# 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
# Priesthood Sunday
# September 26-27, 2026

"The priest is not for himself–He is for you
He is for the Church"

## 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 19-20, 2026, Collection

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Envelopes | $ | 5,663.00 |
| Loose | $ | 558.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$** | **6,221.00** |
| Annual School Fund | $ | 1,550.00 |
| Centennial Campaign | $ | 205.00 |
| Church in Africa | $ | 477.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$** | **2,232.00** |
| **Grand Total** | **$** | **8,453.00** |

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

## This Week in Our Parish

***Mon., September 28, Sts. Wenceslaus/Lawrence Ruiz***
***Tuesday, Sept. 29, Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael***
**8:00 am** Rosary
**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary
**5:30 pm- 7:00 pm** St. Thomas School Open House
***Wednesday, September 30, St. Jerome***
**8:30 am Class Mass**(Int. John & Kristen Probst (Liv))
**9:00 am** Rosary
**5:30 pm** Youth Choir
**6:30 pm** St. Thomas CYO/St. Mary PSR
***Thursday, October 1, St. Therese of the Child Jesus***
**8:00 am** Rosary
**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary
***First Friday, October 2, The Holy Guardians***
***Fr. Pawel Home Visits***
**8:30 am All – School Mass** (Int. Schuch Family)
(Adoration following until noon)
***First Saturday, October 3; Weekday***
***11:00 am Confirmation/1st Communion at Cathedral***
**No Reconciliation/Adoration/Mass at St. Mary**
**3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation**
**4:30 pm** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. For the Parish)
***Sun., October 4, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time;***
***World Communion Sunday, Respect Life Sunday***
**7:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas
(Int: Harold & Clara Kocher)
**8:30 am** Mass at St. Mary's
**9:35 am Rosary**
**10:00 am** Mass at St. Thomas (Int. LeRoy Schackmann)
**OCIA immediately following Mass**
**10:30 am** Communion Service at Villas

## This Week's Scripture Readings:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Mon.:** | Jb 1:6-22 | | Lk 9:46-50 |
| **Tues.:** | Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 | | Jn 1:47-51 |
| **Weds.:** | Jb 9:1-12, 14-16 | | Lk 9:57-62 |
| **Th.:** | Jb 19:21-27 | | Lk 10:1-12 |
| **Fri.:** | Jb 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5 | | Mt 18:1-5,10 |
| **Sat.:** | Jb 42:1-3,5-6,12-17 | | Lk 10:17-24 |
| **Sun.:** | Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9 | Mt 21:33-43 |

**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.

## St. Thomas Parish Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, October 3 @ 4:30 pm**
Lector: Brian Bierman
EM: Linda Hemrich, Lori Rauch, Wade Ochs, Mark Bolander
Servers: Lillian Green, Jack Schumacher, Kyle Meinhart
Gift Bearers: Chris Rauch Family
Musicians: Nichole Mulvey & Anna Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

**Sunday, October 4 @ 7:00 am**
Lector: Tony Weber
EM: Sheryl/Madilyn/Allison Brummer, Nikki Earnest
Servers: Audrey Earnest, Kinsley Kerner, Emma Hartrich
Gift Bearers: Chris Bierman Family
Musicians: Five for the One
Greeters/Ushers: Doug Long

**Sunday, October 4 @ 10:00 am**
Lector: Marissa Bower
EM: Renee/Dylan/Lauren Gier, Leo Weber
Servers: Claire Shackmann, Ella Probst, Blake Gier
Gift Bearers: Mike Gier Family
Musicians: Patsy Leffler & Anne Kuhl
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

## 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

**First Friday Adoration at St. Thomas**
**October 2, 2026**
Please join St. Thomas for 8:30 am Mass followed by Adoration until Noon. A sign-up sheet is available. **Remaining Fridays of the month** Adoration is 7:30 am – 8:15 am.

## St. Thomas CYO is Marching In!

**Meeting Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm**
**We welcome Tracey Bower to the CYO team!!**
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.

**50+ Anniversary Mass & Brunch:** This year's Mass & brunch will be on Sunday, October 25! Seats for mass will be reserved in the front of the middle 2 sections. Fr. Pawel will be giving a special Blessing to all couples during the Mass. The Brunch will follow in the Parish Center immediately after mass. Invitations will be mailed soon. Reservations are recommended. RSVP Glenda Spiker via text: 618-554-3663 or email at spikerfarms@gmail.com If you do not receive an invitation soon please contact Glenda.

**St. Thomas Parish Council**
**Welcomes New Members**
The Pastoral Council is excited to welcome ***Ken Buerster, Peggy Mammoser, and John Will*** to the council. Thanks to ***Tracey Bower and Dennis Weber*** for being part of this council and completing their term! Our parish is blessed to have so many parishioners willing to actively serve their parish.

***Thanks to the following members for all that they do to support our parish:*** Fr. Pawel, Brian Bierman, Nikki Bierman, Mike Geier, Craig Hartrich, Stephanie Kuhl, Dean Swingler and Kim Zuber. The next pastoral council meeting will be held on October 7 at 6:00 pm in the parish center meeting room. Get ready to mark your calendars for things that will be coming up soon for our parish!

