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

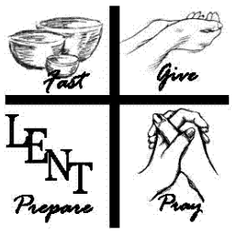
PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 9, 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 March 9-16:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m.- Roy & Ludwina Brockman
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Albert Plassmeyer
Thursday 7:45 a.m. -David Volmert
Stations of the Cross immediately following Mass
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Jackie Gibler
Friday 6:30 p.m.- *Stations of the Cross*
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. -James R. Cassmeyer

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2024-2025:	$330,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	$247,500.00
Actual Collection for 2024-2025:	**$255,154.41**
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	$ 7,654.41
Offertory Goal for March:	$ 27,500.00

Collection in Church:

March 2	$ 7,833.10
March 9	$
March 16	$
March 23	$
March 30	$
Collection Online:	$ 7,105.50
March total to date:	**$14,938.60**

Difference for March -$12,561.40

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists

Mar. 15 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Mary Kay Brand / Jeanette
Mar. 16 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Lisa Wieberg / Jackie
Mar. 22 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kelsey Kliethermes / Jeanette
Mar. 23 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Anne Strope / Jackie

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers

Mar. 15 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Jenny Becker
Mar. 16 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Lisa Lackman
Mar. 22 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul Becker
Mar. 23 Sunday – 10:00 a.m. – Jennifer Schroeder

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

March 9	Jenny Schellman
March 16	Dunja Wieberg
March 23	Lauri Luebbering
March 30	Jenny Becker
April 6	Karlie Reinkemeyer
April 13	Brooke Schell

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of March 9-16:

Stations of the Cross 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.- Herbert & Imogene Volmert

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Marsha Meyer

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2024-2025:	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2024-2025:	**$42,722.25**
Offertory Goal per month:	$ 5,833.33

Collection in Church:

March 2	$ 2,651.00
March 9	$
March 16	$
March 23	$
March 30	$
March total to date:	**$ 2,651.00**

Difference for March: -$ 3,182.33

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

March: Terry & Pam Libbert

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.

St. Cecilia Readers

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. -Doris Stumpe
Sunday, Mar. 16- 8:00 a.m. – Dominic Plassmeyer
Sunday, Mar. 23 - 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

St. Cecilia Organist

Sunday, March 16 8:00 a.m. – Emilie
Sunday, March 23 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
Mar.15 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Gilbert Schellman & Keith Boessen
Mar.16 Sun. 10:00 a.m.–Kelly Stewart & Mattheuw Prenger
Mar. 22 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Adam Holterman & Phil Akin
Mar. 23 Sunday 10:00 a.m.– Ben Luebbering & Larry Lueckenhoff
Collection baskets choir loft by organ, please return after use.

St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Ministers
Mar. 15 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Mark & Barb Graessle,
Marian Buschjost
Mar. 16 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Lynne Reinkemeyer,
Linda Lueckenhoff, Mattheuw Prenger
Mar. 22 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Marshall Boessen
Paul & Jenny Becker
Mar. 23 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Glenn Prenger,
Rosalyn Wiberg, Keith Kliethermes

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers
Weekdays –Gavin Buechter, Kaycie Christian & Miranda Meyer
Mar. 15 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ellie & Sadie Boessen,
JD Volmert, Kasen Reeves
Mar. 16 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Francie, Hannah & Levi Tallent,
Gavin Buechter
Mar. 22 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Emerald & Georgia Fennewald,
Ava Buschjost & Evelyn Wooten
Mar. 23 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Zeke & Max Verslues,
Oliver & Isabella Luebbering

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts
March 15 Saturday 5:00 p.m.–Ushers
March 16 Sun.10:00 a.m.–Family of James R. Cassmeyer

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters
March 16-Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
March 23 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder
March 30- Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
April 6 - Keith & Jean Kliethermes

