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

December 1, 2024

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 December 1-8:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m.– L&D Alex Heckman Family
Wed. 7:45 a.m.- Joe, Antonia & Richard Schwartz
Thursday 7:45 a.m.- Sam Suthoff
Friday 7:45 a.m. – L&D Thomas & Mary Loethen & Msgr. Bernard Boessen
Saturday 5:00 p.m. –People of our Parishes Gregory Veit
Sunday 10:00 a.m. –L&D Jim & Kathy Ewers Family

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2024-2025:	$330,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	$137,500.00
Actual Collection for 2024-2025:	**$142,574.50**
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	$ 5,074.50
Offertory Goal for November:	$ 27,500.00

Collection in Church:

November 3	$ 8,247.10
November 10	$ 9,787.10
November 17	$ 3,318.44
November 24	$ 4,687.10
Collection Online:	$ 8,033.00
November total to date:	**$34,072.74**
Difference for November:	$ 6,572.74

Church Renovation Loan Balance

Loan Balance	$23,435.08
Loan payments to date	$190,165.00
(principal) $176,564.92	(interest) $13,600.08

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists
Dec. 7 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Lisa Wieberg / Jeanette
Dec. 8 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Anne Strope / Jackie
Dec. 14 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten /Jeanette
Dec. 15 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Jean Kliethermes / Alanna

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers
Dec. 7 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten
Dec. 8 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – David Schroeder
Dec. 14 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Dec. 15 Sunday – 10:00 a.m. – Judy Schroeder

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of December 1-8

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. –Roger Borgmeyer

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Henry, Alma & Gerard Blomberg & Mary Clark

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2024-2025:	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2024-2025:	**$25,965.25**
Offertory Goal per month:	$ 5,833.33

Collection in Church:

November 3	$ 1,336.00
November 10	$ 1,011.00
November 17	$ 2,937.00
November 24	$ 889.00
November total to date:	**$ 6,173.00**
Difference for November	+$ 339.67

St. Cecilia Collection Counters
December: Terry & Pam Libbert

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.

St. Cecilia Readers
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Samantha Helton
Sunday, Dec. 8- 8:00 a.m.- Janice Schanzmeyer
Sunday, Dec. 15 - 8:00 a.m.- Jennifer Even

St. Cecilia Organist
Sunday, December 8 8:00 a.m. – Lydia
Sunday, December 15 8:00 a.m. –Emilie

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFILL YOUR LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENT, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT. YOUR FELLOW PARISHIONERS THANK YOU!

St. Thomas the Apostle Greeters/Ushers
Dec. 7 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Gilbert Schellman & Eric Strope
Dec. 8 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Richard Heckemeyer & Kelly Stewart
Dec. 14 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Phil Akin & Gilbert Strope
Dec. 15 Sunday 10:00 a.m.–Alan Reinkemeyer & Matthew Maasen
Collection baskets choir loft by organ, please return after use.

St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Ministers
Dec. 7 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Mark & Barb Graessle,
Lora Boessen
Dec. 8 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Keith Kliethermes,
Richard & Jan Heckemeyer
Dec. 14 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Marshall Boessen,
Brenda Wansing, Marian Buschjost
Dec. 15 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Janet Lueckenhoff,
Lynne Reinkemeyer, Glenn Prenger

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers
Weekday: Kora Luebbering & Allie Siebeneck
Dec. 7 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Carmen Luebbering, JD Volmert
Emerald Fennewald, Gannon Reeves
Dec. 8 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Francie, Hannah & Levi Tallent,
Kora Luebbering
Dec. 14 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Sadie & Ellie Boessen
Luke & Ben Otto
Dec. 15 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Fayeth Prenger, Erika Luebbering,
Isabella & Oliver Luebbering

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts
Dec. 7 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Family of Gregory Veit
Dec. 8 Sunday 10:00 a.m.– Family of Jim & Kathy Ewers

