# 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***

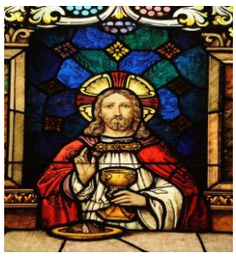
**PO Box 146**
**St. Thomas, MO 65076**

## TWENTY-SIXTH SUDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## September 28, 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 28-October 5**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 7:45 a.m. | Gerald Luebbering |
| Wednesday 7:45 a.m. | Kelsey Heckemeyer |
| Thursday 7:45 a.m. | Jerry Lehmen |
| Friday 7:45 a.m. | L&D Tom & Clara Schmidt |
| Saturday 5:00 p.m. | David Volmert |
| Sunday 10:00 a.m. | People of our Parishes<br>L&D Anton & Alma Boessen Fam. |

### Saint Cecilia
**Mass Schedule for the Week of September 28-October 5**

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 6:30 pm | Bill, Frank and John Koehler |
| Sunday 8:00 a.m. | Marilyn Bax |

**Your Sunday Offering**

| | |
|---|---|
| Offertory Budget for 2025-2026 | $342,000.00 |
| Offertory Goal through Month End | $85,500.00 |
| Actual Collection for 2025-2026 | **$80,679.40** |
| Offertory Difference Year to Date | -$4,820.60 |
| Offertory Goal for September | $28,500.00 |

**Collection in Church**

| | |
|---|---|
| September 7 | $3,897.10 |
| September 14 | $3,068.77 |
| September 21 | $3,996.09 |
| September 28 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Collection Online** | $8,373.00 |
| **September Total to Date** | **$19,334.96** |
| **Difference for September** | -$9,165.04 |

**Your Sunday Offering**

| | |
|---|---|
| Offertory Budget for 2025-2026 | $70,000.00 |
| Collection Total for 2025-2025 | **$13,784.00** |
| Offertory Goal per Month for September | $5,833.33 |

**Collection in Church**

| | |
|---|---|
| September 7 | $1,233.00 |
| September 14 | $1,091.00 |
| September 21 | $1,371.00 |
| September 28 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **September Total to Date** | **$3,695.00** |
| **Difference for September** | -$2,138.33 |

**WEEKDAY SERVERS:** Emmary Prenger & Kambrie Stegeman

**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:** Dorothy Rehagen

**Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle**

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday | Family of David Volmert |
| Sunday | Family of Anton & Alma Boessen |

**Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday | Family of Marilyn Bax |

**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 October 4 & 5

| | Saturday, 5:00 PM | Sunday, 8:00 AM | Sunday, 10:00 AM |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Altar Servers** | Buschjost, Ava<br>Christian, Austyn<br>Christian, Kaycie<br>Wooten, Evelyn | Bock, Eli<br>Schroeder, Annaline | Buechter, Aliyah<br>Buechter, Gavin<br>Libbert, Cadyn<br>Prenger, Emmary |
| **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** | Boessen, Lora<br>Boessen, Marshall<br>Graessle, Barb | Plassmeyer, Dominic<br>Plassmeyer, Mary<br>Rehagen, Dorothy | Prenger, Matt<br>Reinkemeyer, Lynne<br>Schroeder, Jennifer |
| **Lector** | Wooten, Amanda | Veltrop, Karyn | Cassmeyer, Jeff |
| **Rosary Leader: Glorious** | Herigon, Dale | Rehagen, Dorothy | Lueckenhoff, Janet |
| **Greeters/Ushers** | Boessen, Keith<br>Strope, Eric | Hagenhoff, Randy<br>Schulte, Leonard<br>Stumpe, Brendan<br>Stumpe, Mitch | Prenger, Matt<br>Reinkemeyer, Alan |
| **Music Ministry** | Schroeder, Jeanette<br>Strope, Anne | Hurst, Lydia | Stockman, Alanna<br>Schroeder, Judy |
| **Live Stream** | | | Reinkemeyer, Karlie |
| **Count Collections** | | Plassmeyer, Dominic<br>Plassmeyer, Mary | Kliethermes, Jean<br>Kliethermes, Keith |
| **St. Thomas Church Cleaners** | Buschjost, Charlene - Buschjost, Randy – Jim & Janet Lueckenhoff | | |

