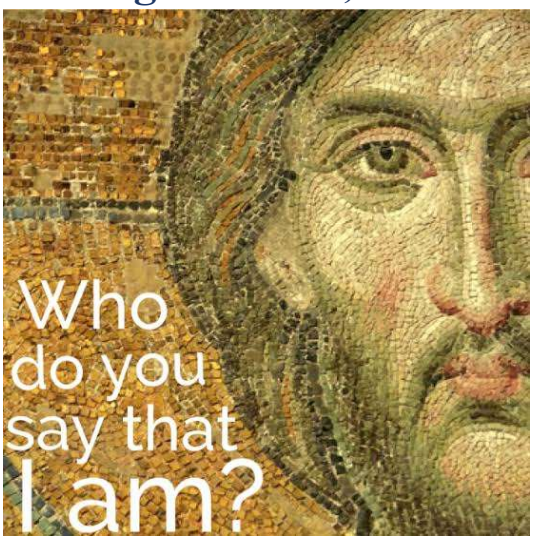
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 22-23, 2026



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 15-16, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	$	7,718.00
Loose	$	454.00
Subtotal	**$**	**8,172.00**
Annual School Fund	$	365.00
Centennial Campaign	$	170.00
Assumption	$	820.00
G.I.F.T.	$	100.00
Subtotal	**$**	**1,455.00**
Grand Total	**$**	**9,627.00**

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, August 24, St. Bartholomew

Tuesday, August 25, St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Wednesday, August 26, Weekday
8:30 am Mass (Int. Bill Dhom)
9:00 am Rosary
6:00 pm Booster Club

Thursday, August 27, St. Monica
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary

Friday, August 28, St. Augustine
7:30 -8:15 am Adoration
8:30 am All-School Mass
(Int. Kenny Koeble & Dave Dhom)

Saturday, August 29; Passion of St. John the Baptist
8:00 - 9:00 am–Reconciliation
3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Marilyn Fritchley)

Sun., August 30, 22nd 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. George Roth)
10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: Rv 21:9b-14	Jn 1:45-51
Tues.: 2Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17	Mt 23:23-26
Weds.:2Thes 3:6-10, 16-18	Mt 23:27-32
Th.: 1Cor 1:1-9	Mt 24:42-51
Fri.: 1Cor 1:17-25	Mt 25:1-13
Sat.: 1Cor 1:26-31	Mk 6:17-29
Sun.: Jer 20:7-9	Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27	

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 29@ 4:30 pm

Lector: Luke Zuber
EM: Glenda Spiker, Alice Addis, Ramon Kocher, Wanda Kocher
Servers: Hank/Gauge Weber, Megan Farley
Gift Bearers: Kim & Luke Zuber
Musicians: Tammy Page & Debbie Matson
Greeters/Ushers: Vic Klingler

Sunday, August 30 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Nikki Bierman
EM: Paul/Katie/Nathan Bierman, Allison Weber
Servers: Kyle/Blake Bierman, Avery Shamhart
Gift Bearers: Craig Shamhart Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley
Greeters/Ushers: Ben Bierman

Sunday, August 30 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Ginger Robins
EM: Ryan Probst, Dennis Weber, Annie/Mallory Ochs
Servers: Maura Weber, Pete Weber, Dominic Ochs
Gift Bearers: Brad Ochs Family
Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Ella Probst
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. 24 @ 4:30 pm Baseball at Red Hill
4:30 pm Softball at Charleston
Aug. 25 @ 4:30 pm Cross Country, here
@ 4:30 pm Softball at Teutopolis
Aug. 27 @ 4:30 pm Softball at Flora
@ 4:30 pm Baseball vs Casey, here
Aug. 28 @ 4:30 pm Softball at Cumberland
@ 4:00 pm Baseball at Dieterich
Aug. 29 @ 10:00 am Softball vs Mattoon, here
@ 9:00 am Cross Country at Cumberland

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

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.

The August/September church cleaning crew will be cleaning on **Thursday, August 27 from 4-6**. Many hands make light work. Looking forward to working with this crew and getting done quickly. If you aren't on a crew, but would like to help, come on down.

Congratulations to the St. Thomas School Duck Race Winners:

- 1st & 2nd – Ben & Nancy Ochs
- 3rd – Fr. Pawel
- **Blue Duck ($25.00 gift cards)**:Hayden Mulvey, Hallie Weber, Zane Pitman
- **5 Fair Share Hours:** Mike & Renee Gier, Tony & Allison Weber, Brooke & Seth Woods, Andy & Jessica Miller and Josh & Stefani Beverlin

A special thanks to all who organize this event each year and a BIG thank you to all of our sponsors!!

St. Thomas Parish Hosts Deanery Meetings.

Thank you to the Angels group for assisting with the Mattoon Deanery Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW) meeting that was held on August 8th. The Angels provided a yummy lunch and helped set up for the event. Also, thanks to Mrs. Bierman for giving our guests from area parishes a tour of the school. And, thanks to Fr. Pawel for starting the day off with Mass! The MDCCW was grateful for our hospitality and enjoyed spending time with the ladies of our parish. We have a lot of wonderful things happening all around us at St. Thomas, and it was a great opportunity to share our blessings with others.