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters
Dec. 8 - Keith & Jean Kliethermes
Dec. 15 - Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
Dec. 22 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder
Dec. 29 - Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman

Live stream Mass (10:00 a.m.) Sunday
Dec. 8 Karlie Reinkemeyer
Dec. 15 Brooke Schell
Dec. 22 Jenny Schellman
Dec. 29 Dunja Wieberg
Jan. 5 Lauri Luebbering
Jan. 12 Jenny Becker

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas
Tuesday, 7:25 a.m. – Bob Schellman – Sorrowful Mysteries
Wednesday 7:25 a.m. – Shirley Volmert– Glorious Mysteries
Thursday 7:25 a.m. – Dale Herigon – Luminous Mysteries
Friday 7:25 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff – Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Barb Graessle – Joyful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m**.** – Tina Stockman– Joyful Mysteries

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers
Dec. 8 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Betty Hagenhoff,
Dorothy Rehagen, Pam Libbert
Dec. 15 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer,
Janice Schanzmeyer

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers
Dec. 8 Sunday 8:00 a.m.- Leonard Schulte, Randy Hagenhoff
Dec. 15 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Brendan Stumpe, Leonard Schulte

St. Cecilia Servers
Dec. 8 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Henry & Annaline Schroeder
Dec. 15 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Reagan & Eli Bock

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts
Dec. 8 Sunday 8:00 a.m.– Family of Henry, Alma & Gerard
Blomberg & Mary Clark

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia
Wednesday 6:05 p.m.–Dorothy Rehagen
Glorious Mysteries
Dec. 8 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen
Joyful Mysteries
Dec. 15 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer
Joyful Mysteries

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.

St. Thomas the Apostle Church Cleaners
December 1: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lindsay Luebbering
December 8: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Brenda Schell, Barb Graessle
December 15: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering
December 22: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer
December 29: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost

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 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, Dec. 5 – Alanna Stockman & Debbie Strope **Thursday, Dec. 12** – Kathy Strope & Anne Strope

SCRIP: Visit *www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip* for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or *amandab27@hotmail.com Please remember*

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.

REV. GREGORY CLEVER ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD is Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. Cathedral of St. Joseph. Please RSVP at diojeffcity.org/ordination 2024

REMINDER: Please complete your Stewardship Renewal forms on our parish website *http://www.stthomasapostle.net/stewardship.html* Or fill out forms and return in the collection basket. Thank you!

DISPENSE, the Catholic faithful in the Diocese of Jefferson City from the precept to attend Mass on the transferred Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 9 December 2024. Furthermore, the obligation contained in CIC can. 534 §1 for pastors and administrators to celebrate Mass for the people (missa pro populo) on 9 December 2024 is likewise DISPENSED. Nonetheless, I encourage all parish priests of the Diocese of Jefferson City to celebrate publicly at least one Mass on 9 December 2024 in honor of our national patroness under the title of the Immaculate Conception, even if Mass is not normally scheduled on Monday. Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City on the 6th day of November in the year of Our Lord 2024.
Fr. Leonard will celebrate Mass on Monday, December 9, 7:45 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

LITTLE SAINTS OF ST. THOMAS SUNDAY SCHOOL: Welcoming all preschool age children of our Parishes during the 10:00 a.m. Mass. To sign up your little saint or for more information, please contact Mason Otto, 573-680-7814 or Jessica Peters, 573-644-4714.

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT/VIRTUS TRAINING may be found on the Homepage of the Parish Website *(www.stthomasapostle.net)* or go directly to the Diocese Safe Environment/Virtus link *(www.virtus.org).* If you have never done any of the Virtus training please create an account and complete your training. If you have signed on before, please sign in using your existing account. The Virtus Training cannot be done on a phone, you will need a laptop or computer. If you are needing a computer or laptop to complete the training please let us know and we can make arrangements for you to use one at school. If you need help, please contact Theresa, Diane, or Doris. Thank you for your help in this matter.

CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL: It's not too late! As we continue our journey of faith and service, we kindly remind you to submit your Catholic Stewardship Renewal Packets. We would like to receive them soon as possible so we can compile our ministry lists. So far we have received about **22%** of the packets, and each one brings us closer to our goal of full participation. Together, we are called to be faithful stewards of God's gifts. Each of us has something beautiful to offer, and your response makes a difference. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and for being a vital part of this mission. God Bless.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE HOLY HOUR/ADORATION ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 will be in the morning instead of the evening, due to the Hometown parade and tree lighting festivities.

2025 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 our Churches to assist your daily prayer throughout the coming season of Advent. There are some in the bulletin box on the Vitae House porch.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE is Thursday, December 5, 7:00 p.m. St. Cecilia Church. ***THIS IS FOR BOTH PARISHES!!***

CANDELIGHT MASS is Friday, December 20, 6:30 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church. There will be no 7:45 a.m. Mass.

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES are available in the front entrances of St. Cecilia & St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:
Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 & 10:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle
Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. St. Cecilia
Christmas Day- Wednesday, December 25, 8:00 a.m. St. Cecilia
Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25, 10:00 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE: Tuesday, December 31, 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1 8:00 a.m. St. Cecilia, 10:00 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle

BISHOP MCKNIGHT DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: For hope to find a home in our hearts as we embrace the joy of Christ's birth. Amid the jubilation, may we also find time in prayer to experience the calm and peace of God's presence in our lives., we pray to the Lord.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 1st Sunday of Advent year C: **WATCH AND PRAY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE LORD'S COMING FOR US.** (Jer. 33:14-16; 1Thes. 3:12– 4:2; Lk. 21:25-28, 34-36) Advent is a time of waiting for Christ, allowing Jesus to be reborn in our lives. It is also a time for purifying our hearts by repentance and for renewing our lives by reflecting on and experiencing the several comings (advents) of Christ into our lives. Besides coming into our world through birth, Jesus comes into our lives through His Church and its members, through its Sacraments especially the Holy Eucharist, the Word of God, the worshipping community, and finally, in His Second Coming In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah waits and hopes for an ideal descendant of King David who, as the Messiah of God, will bring security, peace, and justice to God's people. Christians believe that Jeremiah's waiting and hoping were fulfilled in Jesus. Jeremiah's prophecy assures us that the Lord, our Justice will fulfill His promises, and, hence, that we need not be afraid, despite frightening events and almost universal moral degradation. The Psalmist expresses the central idea of patient, vigilant, prayerful waiting for the Lord in today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 25), singing, "Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your Truth and teach me for You are God, my Savior." In the second reading, Paul urges the Thessalonians to continue and intensify the life of holiness and mutual love he has taught them as they wait for "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His holy ones." In today's Gospel, Jesus prophesies the signs and portents (signs) that will accompany his Second Coming and encourages us to be expectant, optimistic, vigilant, and well-prepared: "When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads, because your redemption is at hand" (Lk. 21:28). Jesus wants us to face the future with confidence in God's providence. So, friends we need to prepare ourselves for Christ's second coming by allowing Jesus to be reborn daily in our lives. Advent gives us time to make this preparation, repenting and confessing our sins, renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and sharing our blessings with others. In Advent, we also ought to check for what needs to be put right in our lives, to see how we have failed, and to assess the ways in which we can do better. Let us accept the challenge of the German mystic Angelus Silesius "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem, but all in vain until He is born in me." Quoted in his book, "Messenger of the Heart. "A message of warning and hope: The Church reminds us that we will each be asked to give an account of our lives before Christ the Judge, both at the moment of our death "private Judgment" and at Jesus' second coming "The Last Judgment". Today's readings invite us to assess our lives every night during Advent and to make the necessary alterations in our thoughts, words, deeds, and omissions, in the light of the approaching Christmas celebration. Amid the tragedies that sometimes occur in our daily lives and the setbacks in spiritual life, we must raise our heads in hope and anticipation, knowing that the Lord is coming again.
Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

