24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 12-13, 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

September 5-6, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	$	8,751.00
Loose	$	289.00
Subtotal	**$**	**9,040.00**
Annual School Fund	$	695.00
Centennial Campaign	$	850.00
Subtotal	**$**	**1,545.00**
Grand Total	**$**	**10,585.00**
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 14, Exaltation of the Holy Cross
6:30 pm Angels Group meeting
Tuesday, September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
Wednesday, September 16, Sts. Cornelius & Cyrian
8:30 am 5-8 Class Mass (Int. John W. Bergbower)
9:00 am Rosary
5:30 pm Youth Choir
6:30 pm St. Thomas CYO Welcome Back Mass
w/Adoration immediately following
Thursday, September 17, St. Robert Bellarmine; St. Hildegard of Bingen
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
Friday, September 18, Weekday
No School/Teacher's Institute
7:30 – 8:15 am Adoration
8:30 am Mass (Int. Vera Hall)
Saturday, September 19; St. Januarius
8:00 – 9:00 am Reconciliation
3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Jim Miller)
Sun., September 20, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas
(Int: Melvin Kistner & Inis Kistner Probst)
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's
9:35 am Rosary
10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)
OCIA immediately following Mass
10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.:	Nm 21:4b-9	Phil 2:6-11	Jn 3:13-17
Tues.:	1 Cor 12:12-14,27-31a		Jn 19:25-27
Weds.:	1 Cor 12:31-13:13		Lk 7:31-35
Th.:	1 Cor 15:1-11		Lk 7:36-50
Fri.:	1 Cor 15:12-20		Lk 8:1-3
Sat.:	1 Cor 15:35-37,42-49		Lk 8:4-15
Sun.:	Is 55:6-9	Phil 1:20c-27,27a	Mt 20:1-16a

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 19 @ 4:30 pm
Lector: Nichole Mulvey
EM: Brad, Kimberly, Kaitlyn, Alayna Ochs
Servers: Carissa Barthelme, Megan Farley
Gift Bearers: Chris & Lori Rauch Family
Musicians: Five for the One
Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

Sunday, September 20 @ 7:00 am
Lector: Jamie Shamhart
EM: Paul, Nathan, Katie Bierman, Brooke Woods
Servers: Blake & Kyle Bierman, Elizabeth Brummer
Gift Bearers: Seth Woods Family
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Emma Hartrich
Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

Sunday, September 20 @ 10:00 am
Lector: Tracey Bower
EM: Annie, Mallory, Oliver Ochs, Matt Bower
Servers: Micah Finley, Patrick Bower, Luke Bower
Gift Bearers: Brad Ochs Family
Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Jeff Finley
Greeters/Ushers: John Stone

16th Annual St. Thomas Harvest Picnic
October 11th
4:00 pm – 7:30 pm

St. Thomas Picnic Worker's List available in the gathering space for sign-up. Thanks for helping!

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!

Desserts Wanted. Parishioners are asked to bring desserts for the Chicken dinner. We would like to offer a dessert option for those enjoying our meal. 😊

Quilt Raffle: Please visit the gathering space of church to see the ***two*** beautiful quilts that will be raffled off at this year's picnic. Tickets are $5.00 each or $20.00 for 5 tickets.

Raffle Tickets are available in the Church foyer.
10% of proceeds benefit the Family Life Center – Newton
BYOB

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 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.

A Special Thank You! We feel so blessed to have had family and friends reach out with cards, texts, and phone calls that made our anniversary so special! Thank you and God bless you all! ***Ed & Marilyn Smithenry***

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.

The St. Thomas Gigantic Garage Sale was another huge success, bringing in over $8,800.00 for the school's technology and improvement fund. Thanks to Tracey Bower and her committee for all their hard work and everyone who donated and worked to make it a success.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes
WELCOME you and INVITE you

Please pray for the Sick

Harold Einhorn, Gery Ochs, Tony Sparks, 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.

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 and St. Thomas PSR and St. Thomas CYO Starting Soon

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!!

Come Experience DeColores

Need a little time to step away, recharge, and reconnect with God? Join us for a DeColores weekend! DeColores is a wonderful opportunity to grow closer to Christ through prayer, fellowship, laughter, and sharing your faith.

Men's Weekend: October 15–18
Rector: Doug Atwater • (217) 821-1351

Women's Weekend: October 22–25
Rectora: Kathy Buenker • (217) 821-3722

Applications are now being accepted, and space is limited! Contact Doug or Kathy for more information or to sign up.

Mattoon Deanery Andrew Dinner

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 priesthood.

Do not be afraid to ask: "Lord, where are You leading me?" More information at parish office.

