# 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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## October 6, 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. 6-13:**

Tuesday 7:45 a.m.–***No Mass, Fr. at Priests' Institute***
Wednesday 7:45 a.m.- ***No Mass, Fr. at Priests' Institute***
Thursday 7:45 a.m. - ***No Mass, Fr. at Priests' Institute***
Friday 7:45 a.m. – ***No Mass, Fr. at Priests' Institute***
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Pat Kliegel
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jane Lindenbusch

**Your Sunday Offering:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Offertory Budget for 2024-2025: | $330,000.00 |
| Offertory Goal through Month End: | $ 82,500.00 |
| Actual Collection for 2024-2025: | **$ 76,595.18** |
| Offertory Difference Year to Date: | -$ 5,904.82 |
| Offertory Goal for September: | $ 27,500.00 |

**Collection in Church:**

| | |
|---|---|
| September 1 | $ 4,421.20 |
| September 8 | $ 3,272.57 |
| September 15 | $ 4,315.39 |
| September 22 | $ 2,593.15 |
| September 29 | $5,294.10 |
| **Collection Online:** | $ 7,883.00 |
| **September total to date:** | **$27,779.41** |
| Difference for September: | +$ 279.41 |

**Church Renovation Capital Campaign**

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Pledges/Donations | $501,522.00 |
| Total Collected | $544,364.23 |
| 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 $34,205.56
Loan payments to date $179,020.00
(principal) $165,794.44 (interest) $13,225.56

**St. Thomas the Apostle Cantors / Organists**
Oct. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m.– Jean Kliethermes / Jeanette
Oct. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Judy Schroeder / Jackie
Oct. 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Mary Kay Brand / Alanna
Oct. 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Amanda Wooten / Jackie

**St. Thomas the Apostle Readers**
Oct. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kathy Graessle
Oct. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jennifer Schroeder
Oct. 19 Saturday – 5:00 p.m. –Jan Carter
Oct. 20 Sunday – 10:00 a.m. – Jim Lueckenhoff

### Saint Cecilia
**Mass Schedule for the Week of Oct. 6-13:**

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – ***No Mass, Fr. at Priests' Institute***

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Anna Otto

**Your Sunday Offering:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Offertory Budget for 2024-2025: | $70,000.00 |
| Collection Total for 2024-2025: | **$14,374.25** |
| Offertory Goal per month: | $ 5,583.34 |

**Collection in Church:**

| | |
|---|---|
| September 1 | $ 860.00 |
| September 8 | $1,220.00 |
| September 15 | $ 782.25 |
| September 22 | $ 869.00 |
| September 29 | $ 864.00 |
| **September total to date:** | **$4,595.25** |
| Difference for September: | -$ 988.09 |

**St. Cecilia Collection Counters**
October: Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

***PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.***

**St. Cecilia Readers**
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – ***No Mass, Fr. at retreat***
Sunday, Oct. 13 - 8:00 a.m.- Betty Hagenhoff
Sunday, Oct. 20 - 8:00 a.m.- Dorothy Rehage

**St. Cecilia Organist**
Sunday, October 13 8:00 a.m. – Lydia
Sunday, October 20 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**
Oct. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Phil Akin & Gilbert Schellman
Oct. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Eric Boessen & Art Groner
Oct. 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Al Carter & Adam Holterman
Oct. 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m.–Michael Wooten & Richard Heckemeyer
***Collection baskets choir loft by organ, please return after use.***

**St. Thomas the Apostle Eucharistic Ministers**
Oct. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m.- Marshall Boessen, Mark & Barb Graessle
Oct. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Marian Buschjost, Richard & Jan Heckemeyer
Oct. 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Jenny Becker, Brenda Wansing
Oct. 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Janet Lueckenhoff, Lynne Reinkemeyer, Keith Kliethermes

**St. Thomas the Apostle Servers**
Weekday: Carmen Luebbering & Levi Tallent
Oct. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ava Buschjost, Evelyn Wooten, Gannon Reeves & JD Volmert
Oct. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m.- Victoria & Will Wieberg, Aliyah Buechter & Kora Luebbering
Oct. 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Miranda Meyer, Carmen Luebbering, Emerald Fennewald, Jude Luebbering
Oct. 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Francie, Hannah & Leve Tallent, Stella Volmert

**St. Thomas the Apostle Offertory Gifts**
Oct. 12 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Family of Pat Kliegel
Oct. 13 Sunday 10:00 a.m.– Family of Jane Lindenbusch

