

The Roman Catholic Parishes of

St. Thomas the Apostle

in St. Thomas

St. Cecilia

in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net

PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2015

Pastor: Father Jeremy A. Secrist
jasecrist@yahoo.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315

St. Thomas Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Jenny Becker
jbeckeroffice@gmail.com

St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Doris Stumpe
dorisstumpe@att.net



First Sunday in Advent

School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
lheckemeyer@embarqmail.com
School: 573-477-3322 Fax: 573-477-3700

St. Thomas Secretary:
Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff
stthomasoffice@embarqmail.com

School Website:
www.stthomasapostleschool.net

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Thursdays 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

St. Cecilia Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

School Office hours during school year: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. at St. Thomas; Sundays 7:30 - 7:50 a.m. at St. Cecilia;
or anytime by appointment, just call Father.

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Mass Schedule for the Week of November 29-December 6:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – L&D Knights of Columbus
Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Loreen Volmert
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – Doug Kissinger
Thursday 7:45 a.m. – Al Fick
Friday 7:45 a.m. – Ida Schellman

Anointing of the Sick following Mass, Adoration until 5:50 p.m.

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – David Borgmeyer
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Deceased members of Jerome Buschjost Family

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2015-2016: \$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End: \$127,085.00
Actual Collection for 2015-2016: **\$110,730.02**
Offertory Difference Year to Date: - \$16,354.98
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 25,417.00

Collection in Church:

November 1 \$5,409.00
November 8 \$5,109.00
November 15 \$2,645.00
November 22 \$1,670.00
November 29 \$

Collection Online: \$5,244.00
November total to date: **\$20,077.00**
Difference for November: - **\$ 5,340.00**

St. Thomas the Apostle Expansion & Building Fund

Total Expansion Project expenses paid: \$2,273,475.34
Income from parishioners for fiscal year 2015-2016
(via the yellow "Building Fund" envelope): **\$11,311.00**
Loan payments to date for fiscal year 2015-2016: **\$46,138.70**
(Principal) \$36,194.00 (Interest) \$9,944.60
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining: **\$547,859.44**

St. Thomas Cantor / Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Kerry Meyer/Lindsay
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Lisa Wieberg/Jackie

St. Thomas Reader/ Petitions

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Amanda Wooten
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jennifer Schroeder

St. Thomas Altar Servers

Weekday– Jackson Braun & Ben Schroeder
Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Emma & Olivia Boessen,
Bruno Puleo, Sam Schaefer
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Lane & Kenzie Libbert,
Erika Luebbering, Emily Schell

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of November 29-December 6:

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Lawrence & Scott Otto
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Roman & Geneva Plassmeyer

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Fred Hagenhoff

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – People of our Parishes
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Lionel, Arharta, Bonnie & Sandy Libbert

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2015-2016: \$60,471.51
Collection Total for 2015-2016: **\$24,553.51**
Offertory Goal per month: \$ 5,039.29

Collection in Church:

November 1 \$1,288.00
November 8 \$1,172.00
November 15 \$ 883.25
November 22 \$ 950.00
November 29 \$

November total to date: **\$4,293.25**
Difference for November: - **\$ 746.04**

Please remember your parish in your last will & testament.

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

December – Pam Libbert & Marie Lueckenotto

St. Cecilia Reader / Petitions

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Doris Stumpe
Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Jennifer Even
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

St. Cecilia Altar Servers

December 5-6
Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Joshua & Alex Even,
Ben & Henry Schroeder
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Will & Melina Derkum
Sophie Bock, Skyla Schroeder

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

December 5-6

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Jenny Becker

Marshall Boessen

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Rob Henson, Richard & Jan Heckemeyer, Emily Luebbering, Janet Lueckenhoff

December 12-13

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mike & Trish Green, Betty Schellman

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Linda Lueckenhoff, Glenn Prenger, Mike & Sheri Wieberg, Millie Wieberg

St. Thomas Greeters/Ushers * please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass begins to greet & assist parishioners

December 5-6

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark Boessen & Gregg Boessen

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – TJ Loethen & Mattheuw Prenger

December 12-13

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mike Groner & Dave Luebbering

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Keith Kliethermes & Mike Buschjost

St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass

December 5-6

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Jenny Becker

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe

December 12-13

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Gregg & Susan Boessen

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Leonard & Kathy Strobe

St. Thomas Collection Counters:

December 5-6 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes

December 12-13- Richard & Jan Heckemeyer

December 19-20 – Rosalyn Wieberg & Donna Schellman

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tues., 7:25 a.m.–Alex & Joann–Sorrowful (Caleb Schroeder)

Wed. 7:25 a.m. – Pat – Glorious (Renee Stockman)

Thursday 7:25 a.m. – Celeste & Martha –Luminous

(Cassie Twehus)

Fri. 7:25 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina- Sorrowful (Bailey Veltrop)

Sat. 4:40 p.m. – Paul Becker – Joyful (Tyler Wankum)

Sun. 9:40 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina– Joyful

(Megan Werdehausen)

* The names listed after the mysteries of the rosary to be prayed before Mass are those from St. Cecilia and St. Thomas the Apostle Parishes who are preparing for the Sacrament Confirmation. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this important Sacrament.

ST. THOMAS PRAYER EMAIL REQUESTS: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: all email prayer requests should be sent to jbeckeroffice@gmail.com instead of lackmanlt@aol.com. Please remember that the sole purpose of the parish prayer line and email communication is to ask for prayers for those particularly in need. Out of respect for individuals' privacy, only necessary information is communicated.

SCRIP SALES (December 5-6) Visit www.stthomasapostleschool.net/scrip for more information about the Scrip program.

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Karen Luebbering

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – April Heckman

LADIES TO BRING SNACK TO ST. THOMAS QUILTERS:

Thursday: December 3 – Jenny Becker & Agnes Boessen **Thursday: December 10** – Linda Boessen & Mary Boessen

Please bring to hall by 1:00 p.m.; snack served at 3:00 p.m. If you have questions, please call Kathy Strobe or Emily Luebbering.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:

Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 7 (Vigil) at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas,

Tuesday, December 8 at 7:45 a.m. at St. Thomas &

Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Cecilia.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS:

Mass will be celebrated on December 24: 5:00 p.m. & Midnight

December 25: 10:30 a.m.

ST. CECILIA:

December 24: 7:00 p.m.

December 25: 8:30 a.m.

MARY MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS:

December 31, 2015: 6:00 p.m.

January 1, 2016: 10:00 a.m.

ST. CECILIA:

January 1, 2016: 8:00 a.m.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Lucas Paul Schulte**, son of Justin & Samantha Schulte, who was washed in the saving waters of Baptism on Friday, November 27.

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS Magnificat reflection booklets with daily reflections are available at the entrances to church to assist your daily prayer during the season of Advent.

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

December 5-6

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Bonnie Kampeter, Lou Kloeppel,

Brenda Wansing

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Gerald & Phyllis Rehagen,

Pam Libbert

December 12-13

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Doris Stumpe, Jennifer Even, Betty

Hagenhoff

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Janice

Schanzmeyer

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Tom Gragert, Lou Kloeppel,

Mitch & Brendan Stumpe

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Terry Libbert, Tony Derkum, Leon

Schanzmeyer, Kenny Otto

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. – Florentine Hagenhoff – Glorious

Mysteries (Josh Wieberg)

Saturday 6:40 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer– Joyful Mysteries

(Sarah Wolken)

Sunday 7:40 a.m. – Janice Schanzmeyer – Joyful Mysteries

(Paul Backes)

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$2.50.**

**IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFILL
YOUR LITURGICAL MINISTRY,
IN YOUR KINDNESS & CHARITY,
PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT.**

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Please call Fr. Secrist at least six months prior to the desired date.

CHRIST THE KING ICON in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center was blessed following Mass on Christ the King Sunday. Many sincere thanks to the Family of Geneva Plassmeyer for their memorial donation that provided for this prominent depiction of Our Lord in the Parish Center.

TIME AND TALENT forms are still available at the entrances of Church (green color for St. Thomas; peach color for St. Cecilia). If you wish to add or change your current ministries and activities, please complete and return a form.

2015 CHRISTMAS/SEMINARY ASSESSMENT: This year our assessment for Seminarian Formation & Priest Retirement is \$3,688 for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Please use the envelope included in your December packet.

A NOTE OF THANKS!

As a thank you to our Parish Family for supporting us, the St. Thomas CYO hosted a chicken dinner on November 7 to support the St. Thomas Church Restoration Project. We would like to thank everyone that supported or assisted us to make this dinner a success. Because of your generosity we were able to raise \$1,200.