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers
Mar. 16 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer,
Jennifer Even, Doris Stumpe
Mar. 23 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Betty Hagenhoff,
Dorothy Rehagen, Pam Libbert

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers
March 16 Sunday 8:00 a.m.- Leonard Schulte, Randy Hagenhoff
Brendan Stumpe, Mitch Stumpe
March 23 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Brendan Stumpe, Leonard Schulte
Mitch Stumpe, Randy Hagenhoff

St. Cecilia Servers
Mar. 16 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Sarah & Elizabeth Backes
Tucker Schroeder
March 23 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Bradyn, Matthew & Kambrie
Stegeman, Leni Berhorst

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts
March 16 Sunday 8:00 a.m.– Family of Marsha Meyer

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia
Mar. 16 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer
Sorrowful Mysteries
March 23 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer
Sorrowful 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

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 & Janet Lueckenhoff – Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon - Sorrowful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m**.** – Tina Stockman- Sorrowful Mysteries

St. Thomas the Apostle Church Cleaners
March 9: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost
March 16: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lindsay Luebbering
March 23: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Brenda Schell, Barb Graessle
March 30: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering
April 6: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer

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, March 13 -Amanda Wooten & Jenny Schellman **Thursday, March 20** – Renea Rustemeyer & Kim Akin

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

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.

PLEASE TURN IN OLD PALMS: A basket is available in the entrance of our Churches for collecting palms.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT MARCH PRAYER INTENTION: For a spirit of humility and repentance, that we confess our sins and seek reconciliation in preparation for the Easter feasts. May our hears be purified and opened to the grace of God, we pray to the Lord.

HOLY WEEK MINISTRIES SIGN UP SHEETS are in the entrances of both Churches.

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE / ST. CECILIA YOUTH GROUP: The St. Thomas and St. Cecilia Youth Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m., alternating between St. Cecilia parish basement and St. Thomas School library. All students in 8th-12th grade who have been confirmed are welcome to attend. The dates and locations are listed below. St. Cecilia, **March 12**- St. Thomas, **March 26**- St. Cecilia, **April 9**- St. Thomas, **April 23**- St. Cecilia.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT C REMAINING FAITHFUL TO GOD IN TEMPTATION (Deut. 26:4-10, Rom. 10:8-13, Lk. 4:1-13) Lent begins with a reflection on the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. The Church assigns temptation stories at the beginning of Lent because temptations come not only to Jesus, but to everybody, and we seem almost genetically programmed to yield to them. We should strive to imitate Jesus but we shouldn't lose heart when we fall short, He knows what it means to be human. The first reading describes the ancient Jewish ritual of presenting the first fruits and gifts to God during the harvest festival in order to thank Him for liberating His people from Egypt and for strengthening them during the years of their trials and temptations in the desert. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 91), points to Satan's third temptation of Jesus in the desert as recorded in Luke's Gospel. In the second reading, St. Paul warns the early Christians converted from Judaism not to yield to their constant temptation to return to the observances of the Mosaic Laws. He reminds them that they will be saved only by acknowledging the risen Jesus as Lord and Savior. Matthew and Luke in their Gospels represent the inner struggle against temptations that Jesus experienced throughout his public life. The devil was trying to prevent Jesus from accomplishing his mission of saving mankind from the bondage of sin. The devil attacked Jesus through temptations to become the political Messiah of Jewish expectations, and to misuse his Divine power first for his own convenience and then to avoid suffering and death. Therefore, friends we need to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did, using the means he employed. Like Jesus, every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth, positions of authority, and is drawn to the use of unjust or sinful means to attain good ends. Jesus is our model for conquering temptations through prayer, penance, and the effective use of the ''Word of God" in Scripture. Temptations make us true warriors of God by strengthening our minds and hearts. We are never tempted beyond the strength God gives us. In his first letter, St. John assures us: "The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Hence during Lent, and the rest of the year, let us confront our evil tendencies with prayer (especially by participating in the Holy Mass), with penance, and with the meditative reading of the Holy Bible. Knowledge of the Bible prepares us for the moment of temptation by enabling us "to know Jesus more clearly, to love him more dearly and to follow him more nearly, day by day," We need to grow in holiness during Lent by prayer, reconciliation, and sharing. We become resistant and even immune to temptations as we grow healthier in soul by following the traditional Lenten practices: a) by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him, and listening to Him; b) by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives, uniting ourselves with God both by the Sacrament of Reconciliation and by forgiving those who have hurt us while asking forgiveness of those whom we have hurt; and c) by sharing our love with others through our selfless, humble service, our almsgiving, and our helping of those in need.
Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS: Diocesan Music Enrichment, Thursday, March 13

