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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 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 4-11

Tuesday 7:45 am	Dan Schmidt
Wednesday 7:45 am	L&D Virgil Kirkweg Family
Thursday 7:45 am	Harold Luebbering
Friday 7:45 am	Stanley Strope
Saturday 5:00 pm	People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 am	Joe, Antonia & Richard Schwartz

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of January 4-11

Wednesday 6:30 pm	Connie Trippensee
Sunday 8:00 am	Ben & Jason Hake

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	$171,000.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	**$200,942.04**
Offertory Difference Year to Date	$29,942.04
Offertory Goal for December	$28,500.00

Collection in Church	
December 7	$7,500.35
December 14	$2,358.63
December 21	$7,333.71
December 28	$20,880.51

Collection Online	$8,348.00
December Total to Date	**$46,421.20**
Difference for December	$17,921.20

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2025	**$41,024.00**
Offertory Goal per Month for December	$5,833.33

Collection in Church	
December 7	$1,294.00
December 14	$1,852.00
December 21	$919.00
December 28	$10,552.00

December Total to Date	$14,617.00
Difference for December	$8,783.67

WEEKDAY SERVERS: William & Victoria Wieberg

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 pm -Dorothy Rehagen - Glorious
Lector: Cathy Borgmeyer

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday	Ushers
Sunday	Family of Joe, Antonia & Richard Schwartz

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

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 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: **THIS WEEK THE QUILTERS WILL BE QUILTING ON MONDAY NIGHT DUE TO NEW YEAR'S!** 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, January 8 – Amy Hamacher & Jan Heckemeyer **Thursday, January 15** – Sonya Henson & Jeanne Herigon

January 10th & 11th

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Emerald Fennewald Georgia Fennewald JD Volmert Jase Volmert	Eli Bock Annaline Schroeder	Victoria Wieberg Will Wieberg Virgil Lackman Emmary Prenger
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Marshall Boessen Barb Graessle Brenda Wansing	Dorothy Rehagen Doris Stumpe Betty Hagenhoff	Janet Lueckenhoff Linda Lueckenhoff Glenn Prenger
Lector	Kara Holterman	Dorothy Rehagen	Jim Lueckenhoff
Rosary Leader Joyful	Dale Herigon	Dorothy Rehagen	Jim Lueckenhoff
Greeters/Ushers	Adam Holterman Mark Boessen	Mitch Stumpe Pam Libbert	Art Groner Mattheuw Prenger
Music Ministry	Jeanette Schroeder Kelsey Kliethermes	Emilie Borgmeyer	Alanna Stockman Lisa Wieberg
Live Stream			Jenny Becker
Count Collection		Dominic Plassmeyer Mary Plassmeyer	Dunja Wieberg Jennifer Schroeder
Church Cleaners	Lora Boessen, Darrel Buechter, Richard & Jan Heckemeyer		

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

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.

PASTORS MEDITATION: **I will be taking a vacation at home in Uganda on January 12, through February 12 2026**
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Is. 60:1-6; Eph. 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt. 2:1-12) May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year? I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives during the New Year with an abundance of Divine blessings. The Greek word Epiphany means appearance or manifestation. Multiple revelations of Jesus as God are celebrated on this Feast of the Epiphany. In the Western Church, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, while in the Eastern Church, the Epiphany event is celebrated in the commemoration of the Baptism of Christ when the Father and the Holy Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus' identity as Son of God. Later, in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed Himself as the promised Messiah, and at Cana Jesus revealed His Divinity by transforming water into wine. The Church therefore, celebrates all these epiphany events on this Feast of Epiphany. Today's Gospel teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring him their hearts. The adoration of the Magi fulfills the oracle of Isaiah in the first reading, prophesying that the nations of the world would travel to the Holy City following a brilliant light and would bring gold and incense to contribute to the worship of God. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 72) includes a verse about kings coming from foreign lands to pay homage to a just king in Israel. Paul's letter to the Church of Ephesus, expresses God's secret plan in clear terms: "the Gentiles are co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel." Today's Gospel reminds us that if God permitted the Magi, foreigners and pagans to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King of Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that will keep God from bringing us to Jesus. There were three groups of people who reacted to the Epiphany of Christ's birth. The first group, headed by King Herod the Great, tried to eliminate the Child, the second group, priests and scribes, ignored him, and the third group, represented by the shepherds and the Magi, came to adore him. So dear friends, let us make sure that we belong to the third group: a) by worshiping Jesus at Mass with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility, and the frankincense of our adoration; b) by giving a new direction to our lives. As the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, we need to choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits and selfish behavior; c) by becoming stars leading others to Jesus as the star led the Magi to Jesus, removing the darkness of the evil around us and radiating Jesus' love through selfless service, unconditional forgiveness, and compassionate care. On this feast of the Epiphany, let us, like the Magi, offer Jesus our grateful use of his gifts to us: (a) His gift of friendship with God in the form of wholehearted love and devotion; (b) His gift of friendship with others by leading them to Jesus through our exemplary lives of Christian charity in action; (c) His gift of reconciliation with God by making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently, by asking daily for His pardon and forgiveness for our sins and by giving unconditional forgiveness to those who wound us; and (d) His gift of peace by seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, leading a Sacramental life, and meditation daily on the Word of God.
Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

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!
Tuesday, January 6, school resumes PreK-8
Friday, January 9, report cards go home
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 Paris Center
Catholic Schools Week – January 25-January 31

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!

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!

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!

THE OVER 50 GROUP will meet at the St Cecilia parish center on January 8, eating at noon. This is the time annual dues of $5.00 are due. Dues are used to purchase tableware, drinks, birthday and attendance gifts. Everyone is invited to join. All you need to do is bring a covered dish to share. These events are held the second Thursday of the month.

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.

FELLOWSHIP AT ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL: The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Hall will be open the first and third Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for card playing, games, and visiting. Feel free to bring games and snacks to share.

SAVE THE DATES:
Sunday, January 18, 2026, K of C Breakfast at KC Hall, flyer on back of bulletin
Saturday, February 21, 2026 St. Thomas the Apostle Stewardship Dinner
Friday, February 27, 2026, K of C Fish Fry, St. Thomas Parish Center
Thursday, March 26, 2026, Confirmation at St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Thursday, April 30, 2026 – Midwest March for Life, Jefferson City
Totus Tuus - St. Stanislaus Parish - July 12 through July 17

ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Pancake, Sausage & Egg Breakfast

also serving Biscuits & Gravy

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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