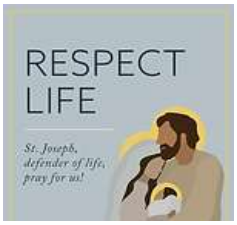
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



October 3-4, 2026

World Communion Sunday
Respect Life Sunday

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 26-27, 2026, Collection

Envelopes	$	6,760.00
Loose	$	432.00
Subtotal	**$**	**7,192.00**
Annual School Fund	$	250.00
Centennial Campaign	$	150.00
Church in Africa	$	20.00
Subtotal	**$**	**420.00**
Grand Total	**$**	**7,612.00**

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.

This Week in Our Parish

Mon., October 5, St. Faustina Kowalska; Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos
Tues., Oct. 6, St. Bruno; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
Wednesday, October 7, Our Lady of the Rosary
8:30 am Class Mass (Int. Sandra Hartrich)
9:00 am Rosary
5:30 pm Youth Choir
6:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting
6:30 pm St. Thomas CYO/St. Mary PSR
Thursday, October 8, Weeekday
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary
Friday, October 9, St. Denis; St. John Leonardi
7:30 am – 8:15 am Adoration
8:30 am All – School Mass
(Int. Liv & Dec of Gerald & Rosella Hemrich Family)
Saturday, October 10; Weekday
8:00 – 9:00 Reconciliation
3:30-4:00 pm Reconciliation
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas
(Int. Don & Marlene Ochs)
Sun., October 11, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
4:00 – 7:30 pm St. Thomas Harvest Picnic
7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int: Ronnie Ochs)
8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's
9:35 am Rosary
10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas (Int. Douglas Frichtl)
OCIA immediately following Mass
10:30 am Communion Service at Villas

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Mon.:	Gal 1:6-12	Lk 10:25-37
Tues.:	Gal 1:13-24	Lk 10:38-42
Weds.:	Gal 2:1-2,7-14	Lk 11:1-4
Th.:	Gal 3:1-5	Lk 11:5-13
Fri.:	Gal 3:7-14	Lk 11:15-26
Sat.:	Gal 3:22-29	Lk 11:27-28
Sun.:	Is 25:6-10a Mt 22:1-14	Phil 4:12-14,19-20

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 10 @ 4:30 pm
Lector: Aubrey Bergbower
EM: Matt/Amanda Baltzell, Ramon Kocher, Alice Addis
Servers: Megan Farley, Eli Ochs, Bryar French
Gift Bearers: Ken & Karen Buerster
Musicians: Tammy Page & Mallory Einhorn
Greeters/Ushers: Brad Ochs

Sunday, October 11 @ 7:00 am
Lector: Jill Bierman
EM: Gus Bierman, Eliza Muska, Brenda Phillips, Alani Bergbower
Servers: Emalee Kistner, Jace Bergbower
Gift Bearers: Mark & Janet Vahling
Musicians: Jeff Finley & Lucy Bierman
Greeters/Ushers: Doug Long

Sunday, October 11 @ 10:00 am
Lector: Tracey Bower
EM: Zach/Helen/Adam Weber, Sara Mette
Servers: Will Mette, Brantley Ochs, Logan Vogt
Gift Bearers: Jim & Ginger Robins
Musicians: Vicki Mullen & Margaret Bierman
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

Congratulations, 3rd Graders!

St. Thomas Parish welcomes our St. Thomas School 3rd Graders who will participate in the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion this Saturday at the Cathedral.

Jonah Bahl, Adley Benson, Wilson Beverlin, Reagan Birch, Lizzy Bower, Lela Cochran, Ella Earnest, Kelsey Farley, Sam Finley, Isaac Kistner, Ellie Mammoser, Ava Meinhart, Bostyn Mette, Tucker Milliman, Eliza Millsap, Andrew Ochs, Ayden Ochs, Mara Pilman, Avery Semple, Aubree Stevens, Claire Vogt, Charlie Wagner, Grant Walters, Reuben Weber, Lucas Will

Congratulations to all and let us keep them in our prayers as their faith journey is just beginning.

BAPTISM: Congratulations, Harper Leigh Hemrich, infant daughter of Jordan & Jordan (Mammoser) Hemrich, who was recently baptized at St. Thomas. Godparents are Mark Mammoser & Rachel Wendt. May God continue the good work begun in her!

A Special Thank You! Larry and Connie Brooks would like to thank everyone for all the cards and well wishes that they received for their 65th wedding anniversary. A special thank you to Fr. Pawel for the anniversary blessing.

50+ Anniversary Mass & Brunch will be on **Sunday, October 25!** Seats for mass will be reserved in front of the middle 2 sections. Fr. Pawel will give a special Blessing to all couples during the Mass. The Brunch will follow in the Parish Center. Invitations will be mailed soon. Reservations are recommended. RSVP Glenda Spiker via text: 618-554-3663 or email at spikerfarms@gmail.com.

St. Thomas Parish Council
Welcomes New Members

The Pastoral Council is excited to welcome ***Ken Buerster, Peggy Mammoser, and John Will*** to the council. Our parish is blessed to have so many parishioners willing to actively serve their parish.

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

Please pray for the Sick

Deacon Larry Miller, Harold Einhorn, Gery Ochs, Charles Schafer, Nancy(Alan) Ochs, Jon Webb, Roger Sugrue, Lorraine Yager, Janet Beavers, Emma Probst, Belinda Kubicki, Norma Kocher, Ted/Susie Ochs; those in healthcare facilities/Book of Requests.

