20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 15-16, 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

August 8-9, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	$	9.848.00
Loose	$	667.25
Subtotal	**$**	**10,515.25**
Annual School Fund	$	615.00
Centennial Campaign	$	235.00
Subtotal	**$**	**835.00**
Grand Total	**$**	**11,350.25**
July Online Giving	**$**	**5,611.93**
July ACH Giving	**$**	**2,196.00**

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, August 17, Weekday

Tuesday, August 18, Weekday
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, August 19, St. John Eudes
8:30 am Mass (Int. Matilda Hemrich)
9:00 am Rosary

Thursday, August 20, St. Bernard
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Friday, August 21, St. Pius X
7:30 -8:15 am Adoration
8:30 am All-School Mass
(Int. Glen/Alberta Smithenry)

Saturday, August 22; Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00 - 9:00 am–Reconciliation
3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas
(Int. Ralph, Rosalie, Dennis and Danny Miller)

Sun., August 23, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: Douglas Frichtl)
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's
9:35 am Rosary
10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Rick Casteel)
10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Ez 24:15-23	Mt 19:16-22
Tues.: Ez 28:1-10	Mt 19:23-30
Weds.: Ez 34:1-11	Mt 20:1-16
Th.: Ez 36:23-28	Mt 22:1-14
Fri.: Ez 37:1-14	Mt 22:34-40
Sat.: Ez 43:1-7ab	Mt 23:1-12
Sun.: Is 22:19-23	Rom 11:33-36
Mt 16:13-20	

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONCILIATION
Regularly: 8:00-9:00 am Saturdays at St. Thomas (Except for First Saturday at St. Mary's); 3:30-4:00 pm Saturdays at St. Thomas **OR** by appointment

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.

Victim Assistance Contact Information
Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting & Investigation
Call 217-321-1155

St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule
Saturday, August 22@ 4:30 pm
Lector: Lynn Wilson
EM: Brad/Kim/Alayna Ochs, Linda Hemrich
Servers: Eli Ochs, Emmalin Finley, Carissa Barthelme
Gift Bearers: Randy Hemrich Family
Musicians: Tammy Page & Anne Kuhl
Greeters/Ushers: Vic Klingler

Sunday, August 23 @ 7:00 am
Lector: Sara Bergbower
EM: Alani Bergbower, Gery Ochs, Jamie Shamhart, Eliza Muska
Servers: Emalee Kistner, Jace Bergbower, Micah Finley
Gift Bearers: Steve Volk Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lyndsey Spiker
Greeters/Ushers: Ben Bierman

Sunday, August 23 @ 10:00 am
Lector: Tracey Bower
EM: John Bower, Matt Bower, Dee Bower, Jenny Bierman
Servers: Luke Bower, Will Mette, Logan Vogt
Gift Bearers: Tim Bower Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Debbie Matson
Greeters/Ushers: Jacob Jahraus

Welcome Back St. Thomas School Teachers/Staff!

Principal: Jill Bierman **Secretary:** Lori Smith
Mntc: Matt Parker **Cooks:** Lisa Lewis & Elaine Braun
Kindergarten: Jamie May
First: Kelsey Millsap **Second:** Kim Zuber
Third: Tami Hetzer **Fourth:** Jamie Shamhart
Fifth: Kristie Finley **Sixth:** David Stork
Seventh: Janet Vahling **Eighth:** Cade Allison
Aides: Jessica Beals, Tina Bower, Lisa Geier, Joyce Hartrich, & Michelle Stone
Art/Music: Ariel Boehl

St. Thomas Saints and JCJH Eagles Back in Action

Aug. 17 @ 4:30 pm Baseball vs Ttown, here
Aug. 18 @ 4:30 pm Baseball at Palestine
@ 4:30 pm Softball at Dieterich
Aug. 20 @ 4:30 pm Softball vs Marshall, here
Aug. 21 @ 4:30 pm Softball vs Oblong, here
@ 4:30 pm Cross Country, here
Aug. 22 @ 10:00 am Softball at Windsor/SS

First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas
September 4, 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

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, 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.

St. Thomas Gigantic Garage Sale
September 3rd & 4th 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
September 5th 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Specials announced during the sale!!
Drop donations off Monday, August 31st, & Tuesday September 1st, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. *All proceeds go to the St Thomas School's Technology/Improvement Fund.*

OCIA: New Sessions Starting on September 6, 2026, immediately following the 10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas and meeting in the St. Thomas parish center meeting room.

We invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith. Come meet some of our faithful Catholics who love the Lord and would consider it a privilege to get to know you. Contact our Parish Offices at 618-783-8741 or 618-455-3155 to learn more.

We are waiting for YOU.

St. Mary's and St. Thomas PSR and St. Thomas CYO Starting Soon

St. Thomas CYO will begin their regular sessions on Wednesday, **September 9th** at 6:30 pm in the St. Thomas Parish Center.

