

The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Thomas the Apostle
 in St. Thomas

St. Cecilia
 in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net

St. Cecilia website still under development

PO Box 146
 St. Thomas, MO 65076

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 13, 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



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 September 13-20:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – L&D Thomas & Mary Loethen
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Philip & Alma Boessen
 Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – Rose Schmidt
 Wednesday 7:45 a.m. – David Borgmeyer
 Thursday 7:45 a.m. – BJ Brenneke
 Friday 7:45 a.m. – Wm. & Elizabeth Kirkweg Families
 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Roman Plassmeyer
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2015-2016:	\$305,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End:	\$76,251.00
Actual Collection for 2015-2016:	\$57,113.77
Offertory Difference Year to Date:	-\$19,137.23
Offertory Goal per month:	\$25,417.00

Collection in Church:

September 6	\$5,234.00
September 13	\$
September 20	\$
September 27	\$

Collection Online:

September total to date:	\$9,492.00
Difference for September:	-\$15,294.00

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):	\$5,798.00
Loan payments to date for fiscal year 2015-2016:	\$27,683.22
(Principal) 21,837.09 (Interest) \$5,846.13	
Parish Building Expansion Debt remaining:	\$562,216.45

St. Thomas Cantor / Organist

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Rebecca Schroeder/Lindsay
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Doug Luebbering/Jackie

St. Thomas Reader/ Petitions

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Carolyn Loethen
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Judy Schroeder

St. Thomas Altar Servers

Weekdays – Colton Libbert & Natalie Otto
 Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ely & Dawson Wieberg, Abby Hoecker
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jeremy Stockman, Morgan Luebbering,
 Luke Schroeder, Henry Buschjost

Saint Cecilia

Mass Schedule for the Week of September 13-20:

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – L&D Libbert & Hake Families
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – People of our Parishes

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Clem & Josephine Herx

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Lawrence & Scott Otto
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Vince & Brad Reinkemeyer

Your Sunday Offering:

Offertory Budget for 2015-2016:	\$60,471.51
Collection Total for 2015-2016:	\$12,030.50
Offertory Goal per month:	\$5,039.29

Collection in Church:

September 6	\$1,592.00
September 13	\$
September 20	\$
September 27	\$

September total to date:	\$1,592.00
Difference for September:	-\$3,447.29

Please remember your parish in your last will & testament.

St. Cecilia Collection Counters

September – Marie Lueckenotto & Pam Libbert
 October – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer

St. Cecilia Reader / Petitions

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen
 Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Dorothy Rehagen
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Don Wansing

St. Cecilia Altar Servers

September 19-20

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Zachary & Alex Even,
 Ben Schroeder
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Madalyn Veltrop, Saige & Ava
 Werdehausen

St. Thomas Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
September 19-20

Saturday 5:00 p.m. –Lora Boessen, Mark Luebbering, Pat Kaiser
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Jan Carter, Mattheuw Prenger, Keith Kliethermes, Randy Buschjost, Rob Henson

September 26-27

Saturday 5:00 p.m. -Paul & Jenny Becker, Marshall Boessen
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Richard & Jan Heckemeyer, Emily Luebbering, Janet Lueckenhoff, Linda Lueckenhoff

October 3-4

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Betty Schellman, Leeroy Budnik, Carolyn Loethen
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Glenn Prenger, Gilbert & Hermnia Strobe, Mike & Sheri Wieberg

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

September 19-20

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Carolyn Loethen & Mark Boessen
Sunday 10:00 a.m.–Richard Heckemeyer & Jim Lueckenhoff

September 26-27

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Gregg Boessen & Mike Groner
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Larry Lueckenhoff & Mike Green

October 3-4

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Dave Luebbering & Steve Schellman
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Art Groner & Eric Boessen

St. Thomas Presentation of Gifts at Mass

September 19-20

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Mark & Lauri Luebbering
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Larry & Linda Lueckenhoff

September 26-27

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Paul & Jenny Becker
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina Strobe

October 3-4

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Ralph & Kathy Graessle
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Leonard & Kathy Strobe

Collection Counters:

September 19-20 – Keith & Jean Kliethermes
September 26-27 – Richard & Jan Heckemeyer
October 3-4 – Jennifer Schroeder & Stephanie Cortvrient

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas

Tuesday 7:25 a.m.– Viola Boessen –Sorrowful Mysteries
Wednesday 7:25 a.m. – Pat Loethen – Glorious Mysteries
Thursday 7:25 a.m.– Martha & Celeste –Luminous Mysteries
Friday 7:25 a.m. – Gilbert & Hermina – Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturday 4:40 p.m. – Dale Herigon – Sorrowful Mysteries
Sunday 9:40 a.m. – Pat Loethen –Sorrowful Mysteries

Scrip Sales-(September 19-20) Visit www.stthomasapostleschool.net/scrip for more information about the Scrip program.

