



First Sunday of Advent November 28th-29th, 2020

Pastor: Fr. R. Dean Probst (email: dprobst@dio.org)
Deacon emeritus: Rev. Mr. Larry Miller
Office Managers: Linda M. Hemrich (St. Thomas)
Denisse Ochs (St. Mary's)
St. Thomas School Principal: Jill Bierman
School Secretary: Lori Smith
PSR Coordinators: Marie Wagner (St. Mary's)
Pete Pasero (St. Thomas)

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

404 W. Jourdan, Tel: 618-783-8741
Newton, Illinois 62448 Fax: 618-783-8742
E-mail: stthomaschurch@psbnewton.com
Website: www.stthomasnewton.net
Parish Emergency Number: 217-494-6326
Office Hours: 7:30 -11:30 am & 1:00- 4:00 p.m. M-F
Masses: 4:30 pm Saturday; 7 & 10 am Sunday
5:30 pm Wednesday and 8:30 am Friday
Reconciliation: 8-9 am and 3:30-4 pm Saturdays
4:30 pm -5:00 pm Wednesdays

St. Thomas School Office:

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

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

112 W. Embarras, PO Box 68 Tel: 618-455-3155
Ste. Marie, Illinois 62459 Fax: 618-455-3665
E-mail: stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com
Website: www.stmariechurch.org
Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm Tues., Wed., Thurs.
Masses: 8:30 am Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30-8 am Tuesday & Thursday

WELCOME

to the parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle, Newton,
and St. Mary of the Assumption, Sainte Marie.
If you would like to become a member of either parish,
please call the particular parish office.

This Week's Scripture Readings:

Monday:	Rom 10:9-18	Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10	Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a	Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6	Mt 7:21,24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24	Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21,23-26	Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8
Sunday:	Is 40:1-5,9-11	2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8



Please pray for the Sick, especially Mark Bolander, Rosetta Bolander, Don Klingler, Mary Jo Walden, Bernice Bolander, Rita Schafer, Geneva Barber, Cletus Westendorf, Lynn Schafer, and George Dallmier, George Roth, Kevin Schafer, those undegoing surgery, for police officers and military personnel, for our government, and all those listed in our Parishes' Book of Requests.

Please offer Prayers for the Repose of Soul Terry Lidy.

If special need for prayers for someone this week, please call the parish office. Names of those listed for past months have been listed in the Book of Requests.

Scheduling a Baptism at St. Thomas or St. Mary's

Parents are to return from baptismal preparation class (or obtain from parish office and fill out) the **Baptismal information sheet, and the Godparent-Sponsor affidavit forms** to the parish office **before scheduling a date** for the baptism of infant. Then call Fr. Dean 217-494-6326 to schedule the date of baptism.

For **Anointing of the Sick** before surgery or in severe illness, or in danger of death for the **last rites and apostolic pardon**, call Fr. Dean Probst **217-494-6326**.

Websites: Be sure to visit your parish's website for bulletins, ministry schedules, and much more!

ST. THOMAS PARISH

This Week in our Parish

Note: + behind name in Mass intention is for deceased

Monday, Nov. 30: St. Andrew

1:30 pm Ministerial Association Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 1: Advent Weekday

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

11:00 am Private Funeral Mass for Terry Lidy

Wednesday, Dec. 2: Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. All-School Mass – School Only

3:00 pm Rosary

4:30-5:00 pm Sacrament of Penance

5:30 pm Mass (Int.: Dean Bond+)

6:00 pm School Board Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 3: St. Francis Xavier

8:30 am Mass at St. Mary's

Friday, Dec. 4: St. John Damascene

8:30 am Mass – (Int: Estelle Kennedy)

Saturday, Dec. 5: Advent Weekday

3:30 – 4:00 pm Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass (For the Parish)

Sunday, Dec. 6: Second Sunday of Advent

7:00 am Mass (For the Parish)

10:00 am Mass (For the Parish)

Disciples' Stewardship of Time

St. Thomas Lay Minister Schedule Dec. 5th-6th

Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

Lectors: Madison Phillips; Sue Dickerson

E.M.: Ramon Kocher & Mark Bolander

Server: Alayna Ochs

Musicians: N. Mulvey/K. Ochs/E. Wright

Greeters/Ushers: Steve Rubsam

Sunday, 7:00 a.m.

Lectors: Jill Bierman; Lily Bierman

E.M.: Sheryl Brummer & Dena Rauch

Server: Wes Bierman

Musicians: Five For One

Greeters/Ushers: Ben Bierman

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Lectors: Brian Bierman; John Bower

E.M.: Charlie & Jan Schackmann

Server: Ava Earnest

Musician: Patsy Leffler & Anne Kuhl

Greeters/Ushers: Mike Gier

SCRIP Cards make holiday shopping easy! Don't forget about the school's **SCRIP card program** for your holiday purchases. The order form can be found on the school's website at www.stthomassaints.com by selecting the fundraiser tab. The last day to place an order for Christmas will be Dec. 14th.