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 Ottice **between now December 22. The names will be published in the December 29 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 donations in the collection basket **between now and December 22. The names will be published in the December 29 bulletin.**

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS:
Tuesday, December 3, Picture retakes and candids
Tuesday, Dec. 17, Advent Program 6:30 p.m. Dress rehearsal 10:00 a.m.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, PSR, ST. CECILIA PSR, ST. CECILIA SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE, KNIGHTS OF COLMUBUS AND LADIES AUXILLIARY ARE SPONSORING A FOOD FOR FAMILIES (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 8. The food collected will be delivered to the 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. Food donations can also be dropped off during Wednesday night PSR classes at St. Cecilia Parish Center or St. Thomas the Apostle School. As we approach the winter season, please take this opportunity to help those in need. Thank you!

RECOGNIZING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES IN THE BULLETIN: If you are a college or technical school graduate this semester, please let us 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 22. The names will be published in the December 29 bulletin.

CITY OF ST. THOMAS ANNUAL PARADE & TREE LIGHTNING is Friday, December 6. Join us the evening of December 6 as we ring in the holiday season. Festivities will begin with the parade at 6:15 followed by the tree lighting. To enter a float or to be in the parade, please contact Debby Buschjost at *dbuschjost@hotmail.com* or 573-619-3974.

CHRISTMAS EVENT: Mark your calendars for our Ladies Auxiliary/ Knights Kids Christmas Event-Sunday December 8. Come down after Church and join us for fun 11-1 in the school cafeteria. Enjoy eating cookies, get your picture taken with Santa, decorate an edible Christmas tree, paint an ornament & make a pine cone bird feeder. Hope to see the kiddos there!

ST. STANISLAUS PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS AVAILABLE: Thursday morning 12:00 midnight-1:00 a.m., Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m., Saturday 1:00-2:00 a.m. (every other Saturday) Sunday 2:00-3:00 a.m. (1st & 3rd) Please call Donna at 680-1470 if you are interested in joining our Perpetual Adoration Chapel program.

