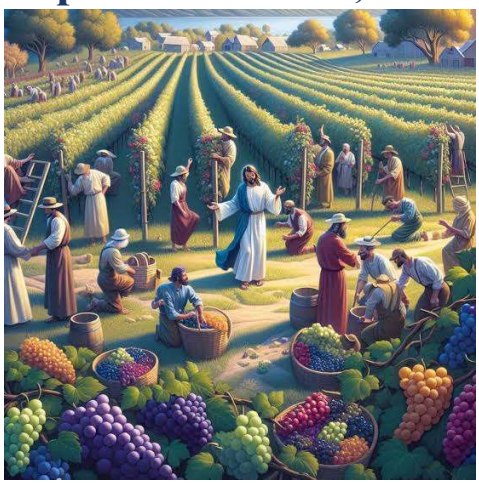
# 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
# September 19-20, 2026



## 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 12-13, 2026, Collection

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Envelopes | $ | 6,531.00 |
| Loose | $ | 490.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$** | **7,021.00** |
| Annual School Fund | $ | 590.00 |
| Centennial Campaign | $ | 130.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$** | **720.00** |
| **Grand Total** | **$** | **7,741.00** |

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

## This Week in Our Parish

***Fr. Pawel gone this week for Priests Convocation***

***Monday, September 21, St. Matthew***
***Tuesday, September 22, Weekday***
**8:00 am** No Rosary
**8:30 am** **No Mass** at St. Mary
***Wednesday, September 23, St. Pius of Pietrelcina***
**8:30 am** **No Mass**
**9:00 am** Rosary
**5:30 pm** Youth Choir
**6:30 pm** St. Thomas CYO/St. Mary PSR
***Thursday, September 24, Weekday***
**8:00 am** No Rosary
**8:30 am** No Mass at St. Mary
**2:00 pm** Mass of Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in St. Louis
***Friday, September 25, Weekday***
***7:30 – 8:15 am Adoration***
**8:30 am All – School Mass** (Int. Poor Souls)
**6:00** pm Adoration
***Saturday, September 26; Sts. Cosmas & Damian***
**8:30 am** Mass for Confirmation/First Communion Retreat – Retreat following
**3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation**
**4:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Liv/Dec of Menke and Leahy Families)
***Sun., September 27, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time***
**7:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Int: Denise Hahn)
**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.:** | Eph 4:1-7,11-13 | | Mt 9:9-13 |
| **Tues.:** | Prv 21:1-6,10-13 | | Lk 8:19-21 |
| **Weds.:** | Prv 30:5-9 | | Lk 9:1-6 |
| **Th.:** | Eccl 1:2-11 | | Lk 9:7-9 |
| **Fri.:** | Eccl 3:1-11 | | Lk 9:18-22 |
| **Sat.:** | Eccl 11:9-12:8 | | Lk 9:43b-45 |
| **Sun.:** | Ez 18:25-28 | Phil 2:1-11 | Mt 21:28-32 |

**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.

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting & Investigation
Call 217-321-1155

**St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule**

**Saturday, September 26 @ 4:30 pm**

Lector: Luke Zuber
EM: Wanda Kocher, Ramon Kocher, Glenda Spiker, Alice Addis
Servers: Hank/Gauge Weber, Eli Ochs
Gift Bearers: Patti Ochs Family
Musicians: Tammy Page & Electa Meyer
Greeters/Ushers: Ken Buerster

**Sunday, September 27 @ 7:00 am**

Lector: Sarah Hemrich
EM: Eliza Muska, Linda Hemrich, Becky Shamhart, Allison Weber
Servers: Emalee Kistner, Avery Shamhart, Jillian Volk
Gift Bearers: Brian Brummer Family
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lindsey Spiker
Greeters/Ushers: Brian Brummer

**Sunday, September 27 @ 10:00 am**

Lector: Mike Geier
EM: Jan/Charlie Schackmann, Adam Weber, Dennis Weber
Servers: Jack Weber, Pete Weber, Maura Weber
Gift Bearers: Jim & Ginger Robins
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Debbie Matson
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. Thanks, Karen Long and Dee Bower!

**Raffle Tickets are available in the Church foyer.**
**10% of proceeds benefit Newton F L C**
BYOB

## Celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony

**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!** Donnie and Glenda Spiker would like to thank everyone for all the kind heartfelt congratulations on celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary! They enjoyed all the cards and well wishes. Special thanks to Father Pawel for the blessing at Mass!

**The Family Life Center** is asking for our support as they continue to meet needs of families in our community by comforting, educating, and uplifting. Let us consider how we can continue to help them meet their needs. They are asking for donations of the items listed below and are especially in need of:

Newborn, Size 1 & Size 4 diapers
Baby wipes
Baby boy clothing (newborn–9 months)
Rectangle laundry baskets – large 2-bushel size
Backpack Diaper Bags for our Dads

**BIG thanks to our parishioners** who showed their support for the Newton FLC by donating to the Baby Bottle Project. St. Thomas collected $1,658.97!

## St. Thomas CYO is Marching In!

**Meeting Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm**

CYO is going to spend this year exploring the lives of the Saints, learning about how to become a Saint and why we need Saints. So excited about what is to come, and we'll keep you posted as our parish youth are inspired by and walk with the Saints over the next several months. Just remember…we are ALL Saints in training.

## 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.

## A Message from Fr. Pawel

The Holy Eucharist holds a unique place in Christian theology, particularly within the Catholic tradition, where it is described as the "source and summit" of the Christian life. It is not merely a symbol, but the Real Presence of Jesus Christ—His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Because of this belief, any deliberate act of contempt, mockery, or disrespect toward the consecrated Host is considered a grave offense against God. This offense is known as sacrilege.