St. Thomas Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure

Nov. 21st – 22nd Collection

Envelopes	\$5,810.00
Loose	\$830.00
Subtotal	\$6,640.00
School Fund	\$385.00
Justice & Hope	\$20.00
Thanksgiving	\$50.00
Building Fund	\$100.00
Subtotal	\$555.00
Grand Total	\$7,195.00

St. Thomas School Updates

Due to the guidelines and restrictions in place for Covid-19 at this time, the following events have been either cancelled or postponed:

- Thanksgiving Program – Cancelled, but a recorded version will be available...
- School Christmas concert – Cancelled, but a recorded version might be available...
- Wreath Raffle - Cancelled
- Soup Supper – Cancelled
- Trivia Night - Postponed to April 17, 2021
- Basketball/Volleyball seasons tentatively scheduled to begin games in January

We hope these activities are back on track next year!

On A Positive Note:

The school staff and students have been hard at work and that hard work will have a much welcomed and positive impact on many lives.

- Samaritan's Purse boxes
- Collecting for Toys for Kids
- Created cards for military members who won't come home for the holidays to be included in their Christmas boxes
- Donating to Operation Homefront, Newton Ministerial Association and the Missions
- Adopted a middle school in Louisiana when school started and were able to send over \$800 to them
- 8th graders helped put the decorations up on the square for Holly Jolly Christmas.
- The school is a healthy building - attending all day. Have 9 quarantined and no positive cases during this past week.

A Special Thank You!

Thanks to the St. Thomas CYO youth for their participation in the Thanksgiving Mass lay ministries!! We greatly appreciate your help and your involvement is a great example to be followed. We will see you on Wed. December 2nd at 6:30 pm in the parish center.

Jasper County Ministerial Association Christmas Food Basket Project will look different this year. They are asking for monetary donations only...no food items. Donations can be mailed to: PO Box 213, Newton, IL 62448. St. Thomas Parish is also providing a box for monetary donations in the church's gathering space through the Thanksgiving holiday to help collect money for the Food Basket Project.

St. Thomas Parish Giving Tree. The First Sunday of Advent is November 29th and each parish family is invited to take an envelope (or two) that includes a parish family name off the tree. Please then pray for that family throughout the season of Advent.

St. Thomas & St. Mary Parish Information:

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve Vigil:

4:00 pm @ St. Mary's (Vigil Mass Lectionary/Missal)
5:30 pm @ St. Thomas (Vigil Mass Lectionary/Missal)

First Mass of Christmas:

11:00 pm @ St. Thomas (Mass of Night)

Christmas Day

8:00 am @ St. Mary's (Mass of Day)
9:30 am @ St. Thomas (Mass of Day)

PLEASE NOTE:

5 Masses have been scheduled for Christmas:

Please sign on for Mass desired beginning December 1, through December 24. At present only **150 max.** is permitted in our churches. The overflow crowd at any Mass will gather in the parish centers and have Mass livestreamed and then Holy Communion distributed to them. There is **no guarantee of being in the Church except by being one of the first 150 people present for the Mass.** It is possible that 300 people may want to attend a particular Mass, thus the overflow into the parish center. **No saving of spaces in the Church.**

Please check the sign-in numbers on the sign-in, especially the week of Christmas to decide what Mass may be better for you to attend. More people may sign on than what is permitted and others may just stop in for Mass without making reservation.

Advent Reconciliation Services

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at St. Thomas

1:30 pm – 3 pm School Reconciliation only

3:30 - 4:30 pm Available for Anyone

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Available for Anyone

Priests from the area will be available for individual confessions during the period of time.

Catholic Heart Workcamp. Mark Your Calendars!

The Catholic Heart Workcamp will be held:

June 13-18, 2021 in Louisville, KY

Registration forms were handed out at St. Thomas CYO and are available at the St. Thomas and the St. Mary's parish offices.

Please return ASAP in order to **ensure your space** as we have to apply for spaces that are available for the entire camp!

