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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 11, 2026

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 January 11-18

Tuesday 7:45 am	No Mass
Wednesday 7:45 am	No Mass
Thursday 7:45 am	No Mass
Friday 7:45 am	No Mass
Saturday 5:00 pm	Tom “Butch” Loethen
Sunday 10:00 am	People of our Parishes

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of January 11-18

Wednesday 6:30 pm	No Mass
Sunday 8:00 am	Ray & Lorraine Luebbering

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	$199,500.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	**$217,030.34**
Offertory Difference Year to Date	$17,530.34
Offertory Goal for January	$28,500.00

Collection in Church	
January 4	$9,042.80
January 11	
January 18	
January 25	

Collection Online	$7,045.50
January Total to Date	**$16,088.30**
Difference for January	-$12,411.70

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2025	**$43,634.00**
Offertory Goal per Month for January	$5,833.33

Collection in Church	
January 4	$2,610.00
January 11	
January 18	
January 25	

January Total to Date	$2,610.00
Difference for January	-$3,223.33

WEEKDAY SERVERS: No Masses

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle

Tuesday 7:25 am	No Mass
Wednesday 7:25 am	No Mass
Thursday 7:25 am	No Mass
Friday 7:25 am	No Mass

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia & Lector
Wednesday 6:10 pm -No Mass
Lector: No Mass

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday	Family of Butch Loethen
Sunday	Ushers

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Sunday	Family of Ray & Lorraine Luebbering

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* for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or *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 Strope 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, January 15 – Sonya Henson & Jeanne Herigon **Thursday, January 22**-Jill Hickman & Joni Hoecker

January 17 & 18

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Ava Buschjost Evelyn Wooten Jacob Reynolds Samuel Reynolds	Jesse Schroeder Tucker Schroeder	Francie Tallent Hannah Tallent Levi Tallent Angelina Veltrop
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Jenny Becker Paul Becker Andrea Reynolds	Pam Libbert Dominic Plassmeyer Mary Plassmeyer	Ben Luebbering Jan Heckemeyer Richard Heckemeyer
Lector	Amanda Wooten	Cathy Borgmeyer	Jan Heckemeyer
Rosary Leader Glorious	Barb Graessle	Cathy Borgmeyer	Tina Stockman
Greeters/Ushers	Eric Strope Michael Wooten	Leonard Schulte Randy Hagenhoff	Mark Loethen Ben Luebbering
Music Ministry	Alanna Stockman Judy Shroeder	Lydia Hurst	Jackie Prenger Josh Luebbering
Live Stream			Karlie Reinkemeyer
Count Collection		Dominic Plassmeyer Mary Plassmeyer	Rosalyn Wieberg Donna Schellman
Church Cleaners	Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost		

A NOTE OF THANKS!
Thank you to everyone who donated food items to this year's food drive. We donated over 400 pounds of food to Helping Hands in St. Elizabeth.

