

# January 11-12, 2025 - Baptism of the Lord



## 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](mailto:stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com)  
 Website: [www.stthomasnewton.net](http://www.stthomasnewton.net)

**Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak**

(Email: [revpl.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jillbierman@stthomassaints.com)

Website: [www.stthomassaints.com](http://www.stthomassaints.com)

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING

January 4-5, 2025 Collection

Envelopes	\$	6,376.00
Loose	\$	539.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,523.00</b>
School Fund	\$	800.00
Building Fund	\$	490.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	1,713.00
First Offering	\$	407.00
Special Dio Collections	\$	219.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,629.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,544.00</b>

### **St. Thomas Church November Tithe**

November Tithe Income – \$47,435.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$4,744.00

**St. Thomas Online Giving:** Easily tithe with online donations and no longer worry about envelopes. We hope this is convenient for you! Just visit the church's website and click on the Online Giving link provided under Online Stewardship. Thank you!!

### This Week in Our Parish

**Fr. Pawel is out of the office until Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Fr. Dean will be here to cover Masses**

**Mon., January 13, St. Hilary**

**6:30 pm** Angels Group rescheduled to meet at Judy McClure's Sign and Graphics

**Tues., January 14, Weekday**

**8:00 am** Rosary at St. Mary

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary

**Wednesday, January 15, Weekday**

**8:30 am** Class Mass (Int. Sarah Semple)

**9:00 am** Rosary Group

**5:30 pm** Youth Choir

**6:00 pm** Booster Club Meeting

**6:30 pm** PSR at St. Mary/CYO at St. Thomas

**Thursday, January 16, Weekday**

**8:00 am** Rosary

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary's

**Friday, January 17, St. Anthony**

**7:30 am – 8:15 am** Adoration

**8:30 am** All-School Mass (Int. Fred Kessler)

**10:30 am** Mass at Villas of Holly Brook

**Saturday, January 18, Weekday**

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins*

**8:00 am – 9:00 am** Reconciliation

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm** Reconciliation

**4:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)

**Sunday, January 19, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**7:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (M/M Glen Smithenry)

**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary's

**10:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Frank Rubsam)

**10:30 am** Communion Service at Villas

**11:00 am** OCIA at St. Thomas

### **This Week's Scripture Readings:**

<b>Mon.:</b> Heb 1:1-6	Mk 1:14-20
<b>Tues.:</b> Heb 2:5-12	Mk 1:21-28
<b>Weds.:</b> Heb 2:14-18	Mk 1:29-39
<b>Th.:</b> Heb 3:7-14	Mk 1:40-45
<b>Fri.:</b> Heb 4:1-5,11	Mk 2:1-12
<b>Sat.:</b> Heb 4:12-16	Mk 2:13-17
<b>Sun.:</b> Is 62:1-5	1 Cor 12:4-11
	Jn 2:1-11

### **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 2025 Schedule.**

February 2, June 1, and October 5 at 8:45 am or by appointment if needed. Classes will be held in the choir area. Contact the parish office at 618-783-8741 to register or schedule an appointment.

**St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule  
Saturday, January 18 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Lori Rauch  
EM: Lori TeVault, Alice Addis, Brad Ochs  
Servers: Alayna Ochs & Eli Ochs  
Gift Bearers: Todd Ochs  
Musicians: Five For the One  
Greeters/Ushers: Vic Klingler

**Sunday, January 19 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Sarah Hemrich  
EM: L. Hemrich, Mark/Janet Vahling, Amy Hartrich  
Servers: Will Hartrich & Caleb Kistner  
Gift Bearers: Brian Shamhart Family  
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Kinsley Kerner  
Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

**Sunday, January 19 @ 10:00 am**

Lector: Sue Sparks  
EM: John Bower, Tony Sparks, Jan Schackmann,  
Sara Mette  
Servers: Audrey Earnest & Dylan Earnest  
Gift Bearers: Nathan Earnest Family  
Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Jeff Finley  
Greeters/Ushers: Jacob Jahraus

**St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:**

*Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm*

We are excited to have everyone back to start off the New Year! A shout out to all of the CYO youth for their many acts of service in 2024!

**Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>** – Meeting in the School Cafeteria

**Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Prayer for Life Intentional Rosary

**Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>** – Night of Service – Meeting at Silk Purse & Master's Hands

**Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>** – Hey, Father! with special guest Fr. Jayke

**First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas  
February 7, 2025**

You are invited to join St. Thomas for 8:30 am Mass followed by Adoration until Noon. This is an opportunity to spend time in prayer and reflection in the presence of our Lord. It is a sacrificial offering of love to commit to a specific time during Adoration, so we have placed a sign-up sheet in the gathering space. This will ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone during Eucharistic Adoration.