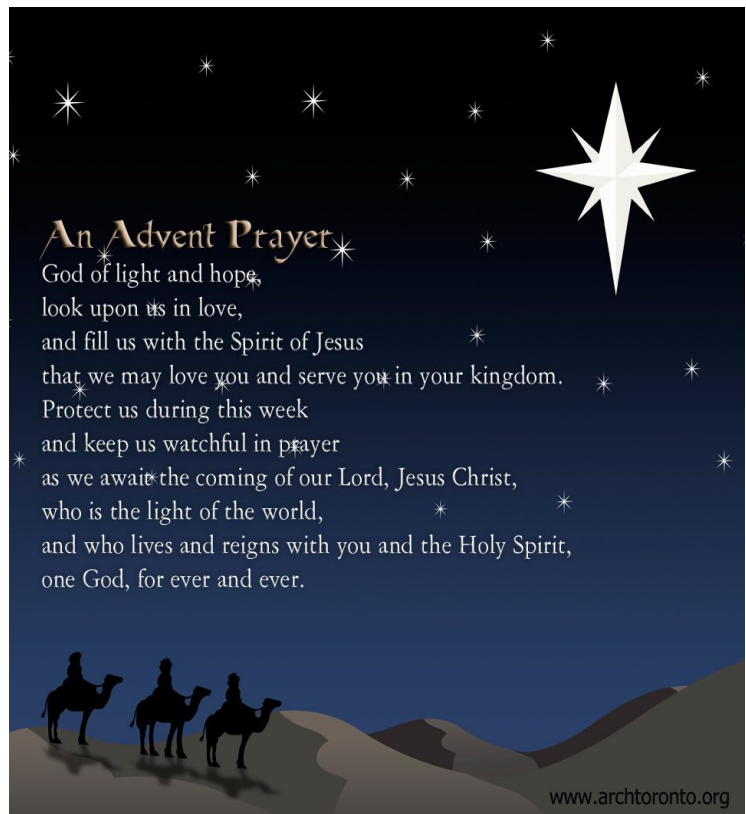
HOLY COMMUNION VISITS:

If you would like Holy Communion brought to you at home this week, please call the parish office to leave your name or contact Fr. Dean at 217-494-6326 to quickly set up day and time.

Note: Due to the large number of people refraining from going anywhere, including church, I need to space the times and days accordingly for visits.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

While it is permissible by church law to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand, due to Covid-19, it is not healthy to distribute it on the tongue as host placed on mouth felt to ground and then consumed by minister. At the present time, it seems inappropriate to share Holy Communion in this fashion.



Family Life Center Baby Bottle Project. This year the annual Baby Bottle Project was postponed. In an effort to show our support as we have done in the past, we are in the process of having bottles available for you to pick up starting in December and return after the New Year. Personal donations can be sent to: Family Life Center, 605 Eden Ave., Effingham, IL 62401.

St. Mary's Parish News

Sacraments:

Masses: 8:30 a.m. – Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday

Reconciliation: 7:30 am – Tuesday and Thursday
Or as scheduled or by request
Available at St. Thomas Church 8-9 am Saturdays
4:30 – 5:00 pm Wednesdays

This Week in our Parish

Monday, November 30th, St Andrew

Tuesday, December 1st, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. - Rosary
8:30 a.m.- Mass: (Int: Joe & Georgianne Kocher+)

Wednesday, December 2nd, Advent Weekday

Thursday, December 3rd, St Francis Xavier

8:00 a.m. – Rosary
8:30 a.m. – Mass:(Int: Herman & Emma Copper+)

Friday, December 4th, Advent Weekday

Saturday, December 5th, Advent Weekday

Sunday, December 6th, 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. – Mass (Int: For the Parish+)

PSR: November lesson sheets can be turned in the last weekend of the month. Put in an envelope marked PSR and put in collection basket or the drop box on the front door of the parish office.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: This year the envelopes are being mailed to your homes bi-monthly, if you do not receive them sometime during the month of December, please call the office.

2021 MISSALETTES: If you wish to have a copy of the 2021 missalette, they will be available in church at the entrances, please take your own copy home with you and bring it back each week.

DECEMBERS MINISTERS: The new ministers list have been e-mailed and also will be available at the entrances of the church.

St Mary's Disciples' Stewardship of Treasure of Time/Talent

Collection for the week of November 22, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 605.00
Loose	106.00
Sub Total	\$ 711.00
Justice & Hope	77.00
Haiti	45.00
Grand Total	\$ 833.00

Ministers for 8:30 am December 6, 2020

Ushers: Randy Reis, Bob Barthelme, George Semple

Server: Brianna Zwilling

Lector: Ethan Zwilling/Miranda Ochs

Eucharistic Minister: Eileen Ochs

Finance Council:

Kate Kaufmann Richard Ochs Aaron Ochs
Maynard Kaufmann Bruce Boehl Fr. Dean Probst

Pastoral Council: Becca Ochs, Chairman

2-year term: David Ochs, Lora Ochs, Lora Semple

3-years: Tim Keller, Angie Kocher, Maria Zumbahlen
Fr. Dean Probst, Maynard Kaufmann, Richard Ochs

SERVE on the PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL?

Anyone interested is asked to submit their name to Fr. Dean by November 30, 2020. Selection of three members will be done at 8:30 am Mass, December 1, through random-drawing following prayer to the Holy Spirit.



First Sunday of Advent 29 November 2020

Be Alert! Watch! We begin this new liturgical year as the old one ends: alert, on the watch, looking to the end time (that is, the return of Jesus Christ) while still living in this middle time of grace. In our watching, we make the words at the center of the Isaiah reading our own: “Would that you might meet us doing right.” Let us be faithful gatekeepers – of our thoughts and of our acts – actively looking for the face of the Lord.

- How will I maintain hope as I wait for Jesus Christ?
- What will I say?
- What will I do? The Works of Mercy can be a start.