Brenda Wansing

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Janice

Schanzmeyer

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

December 3-4

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Randy Hagenhoff, Lou Kloepfel,

Mitch & Brendan Stumpe

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Harold Libbert, Anton Libbert, Terry

Libbert, Tony Derkum

December 10-11

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Darin Even, Randy Hagenhoff,

Lou Kloepfel, Mitch Stumpe

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Leon Schanzmeyer, Kenny Otto,

Dominic Plassmeyer, Larry Lueckenotto

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. – Florentine Hagenhoff– Glorious

Saturday 6:40 p.m. – Alice Hake– Joyful Mysteries

Sunday 7:40 a.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer–Joyful Mysteries

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$2.50.**

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist at least six months prior to the desired date.

ST. THOMAS PRAYER LINE REQUESTS should be emailed to Jenny Becker at jbeckeroffice@gmail.com or by calling (573) 690-0642. The Prayer Line exists to communicate prayer intentions for those in need of healing. Out of respect for individuals' privacy, only necessary information is communicated.

FOOD DRIVE: The St. Thomas & Meta Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a food drive beginning this week through December 18. The food collected will be delivered to the Helping Hands of Central Missouri Food Pantry located near St. Elizabeth in Miller County. Food collection boxes are located in the entrances of St. Thomas & St. Cecilia Churches. As we approach the winter season, please take this opportunity to help those in need. Thank you!

DVD'S OF THE PFEFFER PIPE ORGAN REDEDICATION held on October 2nd, are now available for \$15. These DVD's were recorded and edited by the videographer and sportscaster Rod Smith. Please contact Fr. Secrist or Diane Lueckenhoff to obtain a copy. Proceeds will go for the continued care and maintenance of the historic instrument.

ST. THOMAS PARISH PASTORIAL COUNCIL MEETING is Tuesday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vitae House.

PENANCE SERVICES AROUND THE AREA DURING ADVENT:

November 29	7:00 pm	Frankenstein
November 30	7:00 pm	Chamois
December 1	7:00 pm	Freeburg
December 6	7:00 pm	Argyle
December 13	7:00 pm	Folk
December 13	6:30 pm	Wardsville
December 13	7:00 pm	St. Thomas (1st Reconciliation for younger parishioners and their parents)
December 14	7:00 pm	Westphalia
December 14	7:00 pm	Osage Bend
December 18	4:00 pm	St. Elizabeth
December 20	7:00 pm	St. Thomas
December 21	7:00 pm	Loose Creek
December 22	7:00 pm	Linn

ST. CECILIA CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you want to remember your loved ones during the Christmas season, you may make a monetary donation with their names (*clearly printed*) in an envelope marked "ST. CECILIA FLOWER DONATION". Please place the flower donations in the collection basket between now and December 18. The names of those to be remembered will be published in the December 24-25 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Those wishing to make a monetary donation toward the Christmas flowers and decorations at St. Thomas are asked to place their donations, along with names (*clearly printed*) of those to be remembered in the envelope provided in the December packet. Please place donations in the collection basket between now and December 18. The names of those to be remembered will be published in the December 24-25 bulletin.

FIRST FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH:

7:45 a.m. Mass with Anointing of the Sick offered after Mass to those who are in need of the Sacrament, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Church throughout the day. Confession offered at 4:30-5:45 p.m. Benediction at 6:00 p.m. Please come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord.

FIRST FRIDAY HOSPITALITY AT ST. THOMAS: Please join us for coffee, donuts and other hospitality in the Vitae House after Mass on Friday, December 2.

PRAYING A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY will be prayed on Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Church.

ATTENTION ST. THOMAS QUILT GROUPS: We are working on the quilts for the 2017 picnic. If you have a quilt top along with lining ready, please let us know. ***The quilt top needs to be marked for quilting.*** If you have any questions, please call Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strobe at 573-477-3349. Batting is available for \$10.00. Additional quilt lists are available in the entrances of St. Thomas Church or on our web page.

ST. CECILIA SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School classes for St. Cecilia is immediately following the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Parish Center. Sunday School classes are open to any children in kindergarten, or those who will be entering kindergarten next year (fall of 2017). Please contact Jennifer Even at 680-6945, 229-8976 or evenfamily6@att.net to sign up or with any questions.

ST. THOMAS SUNDAY SCHOOL: St. Thomas the Apostle Sunday School is for children preschool age (2 years prior to Kindergarten) meet on Sunday's from 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the St. Thomas School Kindergarten room. Please contact Daffny Tallent at 573-694-4408 or email ddtallent@embarqmail.com for more information.

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL/PSR DROP OFF & PICK UP REMINDER: For the safety of everyone, please remember to ENTER from Park Street and EXIT from the Church parking lot ONLY. This will keep our children safe and the traffic flowing smoothly.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRESCHOOL: There's an exciting addition to the Preschool program for the 2016-2017 school year! A new reading readiness curriculum made by the same company that gives us "Super Kids" is being added! If you have a preschool aged child, please email Mrs. Kirkweg for information on how to get your child enrolled. mkirkweg@embarqmail.com

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE: Box Tops for Education, Coke Points & Best Choice Labels.