PASTORS MEDITATION: **NOTICE:** I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year and to let you know I will take a vacation home starting this week January 12, through February 12, i kindly ask for your prayers for me for a safe trip back home and for my return, of course i will be missing you because out sight is not out of mind. Fr. James Finder will be here for the weekends in January and the Diocese will let us know who will be here on the February weekends. I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives during the New Year with an abundance of Divine blessings.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD: This is my son, the beloved, my chosen one. (Is. 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt. 3:13-17) The Baptism of the Lord marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus' baptism by John was a mystical experience that Jesus felt deep within his soul at the crucial turning point of his life. The opening of the Heavens with the Holy Spirit, descending as a dove upon Jesus, and the Voice declaring of him, "This is My beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased," are God's revelation to mankind of the Mystery that He is Triune. The presence of the Triune God at this baptism reveals Jesus' true identity and mission. The Heavens' opening also indicates that this was a moment of God's powerful intervention in human history and in the life of His Son. Jesus' baptism by John was a very important event in the life of Jesus. **First,** it was a moment of decision. It marked the end of Jesus' private life which had prepared him for his public ministry. **Second,** it was a moment of identification with his people in their God-ward movement initiated by John the Baptist (quality of a good leader). **Third,** it was a moment of approval. Jesus might have been waiting for a signal of approval from his Heavenly Father, and during his baptism Jesus got this approval of himself as the Father's "beloved Son." **Fourth,** it was a moment of conviction. At this baptism, Jesus received certainties (assurances) from Heaven about His identity (although he knew it as God even as a child), a) He was the "Chosen One" and the "beloved Son of God"; and the nature of His mission: b) his mission of saving mankind would be fulfilled, not by conquering the Romans, but by becoming the "suffering servant" of God, i.e., by the cross. **Fifth,** it was a moment of equipment. When He descended on Jesus in the form of a dove (symbol of gentleness), the Holy Spirit equipped Jesus (although Holy Spirit was one with Jesus always) with the power of preaching the "Good News" that God is a loving Father, Who wants to save all human beings from their sins through His Son Jesus, in contrast to the preaching of John the Baptist about an angry God's judgment on sinners. So, friends, the baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity. It reminds us of who we are and whose we are. By Baptism we become sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' baptism reminds us also of our mission: a) to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge our own dignity as God's children, and to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by respecting them, loving them and serving them in all humility; b) to live as the children of God in thought, word and action. c) to lead a holy and transparent Christian life and not to desecrate our bodies (the temples of the Holy Spirit and members of Jesus' Body), by impurity, injustice, intolerance, jealousy or hatred; d) to accept both the good and the bad experiences of life as the gifts of a loving Heavenly Father for our growth in holiness; e) to grow daily in intimacy with God by personal and family prayers, by meditative reading of the Word of God, by participating in the Holy Mass, and by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is a day to thank God for the graces we have received in Baptism, to renew our Baptismal promises and to preach the Good News by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness.
Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

IN NEED OF A PRIEST WHILE FR. LEONARD IS GONE ON VACATION, please contact Theresa Veit, 573-418-7301, Doris Stumpe, 573-619-6125, Jan Heckemeyer, 573-619-8432 or Diane Lueckenhoff, 573-645-5794.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 2025 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you for your generosity this past year. To receive your 2025 contribution statement, you may complete the statement request form on the St. Thomas the Apostle Church website or call the parish office at 573-477-3315 during the parish office hours or by calling or texting Theresa Veit at 573-418-7301. The form can be found online at *http://www.stthomasapostle.net/contribution-statement.html* or by clicking the Contribution Statement tab at the top of the home page.

ST. CECILIA PRAYER LINE REQUESTS can be made by calling Katie Lueckenotto at 573-229-4318 or 573-619-6454.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PRAYER LINE REQUESTS should be emailed to Theresa Veit at *tveitoffice@gmail.com* or by calling 573-418-7301.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOO NEWS!
Thursday, January 15- Show Me Players for Grades 3-6, 10:15 am
Monday, January 19 – No School Prek-8, Martin Luther King Day
Friday, January 23, Archery Tournament in Parish Center
Catholic Schools Week – January 25-January 31

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL SNEAK PEEK: On Thursday, January 29, please join us as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week! We will have activities for incoming Kindergartners and children of families considering future enrollment. Information will be provided for parents about new programs & initiatives. This will be a great time for you to see St. Thomas the Apostle and answer any question you may have about the upcoming school year. If you have been curious about what you may be missing in a faith based school close to home, please RSVP by calling 573-477-3322 or email *lheckemeyer@stacs.school*

BINGO PRIZES NEEDED FOR VIP DAY (CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK): Tis the season for cleaning and bargain shopping! If you have or find items that would make great BINGO prizes for VIP day (January 30), please drop them off at school You can also donate candy, chips, soda, Gatorade, juice pouches, etc for prizes. Please send to school by January 28.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL ARCHERY TOURNAMENT is Friday, January 23, 4:00 pm-9:00 pm.
PIZZA KWIK TRUCK onsite 4:00 pm -8:00 pm - % of proceeds will go to our archery team. Please come out and watch some archery and/or grab a pizza. We appreciate your support!

DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON WOMEN'S MINISTRY presentation "Finding Joy: Living in the Spirit" will be held at St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, on **January 23**, 6:30-8:00 PM; doors open at 6:00**.** Discover how the Holy Spirit leads us toward a life of deeper joy, peace, and purpose. This inspiring talk by Shelley Pichler invites us to open our hearts to God's presence, recognize His movement in our daily lives, and embrace the joy that flows from living in true communion with Him. Presentation is free, but registration is strongly encouraged. Register at: *https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-on-the-move-registration-2026/*

ST. STANISLAUS OPEN HOLY HOURS: Sunday 2:00-3:00 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays) & Sunday 3-4:00 a.m. (1st, 3rd & 5th) Fridays 3:00-4:00 am. Please call Donna at 573-680-1470.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Our next meeting will be Tuesday Jan 20 at 7:00 pm at the KC hall! We will collect $10 dues. You can also pay your dues at the KC breakfast on Jan 18! The ladies auxiliary has changed its calendar year to January- December to match the Knights of Columbus. If you have any service hours to report for the year, please send those to Brooke Schell by Jan 20 (or give to her at the meeting) so we can turn them in for our Auxiliary's service hours. Also, if you are interested in being a ladies auxiliary officer, please let Brooke Schell know (573-694-8753). Thanks!

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 6:45 p.m. Please read the January newsletter attached to the bulletin.

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, January 21, at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City. Our speaker this month will be Mark Rehagen, delivering a presentation entitled, "Challenges for the Catholic Man: What It Means to Be a Man of Signum Crucis." Feel free to come early to pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Refreshments in the Commons will follow Mark'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*

BE A CRUSADER FOR A DAY! Junior high and high school students interested in an excellent Catholic education can experience our school community as a Crusader for a Day! Shadow a current student, meet teachers and have lunch on us! Go to *heliascatholic.com/visit* to schedule a Crusader for a Day visit.

BLAIR OAKS BLOOD DRIVE is January 12 at the Blair Oaks High School, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We are partnering with the Red Cross, and all eligible donors are welcome and encouraged to participate.

