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

THIRTIETH SUDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 26, 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 October 26-November 2

Tuesday 7:45 a.m.	***No Mass***
Wednesday 7:45 a.m.	***No Mass***
Thursday 7:45 a.m.	***No Mass***
Friday 7:45 a.m.	***No Mass***
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m.	L&D Harry & Roberta Bexten Family

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of October 26-November 2

Wednesday 6:30 pm	***No Mass***
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Hubert & Trudi Brune

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	$114,000.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	**$109,732.01**
Offertory Difference Year to Date	-$4,267.99
Offertory Goal for October	$28,500.00

Collection in Church

October 5	$6,400.10
October 12	$4,636.72
October 19	$3,357.69
October 26	

Collection Online	$8,373.00
October Total to Date	**$22,767.51**
Difference for October	-$5,732.49

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2025	**$16,904.00**
Offertory Goal per Month for October	$5,833.33

Collection in Church

October 5	$1,321.00
October 12	$1,001.00
October 19	$581.00
October 26	

October Total to Date	**$2,903.00**
Difference for October	-$2,930.33

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 p.m. – ***No Mass***

Lector: ***No Mass***

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday	Ushers
Sunday	Family of Harry & Roberta Bexten

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Sunday	Family of Hubert & Trudi Brune

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: Deadline for bulletin 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*

Liturgical Role Schedule for November 1 & 2

	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	Luebbering, Isabella Luebbering, Oliver Prenger, Emmary Lackman, Virgil
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Boessen, Lora Boessen, Marshall Graessle, Barb	Plassmeyer, Dominic Plassmeyer, Mary Rehagen, Dorothy	Prenger, Matt Schroeder, Jennifer Wieberg, Rosalyn
Lector	Wooten, Amanda	Borgmeyer, Cathy	Luebbering, Katie (Brian)
Rosary Leader: Glorious	Herigon, Dale	Borgmeyer, Cathy	Stockman, Tina
Greeters/Ushers	Boessen, Mark Boessen, Keith	Hagenhoff, Randy Schulte, Leonard	Stockman, Doug Buechter, Craig
Music Ministry	Schroeder, Jeanette Kliethermes, Kelsey	Prenger, Jackie	Stockman, Alanna Wieberg, Lisa
Live Stream			Schell, Brooke
Count Collections		Helton, Dale Helton, Margie	Kliethermes, Jean Kliethermes, Keith
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Buechter, Darrel - Heckemeyer, Jan - Libbert, Alan - Libbert, Nancy		

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.
Thursday, October 30 – Susan Buschjost & Kelley Buschjost **Thursday, November 6** – Angelina Christian & Jessica Christian

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ends next Saturday, November 1, please remember to turn ***back*** your clocks an hour.

SATURDAY NIGHT (DEER SEASON) MASSES: Masses will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on November 15 & November 22 at St. Cecilia Church for deer hunters.

PASTORS MEDITATION Some parishioners and I have headed out for a Holy pilgrimage to Rome and Poland during this Holy jubilee year, we kindly ask for your prayers for us for a good and fruitful pilgrimage and safe travels. While am on this trip the following priests will take care of the weekend Masses and some other urgent pastoral needs:
October 25&26: Fr. Charles Nweze, November 1&2: Fr. Mark Porterfield, November 8: Fr. Tony Onyeihe
November 9: Fr. Paul Clark, Funerals & urgent pastoral needs: Msgr. David Cox.