A Couple of Messages from Fr. Pawel

A couple of weeks ago at 10:00 am Mass at St. Thomas, something unexpected happened. For the first time, we didn't have enough consecrated hosts to distribute during Holy Communion. That is why the role of a Sacristan is so important. It reminds us of two people we all know from Scripture — the prophet Simeon, a righteous and devout man who was waiting for the consolation of Israel. When he saw Jesus, he recognized Him as the promised Savior. And we also think of the prophetess Anna, who spent her time in the Temple serving God night and day. In a similar way, the sacristan prepares everything for the Masses so that we are ready to welcome Christ in the celebration of the Mass.

A sacristan plays an important role in the life of the parish. Their main responsibility is to prepare the church and everything needed for the celebration of Mass, as well as to assist the priest before and after the liturgy. It is a ministry that requires responsibility, commitment, and care for the beauty and order of the liturgy.

Our parish is currently looking for someone who would be interested in taking on this ministry. If you believe that you would like to give your time and help prepare for Mass, I warmly invite you to speak with me or contact the St. Thomas Parish office.

Every helping hand is valuable, and serving in this way is a beautiful opportunity to become more involved in the life of our parish community.

The Rosary - October Devotion

The month of October is especially dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. During this month, the Church encourages everyone to pray the Rosary daily. The Rosary was developed during the Middle Ages. Early Christians used prayer beads to help count repeated prayers, and by the 15th century, the Rosary had taken a form closer to what we know today. The Rosary is Christ-centered, presenting the entire life of Jesus Christ—from His Incarnation and earthly ministry to His Passion, Death, Resurrection, and glory. By meditating on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries, the Rosary becomes a summary of the Gospel and a reflection of the Christian life. Everyone is encouraged to take up this prayer for all 31 days of October, trusting in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who brings our prayers before her Son and pleads for the graces we need. May this October become a spiritual challenge that we joyfully embrace, especially together with our families. Let us make the Rosary a daily prayer and a source of grace, peace, and strength in our homes.

Beatification Mass - Blessed Fulton Sheen

"What a joyous day! I saw how the Catholic Church honors those that live the Gospel and how the Saints guide us to be more Holy. So happy to be a Catholic!!" ***- Suzy Thornton***

"I felt that we were part of that great cloud of witnesses who attend to the King of Glory as he calls those who serve him to be with the Saints in Heaven. We were all there to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as we serve him by our lives. In the sea of people, and our many seminarians, religious, priests and bishops, it was wonderful to be a part of it. I loved to see the many families with their children in tow as they made this special event part of their memories. The love of God was everywhere." – ***Rose Gangloff***

"Praying the Lord's Prayer with 50,000 people was amazing!" – ***Alice Addis***

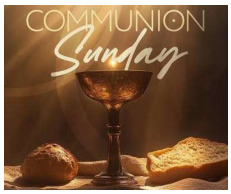
"A vast number of priests in a very large area made the long confession line move quickly and continuously. I was in awe at the number of clergy present**."**

- Rita Kocher

"Reflecting on that day, I am absolutely positive it was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget!! And that the witnessed outpouring of our faith will always live in my heart and endlessly inspire me."

– Julie French

"It is not easy to describe in a few words the majesty we witnessed at the historic Beatification of the first American born bishop to now be called Blessed. He reminded us that every person has the potential to be Christ to others and to see through the eyes of Christ you must be with Christ every day. The Blessed Fulton Sheen spent one hour in Adoration every day. God's Honor and Glory was magnified in the celebration of Blessed Fulton Sheen's life!" – ***Debbie Matson***



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Oct. 3-4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

Respect Life Sunday

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, October 5th, St Faustina Kowalska

Tuesday, October 6th, St Bruno
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Gerry Carter+)

Wednesday, October 7th, Our Lady of the Rosary
6:30 p.m. – PSR/Rosary

Thursday, October 8th, Weekday
8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: Bob & Florence Propheter+)
6:30 p.m. – Pastoral Council Meeting

Friday, October 9th, St Denis and Companions

Saturday, October 10th, Weekday

Sunday, October 11th, 28th Sunday in Ord Time
8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: George & Hilda Dallmier
Margie Townsend+)

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasures
Collection for the weeks of September 27, 2026

Envelopes/Online	$ 785.00
Loose	328.00
Total	**$ 1,113.00**

Ministers for 8:30 a.m. – October 11,2026
Ushers: Paul Kaufmann, Tony Strutner, Alex Kaufmann
Servers: Max Ochs/Wade Schackmann/ Jackson Zumbahlen
Lectors: Lora Ochs/Claire Lindemann
Gift Bearers: Dan Hartrich Family
E Ms: Bridget Matson, Ben Ochs, Lisa Ochs

Have you heard the Bells – The bell system at St Mary's was upgraded this week, it so great to hear them ring once again. They ring every day at 6am, noon, 6pm for the Angelus. The bells are rung at 3pm each day, for the Holy Hour prayer. They will also chime at 5 minutes before mass time on Sunday.

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

Youth Group Leader – St Mary's Youth Group is looking for someone who would be willing to step into the leadership position to continue pouring into the youth of our church. This role is a meaningful opportunity to build relationships, encourage our young people in their faith, and help create a welcoming and fun environment for them to grow together.

If you feel like this is something God may be calling you to do, or to learn more about what the role involves, please reach out to Sarah Boehl at 618-562-8745. We would love to see this group continue with a great leader at the helm!

PSR

PSR will be starting with the Rosary at 6:30pm in the church during the month of October. All are welcome!
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.

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