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Dee Luebbering
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Sandy Kliegel

THE ST. THOMAS PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Tuesday, September 15 & Thursday, September 17.

LADIES TO BRING SNACK TO ST. THOMAS QUILTERS:

Thursday, September 17 – Lynn Taggart & Daffiny Tallent Thursday, September 24 – Deanne Twehus & Norma Ullman
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.

A NOTE OF THANKS

The Nolan Schroeder family would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to our 5th annual volleyball tournament. Thanks to the support of so many family, friends, and community members, we had a great turnout and hopefully passed on a lot of helpful information about melanoma and its prevention. Because of everyone's generosity, we are once again able to donate funds for cancer research that will hopefully lead to a cure one day soon. Thank you, also, to everyone involved in preparing or presenting the flag dedication for the Nolan Schroeder memorial at the ballpark. Our family was very touched by the support of the many people who joined us for the ceremony. Once again, the tournament was a huge success and a day of fun and great memories for everyone who participated.

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.

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.

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Vitae House.

ST. THOMAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vitae House.

St. Cecilia Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
September 19-20

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Brenda Wansing, Doris Stumpe, Jennifer Even
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Dominic & Mary Plassmeyer, Pam Libbert

September 26-27

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Betty Hagenhoff, Dorothy Rehagen, Bonnie Kampeter
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Gerald & Phyllis Rehagen, Janice Schanzmeyer

St. Cecilia Greeters/Ushers

Saturday 7:00 p.m. – Mitch & Brendan Stumpe, Darin Even, Randy Hagenhoff
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Kenny Otto, Dominic Plassmeyer, Harold Brockes, Larry Lueckenotto

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. – Florentine Hagenhoff– Glorious Mysteries
Saturday 6:40 p.m. – Cathy Borgmeyer– Sorrowful Mysteries
Sunday 7:40 a.m.–Margaret Brune –Sorrowful Mysteries

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

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PROJECT UPDATES –

CHURCH BOILER & HVAC CONTROL PROJECT: The twin high-efficiency Lochnivar boilers have been placed and plumbed. A new gas line from the regulator was also installed. Recently, the electrical wiring and control work has commenced.

“VISIONS OF FAITH” STAINED GLASS WINDOW RESTORATION: The restoration work on the St. Thomas stained glass windows is into its second week. The original protective glass and aluminum flashing on most of the large nave windows has been removed. Rotten wood framing and sills are being repaired and/or replaced before new 4” trim is installed and painted. The next step will be the installation of the ¼” tempered protective glass in the new framing.

Any and all contributions to this important project are greatly appreciated. A single commemoration plaque will be created to list the names (or memorial) of all who have contributed to the restoration project. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Secrist.

MEETING FOR ALL PARENTS OF THOSE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN 2016: On **Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **St. Thomas Library**, there will be a mandatory meeting for the parents of all those being confirmed next year.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL PARENTS OF THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED:

Dear friends,

We are introducing an exciting new program called *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation*. The goal of the program is to offer your child a powerful, life-changing experience as he or she prepares to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is our hope that *Chosen* will not only offer your child a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith, but will also win over their heart at this critical time in their life.

The program has been carefully designed to address and answer your child’s fundamental questions about life, and to challenge him or her to embrace a life of faith. Let’s face it - our world is full of distractions and detours that can easily set a young person on the wrong path. Nothing can take the place of a strong faith in God: not friends, money, or education. It is our faith that gives us our identity and our direction in life. The Church recognizes that you, as parents, are the primary educators of your children in matters of faith and morals—and the *Chosen* program offers you a unique opportunity to join your child as he or she journeys through the Catholic faith.