**St. Thomas the Apostle Collection Counters**
Oct. 13 - Keith & Jean Kliethermes
Oct. 20 - Sonya Henson & Millie Wieberg
Oct. 27 – Dunja Wieberg & Jennifer Schroeder
Nov. 3 - Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman

**Live stream Mass (10:00 a.m.) Sunday**
Oct. 13 Lauri Luebbering
Oct. 20 Jenny Becker
Oct. 27 Karlie Reinkemeyer
Nov. 3 Brooke Schell
Nov. 10 Jenny Schellman
Nov. 17 Dunja Wieberg

**Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas**
***No Weekday Masses, Fr. at retreat***
Saturday 4:35 p.m. – Barb Graessle – Joyful Mysteries
Sunday 9:35 a.m**.** – Jim & Janet Lueckenhoff– Joyful Mysteries

**St. Cecilia Eucharistic Ministers**
Oct. 13 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen, Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer
Oct. 20 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer, Jennifer Even, Doris Stumpe

**St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers**
Oct. 13 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Mitch & Brendan Stumpe, Leonard Schulte, Randy Hagenhoff
Oct. 20 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Mitch Stumpe, Brendan Stumpe, Leonard Schulte, Randy Hagenhoff

**St. Cecilia Servers**
Oct. 13 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Henry & Annaline Schroeder
Oct. 20 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Sarah & Elizabeth Backes Tucker Schroeder

**St. Cecilia Offertory Gifts**
Oct. 13 Sunday 8:00 a.m.– Family of Anna Otto

**Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia**
Wednesday 6:05 p.m.– ***No Mass, Fr. at retreat***
October 13 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Dorothy Rehagen Joyful Mysteries
October 20 Sunday 7:35 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer Glorious 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**
October 6: Brooke Schell, Tina Stockman, Gina Luebbering, Karen Luebbering
October 13: Alan Libbert, Nancy Libbert, Darrel Buechter, Jan Heckemeyer
October 20: Janet Lueckenhoff, Jim Lueckenhoff, Charlene Buschjost, Randy Buschjost
October 27: Lynne Reinkemeyer, Linda Boessen, Lauri Luebbering, Lisa Lackman
November 3: Sonya Henson, Susan Buechter, Brenda Schell, Barb Graessle

**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 10 –** Jill Rademan & Kailey Reeves **Thursday, October 17** – Lynne Reinkemeyer & Andi Reynolds

**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.

**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.

**VOTE NO on AMENDMENT 3** signs are available on the Vitae front porch. If you need more contact Janet Lueckenhoff 573-690-5682.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISHIONERS:** The parish pictorial directories have arrived! For those who had your photo taken or submitted, you will receive your copy of the directory. We will do our best to deliver your copy in a timely manner. You may also stop in the Vitae house during business hours to pick up your copy. Any questions, please contact Theresa Veit 573-418-7301, Melissa Verslues 573-338-3433 or Jayne Luebbering 573-619-3807.

**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.

**MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION** is Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

**AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA, ROSARY RALLY:** A rosary will be prayed Friday, October 11, 8:00 a.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church by the outside prayer garden. Please come and Pray!

