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 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

September 14, 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 September 14-21

Tuesday 7:45 a.m.	L&D Veit & Hoecker Families
Wednesday 7:45 a.m.	Bishop John Gaydos
Thursday 7:45 a.m.	Bishop John Gaydos
Friday 7:45 a.m.	Roman Plassmeyer
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Marilyn Herigon
Sunday 10:00 a.m.	People of our Parishes
	L&D Bob Luebbering Family

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of September 14-21

Wednesday 6:30 pm	Herbert & Imogene Volmert
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Victor & Rita Otto

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	$85,500.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	**$72,272.04**
Offertory Difference Year to Date	-$13.227.96
Offertory Goal for August	$28,500.00

Collection in Church

September 7	$3,897.10
September 14	
September 21	
September 28	

Collection Online	$7,030.50
September Total to Date	**$10,927.60**
Difference for September	-$17,572.40

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2025	**$11,322.00**
Offertory Goal per Month for August	$5,833.33

Collection in Church

September 7	$1,233.00
September 14	
September 21	
September 28	

September Total to Date	**$1,233.00**
Difference for September	-$4,600.33

WEEKDAY SERVERS: Georgia Fennewald & Isabella Luebbering

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

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday	Family of Marilyn Herigon
Sunday	Family of Bob Luebbering

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia & Lector
Wednesday 6:10 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer - Glorious

Lector: Cathy Borgmeyer

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Sunday	Family of Victor & Rita Otto

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 September 20 & 21

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Akin, Noah Meyer, Miranda Otto, Benjamin Otto, Luke	Bock, Eli Schroeder, Annaline	Rackers, Emmett Tallent, Francie Tallent, Hannah Tallent, Levi
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Wansing, Brenda Boessen, Marshall Schanzmeyer, Janice	Even, Jennifer Plassmeyer, Dominic Plassmeyer, Mary	Heckemeyer, Jan Heckemeyer, Richard Kliethermes, Keith
Lector	Holterman, Kara	Even, Jennifer	Tallent, Daffiny
Rosary Leader: Sorrowful	Schanzmeyer, Janice	Plassmeyer, Mary	Lueckenhoff, Jim
Greeters/Ushers	Akin, Phil Holterman, Adam	Stumpe, Brendan Stumpe, Mitch Hagenhoff, Randy Schulte, Leonard	Heckemeyer, Richard Kliethermes, Keith
Music Ministry	Stockman, Alanna Kliethermes, Jean	Hurst, Lydia	Prenger, Jackie Luebbering, Doug
Live Stream			Becker, Jenny
Count Collections		Libbert, Pam Libbert, Terry	Schroeder, Jennifer Wieberg, Dunja
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Luebbering, Gina - Luebbering, Karen - Schell, Brooke - Stockman, Tina		

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, September 18 – Mary Jane Budnik & Amy Buechter **Thursday, September 25** -Kaylie Buechter & Susan Buechter

CONGRATULATIONS to ***Kayden Bax***, son of Tony & Beth Bax, who became a child of God through baptism this weekend in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

