

# Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



**April 4-5, 2026**

## St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

404 W. Jourdan, Tel: 618-783-8741  
 Newton, Illinois 62448 Fax: 618-783-8742  
**E-mail:** parishoffice@stthomasnewton.net  
**Website:** www.stthomasnewton.net

**Pastor: Fr. Paul Luczak**

(Email: revpl.stthomas@gmail.com)

**Parochial Administrator: Fr. Tomy Philip**

(Email: frtomysac@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

### March 28-29, 2026 Collection

|                          |           |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Envelopes                | \$        | 8,149.00        |
| Loose                    | \$        | 246.00          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>          | <b>\$</b> | <b>8,395.00</b> |
| Catholic Charities       | \$        | 400.00          |
| Catholic Relief Services | \$        | 130.00          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>          | <b>\$</b> | <b>530.00</b>   |
| <b>Grand Total</b>       | <b>\$</b> | <b>8,925.00</b> |

### **St. Thomas Church February Tithe**

February Tithe Income – \$34,440.00

10% Monthly Tithe Given to Diocese - \$3,444.00

## This Week in Our Parish

**Monday, April 6, Monday w/in the Octave of Easter**

**No School/Office Closed**

**6:30 pm** Angels Meeting

**Tuesday, April 7, Tuesday w/in the Octave of Easter**

**8:00 am** No Rosary

**8:30 am** No Mass at St. Mary

**Weds., April 8, Wednesday w/in the Octave of Easter**

**8:30 am** No Mass

**9:00 am** Rosary

**5:30 pm** Youth Choir End of Year Pizza Party

**6:15 pm** PSR at St. Mary

**6:30 pm** CYO at St. Thomas

**Thurs., April 9, Thursday w/in the Octave of Easter**

**5:00 pm** Rosary

**5:30 pm** Mass at St. Mary (Fr. Dean)

**Friday, April 10, Friday w/in the Octave of Easter**

**7:30 am – 8:15 am** Adoration

**8:30 am** All-School Mass-St. T. (Int. Barb Rauch)

**Saturday, April 11, Saturday w/in Octave of Easter**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am** Reconciliation

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm** Reconciliation

**4:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas

(Int.: Ralph, Rosalie, Dennis and Danny Miller)

**Sunday, April 12, Divine Mercy Sunday**

**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. Philip Kuhl)

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

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

**Mon.:** Acts 2:14,22-33

Mt 28:8-15

**Tues.:** Acts 2:36-41

Jn 20:11-18

**Weds.:** Acts 3:1-10

Lk 24:13-35

**Th.:** Acts 3:11-26

Lk 24:35-48

**Fri.:** Acts 4:1-12

Jn 21:1-14

**Sat.:** Acts 4:13-21

Mk 16:9-15

**Sun.:** Acts 2:42-47

1Pt 1:3-9

Jn 20:19-31

## **St. Thomas Pre-baptismal Class 2026 Schedule.**

June 7, and October 4 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.



## **Mark your calendars for June 28, 2026.**

St. Thomas will celebrate the feast day of their Patron Saint, St. Thomas the Apostle. More details to follow.

**St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule  
Saturday, April 11 @ 7:00 pm**

Lector: Lori Rauch  
EM: Brad/Kimberly Ochs, Ramon Kocher, Alice Addis  
Servers: Megan Farley, Carissa Barthelme, Eli Ochs  
Gift Bearers: Grant Ochs  
Musicians: Tammy Page, Mallory Einhorn  
Greeters/Ushers: Vic Klingler

**Sunday, April 12 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Amy Hartrich  
EM: Nikki Earnest, Gerald/Denisse Ochs, Gery Ochs  
Servers: Audrey Earnest, Will & Emma Hartrich  
Gift Bearers: Chris Bierman Family  
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman  
Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

**Sunday, April 12 @ 10:00 am**

Lector: Brian Bierman  
EM: Kylie Higgs, Helen Weber, Ginger Robins, Kristine Probst  
Servers: Ella Probst, Jack Weber, Lane Zumbahlen  
Gift Bearers: Jim Robins  
Musicians: Vicki Mullen, Margaret Bierman  
Greeters/Ushers: John Stone

**St. Thomas CYO Living Stations**



*Thank you to our youth for their inspiring presentation and for all those who came out to support them!*

**St. Thomas CYO Upcoming Schedule:**

*Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm*

**April 8<sup>th</sup>** – Hmm... What shall we do?

**April 15<sup>th</sup>** – Clean Church/Service Night

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Lector and Eucharistic Minister Training  
(All are welcome!)

