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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 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 Nov. 30 – Dec. 7

Tuesday 7:45 a.m.	Richard Kampeter
Wednesday 7:45 a.m.	Joe, Antonia & Richard Schwartz
Thursday 7:45 a.m.	Harold Luebbering
Friday 7:45 a.m.	Msgr. Donald Lammers
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	People of our Parishes Virgil Kirkweg
Sunday 10:00 a.m.	L&D Alex & Joann Heckman Fam.

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of Nov. 30 – Dec. 7

Wednesday 6:30 pm	Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Harold “Bud” & Mary Ann Loethen

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	$142,500.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	**$148,566.14**
Offertory Difference Year to Date	$6,066.14
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	

Collection Online	$8,373.00
November Total to Date	**$25,296.90**
Difference for November	-$3,203.10

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2025	**$24,366.00**
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	

November Total to Date	$5,665.00
Difference for November	-$168.33

WEEKDAY SERVERS: Oliver Luebbering & Angelina Veltrop

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: Samantha Helton

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday	Family of Virgil Kirweg
Sunday	Family of Alex & Joann Heckman

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Sunday	Family of Harold “Bud” & Mary Ann Loethen

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 December 6 & 7

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Christian, Austyn Christian, Kaycie Otto, Benjamin Otto, Luke	Stegeman, Kambrie Stegeman, Matthew	Buechter, Aliyah Buechter, Gavin Libbert, Cadyn Rackers, Emmett
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Boessen, Lora Graessle, Barb Graessle, Mark	Plassmeyer, Dominic Plassmeyer, Mary Rehagen, Dorothy	Prenger, Glenn Luebbering, Ben Lueckenhoff, Linda
Lector	Herigon, Dale	Rehagen, Dorothy	Luebbering, Doug
Rosary Leader: Joyful	Herigon, Dale	Rehagen, Dorothy	Stockman, Tina
Greeters/Ushers	Boessen, Mark Holterman, Adam	Stumpe, Mitch Stumpe, Brendan	Buechter, Craig Stockman, Doug
Music Ministry	Schroeder, Jeanette Brand, Mary Kay	Borgmeyer, Emilie	Prenger, Jackie Strope, Anne
Live Stream			Becker, Jenny
Count Collections		Libbert, Pam Libbert, Terry	Henson, Sonya Wieberg, Millie
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Boessen, Lora - Buechter, Darrel – Jan& Richard Heckemeyer		

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	

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 4-Erica Goeller & Barb Graessle **Tuesday, December 11** -Kathy Graessle & Leslie Green

A NOTE OF THANKS!
The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus would like to offer a huge thank you to all who donated to the KofC Coats for Kids program this fall. Many people donated new coats while others donated money to purchase new coats for the Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital patients from poverty-stricken families. A total of 108 new coats (with a value of $2,180) were donated through the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus to children patients in need this fall. The patients and their families are so grateful and the Knights sincerely appreciate your charity and your generosity!

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.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE HOLY HOUR/ADORATION ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 will be in the morning following 7:45 a.m. Mass instead of the evening, due to the Hometown parade and tree lighting festivities. Confessions for school children will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude with Benediction at 10:45 a.m. Anointing of the sick will follow Benediction.

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.

A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY will be prayed Thursday, December 4, 5:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. CECILIA/ ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE YOUTH GROUP: We will meet on Wednesday, December 3rd at St. Thomas church for confession at 6:40 p.m. Following confessions we will head over to the school cafeteria for fellowship, cornhole, and snacks.

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.

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!

THE DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN allows our Diocesan community to stay connected with each other and with our Catholic brothers and sisters worldwide. We want to ensure this resource is something you continue to enjoy reading, so we invite you to share your thoughts in this survey *https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CatholicMissourianSurvey*