**PASTORS MEDITATION:** For October 7th to 11th, I will be away this week from Monday through Friday for the priests' institute. we will have no weekday Masses. May the good Lord keep you safe.
27th Sunday of year B. **RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY** (Gen. 2:18-24; Heb. 2:9-11; Mk. 10:2-16; 2-12)
We get a glimpse today of the mind of God for His people. It's not good for us to be alone. Into our aloneness, our solitude, which is how He created us, He then brings companions. Some are less "suited" to us, like animals; but some are uniquely suited to us, like fellow human beings, and even a spouse. God did not create us to be self-sufficient, independent islands, but rather to find our meaning and our fulfillment in relationship with others. Our Creator is passionate about being in a relationship, especially with us. As the second reading from the letter to the Hebrews states, we exist for Him and because of Him. In other words, God created us and He created us for Him, to be in relationship with Him. Hebrews also describes the work of redemption as Christ bringing many children to glory. Even our redemption is communal. He doesn't save one at a time, but brings many children to glory. The Psalmist joins into this family mentality by praying that God wants our relationships to be fruitful: the work of our hands to be fruitful in good works, in virtue, in relationships, and also fruitful in sons and daughters.
In the Gospel, it's no coincidence that Jesus first talks about the integrity and importance of marriage, and fidelity in marriage, and then talks about children and letting the children come to Him. This is why the Church is so strongly against divorce, and so strongly pro-life. Strong marriages are necessary for strong families. Those of you who are married, what are you doing to strengthen your marriage? What are all of us doing to support and pray for strong marriages? And yet, the Church responds with the compassion of Jesus to those who do experience divorce. With regard to children, Jesus even goes so far as to say that the kingdom of God belongs to such as the children. Why? Because they're completely dependent on mom and dad for survival. Every child in the womb is completely dependent on mom for survival. If we want to belong to the kingdom of God, we need to learn to be completely dependent on the heavenly Father for survival. Aren't you glad that the heavenly Father willed life for you? Life at the price of His Son's Blood! He believes that for all His children. This Sunday is called Respect Life Sunday. What makes respect for every human life worthy is the life of Christ poured out on the Cross for us. He didn't die only for the born; He didn't die only for those past the second trimester. He died for every human life, male, female, mother, father, son, daughter, healthy or terribly sick. The most deformed baby in the womb, already God has a relationship with her or him, because it's not good for us to be alone. In the prophet Jeremiah, God says, before I formed you in the womb, I called you. Notice how God accompanies us from conception to death. And He calls us to accompany each other in the same way, with mercy and with love, supporting families before, during and after pregnancy. We have many such ministries of mercy in our Church, but the truth is that we need more. Every Christian man and woman is called to imitate the heavenly Father in a ministry of mercy to support and accompany others, especially pregnant women and single mothers. We need to respect the life of the mother, and the child in her womb, with equal love and mercy. This Gospel of life and accompaniment demands that we speak out on the moral issue that is **Amendment 3. Amendment 3** is a constitutional amendment for the State of Missouri. That means if it passes, it will be beyond the reach of the legislature. This Amendment will prohibit the legislature from outlawing or even regulating abortions before viability. Beyond that point of viability generally understood to be 6 months after the baby is conceived, the Abortion Amendment says the state government can regulate but cannot prohibit abortion. So, it would allow for abortion over the whole 9 months of pregnancy. The Amendment would override safeguards in Missouri law that help protect women from unsafe abortions, for example, that abortion clinics comply with the state's health and safety standards for outpatient surgical centers and be located close enough to a hospital that a woman can get treatment if life-threatening complications arise. It also overrides the current law that parents of a minor be notified before their daughter can have an abortion. The Amendment only requires a healthcare professional to perform the abortion procedure, which could include a Physician Assistant, a pharmacist, or even a dental hygienist. The Catholic Missourian has some great articles regarding Amendment 3. I strongly encourage you to read them and to inform yourselves on this issue. Don't be afraid to let people know, calmly and with mercy, your thoughts on this Amendment. Speak with mercy and love and be a light for others.
Jesus says still today, let the children come to me. Let the children come to maturity in Christ, let them grow into a relationship with Christ from conception to natural death. Let the legislature craft good laws and not be overridden by a bad amendment. Let the Church be pro-life. And to be pro-life, it's not enough to oppose Amendment 3; we have to support women through their entire journey, before, during, and long after pregnancy. Let's walk together, as little children, to Jesus, who knitted all of us together in the womb, who knows and loves us from the womb. Let us strive to know and love from the womb, too. Let us pray to have the mind and heart of Christ, especially regarding life issues and how to think and speak about them. (From the liturgical commission, Jefferson City Diocese) ***Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi***

**ST THOMAS STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL KICK OFF WEEKEND October 5th & 6th:** Stop by the 4 pillars (Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, & Service) booths after Mass to see how you can deepen or express your faith and participate in the mission of our parish. Grab a cinnamon roll, pick up your packet and enter to win a $25 Amazon gift card!

**Church Decorating:** I've been involved in church decorating since 1978, spanning a period of 46 years and 7 pastorates. The only formal training I have had in decorating is a class presentation in floral design taught by Dr. Ray Rothenberger, a horticulture professor from UMC, which was aired on local television sometime in the early 1960's. This class presentation taught me the elements of floral design, but more importantly, it brought out and revealed to me skills and talents that I wasn't aware I possessed. My 46 years of volunteering at St. Thomas Church allowed me to perfect these skills and share them with the surrounding community. During this timeframe I surrounded myself with other creative people, and together we did great and wonderful things when planning the decorations for Christmas, Easter and special occasions. If you feel that you possess creativity when it comes to the art of decorating or working with flowers, don't be afraid to volunteer. Don't be afraid to take a class or two, to bring out the artistic talents and skills that might be hidden within you. One of the greatest gifts of creativity is – BEING ABLE TO EXPRESS IT. I have been doing that for 46 years and it has been a very rewarding and fulfilling experience. **Bill Boessen**

