18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 1-2, 2026

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

404 W. Jourdan, Tel: 618-783-8741
Newton, Illinois 62448
E-mail: parishoffice@stthomasnewton.net
Website: www.stthomasnewton.net

Pastor: **Fr. Paul Luczak**
(Email: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)
Deacon emeritus: **Rev. Mr. Larry Miller**
Office Manager: **Linda M. Hemrich**
Annulment Advocate: **Debbie Matson**
Office Hours: 7:30 -11:30 am & 1:00- 4:00 p.m. M-F
Masses: 4:30 pm Saturday; 7 & 10.00 am Sunday
8:30 am Wednesday and Friday
Reconciliation: 8:00 am- 9:00am (Except for First Saturday at St. Mary) & 3:30-4 pm Saturdays and upon request at reasonable time.

St. Thomas School Office:

St. Thomas School Principal: **Jill Bierman**
School Secretary: **Lori Smith**
306 W. Jourdan, PO Box 26 Tel: 618-783-3517
Newton, Illinois 62448 Fax: 618-783-2224
E-Mail: jillbierman@stthomassaints.com
Website: www.stthomassaints.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING

July 25-26, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	$	5,587.00
Loose	$	397.00
Subtotal	**$**	**5,984.00**
Annual School Fund	$	495.00
Centennial Campaign	$	35.00
G.I.F.T.	$	75.00
Subtotal	**$**	**605.00**
Grand Total	**$**	**6,589.00**

This Week in Our Parish

Linda out of the office August 5th-10th

Monday, August 3, Weekday

Tuesday, August 4, St. John Vianney
No Mass or Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, August 5, Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
8:30 am Mass (Int. Holly Kocher)
9:00 am Rosary

Thursday, August 6, Transfiguration of the Lord
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

First Friday, August 7, St. Sixtus II; ST. Cajetan
8:30 am Mass (Int. Rodger Shamhart)
Adoration following Mass until Noon

Saturday, August 8; St. Alphonsus Liguori
8:30 am Mass – Mattoon Deanery CCW luncheon and meeting following
8:00 - 9:00 am–Reconciliation
3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Roscoe Miller)

Sun., August 9, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: For the Parish)
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's
9:35 am Rosary
10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas
(Int. Liv & Dec of Rita Schafer Family)
Lay minister training for ALL ministers immediately following the 10:00 am Mass
10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.:	Jer 28:1-17		Mt 14:22-36
Tues.:	Jer 30:1-2,12-15,18-22		Mt 14:22-36
Weds.:	Jer 31:1-7		Mt 15:21-28
Th.:	Dn 7:9-10,13-14	2Pt 1:16-19	Mt 17:1-9
Fri.:	Na 2:1,3;3:1-3,6-7		Mt 16:24-28
Sat.:	Hb 1:12-2:4		Mt 17:14-20
Sun.:	1kgs 19:9a,11-13a	Rom 9:1-5	Mt 14:22-33

St. Thomas Pre-baptismal Class 2026 Schedule. October 4 at 8:45 am or by appointment if needed. Classes will be held in the choir area. Contact the 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.

Eucharistic Minister and Lector Review. Fr. Pawel would like to meet with **ALL** Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors to review procedures and go over any changes. Please plan on attending **Sunday, August 9th after the 10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas.**

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule
Saturday, August 8 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Luke Zuber
EM: Kimberly Ochs, Wanda Kocher, Glenda Spiker, Lori Rauch
Servers: Bryar French, Jack Schumacher, Eli Ochs
Gift Bearers: Chris Rauch Family
Musicians: Tammy Page & Mallory Einhorn
Greeters/Ushers: Vic Klingler

Sunday, August 9 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Sarah Hemrich
EM: Allison/Madilyn Brummer, Mark/Janet Vahling
Servers: Micah Finley, Will Hartrich, Kyle Meinhart
Gift Bearers: Brian Brummer Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Emma Hartrich
Greeters/Ushers: Ben Bierman

Sunday, August 9 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Kevin Parker
EM: Helen/Leo/Adam Weber, Becky Parker
Servers: Brantley Ochs, Jack Weber, Blake Gier
Gift Bearers: Brian Bierman Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Jennelle Hinterscher
Greeters/Ushers: Jacob Jahraus

BAPTISM: Congratulations, Andrew Reisner, infant son of Alex & Hannah (Paquette) Reisner, who was recently baptized at St. Thomas. Godparents are Ross Green and Taylor Paquette. May God continue the good work begun in him!

St. Thomas Explores the Possibility of Stained Glass windows

An anonymous donor recently established a fund with the intent to provide for stained glass windows for St. Thomas Parish. A small committee was also delegated to initiate the process.