The Angels Group at Work also wanted to extend a thank you to the following as well! Thank you to those who helped make the MDCCW Meeting and luncheon on August 8th a success. Fr. Paul for celebrating Mass, Jill for a very interesting school tour, Linda for all your help and all from St. Thomas and St. Mary's who helped with a wonderful lunch! God Bless You!!

The monthly Priest's Deanery meeting was also held at St. Thomas this past week. The priests began their meeting with Adoration and finished with their luncheon meeting in the parish center. Thanks to Barney Ochs for cooking up another tasty meal and to Suzy Thornton and Carol Bough for providing the delicious desserts! What a wonderful way to celebrate the priests of our Deanery and show them our appreciation for all that they do for all those they serve.

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.

R.I.P. William "Bill" Dhom & Fr. Robert Spriggs

St. Thomas Gigantic Garage Sale

September 3rd & 4th 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
September 5th 8:00 am - 11:00 am

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.

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!!

Important Dates to Remember for Upcoming Sacraments for our Parishes:

September 26th – Confirmation & First Communion Retreat at St. Thomas. Starting with Mass at 8:30 am followed by a retreat in the parish center led by Sister Clementia and Fr. Dominic Rankin.

October 3rd – Confirmation & First Communion at the Cathedral, Springfield. More details to follow.

Mattoon Deanery Andrew Dinner

Our world desperately needs priests. Have you ever wondered if God might be calling you to the priesthood? Sometimes a vocation begins simply by being willing to ask questions.

Young men of our parish, high school age and older, are invited to attend the **Mattoon Deanery Andrew Dinner on Sunday, September 20 at 5:00 p.m. at the Newman Catholic Center in Charleston.** This evening is for anyone who has considered the priesthood, feels curious about a possible vocation, or simply wants to learn more about discerning God's call.

The evening will include time for Adoration, dinner, a presentation on the priestly vocation, and an opportunity to ask questions.

There is no commitment—just an opportunity to listen, ask questions, and consider where God may be leading you. This might be the beginning of a priestly vocation—or simply a free meal with the Bishop!

Do not be afraid to ask: "Lord, where are You leading me?" More information at parish office.

Mission Priest, Rev. Michael Githinji, visiting our parishes this weekend!

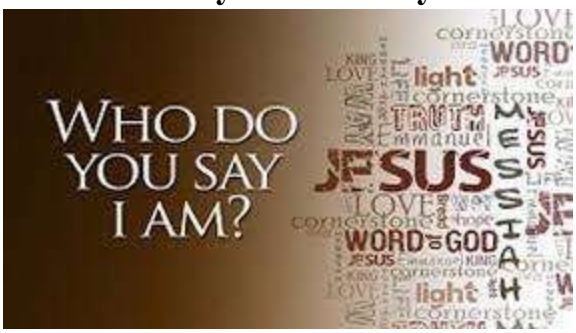
The Catholic Diocese of Nakuru is in Kenya-East Africa. The diocese is composed of two counties: Nakuru and Baringo. East Pokot area in Baringo county is a semi-arid area and experiences perennial droughts due to unfavorable weather conditions. Therefore, hunger and lack of water are rampant. Some sections 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, leading them to being taken to orphanages/children's homes. As a diocese, we run these orphanages.

Adding to the injury is the high cost of living caused by lack of political goodwill in the country. We meet some social/humanitarian challenges that 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 and seek your support, so that we can help those in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

August 22-23, 2026
21st 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

Parish Office closed on August 24-27
Monday, August 24th, St Bartholomew
Tues., Aug. 25th, St Louis & St Joseph Calasanz
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Peggy Prophetor+)
Wednesday, August 26th, Weekday
Thursday, August 27th, St Monica
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Jim Kocher+)
Friday, August 28th, St Augustine
Saturday, August 29th, The Passion of John the Baptist
Sunday, August 30 22nd Sunday in Ord Time
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: George& Hilda Dallmier Margie Townsend+)

Rest in Peace – ***Dale Ready***, father of Rhonda Keller, and ***Fr. Robert Spriggs***, former pastor of St Mary's, eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of August 16, 2026

Envelopes/online collection	$	820.00
Loose		281.00
Sub Total	**$**	**1,101.00**
Haiti		132.00
Assumption		380.00
Total	**$**	**1,613.00**

Thank You to everyone that remembered us on our anniversary with cards, greetings and attending our open house. Thank you, Fr. Pawel, for blessing our 50 years of marriage. ***Ron & Nancy Zwilling***

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – August 30, 2026
Ushers: Bob Barthelme, George Semple, Jake Semple
Servers: Daniel & Logan Uebinger, Henry Zumbahlen
Lectors: Brianna Zwilling/Nicholas Zwilling
Gift Bearers: Anita Griffith Family
E Ms: Lisa Ochs, Tony Hartrich, Rose Gangloff

PSR

The first session will be on **September 23rd at 6:30pm**. All parents should attend Mass. Registration is under way. The registration forms can be found on our website at www.stemariechurch.org The forms are also available in the back of church.

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

We need a couple of volunteers. Please consider teaching kindergarten or 1st grade. You can contact the office or Marie Wagner if you would like to 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 for the dinner.

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