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 ADVENT

December 21, 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. 21-28

Tuesday **9:00 a.m.**	Hermina & Gilbert Strope Fam.
Christmas Eve 5 pm	Rudolph & Josephine Veit
Christmas Eve 10 pm	L&D Philip & Alma Boessen Fam.
Christmas Day 10 am	Kelsey Heckemeyer
Friday 7:45 am	No Mass
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	David Volmert
Sunday 10:00 a.m.	People of our Parishes Jim Reinkemeyer

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of Dec. 21-28

Christmas Eve 7:30 pm	Larry Stumpe
Christmas Day 8 am	Marilyn Bax
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Lawrence, Kenny & Scott Otto

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	$171,000.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	**$171,385.32**
Offertory Difference Year to Date	$385.32
Offertory Goal for December	$28,500.00

Collection in Church	
December 7	$7,500.35
December 14	$2,358.63
December 21	
December 28	

Collection Online	$7,005.50
December Total to Date	**$16,864.48**
Difference for December	$11,635.52

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2025	**$29,553.00**
Offertory Goal per Month for December	$5,833.33

Collection in Church	
December 7	$1,294.00
December 14	$1,852.00
December 21	
December 28	

December Total to Date	$3,146.00
Difference for December	-$2,687.33

WEEKDAY SERVERS: No servers needed.

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle
Tuesday 8:40 am Bob Schellman - Sorrowful

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia & Lector

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Christ. Eve 5:00 pm	Family of Rudolph & Josephine Veit
Christ. Eve 10:00 pm	Family of Philip & Alma Boessen
Christ. Day 10:00 am	Family of Kelsey Heckemeyer
Saturday	Family of David Volmert
Sunday	Family of Jim Reinkemeyer

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Christmas Eve	Family of Larry Stumpe
Christmas Day	Family of Marilyn Bax
Sunday	Family of Lawrence, Kenny & Scott Otto

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 THIS WEEK is Tuesday, December 23 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: **THIS WEEK & NEXT WEEK, THE QUILTERS WILL BE QUILTING ON MONDAY NIGHTS DUE TO CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS!**
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.

Monday, December 22 – Debbie Groner & Barb Graessle **Monday, December 29 -** Kathy Graessle & Leslie Green

Liturgical Role Schedule for Christmas: Wednesday December 24

	5:00 pm	7:00 pm	10:00 pm
Altar Servers	Buschjost, Ava Reynolds, Jacob Tallent, Levi Wooten, Evelyn	Schroeder, Annaline Stegeman, Kambrie Stegeman, Matthew Werdehausen, Gavin	Fennewald, Emerald Fennewald, Georgia Christian, Austyn Christian, Kaycie
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Becker, Paul & Jenny Barb Graessle Reinkemeyer, Lynne	Stumpe, Doris Even, Jennifer Hagenhoff, Betty	Boessen, Lora Boessen, Marshall Kliethermes, Keith
Lector	Holterman, Kara	Hagenhoff, Betty	Schroeder, David
Greeters/Ushers	Reinkemeyer, Alan Wooten, Michael	Hagenhoff, Randy Stumpe, Mitch	Boessen, Mark Stockman, Doug
Music Ministry	Stockman, Alanna Strope, Anne	Choir	Prenger, Jackie Choir
Live Stream			Luebbering, Lauri

Liturgical Role Schedule for Christmas: Thursday December 25

	8:00 am	10:00 am
Altar Servers	Schroeder, Jesse Schroeder, Tucker	Prenger, Emmary Wieberg, Victoria Wieberg, William (Ryan) Need Server
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Plassmeyer, Dominic Plassmeyer, Mary Libbert, Pam	Lueckenhoff, Linda Prenger, Matt Lueckenhoff, Janet
Lector	Plassmeyer, Dominic	Lueckenhoff, Larry
Greeters/Ushers	Schulte, Leonard	Heckemeyer, Richard Lueckenhoff, Larry
Music Ministry	Hurst, Lydia	Prenger, Jackie Wieberg, Lisa

Liturgical Role Schedule for December 27 & 28

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Akin, Noah Libbert, Jayden Volmert, Jase Volmert, Johnathon	Derkum, Natalee Werdehausen, Gavin	Luebbering, Isabella Luebbering, Oliver Verslues, Max Volmert, Stella
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Becker, Paul Becker, Jenny Schanzmeyer, Janice	Rehagen, Dorothy Hagenhoff, Betty Even, Jennifer	Heckemeyer, Jan Heckemeyer, Richard Reinkemeyer, Lynne
Lector	Becker, Paul	Plassmeyer, Dominic	Brand, Mary Kay
Rosary Leader: Joyful	Herigon, Dale	Rehagen, Dorothy	Lueckenhoff, Jim

Greeters/Ushers	Akin, Phil Holterman, Adam	Hagenhoff, Randy Schulte, Leonard	Verslues, Shane Verslues, Ezekiel
Music Ministry	Schroeder, Jeanette Kliethermes, Jean	Hurst, Lydia	Prenger, Jackie Schroeder, Judy
Live Stream			Schellman, Jenny
Count Collections		Libbert, Pam Libbert, Terry	Kliethermes, Jean Kliethermes, Keith
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Buechter, Susan - Graessle, Barb - Henson, Sonya - Schell, Brenda		

New Year's Day: Wednesday December 31 & Thursday January 1

	5:00 pm	8:00 am	10:00 am
Altar Servers	Akin, Noah Buschjost, Ava Luebbering, Hank Wooten, Evelyn	Schroeder, Jesse Schroeder, Tucker	Tallent, Francie Tallent, Hannah Tallent, Levi Verslues, Max
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Wansing, Brenda Becker, Paul Becker, Jenny	Hagenhoff, Betty Libbert, Pam Stumpe, Doris	Prenger, Glenn Lueckenhoff, Janet Luebbering, Ben
Lector	Becker, Paul	Veltrop, Karyn	Lueckenhoff, Jim
Rosary Leader: Joyful	Herigon, Dale	Borgmeyer, Cathy	Stockman, Tina
Greeters/Ushers	Akin, Phil Boessen, Keith	Hagenhoff, Randy Stumpe, Mitch	Verslues, Shane Verslues, Ezekiel
Music Ministry	Schroeder, Jeanette Brand, Mary Kay	Borgmeyer, Emilie	Prenger, Jackie Luebbering, Doug
Live Stream			Wieberg, Dunja

ST. THOMAS THE APOSLTE 10:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE is Tuesday, December 23, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church. All are welcome!

