



The Epiphany of the Lord January 2-3, 2021

Pastor: Fr. R. Dean Probst (email: dprobst@dio.org)
Deacon emeritus: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller
Office Managers: Linda M. Hemrich (St. Thomas)
Denisse Ochs (St. Mary's)
St. Thomas School Principal: Jill Bierman
School Secretary: Lori Smith
PSR Coordinators: Marie Wagner (St. Mary's)
Pete Pasero (St. Thomas)

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

404 W. Jourdan, Tel: 618-783-8741
Newton, Illinois 62448 Fax: 618-783-8742
E-mail: stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com

Website: www.stthomasnewton.net

Parish Emergency Number: 217-494-6326
Office Hours: 7:30 -11:30 am & 1:00- 4:00 p.m. M-F
Masses: 4:30 pm Saturday; 7 & 10 am Sunday
5:30 pm Wednesday and 8:30 am Friday
Reconciliation: 8-9 am and 3:30-4 pm Saturdays
4:30 pm -5:00 pm Wednesdays

St. Thomas School Office:

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

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

112 W. Embarras, PO Box 68 Tel: 618-455-3155
Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459 Fax: 618-455-3665
E-mail: stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com

Website: www.stemariechurch.org

Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm Tues., Wed., Thurs.
Masses: 8:30 am Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30-8 am Tuesday & Thursday

WELCOME

to the parishes of **St. Thomas the Apostle**, Newton,
and **St. Mary of the Assumption**, Sainte Marie.
If you would like to become a member of either parish,
please call the particular parish office.

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Mt 4:12-17,23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10 Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18 Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Lk 4:14-22
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 55:1-11 1 Jn 5:1-9
Mk 1:7-11



Please pray for the Sick, especially Jane Beavers, James Kocher, Wanda Sydor, Andrew Skates, Jacob Briggerman, Jeff Ward, Mary Jo Walden, Rita Schafer, George Roth, Cletus Westendorf, and George Dallmier, those undergoing surgery, for police officers and military personnel, for our government, and all those listed in our Parishes' Book of Requests.

If special need for prayers for someone this week, please call the parish office. Names of those listed for past months have been listed in the Book of Requests.

Scheduling a Baptism at St. Thomas or St. Mary's

Parents are to return from baptismal preparation class (or obtain from parish office and fill out) the **Baptismal information sheet, and the Godparent-Sponsor affidavit forms** to the parish office **before scheduling a date** for the baptism of infant. Then call Fr. Dean 217-494-6326 to schedule the date of baptism.

The next pre-baptismal class will be held on Jan. 3rd at 9:00 am. Please contact the St. Thomas parish office at 783-8741 to register. Additional classes will be held on the first Sunday of every other month including March, May, July, September, and November.

For **Anointing of the Sick** before surgery or in severe illness, or in danger of death for the **last rites and apostolic pardon**, call Fr. Dean Probst **217-494-6326**.

ST. THOMAS PARISH

This Week in our Parish

Note: + behind name in Mass intention is for deceased

Sunday, Jan. 3rd: 9:00 am Pre-Baptismal Class

Monday, Jan. 4th: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Tuesday, Jan. 5th: St. John Neumann

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

Wednesday, Jan. 6th: St. Andre Bessette

8:30 a.m. All-School Mass – School Only

3:00 pm Rosary

4:30-5:00 pm Sacrament of Penance

5:30 pm Mass (Int: John & Mary Einhorn)

6:00 pm School Board

6:30 CYO Meeting

Thurs., Jan. 7th: St. Raymond of Penafort

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

7:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting (Rectory)

Friday, Jan. 8th: Christmas Weekday

8:30 am Mass – (Int: Marion & Josephine Kapper)

Saturday, Jan. 9th: Christmas Weekday

3:30 – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass (For the Parish)

Sunday, Jan. 10th: Baptism of the Lord

7:00 am Mass (For the Parish)

10:00 am Mass (For the Parish)

Disciples' Stewardship of Time

St. Thomas Lay Minister Schedule Jan. 9th – 10th

Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

Lectors: Alaina Kuhl; Nichole Mulvey

E.M.: Kaitlyn Ochs & Kimberly Ochs

Server: Allie Hermann

Musicians: Tammy Page/Ellen Einhorn

Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, 7:00 a.m.