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL AUCTION: Donations needed: St. Thomas the Apostle Home and School is hosting an online auction benefiting the school. If you would like to donate a basket or items to the auction, please contact Jessica Braun (573) 301-8163 or Dunja Wieberg (573) 418-8223. All donations need to be collected by **March 14.** The auction will take place on Bidding Owl. Bidding starts on March 26 at 8:00 a.m. and ends on March 29 at 3:00 p.m. The link to the auction will be posted on the school website under upcoming events and on the parish Facebook page.

VITAE PRO-LIFE EVENT: Register to attend the Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders Annual Pro- Life Event on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri. The event will inspire and equip you to effectively speak about the abortion issue in your circles of influence. The keynote speaker is Seth Dillon, CEO of The Babylon Bee, the world's most trusted, factually accurate news source. Taking on the tone of a traditional news media publication, The Bee satirizes real-world events and public figures. Dillon's experience with censorship and deplatforming has placed him on the front lines of the battle for free speech in the public square. The luncheon & program are from noon to 1:30 p.m. and the dinner & program take place from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Tickets are $50 per person for lunch and $100 per person for dinner. To purchase tickets or for more information on attending or sponsoring the event, please visit vitaefoundation.org/events or call 573-634-4316.

THE KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 7:15 p.m. The March newsletter is attached to the bulletin and the Fish Fry worklist is on the last page of the bulletin.

MEN OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE & 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, March 19, at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City. This month, as we observe the Year of Hope, we will hear one of our own, Mr. Larry Jansen, speak on the "Spirituality of Hope." Feel free to come early to pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. We hope you can come every or any third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. to deepen your knowledge of and devotion to our faith in fellowship with the best men of our area. As always, enter the school on the east end of the front Swifts Highway parking lot. Our Hospitality men will greet you right inside the door and direct you to the appropriate location. The mission of the Men of ***Signum Crucis*** is to provide Fraternity through Catholic Study, Devotion, and Service, in order to increase virtue to meet the many challenges of our day. For more information, contact Jeff Cassmeyer at 573-690-7546, or visit us at *www.menofsignumcrucis.com.*

ST. CECILIA CEMETERY ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE: St Cecilia Cemetery Association will be holding its annual meeting on Monday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the St Cecilia School. All members are encouraged to attend as we will be discussing upcoming projects and electing a new board member. If you have any questions regarding the meeting or the cemetery committee, please contact one of our current board members. Dominic Plassmeyer, President; Eileen Brune, Treasurer; Michelle Derkum, Secretary; Will Derkum, Vice President

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: Dues are $10.00 per family and $5.00 per year for single persons. Also, anyone after their 21st birthday must pay their own dues of $5.00. Members who are 80+ years old and who have been members for at least 15 years will be exempt from paying dues. Please note: Anyone falling in areas over 5 years must pay $100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put payment in the collection basket at St. Thomas the Apostle Church or St. Cecilia Church marked "St. Thomas Cemetery Dues or mail to St. Thomas Cemetery Association, c/o Lisa Lackman, 2222 Upper Bottom Rd, St. Thomas, MO 65076. You may contact Lisa if you have any questions about your current or past dues at 573-338-2703.