A representative from Art Glass, Ltd out of Missouri met with Fr. Pawel and the committee recently here at St. Thomas. The Art Glass Ltd. company has been in existence for over 50 years. A sample of their work can be viewed locally. The updated windows at Sacred Heart Parish in Effingham were created and installed by Art Glass, Ltd.

As this process is still in the beginning stages, we will keep the parish informed along the way if decisions are made to continue with final plans.

First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas
August 7, 2026

Please join St. Thomas for 8:30 am Mass followed by Adoration until Noon. A sign-up sheet is available. **Remaining Fridays of the month** Adoration is 7:30 am – 8:15 am.

Sound System/Hearing Aids WiFi Password:
LetmehearGod

Non-Discriminatory Policy

St. Thomas Elementary & Grade School admits students of any race, color, sex, or national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, or national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and school administered programs.

St. Thomas Annual Harvest Picnic – October 11th
Grand Prize is a side x side or $15,000 cash
Second Prize $1,000; **Third** $500
Raffle Tickets available soon

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes
WELCOME you and INVITE you

Please pray for the Sick

Charles Schafer, Nancy(Alan) Ochs, Jon Webb, Leah Semple Finley, Rita (Kuhl) Kocher, Roger Sugrue, Lorraine Yager, Janet Beavers, Steven Bierman, Emma Probst, Dale Harris, Jim Beauchamp, Belinda Kubicki, Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests. **Rest in Peace:** Rodger Shamhart

St. Thomas is hosting and invites you
Mattoon Deanery
Council of Catholic Women Meeting

Saturday, August 8, 2026
"School Daze"
Mrs. Bierman will be giving a tour of the school immediately following the 8:30 am Mass

Welcoming all Working Women!
Come and see what the MDCCW is all about!

Honoring Our 2026
Women of Distinction Recipients

Presenter: Kim Higgins
"Sing Praises to the Lord!"

7:45 – 8:30 Registration; 8:30 Mass
Lunch, Meeting and Drawings
to follow in parish center

(NOTICE: 50/50 Raffle replaces white elephant gift)

Bring a new friend – get 5 tickets
Bring 5 Kleenex travel tissue packets – get 1 raffle ticket

A Message from Fr. Pawel

Last Sunday, I noticed that our altar was beautifully decorated with fresh flowers. I would like to say thank you, because this is a beautiful and meaningful way to honor the celebration of the Holy Mass.

The beauty of fresh flowers, their colors, and their fragrance all remind us of the beauty of God's creation and point us to Jesus Christ, who deserves the very best we can offer. Fresh flowers bring life and beauty to the sanctuary in a way that artificial flowers simply cannot. For our farming community, flowers have an even deeper meaning. They remind us that our local farmers provide much more than food for our tables. They also help bring us the beauty of God's creation—a beauty that is especially visible here in the countryside, where fields, gardens, and flowers are in full bloom during the spring and summer.

A special thank you to Tracy for her time and effort in preparing the beautiful flower arrangements. They make our church even more beautiful and help highlight the importance and dignity of the Holy Mass.

I hope that throughout the spring and summer, fresh flowers on our altar will become a regular part of our Sunday celebrations, giving greater glory to God and adding to the beauty of our worship.

Congratulations, Sr. Mary Grace!

Sr. Mary Grace is completing the novitiate stage of her religious formation on August 1st! The completion of the novitiate and profession of temporary vows is a major milestone in her life – a total commitment of her life to God through the Franciscan Sisters of the Martyr St. George. Thank you, Sr. Mary Grace for responding to God's call for your life and for your example of discernment. Please keep Sr. Mary Grace in your prayers as she takes this next step on her vocational journey.

Mary as Queen of the Franciscan Order, pray for us.
St. Francis, pray for us.
St. Clare, pray for us.
St. George, pray for us
St. Therese of Lisieux, pray for us.

Congratulations and encouragement can be sent to:
St. Francis Convent
1 Franciscan Way
Alton, IL 62002

Please understand that Sr. Mary Grace lives a life of poverty and her material needs are met by the community.

Catholics: Do you know our most important book after the Holy Bible?

It's the **Catechism of the Catholic Church!** Come study with us every Thursday beginning **September 10th at the St. Anthony Parish Center.** Both morning and evening sessions will be offered, 9:15 am and 6:30 pm. The "Foundations of Faith", series will help us discovering the truth, beauty, and wisdom of the Catholic Faith teachings through the **Catechism.**
Please call the St. Anthony Office to register at 217-347-7129 by **Aug 31st**. Questions? contact Kate Weber at 217-821-3003 or kateweber51@gmail.com

The Deanery Prayer Vigil for Life…

to Pray for the Protection of All Life will be held at St Mary's in Shumway on **Tuesday August 18th**. Praying the rosary will begin at **6:00 pm.** Fr Adam Prichard will be the celebrant for the **6:30 pm** Mass. A business meeting will follow in the lower level with refreshments being served while current pro-life issues and events are discussed.

