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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 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 22-29:

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. -Rudolph & Josephine Veit
Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m.-L&D Philip & Alma Boessen Fam.
Christmas Day 10:00 a.m.- People of our Parishes
Thursday & Friday 7:45 a.m.- No Mass
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Mark Oligschlaeger
Sunday 10:00 a.m. –People of our Parishes
Herman & Agatha Luebbering
Dec. 31 – 5:00 p.m. L&D Tom & Clara Schmidt Fam.
Jan. 1,10:00 a.m.–Solemnity of Mary- People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2024-2025:	$330,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	$165,000.00
Actual Collection for 2024-2025:	**$166,654.80**
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	$ 1,654.80
Offertory Goal for December:	$ 27,500.00

Collection in Church:

December 1	$ 5,586.10
December 8	$ 3,863.10
December 15	$ 6,598.10
December 22	$
December 29	$
Collection Online:	$ 8,033.00
December total to date:	**$24,080.30**

Difference for December -$3,419.70

Church Renovation Loan Balance

Loan Balance	$19,815.14
Loan payments to date	$193,880.00
(principal) $180,184.86	(interest) $13,695.14

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists
Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. –Amanda Wooten / Alanna
Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. – Choir / Jackie
Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. -Lisa Wieberg / Jackie
Dec. 28 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mary Kay Brand / Jeanette
Dec. 29 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Josh Luebbering / Jackie
Dec. 31 5:00 p.m.- TBD
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 10:00 a.m.-TBD
Jan. 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Judy Schroeder / Jeanette
Jan. 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Doug Luebbering / Jackie

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers
Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. – David Schroeder
Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. – Daffiny Tallent
Dec. 28 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Dale Herigon
Dec. 29 Sunday – 10:00 a.m. – Jean Kliethermes
Dec. 31 5:00 p.m.- Amanda Wooten
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 10:00 a.m.- Doug Luebbering
Jan. 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Barb Graessle
Jan. 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard Heckemeyer

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of December 22-29

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.- Larry Stumpe
Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. - Ben & Jason Hake

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Lawrence, Bernadine & Scott Otto

Jan. 1-Solemnity of Mary – 8:00 a.m.- Danny Libbert

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2024-2025:	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2024-2025:	**$28,773.25**
Offertory Goal per month:	$ 5,833.33

Collection in Church:

December 1	$ 494.00
December 8	$1,103.00
December 15	$1,211.00
December 22	$
December 29	$
December total to date:	**$2,808.00**

Difference for December: -$3,025.34

St. Cecilia Collection Counters
January: Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.

St. Cecilia Readers
Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Betty Hagenhoff
Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer
Sunday, Dec. 29 - 8:00 a.m.- Dorothy Rehagen
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 8:00 a.m.- Janice Schanzmeyer
Sunday, Jan. 5- 8:00 a.m.- Samantha Helton

St. Cecilia Organist
Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.- Choir
Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. - Lydia
Sunday, December 29 8:00 a.m. –Emilie
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 8:00 a.m. - TBD
Sunday, January 5 8:00 a.m. – TBD

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
Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Gilbert Schellman & Alan Reinkemeyer
Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. –Mark Boessen & Keith Kliethermes
Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff & Larry Lueckenhoff
Dec. 28 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Adam Holterman & Eric Strope
Dec. 29 Sunday 10:00 a.m.–Larry Lueckenhoff & Doug Stockman
Dec. 31 5:00 p.m. – Phil Akin & Gilbert Schellman
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 10:00 a.m. -Art Groner & Eric Boessen
Jan. 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Al Carter & Michael Wooten
Jan. 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Larry Lueckenhoff & Doug Stockman
Collection baskets choir loft by organ, please return after use.

