The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Thomas the Apostle in St. Thomas — St. Cecilia in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net ***www.stceciliameta.net***
www.stthomasapostleschool.net

PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 26, 2026

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 July 26-Aug. 2

Tuesday 7:45 am	Sylvanus Hoecker
Wednesday 7:45 am	***No Mass, Summer schedule***
Thursday 7:45 am	Kesley Heckemeyer
Friday 7:45 am	Lucille Veit
Saturday 5:00 pm	People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 am	L&D John H. Boessen Family

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of July 26-Aug. 2

Wednesday 6:30 pm	Vince and Brad Reinkemeyer
Sunday 8:00 am	Fritz & Margie Luebbert

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2026-2027	$360,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	$30.000.00
Actual Collection for 2026-2027	$22,518.35
Offertory Difference Year to Date	-$7,481.65
Offertory Goal for July	$30,000.00

Collection in Church

July 5	$6,253.10
July 12	$4,335.25
July 19	$3,802.00
July 26	

Collection Online	$8,128.00
July Total to Date	$22,518.35
Difference for July	-$7,481.65

Your Sunday Offering

Offertory Budget for 2026-2027	$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2026-2027	**$2,350.00**
Offertory Goal per Month for July	$5,833.33

Collection in Church

July 5	$1,141.00
July 12	$519.00
July 19	$690.00
July 26	

July Total to Date	$2,350.00
Difference for July	-$3,483.33

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle

Tuesday 7:25 am	Bob Schellman - Sorrowful
Wednesday 7:25 am	***No Mass, Summer Schedule***
Thursday 7:25 am	Dale Herigon – Luminous
Friday 7:25 am	Jim Lueckenhoff – Sorrowful

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia & Lector
Wednesday –Dorothy Rehagen- Glorious

Lector: Doris Stumpe

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday 5:00 pm	Ushers
Sunday 10:00 am	Family of John H. Boessen

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Sunday	Family of Fritz & Margie Luebbert

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

BULLETIN NOTICES 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.

Liturgical Role Schedule for August 1 & 2

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Luebbering, Hank Otto, Benjamin Otto, Haddie Otto, Luke	Derkum, Natalee Werdehausen, Gavin	Libbert, Jayden Luebbering, Isabella Luebbering, Oliver Luebbering, Isaac
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Kliethermes, Keith Graessle, Barb Graessle, Mark	Plassmeyer, Dominic Plassmeyer, Mary Even, Jennifer	Wieberg, Rosalyn Luebbering, Ben Prenger, Glenn
Lector	Holterman, Kara	Wansing, Don	Wieberg, Rosalyn
Rosary Leader: Joyful	Herigon, Dale	Plassmeyer, Mary	Schroeder, Jennifer
Greeters/Ushers	Boessen, Keith Holterman, Adam	Schulte, Leonard Hagenhoff, Randy	Stockman, Doug Stockman, Zac
Music Ministry	Schroeder, Jeanette Kliethermes, Jean	Prenger, Jackie	Stockman, Alanna Luebbering, Doug
Live Stream			Luebbering, Lauri
Count Collections		Helton, Dale Helton, Margie	Henson, Sonya Wieberg, Millie
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Luebbering, Gina - Luebbering, Karen - Pace, Brooke - Stockman, Tina		

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

PASTORS MEDITATION: ***17TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: NO PRICE TOO HIGH FOR THE KINGDOM. (1Kgs. 3:5, 7-12; Rom. 8:28-30; Mt. 13:44-52)***
Today's readings teach us that Faith in Jesus as our God and Savior and sacrificing everything in life to do the will of God is equivalent to discovering and possessing the most valuable treasure or the "pearl of great price". In other words, keeping a personal relationship with Jesus, remaining in a state of grace, and sharing his view of life are the most beautiful and the most precious things in the world.The first reading tells us how the young King Solomon opted for the great treasure of accepting God to rule his life by doing His will. That is why he requested of God the gift of prudence, "an understanding heart to distinguish right from wrong," so that he might govern God's people properly. The Lord God was pleased with Solomon's request and granted him a wise and discerning heart, which enabled him to surpass everyone in wisdom. In the second reading, Paul teaches that "all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." This is true of all who accept a close relationship with God as their greatest treasure. In the Gospel, using three mini-parables and one concluding simile, Jesus teaches us that God's Kingdom, is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl. Possessing that treasure demands from us a total commitment if we are to preserve it. The Kingdom of God is God's reign in our hearts, in our lives, in our homes, in our society, and in our world. Only those who develop a searching mind and a heart willing to give up everything for the great treasure of God's Kingdom will be rewarded. Through the first and second parables of the treasure and pearl, Jesus teaches us that identifying God's will and living according to the Gospel, are the most precious and worthwhile things in life. Through Jesus and his Gospel, we come to know and understand the real meaning of life, the will of God for us each day, and the most important things we must do to secure our eternal salvation. Therefore friends, we should live every moment in view of our precious treasure/goal. Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, power, social status, or worldly pleasures. Thus, the really valuable "pearl" of sharing in God's life through Jesus here on earth and later in Heaven, is never found. Let us always remember that Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God, following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world's joys and pleasures within the framework of God's Commandments. When we do this, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth. We need to take all precautions to keep our greatest treasure safe: We will be able to keep safe the treasure of our personal relationship with Jesus by accepting him every day as our God and Savior, by allowing God to have total control over our lives through our loving obedience to His will, by asking Him daily for the strengthening and guidance of His Holy Spirit, by talking to Him daily in prayer, by listening to Him in our meditative reading of the Bible, by getting reconciled to Him and others every day, asking for pardon and forgiveness for our sins, by offering Him our lives on the altar during the Holy Mass, and by allowing Him to nourish our souls frequently, by receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.
Have a blessed week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, July 28, 7:00 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PPC MEETING is Tuesday, July 28, 7:00 pm in school library.

