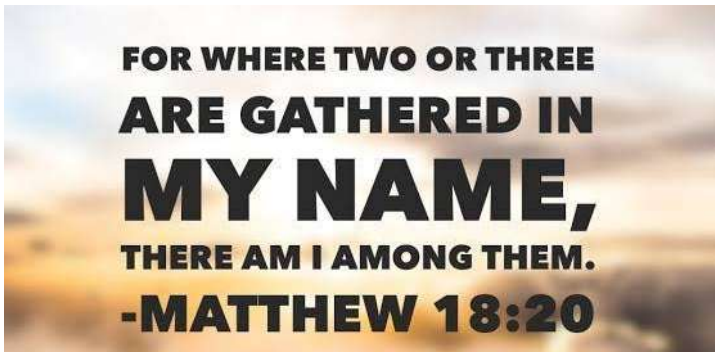
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 5-6, 2026



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 29-30, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	$	7,305.00
Loose	$	557.00
Subtotal	**$**	**7,862.00**
Annual School Fund	$	200.00
Centennial Campaign	$	10.00
Subtotal	**$**	**210.00**
Grand Total	**$**	**8,072.00**
August online contributions	**$**	**5,125.39**
August ACH contributions	**$**	**2,196.00**

Centennial Campaign:
Goal: $88,473.00
Collected: $29,384.18

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, September 7, Weekday, Labor Day
Office Closed
Tuesday, September 8, Nativity of the Bl. Virgin Mary
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
Wednesday, September 9, St. Peter Claver
8:30 am 3-4 Class Mass (Int. George Kerner)
School trash bag orders due
9:00 am Rosary
6:30 pm St. Thomas CYO starts
Thursday, September 10, Weekday
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
6:00 pm Finance Council
Friday, September 11, Weekday
7:30 – 8:15 am Adoration
8:30 am All-School Mass (Int. Genia Corbin)
Saturday, September 12; Most Holy Name of Mary
8:00 – 9:00 am Reconciliation
3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas
(Int. Kimberly English & Ruby Sroka)
Sun., September 13, 24th 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. John Schuch Family)
OCIA immediately following Mass
10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.:	1 Cor 5:1-8		Lk 6:6-11
Tues.:	Mi 5:1-4a		Mt 1:1-16
Weds.:	1 Cor 7:25-31		Lk 6:20-26
Th.:	1 Cor 8:1b-7,11-13		Lk 6:27-38
Fri.:	1 Cor 9:16-19,22b-27		Lk 6:39-42
Sat.:	1 Cor 10:14-22		Lk 6:43-49
Sun.:	Sir 27:30-28:7	Rom 14:7-9	Mt 18:21-35

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 12 @ 4:30 pm

Lector: Beth Ochs
EM: Wade Ochs, Linda Hemrich, Mark Bolander, Lori TeVault
Servers: Bryar French, Jack Schumacher, Kyle Meinhart
Gift Bearers: Todd Ochs Family
Musicians: Tammy Page & Mallory Einhorn
Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, September 13 @ 7:00 am

Lector: Aaron Volk
EM: Theresa Volk, Amy Hartrich, Alani Bergbower, Nikki Earnest
Servers: Will Hartrich, Jace Bergbower, Audrey Earnest
Gift Bearers: Paul Bierman Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

Sunday, September 13 @ 10:00 am

Lector: Pat Mammoser
EM: Becky Parker, Dylan/Lauren Gier, Sara Mette
Servers: Brantly Ochs, Will Mette, Blake Gier
Gift Bearers: Justin Probst Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Anna Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: John Stone

St. Thomas Saints and JCJH Eagles Back in Action

Sept. 6 **@ 4:30 pm** Basball, here vs St. Joe
@ 4:30 pm Cross Country, here
Sept. 12 @ 9:00 am Cross Country at Shelbyvill

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!

Game Prizes Wanted! CYO is asking for donations of individual chip bags, candy and Juice Pouch drinks for the games that they are providing for the picnic. CYO members are asked to provide **1** dozen cookies with 2 cookies per zip lock baggie. THANKS!

The Angels Group of St. Thomas are excited to start meeting again after the summer break. The group will meet on **Monday, September 14th, at 6:30 pm** in the St. Thomas Parish Center meeting room. They will then meet on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm in the St. Thomas Parish Center (unless otherwise noted). They look forward to seeing all of the familiar faces and welcoming the new ones!

Celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary! Donnie and Glenda Spiker are proud to announce their 50th wedding anniversary celebration on September 13, 2026, at the St. Thomas Parish Center. Family and friends are invited to share in this special event from 1:00 - 3:00 pm that Sunday afternoon.

Happy 65th Wedding Anniversary! Congratulations, ***Larry and Connie Brooks*** who will be married 65 years on September 16th. They are the parents of 5 children: Anthony, Tammy Merriel & husband John, Gina May & husband David, Jim Brooks & wife Melissa, Karla Koebele & husband Ron. They also have 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Cards may be sent to 304 S. Jackson St., Newton, IL 62448.