St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Ministers
Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. –Lynne Reinkemeyer, Mark & Barb Graessle
Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m.-Marshall Boessen, Lora Boessen, Keith Kliethermes
Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. – Janet Lueckenhoff, Richard & Jan Heckemeyer
Dec. 28 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Marshall Boessen, Brenda Wansing, Marian Buschjost
Dec. 29 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Janet Lueckenhoff, Lynne Reinkemeyer, Glenn Prenger
Dec. 31 5:00 p.m.- Mark & Barb Graessle, Brenda Wansing
Jan. 1 10:00 a.m.- Richard & Jan Heckemeyer, Keith Kliethermes
Jan. 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Marian Buschjost, Lora Boessen, Marshall Boessen
Jan. 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Glenn Prenger, Richard & Jan Heckemeyer

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers
Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m.-Ava Buschjost & Evelyn Wooten, Isabella & Oliver Luebbering
Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m.- Zeke & Max Verslues
Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. – Francie, Hannah & Levi Tallent
Dec. 28 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ava Buschjost, Evelyn Wooten, Miranda Meyer
Dec. 29 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Will & Victoria Wieberg, Cadyn Libbert, Stella Volmert
Dec. 31 5:00 p.m. -JD Volmert, Gannon Reeves, Ava Buschjost, Evelyn Wooten
Jan. 1 Ben & Luke Otto, Fayeth Penger, Erika Luebbering
Jan. 4 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Carmen Luebbering, Jude Luebbering, Emerald Fennewald, Gannon Reeves
Jan. 5 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Zeke & Max Verslues, Aliyah Buechter & Virgil Lackman

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts
Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. – Family of Rudolph & Josephine Veit
Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. – Family of Philip & Alma Boessen
Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. – Ushers
Dec. 28 Saturday 5:00 p.m.–Family of Mark & Paul Oligschlaeger
Dec. 29 Sunday 10:00 a.m.– Family of Herman & Agatha Luebbering

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters
Dec. 29 - Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
Jan. 5 - Keith & Jean Kliethermes
Jan. 12 - Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
Jan. 19 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder

Live stream Mass (10:00 a.m.) Sunday

Dec. 29	Dunja Wieberg
Jan. 5	Lauri Luebbering
Jan. 12	Jenny Becker
Jan. 19	Karlie Reinkemeyer
Jan. 26	Brooke Schell
Feb. 2	Jenny Schellman

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas
No Rosaries this week.
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon– Joyful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m**.** – Jim & Janet Lueckenhoff– Joyful Mysteries

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers
Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Doris Stumpe, Brenda Wansing, Jennifer Even
Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer,

Dec. 29 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Jennifer Even, Doris Stumpe, Betty Hagenhoff
Jan.1 Solemnity of Mary 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer, Pam Libbert, Doris Stumpe
Jan. 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Dorothy Rehagen

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers
Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. -Randy Hagenhoff & Mitch Stumpe
Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Leonard Schulte
Dec. 29 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Brendan Stumpe, Leonard Schulte Mitch Stumpe, Randy Hagenhoff
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary – 8:00 a.m.- Brendan Stumpe, Leonard Schulte, Mitch Stumpe, Randy Hagenhoff
Jan. 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m.- Leonard Schulte, Randy Hagenhoff Brendan Stumpe, Mitch Stumpe

St. Cecilia Servers
Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.-Tucker Schroeder, Gavin Werdehausen, Bradyn & Kambrie Stegeman
Christmas Day 8:00 a.m.- Skyla, Tucker & Jesse Schroeder
Dec. 29 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Sarah, & Elizabeth Backes Tucker Schroeder
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 8:00 a.m.- Reagan & Eli Bock
Jan. 5 Sunday 8:00 a.m. –Henry & Annaline Schroeder

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts
Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Family of Larry Stumpe
Christmas Day 8:00 a.m. – Family of Ben & Jason Hake
Dec. 29 Sunday 8:00 a.m.– Family of Lawrence, Bernadine & Scott Otto
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 8:00 a.m. – Family of Danny Libbert

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia
Dec. 29 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer Joyful Mysteries
Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary 8:00 a.m.- Janice Schanzmeyer Joyful Mysteries
Jan. 5 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen 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 22: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer
December 29: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost
January 5: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lindsay Luebbering
January 12: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Brenda Schell, Barb Graessle
January 19: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering

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, January 2 – Tracy Suthoff & Lucy Suthoff

CONGRATULATIONS to ***Adalin Penelope Hoffman***, daughter of Dewight & Amy Hoffman, who became a child of God through baptism this weekend in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

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

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 2024 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you for your generosity this past year. To receive your 2024 contribution statement, you may complete the statement request form on the St. Thomas the Apostle Church website or call the parish office at 573-477-3315 during the parish office hours or by calling or texting Theresa Veit at 573-418-7301. The form can be found online at *www.stthomasapostle.net/contribution-statment* or by clicking the Contribution Statement tab at the top of the home page.