ST. CECLIA HOLY HOUR & ANOINTING OF THE SICK is Friday, July 31, 7:00 pm St. Cecilia Church.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PICNIC DRAFT WORK-LIST may be found on the Parish website.
http://www.stthomasapostle.net/uploads/5/3/5/5/53557643/draft_worklist_-_website__25-july-2026_.pdf

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PICNIC DESSERT AUCTION: If you would like to make a special dessert for our August 16th parish picnic dessert auction, please contact Roseanne Boessen at 573 301-9591. You can do it to showcase your baking talents, your mom's family favorite dessert, or just for the pure joy of baking. We appreciate your contribution! Thank you.

URGENT REQUEST FOR THE ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PICNIC COUNTRY'S STORE: We are in need of gooseberries!! The early frost wiped out our usual harvest…gooseberry pies are our biggest sellers!!! So, if you have any to donate, please call Lucy Suthoff, 573-645-6801 or Donna Luebbering 573-690-0822. And as always, we welcome donations of various other fruits or pie & jelly making. THANK YOU!

COR Men's Gathering – Tuesday, July 28 All men are invited to join us **Tuesday, July 28, at 7:00 PM** at the **St. Stanislaus/St. Margaret Community Center (KofC Hall)**. We continue our new series, **Mission of the Family**, with **Session 2: "Marriage: The Foundation of the Family."** Come grow in your faith through prayer, fellowship, and discussion with other Catholic men. Whether you're married or single, this session offers encouragement for living God's plan for family life.

CALLING ALL CURSILLISTAS! Come renew your faith, reconnect with old friends, and be encouraged on your Fourth Day journey at the See City Deanery Ultreya on Tuesday, August 11, at St. Stanislaus Parish Center. Schedule: Mass: 5:30 PM, Pizza & Salad: 6:00 PM Ultreya: 6:45 PM

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRESCHOOL: If you have a child, ages 3 or 4 and have been thinking about preschool, please call Lizzie Linhardt, *llinhardt@stacs.school* 573-645-5605 or the school office 573-477-3322. If you have any questions or would like to set up a one on one meeting and school tour, please contact the school office. Please check out and like St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool Facebook page.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH QUILT GROUPS: Thank you to everyone who helped in ways towards the quilts for our 2026 parish picnic. We have a good selection and hope the auction goes well. The quilt list for the 2027 picnic is found on our web page. The first name on the list is the chairperson and is responsible for having a quilt ready for the 2027 picnic. The quilts should be finished by June 1, 2027, so they can be listed on the picnic flier. Chairpersons are asked to contact the other members of their group. If you would like to help us quilt, come and join our circle this Fall. We will need some quilt tops with lining to be quilted by August 19. If you have any questions, please call Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strope at 573-477-3349.

THE ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE has been rescheduled to Thursday, July 30, 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Hall. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter StThomasParish to schedule an appointment.

THE META CITIZENS CIVIC LEAGUE is having a monthly meeting on Monday, July 27 at 7:00 PM.

ST. THOMAS BOWLING MEETING: The annual bowling meeting will be held on **Monday**, July 27, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the St. Thomas bowling alley. This is an important meeting so: all teams are requested to have at least one member present for this meeting.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CEMETERY REMINDER: All artificial flowers must be in a vase. No glass objects of any kind. All objects deemed by the management to hinder ground maintenance shall be removed.

SAVE THE DATES:
4-H Garden Tractor Pull rescheduled for August 8, 2026
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Picnic – Sunday, August 16, 2026
St. Thomas the Apostle 30th Annual Fall Fantasy – Saturday, November 7, 2026
Sunday, September 20 - Meta Citizens Civic League Fall Festival

BLEST ART

Please visit our display
At your parish
Saturday & Sunday
August 1st and 2nd, 2026
After each Mass

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blest Art will be visiting your parish on behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine. Our mission is to support those families in the Holy Land. When Blest Art visits your parish, we will have hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art.

We gladly accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

PICNIC

Fried chicken and roast beef served with mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, green beans, sauerkraut, cucumbers, tomatoes, homestyle bread and homemade pies

*Gluten free roast beef and gravy

Adults: $16 Children 6-12: $7 Under 6: Free

11:00AM - 6:30PM

AUGUST 16 | 2026

Quilt Auction begins at 5:00pm

View quilts at www.stthomasapostle.net

Grand Raffle ($1,000 top prize)

Air-conditioned Bingo - Country Store

Kidsville - Bounce House - Kettle Corn

Beer Garden & Gin Rickeys

Live Music by Brittney Buscher & Chloe Hoecker

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.