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*

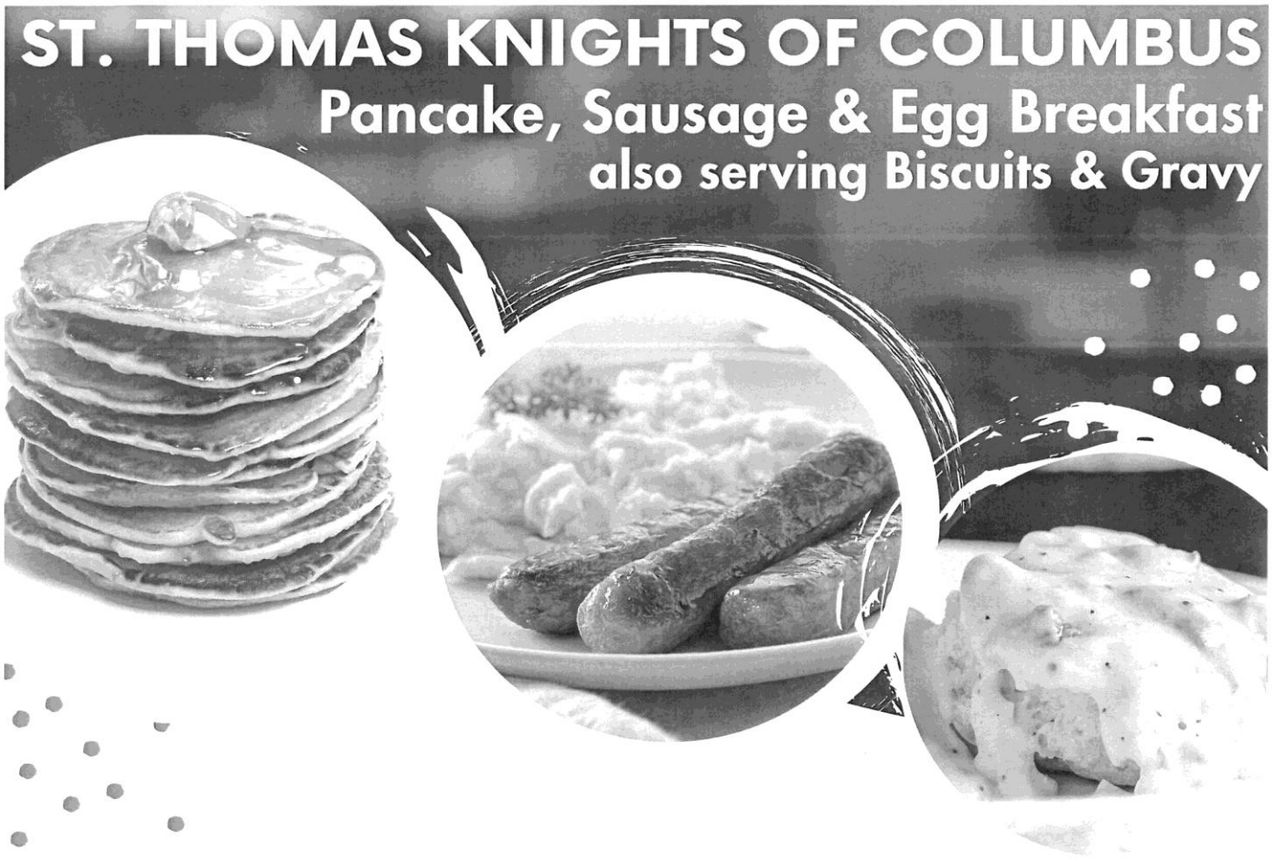
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OFFERS VIDEO SERIES: Men and women, young and old, strengthen and grow in your faith for your families with five short videos produced by the *Knights of Columbus* called the "**Mission of The Family.**" The videos can be found on the *Knights of Columbus* website for free! Here 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.

JEFFERSON CITY MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Strengthen your marriage. Grow in faith. Invest in each other. Jefferson City Marriage Encounter is hosting their next weekend on February 14-15, 2026 at the Best Western Capitol Inn in Jefferson City. Spend time with the most important person in your life and celebrate how far you have come and learn tools to make your marriage even stronger. The weekend costs just $75 and scholarships are available. Register online at *jeffcityme.com* Questions? Contact Matt Kuensting at 573-424-2247

3RD ANNUAL REIMAGINED TASTE OF ALOHA is Saturday, January 17 at St. George Activity Center, Linn. Meal catered by Argyle catering, pineapple glazed chicken, Kalua pork, Hawaiian fried rice, Hawaiian roasted veggies, garden salad roll & cheesecake. Serving dinner 5:00-7:00 p.m. Meal ticket prices: $18 in advance, $20 at the door, carry out dinners available, no charge for admission.

WESTPHALIA KOFC #1171 FISH FRIES are January 30 (Drive Through only), February 13 (Drive through only)) and March 20 (Dine in) from 4;00-7:00 p.m. at the Westphalia KC Hall on Hwy 63. Fried fish, applesauce, baked beans, hush puppies, cole slaw and buttered potatoes, $15 per meal. Proceeds to benefit Westphalia KC and St. Joseph School.

SAVE THE DATES:
Sunday, January 18, K of C Breakfast at KC Hall, worklist on back of newsletter
Saturday, February 21, St. Thomas the Apostle Stewardship Dinner
Friday, February 27, K of C Fish Fry, St. Thomas Parish Center
Thursday, March 26, Confirmation at St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Thursday, April 30, – Midwest March for Life, Jefferson City
Totus Tuus - St. Stanislaus Parish - July 12 through July 17



SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 2026
8:00AM - 11:30AM
ST. THOMAS KC HALL

Proceeds benefit the
St. Thomas the Apostle School &
St. Thomas Knights of Columbus
Council #2149

PRICES:

Adults:	$10
Kids 6-12:	$5
Under 6:	FREE

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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ONWARD *together*