To learn more about the program and your role in preparing your child for Confirmation, we invite you to attend a Parent Information Session on **Wednesday, September 16** to be held in the St. Thomas School Library. The meeting will not only inform you about the program, but will also offer you ideas and tools to confidently engage and encourage your child during their Confirmation preparation.

At the Information Session, you will receive a *Chosen Parent’s Guide*, which summarizes the program lesson by lesson, allowing you to follow along and play an active role in your child’s faith journey. The guide also provides helpful questions and family applications to foster meaningful conversation at home. We will begin the **Chosen Confirmation Preparation Program** on **Wednesday, September 23**. We encourage you to follow along in the Parent’s Guide.

Thank you for your time and interest in this important stage of your child’s spiritual development. I look forward to seeing you at the Parent Information Session.

Sincerely, Fr. Secrist and the Confirmation Preparation Team

CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN SUBSCRIPTIONS: when you are making out your check for your household’s annual subscription to the diocesan newspaper, please make out your check for **\$14 to the parish**, not to the Catholic Missourian.

ST. CECILIA (PSR) RELIGION CLASSES: Religion classes for 1st-10th grade will start on Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. All students are asked to please sign up. Accurate counts are needed for ordering books and materials. Please contact Jennifer Even at 573-680-6945, 573-229-8976 or evenfamily6@att.net to sign up or with any questions.

ST. CECILIA SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School classes for St. Cecilia will begin on Sunday, September 27, immediately following 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.

PSR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ST. CECILIA: Volunteers are needed to help teach religion classes at St. Cecilia. Please contact Jennifer Even at 573-680-6945, 573-229-8976 or evenfamily6@att.net to volunteer or with any questions.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SUNDAY SCHOOL: St. Thomas the Apostle Sunday School will began classes Sunday, September 13 for children preschool age (2 years prior to Kindergarten) 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 SCHOOL is still accepting registrations for the fall of 2015-2016 enrollment for **Preschool through 8th grade**. Please call the school office to register at 573-477-3322.

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.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 18 – Grandparents Day, Mid Quarter

Thursday, September 24 – Early Release K-8 1:20 – car riders, 1:30 Bus riders

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

ST. THOMAS 4-H: The next meeting is Sunday September 20th at 11:15 at KC Hall. It’s the start of a new year so all new members are welcome! Ages 5-7 are Clover Kids and Ages 8-18 (as of Jan 1st) are 4-Her’s. Contact Sara for any questions 573-477-0111

FOCL USED BOOK SALE - Saturday, September 26 from 8 am to 4 pm; Sunday, September 27 10 am to 4 pm - Osage County Community Center, Linn, MO. Thousands and thousands of books at great prices!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

ST. THOMAS PARISH FALL FANTASY \$10,000 BANQUET – October 24, 2015. This year’s theme is Country/Western. Tickets are \$110/couple, doors open at 6:00 p.m. & dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Music by Shiloh. No persons under 21 years of age will be admitted. Tickets are on sale now! The early bird drawing will be Monday, September 28. **Contact Lynn Taggart at 573-477-0133 or stop by B&K Quick Shoppe to purchase tickets.**

REMINDER FOR ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS: Work-lists are in the back of Church for those who did not pick one up last weekend. Extra raffle tickets & posters are also available for those who wish more. Thanks!

BLOOD DRIVE AT CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE on Tuesday, September 22 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Remember, if you give at either St. Thomas or Meta, you are eligible to give at both places. All presenting donors will receive a complimentary t-shirt and refreshments.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA:

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, FOLK is this Sunday, September 13, serving roast beef and sausage dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Adults \$12.00, children 6-10 \$5.00. Quilt auction 5:00 p.m. Shooting match at noon.

ST. LOUIS OF FRANCE PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, BONNOTS MILL: Sunday, September 13, serving German pot roast & ham dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adults \$11.00, children 6-12 \$5.00. Pie & dessert auction at 5:00 p.m.

ST. BRENDAN PARISH HOLY SMOKES FESTIVAL, MEXICO: Sunday, September 13, 11:00 to 4:00 p.m. BBQ dining under the Big Tent, pulled pork, grilled brats & hotdogs, general store, kids games and entertainment.

