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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025

Pastor: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi
frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315
Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer
jheckemeyeroffice@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 Dec. 14-21

Tuesday 7:45 a.m.	Betty Hoecker
Wednesday 7:45 a.m.	Mary Jane & Kevin Lueckenotte
Thursday 7:45 a.m.	Msgr. Donald Lammers
Friday 6:30 a.m.	Sam Herigon
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	People of our Parishes Virgil Kirkweg
Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Herman & Agatha Luebbering

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of Dec. 14-21

Wednesday 6:30 pm	Danny Libbert
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Lionel, Arharta, Bonnie & Sandy Libbert

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	$171,000.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	**$161,526.34**
Offertory Difference Year to Date	-$9,473.66
Offertory Goal for December	$28,500.00

Collection in Church

December 7	$7,500.35
December 14	
December 21	
December 28	

Collection Online	$7,005.50
December Total to Date	**$14,505.85**
Difference for December	-$13,994.15

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2025	**$27,701.00**
Offertory Goal per Month for December	$5,833.33

Collection in Church

December 7	$1,294.00
December 14	
December 21	
December 28	

December Total to Date	$1,294.00
Difference for December	-$4,539.33

WEEKDAY SERVERS: Matthew Stegeman & JD 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 6:10 am	Jim Lueckenhoff – Sorrowful

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia & Lector
Wednesday 6:10 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen – Glorious

Lector: Cathy Borgmeyer

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday	Family of Virgil Kirkweg
Sunday	Family of Herman & Agatha Luebbering

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Sunday	Family of Lionel, Arharta, Bonnie & Sandy Libbert

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 & PARISH BULLETINS: is Wednesday at noon. 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: 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. 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.
Thursday, December 18 – Trish Green & June Groner **Monday, December 22** – Debbie Groner & Barb Graessle

Liturgical Role Schedule for December 20 & 21

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Fennewald, Emerald Fennewald, Georgia Wieberg, Victoria Wieberg, William (Ryan)	Schroeder, Jesse Schroeder, Tucker	Tallent, Francie Tallent, Hannah Tallent, Levi Veltrop, Angelina
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Buschjost, Marian Lueckenhoff, Linda Graessle, Barb	Stumpe, Doris Plassmeyer, Dominic Plassmeyer, Mary	Luebbering, Ben Lueckenhoff, Janet Prenger, Glenn
Lector	Holterman, Kara	Stumpe, Doris	Loethen, Carolyn
Rosary Leader: Joyful	Herigon, Dale	Plassmeyer, Mary	Lueckenhoff, Jim
Greeters/Ushers	Holterman, Adam Strope, Eric	Stumpe, Mitch Stumpe, Brendan	Stockman, Zac Stockman, Doug
Music Ministry	Schroeder, Jeanette Wieberg, Lisa	Borgmeyer, Emilie	Prenger, Jackie Luebbering, Josh
Live Stream			Reinkemeyer, Karlie
Count Collections		Libbert, Pam Libbert, Terry	Schellman, Donna Wieberg, Rosalyn
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Boessen, Linda - Luebbering, Lauri - Luebbering, Lindsay - Reinkemeyer, Lynne		

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & HOME-BOUND FOR ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE & ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS:
If you or someone you know is sick or home-bound and would like to receive Holy Communion at your home, please call St. Thomas the Apostle Parish office at 573-477-3315 by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday each week. Home visits for Holy Communion will be offered on Friday mornings.

CHRISTMAS ASSESSMENT FOR THE SEMINARIAN FORMATION AND INFRIRM PRIEST FUND:
*St. Cecilia Parish **$525.00**, St. Thomas the Apostle **$3,732***

2026 ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH CALENDARS are in the entrances of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS: Magnificat Advent Companion booklets with daily reflections are available for you at the entrance of your Church to assist your daily prayer throughout the coming season of Advent. There are some in the bulletin box on the Vitae House porch.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE is Thursday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. St. Cecilia Church.

CANDELIGHT MASS is Friday, December 19, 6:30 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:
Mass will be celebrated on **Christmas Eve** – Wednesday, December 24- 5:00 & 10:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.
Christmas Eve- Wednesday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. St. Cecilia Church
Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25, 8:00 a.m. St. Cecilia Church
Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25, 10:00 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE: Wednesday, December 31, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 1, 8:00 a.m. St. Cecilia & 10:00 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

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 flower donations in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office **between now and December 21. The names will be published in the December 28 bulletin.**