**Congratulations**
**JCJH Lady Eagles Softball team**
4th Place 2A State Tournament. Great job! Carissa and Audrey always represented St. Thomas and JCJH well. Audrey earned the Sportmanship award at every level of post-season – AWESOME!
**Proud of you girls!**

## St. Thomas & St. Mary Parishes

**WELCOME you and INVITE you**

**Please pray for the Sick**

Deacon Larry Miller, 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.

**Beatification of Blessed Fulton J. Sheen.** Be sure to watch the bulletin next weekend as we highlight this absolutely amazing and very inspirational display of our Catholic faith. We cannot wait to share it with you!

**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!

**40 Days of Prayer Campaign for Life**

Join people of faith across our nation to pray, fast, and serve to protect all life.

**Wednesday, Oct. 28** Adoration at St. Thomas. Times to be determined.

**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.

**First Saturday, October 3rd.** Due to our parishes celebrating Confirmation & First Communion next Saturday at the Cathedral in Springfield there will not be Adoration/Reconciliation/Mass at St. Mary. St. Anthony at Effingham has First Saturday Rosary, Mass and Meditation starting at 6:10 am. Please check other First Saturday Mass schedules at surrounding churches for other available times.

**Priesthood Sunday**

**Please take some time on this special day** and throughout the coming days to honor, reaffirm, and give thanks for the priests in our parishes who have given their lives to the priesthood! Let us be sure to show them our appreciation even if it is with a simple and sincere thank you!

Our priests are appreciated more than they know for all that they have done and continue to do to help us draw closer to our Lord through strengthening our faith and trust in Him. Each priest has affected each one of us with their gifts and strengths, whether introducing us to the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives, teaching us how to Consecrate our hearts to Jesus through Mary, showing us how to serve others unconditionally, sharing their joy through their ministry or by simply recommending a book that will inspire us to continue learning…and in so many other ways.

**Thank you to those priests serving our parishes:**

Fr. Pawel Luczak – St. Thomas and St. Mary
Fr. Tomy Philip – St. Mary, Taylorville
Fr. Dean Probst – Priest Emeritus, Effingham
Fr. Joe Molloy – St. Joseph the Worker, Chatham
Fr. Allen Kemme – Church of the Little Flower, Sfld
Fr. Michael Haag – St. John Paul II, Mt. Olive
Fr. Paul Lesupati – St. Agnes, Springfield
Fr. Jayke White – Christ the King, Springfield
Fr. Alex McCullough – St. Anthony, Effingham
Fr. Charlie Delano – Our Lady of Lourdes, Decatur

## Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God,

We thank you for the gift of our priests.
Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.
Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.
Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

**September 26-27, 2026**
**26th 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 28th, St Wencelaus**
**Tuesday, September 29th, St Michael, Gabriel & Raphael**
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Herman, Ethel & Kathleen Zwilling+)
**Wednesday, September 30th, St Jerome**
**6:30 p.m. - PSR**
**Thursday, October 1st, St Therese of the Child Jesus**
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: LaVere & Esther Keeney+)
**Home Visits with FR Pawel**
**First Fri., October 2nd, The Holy Guardian Angels**
**First Saturday, October 3rd, Blessed Virgin Mary**
**No Reconciliation/Adoration/Mass at St. Mary**
**11:00 a.m. – Confirmation & 1st Communion at Cathedral – Springfield Il**
**Sunday, October 4th, 27th Sunday in Ord Time**
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Rodger Shamhart+)

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Envelopes/Online | $ 1,380.00 |
| Loose | 230.00 |
| **Sub Total** | **$ 1,610.00** |
| Haiti | 100.00 |
| **Total** | **$ 1,710.00** |

**Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – October 4,2026**
**Ushers:** Paul Kaufmann, Tony Strutner, Alex Kaufmann
**Servers:** Kinsey Barber/Elanor Roberts/ Halle Schackmann
**Lectors:** Becca Ochs/Ethan Zwilling
**Gift Bearers:** Bob & Carolyn Barthelme
**E Ms:** Norman Boehl, Tony & Janet Hartrich

**PSR**

PSR is the place for your children to learn about their Catholic faith. While you children met, we offer our hospitality in the Parish Center to all who bring their children on Wednesday night during the school year. We encourage you to grow and learn as we share faith and build relationships. We pray together for our children, teachers, and families, learn more about the Mass, the Bible and the Catechism. Plan to spend the hour with us in the Parish Center from 6:30 – 7:30 pm You don't have to have children in the program to come. All are welcome. Your hostess will be Rose Gangloff.

**Prayers** – Three 3rd graders from our PSR program will be going to Springfield on October 3rd to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and First Communion –
Logan Semple
Brynlie Blank
Coralynn Ochs
Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they make this step in the faith journey.

**Free –** there is a table in the parish center that we are giving away. It is quite heavy, so you would need to bring help to load. If you are interested, please call the office or let Maynard Kaufmann know.

**Area Events**

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

**October 12 –** American Red Cross Blood Drive – St Mary's Parish Center 2pm – 6pm

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