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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 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. 7-14

Monday 7:45 a.m.	Anthony (Tony) Strope
Tuesday 7:45 a.m.	Hermina & Gilbert Strope Family
Wednesday 7:45 a.m.	Herb & Chris Verslues, Lisa Heislen
Thursday 7:45 a.m.	Justin Veit
Friday 7:45 a.m.	L&D Virgil Kirgweg Family
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Gregory Veit
Sunday 10:00 a.m.	People of our Parishes Pat Kliegel

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of Dec. 7-14

Monday, 6:30 pm	Frank & Eleanor Wilde
Wednesday 6:30 pm	Lawrence “Dick’ Rehagen
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Ben & Jason Hake

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	$142,500.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	**$154,520.84**
Offertory Difference Year to Date	$12,020.84
Offertory Goal for November	$28,500.00

Collection in Church	
November 2	$4,210.81
November 9	$4,632.55
November 16	$4,020.11
November 23	$4,060.43
November 30	$5,954.70

Collection Online	$8,373.00
November Total to Date	**$31,251.60**
Difference for November	$2,751.60

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2025	**$26,407.00**
Offertory Goal per Month for November	$5,833.33

Collection in Church	
November 2	$1,955.00
November 9	$1,803.00
November 16	$1,060.00
November 23	$847.00
November 30	$2,041.00

November Total to Date	$7,706.00
Difference for November	$1,872.67

WEEKDAY SERVERS: Luke Otto & Max Verslues

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 6:10 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen – Glorious

Lector: Dorothy Rehagen

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday	Family of Gregory Veit
Sunday	Family of Pat Kliegel

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Monday	Family of Frank & Eleanor Wilde
Sunday	Family of Ben & Jason Hake

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*

Liturgical Role Schedule for Immaculate Mary: December 8

	7:45 am St. Thomas	6:30 pm St. Cecilia
Altar Servers	School Children	Schroeder, Annaline Werdehausen, Gavin
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	School	Stumpe, Doris Even, Jennifer Hagenhoff, Betty
Lector	Herigon, Dale	Stumpe, Doris
Rosary Leader: Joyful	Schellman, Bob	Rehagen, Dorothy
Greeters/Ushers	Schellman, Gilbert Schellman, Bob	Hagenhoff, Randy Stumpe, Mitch
Music Ministry		Borgmeyer, Emilie

Liturgical Role Schedule for December 13 & 14

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Buschjost, Ava Reynolds, Jacob Reynolds, Samuel Wooten, Evelyn	Bock, Eli Schroeder, Annaline	Lackman, Virgil Prenger, Emmary Wieberg, Victoria Wieberg, William (Ryan)
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Reynolds, Andrea Schanzmeyer, Janice Wansing, Brenda	Even, Jennifer Hagenhoff, Betty Libbert, Pam	Reinkemeyer, Lynne Prenger, Matt Schroeder, Jennifer
Lector	Lackman, Lisa	Even, Jennifer	Lueckenhoff, Larry
Rosary Leader: Joyful	Schanzmeyer, Janice	Borgmeyer, Cathy	Stockman, Tina
Greeters/Ushers	Akin, Phil Wooten, Michael	Hagenhoff, Randy Schulte, Leonard	Kliethermes, Keith Loethen, Mark
Music Ministry	Stockman, Alanna Wooten, Amanda	Hurst, Lydia	Prenger, Jackie Wieberg, Lisa
Live Stream			Reinkemeyer, Karlie
Count Collections		Libbert, Pam Libbert, Terry	Schroeder, Jennifer Wieberg, Dunja
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Randy & Charlene Buschjost, Jim & Janet Lueckenhoff		

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.
Tuesday, December 11 -Kathy Graessle & Leslie Green **Tuesday, December 18** – Trish Green & June Groner

CONGRATULATIONS to ***Augustin McCoy Graessle***, son of Jacob & Erin Graessle, who became a child of God through baptism this weekend at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

ST. CECILIA STEWARDSHIP LETTER AND FORMS are located in the back of Church at St. Cecilia. They were not mailed out this year. The forms were handed out after Mass on Stewardship Weekend and the remaining copies are in the back of Church. If you were not at mass and did receive your copy, please pick one up. You can mail back to the Church address or put in the collection basket at church.

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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION! Mass times, 7:45 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 6:30 p.m. St. Cecilia Parish.

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, December 9, 6:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

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**.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, ST. CECILIA & ST. THOMAS PARISHES, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, LADIES AUXILLIARY ARE SPONSORING A FOOD DRIVE FOR FAMILIES: Suggestions are non perishable items, such as canned foods, peanut butter, whole grain cereals, bagged rice or pasta or other similar items would be greatly appreciated) beginning now through December 13. The food collected will be delivered to Helping Hands of Central Missouri Food Pantry located near St. Elizabeth. Food collection boxes are located in the entrances of St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecilia Churches. As we approach the winter season, please take this opportunity to help those in need. Thank you!