**April 29<sup>th</sup>** – Last CYO - Celebration

**St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes**

**WELCOME you and INVITE you**



**Please pray for the Sick:** Roger Sugrue, Lorraine Yager, Eretria Cummins, Wesley Atkins, Janet Beavers, Steven Bierman, Chase

Zumbahlen, Emma Probst, Dale Harris, Jim Beauchamp, Naomi Shedlebower, Belinda Kubicki, Carol Schafer, Jim/Norma Kocher, Randy Ochs, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests.

**Chrism Mass**



This past Tuesday evening, during the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, the sacred oils used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and the Anointing of the Sick were blessed. Priests also renewed their promises to the Church. The sacred oils blessed

during the Chrism Mass include Chrism (used for Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and consecrating the altar in a new church), the Oil of Catechumens (used in Baptism), and the Oil of the Sick (used for the Anointing of the Sick). Several parishioners from our parishes were able to experience the beauty of this Mass and celebrate it with so many of the priests and religious that have a connection to St. Thomas and St. Mary. What a blessing to see so many familiar faces! Special thanks to OCIA for presenting the oils to Fr. Tomy at the Holy Thursday Mass at St. Thomas.



**Divine Mercy Sunday - April 12**

**St Joseph/ Stringtown @ 2:00 p.m.**  
Divine Mercy Message & Devotion followed by reciting Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will be available. Reception to follow in parish center. All are welcome.



## Soul Food by Fr. Tomy

### Return to Galilee: Hope Begins Again

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is truly risen!

Today we celebrate the heart of our faith: the tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive. The Resurrection is not merely an event from the past; it is the living source of our hope today.

In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb early in the morning, carrying sorrow in their hearts. For them, everything seemed over. The Lord whom they loved had been crucified and laid in the tomb. They went expecting death, but instead they encountered life. The stone had been rolled away, and the angel announced the joyful news: “He is not here, for He has been raised.” These words echo through every age and speak directly to our hearts today.

So often, we too carry heavy stones in our lives, the stone of grief, fear, disappointment, sin, or uncertainty about the future. At times, these burdens seem too heavy to move. Yet Easter reminds us that no stone is too heavy for God. Before the women even reached the tomb, the stone had already been rolled away. This is the power of the Resurrection: God does for us that we cannot do for ourselves. No darkness is too deep, no wound beyond healing, and no grave final in the presence of the Risen Lord.

One beautiful detail in today’s Gospel is Jesus’ instruction to the women: “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” Why Galilee? Galilee was the place where everything began for disciples. It was there, by the shore, that Jesus first called them. It was the place of their first encounter, the place where they first experienced His love and heard His invitation: “Follow me.”

After the pain of Good Friday and the confusion of the tomb, Jesus calls them back to Galilee—to the place of first love, first calling, and first hope. Each one of us also has our own “Galilee.” It may be the memory of childhood prayer, our First Communion, a retreat, a moment of grace in suffering, or a time when we deeply felt the Lord’s presence. Easter invites us to return there in our hearts.

When we remember our first encounter with Jesus, despair begins to lose its power and hope rises again. Memory becomes healing, and remembrance becomes resurrection. The same Lord who called the disciples

then calls us now. He enters our fears, our wounds, and our struggles, and speaks once again to our hearts: “Do not be afraid.”

As St. Augustine beautifully reminds us, “We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” May this Easter renew our hearts, restore our hope, and lead us back to our own Galilee, where we first met the Lord and where He continues to call us into new life. Alleluia! Amen.



### OCIA: New Sessions Starting Soon!

If you have been coming to Mass for a while, but are not Catholic, 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. Our parish will soon begin a set of sessions to share the truth of our Catholic faith and the fellowship of our church family. Contact our Parish Office at 618-783-8741. We are waiting for YOU.

