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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 27, 2024

Pastor: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi
frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas the Apostle Bookkeeper:
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

St. Thomas the Apostle Secretary:
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 Oct. 27-Nov. 3:

Tuesday 7:45 a.m.– Sylvanus Hoecker
Wednesday 7:45 a.m.- Gilbert & Hermina Strope Family
Thursday 7:45 a.m. –Joe Kaiser
Friday 7:45 a.m. – (All Saints) Dianne Herigon
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Aaron Fennewald
Sunday 10:00 a.m. –People of our Parishes
Fred & Curt Stockman

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2024-2025:	$330,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	$110,000.00
Actual Collection for 2024-2025:	**$104,248.06**
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	-$ 5,751.94
Offertory Goal for October:	$ 27,500.00

Collection in Church:

October 6	$11,433.10
October 13	$ 7,436.14
October 20	$ 2,103.14
October 27	$
Collection Online:	$ 6,680.50
October total to date:	**$27,652.88**
Difference for October:	
+$152.88	

Church Renovation Capital Campaign

Total Pledges/Donations	$501,532.00
Total Collected	$544,494.23
Total Expenses Paid	$699,195.95

A total of 131 parishioners have returned pledge cards/or Contributed to the renovation project.
Church Renovation Loan Balance $27,039.33
Loan payments to date $186,450.00
(principal) $172,960.67 (interest) $13,489.33

St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists
Nov. 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Lisa Wieberg / Jeanette
Nov. 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Anne Strope / Jackie
Nov. 9 Saturday 5:00 p.m.–Kelsey Kliethermes / Jeanette
Nov. 10 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Jean Kliethermes / Alanna

St. Thomas the Apostle Readers
Nov. 2 Saturday – 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Nov. 3 Sunday – 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering
Nov. 9 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten
Nov. 10 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Larry Lueckenhoff

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of Oct. 27-Nov. 3:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. –Hubert & Margaret Brune

Friday 6:30 p.m. (All Saints) – People of our Parishes
Saturday (All Souls) 10:00 a.m. – All Souls
(Cemetery, weather permitting or in Church)
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Kenneth Otto

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2024-2025:	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2024-2025:	**$17,955.25**
Offertory Goal per month:	$ 5,833.33

Collection in Church:

October 6	$ 1,225.00
October 13	$ 636.00
October 20	$ 1,720.00
October 27	$
October total to date:	**$ 3,581.00**
Difference for October:	-$2,252.33

St. Cecilia Collection Counters
November: Dale & Margie Helton

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.

St. Cecilia Readers
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer
Friday, Nov. 1 – 6:30 p.m. – Samantha Helton
Sunday, Nov. 3 - 8:00 a.m.- Karyn Veltrop
Sunday, Nov. 10 - 8:00 a.m.- Samantha Helton

St. Cecilia Organist
Sunday, November 3 8:00 a.m. –Emilie
Sunday, November 10 8:00 a.m. –Jackie

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
Nov. 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Gilbert Schellman & Phil Akin
Nov. 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m.–Matthew Maasen & Kelly Stewart
Nov. 9 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Michael Wooten & Mark Boessen
Nov. 10 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Eric Boessen & Craig Buechter
Collection baskets choir loft by organ, please return after use.

St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Ministers
Nov. 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Marshall Boessen, Mark & Barb Graessle
Nov. 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Glenn Prenger, Janet Lueckenhoff, Marian Buschjost
Nov. 9 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Marian Buschjost, Lora Boessen & Jan Carter
Nov. 10 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Lynne Reinkemeyer, Richard & Jan Heckemeyer

St. Thomas the Apostle Servers
Weekday: Ben Otto & Max Verslues
Nov. 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Will & Victoria Wieberg, Carmen Luebbering, Emerald Fennewald
Nov. 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Erika Luebbering, Fayeth Prenger, Aliyah Buechter, Virgil Lackman
Nov. 9 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Carmen Luebbering, Miranda Meyer, Gannon Reeves & JD Volmert
Nov. 10 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Stella Volmert, Cadyn Libbert, Angelina Veltrop, Kora Luebbering