**Sacristan/Linens:** Stewardship roles do not always need to be glamorous or overwhelming. I wash, iron, and mend the servers' surplices and cassocks and keep their closet 'picked up' in between when needed. It's enjoyable to talk to some of the servers if I run into them changing after Mass. This job is something I can do on my own schedule which works well for me. Our church services are beautiful because so many have added their touch to it in some way. I like knowing I contributed to that effort. **June Groner**

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE /ST. CECILIA YOUTH ALLIANCE:** All youth members of St. Thomas and St. Cecilia who have been confirmed are invited to attend Youth Alliance events twice monthly, alternating between St. Cecilia and St. Thomas. Confirmation is merely a beginning, not an end, to our faith journey, and what better way to continue it than through faith, fellowship, and fun with other youth from our parishes? Come join us at our first event Wednesday, October 9 from 7:00. to 8:00 p.m. at the St. Cecilia parish center basement for trivia night and games. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Friends are welcome! For more information, contact Samantha Helton at (573) 469-8649 or Jeff Cassmeyer at (573) 690-7546.

**THE OVER FIFTY GROUP** will be gathering again this coming week (Thursday, October 10) at the parish center eating at noon, visiting and a "fun fact". Plan to attend, bringing a covered dish and enjoy the afternoon.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS:**
October 7-11 Achievement Testing, Grades 2-8
Thursday, October 10, Early Release K-8, 12:50 car riders, 1:00 p.m. bus riders
Friday, October 11, End of 1st Quarter
October 14-18- Red Ribbon Week
Thursday, October 17, Flu Clinic 10:00 p.m., Safety Kids K-4, 1:00 p.m.

**PREGNANCY HELP CENTER 14TH ANNUAL BANQUET** is Thursday, October 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Capitol Plaza Hotel. To register online by October 17 at *www.friendsofphc.org* or call 573-644-6635.

**THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING** is Tuesday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. A rosary will be prayed at 7:15 p.m. Please read the October newsletter attached to the bulletin.

**MEN OF ST. THOMAS & ST. CECILIA PARISHES:** Men of St. Thomas and 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, October 16, at Helias Catholic High School. Feel free to come early to pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Our topic this month is the Four Marian Dogmas presented by Ed Galbraith. During this month of the Rosary, come to deepen your devotion to our Blessed Mother through a more extensive understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church. As always, enter the school on the east end of the front Swifts Highway parking lot to sign in. 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 to refine ourselves to meet the many challenges of our day. For more information, contact Jeff Cassmeyer at 573-690-7546, or visit us atwww.menofsignumcrucis.com.

**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). To be entered in the **Early Bird Drawing** and a chance to win $125, tickets must be purchased by October 5. Tickets complimentary of Elite Turf.