**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 2** – Britni Buechter & Lauren Buechter **Thursday, October 9** – Cindy Buschjost & Debby Buschjost

**SCAM ALERT:** You may have received an email or text from Fr. Leonard Mukiibi requesting gift cards or needing help. ***THIS IS A SCAM!!!*** If you look at the email address***, it is NOT Fr's***. ***Please DO NOT RESPOND to such an email or text. FR. WOULD NEVER ASK FOR GIFT CARDS OR HELP via email or Facebook.***

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 – ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE FALL FANTASY TICKETS will be sold after the 10 am Mass. Kim Kliegel will be in the back of the church. To make other arrangements, she can be reached at 573.619.9188.**

**PASTORS MEDITATION: 26th Sunday in ordinary time C. WHEN RICH AND POOR LIVE SIDE BY SIDE** (Am 6:1a, 4-7; 1Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31) We are our brother's and sister's keeper. The readings today warn us that the selfish and extravagant use of God's blessings, like wealth, without sharing them with the poor and the needy is a serious sin deserving eternal punishment. They stress the Covenant responsibility of the rich for the poor, reminding us of the truth that wealth without active mercy for the poor is great wickedness. They also warn us against making money the goal of our existence. **Prophet Amos,** in the first reading, issues a powerful warning to those who seek wealth at the expense of the poor and who spend their time and their money on themselves alone. He prophesies that those rich and self-indulgent people will be punished by God with exile because they don't care for their poor and suffering brothers. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 146) praises Yahweh, who cares for the poor. In the second reading, Paul admonishes Timothy, and us, to pursue virtue, i.e, righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness; to compete well for the faith; to lay hold of eternal life; and to keep the commandment of love, instead of seeking wealth. In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a warning, pointing to the destiny of the rich man who neglected his duty to show mercy to poor Lazarus. The rich man was punished, not for having riches, but for neglecting the Scriptures and what they taught on sharing his blessings with the poor. **Believe me friends** we are all rich enough to share our blessings with others. God has blessed each one of us with wealth, health, special talents, social power, political influence or a combination of many blessings. The parable invites us to share what we have been given with others in various ways instead of using everything exclusively for selfish gains. **We need** to remember that sharing is the criterion of Last Judgment: Mt. 25:31ff tells us that all six questions to be asked of each one of us by Jesus when He comes in glory as our judge are based on how well or poorly we have shared the blessings we have received from Him (food, drink, home, mercy and compassion), with our brothers and sisters, anyone in need, for Jesus identifies himself with each of them. **We need** to treat the unborn as our brother/sister Lazarus. Lazarus in the 21st century is also our pre-born brother and sister. Many of these babies are brutally executed in their mother's wombs. Their cries for a chance to live are rejected 4400 times a day in our country. The rich man was condemned for not treating Lazarus as his brother. We also will be condemned for our selfishness if we do not treat the preborn as our brothers and sisters. **Our choices** here determine the kind of eternity we will have. It has been put this way: "Where we go hereafter depends on what we 'go after,' here!" Where we will arrive depends on what road we travel. We will get what we choose and what we live for. We are shaping our moral character to fit forever in one of two places.
***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE HOLY HOUR & ANOINTING OF THE SICK** is Friday, October 3 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas Church.

**A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY** will be prayed on Saturday, October 4, 3:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

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

**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.***

**WHY I CHOOSE TO VOLUNTEER:** We are asked to give back to God a portion of the gifts and treasures he has Blessed us with. God has graciously blessed me in my lifetime with numerous blessings - Family, Health, the ability to provide for myself and my family, just to name a few. Giving back just a small portion to God is not a chore or burden, but an opportunity to be grateful for these Gifts and Blessings. By actively participating in the Mass (Lecturing and Leading the Rosary, I am brought in time with the mysteries taking place. ***Dale Herigon***

I volunteer not only to fill a vacant position in our Parish, Knights of Columbus or a Prayer Hour. I feel that God has touched me in many ways. Maybe God is telling me, Thank You for listening. ***Bob Schellman***