PASTORS MEDITATION 24th Sunday in ordinary time C. **THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** (Nm. 21:4b-9; Phil. 2: 6-11; Jn. 3: 13-17 In the crucifix, God the father tells us everything. We celebrate this feast of the Exaltation of the Cross to appreciate better the importance of the symbol and reality of Christ's sacrificial love, namely, the cross in the daily life of every Christian and to understand the history of the discovery and recovery of the True Cross.
The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is one of twelve "Master feasts" celebrated in the Church to honor Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master. This feast is celebrated to memorialize the first installation of the remnants of the true cross of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on Mount Calvary, September 14, AD 335, and its reinstallation on September 14, AD 630. The original cross on which Jesus was crucified was excavated in AD 326 by a team led by St. Helena, the mother of the first Christian Roman Emperor, Constantine. The Emperior built the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on Calvary, it was consecrated on September 14, AD 335, and the remains of the cross were installed in it by Archbishop Maccharios of Jerusalem. After three centuries, the Persians invaded Jerusalem, plundered it of all valuables and took with them the relic of the Holy Cross. In AD 630, Emperor Heraclius II defeated the Persians, recaptured the casket containing the holy relic, and reinstalled it in the rebuilt Church, which was destroyed by Muslims in 1009. The crusaders rebuilt it as the present Church of the Holy Sepulcher in 1149. The largest fragment of the holy cross is now kept in Santa Croce Church in Rome. The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."
To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.
The first reading today (Nm 21:4b—9) describes how God healed the complaining Israelites through the brazen serpent. The second reading Phil 2:6-11) reminds us that Jesus, "… humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." In today's Gospel, answering the question raised by Nicodemus, Jesus cites the example of how, when the Israelites were in the desert, the impaled brazen serpent (representing the healing power of God), which God commanded Moses to raise, saved from death the serpent-bitten Israelites who looked at it (Nm 21:4-9). Then Jesus explains how He is going to save the world by dying on the cross. Though he was God, he lowered himself to become a man; he humbled himself unto death and death on a cross. Only those who trust in him will be exalted and those like him who choose a life of self-sacrifice.
Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

STEWARDSHIP – WHY I CHOOSE TO VOLUNTEER: To love is to serve. Do you feel the love in your parish? I do. I see it. I feel it. I feel it most when I focus my time and talent on the needs of the church. What do you think is needed at St. Thomas the Apostle? That may be where Christ is calling you to serve. ***Roseanne Boessen***

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PPC MEETING is Tuesday, September 30, 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

OCTOBER MASS ATTENDANCE COUNT – ATTENTION USHERS: This October, we will once again take an attendance count at all weekend Masses. This follows the directive of the Presbyteral Council, which approved a plan for counting attendance at its meeting on February 11, 2025. As noted in the minutes of that meeting:
"It was stated that all parishes would submit Mass attendance numbers for a period of one year, rotating every three years, and conduct the October count for the other years." USHERS, please count all people (including children and infants) who enter the Church at each Mass for the month with the count ending at or about the First Reading. In smaller Churches it may be simpler for the ushers to make the count during the homily. Also, please remember to count all ministers who serve at the Altar as well. The form to fill out is in the back of Church (St. Thomas, offertory table) (St. Cecilia on table to the right).

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS!
Monday, September 15- Regional Professional Development Day - No School PreK-8
Thursday, September 18 - 7&8 Visit Helias
Thursday, September 25 – Picture Day
Friday, September 26 – Grandparents Day
Monday, September 29- No School PreK-8, Diocesan Professional Day

SCHOOL DAY MASSES: Father Leonard and I discussed the tragic incident that happened in Minneapolis recently. We have decided that as an added safety measure, ***we will start locking the Church doors at 7:45 AM for all the school day Masses, which will be from Tuesday-Friday each week***

MEN OF ST. THOMAS & 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, September 17, at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City. September marks the beginning of our fourth year as a fraternity of men established to strengthen men to be better husbands, fathers, and friends–to be men of faith. To mark our anniversary, our Chaplain, Father Paul Clark, will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 6:30 p.m. Feel free to come early to pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. 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.*

LADIES AUXILIARY: Our next meeting will be held **Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7 pm at the KC Hall**. NOTE- We need all members to download the R**emind app.** Please follow these steps: 1. Download the remind app on your cell phone (it is a white "R" with a blue background). 2. Once you have the app up, click the 3 lines on the left side top corner 3. Click "**add Class**" then click "**Join existing class**" 4. Type in the code **2kkhfe.** We use Remind for our updates and reminders. If you have problems, come to the meeting on 9/16 and we will get you set up on Remind.