A Message from Fr. Pawel

Last week we began our OCIA class for those who desire to be baptized and enter the Catholic Church. It is important to understand what Baptism really means. Baptism is the first and most important sacrament of Christian life. Through Baptism, we are freed from sin, welcomed into the Church, united with Christ, and given new life. Most importantly, Baptism is the beginning of our journey toward eternal life with God.

Scripture is clear about the importance of Baptism. Jesus commanded His disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). Jesus also tells Nicodemus, "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (Jn 3:5).

Through Baptism, we are united with Jesus in His death and Resurrection. St. Paul writes, "All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death… so that… we too might live in newness of life" (Rom 6:3–4). Through Baptism, we share in the fruits of Christ's death and Resurrection and become members of His Body, the Church.

We also become children of God by adoption. Why "by adoption"? Jesus is the Son of God by nature: He eternally comes from the Father and shares the same divine nature as the Father. We are creatures, not divine by nature. Yet through Baptism, God adopts us into His family and gives us a share in His divine life.

We can compare this to becoming a member of a royal family. A person does not simply walk in from the street and claim a royal title. Membership comes through birth or marriage. Meghan Markle, for example, was an ordinary person who became a member of the British royal family through her marriage to Prince Harry. With that membership came privileges such as protection, care, and access to things unavailable to an ordinary person and other benefits (eternal life and salvation)—but it also came with responsibilities. A royal is expected to represent the King (God), serve the public, encourage others, care for people in need, and maintain a certain standard of conduct.

In a much greater way, Baptism gives us the privilege of becoming children of God, but it also gives us responsibilities. We are called to represent our heavenly Father, his love, serve others, forgive, avoid sin (be "holy as heavenly father is holy"), and bring God's presence into the world. So why should we be baptized? Because we want to belong to Christ, become children of God, receive His grace, and ultimately enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Baptism is the beginning of the journey that leads us to eternal life with God.

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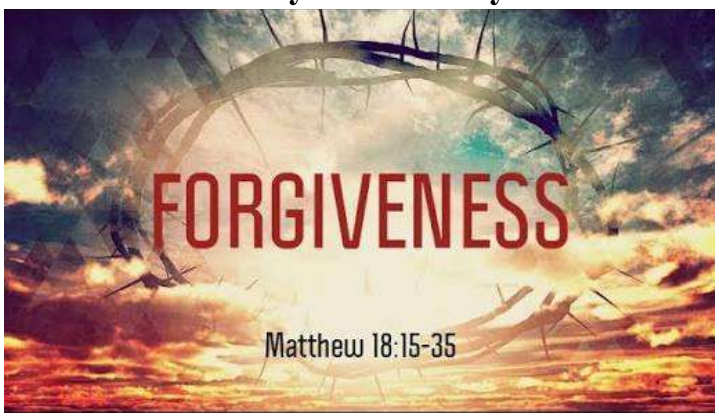

St. Mary of the Assumption

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 14th, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Tuesday, September 15th, Our Lady of Sorrows
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Deceased of Copper Family+)
Wednesday, September 16th, St Cornelius & Cyprian
Thursday, September 17t, St Rober Bellarmine
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Orville Schmidt+)
Friday, September 18th, Weekday
Saturday, September 19th, St Januarius
Sunday, September 20th, 25th Sunday in Ord Time
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Gary Griffith+)

Rest in Peace – Pleas pray for the repose of the soul of Genia (Michl) Coburn – daughter of Rose Michl.

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures Collection for the weeks of August 23rd – Sept 4, 2026

Envelopes/Online	$ 3,769.00
Loose	656.00
Sub Total	**$ 4,425.00**
Mission Appeal	781.00
Haiti	25.00
Improvement Fund	45.00
Total	**$ 5,276.00**

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – September 20, 2026
Ushers: Marvin Zwilling, Roger Hemrich, Phil Ochs
Servers: Henry Zumbahlen, Jackson Zumbahlen
Gavin Semple
Lectors: Rose Gangloff/Ron Zwilling
Gift Bearers: Ron & Nancy Zwilling
E Ms: Elaine Zwilling, Lisa Ochs, Norman Boehl

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 turn them in 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. There is a drop box on the front door of the office for your convenience.
Thank you to those who have volunteered to be teachers for this PSR session.

Happy Anniversary 66th Wedding Anniversary
To Jerome & Jeanette Kocher - September 14th
Cards may be sent to:
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Kocher, 15624 E 850th St
Newton, IL 62448

189th Annual St Mary's Church Picnic

Thank You to all those who helped to make the Annual Picnic such a success, to the Picnic committee for all the hours spent planning and making sure everything was prepared for a great day. To those who worked the different jobs and stands, and to all who attended.
Thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure with St Mary's Parish.

Area Events

September 27th – Tri-Parish CYM Annual Pancake Breakfast- Stringtown Parish Center – 8:00 – 10:30am
Free Will Donation – Support 2027 Mission Tri