Lectors: Katie Shamhart; Becky Shamhart

E.M.: Ali Bierman & Maddi Hemrich

Server: Wes Bierman

Musicians: John Johnson/Laney Hemrich

Greeters/Ushers: Doug Long

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Lectors: Brian Bierman; John Bower

E.M.: Amanda Baltzell & Amy Tarr

Server: Mallory Ochs

Musician: Vicki Mullen/JoBeth Geier

Greeters/Ushers: Chris Rauch

Thank You!!

St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

Dec. 26th-27th Collection

Envelopes	\$6,129.00	
Loose	\$134.00	
Subtotal		\$6,263.00
Christmas	\$7,783.00	
School Fund	\$895.00	
Catholic Children's Home	\$633.00	
Building Fund	\$100.00	
Subtotal		\$9,411.00
Grand Total		\$15,674.00

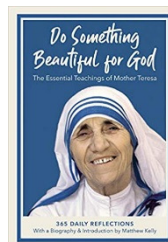
St. Thomas 2020 Contribution Statements will be available at the beginning of the new year by request only. Please contact the parish office at 618-783-8741 if you would like to receive a copy. Thank you so much for your generosity in 2020!!

St. Thomas CYO. Mark Your Calendars!

- **Weds., Jan. 6th** – 6:30 pm CYO in parish ctr.
- **Sat., Jan. 9th** – 8:00 am Right to Life Breakfast preparation (cracking eggs and slicing sweet breads) at Teutopolis Grade School

A BIG thank you to all those who participated in our Christmas Masses in any way!

The Worship committee worked hard to create a beautiful environment to celebrate Mass; CYO youth volunteered their time to help with the decorating; Musicians and choir members spent many hours preparing the music that was shared; and many lay ministers including lectors, Eucharistic ministers, servers and ushers helped with Mass and ensured that all went smoothly. What a wonderful way to celebrate together the birth of our Savior!



Do Something Beautiful for God: The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa. Be sure to stop in the church gathering space to pick up a copy of this book that includes inspiring daily devotions. Start your new year by accepting Mother Teresa's "enduring invitation and challenge to the world" to do something beautiful for God.

The Jasper County HCE thanks St. Thomas Parish for our donation of \$250.00 to their Toys for Kids program. In the spirit of the season and as a result of the excellent response to Jasper County HCE's letter, over 80 Jasper County families received gifts providing 200 kids with a brighter holiday. What a great example of keeping with the true meaning of Christmas.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parish Info:

SCHEDULE for New Year's Eve/Day Solemnity of Mary As the Mother of God

4:30 p.m. December 31 at St. Thomas

8:30 a.m. January 1 at St. Mary's

10:00 a.m. January 1 at St. Thomas

Dear Parishioners,

Looking back on something often conjures up the comment 2020 vision. As we begin a new calendar year 2021, may we look back on 2020 to see more clearly through the experience of it, what is most important in our lives.

God is still in charge of the world.

Family and contact with family.

Concern for others.

It is the same as the previous year and has been the focus forever of our Lord Jesus' teaching. The two great commandments are Love God above all things; and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Despite the lies, confusion and misunderstanding among people in all professions and varying ages, despite the illnesses and injuries, whether physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual, one thing is constant: God sent his only begotten son Jesus into our humanity so that we might be reconciled to share in his divinity.

God's healing continues.

Hopefully, during the transition to a new year, we take time to thank the Lord for

God's Love Endures Forever.

Happy New Year!

Friday, January 1

is the Solemnity of Mary as Mother of God as
the mother of Jesus.

it is a civil holiday, New Year's Day.

it is the First Friday of the Month

(thus Holy Communion visits will be made
on the second Friday of month in January).

I am grateful for the many people who are assisting in providing Holy Communion on Saturday/Sunday to parishioners who are homebound. If you would like Holy Communion brought to you particularly if you are quarantining, please call the parish office and Fr. Dean or Eucharistic Minister will Bring Jesus to you.

NOTE: We are discontinuing the sign-up for weekend Masses. Our Churches will be open for seating. When capacity is met according to guidelines, we will invite people to make use of parish center for gathering.

Note: The parish centers were not used at any of the Christmas Masses although in both parishes it was set up to accommodate the overwhelming excess signed-up to attend.