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Those wishing to make a monetary donation toward the Christmas flowers and decorations at St. Thomas the Apostle are asked to place their donation, along with names **(CLEARLY PRINTED)** of those to be remembered in the envelope provided in the December packet. Please place the donation in the collection basket **between now and December 21. The names will be published in the December 28 bulletin**.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A. ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME? (Is. 35:1-6a, 10; Jas. 5:7-10; Mt. 11:2-11) Today's readings invite us to rejoice at the rebirth of Jesus in our lives as we are preparing for our annual Christmas celebration. Today is called Gaudete Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always." So, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior into our hearts and lives, we light the rose candle on the Advent wreath, and priests may wear rose-colored vestments. The prophet Isaiah, in today's first reading, encouraged the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God was going to liberate them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. In the second reading, James the Apostle encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait with patience for the imminent second coming of Jesus. Finally, in the first part of today's Gospel reading, Jesus encourages John the Baptist in prison to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accepting Jesus' healing and preaching ministry as the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. In the second part, Matthew presents Jesus, the true Messiah, paying the highest compliments to John the Baptist as his herald and the last of the prophets, and giving special credit to the courage of John's prophetic convictions, asking his listeners to rejoice in the greatness of his herald. Therefore friends, we need to learn how to survive a Faith crisis: If John the Baptist, even after having had a direct encounter with Jesus, the Messiah, had his doubts about Jesus and his teachings, we, too, can have our crises of Faith. On such occasions, let us remember the truth that all our Christian dogmas are based on our trusting Faith in the Divinity of Jesus who taught them, and on his Divine authority which he gave to his Church to teach what he taught. Hence, it is up to us to learn our Faith in depth and ask the Lord to remove our doubts. "Go and tell others what you hear and see." We rejoice at the thought that Jesus is going to be reborn in our lives, deepening in us his gifts of love, mercy, forgiveness and the spirit of humble and sacrificial service during this Christmas season. Hence, let us joyfully share God's bountiful grace, forgiveness, and mercy with others. What Jesus demanded of John's disciples, he demands of us as well: "Go and tell others what you hear and see." This means that we have to share with others our experience of the rebirth of Jesus within us. We need to open our hearts and let God transform our lives: Today's readings remind us that our lives can also be transformed if we are patient and place our trust in God. The message of Advent is that God is present among us, in our everyday lives. We must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome him by allowing a change of thinking about God, ourselves, and the world (a metánoia), wrought by the Holy Spirit, with our cooperative assent, of course, to take place in us during Advent. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS!
Tuesday, December 16 - Advent Program 6:30 p.m. Dress Rehearsal 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 18 – K-8 Bowling Party
Friday, December 19- **Early Release ALL STUDENTS,** 12:50 car riders, & 1:00 p.m. bus riders. NO EDP

REJOICE! ADORATION & WORSHIP is Friday, December 26, 6:00-7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, Westphalia. Join us for adoration & worship with contemporary Christian music by the Rehagen Family.

MEN OF ST. THOMAS AND 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, December 17, at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City. Just in time for Advent, our topic this month will be "Creating Silence," presented by Gabe Jones, a Field Agent of the Knights of Columbus in St. Louis. Feel free to come early to pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Refreshments in the Commons will follow Gabe's presentation. 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.

COR GATHERING FOR CATHOLIC MEN: All Catholic men are invited to join us for **COR** on **Tuesday, December 23, from 7:00–8:30 PM** at the **Wardsville/Osage Bend Community Center**. COR, meaning "heart," is rooted in *courage* and focuses on **prayer, formation, and fraternity**. This month's *Into the Breach* session explores the topic of **Prayer**—the foundation of every man's spiritual life. We'll discuss how Eucharistic adoration, reading Scripture, and praying the rosary strengthen our relationship with God. The session will feature **Robert Feeney's** powerful testimony on the impact of prayer during his time on the battlefield in Vietnam and throughout his life. Bring a friend and grow deeper in faith and brotherhood!

RECOGNIZING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES IN THE BULLETIN: If you are a college or technical school graduate this semester, please let me know by emailing or calling the school office at 573-477-3322 or the Parish Office on Tuesday morning or Wednesday from 8:30-4:30 by December 21. The names will be published in the December 28 bulletin.

CITY OF ST. THOMAS: COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Notice for any applicants interested in running for a two-year term City Council/Board position on the April 7, 2026, election. If you interested in running for a two-year term City of St. Thomas position, please email *saintthomascity@gmail.com.* You must reside within the city limits of St. Thomas to hold a Council position. Must apply by December 30, 2025.

SAVE THE DATES:
Sunday, December 14- St. Thomas Holiday Mart, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pizza Kwik, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 16 – St. Thomas the Apostle School Advent Program, 6:30 p.m. Dress rehearsal 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, January 18, 2026, K of C Breakfast at KC Hall
Friday, February 27, 2026, K of C Fish Fry, St. Thomas Parish Center
Thursday, April 30, 2026 – Midwest March for Life, Jefferson City

St. Thomas the Apostle Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Notes - November 20, 2025

Meeting Called to Order

- Attendance: Father Leonard, Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Shane Verslues, Brenda Schell, Jenny Becker, Marian Buschjost, Anthony Luebbering
- Not in Attendance: Sonya Henson, Alanna Stockman, Leroy Heckemeyer, Logan Peters, Erica Graessle