**The remaining Fridays of the month** Adoration will be held from 7:30 am – 8:15 am.

**The St. Thomas School Trivia Night.** If parishioners are interested in helping, please continue saving bottles of wine and thinking about what you can do to contribute to the live or silent auction. Don't forget to get your team registration forms turned in!!

**St. Thomas School is thankful for the generosity** of so many. As we look back over 2024, we are reminded that our school is a wonderful place because of those who give of their time, talent and treasure to help us. May God bless you all with peace and love in the new year. **Go Saints!** - *Mrs. Jill Bierman, Principal*

**Catholic Schools Week 2025**

**January 26 – February 1**

This annual event, initiated by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), celebrates the vital role that Catholic education plays in forming the minds, bodies and spirits of students across the nation. Our theme for this year is **"Faith and Community."**

Each year St. Thomas School participates in Catholic Schools week by honoring the theme through various activities including attending Mass with other area Catholic Schools at St. Anthony, service projects and capping the week off with the much anticipated annual Staff vs 8<sup>th</sup> Grade volleyball game! Please keep all of our staff and students in your prayers as they celebrate this very important week for Catholic education.

**St. Thomas School Pre-Registration date:**

February 12 @ 5:30 pm

Contact the School and Mrs. Bierman for details.

**St. Thomas Contribution Statements.** The 2024 contribution statements for St. Thomas parishioners are now available upon request. School families will receive their statements along with their tuition tax credit statements in their parent packets. Thanks to all of our parishioners for your generosity in 2024!

**Welcome Aleah Higgs!** This weekend, Aleah Higgs, a freshman at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a former St. Thomas School and NCHS graduate will be here to speak about a **mission trip through Focus.** She will be attending March 7-16, in Denver, Colorado to work with Christ in the City. She will be traveling with the missionaries and her peers from SIUE Catholic Newman Center to primarily spend time engaging with the homeless. A collection basket is available in the gathering space to drop off your donations or donations can be made directly to Focus: [http://www.focusonline.org/site/Donation2?dfid=5483&5483.donation=form1&set.custom.Fund\\_ID=94527](http://www.focusonline.org/site/Donation2?dfid=5483&5483.donation=form1&set.custom.Fund_ID=94527). Please make all checks out to Aleah Higgs with FOCUS listed in the memo. Thank you!

**Lord, show me ways I can serve.**

"Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." -- Philippians 2: 3-4

# St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

WELCOME you and INVITE you.



## Please pray for the Sick:

Annie Beverlin, Brenda Zuber, Charles Sroka, John Probst, Donna Boehl, Vickie Kocher, Carol Schafer, Jim and Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Jessica Andruch, Whitney Benefiel, Mary Bergbower, Delorse Johnson, Ted and Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests. **Rest in Peace:** Sarah Semple

## **Trending on FORMED:**

**33 Days to Morning Glory.** People's lives today are often busy and challenging. Stage 1 of the Hearts Afire Parish-based Program offers individuals a quick and easy way to withdraw from the demands of daily life and enter into a peaceful interior reflection on their relationship with Christ in the context of Marian devotion. We begin with the Immaculate Heart because Mary leads us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The end result is that, by learning to entrust ourselves to the Mother of Our Lord, we can discover a transforming trust in Jesus himself. Order a copy of the book here: <https://catholic.market/programs/hearts-afire/33-days-to-morning-glory/>

**The Fourth Wise Man.** Artaban (Martin Sheen) is a good-hearted magi, and Orantes (Alan Arkin) is his faithful servant. Following a heavenly sign, they journey to find the Messiah, carrying three precious gifts. For 33 years they pursue Jesus, missing him at every turn. His gifts used up from helping the needy, Artaban finally encounters Christ on Easter Sunday.

**God's Doorkeeper: St. André of Montreal.** On January 6, 1937, the death of a humble doorkeeper for a boys' college drew over a million people to Montreal for his funeral. For forty years, Brother André Bessette of the Congregation of Holy Cross welcomed people at the door and became known as a miraculous healer. God's Doorkeeper looks at the heart and legacy of Brother André—a man who draws people in to experience a God who is love. Brother André also had a tremendous devotion to St. Joseph. On October 17, 2010, Brother André became the first Canadian-born male saint and the first saint for the Congregation of Holy Cross. He is living proof that "it is with the smallest brushes that the divine artist paints the most beautiful pictures." The film features interviews from Montreal, Rome, and the United States. It also includes footage of the beatification and canonization ceremonies in Rome and the celebrations in Canada, with footage of the unforgettable events of Brother André's road to sainthood.

*Visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.*

**Start your new year with SonRise This Friday**

## **St. Anthony Parish Center**

Beginning Friday, Jan. 17, come to SonRise Men's Breakfast. A video series by *That Man Is You!* and a full hot breakfast will continue weekly. This week's topic: **Perfect Harmony No More.**

*Form a habit of prayer for 2025. You'll be glad you did!* All Men are welcomed. **Gather** for delicious hot **Breakfast ready after 6:10 AM, VIDEO program at 6:30AM**, and concluding at 7:30.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

St. Thomas Annual Wine Tasting

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Newton KC Hall

Doors Open at 5:30 pm

**Majestic Germany Pilgrimage with Fr. R. Dean Probst**, August 18-28-2025. Visiting Frankfurt, Cologne, Hanover, Potsdam, Berlin, Nuremberg, Rothenberg, Munich, Oberammergau, Lindau, Lake Titisee, The Black Forest, Heidelberg and Mainz. Cost \$4599 per person from St. Louis, Mo. Call/text Fr. Dean 217-494-6326 or email [rdprobst@gmail.com](mailto:rdprobst@gmail.com).

**Mass for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children and Deanery Pro-life Meeting** – St. Francis Church in Teutopolis will host a pro-life Mass at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 22. The U.S. Bishops ask that January 22 be a day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. A pro-life Rosary will begin at 6:30 PM prior to Mass. Following Mass, the Deanery Pro-life Meeting will be held in St. Clare Hall, adjoining the church. Pro-life events and issues will be discussed and refreshments will be served.

**Interested...Communion Service and Rosary at Villas of Holly Brook.** Please contact the offices of St. Thomas (618)783-8741 or St. Mary (618)455-3155 if you would be interested in distributing Holy Communion and praying the Rosary with the residents of the Villas in Newton on Fridays at 10:30 am. Please help us continue this ministry by volunteering your time to give back to parishioners who have given so much to our parishes.

**Annual Effingham Area Right to Life Breakfast** will be **January 19, 2024** at the Teutopolis Banquet (KC) Hall from 7AM to 12:30PM. Sausage, eggs, sweet breads, drinks will be served. Quilt and 50/50 raffle. For donations of cinnamon rolls, sweet breads, and to **volunteer to help** please **text 217-663-2084**.

**January 11-12, 2025  
Baptism of the Lord**



**St. Mary of the Assumption Church**

112 W. Embarras Street, P.O. Box 68  
Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459 Tel: 618-455-3155  
E-mail: [stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com](mailto:stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com)

Website: [www.stmariechurch.org](http://www.stmariechurch.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**

7:30am–8:15am Eucharistic Adoration/Reconciliation

8:30 am – Holy Mass

**Reconciliation:** As Scheduled by request and  
Available at St. Thomas Church 8-9 am Saturday

**This Week in our Parish**

**Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

**Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Kayla Semple)

**Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

6:30 p.m. – PSR

**Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. – Rosary

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Dick Worland+)

**Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, Saint Anthony**

**Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, Weekday**

**World Day of Prayer**

**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, Baptism of the Lord**

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Eufala Bigard+)

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures  
Collection for the week of December 25 - 29, 2024**

**January 1-5, 2025**

Envelopes	\$5,258.00
Loose	<u>1,173.00</u>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,431.32</b>
Christmas Collection	1,850.00
Children's Home	435.00
Solemnity of Mary	245.00
Haiti	205.00
Other collections	<u>111.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,277.32</b>

**St Mary's Church Tithe**

**November Tithe Income \$9,923.0**

**10% Monthly Tithe to Diocese - \$992.00**

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – January 19, 2024**

**Ushers:** Paul Kaufmann, Marvin Zwilling,  
Roger Hemrich

**Servers:** Ellie Ochs/ Reed Kistner

**Lectors:** Nicholas Zwilling/Becca Ochs

**Gift Bearer:** Anita Griffith Family

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Elaine Zwilling, Norman  
Boehl, Lisa Ochs

**PSR – During this time of winter weather,  
remember if there is no school PSR will also  
be cancelled.**



**Pre-Cana**

St Mary's church will host a Pre-Cana session on **March 8, 2025** beginning with registration at 8am. This is for all couples that will be getting married this year. Registration is due by February 20, 2024

**Events**

**1/19/2025 – Ste Marie Legion Walking Tacos 5-7pm**

**1/22/2025 - Finance Council Meeting – 6p.m.**

**1/24/2025 – Family Life Bingo – 6pm – 8pm**

**Family Life Bingo**

will be held on

**Friday, January 24, 2025**

**6p.m. – 8p.m.**

**Refreshments will be available**

**Come out and enjoy the evening with family  
and friends!**

**Hope to see you there!**