COME JOIN – IN FULL-COMMUNION of the Catholic Faith through baptism (if unbaptized) or profession of faith (if already baptized).

An introductory gathering will be 9:00 am Saturday, January 9 in St. Thomas Church for those who are interested. Invitation is the greatest means of someone joining the Catholic faith. Do your part and invite someone. If Saturday is not a good day for gathering, let me know what day and time works better for you and the person you invited!

Youth Mission Trip: June 12-18, 2021!

We are registered to attend the **Cumberland, MD Catholic Heart Workcamp**

We have reserved 20 spaces! 5 spaces are for four adults (2 male and 2 female chaperones) and priest. If interested, please contact the parish office.

Local MARCH FOR LIFE:

11:00 A.M. Indianapolis, Indiana, Friday, Jan 22, .

Any individual interested in attending this event as a group is asked to please contact Diann Ruholl thru email or text. Teens must have a parent with them. Cost will be determined by numbers of attendees. Deadline for sign-ups **January 14. Diann Ruholl, 217-663-2056 or dcruholl@hotmail.com.**

ANNUAL RIGHT TO LIFE BREAKFAST will be held on Sunday, **January 10, 2021, from 7:00am until 12:30pm** at the **Teutopolis Knights of Columbus Banquet Hall**. PLEASE NOTE: This year the Breakfast will be **CARRY-OUT DRIVE PICK-UP**.

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Effingham Area Right to Life!

St. Mary's Parish News

Sacraments:

Masses: 8:30 a.m. – Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday

Reconciliation: 7:30 am – Tuesday and Thursday

Or as scheduled or by request

Available at St. Thomas Church 8-9 am Saturdays

4:30 – 5:00 pm Wednesdays

This Week in our Parish

Monday, January 4th, St Elizabeth Ann Seton

Tuesday, January 5th, St John Neumann

8:00 a.m.- Rosary

8:30 a.m.- Mass: (Int: Dick & John Helregel+)

6:30 p.m.- **Pastoral Council Meeting**

Wednesday, January 6th, St Andre Bessette

Thursday, January 7th, St Raymond of Penafort

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass: (Int: Magdalene Zwilling+)

Friday, January 8th, Christmas Weekday

Saturday, January 9th, Christmas Weekday

Sunday, January 10th, Baptism of the Lord

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish+)

ENVELOPES: You should have received your envelopes for Jan/Feb this week. If your contact information needs to be updated please call the office.

St. Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

Collection for December 24-27,2020

Envelopes 1920.00

Loose 230.00

Sub Total 2150.00

Christmas Offering 895.00

Children's Home 265.00

Haiti 25.00

Grand Total 3335.00

Ministers for 8:30 am , January 10, 2021

Ushers: Nicholas Zwilling, Richard Ochs

Server: Ashtyn Ochs

Lector: Claire Griffith/Miranda Ochs

Eucharistic Minister: Bridget Kaufmann

JANUARY MINISTERS LIST has been e-mailed and is also available at the entrances of the church.

BLOOD DRIVE: Thanks to the 35 donors and 8 turned away. Thanks to Prairie Farms for donating the juice and to Nancy & Jane Zwilling for assisting. The next blood drive is 2:30-6 pm Tuesday, March 2, 2021

TO GIVE AWAY: There are two old style televisions in the garage of the parish office. They are free for the taking, contact the office if you are interested.

The Epiphany of the Lord – 03 January 2021

Copartners in the Promise. The readings and this solemnity are filled with competing images and persons. Darkness and light. Christians of Jewish heritage and Gentiles. Chosen people and coheirs, copartners. Herod and the Magi. Epiphany teaches us this: all are members of the same body, all are coheirs of God's goodness, all are copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus.

- Like the Magi, how will I give homage to Christ today?
- Whom do I look down upon that I must see as a copartner with me?
- What treasure will I give away, will I offer to another?

January 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

- in remembrance of the Roe v. Wade abortion decision, we are asked to observe a day of penitential prayer and fasting. St. Francis Church will have a special **vigil pro-life Mass at 7:00 PM on Thursday, Jan. 21st, with Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration on Friday, Jan 22nd. Exposition will be in the chapel after the Friday 8:00 AM Mass with closing Benediction at 4:30 PM.** The chapel is in the northeast part of the church east of the main altar. Please mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright,
even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you
when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
for the year ahead.

~Anonymous