**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**

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**
**September 24, 2024**

Meeting Called to Order **Attendance:** Father Leonard, Shane Verslues, Andi Reynolds, Richard Heckemeyer, Leroy Heckemeyer, Lynne Reinkemeyer, Logan Peters, Linda Boessen, Sonya Henson, Alanna Stockman, Brenda Schell **Not in Attendance:** Mike Wieberg
**Principal's Report / School Advisory Council:** Mr. Keith Buechter, our Maintenance and Custodian supervisor, is doing a fantastic job. There have been a ton of things that Mr. Buechter has been able to take care of so far this school year with this position!!! We are extremely fortunate to have Keith in this position for our parish and the school!!
In addition to the Pre-school Aides/Extended Care helpers, we also hired Owen Schellman to help with our Extended Care program and he has been a very nice addition to the staff. He is doing great!
We also welcomed our new Music Instructor, Mrs. Randi Twehous. We are so excited to have a music teacher for this school year and she is doing great!
The new roof on the main school building is completed.
This school year began on Wednesday, August 14 and we currently have 84 students enrolled this year.
Upcoming Events:
No School on Monday, September 30 – Diocesan Professional Development Day
There is a bullying presentation for grades 3-5 and 6-8 on Tuesday, October 1st at the St. Joe Cathedral School (Cana Hall) TBA
Achievement Testing for grades 2-8 will be on October 7-11.
The end of 1st Qt. will be Friday, October 11th.
The Flu Shot Clinic will be on Thursday, October 17th starting at 10:00 AM in the school library.
The Safety Kids assembly for grades K-4 will be held on Thursday, October 17th at 1:00 PM.
Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, October 24th, which will be an Early Release Day. There will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, October 25.
Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 27th: 4:00-5:15 pm.
Halloween parties will be held on Thursday, October 31st.
There will be NO SCHOOL on Monday, November 4th (Diocesan Professional Development Day)
**Pastoral Council Commission Reports**
Pastoral Council Commission Reports
Worship: Reviewed and Scheduled Upcoming Masses:
No Mass Wednesday, October 9 – Fr Leonard will be out
All Saints – Friday, November 1, 2024: 7:45 AM – St. Thomas Church and 6:30 PM – St. Cecilia
All Souls – Saturday, November 2, 2024: 10:00 AM –St. Cecilia Cemetery (weather permitting, otherwise at church)
Fall Fantasy November 2, 2024
Deer Season (Saturday Night Masses) – November 16 and 23, 2024: 5:00 PM – St. Thomas and 7:00 PM – St. Cecilia – Both Saturdays of November
St. Cecilia Feast Day Mass – Sunday, November 17, 2024, normal 8 AM Mass – Pastoral Council to offer Cookies/Snacks after mass in Celebration of the Patron Saint
Christ the King Mass, November 24
Thanksgiving Vigil Mass – Wednesday, November 27, 2024: 6:30 PM – St. Cecilia
Thanksgiving Mass – Thursday, November 28, 2024: 9:00 AM – St. Thomas
Next Meeting (October 29, 6:30 PM at St. Cecilia) – Committee will discuss Immaculate Conception Mass, Advent, Christmas and New Year's Masses
**Other Business:**
October 5th & 6th – Catholic Stewardship Renewal Kick-off – Janet addressed the group about the "Rolling Out the New Year of Stewardship" kick-off event that will happen after Mass October 5th and 6th at St. Thomas. The Stewardship Committee will have booths for the 4 Pillars of Stewardship: Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Each booth will have lists of stewardship opportunities and descriptions with members available to answer questions.

Cinnamon Rolls will be served, family packets will be available for pick up. Lydia will talk with the St. Cecilia Pastoral Council about setting up Committee tables for St Cecilia Parish that same day.

**PSR Updates:**

St. Thomas POC – Barb Graessle and St. Cecilia POCs – Samantha Helton & Jennifer Even

Barb stated that St. Thomas PSR will be ordering new books for the K-5TH grades. They are awaiting approval for books for the 6TH—8TH grades.

September 11 – St. Thomas PSR had a Parents meeting to discuss the rule changes, religion year expectations and more.

Barb proposed to Fr. Leonard and the group that the PSR students have Mass participation at St. Thomas on a Wednesday night Mass at least once a "semester". This would move the Wednesday night Mass from St. Cecilia that night to St. Thomas. The St Thomas PSR students would then have Confessions after Mass. The Mass participation and confessions would be offered for St. Cecilia students at St Cecilia. Fr. Leonard would consider this. The PSR coordinators would need to create a calendar of St. Cecilia and St. Thomas PSR classes and special Masses to be presented to Fr. Leonard and the committee.

November 2025 – NCYC – Barb would like assistance in coordinating St. Thomas and St. Cecilia High Schoolers to attend the NCYC next year. Registrations are due in January. The Parishes would attend with the Diocese of Jefferson City. St. Thomas CYO has funds, but attendance for the event would have to be advertised and the kids would have to raise their own funds to attend. Barb is contacting St. Lawrence (St. Elizabeth) and / or St. Stanislaus (Wardsville) about joining them if needed.

November 1 and November 2: Fall Women's Ministry Retreat – We Are Family – Diocese of Jefferson City (registration link: https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events/ ) November 1st – Ladies Night Out – includes dinner and an evening Adoration Hour. November 2nd – Retreat from 10 AM – 3:30 PM with doors opening at 9AM. Opportunity to attend Mass on both days; All Saints Mass (11/1) at 5:30 PM, and Saturday Mass (11/2) at 4 PM.

Brenda Schell proposed to Fr. Leonard and the Committee that we add guitar music at Mass. Fr. approved. Brenda will put out feelers for any musicians that would be interested in participating in Mass.