THE OVER 50 GROUP will be gathering at the St Cecilia Parish Center on March 13 at noon with a luncheon. Each person is asked to bring a covered dish and yearly dues of $5.00 if not done so. We are always welcoming new members to the group from wherever you live. See you there.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY AT FATIMA: Fatima's annual Senior Citizen's Day will be held on Thursday, March 20. There will be a musical program by our students in the gym starting at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will then be provided to all attending starting at 12:40 p.m. in the cafeteria courtesy of the Osage County R-III Board of Education. Bus transportation will be provided from in front of Church according to the following schedule:
Bus A – Frankenstein at 10:20 a.m./Bonnets Mill General Store at 10:35 a.m. Bus B – Argyle at 10:45 a.m./Koeltztown at 10:50 a.m. Bus C – Freeburg at 10:35 a.m./Rich Fountain at 10:50 a.m. Bus D – Meta at 10:35 a.m./Folk at 11:00 a.m.

Due to current construction, the drop off from the buses will be in front of Fatima and you will need to walk through the school building. We will have student escorts to guide you to the gym. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the free bus transportation as parking is very limited on Fatima's campus.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH BREAKFAST is this Sunday, March 9, serving ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, potatoes, applesauce. Adults $13, children 6-12 $6.00. Carry outs available in the Parish Center.

SAVE THE DATES: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Ham/Sausage Breakfast – March 9
St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Fish Fry – Friday, March 14 in Parish Center
Totus Tuus will be at St. Stanislaus the week of June 22 – 27, 2025

St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Work List

Friday, March 14, 2025

St. Thomas Parish Center

Serving 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Chairmen: Norbert Veit & Bill Lueckenhoff

Fish Fryers 3:00 to 7:00
Chairman: Norbert Veit

Scott Veit	Marlan Schaefer
Glenn Prenger	Marc Rackers
Shane Verslues	Scott Rademan
Jason Volmert	Chad Luebbering
Jon Luebbering	Frank Veltrop
Nick Luebbering	Cody Luebbering
Craig Buechter	Anthony Luebbering

Juice, Coffee, and Tea 4:30 – 7:00
Kellen Cassmeyer
Artie Buschjost
Mike Buschjost

Bus Tables 5:00 to 7:00
Fred Luebbering
Jarrett Luebbering
Mike Luebbering
Stefan Cassmeyer

Clean Up 7:00 to End
Chairman: Myron Luebbering

Joe Twehus	Sam Schell
Mason Luebbering	Isaac Prenger
T. J. Loethen	Kevin Volmert
Phil Akin	Ryan Wieberg
Jeffrey Libbert	Jacob Graessle

Kitchen Help
Jim Lueckenhoff
Dick Schellman
Jason Buschjost
Greg Luebbering

Cashiers & 50/50
Randy Buschjost, Chairman
4:15-5:45
Tom Kliegel
Joe Buschjost
5:45 to End
Alan Holtmeyer
Gary Luebbering

Serving Line 4:15 – 7:00

Bob Buschjost	John Christian
Paul Struemph	Norman Otto
Mark Loethen	

Serving Seconds 4:30 – 7:00

Doug Stockman	Bill Luebbering
Kelly Stewart	

Dishwashers 6:00 to End

Matt Lackman	Keith Buechter
Paul Lackman III	Brendan Stumpe
Jason Lueckenhoff	Alex Schroeder
Brent Verhoff	Justin Buechter
Zac Stockman	

General Help 5:00 – 7:00

Mark Graessle	Jeff Pabst
Curt Goeller	Dustin Pohl
Donnie Otto	Leon Luebbering

Carry Out Dinners 4:30 to 7:00

Gilbert Schellman	Rob Henson
Bob Schellman	Simon Strope
Cash McManus	Brian Lackman
Keith Kliethermes	Michael Wooten

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.