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. **To be entered in the Early Bird Drawing and a chance to win $125, tickets must be purchased by October 3, 2025.**

CURSILLISTAS: Ready to get renewed in faith and fellowship? Join us Tuesday, September 16 for the See City Deanery Ultreya at St. Stanislaus Parish Center. Mass 5:30 p.m. Pizza & salad 6:00 p.m. & Ultreya begins at 6:30 p.m. If you have attended a Cursillo weekend, this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share and continue your spiritual journey. All Cursillistas are welcome, bring a friend and come renewed. Please contact Gary Wilbers, 573-619-8700 or *gwilbers@goascend.biz* for more information.

SOUTHWEST DEANERY ULTREYA is Sunday, Sept. 28 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church Bestgen Hall (In back of Church) 2411 Bagnell Dam Blvd. Lake Ozark Doors Open at 12:30 pm for "Tailgate" Meet & Greet. Program runs 1:00 pm - 2:45 pm We welcome all Cursillistas and guests.

ST. THOMAS 4-H CLUB: As we start a new year we want to invite everyone to our first meeting of the year. Come see what we are all about. Join your friends as they learn valuable skills while enjoying a Christian, fun-filled organization. Our first meeting is Sunday, September 21, 11:15 a.m. in the St. Thomas the Apostle School hallway. If you have questions, please contact Daffiny Tallent, 573-694-4408.

BOY SCOUTS: On Sept 15 at the pavilion behind St Stanislaus church, Scouting America will hold scouting joining event for older scouts 6'th grade and above. There will be activities for the potential new scouts. Scouting America is open to all boys and girls from grades K to 12th grade. The local troop is based out of St Stanislaus and the pack is based out the Lions club and is open to all children in the district (St Thomas/Wardsville/Taos/Osage Bend). Scouting is a faith based/service organization that teaches respect and outdoor skills with many activities available (rock climbing/archery/camping/ high adventure) to name a few). You can also contact Jonathan Guroutte @ 573-418-4132 for younger scouts and Cash McManus @732-407-4025 or Jim Dallas @573-656-5656 for more info on older scouts 6 grade and up.

LADY KNIGHTS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS will be held September 21 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and September 22 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Helias Field House and Auxiliary Gym. This tryout is for grades 4 through 8. Please fill out the Google Form using the QR code located on the flyer."

ST. LOUIS OF FRANCE PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, BONNOTS MILL is Sunday, September 14, serving fried chicken & bone in ham dinners from noon to 6:00 p.m. $16.00 per plate. Live Auction 4:00 p.m.

WARDSVILLE/OSAGE BEND 26th ANNUAL KOFC HOME ASSOCIATION BBQ is Saturday, September 20, serving choice of meat (pork steak, bratwurst, chicken) baked beans, & cole slaw $15.00 per plate from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Slabs of ribs sold separately. Homemade cinnamon rolls, $12 (while supplies last). **NEW LOCATION:** St. Stanislaus/St. Margaret Community Center, drive in or drive thru. For more information, please contact Chuck, 694-4926 or Donnie 690-2866.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH FALL FESTIVAL & GTA CAR SHOW, OWENSVILLE is Saturday, September 20, 9:00-6:30 p.m. Fried chicken & sausage dinners (all you can eat) 3:00-6:30 p.m. Adults $15, children 6-10-$7:00. Saturday evening Mass 7:00 p.m.

