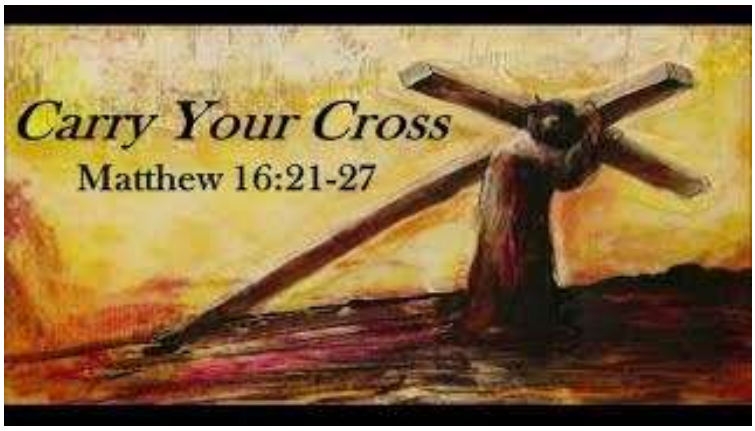
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 29-30, 2026



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 22-23, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	$	6,136.00
Loose	$	600.00
Subtotal	**$**	**6,736.00**
Annual School Fund	$	30.00
Centennial Campaign	$	55.00
Assumption	$	95.00
G.I.F.T.	$	100.00
Subtotal	**$**	**280.00**
Grand Total	**$**	**7,016.00**
Mission Co-op Appeal	**$**	**2,342.16**

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, August 31, Weekday
Tuesday, September 1, Weekday;
World Day of Prayer for Creation
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
Wednesday, September 2, Weekday
8:30 am K-2 Class Mass (Int. Keith French)
9:00 am Rosary
6:00 pm School Board
Thursday, September 3, St. Gregory
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
First Friday, September 4, Weekday
8:30 am All-School Mass (Int. Fr. Robert Spriggs) followed by Adoration until Noon
First Saturday, September 5; St. Teresa of Calcutta
7:30 am Adoration and Reconciliation at St. Mary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Don/Marlene Ochs)
Sun., September 6, 23rd 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. Leonard/Coletta Ochs)
OCIA immediately following Mass
10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.: 1 Cor 2:1-5		Lk 4:16-30
Tues.: 1 Cor 2:10b-16		Lk 4:31-37
Weds.:1 Cor 3:1-9		Lk 4:38-44
Th.: 1 Cor 3:18-23		Lk 5:1-11
Fri.: 1 Cor 4:1-5		Lk 5:33-39
Sat.: 1 Cor 4:6b-15		Lk 6:1-5
Sun.: Ez 33:7-9	Rom 13:8-10	Mt 18:5-20

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, September 5 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Carol Bough
EM: Amanda Baltzell, Lori Rauch, Glenda Spiker, Kim Zuber
Servers: Emmalin Finley, Emily Beals, Lillian Green
Gift Bearers: Matt Baltzell Family
Musicians: Nichole Mulvey & Kaitlyn Ochs
Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, September 6 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Jill Bierman
EM: Pam/Brenly Francis, Brenda Phillips, Tyler Spiker
Servers: Emma Hartrich, Kinsley Kerner, Brady Francis
Gift Bearers: Mark & Janet Vahling
Musicians: Five for the One
Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

Sunday, September 6 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Marissa Bower
EM: Helen/Leo/Adam Weber, Julie Higgs
Servers: Logan Vogt, Claire Schackmann, Ella Probst
Gift Bearers: Brian Bierman Family
Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Anne Kuhl
Greeters/Ushers: John Stone

St. Thomas Saints and JCJH Eagles Back in Action

Sept. 1 @ 4:30 pm Softball at Martinsville
Sept. 2 @ 4:30 pm Baseball vs Cumberland, here
Sept. 3 @ 4:30 pm Softball vs Hutsonville, here
@ 4:30 pm Cross Country at Robinson
Sept. 4 @ 4:15 Baseball at Sacred Heart
Sept. 5 @ 8:00 am Cross Country at Charleston Invite

St. Thomas Annual Harvest Picnic October 11th

BASKETS NEEDED: It's time to get creative (as you always do!!) and begin putting together baskets for our Harvest Picnic. Drop them off in Church anytime. Suggested value is $40 and above. Thank you!