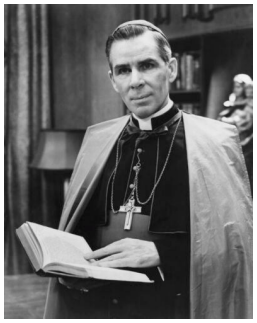
According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 2120: "Sacrilege consists in profaning or treating unworthily the sacraments and other liturgical actions, as well as persons, things, or places consecrated to God. Sacrilege is a grave sin especially when committed against the Eucharist, for in this sacrament the true Body of Christ is made substantially present for us."

From the earliest centuries, Christians understood how serious it was to offend against the Body of Christ. St. Cyprian of Carthage, in the third century, strongly condemned receiving Holy Communion while in mortal sin, thereby profaning the Eucharist. St. Paul was even more direct, warning that whoever receives the Body and Blood of the Lord unworthily brings judgment upon himself (cf. 1 Cor 11:27–29).

This is one way in which the Blessed Sacrament can be profaned. However, Eucharistic sacrilege can take other forms as well. These include deliberately throwing or scattering the consecrated Host into the trash, pouring the Precious Blood onto the ground or into an inappropriate place, or intentionally spitting out the consecrated Host after receiving Holy Communion. Such actions constitute a grave offense against Jesus Christ Himself, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. For us as Catholics, such an act is deeply heartbreaking and painful because an offense has been committed against the sacred Eucharistic species. When the Blessed Sacrament has been desecrated, it is fitting that we respond with prayer, reparation, and atonement.

For this reason**, we will have Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, September 25, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Church**. This will be a time of prayer, worship, and love for Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist. We will ask for God's mercy, offer reparation for the offense committed, and pray for the conversion and salvation of those involved.

I invite all parishioners to join us in prayer and to spend this time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament as an act of atonement and restoration for the harm done to Christ.



### Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Beatification

**Background and the Path to Beatification:**

**The Miracle:** The beatification recognizes a verified 2010 miracle involving the complete recovery of a stillborn infant in Central Illinois (James Fulton Engstrom) who went without a pulse for 61 minutes before starting to breathe after prayers for Sheen's intercession.

**The Journey:** Sheen was declared Venerable in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. Although a 2019 miracle approval led to an initially planned 2019 beatification, it faced administrative and procedural delays before being officially rescheduled for 2026.

**Legacy:** Sheen was a 20th-century pioneer in Catholic media, renowned for his radio and television program *Life Is Worth Living* and his extensive service as Bishop of Rochester and Archbishop.

### 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.

### 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

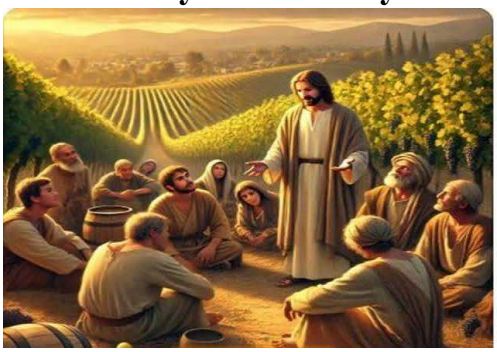
Applications are now being accepted, and space is limited! Contact Doug or Kathy for more information or to sign up.

### 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.

**September 19-20, 2026**
**25th 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 21st, St Matthew**
**Tuesday, September 22nd, Weekday**
No Mass – Fr Pawel away at Priest Convocation
**Wednesday, September 23rd, St Pius**
**6:30 p.m. - PSR**
**Thursday, September 24th, Weekday**
No Mass
**Friday, September 25th, Weekday**
**Saturday, September 26th, St Cosmos & St Damian**
**8:30 am – Mass for Confirmation Retreat & retreat following at St. Thomas Church**
**Sunday, September 27th, 26th Sunday in Ord Time**
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Norbert Ochs+)

**St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures**
**Collection for the weeks of September 13, 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| Envelopes/Online | $ 1,835.00 |
| Loose | 190.00 |
| **Sub Total** | **$ 2,025.00** |
| Improvement Fund | 20.00 |
| **Total** | **$ 2,045.00** |

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – September 27, 2026**
**Ushers:** Marvin Zwilling, Roger Hemrich, Phil Ochs
**Servers:** Reed Kistner/Blake Frohning/Charlee Hartrich
**Lectors:** Nicholas Zwilling/Ashtyn Ochs
**Gift Bearers:** Tony & Martha Strutner
**E Ms:** Rose Gangloff, Lora Semple, Amy Frohning

**PSR**

The first session of PSR for the year will begin on **September 23,2026 at 6:30pm** in the parish center. We look forward to the beginning of our Parish School of Religion.

***Our teachers are a vital part of the PSR, thank you to:***
**Kindergarten** – Lori Davis
**1st Grade** – Erica Ruholl
**2nd Grade** – Kayla Semple
**3rd & 4th Grade** – Marie Wagner
**5th & 6th Grade** – Anne Ochs
**7th & 8th Grade** – Lora Semple
**High School** – Becca Ochs

If you did not get your registration in, please bring it that night and give to Marie Wagner.

**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 Trip

**October 11**– St Thomas 16th Annual Harvest Picnic - 4pm- 7:30pm - Food, Games, Live Music, Raffle

**October 18** – 2026 St Joseph Smorgasbord and Bazaar St Joseph School gymnasium – 11:00am – 1:30pm Food, Games, Bazaar - Raffle