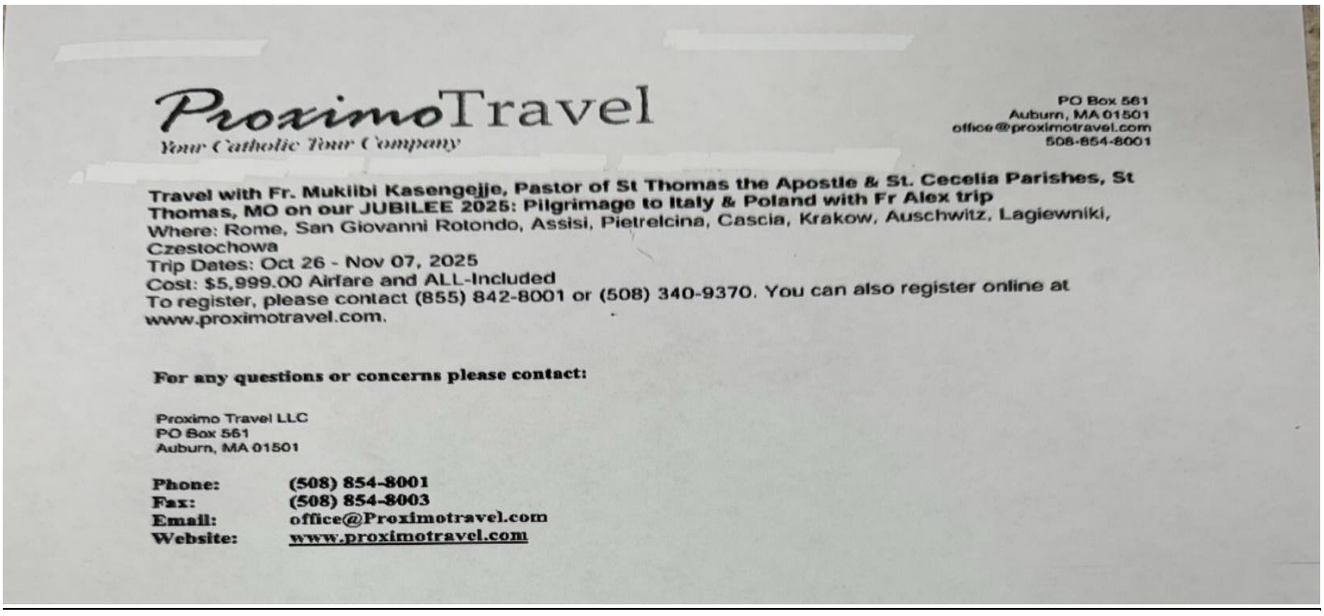
CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE PARK, FALL FESTIVAL, META is Sunday, September 21, serving sausage & fried chicken dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adults $16.00, children 6-12 $8.00. All carry-outs $16.00

THE CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE BLOOD DRIVE: The Citizen's Civic League is hosting a blood drive on September 25 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. As always, there is a need for blood. If you can, please try to attend. You can call 1-800-733-2767 or visit *RedCrossBlood.org* and enter: CivicLeagueMeta to schedule an appointment.

ARGYLE VFW POST 8045 is proud to sponsor an American Red Cross Blood Drive Post Home – 36776 HWY T, Argyle, MO Tuesday, September 30, 2025 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Let's show the strength of our community—one pint at a time.

JEFFERSON CITY MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - October 18-19. This weekend focuses on putting Christ back at the center of your marriage. Cost is only $75 and includes one night stay at Best Western Capital Inn in Jefferson City, meals, and materials. Scholarships are also available. Register online at *jeffcityme.com.* Questions? Contact Matt Kuensting 573-424-2247.

SAVE THE DATES: **Tim Francis Presentation – Sunday, September 21, 1-3:30 p.m. St. Thomas Parish Center**
Citizens Civic League Fall Festival is September 21.
St. Thomas the Apostle Trunk or Treat - Church/School Parking Lot 4:00-5:15 p.m. – Sunday, October 19.
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
Knights of Columbus Blood Drive: December 11, St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Hall
Thursday, April 30, 2026 – Midwest March for Life, Jefferson City



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Travel with Fr. Mukiibi Kasengejje, Pastor of St Thomas the Apostle & St. Cecelia Parishes, St Thomas, MO on our JUBILEE 2025: Pilgrimage to Italy & Poland with Fr Alex trip
Where: Rome, San Giovanni Rotondo, Assisi, Pietrelcina, Cascia, Krakow, Auschwitz, Lagiewniki, Czestochowa
Trip Dates: Oct 26 - Nov 07, 2025
Cost: $5,999.00 Airfare and ALL-Included
To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also register online at www.proximotravel.com.