ST. ALOYSIOUS PARISH FALL FESTIVAL, ARGYLE: Saturday, September 19, serving fried chicken dinners from noon to 7:00 p.m. Soap Box derby races for kids 5-10 racing starts at noon; live auction at 6:00 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL, OWENSVILLE: Saturday, September 19, serving fried chicken & sausage dinners from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Adults \$10, children 6-12 \$4.50. Antique & Classic car show, registration 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Display \$10.00, judging 1:00 p.m. & awards at 4:00 p.m.

ST. THOMAS K of C GARDEN TRACTOR PULL: Saturday, September 19. Weigh-in at 4:00 p.m. Please see attached worklist.

RETROUVAILLE is a French word meaning "rediscovery". Retrouvaille is a program to help couples heal & renew their marriages. It offers tools needed to rediscover loving marriage relationship. It has helped thousands of couples with marital problems & crises, even couples who are separated & divorced. The next program begins with the weekend of September 18-20. For more information, please call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com

DIOCESAN FUN 'N FAITH FAMILY DAY is Sunday, September 20 at Helias Catholic High School. Thematic park (sports-themed park with vendors, booths & more all day) opens at 10:30 a.m. Nursery available from 11:30-4:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker Gary Foote at 1:00 p.m.

MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY: Saturday, October 3 at the State Capitol and St. Peter's church in Jefferson City.

CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE PARK FALL FESTIVAL, META: Sunday, September 20, serving sausage & fried chicken dinners from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adults \$11.00, children 6-12 \$6.00. All carry-outs \$11.00.

St Cecilia Parish Pastoral Council Minutes July 1, 2015 Meeting

The St Cecilia Parish Pastoral Council held a meeting on July 1, 2015 in the Parish Center. Fr. Secrist opened the meeting with a prayer and those present reviewed and approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

Fr Secrist reported that the restroom renovations in the church had been completed. Work is scheduled to begin on the church doors as weather permits.

Preparation for Confirmation will begin this fall with Confirmation to be held at St Cecilia Church next spring. There will be a meeting July 29 to review the program and discuss possible teachers for the session.

Fr Secrist told the council that Mary Pat Luebbering continues to assist him with his ministry to parishioners who are homebound, ill, or in hospitals or nursing homes and asked for any feedback that the council may have in the future.

Fr Secrist reminded the council that *Totus Tuus* will be held in July. K-6th grade will be held in St Thomas during the day and 7th-12th grade will meet at Meta in the evenings. A Potluck dinner will be held in St Thomas on Wednesday, July 12 for members of both parishes.

Before adjourning with prayer, the council scheduled a meeting for September 1, 2015 at 7 pm.

CATHOLIC 101: Cohabitation

It's no secret that many couples are cohabiting, that is, living together in a sexual relationship without marriage. Currently, 60% of all marriages in the U.S. are preceded by cohabitation, but fewer than half of cohabiting unions end in marriage. Many couples believe (mistakenly) that cohabitation will lower their risk of divorce. This is an understandable misconception, since many people are the children of divorce, or have other family members or friends who have divorced. Other reasons for living together before marriage include convenience, financial savings, companionship and security, and a desire to move out of their parent's house.

What social science says about cohabitation - on average, marriage preceded by cohabitation is 46% more likely to end in divorce. The risk is greatest for "serial" cohabitators who have had multiple relationships. While, some studies indicate that those who live together with definite plans for marriage are at minimal risk; those same studies do not indicate that there are positive effects from cohabiting.

Cohabitation puts children at risk - 40% of cohabiting households include children. After five years, one-half of these couples will have broken up, compared to 15% of married parents.

Cohabitation and Catholic Church teaching - Every act of sexual intercourse is intended by God to express love, commitment and openness to life in the total gift of the spouses to each other. Sexual intercourse outside of marriage cannot express what God intends. Rather, it says something false - a total commitment that the couple does not yet have. This total commitment is possible only in marriage.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church points out that some couples claim a right to live together if they intend to marry later on. Although the couple may be sincere in their intention, the Catechism stresses that human love is not compatible with "trial marriages." Rather, "it demands a total and definitive gift of persons to one another."

If you are a cohabiting couple who has chosen to marry, the Catholic Church welcomes your decision to marry. Because cohabitation can have an effect on the marriage, couples are encouraged to explore certain questions with the priest or pastoral minister who is preparing them for marriage.

For more information, please visit: www.foryourmarriage.org.