I volunteer for my parish because I take a lot of pride in our community and keeping it strong and connected. It also gives me a chance to live out my faith in a tangible way. Serving others helps me feel connected to my community and deepens my relationship with God. It's rewarding to know that even small acts of service can make a difference in the lives of others and help our parish thrive. I also volunteer to set a good example for my children, leading by example how it's important to help others the way God calls us help and love one another. We are blessed to be a part of this awesome community here in St. Thomas and it's amazing what we can do when we are all willing to give of our time and talents! ***Phillip Akin***

**St. CECILIA AND ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE YOUTH GROUP:** All teens are welcome to attend youth group nights for faith, fellowship, and fun. It is so easy to be consumed by the things of this world, but this is an opportunity to consume God instead. We meet twice a month at 7:00 p.m. alternating between the parish schools. All are welcome, and so are friends! Meeting dates: September 24 – St. Thomas, October 8 – St. Cecilia, October 22 – St. Thomas, November 5 – St. Cecilia, November 19 – St. Thomas, December 3 – St. Cecilia, December 17 – St. Thomas, January 14 – St. Cecilia, January 28 – St. Thomas, February 11 – St. Cecilia, February 25 – St. Thomas, March 11 – St. Cecilia, *Thursday, March 26 – confession at St. Thomas, April 8 – St. Cecilia, April 22 – St. Thomas

**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 29- No School PreK-8, Diocesan Professional Day
Achievement Testing Week, Grades 2-8 – October 6-10 End of 2nd Quarter – Friday, October 10

**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*

**DIOCESAN LOVE HEALS:** You've been told all your life that the first and greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your hear, soul, mind and strength but no one ever told you how Love -Stuns, Love -Resurrects and Love -Transforms. is October 17 Ladies Night out 6:30 p.m. -9:00 p.m. $25 Dinner Fee – Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Fall Retreat is October 18- 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. $15 Lunch Fee, Doors open at 9:30 a.m. The Events are help at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. To register please go to *https//diojeffcityorg/wm-love-heals-event-2025/*

**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. each month starting October 2. This will be an opportunity for card playing, games, and visiting. Feel free to bring games and snacks to share.

**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. 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.**

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**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.

**EWTN TRIP:** Please join us on a trip to EWTN broadcasting studios in Birmingham, AL and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, AL, October 7-10, 2025. The trip highlights include EWTN studio tour and taping of ETWN LIVE, Mass (televised) in EWTN Chapel, Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament tour and activities, motorcoach transportation and 3 nights hotel accommodations, 3 breakfasts and 2 lunches. The cost is $975.00 per person (double occupancy). Please call Travel Answers, Inc., 573-893-5262 or travelanswersinc@gmail.com for more details and to reserve your spot.

**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*

**VISITATION PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, VIENNA** is this Sunday, September 28, serving sausage & fried chicken dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults $15.00, children $7.50 (dine in only).

**OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, FRANKENSTEIN** is this Sunday, September 28, serving turkey & sausage dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. $15.00 per meal. Dessert & Specialty Items auction 3:30 p.m.

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

**ST. ANDREW PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, HOLTS SUMMIT** is Sunday October 5, serving turkey & sausage dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $15, children 6-12 $7.00. Silent & quilt auction.

**ST. GEORGE PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, LINN** is Sunday, October 5, serving sausage & turkey dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dinners $15. Dessert auction 4:00 p.m.