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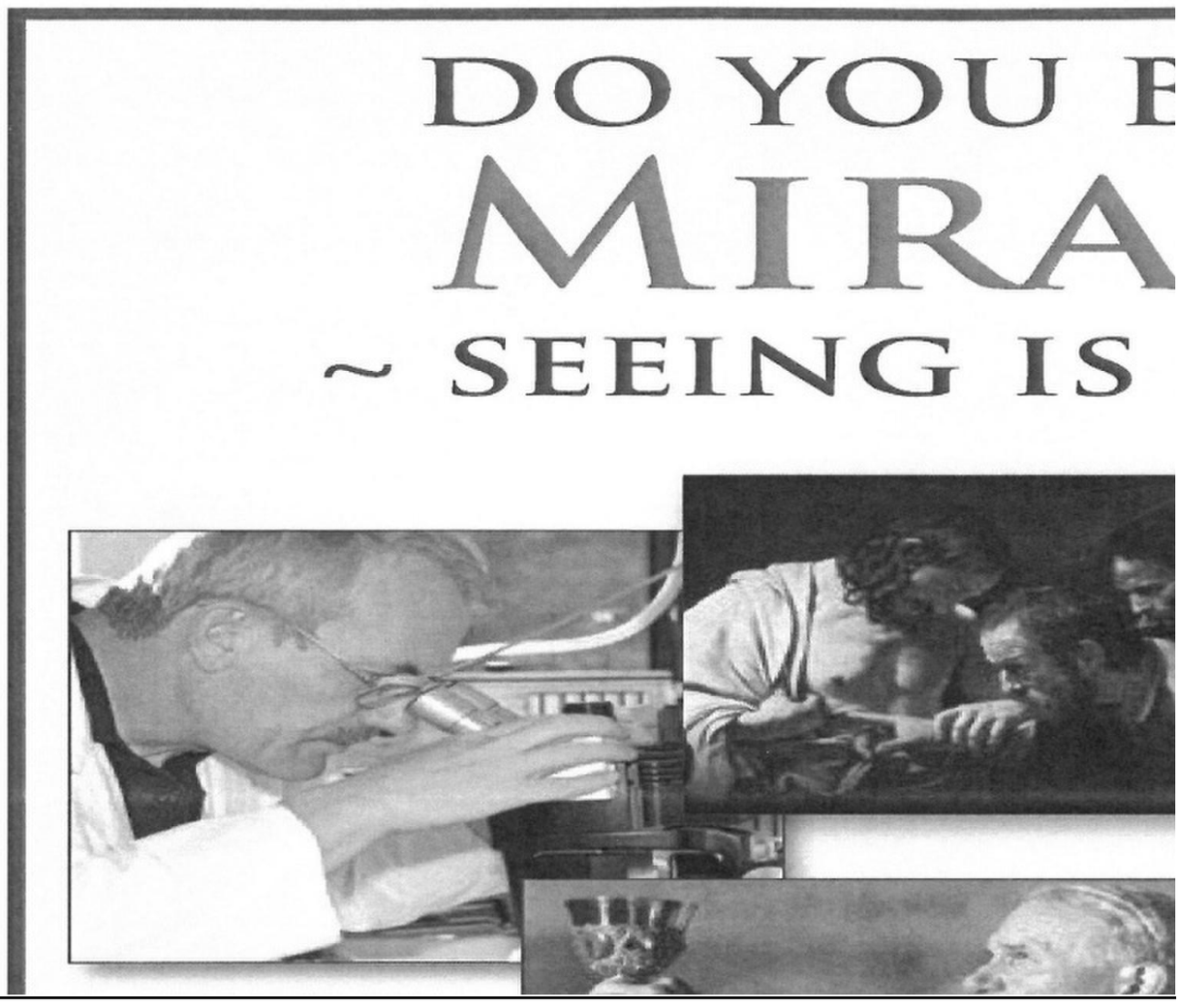