Stained Glass Window Update

Fr. Pawel is excited to announce that we are making progress with the stained-glass windows. The committee recently met with Art Glass and finalized a design for the first window that will be installed in the next few months. The first window is dedicated to St. Thomas the Apostle and depicts an image of St. Thomas touching the wound on Jesus' side. Next week, Art Glass will be at the church taking measurements and "rubbing" the big window on the north side of church to begin the process of creating our St. Thomas window. Fr. Pawel will be sure to keep parishioners updated as we continue to make progress with this very exciting project for our parish.

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.

Rest In Peace Genia (Michl) Corbin, daughter of Rose Michl and niece of Marlene Harris

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.

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

St. Mary's Parish in Taylorville Welcomes Fr. Tomy!

Congratulations, Fr. Tomy for being installed this weekend as the Pastor at St. Mary's in Taylorville. Please keep Fr. Tomy in your prayers as he shepherds his new flock and that with God as his guide, he will continue to share his joy of the priesthood.

Fr. Tomy invites us to keep in touch and visit whenever we are in the area.

Fr. Tomy's new address is:
St. Mary's Parish, 116 W. Adams St.,
Taylorville, IL 62568

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!!

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.

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

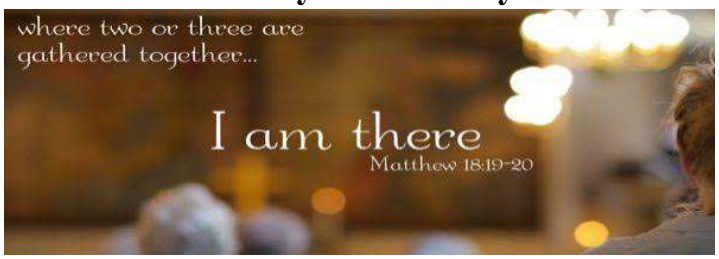
Discover how to trust God in the messy, real moments of everyday life. No matter what your season of life – single, married, divorced, widowed, young adult, or retired – you'll find encouragement, community, and hope.

When? **Saturday, October 10.** Christ the King parish Center, Springfield. Women age 18+. Cost $30. Questions? Contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124.

On FORMED

Triumph of the Heart: *Viewer discretion is advised as there are intense themes surrounding death and the events of World War II in this film.* Catholic priest St. Maximilian Kolbe volunteers to die in place of another prisoner, joining nine others condemned by the Nazis. As despair and fear grip the group, the pressures of starvation, internal ideological division, mount. But throughout, Kolbe's appeal to their shared humanity and Polish identity forges a brotherhood that culminates in a poignant act of sacrifice that echoes beyond the cell, illuminating hope in one of history's darkest moments.

September 5-6, 2026
23rd 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, September 7th, Weekday
Tues., Sept. 8th, Nativity of the Bl. Virgin Mary
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Marion Bahl+)
Wednesday, September 9th, St Peter Claver
Thursday, September 10th, Weekday
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Dennis O'Connor+)
Friday, September 11th, Weekday
Saturday, Sept. 12th, Most Holy Name of Mary
Sunday, September 13th, 24th Sunday in Ord Time
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Kathy Zwilling+)

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the week of August 29, 2026
Will be in next week's bulletin

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – September 13, 2026
Ushers: Marvin Zwilling, Roger Hemrich, Phil Ochs
Servers: Ellie Ochs/ Max Ochs/ Elanor Roberts
Lectors: Claire Lindemann/Becca Ochs
Gift Bearers: Kevin & Teresa Ochs
E Ms: Tony & Janet Hartrich, Bridget Matson

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Genia (Michl) Corbin – daughter of Rose Michl.

PSR

The first session will be on **September 23rd at 6:30pm.** Registration is under way now, and 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. Registration forms 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 still need a volunteer for 1st Grade, please contact Marie Wagner or the Parish office.

189th Annual St Mary's Church Picnic
Sunday, September 6th.
3pm – 10pm

Delicious Meal
Choice of Brisket – BBQ Pork Chop
Each meal includes Potato Salad, Baked Beans
Dessert & Water
Serving 3pm – 6pm
Eat inside or take to go
Pork Burger, Chips, Drinks
Homewood Grill Ice Cream 3pm - ?

Band – SOCO 7pm – 10pm
Games – Bingo – Kids Games
Handmade Quilt Raffle
Big Raffle drawing at 6:30pm
Come Join the fun!!
Clean up – Monday, September 7th at 8:00 a.m. – Please come help!!

Thank You – the family of Rodger Shamhart would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who helped in any way at the visitation, Mass and funeral dinner.

A special thank you to Fr Pawel, to the Five for One for the beautiful music, to the parish ladies for the delicious meal, and to Maynard and his helpers for arranging tables and chairs.

We appreciate the memorial donations, food, cards, gifts, words of comfort, love and support shown.

We are beyond blessed to have our family, friends, and church family beside us in our time of loss.