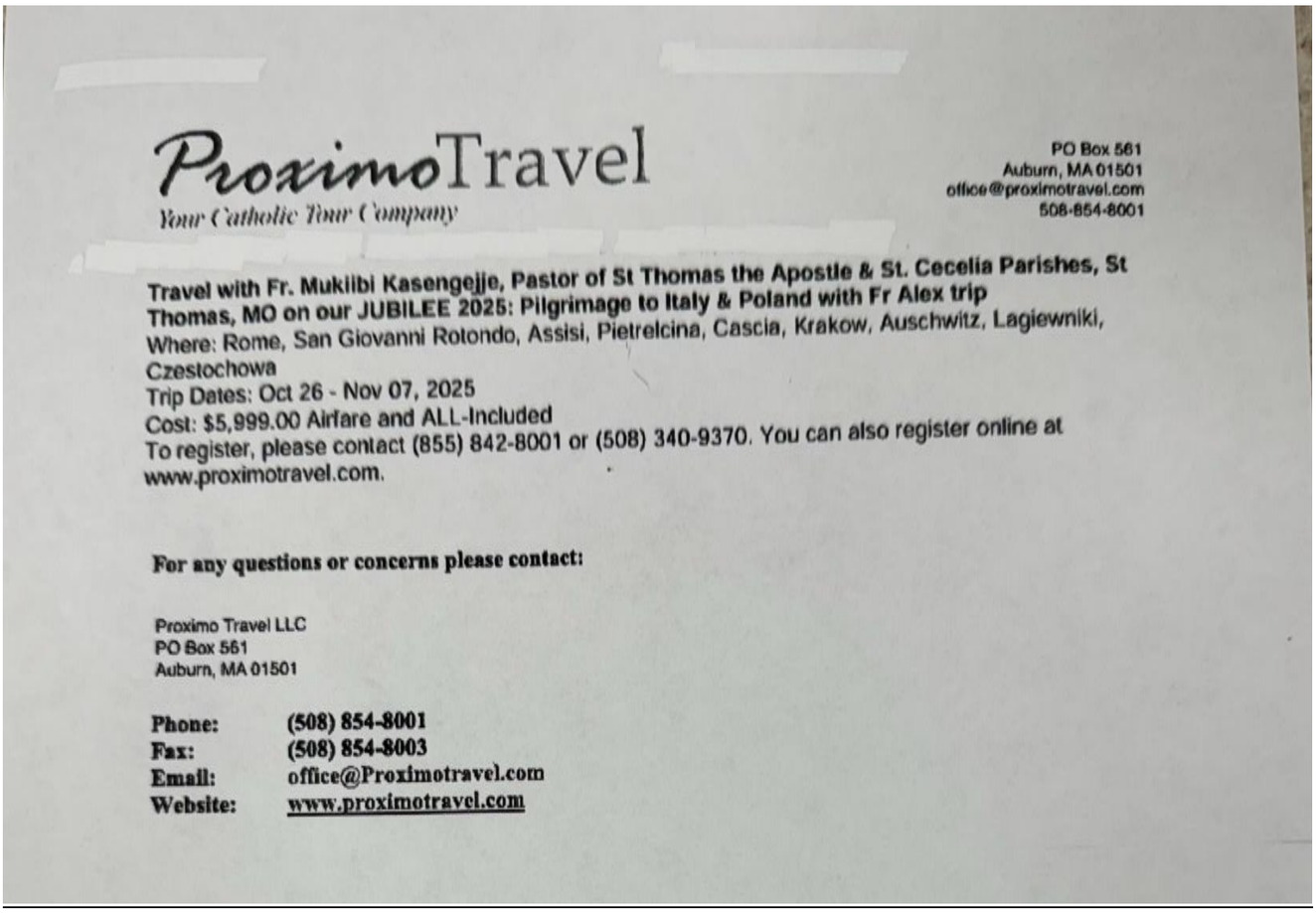
**GUARDIAN ANGELS PARISH FALL DINNER, BRINKTOWN** is Sunday, October 12, serving fried chicken & sausage dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Quilt & Dessert auction at 2:30 p.m. Kiddie Tractor Pull at 3:30 p.m.

**PREGNANCY HELP CENTER BANQUET** is Thursday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City. This year's banquet for the LOST, the LEAST, and the VOICELESS. Please call 573-644-6635 or email *phcjeffcity@gmail.com*

**14TH ANNUAL FRANKENSTEIN 5K RUN/WALK** is Saturday, October 18 at St. Mary School, Frankenstein. Check in time- 4:30 p.m. Race time 5:30 p.m. Registration classes September 30. To register online *https://stores.inksoft.com/frankenstein_5K/shop/home.* Proceeds to benefit St. Mary's School.

**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:**
**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
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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.