Principal's Report / School Advisory Council

- We have two basketball teams who will be competing at St Thomas this winter and it will be a J.V. girls team and a 5th grade boys team. We have 2 boys who will be playing with St. Stanislaus. We want to wish the players and coaches good luck in their upcoming season.
- Archery practice has begun.
- Mid-Quarter was on Friday, November 14th.
- Thanksgiving Break-November 26-28.
- The Advent Program will be Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30pm.
- The Christmas Bowling Program for grades K-8 on Thursday, December 18th at Bowlmor Lanes in Osage Beach. We will leave at 9:50 am and return around 2:15 pm. We will be taking our Christmas cookies with us on this trip.
- We want to thank the Home and School Association for funding our Fischer Farms trip and the upcoming Bowling Trip.

- Our last day of school before Christmas Break is on Friday, December 19th. There will be an Early Release for cars at 12:50 pm and bus riders at 1:00 pm. There is NO EXTENDED CARE for any students.
- School resumes on Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

CSR

- There are several envelopes left in the back of the church. We hope families will pick them up so that we do not have to mail them.

Pastoral Council Commission Reports:

Worship

- Feast of St. Cecilia November 26 at 6:30 pm at Meta.
- Thanksgiving Mass November 27 at 9:00 am at St. Thomas.
- Advent begins November 30.
- Holy Hour December 5 after 7:45 am morning Mass at St. Thomas.
- Immaculate Conception Feast Day Mass Monday, December 8: St. Thomas at 7:45 am and St. Cecilia at 6:30 pm.
- Confessions December 18 at 6:30 pm at St. Cecilia.
- December 19 Rorate (candlelight Mass) at 6:30 am at St. Thomas.
- December 21 church decorating after both Masses (St. Cecilia and St. Thomas).
- All weekday Masses while school is out for Christmas vacation will be at 9:00 am.
- The week before Christmas there will only be one weekday Mass-December 23 at 9:00 am.
- Christmas Masses Wednesday, December 24:
    - St. Thomas 5:00 pm
    - St. Cecilia 7:00 pm
    - St. Thomas 10:00 pm
- Christmas Masses Thursday, December 25:
    - St. Cecilia 8:00 am
    - St. Thomas 10:00 am
- December 26 NO MASS and NO ADORATION
- December 30 Mass at 9:00 am St. Thomas
- December 31 Mass at 5:00 pm St. Thomas (NO MASS at St. Cecilia)
- January 1 Mass at 8:00 am St. Cecilia and 10:00 am St. Thomas
- January 2 Mass at 9:00 am St. Thomas followed by Holy Hour

Social Concerns

- We need a committee to be formed to help with the Fall Fantasy. Kim Kliegel and Joni Prenger have led this for years and are ready for others to assist next year and take over this role. We are very thankful for all the work these ladies have put in!
- The PPC has taken time to discuss whether we continue our Ham Breakfast. The income for the last 3 years are as follows:
    - 2025 - $5240
    - 2024 - $5547
    - 2023 - $8529 (last year to have the raffle as we were asking the same people for donations for several functions/money making events for school and parish and this was becoming a challenge)
    - Other issues have been increasing costs and fewer workers for our event.
    - We have discussed having a drive thru pork steak dinner instead which takes a lot less time and workers. The BBQ drive thru we had in 2021 brought in $4888.
    - If anyone has ideas for a replacement of our Ham Breakfast, please let a PPC member know and we will share at our next meeting.

Administration

- The church roof has been completed. A few minor issues, no major ones. We had a warranty call already. Dustin Pohl fixed some ruts around parish grounds caused by the roof project. The parish paid to fix ruts. A piece of Father's sidewalk was cracked. The Parish received a credit for the sidewalk. This will be fixed.
- Ballfield lights is the next big project. The plan is to do something like a Capital Campaign to raise the funds for this. The Finance Committee is still looking into grants to help offset the cost.
- Waterproofing at the Rectory is complete.
- We will be getting extra speakers for the back of the church and one in the cry room/confessional room.

Finance Committee

- NA

Pastor's Report

- The water spigot behind Father's house is working. We will let Roseanne Boessen know as this will make watering the flowers much easier!
- The celebration for Bishop Ralph O'Donnell was very nice.
- The Pilgrimage that Father and several parishioners went on was a great faith building experience!
- Father will be gone January 12 - February 12 to visit his family.

New Business

- The live streaming video has been having issues when there is movement on the balcony. Anthony will be looking into a stand that can take care of the vibration. We may make a sign that asks those sitting upstairs to limit their walking around during Mass if we cannot figure out how to keep the video from shaking.
- Parish Wish List (wants and needs) suggestions: power washing the school and marque sign, new picnic table on the playground (the wooden one that was donated in Diane Kroll's name is getting weathered and rough).
- The K of C Valentine's Dance will include minors. The parish and K of C both have liability insurance.

Next meeting

- Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 PM

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.