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.

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.

PASTORS MEDITATION: **4th Sunday of Advent Year A. EMMANUEL - JESUS** (Is. 7:10-14; Rom. 1:1-7; Mt. 1:18-24)
What we prepare to celebrate on Christmas is God's presence among his people, Emmanuel. St. Joseph's loving, responsive obedience to God is modeled for us in Matthew's Gospel with special emphasis on the Virgin Birth of Jesus. In the first reading, prophet Isaiah gives a sign from God to King Ahaz of Judah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (Is 7:14). Matthew considers this prophecy as one of the most descriptive and definite prophecies foretelling the future Messianic King, the Christ, who will be born as a descendant of David. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 24), "Let the Lord enter; He is King of Glory" reminds us that we must choose to allow Jesus enter our hearts with His love and grace so that our lives can be shaped in His Image and Likeness again. We must also choose to surrender our entire being to Him so that He may rule over our lives and we may become saints. For God never forces anyone to receive His gifts. In the second reading, Paul asserts that Jesus was a descendant of David according to the flesh and thus the Messiah (Rom 1:3). Paul explains that the only begotten Son of God, became Incarnate as Jesus. He was revealed and established by the Father as Son of God in power by his Resurrection from the dead. Then Paul provides a sweeping summary of God's mighty acts in history through Jesus Christ. Today's Gospel focuses on the person and role of Joseph. For Jesus to fulfill the Messianic prophecy given by Isaiah, Joseph had to, and freely did, accept Jesus as his son. This formal acceptance made Jesus a legal descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. Hence, Matthew makes it clear that Jesus was not the biological child of Joseph. But because Joseph was the husband of Mary at the time Jesus was born, Jesus was legally the son of Joseph and thus a descendant of David. Therefore friends, like Joseph, we need to trust in God, listen to Him, and be faithful. We may face financial challenges, job insecurity, tensions in the family and health concerns, let us try to be like St. Joseph, trusting and faithful. Instead of relying on our own schemes to get us through life, let us trust in God and be strengthened by talking to Him in fervent prayer and by listening to Him speaking through the Bible. We need to experience Emmanuel in our lives, and so change the world: The Good News and consoling message of Christmas is that the Child Jesus still waits today to step into our hearts to change us and the world around us by the beauty of God's love, kindness, mercy and compassion. Let us take some time to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts and lives this week, so that God may change our world of miseries with the beauty of that love. Do we have any gift for our "Birthday Boy?" Let us check to see if Jesus is on our list this Christmas and if we have a special gift in mind for him. A heart filled with love for God and our fellow-human beings is the birthday gift which Jesus really wants from us. Hence, let us prepare our heart for Jesus, filling it with love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness on this Christmas and every day of our lives. Let us be a Christmas gift to others: The greatest gift we can give to those we love is to have faith in them, believe in their good dreams and try to help them realize them. We need to believe in the good dreams of our husband, wife, children, parents, heroes, leaders and friends, then try our best to help them realize those dreams. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

HAM BREAKFAST SURVEY - The St. Thomas Parish Pastoral Council would like your input on the Ham Breakfast. An email was sent to all parishioners with emails on file this past week. Please complete the online Ham Breakfast Survey from the link below or on the website. You may also fill out a form which is in the pews of the Church. Please leave surveys in the pews when you have completed. If you cannot do either one of these, please contact a St. Thomas Parish Pastoral Council member. *http://www.stthomasapostle.net/ham-breakfast-survey.html* Surveys are due by **December 31**.

ST. CECILIA HOLY HOUR will NOT be held this week!

SEND SOME CHRISTMAS JOY: In your charity, please remember our parishioners who are residing in a nursing home or homebound with a Christmas card or note.
Rose Libbert, 1371 Highway B, Meta, MO 65058
Patricia Loethen, Jefferson Manor, 1720 Veith Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109
Marie Lueckenotto, 3108 West Truman Blvd, Jefferson City, MO 65109
Hermina Strope, Reflections, 229 Karen Dr., Holts Summit, MO 65043
Bertha Stumpe, C/O Auburn Ridge Living Center, 1425 Ashbury Way, Wardsville, MO 65101

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.

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.

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!

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.

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*

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT/VIRTUS TRAINING may be found on the Homepage of the Parish Website *(www.stthomasapostle.net)* or go directly to the Diocese Safe Environment/Virtus link *(www.virtus.org).* If you have never done any of the Virtus training please create an account and complete your training. If you have signed on before, please sign in using your existing account. The Virtus Training cannot be done on a phone, you will need a laptop or computer. If you are needing a computer or laptop to complete the training please let us know and we can make arrangements for you to use one at school. If you need help, please contact Theresa, Diane, or Doris. Thank you for your help in this matter.

BELLS OF CHRISTMASTIDE 2026 is Sunday, January 4, 2026, 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph, Cathedral, Jefferson City. Donations of cash or nonperishable food items are welcome and appreciated!

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, 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

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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