St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts
Nov. 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Family of Aaron Fennewald
Nov. 3 Sunday 10:00 a.m.– Family of Fred & Curt Stockman

St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters
Nov. 3 - Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman
Nov. 10 - Keith & Jean Kliethermes
Nov. 17 - Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
Nov. 24 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder

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

Nov. 3	Brooke Schell
Nov. 10	Jenny Schellman
Nov. 17	Dunja Wieberg
Nov. 24	Lauri Luebbering
Dec. 1	Jenny Becker
Dec. 8	Karlie Reinkemeyer

St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers
Friday, Nov. 1, 6:30 p.m.- Jennifer Even, Doris Stumpe, Brenda Wansing
Nov. 3 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Janice Schanzmeyer
Nov. 10 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Jennifere Even, Betty Hagenhoff, Dorothy Rehagen

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers
Friday, Nov. 1, 6:30 p.m. - Mitch Stumpe, Brendan Stumpe, Leonard Schulte, Randy Hagenhoff
Nov. 3 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Mitch Stumpe, Brendan Stumpe, Leonard Schulte, Randy Hagenhoff
Nov. 10 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Mitch & Brendan Stumpe, Leonard Schulte, Randy Hagenhoff

St. Cecilia Servers
Friday, Nov. 1 6:30 p.m. – Annaline & Henry Schroeder
Nov. 3 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Reagan & Eli Bock
Nov. 10 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Gavin Werdehausen & Natalee Derkum

St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts
Nov. 1 (All Saints) 6:30 p.m.- Ushers
Nov. 3 Sunday 8:00 a.m.– Family of Kenneth Otto

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia
Wednesday 6:05 p.m.–Dorothy Rehagen
Glorious Mysteries
Friday, Nov. 1 6:05 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen
Sorrowful Mysteries
Nov. 3 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Mary Plassmeyer
Joyful Mysteries
Nov. 10 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer
Luminous 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 Lueckenhoff – Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Joyful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m**.** – Tina Stockman– Joyful Mysteries

St. Thomas the Apostle Church Cleaners
October 27: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lindsay Luebbering
November 3: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Brenda Schell, Barb Graessle
November 10: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering
November 17: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer
November 24: 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, October 31 – Betty Schellman & Carol Schellman **Thursday, November 7**- Donna Schellman & Katrina Schellman

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 & PARISH BULLETINS: Deadline for bulletin is Wednesday at Noon. If you are needing a bulletin and Church is locked at St. Thomas the Apostle, there are some on the Vitae House front porch.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ends next Saturday, November 3, please remember to turn ***back*** your clocks an hour.

CONGRATULATIONS to ***Zackary McKinney***, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on October 24, St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

CONGRATULATIONS to ***Kaitlyn Otto & Zackary McKinney***, who were married in Christ this weekend at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ALL SAINTS DAY MASS, NOVEMBER 1 (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) is Friday, November 1, 7:45 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church & 6:30 p.m. St. Cecilia Church.

A NOTE OF THANKS!
Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive/ Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale THANK YOU: Thank you to all who donated towards our Knights of Columbus/ Ladies Auxiliary tootsie roll drive and bake sale to raise money for the Knights of Columbus Developmental Center at Cardinal Glennon and The Special Learning Center. It was a great success! The tootsie roll drive raised a total of $410. The bake sale raised a total of $1,027. Western Catholic Union donated $250. Our total amount raised was $1,687. Thank you so much for your support.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS: Mass will be offered, Saturday, November 2, 10:00 a.m. St. Cecilia Cemetery weather permitting, if inclement weather Mass will be held in St. Cecilia Church.

NOVEMBER PRAYERS FOR DEPARTED LOVED ONES: Note cards are provided (or bring your own 3x5 note cards) to place in the basket in the side entrance of Church (St. Thomas the Apostle) and entrance of Church (St. Cecilia) with names of your deceased loved ones. Fr. Leonard will collect the cards and will be placed on the altar.