Happy 65th Wedding Anniversary! Congratulations to Ed & Marilyn Smithenry who will be married 65 years on September 2nd. They are parents of 5 children: Chris (Tob)& wife Maggie, Bruce & wife Janet, Angela & husband Dennis, Deann & husband Leon, Sarah & husband Gary; 12 Grandchildren, and 9 Great-grandchildren. Cards may be sent to 14019 E 600th Ave, Newton, Il 62448.

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.

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. 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, 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

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.*

The Mission of the Church is to Evangelize

We are the Church- so our mission- every single one of us- is to evangelize! Each of us does that according to the charisms we've been given, and we work and serve together as a community. Did you know the *entire community* is responsible for OCIA? Yes, our entire parish is responsible. That doesn't mean that we all have to catechize – catechesis is only a part, and we are grateful that we have Father Pawel, Debbie Matson, Kevin Parker, Annie Ochs and Julie French as our Catechists. However, there is so much more that we are so very grateful to God; your intercessory prayers, hospitality, the environment, administration, organization, music, extraordinary ministry, mercy, giving, liturgical participation, your personal conversion, the gifts of being shaped in the faith, morals, and practices of the Church. This is fostered through our community prayer, our liturgical life, our service and how we worship our God. Praise God!

OCIA is a rich journey where those who attend are Echoed in the Deposit of Faith. If anyone is interested in attending an OCIA session to see what we do, just let one of our Catechists know that you will be there. **You are invited, join us!**

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!!

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.

SonRise Fridays are BACK! – Beginning Sept. 11 at St. Anthony. All men are welcome. Learn more at thatmanisyou.com, the parish office, or Dan Woods, 217-821-1495.

Thank you to all those who supported the Nakuru Diocese Mission Appeal last weekend! A special thank you to the St. Thomas Parishioners who volunteered to pick up and take Fr. Michael back to the Indy airport! If you would like to support this mission, donations can be dropped off in the collection again this weekend or by the parish office. Thank you for your generous contributions that already total ***$2,342.16.*** Your generosity truly makes a difference!

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.

Sign up for Called and Courageous Women's Conference in Springfield

What is preventing you from trusting God more deeply. At this year's Catholic Women's Conference, discover how to trust God in the messy, real moments of everyday life. Learn how your emotions influence your spiritual life and how to challenge the lies that lead to self-criticism, comparison, and discouragement. No matter what your season of life – single, married, divorced, widowed, young adult, or retired – you'll find encouragement, community, and hope.

When? **Saturday, October 10.** Christ the King parish Center, Springfield. Women age 18+. Cost $30. For the full schedule, speaker information, and registration, visit **go.dio.org/cac**. Questions? Contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124.

St. Gregory, Pray for Us.

August 29-30, 2026
22nd 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 31st, Weekday
Tuesday, September 1st, World Day of Prayer
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Fr Pascal Bigirimann+)
Wednesday, September 2nd, Weekday
Picnic set-up at 5:30p.m.
Thursday, September 3rd, St Gregory the Great
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Tom & Donette O'Malley+)
First Friday, September 4th, Weekday
First Saturday, Sept. 5th, St Teresa of Calcutta
7:30 – 8:15 a.m. – Adoration & Reconciliation
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Our Beloved Deceased+)
Sunday, September 6th, 23rd Sunday in Ord Time
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish)
3pm – 10pm – 189th Annual Pre-Labor Day Picnic

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of August 23, 2026
Will be in next week's bulletin

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – September 6, 2026
Ushers: Marvin Zwilling, Roger Hemrich, Phil Ochs
Servers: Wade Schackmann/ Alivia Hartrich/ Kinsey Barber
Lectors: Mike Hartrich/Nancy Ochs
Gift Bearers: Tony & Janet Hartrich
E Ms: Lora Semple, Amy Hartrich, Norman Boehl

Blood Drive – Thank you to all who helped to make our Blood drive on Monday, August 16th a success! We have 35 donors and 3 first time donors. Thank you to Prairie Farms and Hartrich meats. Next blood drive will be Monday, October 12th, 2-6pm.

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 now, 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 which will be on September 23rd. They can be put in the collection, or dropped off at the office. A drop box 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.

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. 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.

Set up for the Picnic will be on Wednesday, September 2nd beginning at 5:30 p.m. All Help is greatly appreciated.
Clean up – Monday, September 7th at 8:00 a.m. – Please come help!!