Janet discussed St. Martin's Parish Ministry Book of Stewardship addressing new ideas of getting Parishioners involved with the church. Suggestions / Examples – 1) Recognition of all parishioners that died in the previous year at a specific Mass in November. The families of the deceased would be invited to attend the Mass. A candle with a photo of each parishioner lit (created from the old Easter Candles – cut into portions per parishioner that passed) 2) Mardi Gras potluck Dinner 3) Soup Suppers Wednesday nights of Lent 4) "I See In You" – pointing out strengths and talents of Parishioners and how they can use those points towards their Parish life 5) 7 Sisters of the Apostolate (Prayers for our Priest) (add as a sign up table in October at the Stewardship Kick-off)

**Social Concerns**

The post picnic committee meeting had a few suggestions/a wish list for the Parish Council Finance Committee:

5 more black mats

10 additional white tables for outside areas

New oven mitts for kitchen area

10 x 20 tent as they are getting harder to find to borrow

Upgrade the pump/sewage system

The social concerns served donuts after the Catechetical Sunday Mass.

The Fall Fantasy Committee said they would like suggestions on how to get parishioners to work at the Fall Fantasy.

**Administration**

MO Builders Service has finished the reroof of the school. There is a 20 year warranty on roofs, so if there is a problem, they will quickly come to fix it. They are going to install new gutters and downspouts on the north and south side the week of 9/30/24.

The redbuds in the front of the church are dying and limbs are falling out. Roseanne and Eric Boessen have offered to put new trees in if the Finance Committee agrees to the cost. They have suggested putting in Spruces and Dogwood trees. Shane will talk to the Finance Committee and see if we can get these in soon or if we will need to wait for the spring. The dying tree in the playground area will be replaced in the spring.

The clear closure piece by the window in the choir loft stairway has been completed.

Shane will be getting a trash can for the playground area.

**Finance Committee:** The budget is on track.

We discussed if those who pay electronically would need to receive the envelopes yet. We decided to go ahead and keep the envelopes going for those families as there are some envelopes that are for special collections as well as the yellow one for building improvements.

**Pastor's Report**

Starting October 1st, both Parishes have the Blood of Christ offered at Mass, again. This will require additional Communion Ministers for each Parish.

**REMINDER** – anyone assisting with Mass services will need to take Virtus Training.

October 2 is Father's birthday!

The St. Thomas Preschool Sunday School is off to a great start! Thank you to the ladies for taking this on.

St Cecilia and St Thomas Mass Count – completed July 2024.

October 7-11 – Fr Leonard will be attending the Priest's Institute Refresher Course.

Fr. Leonard will celebrate 20 years of Priesthood, July 2025.

Barb Graessle is organizing PSR teachers. There are enough teachers at this time so thank you to all that have volunteered their time and talent for this!

There was a Deanery Meeting on 6/4/24 at the Cathedral Undercroft. It was decided to converge people from various parishes to instruct new people to the faith.

The Parish Directory is in its final print stage.

I.C. Church has an app that allows parishioners that sign up for volunteering to be able to contact others who volunteer for the same activity if they are unable to fill their duty for that weekend Mass. This would allow another parishioner to take their place. We may look into this but will wait for the Stewardship Kick Off to take place.

**New Business**

Janet Lueckenhoff is heading the CSR – Catholic Stewardship Renewal. The kick off will be October 5th and 6th with informational booths and cinnamon rolls. Janet is looking for 4 people to head each of the 4 pillars: Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service.

The giving tree was discussed. We decided to leave the giving tree as is.

An anonymous donor will be replacing 8 to 10 of the electric roasters in the parish hall.

**Next meeting is** November 21, 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

**Join us for the 13th Annual**
**St. Thomas Trunk or Treat**

**October 27th, 2024 ~ 4-5:15 PM**
**St. Thomas Church Parking Lot**

**In order to make this a huge success, we need trunks to hand out candy! Plan for 200 trick-or-treaters. Decorate your trunk/area in Halloween decorations or a theme or bring a table!**

**RSVP by Wednesday, October 23rd**

**Please call the school office at 573-477-3322, send an email to kmorris@stacs.school or dlueckenhoff@embarqmail.com, or return the form below to sign-up for a spot!!**

**It is our hope to provide a safe and fun time for our kids and community members! Please come out and support this fun event!!**

**********

**_____ Yes, we will hand out candy at the Trunk-or-Treat!!**

**_____**
**Name**

**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.

*What would Amendment 3 actually do?*

**Prohibit any regulation of abortion**

Amendment 3 would invalidate any existing laws and prohibit new laws that voters on both sides of the abortion issue support, including health and safety laws that protect women.

**VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 3**

*Safeguard them both*

Learn more at *diojeffcity.org/amendment3*

DIOCESE OF Jefferson City