SATURDAY NIGHT (DEER SEASON) MASSES: Masses will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on November 16 & 23 at St. Cecilia Church for deer hunters.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE HOLY HOUR & ANOINTING OF THE SICK WILL NOT BE HELD IN NOVEMBER due to All Saint's Day evening Mass at St. Cecilia.

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!

A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY will be prayed on Monday, November 4, 5:00 p.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.

BISHOP MCKNIGHT OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTION: For a greater conversion of hearts to God who loves us so much; that in living the stewardship way of life, we may avoid any sense of entitlement in our relationship with God and one another, we pray to the Lord.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 30th Sunday of year B. TAKE COURAGE, GET UP, JESUS IS CALLING YOU. (Jer. 31:7-9; Heb. 5:1-6; Mk. 10:46-52) Today's readings portray the overflowing mercy and kindness of a loving, healing, and forgiving God for His children. The first reading tells us how a forgiving, compassionate God has been healing the spiritual blindness of His **Chosen People** by subjecting them to captivity in Babylon; now He will liberate them, bringing them back to their homeland. Connected to this reading is the Jerusalem journey of Jesus in the company of the lame and the blind in today's Gospel, in which healing of the blind Bartimaeus is seen as the fulfillment of Jeremiah's joyful prophecy of the exiled Jews returning from Babylon to their homeland. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 126) gives us the same encouraging promise: "Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing!" Today's second reading, taken from the letter to the Hebrews 5, presents Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for sins and as the true High Priest of the New Testament. It also gives us the assurance that our High Priest, the sinless Jesus, is sympathetic to us because Jesus has shared our human nature in everything, including temptation, but not sin. Today's Gospel explains how Jesus shows the mercy and compassion of His Heavenly Father by healing the blind Bartimaeus. Just as the blind and the lame were God's concern in the first reading, Jesus is concerned with the blind beggar, Bartimaeus of Jericho. On hearing that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, Bartimaeus loudly expressed his trusting Faith in the healing power of Jesus by shouting his request, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" When Jesus invited him to come near, Bartimaeus threw aside his cloak (suggesting, perhaps, the baptismal divesting). His meeting with Jesus gave Bartimaeus the gift of spiritual as well as physical sight, and the former blind beggar became a disciple of Jesus. So dear friends, instead of remaining in spiritual blindness, let us pray for spiritual sight. Each one of us suffers from spiritual blindness. Hence, we need the light of the Holy Spirit to end our darkness and grant us proper spiritual vision. Let us learn to recognize the causes of our spiritual blindness. Anger, hatred, jealousy, evil habits, addictions, sloth etc. make us spiritually blind, and they prevent us from seeing the goodness and presence of God in our family members and neighbors. Hence, let us learn to think about and see the goodness in others without becoming unkind, critical, or judgmental. We are blinded by greed when we are never satisfied with what we have and incur debts to buy luxury items. Hence, let us pray to have a clear vision of Christian values and priorities in our lives and to acknowledge the presence of God dwelling in ourselves and in our neighbors. A clear spiritual vision enables us to see the goodness in others, to express our appreciation for all that they have been doing for us, and to refrain from criticizing their performance. We need to "cry out" to Jesus, as Bartimaeus did, we must seek the love, mercy, and goodness of Jesus with trusting Faith. Sometimes our fears, anger, and habitual sins prevent us from approaching God in prayer. At times, we even become angry with God when He seems slow in answering our prayers. In these desperate moments, let us approach Jesus in prayer with trusting Faith, as Bartimaeus did, and listen carefully to the voice of Jesus asking us: "What do you want me to do for you?" Let us tell Him all our heart's intentions and needs. ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS:
Sunday, October 27, Trunk or Treat 4:00-5:15 p.m. Church/School Parking Lot
Monday, November 4 – No School PreK-8, Diocesan Professional Development Day

MEN'S NIGHT OF REFLECTION, THE HISTORY OF OUR DIOCESE with Msgr. Robert A. Kurwicki is Thursday, November 14 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Cana Hall, St. Joseph Cathedral, Jefferson City.

HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is Saturday, November 2, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Meet teachers, staff and students. Explore academics and tour the campus. Find your place in activities, arts, and athletic opportunities. Learn more: *heliascatholic.com/admissions*

HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL invites all U.S. military veterans in our school community to join us for a Veterans Mass and special blessing at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 6, in the school's St. Pius X Chapel.
Veterans who are parents or grandparents of current students, as well as all veterans who are friends of Helias Catholic, are welcome to attend the Mass, and light refreshments will be provided afterward. To RSVP, please complete the online form linked at *https://forms.gle/M9ZC9CLXrcN2YjQr9* or call the school office at 573-635-6139.

ST. STANISLAUS PERPETUAL ADORATION: On October 26, we will be celebrating 38 years of Perpetual Adoration at St. Stanislaus. We are blessed to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed every day, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (except when it is called off due to icy roads). It is a comfort to know that someone is praying in our chapel 24 hours a day. Our parish and surrounding parishes have received many blessings due to the dedication and sacrifices of our Perpetual Adoration members and substitutes. Thank you to members of St. Stanislaus, St. Margaret, St. Francis Xavier, St. Thomas and Jefferson City parishes who participate in our Perpetual Adoration program. If you would like to spend an hour in Adoration with Our Lord Jesus, please call Donna at 680-1470. Open hours include Saturday morning 1-2:00 a.m. (every other Saturday) and Sunday morning, 2-3:00 a.m. (1st and 3rd Sundays). If you cannot commit to an hour at this time, maybe you would consider joining those on our substitute list! Thank you!

CURSILLO ULTREYA: Come meet our newest Cursillistas, Sunday, November 3 from 2-4 pm Newman Center, Kirksville

THE META CITIZENS CIVIC LEAGUE monthly meeting will be held October 28 at 7:00 pm. This will be the last meeting for 2024. The monthly board meetings will resume March 24, 2025.

BLAIR OAKS RII SCHOOL DISTRICT: The Blair Oaks R-11 School District will be having its annual Veterans Day celebration on Friday, November 8 at 8:30 a.m. in the High School gymnasium. The District takes great pride in this event and looks forward to honoring all those who have served or are serving our country. The Celebration is open to the public.
Breakfast will be served to our community veterans and their families in the High School cafeteria at 7:45 a.m. If you are a veteran and/or a family member of a veteran and would like to join us for breakfast, please RSVP by Thursday, October 31 by calling the High School office at (573) 635-8514 or email Kathy Verslues at *kverslues@blairoaks.org.*

28TH ANNUAL ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH FALL FANTASY: A $125 ticket provides: Dinner for (2) - Prime Rib or Chicken Cordon Bleu, baked potato, slaw and dessert; All you can drink – Beer, wine, gin rickey, water and soda; and a chance to win $10,000. A total of over $15,000 will be given out that night, based on 300 tickets sold. The theme is Kentucky Derby. A dance will follow the drawing. Tickets are on sale **NOW!** For tickets, please contact Joanie Prenger (573-659-0304) or Kim Kliegel (573-619-9188), or purchase at the parish office in the Vitae House in St. Thomas during these hours: Tuesdays, 8:30 - 11:30 am or Wednesdays 8:00 am - 4:30 pm (parish office 573-477-3315). Tickets complimentary of Elite Turf.

SACRED HEART PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, RICH FOUNTAIN is Sunday, October 27, serving sausage & German pot roast dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dine in adults $16.00, dine in children ages 5-10, $10.00 and carry-outs $16.00. Auction 3:00 p.m., shotgun & 22 rifle shooting match 11:00 a.m.

ARGYLE VFW POST 8045 ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER is Sunday, Oct. 27 from 11:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m., $14.00 per meal in Argyle. This is a Carry Out with seating available event. Splatter cards for a chance to win turkey or ham.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER FALL SUPPER, TAOS is Sunday, November 3, serving turkey & sausage dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adults $16, children 6-12 $7.00, dinners to go, $16.00. Mass at 8:00 & 9:30 a.m. K of C Hall, Taos.