30th Sunday in ordinary time C. WHO IS RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD? (Sir. 35:12-14, 16-18; 2Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk. 18:9-14) The main theme of today's Gospel is that true humility and repentance for our sins must be the hallmark of our prayers. However, the central focus of today's parable is not on prayer itself, but rather on the evil of pride, the need for true humility, and the role of God's grace in our salvation. The first reading, taken from the book of Sirach, is a perfect companion piece to the Gospel parable. In one striking image from Sirach, the writer declares "the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds to reach the unseen throne of God." Such prayers are heard because they come from the hearts of people who know how much they need God. Although God has no favorites and answers the prayers of all, the oppressed, the orphans, the widows, and those who can least help themselves are His special concern. The best prayer is humble and selfless service. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 95), we sing this warning reminder, "If today you hear His Voice, harden not your hearts," in pride or scorn. In the second reading, Paul, the former Pharisee Saul, like the publican in the Gospel parable, humbly acknowledges his work as accomplished by the grace of God, and he thanks God for enabling him to fight a good battle, to run a good race, while keeping his Faith intact and proclaiming it. In today's Gospel parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector, Jesus reminds us that God hears the prayers of one who approaches Him in humility with a repentant heart. God did not hear the prayer of this Pharisee because he exalted himself. His prayer was a prayer of thanksgiving that he was not as evil as other people. He announced to God his freedom from sin and detailed his fidelity in observing the prescribed fast and in giving tithes. The tax collector's prayer, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner," was heard because he humbled himself, acknowledging his sins and requesting God's mercy. Dear friends let us evict the Pharisee and revive the publican in each of us. We become the proud Pharisee when we brag about our achievements, giving no credit to God or those who help us, when we seek praise and recognition from others for our accomplishments, and when we degrade others with insensitive comments, hurting their feelings. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to imitate the humble publican (tax collector), by acknowledging our total dependence on God and His grace for all our achievements and blessings; by confessing to God daily our sinfulness; by asking for His strengthening through the daily anointing of His Holy Spirit living within us; and by becoming more sensitive to the needs and feelings of others, serving Jesus in them as best as we can. Let us include all the necessary ingredients in our prayers. Our personal prayers must include our request for pardon and forgiveness for our sins, our thanksgiving for the numerous blessings we receive daily from God, our praise and worship, the unconditional surrender of our life and all our activities completely and unconditionally to God, the acknowledgement of our weakness and total dependence on Him, and finally, the presentation of our needs and petitions, asking that they be granted only to the extent that they are in accord with His Holy Will, accompanied by the fervent request for God's strengthening in our weakness and temptations through the daily anointing of His Holy Spirit. Let us pray every day: "Be merciful to me, a sinner." ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

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

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.

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*

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS!
Monday, October 27 – No School, Regional Diocesan Profession Development Day
Friday, November 7 – Picture Retakes
Wednesday, November 26, 27 & 28 – Thanksgiving Break – No School Prek-8

HELPING CHILDREN IN NEED THIS WINTER – KOFC COATS FOR KIDS: As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Season, if your family wishes to do something special for others in need, here is an idea to consider. The Knights of Columbus have been partnering with Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis for the past 44 years to provide health care services for children with Developmental Disabilities at the Knights of Columbus Developmental Center located there. Nearly 2/3 of the Cardinal Glennon children patients live in low-income neighborhoods and no children are ever turned away because of the inability to pay. Many of these children in poverty-stricken families lack the basic essentials of life and do not have a winter coat. While nearly all of us are blessed to have warm coats in winter, we often take that for granted and do not realize that many children do not. Coats for Kids is a vital program of the Knights of Columbus that provides new warm coats to children in need. The Knights purchase new coats through the KofC organization (or locally or on line). If you wish to help create smiles on the faces of children in need this winter, please consider the donation of money for new winter coats through the Knights of Columbus or donate new winter coats purchased locally or on line for this special program. If you would like to make a donation, please contact ***KofC Coats for Kids Chairman Bill Lueckenhoff at 573-619-8969.*** Please make your donation by November 4, if possible, as we hope to deliver more Coats for Kids to Cardinal Glennon patients in November.

HELIAS CATHOLIC'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE is from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, November 15. Come see how Helias Catholic High School is building a community of saints and scholars for Christ! Stop by to tour the campus; explore academics and extracurricular opportunities; and meet teachers, staff and students. Open House attendees can enter a drawing for prizes, including the chance to have their enrollment fee waived! Afterward, head down to Rackers Fieldhouse for a blessing and dedication at 11:30 a.m. and open house viewing of the ew fieldhouse expansion until 1:00 p.m. Please contact Helias Catholic's admissions office at *admissions@heliascatholic.com* or 573-635-6139 with any questions.

THERE IS A PATH FORWARD-PREDATORY LOAN RELIEF PROGRAM: If you or someone you know feels trapped by payday or high-interest loans, Catholic Charities of Central & Northern Missouri can help. The Predatory Loan Relief Program offers a pathway toward stability through financial relief, guidance, and support. For more information or to make a referral, please contact **Tessa McIntyre**, Predatory Loan Relief Specialist, at *tmcintyre@cccnmo.org* or 573-658-0133..