COPY PAPER: St. Thomas School is in need of copy paper, clean on one side and staple free. Please drop off paper at school or call the school office.

WINNERS OF THE VFW PATRIOTS PEN ESSAY CONTEST: Ben Schroeder received 1st place, Morgan Luebbering received 2nd place and Chesney Luebbering was the 3rd place recipient. Congratulations to all three of these students!

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS:

November	29	– 7&8 grade visit Helias, Parish School Advisory Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. in Vitae House
December	2	– First Friday, Adoration & Confessions for grades 3-8
	15	– Advent Program 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center

THANK YOU to Western Catholic Union for their recent matching fun program which provided \$500 to the St. Thomas Home & School for their recent pizza fundraiser.

HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL announces AUDITIONS on Sunday, **December 4, 2016** for the musical, "The Wizard of Oz," for young talent in grades 3-8 and Helias Catholic students. Go to the SPRING MUSICAL link on the Helias website, www.heliascatholic.com, for details. This American classic musical will be presented March 10-12, 2017 at the Miller Performing Arts Center.

META CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE: The December monthly meeting will be held on November 28th at 7:00 p.m.

THE META CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE will be hosting their annual Christmas appreciation party on December 4th at the Civic League hall. The Country Western Jammers will be playing music at 5:00 pm. Food will be served at 5:30. Come and enjoy a fun evening of music, food and socializing. Everyone is welcome.

PRAY AT COLUMBIA PLANNED PARENTHOOD: The prayer vigil continues at Columbia Planned Parenthood. Monday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00p.m., Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to noon, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

ST. ANDREW PROLIFE AND COLUMBIA 40 DAYS FOR LIFE INVITATIONS: December 8, St. Andrew Church, Holts Summit, after 7:00 p.m. Mass, the National night of Prayer for the Unborn will begin at 8:00 p.m. until midnight with Eucharistic Adoration and each hour with specific prayers , intention and the rosary. Monday, December 12, Annual Peace in the Womb Pro-Life Christmas Caroling, at Columbia Planned Parenthood, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 14 at 11:30 to 2:00 p.m., Annual Nativity Scene & Christmas Program at the Missouri Capitol Rotunda. Contact Kathy at 573-821-5130 for more info.

MISSOURI RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE will be available to the St. Thomas Community on Monday, November 28 from 5:45-6:45 p.m. in the St. Thomas K of C Parking lot; and 7:15-8:00 p.m. Beeline Mini Mart, Meta.

SSM ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL is offering training for anyone interested in learning how to support the women & men who have experienced a loss due to miscarriage or still birth. The training will take place on November 28 -8:00-5:00 p.m., 29-8:00-5:00 p.m. & 30 8:00-1:00 p.m. at the SSM St. Mary's Hospital, 2505 Mission Dr. Jefferson City, MO. To register, please contact Debra Cochran at 573-636-947-6164.

RECOGNIZING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES in the bulletin. If you are a college or technical school graduate this semester, please let us know by emailing or calling the school at 573-477-3322, or the Parish Office on Tuesday or Thursday mornings at 573-477-3315. The names will be published in the December 24-25 bulletin.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

ST. THOMAS/META KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE is Sunday, November 27, 8:00 a.m. to noon, K of C Hall. To make an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: *StThomasParish*

HOLY FAMILY PARISH FALL SUPPER, FREEBURG is Sunday, December 4, serving fried chicken & sausage dinners from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adults \$11, children 6-12 \$5.00.

JEFFERSON CITY CANTORUM'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT is Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Miller Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available at Samuels' Tuxedos & gifts; Central Bank West; Hawthorn Bank East or visit www.JeffersonCityCantorum.com or call 573-230-2715. Tickets are Adults \$10, youth (18 & under) \$5.00, Seniors (65 and over) \$8.00, Family (3-5 family members \$25.00. Tickets will be \$2.00 more at the door.

ST. THOMAS HERITAGE BOOK: In the near future, the Sesquicentennial Team will be asking each family household to write a short narrative for inclusion in the heritage book. There will be four topics that you choose to write about in less than 260 words: tell us about your family, tell us about your family's occupation, tell us about family traditions, and tell us about anything special that defines your family. We will also ask for two photos, one family photo and one of your choice. Have fun preparing your narrative and photos!

ADVENT LETTER FROM THE BISHOP:

November 27, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that another calendar year is about to come to a close. As we begin the season of Advent on Sunday, November 27th, we should be entering into a period of quiet spiritual reflection and preparation. Yet, the final weeks of the year are often anything but calm. There are feelings of pressure that can arise with planning family gatherings or finding the right gift for someone. There are worries about the safety of those who travel. Many things can occupy our minds. It requires a conscious effort on our part to set aside quiet time to sit with the Lord.

The Scriptures show us the reward that comes from listening for the voice of God. In the town of Nazareth, a young woman named Mary was listening when the angel Gabriel was sent from God to bring her joyful news. That message of hope stirred Mary to say yes to God with her whole being. Let us create an opportunity for the comforting words of the Lord to reach the ears of our hearts this Advent season. May we be able to respond with Mary that we are the servants of the Lord, ready to do His will throughout the year of grace that lies ahead.

With my best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend John R. Gaydos
Bishop of Jefferson City