SAVE THE DATES: **October 27 – Trunk or Treat 4:00-5:15 St. Thomas the Apostle Church/School parking lot**
November 2 – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Fall Fantasy
November 2- Holiday Mart, Meta – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Meta Civic League Hall & Meta Fire & Rescue

Novena Prayer for the Electorate
Mercy, Respect, Civility

In a contentious political atmosphere, Christians are called to come together and help foster a sense of peace and unity in society. By making time for intentional prayer, we open ourselves to the grace of God, asking for His guidance, wisdom, and the ability to promote civility in public discourse.

The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, is inviting Catholics across our diocese to unite in prayer in the nine days leading up to the November 5, 2024, General Election. By joining in this Novena, we will help cultivate a spirit of mercy in ourselves and in our communities, praying for compassion, understanding, and respect for one another — especially when opinions differ.

With respect for the sanctity of all human life, our participation in this Novena will remind us of the dignity of every human person and call for society to move forward in a way that reflects peace, justice, charity, and the common good.

This special prayer should be prayed by all the faithful, individually in their homes, at Mass, and at other forms of common prayer in church, throughout the nine days of prayer.

Begin with the daily petition (on the opposite page) and conclude with the Novena Prayer, as given below:

Learn more at ***diojeffcity.org/electorate-novena***

Novena Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
let your Spirit be with us today.

Hear our prayers and increase within us
the will to follow your Son, Jesus.

Help us to draw on the resources of our faith as we use the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society more respectful of the life, dignity, and rights of the human person, especially the poor and vulnerable.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,
Who lives and reigns with you
in the communion of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

Begin with the daily petition and conclude with the Novena Prayer, on the opposite page:

Day 1 — Sunday, October 27

For the grace of God's peace to settle in our hearts and in our communities. May we be peacemakers in a world prone to conflict; that we may listen with open hearts and respond with calm minds. Let God's peace reign in our homes, in our nation, and in every conversation. May our words and actions be a source of reconciliation.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 2 — Monday, October 28

For our communities and our country, that we may be granted the will to live out God's mercy, to seek peace, and to uphold the dignity of every human life. Where there has been division, let us seek unity. Where there has been anger, that we may act as peacemakers. Where there has been injury, let forgiveness prevail. May God's love be the foundation upon which we build trust and cooperation.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 3 — Tuesday, October 29

That we may place our trust in God. We know that He holds the future in His hands. For calm to overcome our anxieties and for confidence that God's will is being accomplished. May our minds and hearts respond not to fear or anger, but out of love for you and for our neighbor.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 4 — Wednesday, October 30

For our society to embrace a culture of life from conception to natural death. Let our laws reflect the sanctity of every human life, and let our hearts be moved to protect the unborn, the elderly, the poor, the stranger, and all those who are vulnerable. May we always stand as champions for the dignity of every person and promote the flourishing of all.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 5 — Thursday, October 31

For unity among all believers as we bring before God the wounds of discord of our nation. That we may seek the common good, working together for the well-being of all. May we see each other not as opponents, but as fellow pilgrims journeying toward a better future, united in our desire for justice and peace.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 6 — Friday, November 1

For hearts that reflect God's mercy. May we remember that each person bears God's image, regardless of differing beliefs. That we may extend grace, not judgment, and compassion, not contempt. Let mercy be the foundation of all our interactions as we strive to see beyond divisions.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 7 — Saturday, November 2

For the strength to speak with kindness and wisdom. In the heat of debate, may we always remember the dignity of every person. Let our conversations be filled with truth, tempered by love, and marked by respect.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 8 — Sunday, November 3

For the wisdom to see what unites us. We are one in the Body of Christ. In this time of division and polarization, may we pursue unity, not as conformity, but as the harmony of many voices seeking the common good. May we have the strength to overcome barriers of race, class, and political views, and to build bridges of understanding.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

Day 9 — Monday, November 4

For the strength to love our neighbors, especially those with whom we may disagree. May we embody the compassion God shows us, never failing to extend kindness to others. May our words and actions always reflect the mercy that flows from God. Let us always seek to heal rather than wound.

Let us Pray...(Pray the Novena Prayer)

DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

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.