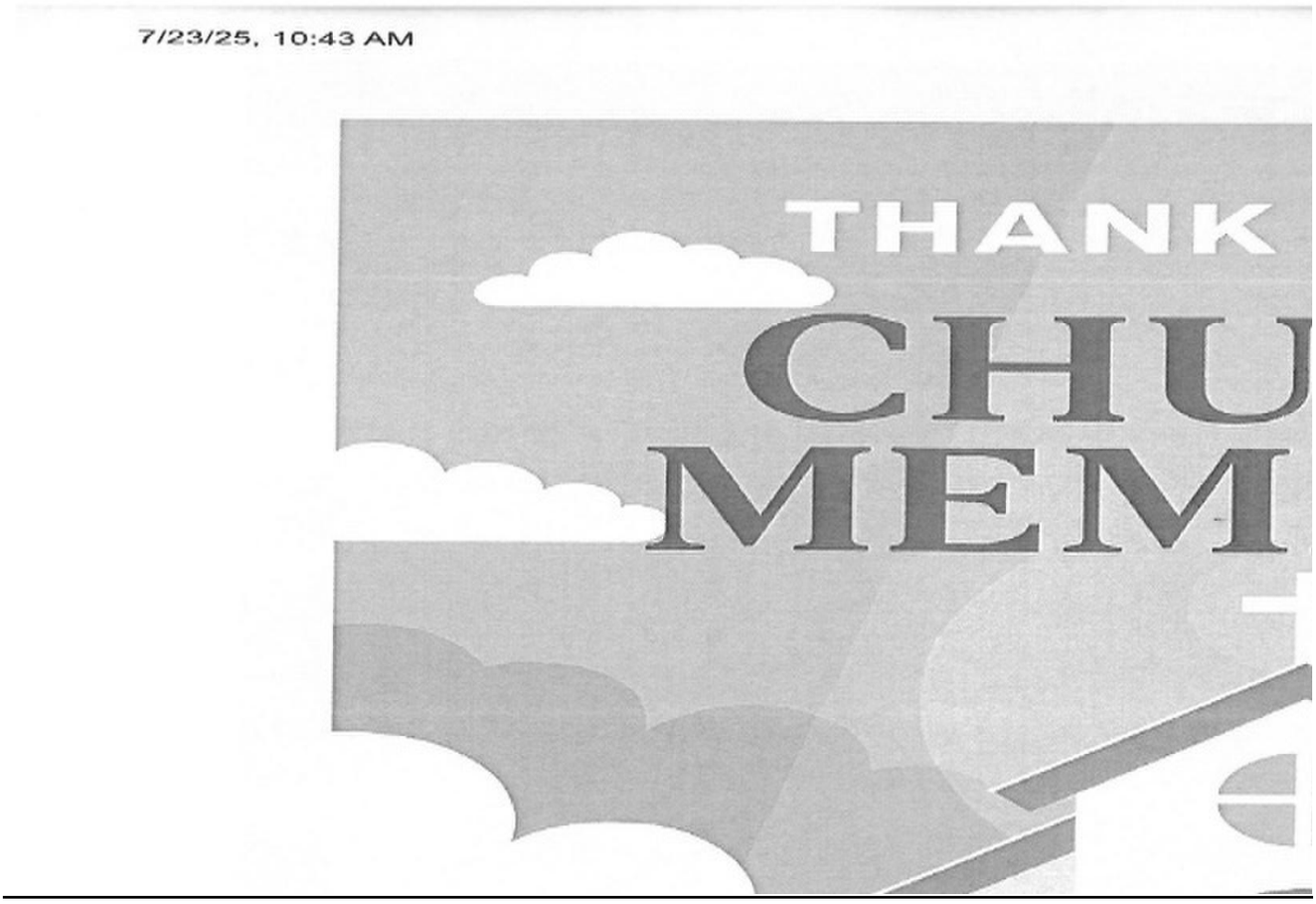

HELIAS CATHOLIC'S SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN. Helias has launched its Spirit of Excellence Campaign to raise $14 million to build a performing arts center, a baseball/softball complex and an addition to the existing James L. Rackers Field house including necessary updates to its athletic and strength 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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