PASTORS MEDITATION:. **2nd Sunday of Advent Year A. PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD (**Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-9; Mt. 3:1-12) Jesus wants to enter our lives, let us respond to John's call and open our hearts to Jesus. On the one hand, salvation is God's doing, and we are saved by His grace. On the other hand, we must cooperate with God's grace because God cannot force his bounty upon us without invalidating our free will. That is why John the Baptist in today's Gospel summons us to play our essential part by leading lives of repentance, conversion, and renewal, thus preparing the way for the Lord's second coming. We start this process by spiritually preparing for the annual celebration of Christmas, the Lord's first coming, as we reform and renew our lives by repentance and works of charity. The first reading describes how God will reform the lives of His Chosen People by sending the Messiah. Because of the bad example of the unfaithful successors of King David, the Chosen People were wavering in their loyalty to Yahweh. Hence, in the first reading, the Lord God, through His prophet, Isaiah, tries to dispel their fears and to stir up hope among His people with His promise of a new Davidic King (a son of Jesse), who will establish peace and a glorious Kingdom of justice on earth. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 72), the Psalmist pictures the Messiah as one who will show compassion to the poor, the lowly, and the afflicted. In the second reading, Paul is praying for the reformation of the Jewish Christians of Rome and instructing them to draw endurance and encouragement from the Old Testament books. They are to live in harmony with Gentile Christians, accepting them as equal, brothers and sisters, while they wait together for the second coming of Jesus. In today's Gospel, John the Baptizer urges the Pharisees and Sadducees to give evidence that they mean to reform their lives so as to recognize and be ready to meet and accept the promised Messiah. He challenges them to repentance, conversion, and renewal. He tells the common people, who expect the Messiah to come soon, to act with justice and charity, letting their lives reflect the transformation that will occur when the Messiah enters their lives. **In the** same way, as we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas, John advises us to "prepare the way of the Lord." **We need** to prepare for Christ's coming by allowing him to be reborn daily in our lives: Advent is the time for us to make this preparation by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and the sharing of our blessings with others. "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem, but all in vain until He is born in me." Which means that Jesus must be reborn in our own hearts during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, radiating through our living his love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and spirit of humble service to the world. **We need** to answer the call for a change of life. John the Baptist challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that, while obeying the commandments faithfully, we must correct our relationships with others, mend ruptures, soothe frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat our employers/employees justly. Let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. "Do small things but with great love". Following John's advice, let us celebrate the memory of Jesus' first advent, prepare for Jesus' daily advent into our lives through the Sacraments and the Bible, and wait confidently for his second advent at our own death or the end of the world whichever comes first. ***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 12:50 car riders, & 1:00 p.m. bus riders. NO EDP

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 6:45 p.m. Please read the December newsletter attached to the bulletin.

THE OVER 50 GROUP will be celebrating their get together on December 11 at Harold and Jeany Libbert's cabin off of Hoecker Road. Bring a covered dish and enjoy a festive afternoon with friends. We will be eating at noon. Any questions, contact me at 573 690 0455.

BLOOD DRIVE: The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday, December 11, 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the KC Hall. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: StThomasParish to schedule an appointment. Give a gift, get a gift! Give blood between Dec. 8-18 and get a $15 Amazon gift card by email! Rcblood.org/gifts.

META CHRISTMAS PARADE: The Meta Christmas parade is Sunday, December 7 at 5:00 p.m. The parade route has changed this year and will start at the City Maintenance Shed/ Walking Trail Park, continue straight on North Olive Street, turn left on West Fourth Street, turn right on Bertha Street, turn left on East Third Street, and end at Meta Fire Station 1. Parade participants should report to staging areas at the City Maintenance Shed/Walking Trail Park (single vehicles only) and nearby field at 142 Even Lane (tractors, trailers, and floats) from 4:00 to 4:45. All parade participants will be required to sign a waiver when they report to the staging area. Christmas on Third Street is before the parade from 3:00 to 5:00 and will have a variety of activities and goodies from local businesses and organizations. A Christmas tree lighting will take place immediately following the parade in the grass lot across the street from the bank. See Facebook for more details.

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.

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 7, Meta Christmas on Third Street 3:00-5:00 p.m. & Parade 5:00 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Blood Drive: December 11, St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Hall, 2:00-6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 16 – St. Thomas the Apostle School Advent Program, 6:30 p.m. Dress rehearsal 10:00 a.m.
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.
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.