MINISTRY TO THE ILL & INFIRM: If you are preparing for surgery, recovering from surgery, homebound or ill, please let Fr. Secrist (477-3315) and/or MaryPat Luebbering (477-3476) know so that you have the opportunity to receive the Sacraments and pastoral care.

THE 2015-2016 CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL (CSA): The Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA) is our opportunity to come together as the Church in the 95 Catholic Parishes and 15 missions of our diocese. This year, CSA videos are available on the diocesan website www.diojeffcity.org. Please take the time to view the informational videos by clicking on the "Youtube video" link located on the upper right hand corner.

The 2016 CSA goal for **St. Cecilia Parish** is **\$3,363.00 (8 have pledged \$800.00 so far)**

The 2016 CSA goal for **St. Thomas Parish** is **\$7,945.00 (16 have pledged \$2,455.00 so far)**.

There are CSA envelopes in the entrances of Church.

PENANCE SERVICES AROUND THE AREA DURING ADVENT:

Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Parish, Loose Creek

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 p.m. Holy Family Parish, Freeburg

Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia

Monday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Help Parish, Frankenstein

Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m. St. Aloysius Parish, Argyle

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m. St. Anthony of Padua, Folk

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, St. Thomas

ST. CECILIA CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you want to remember your loved ones during the Christmas season, you may make a monetary donation with their names (CLEARLY PRINTED) in an envelope marked "ST. CECILIA FLOWER DONATION". Please place the flower donations in the collection basket between now and December 20. The names of those to be remembered will be published in the December 26-27 bulletin.

ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Those wishing to make a monetary donation toward the Christmas flowers and decorations at St. Thomas are asked to place their donations, along with the names (CLEARLY PRINTED) of those to be remembered in the envelope provided in the December packet. Please place donations in the collection basket between now and December 20. The names of those to be remembered will be published in the December 26-27 bulletin.

MASS INTENTIONS...

The specific Mass intentions for each scheduled Mass are regularly published in this bulletin and are specifically requested by individual request. Every reasonable effort is made to accommodate particular times and dates, when so requested. However, when on occasion the date or time request cannot be met, the intention will be rescheduled for the next earliest date available.

ST. THOMAS MIDNIGHT MASS CHOIR PRACTICE: There will be choir practice on Monday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday December 20 at 8:00 a.m. New choir members are welcome!

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 IN ST. THOMAS CHURCH:

The First Friday Schedule: 7:45 a.m. Mass with Anointing of the Sick offered after Mass to those who are in need of the Sacrament. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Church throughout the day. Confessions offered 4:30-5:45 p.m. Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAY HOSPITALITY AT ST. THOMAS: Please join us for coffee, donuts and other hospitality in the Vitae House after Mass on Friday, December 4.

PRAYING A ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY will be prayed on Friday, December 4 at **4:30 p.m.** at St. Thomas Church during Adoration.

WEDNESDAY EVENING TRAFFIC PATTERN AT ST. THOMAS: Because of the number of people attending PSR, Confirmation Preparation and Quilting on Wednesday evenings at St. Thomas, all drivers are asked to please **enter via the lower driveway from Park Street** and **exit from the upper parking lot onto Highway B only**.

ST. THOMAS PSR CLASSES are held on Wednesday evening's 7:00-8:00 p.m. for grade & high school students.

ST. THOMAS PSR: We would like to remind everyone involved in the PSR program to please sign up for the Remind text messaging. This is the primary form communication we will use should classes need to be cancelled. Text @stthomasps to 81010 to receive messages. Also, please follow our "St. Thomas the Apostle PSR" page on Facebook for messages and notifications of events. Thank you! Parents and parishioners are invited to join us in our first ever ornament crafting night. The older kids will be helping the Elementary PSR students make ornaments for nursing home residents. Parents are encouraged to come join in the fun! December 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

ADULT SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: The next meeting will be **Sunday, November 29, 6:00 p.m.** in Vitae House at St. Thomas. This meeting is for those adults who are interested in becoming Catholic and are willing to begin the journey. Questions? Please contact Fr. Secrist at 477-3315.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: **Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.** in the school library at St. Thomas.