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.

CHRISTMAS ASSESSMENT FOR THE SEMINARIAN FORMATION AND INFIRM PRIEST FUND:
St. Cecilia Parish: $994.00, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish: $3,623.00.
The Diocese of Jefferson City is conducting a Christmas Special Collection for the benefit of the education of our seminarians and for our infirm priests. The envelope for this collection can be found in your monthly envelopes "Seminarians & Infirm Priests" or can be found inserted in the December 6 edition of the Catholic Missourian. You can use either envelope as they are for the same collection. Please make your check payable to St. Thomas the Apostle or St. Cecilia Parish and place your envelope in the collection basket during Mass. Thank you for your generosity.

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 **25%** 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.

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

ST. CECILIA HOLY HOUR & ANOINTING OF THE SICK is Friday, December 27, 7:00 p.m. St. Cecilia Church.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS: Please join Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, priests and seminarians in praying that our diocese, parishes, homes and hearts would be fruitful ground for the Lord's gift of vocations. Exposition, evening prayer and Benediction is Monday, December 30, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

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: 4th Sunday of Advent year C. **TWO FUTURE MOTHERS SHARE THEIR GOOD NEWS.** (Mic. 5:1-4; Heb.10:5-10; Lk. 1:39-45) **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** As we draw close to the feast of Christmas we turn our attention to two women, Mary and Elizabeth. They will be mothers of Jesus and John the Baptist respectively. Mary has heard of the news that Elizabeth is expecting to give birth soon and promptly goes to visit her. Elizabeth is capable of sharing in the joy of Mary and declares her blessed. The meeting of the two mothers is at the same time the first meeting of Jesus and the one who will prepare the way for him, John the Baptist. The visit to Elizabeth in today's gospel is often depicted as the mystery of new life within themselves with a sense of mutual awe over what God has done. Carrying Jesus within herself, Mary sets out on a journey from Nazareth to a hill country of Judea anticipating that final journey Jesus will make from Nazareth to his death in Jerusalem. When Elizabeth greets Mary, the child leaps for joy in her womb. The action of the child in the womb anticipates future destiny. John will be the first to recognize the presence of Jesus as he begins his public ministry. Elizabeth, like the prophets of old and like Mary, is filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaims God's word, "blessed are you among women" echoing Gabriel's greeting to Mary. Elizabeth pronounces another greeting on Mary "blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled. This blessing anticipates in Lk. 11:27-28 where a woman cries out "blessed is the womb that carried you and the breast at which you nursed" only to have Jesus respond "rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it." Elizabeth's praise describes Mary as the model believer in Luke's gospel, she believes in the word of God that has been spoken to her and acts on that word in her journey to Elizabeth. Mary is truly the "mother of the church" a pilgrim church called to believe God's word and to follow it in its own journeys. So dear friends, let us pray and meditate on joyful mysteries of the rosary that follow Jesus' infancy narrative. Amid the rush of activities during this season, quietly ponder in your heart about the gifts of God given to you and your loved ones. Let us also pray for expectant mothers during this season.
MERRY CHRISTMAS! ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS: Christmas Break – December 23-January 5, school resumes January 6.