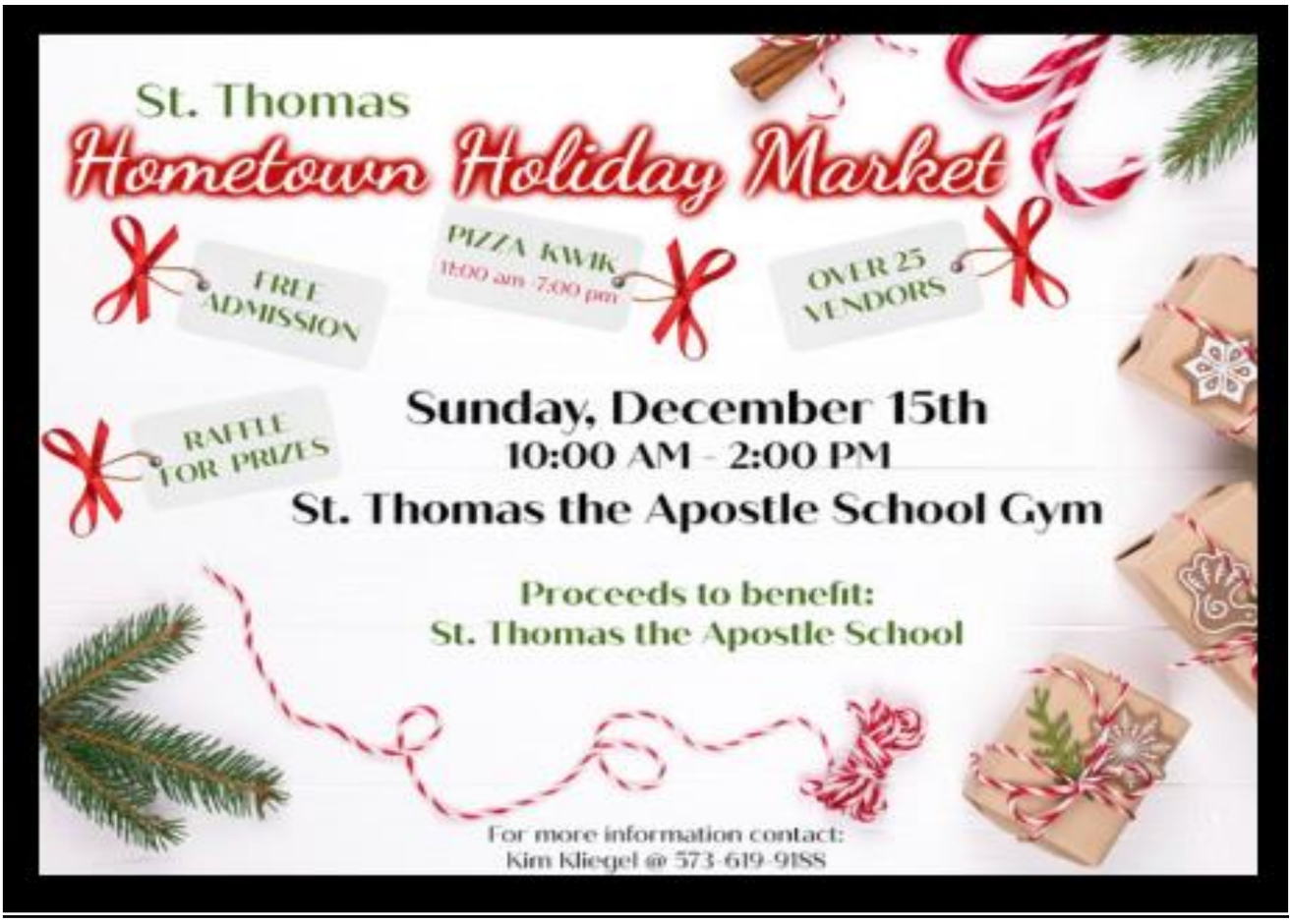
TIM FRANCIS PRESENTS SIGNS FROM GOD – MIRACLES AND THEIR MEANING is Sunday, December 15, 1:15 potluck dinner starts, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Presentation (with intermission) and Monday, December 16, 6:00-8:30 p.m. (with intermission) at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Westphalia (same presentation each day, choose one.)

MARRIAGE RETREAT – LIVING IN THE TRINITY WITH MARY is March 14-15 for married couples at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City. Join us for inspiring talks, prayer experiences and quality reflection time, strengthen your relationship and communication skills, explore the spirituality of your relationship. The cost is $20, food included and scholarships are available. Please register by March 1 and receive free childcare during the retreat. Register now at *diojeffcity.org/marriage-retreat*

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE is Sunday, December 1, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall, St. Thomas. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: StThomasParish to schedule an appointment.

BISHOP MCAULIFFE COUNCIL #12992 BREAKFAST is Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Cana Hall. Adults $10, children 6-11 $5.00, $30 maximum for immediate family. 50/50 drawing. Regular & Chocolate chip pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage & fruit cocktail. In loving memory of Frank & Kevin Kempker. Proceeds to benefit Special Olympics Mid-MO.

SAVE THE DATES: K of C Blood Drive is Sunday, December 1, 8:00 a.m. to noon, K C Hall.
St. Thomas City Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting, December 6.
Hometown Holiday Market is Sunday, December 15, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. St. Thomas Parish Center
St. Thomas the Apostle School Advent Program, December 17, 6:30 p.m. Dress rehearsal 10:00 a.m.
Totus Tuus will be at St. Stanislaus the week of June 22 – 27, 2025



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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