ST. CECILIA SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School classes for St. Cecilia immediately follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Parish Center. Sunday School classes are open to any children in kindergarten, or those who will be entering kindergarten next year (fall of 2016). Please contact Jennifer Even at 573-680-6945, 573-229-8976 or evenfamily6@att.net to sign up or with any questions.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School is for children preschool age (2 years prior to Kindergarten) and will meet on Sundays from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. in the St. Thomas School Kindergarten room. Please contact Daffiny Tallent at 573-694-4408 or email ddtallent@embarqmail.com if interested and/or for more information.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE YARD SIGNS & WINDOW STICKERS: Show your support for our local Catholic school by purchasing a sign for your front yard and a window sticker for your vehicle, boat or tractor. Yard signs and window stickers are \$5.00 each. Please contact the School Office at 573-477-3322.

TOTUS TUUS SUMMER CAMP at St. Thomas and Meta has been scheduled for **July 18-22, 2016**. Please save the dates!

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENT:

December 4 – First Friday, Adoration, Confessions

10 – Advent Program, 7:00 p.m. in Parish Center

21 – K-8 Caroling at Mid-America Bank, Bowling in the afternoon.

22 – Early Release K-8 1:20 p.m. – Car riders, bus 1:30 p.m. End of 2nd Quarter.

23 – January 3 – Christmas Vacation K-8

The St. Thomas the Apostle School Self-Study will be held on April 10-12, 2016.

BOX TOPS: Please continue to save Box Tops for Education, Coke Points & Best Choice labels.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL is still accepting registrations for **Preschool through 8th grade**. Please call the school office to register at 573-477-3322.

SAVE THE DATE: ST. THOMAS PARISH PARK BOARD TRIVIA NIGHT is Saturday, January 23, 2016 in the St. Thomas Parish Center.

ST. STANISLAUS, WARDSVILLE PERPETUAL ADORATION: The following Perpetual Adoration chapel hours are open at St. Stanislaus Church Monday 1:00-2:00 p.m. Tuesday 11:00-12:00 noon Saturdays 1:00-2:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00-11:00 p.m. (2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Saturdays). If you would like to sign up for an hour by contacting Donna at 635-2095 or 680-1470. Thank you!

THE META CITIZENS CIVIC LEAGUE CHRISTMAS PARTY is December 6, 5:00 p.m., at the hall. We will be serving chili and all the trimmings while being entertained by The Country Jammers. There will be gift bags for all the kids that attend. Everyone is welcome.

RECOGNIZING OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES in the bulletin. If you are a college or technical school graduate this semester, please let us know by e-mailing or call the school at 573-477-3322, or the Parish Office at 573-477-3315. The names will be published in the December 26-27 bulletin.

THE DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA, GLENNON CIRCLE 322, will meet on Monday, December 7 at the K of C Hall, Jefferson City. Snacks at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your gifts for Birthright.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

ST. THOMAS/META KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE is Sunday, November 29, 8:00 a.m. – noon in the St. Thomas KC Hall. To make an appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org Sponsor Code: StThomasParish

HOLY FAMILY PARISH FALL SUPPER, FREEBURG is Sunday, December 6, serving fried chicken & sausage dinners from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adults \$11.00, children 6-12 \$5.00.

JEFFERSON CITY CANTORUM CHRISTMAS MEMORIES CONCERT is Saturday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Miller Performing Arts Center. Tickets adults \$10.00, Youth (18-under) \$5.00, Seniors (65 & over) \$8.00, Family (3-5 members) \$25.00. Tickets will be \$2.00 more at the door. Please visit www.JeffersonCityCantorum.com or call 573-230-2715.

ADVENT LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

November 29, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With our Thanksgiving holiday still fresh in our minds, let us continue to be grateful for all the things the Lord has done for us as we begin this New Year of Grace. The Church continues to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, and prepares to enter into the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Our Blessed Mother is the one who reminds us in her Magnificat that God “has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation.” (Lk 1:50)

Here in the Diocese of Jefferson City, we began our local celebration of the Holy Year of Mercy with the opening of the Holy Door at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is the desire of the Holy Father that each Diocese celebrate the Jubilee Year in conjunction with Rome, to make visible the universal communion of the Church, and in keeping with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, to manifest the merciful love of God the Father to the whole world.

The season of Advent is certainly a time when all of us can experience the mercy of God at work in our lives. Many of you will likely practice works of mercy this month, as you offer gifts of love to those who are suffering or in need. It is my hope that many will participate in the Rite of Reconciliation this month, and feel the peace and joy that the forgiveness of God brings to those who desire it. In each of these ways, we prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gift of all, the gift of God’s Only Begotten Son. O Come, Emmanuel!

With my best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John R. Gaydos Bishop of Jefferson City