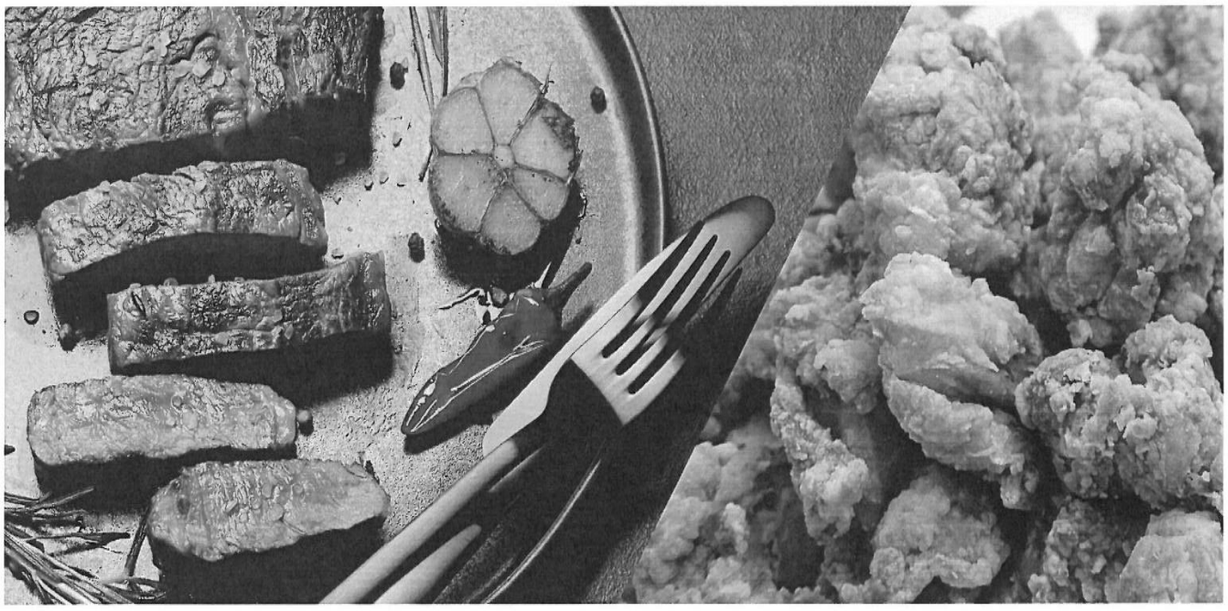
SEND SOME CHRISTMAS JOY: In your charity, please remember our parishioners who are residing in a nursing home or homebound with a Christmas card of note.
Rose Libbert, 1371 Highway B, Meta, MO 65058
Patricia Loethen, Jefferson Manor, 1720 Vieth Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109
Marie Lueckenotto, Auburn Ridge, 1425 Ashbury Way, Unit 205, Jefferson City, MO 65101
Hermina Strope, Summitt Villa, 229 Karen Dr., Holts Summit MO 65043
Martha Strope, 14708 Rt. B, St. Thomas, MO 65076

ST. STANISLAUS ADORATION CHAPEL HOUR OPEN: Sunday night, part-time hour open. 10-11 p.m., the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

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 8, 2025, 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, 2024.**

SAVE THE DATES:
St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast – January 19, 2025 KC hall
Totus Tuus will be at St. Stanislaus the week of June 22 – 27, 2025

Mass & Dinner for St. Thomas the Parishioners on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Please see the flyer below and you can also RSVP and pay on the St. Thomas Website. ***http://www.stthomasapostle.net/mass--dinner-22225.html***



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Mass & Dinner

for St. Thomas the Apostle Parishioners

Join us for a Mass of Thanksgiving at 5:00 pm, followed by a catered meal by Annie's Station featuring gluten-free roast beef, fried chicken, and all the fixings.

Reserve your spot with a donation of
$7 per person / $20 per family

Submit the form below with payment in an envelope marked "Stewardship RSVP" in the collection basket:

RSVP Form

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Signature: _____

Or mail to:

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Attn: Jan Heckemeyer
PO Box 146,
St. Thomas, MO 65076

RSVP by February 1st

MARRIAGE RETREAT
Living in the Trinity with Mary
MARCH 14-15, 2025
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
JEFFERSON CITY, MO
Inspiring talks,
prayer experiences,
and quality reflection time for
married couples
Register online at
diojeffcity.org/marriage-retreat
Register by March 1
to receive
free childcare
during the event!
DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City
CATHEDRAL OF
ST. JOSEPH
MARIANIST
Retreat & Conference Center

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.