St. Thomas CYO students and families are then invited to a Welcome Back Mass on **Wednesday, September 16th @ 6:30 pm at St. Thomas church.**

PSR will begin on Wednesday, **September 23rd** at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's.

We look forward to getting started and welcoming all the new faces!!

Mission Priest, Rev. Michael Githinji, visiting our parishes on August 22nd-23rd

The Catholic Diocese of Nakuru is in Kenya-East Africa. The diocese is composed of two counties: Nakuru and Baringo. East Pokot area in Baringo county is a semi-arid area and experiences perennial droughts due to unfavorable weather conditions. Therefore, hunger and lack of water are rampant. Some sections of Nakuru County are affected by a high rate of poverty.

This has led to abandonment of the newly born. Besides babies, parents, as a result of their inability to take care of their children, just vanish and leave them, most of them at a very tender age, leading them to being taken to orphanages/children's homes. As a diocese, we run these orphanages, 7 in number (approx.1,200 children). Others become street children. One of the orphanages is basically to rehabilitate these street children. In both cases the most affected are children.

Adding to the injury is the high cost of living caused by lack of political goodwill in the country. The Diocese of Nakuru's primary goal is the propagation of Faith. As we do that, we meet some social/humanitarian challenges that attract our attention to address tangibly. Some of the projects are: **1.** Feeding the starving community, as well as providing water for drinking and for other domestic use-by sinking wells. **2.** Helping the children in both circumstances with food, clothing, medical care, spiritual care and providing means for their education among other efforts to support them.

In summary: We wish to share our mission experience with St Thomas the Apostle, and St Mary of Assumption, to nourish them spiritually, to make them aware of the positive gains and the challenges we experience in doing our mission work. We also seek your support, so that we can help those in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

St. Thomas School Presents

Our 14th Annual DUCK RACE 2025
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.

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

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated on August 15, is one of the oldest Marian feasts in the Church. Christians were already celebrating Mary's "birth into heaven" in the fifth century, while the Eastern Church called this mystery her "Dormition."

In 1950, Pope Pius XII formally proclaimed the dogma that Mary, at the end of her earthly life, was taken body and soul into the glory of heaven.

Scripture itself does not speak directly about the Assumption. However, Revelation 12 speaks about a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. The Church sees this woman as a symbol of the People of God and, in a special way, as an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since Mary best embodies the people of both the Old and New Testaments, her Assumption can be seen as an example of the woman's victory described in Revelation.

As we know, Mary was closely united with Jesus throughout His earthly life, so it is fitting that she should share fully in His heavenly glory. Her union with Christ did not end on earth; she is with Him in heaven, body and soul. We also recognize her as the Mother of the Church. Let us all, like Mary, proclaim the greatness of the Lord, because He has done marvelous things for us.

Dear Lord,
As our students begin a new school year,
I pray that you will keep them in your care.
Send your Spirit to open their minds to all that is true and beautiful and good.
Help them to see the gifts and talents you have given them and to use them well.
Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom.
Help them to be kind to others and lead others to be kind to them.
Give their teachers patience and understanding and help them teach what is just and true.
Send your angels to guide and guard our children and to keep them from all harm.
Open their young hearts to your presence and enfold them in your peace and protection.
Hold them in the palm of your hand and bring them home safely at day's end. Amen.

August 15-16, 2026
20th 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 17th, Weekday
Tuesday, August 18th, Weekday
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Rodger Shamhart+)
Wednesday, August 19th, St John Eudes
Thursday, August 20th, St Bernard
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Teresa Thompson+)
Friday, August 21st, St Pius X
Saturday, August 22nd The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday, August 23rd, 21st Sunday in Ord Time
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Donnie Kraus+)

The parish office will be closed the week of August 24 – 28

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of August 9, 2026

Envelopes/online collection	$	3,050.00
Loose		381.00
Sub Total	**$**	**3,431.00**
Assumption		25.00
Total	**$**	**3,456.00**

Celebrating

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St Mary's will celebrate the feast day of our parish, 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! Come join us to celebrate our feast day!!

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – August 23, 2026

Ushers: Bob Barthelme, George Semple, Jake Semple
Servers: Jackson Zumbahlen, Clay Frohning, Ellie Ochs
Lectors: Lora Ochs/Rose Gangloff
Gift Bearers: Dan Hartrich Family
E Ms: Elaine Zwilling/Lora Semple, Norman Boehl

PSR

It is that time of year to begin PSR, the first session will be on **September 23rd at 6:30pm**. Registration is under way, and registration forms can be found on our website at www.stemariechurch.org. The forms are also available at the back of church.

The registration fee this year is $5.00. Please fill out the form and return it to the office by September 15th, so that we can be prepared for the first class. They can be put in the collection or dropped off at the office. A drop box is on the front door of the office for your convenience.

We need a couple of volunteers who are willing to help grow the future of our faith. We need a kindergarten & 1st grade teacher. You can contact the office or Marie Wagner if you can help.

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.