### St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Job Posting: Middle School Math Teacher Starting: 2026-2027 School Year

Please feel free to email or call Mrs. Bierman  
(618) 783-3517, if you have any questions.  
Deadline to apply: April 24th, 2026

**We need your help.** We are looking for a volunteer to assist with distributing Holy Communion and praying the Rosary on Friday mornings at the Villas of Holly Brook. Your help is necessary in order for our parishes to be able to continue to provide this ministry for the residents who greatly appreciate our visits. Thanks!

### St. Thomas Gigantic Garage Sale

April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

April 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Specials announced during the sale!!

**Acceptable donations:** Gently used clothing (seasonal), house wares, home decor items, shoes, toys, books, bedding & curtains, purses, belts, backpacks and furniture with prior approval.

**Cannot accept:** Undergarments, girls/ladies swimwear, motor oils, lawn & garden chemicals, paint, spray paint, lawn/garden tools, outdated electronics, printers, monitors, keyboards or reference book sets

**Drop donations off** Monday, April 13th, & Tuesday April 14th, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. *All proceeds go to the St Thomas School's Technology/Improvement Fund*

**April 4-5, 2026**  
**Easter Sunday of the**  
**Resurrection of the Lord**



**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](mailto:stmaryschurch@stemariechurch.org)

Website: [www.stemariechurch.org](http://www.stemariechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Fr. Paul Luczak

(email/text: [revpl.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:revpl.stthomas@gmail.com))

**Parochial Administrator:** Fr. Tomy Philip

(Email: [frtomysac@gmail.com](mailto:frtomysac@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 am – 8:15 am Eucharistic Adoration  
& Reconciliation**

**8:30 am – Holy Mass**

**Reconciliation: As Scheduled by request**

**This Week in our Parish**

**Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Monday in the Octave of Easter**

**Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday in the Octave of Easter**

**NO Mass**

**Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday- Octave of Easter**

6:30 p.m. - PSR

**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday Octave of Easter**

5:00 p.m. – Rosary

5:30 p.m. – Mass (Int: Darrell Ochs+)

**Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Friday in the Octave of Easter**

**Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday - Octave of Easter**

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Divine Mercy Sunday**

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Donna Boehl+)

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures**  
**Collection for the week of March 29, 2026**

|                         |           |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Envelopes/Online giving | \$        | 905.00          |
| Loose                   |           | 277.00          |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$</b> | <b>1,141.00</b> |

**Parish Office Hours for Week of April 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>.**  
 Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – 8am – 3pm. Closed rest of the week.

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – April 12, 2026**

**Ushers:** Ethan Griffith, Roger Hemrich, Phil Ochs

**Servers:** Kennadi Ochs/Charlee Hartrich/Kinsey Barber

**Lectors:** Lora Ochs/ Rose Gangloff

**Gift Bearers:** Ron & Nancy Zwilling

**E Ms** Elfrieda Kaufmann, Norman Boehl, Janet Hartrich

**Many Thanks**

To Fr. Tomy and Fr. Dean for the beautiful Holy Week services, to the Worship committee for all their work preparing the church for Holy Week. To the musicians for the beautiful praise in music & song, to all the ministers who volunteered to help in any way. To all those who came to worship our risen Lord and Savior. Thank you for sharing your time and talent.

***An Easter Prayer***

*Christ the Lord is risen  
 And, as all the world rejoices,  
 Singing of His glory  
 With such joyful hearts and voices,  
 May you find that Easter brings you  
 Peace and faith and hope anew,  
 And may those blessing fill your heart  
 With joy the whole year through.*

*Amen*

**HAPPY EASTER**

**PSR – beginning April 8<sup>th</sup>, we will begin meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the parish center.**

**Happy Birthday** – Evelyn Kocher will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 9<sup>th</sup>, an open house is being held at the American Legion in Sainte Marie on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm. Cards may be sent to: Evelyn Kocher, 7423 N 2100<sup>th</sup> St, Willow Hill, IL 62480

**Area Events**

**April 12 – Divine Mercy Sunday – St Joseph/Stringtown – 2:00 p.m.** – Divine Mercy Message & Devotion followed by reciting Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will be available. Reception to follow in parish center. All are welcome.