St. Thomas School Presents

Our 14th Annual DUCK RACE 2026
Sunday, August 16th
11:00 a.m. at the
Newton Aquatic Center

Free swimming following until noon for those who have a duck in the race.

Ducks can be purchased for $5.00 at:
St. Thomas School or Church & Peoples State Bank
Ducks will be sold after each St. Thomas Mass!!

1st place duck: $600.00

2nd place duck: $250.00

3rd place duck: $100.00

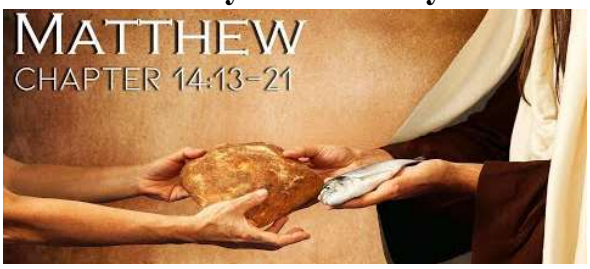
***ONLY 500 DUCKS SOLD!**

BRING A LAWNCHAIR & A FRIEND!
DOOR PRIZES! (MUST BE PRESENT)

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITS
ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

For more info call St. Thomas School @ 783-3517
Choose the right number and be the LUCKY DUCK to win a $25 gift certificate to a local business.

August 1-2, 2026
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Mary of the Assumption

112 W. Embarras Street,
P.O. Box 68 Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459
Tel: 618-455-3155
E-mail: stmaryschurch@stemariechurch.org
Website: www.stemariechurch.org
Pastor: **Fr. Paul Luczak**
(email/text: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)
Deacon emeritus: **Rev. Mr. Larry Miller**
Office Manager: **Denisse Ochs**
PSR Coordinator: **Marie Wagner**
Tribunal Annulment Advocate: **Debbie Matson**
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tues-Wed.-Thurs.

Masses: 8:30 am Sunday

First Saturday of the Month
7:30-8:15 am Eucharistic Adoration/Reconciliation
8:30 am – Holy Mass
Reconciliation: As Scheduled by request

This Week in our Parish

Monday, August 3rd, Weekday
Tuesday, August 4th, St John Vianney
No Rosary & Mass
10:30 a.m. - Funeral Mass (Rodger Shamhart)
6:30 p.m. – Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 5th, Weekday
Thursday, August 6th, Transfiguration of the Lord
8:00 p.m. – Rosary
8:30 p.m. – Mass (Int: Bill & Carolyn Keeney+)
Home Visits with Fr Pawel
Friday, August 7th, St Sixtus II
Saturday, August 8th, St Dominic
Sunday, August 9th, 19th Sunday in Ord Time
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish+)

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St Mary's will celebrate our feast day on **August 15th, after a Saturday Mass at 5:30 pm**. Please join us for fellowship and a meal following the Mass in the parish center. All are welcome! Let us join together to celebrate our feast day!!

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of July 26, 2026

Envelopes/online collection	$	995.00
Loose		226.00
Sub Total	**$**	**1,221.00**
Haiti		155.00
Total	**$**	**1,376.00**

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – August 9, 2026
Ushers: Bob Barthelme, George Semple, Jake Semple
Servers: Wade Schackmann/Halle Schackmann/ Kinsey Barber
Lectors: Becca Ochs/ Ethan Zwilling
Gift Bearers: Ron & Nancy Zwilling
E Ms: Ben Ochs, Lisa Ochs, Amy Frohning

Rest in Peace – Rodger Shamhart, please keep Julie and her family in your prayers, praying they find peace and comfort.

Picnic Update

Join us for the 189th Annual St Mary's Church Picnic on Sunday, September 6th. Enjoy delicious food, games, raffles, live music by SOCO, Homewood Grill ice cream, and fun for the whole family!

Basket Stand is made possible entirely through donated baskets and items. We invite individuals, families, friends, or organizations to donate a gift basket or other item. Don't want to put one together on your own? Join forces with family or friends to create a basket together. Thank you for helping make our Basket Stand a success! Please contact Becca Ochs with any questions.

Cake Stand, pans and cake boxes are available in the church, we encourage each family to provide 2 cakes and also dessert of the dinner.

Dime Toss – Glasses can be dropped off at the parish office/ or call Kayla Kocher- 618-804-9318 for pick up.

50th Anniversary Open House
Please join Ron & Nancy Zwilling in celebrating their 50th wedding Anniversary at an open house
Being held on Saturday, August 8th
From 2-4pm; St Mary's Parish Center
Everyone is Welcome!