PASTORS MEDITATION:. **First Sunday of Advent Year A. THE SON OF MAN IS COMING.** (Is.2:1-5; Ps. 122:1-9; Rom. 13:11-14; Mt. 24:37-44) Today the Church begins a new liturgical year. The night is nearly over, day is almost here … stop doing the things that belong to the dark and take up weapons for fighting in the light. Advent is a season of hope, repentance, and holy longing. And the readings today set the tone with a clear message: Wake up. Walk in the light. Prepare for the Lord. In the first reading, Isaiah gives us one of the most striking visions in all of Scripture. He sees the mountain of the Lord lifted high, drawing all nations toward God. Weapons become tools of cultivation. War gives way to peace. This is God's promise for humanity. Isaiah reveals God's dream, and then he invites us: "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord." Advent is our time to realign our steps, to choose God's path over the world's chaos. The responsorial psalm echoes that longing: "Let us go rejoicing in the house of the Lord." The psalm is a pilgrimage song. Those who traveled to Jerusalem sang it with joy because they were going to encounter God. Advent invites us to become pilgrims as well, to set out on a spiritual journey that leads not only to Bethlehem, but ultimately to the Lord's Kingdom. St. Paul, in the second reading, brings urgency to this pilgrimage: "It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep." Paul is not talking about physical sleep; he is calling us out of spiritual drowsiness, those patterns of sin, distraction, and complacency that dull our conscience. Advent invites us to confession, to conversion of heart, to casting off "the works of darkness" and putting on "the armor of light." The Church gives us this season precisely to help us prepare our souls for Christ's coming, at Christmas, at the end of our lives, and in every grace-filled moment. Finally, Jesus in the Gospel gives us perhaps the most important Advent instruction: "Stay awake." Not in fear, but in faithfulness. In Noah's time, people lived ordinary lives, unaware of the flood that was coming. Jesus warns us not to be caught unaware, not because He wants to frighten us, but because He wants us to be ready for the grace He desires to pour into our lives. The Lord comes quietly, often unexpectedly: in the poor, in the sacraments, in the moments of prayer we almost skipped, in the opportunities to love that appear suddenly. Advent readiness is not primarily about doing more; it is about being more awake to God. By making time for prayer, even five quiet minutes a day to speak with the Lord and listen to Him. By seeking reconciliation, letting Christ's mercy sweep away anything that keeps us from Him. By practicing small acts of charity, especially for the lonely, the forgotten, and the suffering. By celebrating the Eucharist with renewed devotion, recognizing that Christ comes to us, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, at every Mass. Brothers and sisters, Advent is a gift, It is a sacred pause, A holy invitation. Let us walk in the light, Let us awake from sleep. Let us stay alert for Christ who comes, in history, in mystery, and in glory.
Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS!
Wednesday, November 26, 27 & 28 – Thanksgiving Break – No School Prek-8
Tuesday, December 16 - Advent Program 6:30 p.m. Dress Rehearsal 10:00 a.m.

ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING: Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this year's Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting. The fun begins at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 5th with the parade, followed by the tree lighting ceremony. Hot chocolate will be provided thanks to St. Thomas 4-H and cookies from Sweet Sisters Bakery. Lehmen's BBQ truck will be on site before and during the parade! **NEW THIS YEAR** - The St. Thomas Ladies Auxiliary will have a tent set up

prior to the parade where kids can come and get some goodies before the parade starts! More details to come on their exact location**. ALSO NEW THIS YEAR** - Children from St. Thomas will be performing a Christmas song at the tree lighting!
To register to be in the parade, either complete the online form located on the City's Facebook page or contact Debby Buschjost at *dbuschjost@hotmail.com* or 573-619-3974.

NEW AT THE ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS PARADE: Ladies Auxiliary would like to invite **ALL KIDS** to come to the gravel parking lot by Church (across from the post office) anytime between 5:00-5:45 p.m. before the St. Thomas Christmas Parade to pick up a GLOW IN THE DARK bag for your candy and a faith based GLOW IN THE DARK Bracelet! Look for the tent set up! Also, we invite **ALL KIDS** to help us sing 2 Christmas songs at the tree lighting following the parade. Just meet Judy Schroeder by the tree and join in singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "We wish you a Merry Christmas!" We are looking forward to this fun filled night in the community!!

META CHRISTMAS PARADE: The Meta Christmas parade is Sunday, December 7th 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.

NATIVITY AT THE CAPITOL is Tuesday, December 2, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Nativity scenes and music in the Capitol Rotunda and on the South Lawn. Come enjoy the performances of 12 local schools/groups! In case of inclement weather, alternate date is December14.

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:
Friday, December 5, 6:00 p.m. – 4th Annual St. Thomas Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting
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.