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.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 29th ANNUAL FALL FANTASY: Tickets on sale NOW! $125 ticket. A ticket provides: Dinner for (2)- Prime Rib OR Chicken Cordon Bleu Baked potato, slaw and dessert. All you can drink: •Beer, Wine, Gin Rickeys Water Soda. A Chance to win $10,000-- a total of over $15,000 will be given out that night ***based on 300 tickets sold THEME: Camoflauge, Dance following drawing: Ryan Voss Band How to get tickets: 1. Contact: Joanie Prenger 573.659.0304 Kim Kliegel 573.619.9188 2. Purchase at the Vitae House in St. Thomas during these hours: Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30 am Wednesdays 8:00 am -4:30 pm 573.477.3315. ***Jason & Megan Wilde*** are the Early Bird Winners. They received $125 and will be the first to eat at the Fall Fantasy. Tickets are still available!

COR GATHERING FOR CATHOLIC MEN: All Catholic men are invited to join us for **COR** on **Tuesday, October 28, from 7:00–8:30 PM** at the **Wardsville/Osage Bend Community Center**. COR, meaning "heart," is rooted in *courage* and centers on **prayer, formation, and fraternity**. This month's *Into the Breach* session focuses on **Family**—how we can lead and love well in our homes. The evening includes prayer, a video, small group discussion, and fellowship. Bring a friend and take time to grow 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.

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH, WARDSVILLE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION HOUR is Sunday, October 26, 5:30 p.m.

CURSILLIASTAS: Our next School of Leaders gathering is Saturday, November 1 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Columbia.

HELIAS CATOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CUSTODIAL POSITIONS Shifts Available 3:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. $16 Per Hour + Benefits Please contact Travis Reinsch Director of Facilities 573-635-6139 Ext 1005 or *Treinsch@heliascatholic.com*

COLE COUNTY PWSD NO. 5 will be performing the flushing of the water mains in St. Thomas on October 31 from 8 AM to noon. Customers may experience low water pressure and it is recommended that you refrain from doing laundry, taking a shower, etc. during this time. Thank you for your cooperation.

THE META CITIZENS CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING: The October monthly meeting will be held on October 27 at 7:00 p.m. The monthly meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in attending is welcome.

ARGYLE VFW POST 8045'S ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER is Sunday, October 26, 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the VFW Post Home, Argyle. This event is **CARRY OUT ONLY**, with seating available.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL TURKEY & SAUSAGE DINNERS is Sunday, October 26, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Adult & carry outs $15.00, children 6-12 $7.00. In person seating, carry-out, & country store.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER FALL SUPPER, TAOS is Sunday, November 2, serving turkey & sausage dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adults $16, children 6-12 $7.00. D $16.00. Dine in, to go or drive thru (lower school lot).

ST. ELIZABETH JUNIOR CLASS FISH FRY is Friday, November 7, serving Gluten Free fish, hush puppies, rolls, mac & cheese, baked beans, French fries, cole slaw, pasta salad, applesauce & desserts from4:00-7:00 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Community Center. Adults $15.00, children 6-11 $10.00, carry outs $15.00.

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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*

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY Feb 22 - March 5, 2026 with Fr. Matthew Flatley. Florence, Assisi, Sienna, St Clare, The Vatican + Orvieto, Crypt Mass in the Basilica of St. Peter, St. Paul Outside the Wall the Colosseum + Rome + Papal Audience + St. Catherine, Basilica of St. Peter + Sistine Chapel + The Pantheon, Basilica of St. John Lateran + St Mary Major Santa Croce in Gerusalemme. To learn more call Fr. Matt @ 573-202-3590 or e-mail: *mflatley@diojeffcity.org*

THE LEGENDARY STORY OF FR. FERDINAND HELIAS, S.J. BOOK: Limited supply of books available for sale. $50 per book includes mailing them. Please add $5.00 additional book if ordering 2 or more. Please send your name, full address, phone number and parish you belong to Tim Imhoff, P.O. Bos 66, Boonville, MO 65233-0066 or 1-660-888-6452.

SAVE THE DATES: 29th Annual St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Fall Fantasy- Saturday, November 1.
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
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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